

{The Madison Experience}

# Create your own Madison legacy

*The Madison Experience continues after Homecoming Weekend*

BY JAMIE JONES MILLER ('99), president, JMU Alumni Association Board

There is just something special about being on campus in the fall. The air in the Shenandoah Valley is crisp, the purple and gold mums are bursting with color, and the campus is full of energy and students wearing their "I Bleed Purple" T-shirts. Being on campus is like drinking from the fountain of youth. Imagine what it would be like if we could bottle that feeling up and take it with us when we are not in Harrisonburg!

Some of our alumni are doing just that. Every day, JMU alumni are taking their Madison Experience on the road. This fall, alumni all over the country represented JMU at college nights held at high schools in their communities, looking to pass the Madison Experience on to prospective students. The highlight of the college night I attended was talking to a parent who said there is an energy at JMU that makes her and her son feel right at home.

In August, alumni parents shared their Madison Experience with their children who are members of the Class of 2015 at the annual Legacy Luncheon hosted by the alumni association. This event honors incoming students whose parents or grandparents graduated from JMU and recognizes the Legacy Scholars who collectively received more than \$40,000 in scholarships from the alumni association this year. Students and alumni participated in a ceremony where parents welcomed their children into the JMU Alumni Association as "JMU Alums from Day One."

The 100 Years, 100 Days, 100 Dukes campaign leading up to the alumni association centennial anniversary highlighted 100 alumni who are crafting their own Madison legacies. These distinguished alumni are doing their part to make the Madison Experience part of their communities, businesses and volunteer work. This campaign culminated in the Centennial Celebration at Homecoming where we honored alumni like Dr. Ben Hancock ('74, '75M), the 2011 Ronald E. Carrier Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award and Tracey Neale ('89), the 2011 Inez Roop Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

Homecoming Weekend was capped off by the dedication of the JMU Alumni Association Centennial Park on east campus and an alumni association board member's reunion for current and former alumni association volunteers and staff. The JMU Alumni Association Board of Directors invites alumni to visit the park, and we look forward to it becoming the home of some new Madison traditions. In honor of the centennial, the association has also committed to funding several Centennial Scholarships, a lasting legacy from alumni to current students to perpetuate the Madison Experience.

Our time as undergraduates on campus is short; yet we have a lifetime of opportunities ahead of us to engage in the Madison Experience. How are you creating your own Madison legacy? ❧

\* See more Homecoming coverage on Page 24.



JMU Alumni Association President Jamie Jones Miller ('99) and AJ Fischer ('92), immediate past alumni association president, help dedicate the Centennial Garden during Homecoming Weekend. The garden is funded by a gift from the alumni association. The ceremony was part of a reunion event for JMU alumni association leaders and presidents.

## Madison-era alumni know how to stay connected!

Four Class of 1955 alumnae, Joey Osbourne Graves, Joy Turner Corkery, Janet Dybvad Tink and Nancy Kiser Thomas, met in San Diego, Calif., in April. Graves and Thomas traveled from coast to coast for the Madison reunion. The foursome enjoyed California sunsets, walking tours, hummingbird activity and Madison memories. "We visited the Coronado Hotel, decorated in JMU colors for our tour and lunch," says Thomas. "And we toured Balboa Park. Janet is a wonderful host and Madison means so much to all of us. It's fun to keep up Madison connections." ❧

