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Planting roots at JMU

Acclaimed Israeli-American sculptor Dalya Luttwak visited JMU as the College of Visual and Performing Arts' Diversity Artist-in-Residence. (Above): Luttwak's public artwork, *Red Bamboo-Grass*, is on display at the Smith House Sculpture Garden at the Arts Council of the Valley in downtown Harrisonburg. **PAGE 27**

FEATURED

32 Professors You Love celebrates 10 years COVER

BY BILL GOODYKOONTZ ('85) AND JAMIE MARSH

Sometimes the best part of the Madison Experience is that special relationship with a respected professor. As *Madison* celebrates 10 years of its longest-running column, reconnect with your favorite professor and reminisce about those connections that go far beyond classroom walls.

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42 Balancing life BY COLLEEN DIXON

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BY CHUCK TAYLOR ('84)

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ON THE COVER:

Photographs by Diane Elliott ('00), Mike Miriello ('09M) and courtesy of *Bluestone*.

M@adison



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Phi Beta Kappa
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Alternative Spring Break

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CAA Champs!

Coach Kenny Brooks ('91) helps cut down the net to celebrate the 2010 CAA Championship. **PAGE 19**

America's strongest

Mike Jenkins ('04, '05M) won the 2010 Arnold Amateur World Strongman Championship and a chance to compete with the world's strongest men.

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Graduation dilemma: How to be in two places at once



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Viva L'Italia

Katharine Corgan ('06, '10M) owns and operates Harrisonbug restaurant staple L'Italia.

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Get connected: www.jmu.edu

TELL US ABOUT YOUR MADISON EXPERIENCE: What's happening at JMU? What's on your mind? Tell prospective students and alumni about your Madison Experience or share other JMU-related thoughts: www.facebook.com/jamesmadisonuniversity

VISIT JMU: Prospective students, JMU alumni, community members, JMU friends: Find it all here. The JMU events calendar, campus map, community news, area lodging and dining. Log on before you roll in to the 'Burg: www.jmu.edu/jmuweb/visitor/

ALSO: Follow @JMUNews on Twitter

PHI BETA KAPPA PHOTOGRAPH BY DIANE ELLIOTT ('00); ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK COURTESY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE-LEARNING; BROOKS BY CATHY KUSHNER ('87); JENKINS BY THE WORLD'S STRONGEST MEN; CORGAN BY KATIE HUDSON ('10); ATWOOD BY MIKE MIRIELLO ('09M).

Madison

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Your letters, stories and photos

QUITE A COVER STORY

I love the cover of the last *Madison* magazine! Our son, Sterling, is the person kicking the football. I earned my B.S. and two master's degrees from JMU, and my husband, Jim, earned his B.S. at JMU. I teach in Loudoun County, and Jim is the athletics director at Warren County High School. What a wonderful surprise to see Sterling on the cover of *Madison*. He had a great time during the Day with the Dukes event, and we really appreciate the things that he was allowed to participate in with the team. Sterling has Down syndrome, but that is the least of who he is. Nearly everyone involved with Virginia Special Olympics knows Sterling. He is an Eagle Scout and represented Virginia as the sole powerlifter at the Special Olympics World Games in China in 2007. He won three gold medals (squat, dead-lift and over-all) and a silver medal in the bench press. He has been the subject of many newspaper articles, TV and radio shows. He has served on the local Special Education Board, and he served two years as a global messenger for Special Olympics Virginia, giving speeches all over the state. He is regularly asked to speak as a guest to families of handicapped children — sometimes helping to raise money for Area 13 Special Olympics.

