

**{Be the Change}**

# Madison rugby alumni honor player and friend

*The Luis de Souza Pinto Memorial Scholarship*

BY KATIE HUDSON ('10)

**“W**hen alumni think of JMU men’s rugby, one of the first people they think of is Luis de Souza Pinto ('02),” says Pinto’s former teammate Brian Rainey ('04) of Arlington. “He personified the love for the game, and everything that came with playing rugby at Madison is Luis.”

Pinto died in a jet skiing accident in 2004. Madison rugby players decided to honor Pinto by creating a memorial scholarship. When Madison Rugby Alumni Chapter members and players approached the JMU Development Office, they were advised that they had five years to raise \$25,000 to establish an endowed scholarship. For those who knew Pinto, the fact that the team raised the total amount in four months came as no surprise.

The Luis de Souza Pinto Memorial Scholarship Endowment benefits an international student/rugby player attending JMU. The Pinto family and the Madison Rugby Alumni Chapter helped create criteria to select scholarship recipients.

Originally from Brazil, Pinto came to JMU in 1998 and quickly became involved with the rugby team. He was named one of the captains and team vice president. He also served the Madison Connection by calling alumni to ask them to give back to JMU. After graduation, Pinto moved to New York City to work with the Bloomberg news media company.


When the players learned of Pinto’s passing, they immediately started to collect donations. Rainey says that setting up the scholarship was a “defining JMU highlight” in his Madison Experience. “Alumni help was inspirational. We have received donations from original players who established the club in 1975 to recent graduates.”

Rugby alumni hope to see the scholarship endowment continue to grow, espe-

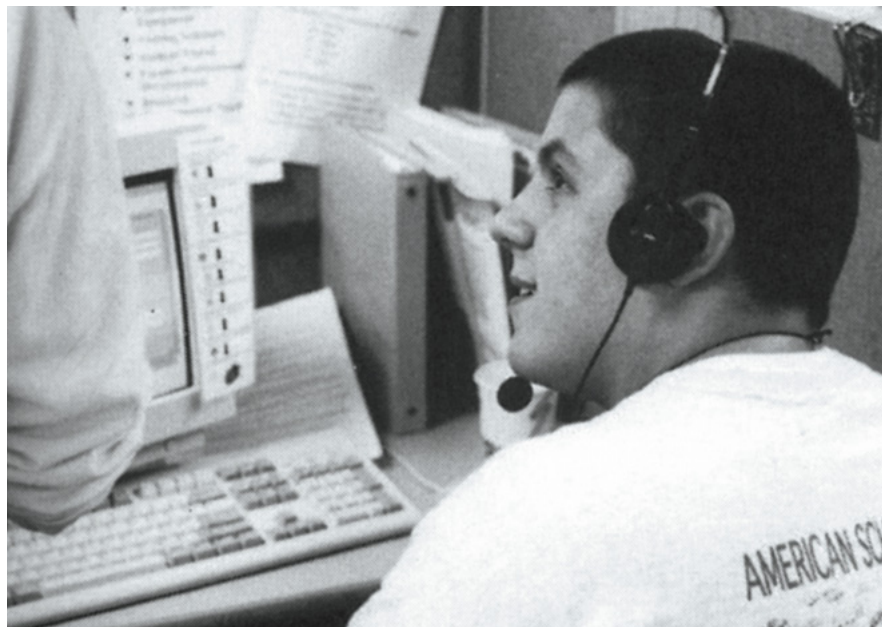
cially in these tough economic times. “We’d like to have enough funding so that multiple students receive the scholarship all four years,” Rainey says.

“By setting up the memorial scholarship, rugby alumni have honored their friend in a most appropriate way,” says Ted Sudol, JMU director of charitable gift planning. “The scholarship also helps increase diversity at JMU.”

Rainey adds, “Luis was a great rugby player, and he always had a smile on his face. There were so many people whose lives he touched. And that continues. We have received e-mail from prospective students and rugby players from Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. All are interested in the scholarship. ... But honoring Luis is the most important factor. He loved JMU.”

To support the Luis de Souza Pinto Memorial Scholarship contact Brian Rainey ('04) at [raineybt@gmail.com](mailto:raineybt@gmail.com). Learn how you can support many JMU scholarships at [www.jmu.edu/give/](http://www.jmu.edu/give/). 

**A Madison Connection manager talks with Luis de Souza Pinto ('02) before he calls on alumni to give back to JMU.**



\* Learn how you can support many JMU scholarship funds – and ensure the Madison Experience for the next generation – by visiting [www.jmu.edu/development/give/](http://www.jmu.edu/development/give/).

## MadisonEvents

**MAY 30**

**Charlotte Dukes Family Picnic**

**JUNE 5-7**

**Alumni Volunteer Weekend Leadership Conference**

[www.jmu.edu/alumni/events](http://www.jmu.edu/alumni/events)

**JUNE 20**

**Black Alumni Chapter Summer Picnic**

**Denver Alumni Chapter Rooftop Happy Hour**

**JUNE 27**

**Baltimore/Annapolis Chapter Outing**

Orioles vs. Nationals at Camden Yards

**AUGUST 29**

**Richmond Chapter 2009 Crabfest**

**OCT. 9-11**

**Family Weekend 2009**

[www.jmu.edu/parents/Family\\_Weekend.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/parents/Family_Weekend.shtml)

**OCT. 16-17**

**Homecoming:**

**Under the Big Top**

[www.jmu.edu/homecoming](http://www.jmu.edu/homecoming)

For more information on events, please call the JMU alumni office toll free 1- (888) JMU-ALUM or visit [www.jmu.edu/alumni/calendar/](http://www.jmu.edu/alumni/calendar/).