


Party Dawg

Road Dawg puts on his best coat and tails for four alumni weddings

By MICHELLE HITE ('88)

You'd think Road Dawg would be dog tired from his many visits with alumni since being unleashed during the 2008 JMU Centennial Celebration; but Dukes' best friend is still kicking up his paws. Road Dawg has hit the road with 53 Dukes traveling 10,772 miles around the United States. He has welcomed Future Dukes, attended numerous weddings, hit the slopes in Breckenridge, howled for the Redskins at FedEx Field, toured a brewery, kicked up some sand at Ocean City, N.J., and survived a few unprintable excursions. (You Dukes know who you are!) Check out these images from Road Dawg's scrapbook, as he donned his best coat and tails at four Purple and Gold weddings. 

et al.: Party Dawg



Megan Klas ('07) and Patrick McNeil ('05, '07M)

Nursing majors Megan Klas ('07) and Patrick McNeil ('05, '07M) married on Oct. 3, 2009, in Duck, N.C. "All alumni stood proudly as we hoisted Road Dawg and sang the *JMU Fight Song*," says Patrick. "We knew Road Dawg was a must-have for our wedding. All 15 alums were proud to see him." Megan is an R.N. in Atlanta Children's Healthcare in the AFLAC Cancer Center, and Patrick is a firefighter and emergency room R.N. in Atlanta.



Trish Tyler ('91) and Brooks Ferrett ('91)

Music industry majors Trish Tyler ('91) and Brooks Ferrett ('91) were married on the Quad on May 15, 2010. Road Dawg shared in the Purple-and Gold-theme nuptials. "Nearly everyone involved in our wedding was an alum – from our photographer Susan Sommerfeldt ('09) to our minister Cecil Conley ('95)," says Trish. "When we were introduced as husband and wife, we walked out to a recording of the Marching Royal Dukes performing the *JMU Fight Song*." Even though the classmates shared a major, the couple never dated at JMU. "I took a picture of Brooks at graduation and kept it in my photo album. But, that was the last time we saw each other, except once at Kings Dominion. Flash forward 15 years to the booming social media craze. I searched for classmates via MySpace and there was Brooks. The rest, as they say, is history."



Kira McGroarty ('06) and Chris Koon ('06)

Road Dawg celebrated the marriage of health sciences majors Kira McGroarty ('06) and Chris Koon ('06) on May 30, 2010, in Pasadena, Md. The Rev. Sandra C. Botoms ('83) officiated. "We were ecstatic to have Road Dawg and several alumni share our big day," says Kira. "Marissa R. Bonaiuto ('06, '07M) and Andy Runyan ('05, '07M) were the maid of honor and best man."



Rachel Schmid ('08) and Scott Lemn ('08)

Centennial Dukes Rachel Schmid ('08) and Scott Lemn ('08) began dating as sophomores. Lemn was a team captain and an All-American center for the football team, and Schmid was involved in the Club Ski Racing Team. They wed on July 10, 2010, at First Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg and had their reception at the Spotswood Country Club. Road Dawg and several alumni celebrated with the couple. Rachel says, "Road Dawg was a big hit. We all sang the *JMU Fight Song* as we took a JMU group picture."