

PICTURETHIS



Same time next year

It all began in 1981 when a core group of married couples — all JMU alumni — decided to take their summer vacations together. We, roommates, suitemates and/or fraternity brothers of Delta Sigma Pi, a professional business fraternity, met during our four years at Madison College in the mid to late 1970s. Some of us were Madison College graduates and some were members of James Madison University's first graduating class. Little did we know then that the choices we made for our annual vacation would continue for 29 years in the same place, North Myrtle Beach, S.C., and at the same time of the year. The next summer, attendance at our annual beach trek began to double and triple as each couple began to bring their children. These children have grown up together and many have also attended JMU. Our numbers now include six families, so we have gone from occupying one floor of a three-story-condo building to completely taking over the entire three floors. Some of our children have married, so we know our next happy adventure will be adding grandchildren — the next JMU generation — to the group.

When we share our summer vacations with others, they are amazed and envious of our JMU tradition, and they wish they had done something similar to stay in touch with friends. We wouldn't trade the Madison memories we have created over the years, and we encourage others to follow our decision to start a tradition. This all began with a few from JMU, and now we are looking forward to celebrating our 30th summer vacation in North Myrtle Beach in July 2010. — MONTTE HALL CHRISTIANSEN ('78)

JMU beach-goers, (seated, l-r) are Rick Demeter ('04), Terri Reynolds Mathisen ('77), Betsy Houseman Stone ('77), Jeff Stone, ('77), Laura Stone ('07), Jennifer Stone Reasor ('04), Janine Ritter Browning ('83). Standing (l-r) are Jay Demeter ('76), Mike Mathisen ('78), Bruce Christiansen ('77), Montte Hall Christiansen ('78), Danny Christiansen ('06), Randy Devine ('08), Chris Devine ('13), Brenda Sparkman Devine ('78), Ron Devine ('78), Mike Browning ('79).