

## Inspiration fuels involvement

*With 100 years of JMU alumni there are myriad ways to connect to Madison*

BY JAMIE JONES MILLER ('99), ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

**A**s a longtime volunteer for JMU, I am constantly discovering people, places and things that inspire me to stay involved with Madison. My favorite annual event is Bluestone Reunion Weekend, which honors alumni celebrating their 50th class reunion. It is impressive how many women (and men) come back to campus to visit with their classmates and to see how the institution has transformed since they were students of Madison College.

At this year's Bluestone Reunion, I met Nancy Harbaugh Gibson-Geiger ('44) of Woodstock, Va. She is a founding member of my sorority, Alpha Sigma Tau. She mentioned that she was hoping to find a "good home" for her sorority badge — the same badge that she wore as a founding member of the Madison chapter of Alpha Sigma Tau. She mailed me her badge for safekeeping, and I hope that it will find a home on display in the archives at the sorority's National Headquarters one day. While it is under my care, I will be inspired by the leadership and dedication displayed by the young women who founded the Psi Chapter at Madison almost 70 years ago.

Inspiration fuels involvement. To me, this sentence sums up what it means to be JMU alumni volunteers. It captures the emotional ties to the university that bring alumni back to campus, spark participation in an alumni chapter, and bring strangers together for an event that supports JMU.

You can't help but be inspired when you see Wilson Hall from the Quad, Bridgeforth Stadium rising high above campus, or the statue of James Madison, "Big Jim," looking out over the Shenandoah Valley from the east side of campus.



**JMU Alumni Association Board President Jamie Jones Miller ('99) is legislative director for U.S. Congressman Rob Wittman (Republican representative for Virginia's 1st District). This summer, Miller participated in an alumni panel discussion for the JMU Department of Political Science's annual day on Capitol Hill. She is married to Timothy M. Miller ('96, '00M), and lives in Vienna, Va.**

the 100 years of JMU alumni. The website ([www.jmu.edu/alumni/awards/centennial.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/alumni/awards/centennial.shtml)) features stories of trailblazers like Inez Roop ('35), educator, scholarship founder and distinguished university ambassador. It is our hope that Mrs. Roop's story — and the other 99 alumni — inspires you to follow in her footsteps.

**'The JMU Alumni Association and alumni board volunteers challenge you to turn your JMU inspiration into involvement. Check out "100 years, 100 Days, 100 Dukes," a campaign to help celebrate the 100 years of JMU alumni.'**

— JAMIE JONES MILLER ('99),  
JMU Alumni Association Board President

When you're not on campus, inspiration may come from a colleague whom you discover is also a JMU grad or from seeing a JMU license plate on a road trip. Purple Pride also wells up when talking to someone whose son or daughter is considering applying to JMU, or spotting someone wearing a JMU T-shirt running next to you in a 5K race.

This summer I was inspired by a group of students and recent JMU graduates I met at the annual JMU Department of Political Science Day on Capitol Hill. I joined three JMU alumni on a panel to discuss "Living and Working in Washington, D.C." In addition to attending the panel discussion, the students and graduates scheduled informational interviews with fellow Dukes on the Hill and attended a networking reception. The participants had impressive resumes and were outstanding ambassadors for JMU students and alumni to potential employers.

The JMU Alumni Association Board volunteers challenge you to turn your JMU inspiration into involvement. Check out "100 Years, 100 Days, 100 Dukes," a campaign to celebrate

This fall you'll be introduced to JMU LOVE — a movement to build alumni involvement by developing Leaders of Volunteer Engagement. JMU LOVE will open doors to engagement opportunities for you across the university. I hope that you will step through those doors and let your inspiration fuel your involvement. **RM**