

ond-degree students attaining a B.S.N. and R.N. license. * Jane Walters served in Mt. Vernon, Ky., with Christian Appalachian Project, a nonprofit poverty relief organization. Walters volunteered in the CAP Elderly Services program providing transportation and advocacy services. As an undergraduate, Walters volunteered with Appa-

latchia Service Project during an Alternative Spring Break trip. She completed an internship at Catholic Campus



Jane Walters ('09) volunteered for the Christian Appalachian Project in Kentucky.

Ministry after graduation. "I chose Christian Appalachian Project because I wanted to work on a personal level with the people I love," says Walters.

10 The NFL's Buffalo Bills signed Mike Caussin in December after the Jacksonville Jaguars released him. Caussin spent the 2010 preseason and the first 12 weeks of the regular season with the Jaguars practice squad. The Bills needed to bolster its personnel due to injuries. Caussin joins his former JMU teammate linebacker Arthur Moats in Buffalo after the two spent four years playing together at JMU. Moats was the Bills' sixth round pick in the 2010 NFL Draft and has been a backup linebacker for most of this season. He injured Minne-

sota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre with a tackle in Week 13. This marks the first time in JMU football program history that two former Dukes suited up for the same NFL team. During the off-season, Moats is back in the 'Burg finishing his degree at JMU. He left JMU only nine credits shy of graduation to take part in the NFL Draft. Moats worked out in the gym and the classroom during spring semester. * Kara E. Damico completes her Master's in Early Childhood Education at JMU and graduates in December. * Sarah Lokitis was selected as a fall 2010 intern at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She served as the marketing communications intern in the marketing department of the Kennedy Center as part of the

DeVos Institute of Arts Management. * Wes Mitchell is completing an internship with Grassroot Soccer Inc., located in Lilongwe, Malawi. Grassroot Soccer is a nonprofit organization that uses the transformative power of soccer in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Mitchell is responsible for assisting in the planning and implementation of youth-targeted HIV prevention education programs, networking with the community, and planning and coordinating community events. Read more about the political science major below. * Kellen Suber accepted a job as staff assistant to Vice President Joe Biden. Her duties include scheduling the vice president's daily events. She previously served in a similar job with U.S. Senator Ted Kaufman of Delaware.

The power of soccer

Wes Mitchell ('10) helps fight AIDS with Grassroot Soccer BY AMELIA WOOD ('13)

Imagine the power of Michael Jordan if basketball was the only sport anyone watched. Soccer is an integral part of most local cultures around the world. Simply arriving at a field with a soccer ball will win you instant friendships and immediate access to a local community. What better introduction – striking up a friendly soccer game and then an educational conversation about one of the world's most prevalent diseases.

Soccer fan and political science major **Wes Mitchell ('10)** is an intern in Lilongwe, Malawi, with the nonprofit organization Grassroot Soccer. He is "using the transformative power of soccer in the fight against HIV and AIDS."

Mitchell's journey to Malawi started during his senior year of high school while applying for college. "Throughout high school I researched just about every academic program at JMU because I knew that it was my first choice. I'll never forget the day I got home from school to find that JMU admissions packet in my mailbox. I didn't even visit the other schools I applied to," he says.

Mitchell was a member of the JMU men's club soccer team for four years. He was in charge of fundraisers during his sophomore and junior years, and served as social chair his junior year. He also coached varsity boys' soccer at Spotswood High School. "I consider myself a more outgoing and personable individual as a result of the culture at JMU," Mitchell says. "JMU prepares students for the real world after college."



After a friendly game of soccer, Wes Mitchell ('10) educates others about HIV and AIDS. Mitchell works for the nonprofit Grassroot Soccer organization and is currently stationed in Lilongwe, Malawi.

JMU Political Science Professor Melinda Adams peaked Mitchell's interest in African studies. "I enjoyed learning about her experiences and expertise in African politics," says Mitchell, who added an African studies minor to his minor in communication studies.

As an undergraduate Mitchell interned at the U.S. Embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe, giving him his first real taste of Africa. "I would eventually like to get more involved with African politics and economics, but I love working for Grassroot Soccer and influencing young people in Malawi," he says.

Mitchell accepted his current internship with Grassroot Soccer right after graduation. "Knowing that I wouldn't see my family and friends for the next year, I tried to see everyone before I left for Africa," he says.

Mitchell helps out with numerous aspects of the nonprofit including planning and implementing educational programs, developing relationships with other community organizations, organizing events, monitoring programs and recruiting volunteers.

He hopes to attend a graduate program to further his education in African politics and economics. "I can't wait to get back and see all the new and exciting things going on at JMU," he says. "I've really missed JMU football and Homecoming." ❧

* Read Mitchell's blog at <http://wesinmalawi.wordpress.com>, or learn more at www.grassrootsoccer.org