

{Alumni Awards}

## 2009 Distinguished Alumni Awards

*Lois Forbes ('64) and Gay Finlayson ('76) honored*

The JMU Alumni Association Board of Directors recognized the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients, Lois Cardarella Forbes ('64) and Gay Finlayson ('76), on Oct. 17 during Homecoming Weekend.

Gay Finlayson ('76) received the 2009 Ronald E. Carrier Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, which recognizes an individual who has excelled in his or her profession. For 20 years Finlayson has been an advocate for the disabled, particularly the autistic. She hails from a JMU legacy family — her late mother was a member of the JMU faculty, and her two siblings are alumni.

Finlayson is a health educator/family specialist for the Center for Development and Disability at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. She has two children with autism spectrum disorder. Since they were diagnosed 20 years ago, Finlayson has worked tirelessly on behalf of children with disabilities and their families. In

2004, because of her skill and experience, she was selected to be a member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee's ASD Expert Working Group.



Gay Finlayson ('76) and Lois Cardarella Forbes ('64) received Distinguished Alumni Awards during Homecoming. (Above): Finlayson's daughter, Asae Dean, and Forbes.

Lois Cardarella Forbes ('64) received the Inez Graybeal Roop ('35) Distinguished Alumni Service Award, which recognizes a graduate whose dedication and volunteer commitment has significantly enhanced the goals and mission of JMU. In her family's quest to accentuate JMU's connection to the intellectual legacy of President James Madison, Forbes and her husband, developer Bruce Forbes, have transformed the face of campus with the gifts of two Madison statues. While there are no statues or memorials in the nation's capital to pay homage to the Father of the Constitution, James Madison is now a fixture on both the east and Bluestone areas of campus. The Forbes influence is seen and felt all over campus through their gifts to the Plecker Athletic Performance Center, the men's and women's golf programs, the College of Business and their own Forbes Family Scholarship. The Forbes also made the single largest gift in JMU's history (\$5 million) to help build the future Forbes Center for the Performing Arts. **■**

## Rocky Mountain high

By RUSSELL HAMMOND ('03)



Russell Hammond ('03) and alumni friends took Road Dawg on the "Dukes" trail at Breckenridge Ski Resort in Colorado.

With the Massanutten Ski Resort so close to JMU, many students fall in love with skiing. I count myself and my former roommate, Austin Robbs ('06), in that category. Austin moved near the Rockies after graduation and never left. I have spent the last two winters living with Austin in Breckenridge, Colo., and we've hosted many Dukes

for ski trips. This past season, we hosted a few alumni friends and Road Dawg, with the help of the Rocky Mountain Dukes Alumni Chapter. Road Dawg traveled to the top of the Imperial Express lift at Breckenridge, the highest ski lift in North America. Given Road Dawg's delicate travel needs, many logistics and a few \$20 handshakes were required to get him from the 'Burg to Colorado and back in one piece. He spent a night in Arlington before flying from Reagan National to the Denver Airport. It took 30 minutes and three lift rides to get to the top of Peak 8. Road Dawg now has six more alumni fans: D.C. Dukes Keith Mann and Mike Navarette, and Rocky Mountain Dukes Chris Trice, Laurie Dougherty, Austin Robbs and me. Thanks for dog-gone good time! **■**

## Madison Events

DEC. 10

### Faculty Emeriti Holiday Gala

[www.jmu.edu/emmeriti](http://www.jmu.edu/emmeriti)  
E-Hall Montpelier Room

DEC. 12

### Winter Commencement

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

DEC. 12

### Black Alumni Chapter Holiday Party

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

APRIL 29 - MAY 1

### Bluestone Reunion Weekend

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

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/)