

## {Bluestone Reunions}



Ginny Moffett Bernstorff ('59) credits physics professor John Wells with her fascination with science. "He would make arrangements for us to get on the roof of Wilson Hall. One night he urged everyone to come — he knew the Aurora Borealis would be visible. Even though it was colder than a witch's hind leg, the sight was glorious."

## Bluestone friends

*Bluestone Reunion reunites Classes of 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954 and 1959* BY MARTHA BELL GRAHAM

**M**adison has seen many changes during the past 50 years — but some things in the Madison Experience will never change. Supreme among those are the friendships and memories that bind the members of the Bluestone Society. The society honors graduates of 50 or more years ago. In May, members of the Classes of 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954 and 1959, along with others, gathered on campus to share those memories, to induct their newest members and to reminisce about the school they left a half-century ago.

Helen Warren Tuttle ('59) remembers her first days on campus. "Coming to Madison was my first time away from home,"

she says. Orientation was a bit different in the 1950s. Tuttle and her fellow students met their "Big Sisters," upperclassmen who helped them adjust to campus life. Four years later, they would play the same role for incoming freshmen. The tradition of Big Sisters and Little Sisters vanished along with freshman beanies sometime in the 1960s. Freshmen also had to memorize the *Alma Mater*, rules of conduct and the planks of the honor system.

This fall, Tuttle's grandson Stephen Hardy will have a very different orientation when he enrolls at



During the Madison Confessional program Helen Warren Tuttle ('59) recalled Big Sisters, Little Sisters and house mothers. She was excited to announce that her grandson, Stephen Hardy, joins the Madison Class of 2013 in August.

# HOMECOMING 2009

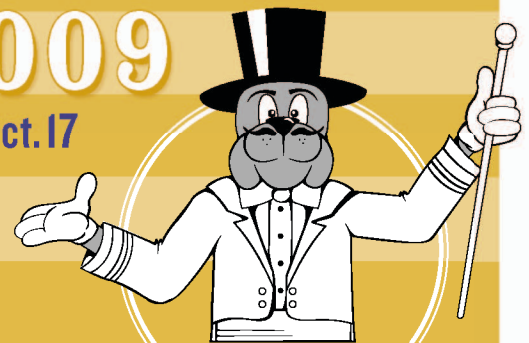
The JMU Dukes battle the Villanova Wildcats on Oct. 17

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**Alumni:** Don't miss Friday's Homecoming Parade, Pep Rally, reunions and Sunset on the Quad

**Students:** The fun begins on Oct. 11 and runs all week  
Check out the schedule online

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JMU Homecoming 2009

**OCT. 16-18**



JMU. "He'll be playing tennis," Tuttle says, "and I'm sure he'll be studying hard as well."

Tuttle and her classmates also remember fondly their residence hall hostesses, women who lived alongside students. "Mrs. Malmberg was like a grandmother to us. She always had fresh flowers set out," says Tuttle, who served as Student Government Association president.

Ann Wolfe Jackson ('59) remembers Dr. Locke, head of the English department. Jackson worked in his office as a student. "I was his 'Girl Friday.' I think because I was the only one who could read his handwriting," she recalls. "He was the typical absent-minded professor." One day he was sure his car had been stolen when he could not find it in the parking lot. At his staff's suggestion before calling the sheriff, "he called his wife and she reminded him he had walked to work."

Janet Coffman Sohn ('40) remembers Dr. Pittman. As soon as he learned she was a math major, he recruited her for his class. "I'm new, too," he told her, "I need students." In fact, he refused to sign her class card until she registered for his class. She also remembers his wonderful sense of humor.

Several alumnae remembered campus visitations by male students from the University of Virginia. Virginia "Ginny" Moffett Bernstorff ('59) remembered "lots of times on Saturday men would show up in the open space behind the residence halls." One particularly memorable group of Wahoos came in a black Cadillac convertible. "The rag top would be folded down," she says, "and they drank." At the time, "the rules were that we could not go out with any men who weren't wearing a jacket, tie and shoes." So the enterprising men shared a single suit jacket and a shoelace they passed from collar to collar as they arranged dates with Madison women. (Today, that caddy driver, Bernstorff whispers cryptically without speaking a name, is a United States senator from Massachusetts.) Once, she recalls, the infamous caddy failed to successfully navigate the drive near Junior Hall (now Converse Hall) and drove straight through the rose garden.

Bernstorff also remembers how much she loved running around campus at night with *Breeze* editor Pat Nicholas ('59), "after Pat had put *The Breeze* to bed."

"Do you remember *The Hurricane*?" another class member pipes up. *The Hurricane* was an underground newspaper that appeared in 1958. "I have a copy in my car."

But despite the fun, these young women — and a few men sprinkled in — came to get an education. Madison College already was considered an excellent school, one class member said. Madison administrators worked hard to promote the college as a serious destination for young women who believed in education.

Bernstorff says physics professor Stephen Baske was the one "who taught me how to be a teacher. He would give students ample time to find answers to questions. If they didn't succeed, he blamed himself."

Perhaps speaking for all — Bernstorff summed up Bluestone Reunion Weekend best: "My head is so packed with the wonderful things that happened here." *M*

## MadisonEvents

**AUG. 15**  
**Cheerleading Alumni Chapter**  
**Summer BBQ**  
[www.jmu.edu/alumni](http://www.jmu.edu/alumni)

**AUG. 19**  
**2009 Legacy Family Picnic**  
[www.jmu.edu/alumni](http://www.jmu.edu/alumni)

**AUG. 24**  
**Classes start**  
[www.jmu.edu/jmuweb/calendars/](http://www.jmu.edu/jmuweb/calendars/)

**AUG. 29**  
**Richmond Crabfest**  
[www.jmu.edu/alumni](http://www.jmu.edu/alumni)

**SEPT. 21**  
**International Day of Peace**  
**Celebration with Jimmy Carter**  
[www.jmu.edu/gandhicenter/](http://www.jmu.edu/gandhicenter/)

**OCT. 3**  
**MetroDukes Chapter Crabfest**  
[www.metrodukes.com/](http://www.metrodukes.com/)

**OCT. 16-18**  
**Homecoming 2009:**  
**Under the Big Top**  
[www.jmu.edu/homecoming](http://www.jmu.edu/homecoming)

**NOV. 21-22**  
**Semester in London**  
**30th Reunion**  
[www.jmu.edu/international](http://www.jmu.edu/international)

**DEC. 12**  
**Winter Commencement**  
[www.jmu.edu/commencement](http://www.jmu.edu/commencement)

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/).



### 2009 Bluestone Society Inductions

Close your eyes, and they chatter like college girls. Years have given them grace and wisdom, but time has not dulled the cherished memories they hold and shared so generously during this year's Bluestone Reunion.

Each year the Bluestone Society inducts new members — alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago. This year the society bestowed this honor on 64 members of the Class of 1959. Back in 1959, their class was the largest to date to graduate from Madison College. That year 233 degrees were awarded, including 36 master's degrees. Twelve members of the graduating class were men, and later, seven class members went on to earn doctorates, and three returned to Madison to teach.

Returning Bluestone Society alumni represented classes as far back as 1939, this year celebrating their 70th anniversary. Alumni enjoyed tours of a vastly changed campus and town, plus tours of the JMU arboretum and the new East Campus Library. The weekend's activities also included receptions hosted by President Linwood H. and Judith Rose and Friday's Madison Confessional program.

## Family Weekend

**OCT. 9-11, 2009**

*Get a taste of JMU campus life  
and the Madison Experience*



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