The town of Winchester, Va., declared Dec. 11, 2007, as Sterling Grooms Day. He has had three proclamations awarded to him in two cities. He was a dignitary in the 2007 and 2008 Apple Blossom Parades, and guest speaker for the Apple Blossom Sports Breakfast in 2008. There were not many dry eyes when Sterling finished his speech. Sterling also was recognized with proclamations by both Houses of the Virginia General Assembly in March 2008. Sterling is a cashier at Martin's Food Store and has been a past Employee of the Year. He regularly drives his car to Staunton to visit his friend, Chris, both of whom love WWE wrestling. There

is more, but I will stop here. I just want to thank JMU, and its student-athletes, for the hospitality to these special young



Sterling Grooms delivers the keynote at the Torch Run ceremony at the Virginia Special Olympics in Richmond.



people. Day with the Dukes makes them feel special in a way that they rarely get to experience.

JOANN MOORE GROOMS ('73, '88M, '03M)
AND JIM GROOMS ('73)
Winchester, Va.

GOING TO THE BIRDS

We couldn't duplicate Eagle Hall, but we still wanted to show the birds of Fairfax our JMU colors. We are sharing a photo of our daughter, Emma Sisk, standing next to the JMU birdhouse that we built in our backyard. From two proud alumni: Go Dukes!

KEVIN ('92) AND
COLLEEN SISK ('91)
Fairfax, Va.



Future Duke Emma Sisk shows off her JMU pride.

PROUD PARENTS

We are the proud parents of two JMU students. We're sharing a photo of them taken on August 2009 Freshman Move-in Day in front of the big willow tree by the JMU arboretum pond. This photo was given to their dad as a Christmas present. Our JMU Dukes are Emily Shinn ('10), a



JMU siblings Emily ('10) and James Shinn ('12).

musical theater major, and James Shinn ('12), a kinesiology major.

CATHLEEN AND RICK
SHINN ('10P, '12P)
Midlothian, Va.

ANOTHER PROUD PARENT

I was so excited to see the birth of my twins in the Class Notes section of the latest version of *Madison* online. My name is Jessica Harding Scheible ('99), and the birth of my girls, Lucy Anne and Brianna Kate, made it in this issue. I would really love to have a copy of this to save for my girls. Thank you!

JESSICA HARDING SCHEIBLE ('99)
Virginia Beach, Va.

MADISON ONLINE

Thank you for speaking with me on the phone regarding my concerns with reading the online version of *Madison*. Let

me begin by stating how much I enjoy the magazine. I read it cover to cover! It is a great publication that keeps alumni informed and proud to have graduated from JMU. I have a DSL connection, which I know is not known for very high speeds, but it is much faster to browse through the print version than to wait for pages to download. I believe that the print version is still much more user-friendly. I certainly understand the need to conserve both paper and money. Please do not take these concerns as a reflection on the publication. It is fantastic, and I look forward to receiving my copy.

F. JOHNSON SCOTT III ('87)
Bedford, Va.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Check out the new www.jmu.edu and read even more *Madison* magazine-style profiles and features on the revamped JMU homepage. And keep your address up-to-date with JMU or sign up for the *Madison* mailing list at www.jmu.edu/madisononline.

Keep those letters and story ideas coming! *Madison* welcomes letters in response to magazine content. The staff reserves the right to edit for clarity, length and style. Anonymous letters will not be published. Send to "22807" *Madison*, 220 University Blvd., MSC 3610, JMU, Harrisonburg, VA 22807, or e-mail madisonmag@jmu.edu.

{Editor's Note}

Professors You Love

Who can believe it has been 10 years since David Hillgrove ('79) sent me an article he wrote about an inspiring psychology professor and JMU personality with the arresting lede: "I am personally responsible for Eileen Nelson's retirement, and I feel terrible."

Writers and editors will understand the joy I felt at reading such a wonderful sentence. I knew we had one of the best magazine stories in hand — ever. I had no idea that this submission, which sparked a contest for more contributions among our readers, would become the most popular, longest-running and award-winning column in *Madison*. That's because it hits the core value of the Madison Experience — the meaningful exchange between professor and student that is legend here at JMU.

Two on the magazine staff especially, Michelle Hite ('88) and Elaine Stroupe, have delighted in honoring those special relationships with editing assistance and by helping our contributors express themselves.

