

PICTURETHIS



## Sun, service and smiles in the Big Easy

By MICHELLE HITE ('88)

JMU students shared sun, service and smiles during Alternative May Break in New Orleans, where they helped Habitat for Humanity. Alternative May Break site leader Frank Ameka says, "This year was very exciting. There was a lot of enthusiasm, and we had 300 on a waiting list for the trip! I was assisted by two wonderful co-leaders, Sarah Al-Haj and Glenda Cosby. They are the true heroes of this trip because of their dedication, planning and insight." Ameka is assistant director of technology and design for University Unions, which includes Warren Hall, Taylor Hall, Grafton-Stovall Theater and the Festival.

The JMU Office of Community Service-Learning sponsored the Fifth-Annual May Hurricane Relief Trip May 7-14. Hundreds of students sign up via a lottery system to earn a seat on the May service trip. While the annual trip's focus remains on re-building houses and communities destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, each May trip addresses immediate needs. JMU students and site leaders work with organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Louisiana Children's Museum, the Green Project and NOLA Pet Rescue.

\* Learn more at [www.jmu.edu/csl/abp/index.html](http://www.jmu.edu/csl/abp/index.html).

Purple power: Jim O'Donnell, Christopher Eddowes, Kimberly McEntee and Renna Wirchin show off their muscles in New Orleans, where they created new Madison memories by giving back. (Above): Fifty-six students participated in this Alternative May Break helping Habitat for Humanity in the Big Easy.