

{Legacy Picnic 2010}

Welcome Class of 2014

Legacy families welcome freshmen to the JMU Nation

BY TYLER McAVOY ('12)

Nearly 300 students and their alumni parents gathered at the Leolou Alumni Center on Aug. 25 to celebrate at the annual Legacy Picnic. Sponsored by the JMU Alumni Association, the event honors the members of the incoming freshman class who are “legacies” — sons, daughters or grandchildren of JMU alumni.

President Linwood H. Rose and alumni relations staff members hosted the picnic-style lunch and welcomed the Class of 2014 legacy families.

Kerin Braudaway ('82), an office administration major, and her son, Jim Braudaway ('13), talked about their Madison Experiences. Braudaway shared her Phi Mu sorority memories and said parents could take solace in JMU's safe environment. “When I attended JMU I felt safe and secure. It was a haven; it still feels that way.”

While most legacy families include alumni from consecutive generations, some, like Juanita Mowles Milby ('56) and her granddaughter, Brooke Milby ('14), will graduate nearly 60 years apart. Juanita Mowles Milby, a nursing major, fondly recalls her Madison College days. “I paid my way through school by working in the dining hall,” she said. “I don't think it's quite that easy now.”

For the first time, the picnic-style lunch was offered on the Leolou Alumni Center lawn. In previous years, the Legacy Luncheon was held inside the center. “This day was picture perfect, and the food was delicious,” said Braudaway.

The 2010 legacy family with the largest number of alumni was the Lanier family. Five Laniers, spanning three generations, have attended JMU: Norma Lanier ('55) and her three children: Beth Lanier ('85), Todd Lanier ('92) and Chris Lanier ('92). Todd Lanier's daughter Carolyn Tran ('14) is a freshman. She says, “I get to share a one-of-a-kind bond with them that's only found at JMU. The psychology major hopes to be a school psychologist. “Being a JMU legacy is a really wonderful experience.”

The picnic concluded with a new tradition — a pinning ceremony, where parents attached a gold JMU lapel pin to their child's shirt. Hopefully, this will mark the first of many Madison memories.



Juanita Mowles Milby ('56) gives her granddaughter, Brooke Milby ('14), a JMU pin to mark the start of her Madison Experience. (Inset): The Lanier family, including freshman Carolyn Tan ('14), had the largest alumni contingency at the 2010 Legacy Picnic.



Vanessa Collins ('03M) was proud to show off JMU to her son Joel Mays III ('14), who plans to pursue a pre-med degree. “It was wonderful to see President Rose at the Legacy Picnic,” she says. “I truly remember him from my graduation ceremony.”

Collins family joins JMU legacies

BY TYLER McAVOY ('12)

Getting a master's degree is no easy feat. Getting a master's degree while working full time and raising children, well, most would say that's a real challenge. Not for Vanessa Collins ('03M) of Fredericksburg, Va.

Collins completed her master's in communication sciences and disorders through the JMU Facilitating Licensure of Speech Pathologist program. Funded by a grant from the Virginia Department of Education, the program helps grad students achieve their licensure within a reasonable time-frame. Collins was able to complete her degree at her own pace and take advantage of the program's off-campus course offerings. “JMU's program was an answer to prayer and the open door I needed to complete a career goal I have desired since my teen years,” says Collins.

The flexibility of the program allowed Collins to balance her time between being a single parent with two young sons and having a full-time job. One of the biggest pay-offs for Collins was watching her oldest son Joel W. Mays III ('14) get accepted to JMU this year. “He watched me sacrifice and study hard to obtain my master's, so I hope I instilled in him strong positive values and a good study ethic.”

Collins was impressed with the 2010 Legacy Picnic honoring JMU freshman legacies. “It is good to know that JMU has had such a positive impact on the lives of so many people. I feel like our family is part of a movement.”