

month journey and 92 event presentations. The team also promoted Invisible Children's fundraising program, Schools for Schools, in which American schools compete to raise money for partner schools in Uganda. JMU won the book drive portion of the competition, which gave Benusa, co-president of the JMU Invisible Children Chapter, the opportunity to travel to Uganda on an IC-sponsored trip.

Choosing to take time off from school to participate in the Roadie internship program was a big decision, but a decision Long and Benusa agree has benefited their Madison Experience. "Going on the road really allowed me to appreciate my college education and fueled my passion to learn and grow more," says Benusa.

Long agrees, "I now realize how privileged I am. I don't think I would appreciate school the way I do now had I not worked for Invisible Children." ❧

* Learn more at www.invisiblechildren.com/



Class of 2011 by the numbers

2,910	bachelor's degrees
461	master's degrees
10	doctoral degrees
6	college ceremonies
64	nurses pinned
22	ROTC cadets commissioned
3,381	new JMU alumni



[Phi Kappa Phi]

Germany in summer, graduate school in fall

Andrew Pham wins Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship

After spending the summer in Germany through a JMU Study Abroad program, Andrew T. Pham ('11) will have a good start on his master's career. The piano performance/music composition major won a \$5,000 Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship.

Andrew T. Pham ('11), a piano performance/music composition major, won a 2011 Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship and \$5,000 award. Each year, the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi awards 57 fellowships to top scholars across the United States.

During his studies at JMU, Pham racked up many academic laurels. He twice won first prize in JMU's Write On! Academic Writing Contest. The JMU School of Music faculty also awarded him the prestigious Presser Scholarship, an award given to the outstanding junior in the School of Music. Pham is currently completing a Master's of Music

degree at Indiana University. "My JMU piano professor studied at Indiana University, and he helped me throughout my graduate application and audition process," says Pham, who spent the summer in Freiberg, Germany, in JMU's summer music program. Pham studied piano from May 15 to July 4 accompanying opera performances, studying German Lieder (art songs for voice and piano) by composer Hugo Wolf, and studying the German language. "I really enjoyed learning French and Vietnamese, so I had a blast trying to decipher German," says Pham. ❧

* Read more about Pham at www.jmu.edu/bethechange/stories/andrewPham.shtml.

[No. 1]

U.S. News ranks JMU tops

U.S. News & World Report's 2010 edition of its "Best Colleges" guidebook ranks JMU as the No. 1 public regional university in the South. JMU has held the spot for 17 consecutive years. Among the factors that figured into Madison's favorable ranking are JMU's 92 per-

cent average freshman retention rate, 81 percent average graduation rate, 16/1 student/faculty ratio and 86 percent of faculty who are full time. JMU's freshman retention and graduation rates are both among the highest for schools in the complete *U.S. News* rankings report.

U.S. News has ranked JMU No. 1 for 17 years.

A total of 572 universities are included in the Best Regional Universities category of the magazine's rankings. Institutions in the category provide a full range of undergraduate majors and master's programs and few, if any, doctoral programs. JMU offers doctoral programs in assessment and measurement, clinical audiology, communication sciences and disorders, music, psychology and strategic leadership. ❧