Since those early days, Professors You Love also became a catalyst for transforming *Madison* into the kind of magazine it is today — a venue for members of the Madison community to talk to one another about their college days and their present lives.

Today you'll notice that much of *Madison* — whether the personal experiences or scholarly insights — comprises stories written or photos taken by alumni, professors, students and donors. These individuals have been motivated by their Madison Experience enough to take the time to compose their thoughts and sentiments and share them with the rest of the Madison community.

Today social media has given this kind of sharing and self-expression a broader reach and more immediacy. At JMU, you can participate by visiting the JMU home page (www.jmu.edu), Facebook, flickr and more. In addition, Professors You Love now has its own Web page, where you can find all the past columns and read the newest submissions without having to wait for the next issue of *Madison*. Don't see your favorite professor? Send us your story. (We can help you with editing or writing.) See Page 32.

And don't miss the new Students Who Rock column beginning with the fall issue.

To all of our columnists and contributors and the professors who inspire it all: Thank you; you keep *Madison* alive and thriving.

— PAM BROCK, executive editor

Award winners

CASE loves Professors You Love

Alumni and student writers, and the magazine staff, earned a sixth writing/editing award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (District III) for the 10-year Professors You Love series. The 2009 honor is a Special Merit Award for feature series writing. Read more on Page 33.

Madison also earned an Award of Excellence from CASE in the 2009–10 Alumni Magazines category. Congratulations — and thank you — to all the student, alumni and faculty writers, designers and photographers who contribute to *Madison*!



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Chuck Taylor ('84) has covered entertainment for more than 20 years, including 14 years as a writer and editor for *Billboard* magazine in New York. He is a voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences Inc. (which votes on the Grammy Awards) and has been interviewed on an array of music and pop culture topics for television networks and print publications. Originally from Lynchburg, Va., Taylor is a communication arts graduate. At JMU, he was a member of the forensics team and served as features editor of *The Breeze* and as editor of the student magazine, *Curio*.



Professor of art history **Laura Katzman** writes about JMU's diversity artist-in-residence Dalya Luttwak in the Essay department on Page 27. Katzman teaches courses in 20th-Century American and European art, the history of photography, public art and museum studies. She earned her Ph.D. at Yale University and has published essays on modern and contemporary art in *American Art*, *Art Papers*, *Museum* and *Yale Journal of Criticism*. The co-author of two award-winning books on American artist Ben Shahn, Katzman is currently writing a monograph titled *Re-viewing Documentary: The Photographic Life of Louise Roskam*, which will accom-

pany a retrospective exhibition she is organizing for the American University Museum in Washington, D.C., for 2011–12.

Madison intern **Kerry Shannon ('10)** is an English major and Spanish minor. In her years at JMU, she has been a member of the club volleyball team, the Spanish Honor Society and the JMU Student Association of English Teachers. During the past few summers, she worked as a counselor and coach at a volleyball camp. Shannon plans to enter graduate school this fall to earn a master's degree in education and hopes to teach English as a Second Language.



Lisa Maurer ('09) of Warminster, Pa., is a legal assistant at Fisher & Zucker LLC. The political science major and political communications minor participated in the JMU Washington Semester in 2007, and she writes about the experience in the Transformations department on Page 30. She also studied abroad in the JMU program in Florence, Italy, and volunteered for Relay for Life in 2007 and 2009.

Frequent *Madison* contributor **Dan Gorin ('11)** is a School of Media Arts and Design major with a concentration in converged media and a minor in music industry. He is a staff photographer for JMU Photography Services and *The Breeze*. This summer, he will intern at the TV network, Fuse. He also serves as a host and DJ for JMU's student-run radio station WXJM. View more of Gorin's photography on his Web site dangorin.com and on the JMU group flickr Web page at www.flickr.com/groups/1132487@N22/pool/.

