

A JMU FAMILY

As I read the newest edition of *Madison* magazine, I had a thought about our family and our JMU story. I graduated in 1975 after following my sister's footsteps to Madison and Virginia from Pennsylvania. I worked in Virginia as a speech pathologist and married a man from Waynesboro, Va. Ten years ago I was hired to work in JMU's Training and Technical Assistance Center. I earned my M.Ed. in special education in 2001 at Madison and have served on the College of Education's adjunct faculty teaching a course that I developed on assistive technology. We have two daughters who graduated from JMU in 2004 (integrated science and technology) and 2006 (art education). We are a JMU family. I served as a

representative for the Central Virginia Duke Club Chapter for years. During this time I met J. Locklier when he was named assistant director of the Duke Club. He was new to JMU and Harrisonburg, and I suggested my daughter, Olivia, send him a welcome e-mail. They met after the first home football game that year, and the rest, as they say, is history! They were married July 19, 2008 — all because of these JMU connections.

DEBORAH YANCEY ('75, '01M)
Waynesboro

Madison welcomes letters in response to magazine content. The staff reserves the right to edit for clarity, length and style. Anonymous letters will not be published. Send to "22807" *Madison*, 220 University Blvd., MSC 3610, JMU, Harrisonburg, VA 22807, or e-mail madisonmag@jmu.edu.

{Editor's Note}

Earth ambassadors

The best part of working at JMU is getting to meet remarkable alumni from every generation of the Madison Experience.

It's a privilege to tell their stories.

I met Ginny Moffett Bernstorff ('59) during Bluestone Reunion Weekend in May. She told some fantastic tales from her student days. (Stay tuned for the fall issue!) While sharing, Ginny touched on a long-standing Madison tradition — alumni who give back by serving as unofficial Madison ambassadors. In every aspect of her life — at church, as a teacher, within her community — Ginny is an ambassador for Madison. Countless students have chosen JMU because she took the time to talk to them.

Being an ambassador for Madison is not uncommon. In every alumni profile featured on the JMU "Be the Change" Web site, alum after alum talks about his or her continued connection to the Madison Experience. Some support scholarships. Some volunteer for admissions. Others return to campus to mentor and advise students.

Being a Madison ambassador will remain important. And now, JMU President Linwood H. Rose has upped the ante. He has charged alumni and the university community to be ambassadors for Earth. In September, Rose announced the formation of the Institute for Stewardship of the Natural World to guide JMU's efforts to become a more environmentally responsible operation. Part of the institute's mission is to educate JMU citizens about their personal relationship to the natural world.

President Rose's charge to embrace a new global citizenship — to be ambassadors of Earth — expands on JMU's mission to produce educated and engaged citizens.

In this issue of *Madison* you can read about the new institute and meet the students, alumni, professors and JMU administrators who are leading the way to embrace a new global citizenship.

Challenge yourself to accept Dr. Rose's charge. Why not start with your relationship to *Madison* magazine? If you would like to "go digital" to save some paper and resources, share your e-mail address with JMU. You will receive future magazine issues that you can read in any Web browser. (Follow the instructions in the ad at left.)

If you are already bringing that JMU "Be the Change" spirit to your small part of the planet and serving as an Earth ambassador, tell us how. Write to madisonmag@jmu.edu, so we can share your story.

— MICHELLE HITE ('88), *managing editor*

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