

[Parents Council]

A purple and gold reign

Craig and Libby Fritsche serve JMU Parents Council

By COLLEEN CALLERY ('11)

“Craig and Libby Fritsche have demonstrated their excitement about being a part of the Madison family from day one. This excitement and enthusiasm for JMU carried over into their interaction with parents-at-large, as well as JMU Parents Council members,” says Sherry King, director of JMU Parent Relations.

As chairs of the JMU Parents Council during the 2010–11 academic year, Craig ('11P) and Libby Fritsche ('11P) worked with other council members to foster better relationships between the university and parents of JMU students. “After we became Parents Council members, we found the positive attitudes throughout the university community to be almost infectious,” says Libby.

‘Involvement with the Parents Council gives parents a unique opportunity to relate to their son or daughter on a new level – staying involved without being helicopter parents.’ — LIBBY FRITSCHÉ ('11P)

Although not JMU alumni, the Fritsches enjoy JMU campus life, participating in First-Year Send Off events, CHOICES admissions days, Family Weekend and many football games. Their impact stretches beyond social events. The council plays an important role in the development of the mutually beneficial relationship among parents, prospective students and the university. Providing program ideas for the Division of University Advancement to benefit parents, donating annually to the Parents Council Endowed Scholarship fund, and publishing *The Madison Family Handbook* are just a few ways the council supports current and future JMU families.

“Families can feel out of the loop about services or procedures at the university,” explains Craig. “The Parent Relations office provides information to parents and hears from parents who may have concerns about services for their student.”

The Fritsches’ have served on the Parents Council for



JMU Parents Council Chair Craig Fritsche ('11P) enjoys a Godwin Field tailgate with daughters, Virginia (left) and Olivia Fritsche ('11).



Craig and Libby Fritsche ('11P) served on the JMU Parents Council for four years and chaired the council in 2010-11.

four years, one as chairs. They joined the council when their daughter Olivia ('11) was a freshman. The public administration major graduated in May and is headed to law school.

“Craig and Libby are true leaders at heart,” says King. “They are dedicated to the JMU and Parents Council missions, and they are creative and open minded. They both display an energizing sense of humor that always fosters good camaraderie.”

The Fritsches say they were initially impressed by their first campus tour with Olivia. “The commitment to student learning and achievement is evident at every level at JMU,” says Libby. “Involvement with the

Parents Council gives parents a unique opportunity to relate to their son or daughter on a new level — staying involved without being helicopter parents and hovering over every move.”

The Fritsches also enjoy JMU football games. “There is nothing more fun than a day that starts with a tailgate and ends with a win,” adds Libby. “All JMU parents, mark your calendars and start making your plans now for Family Weekend 2011 on Oct. 14-16. You don’t want to miss any of the family fun.”

During their purple and gold reign as co-chairs, the Fritsches embodied every aspect of the Madison Experience. As King notes, “I have never seen two people enjoy themselves as much as Craig and Libby do when they are on campus assisting or attending a JMU event. They find every excuse to come back to campus. Although both are graduates of George Mason University, they bleed purple and gold.”

This summer the Fritsches passed the Parents Council chair duties onto Gregory ('75 '12P) and Linda Cross ('77, '12P) of Virginia Beach. Their daughter Rachel is a member of the Class of 2012. ■

* Learn more about JMU Parents Council and Family Weekend at www.jmu.edu/parents.

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