



Sustainable friends change JMU culture

Maria brought the science and Towana brought the business. Together they spurred one of the most significant shifts in JMU history — one that has influenced every component of campus. When President Linwood H. Rose looked around in 2007 for two people to chair a new commission on environmental stewardship, he tapped **Maria Papadakis**, professor of integrated science, and **Towana Moore**, associate vice president for business services. Together they surmounted the huge task of pulling together a plethora of programs and people, all interested in changing the culture of JMU into an incubator of ideas, plans and dreams of a university community practicing the emerging arts and sciences of environmental stewardship. Papadakis says, the group tackled the “big environmental domains: air, water, transportation, energy, renewable energy, agriculture, soils.” She also brought her science to bear. “We’re a moving target ... as people are saving energy we’re also adding new facilities. To get a handle on this, we go in and measure the impacts of different savings initiatives.” That’s the science. Moore looked at their mission with a practicable eye. “From a business point of view,” she says, “we were interested because we’re looking at ways to save money ... and it’s the right thing to do.” What Papadakis and Moore found was a lot of natural collaboration. In fact, Moore says, “it is one of the things that’s so nice about working at JMU. Our whole alternative fuel program is a collaborative project between facilities management and the faculty in Maria’s area. It’s so much better when you have everybody working together.”

While Moore and Papadakis were leading the charge for JMU’s responsible environmental future, they became friends. “Getting to know Maria has been the icing on the cake,” Moore says. “I’ve gotten a really great friend,” Maria echoes. Sustainable friends.

Maria Papadakis and Towana Moore brought their expertise to bear on the commission on environmental stewardship.

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