

{Madison Perspectives}

Why choose Madison?

Find yourself in JMU's dynamic living and learning environment

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

My father is the reason I chose JMU. He heard about Madison through one of his work colleagues and traveled to JMU to take a tour. He loved it so much that he made me an offer I couldn't refuse — he would allow me to take the day off from school to visit campus on my own! He sweetened the deal by saying he would talk to the parents of one of my best friends into letting her miss class and go with me.

As soon as I set foot on campus, I knew it was going to be my new home. I know it made a similar impression on my friend because she enrolled, too!

Today, my parents, who are not JMU alumni, still bleed purple just like I do. They read *Madison* magazine cover to cover, sit in my seats for the football game during Parents Weekend, and are proud donors to JMU. There is no doubt that there is something special about Madison.

During the past year, JMU President Jonathan Alger has asked the JMU community, "Why Madison?" What makes JMU so special? Knowing this edition of the magazine is read by alumni, current students and prospective students alike, I offer these reasons to choose JMU, and tell you from my Madison Experience what you won't want to miss during your time here.

Choose Madison because of the community, and when you get here, find where in that community you belong. JMU has more than 300 student organizations and groups to join. By getting involved at Madison, you will engage with and be engaged by the world around you, one of the hallmarks of the Madison Experience.

Choose Madison because we're a university that's always asking the question "What's next?" Your education should be dynamic, and



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at JMU it will be. Our 16:1 student/faculty ratio means you'll find yourself in class environments that encourage meaningful discussion and emphasize problem solving. JMU has approachable professors, opportunities to find a

mentor — and later to become a mentor — and a hands-on experience that will serve you well when you graduate.

Choose Madison to Be the Change. President James Madison believed a knowledgeable society was critical to the survival of the republic. Here, we build educated and enlightened citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives — and JMU has a culture of learning designed to help answer the needs of society. JMU's College of Business boasts a 90 percent job placement rate, the Debate Team is ranked in the top five in the country, and our Alternative Break Program leads a service-learning culture that is second to none.

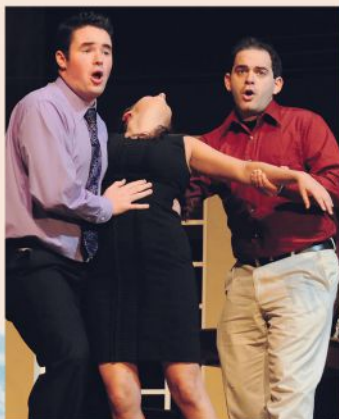
Choose Madison because JMU offers a challenging and dynamic living and learning environment. Whether you are taking class in the new Bioscience Building, practicing in the all-Steinway Forbes Center for the Performing Arts, living in the LEED Platinum-certified Wayland Hall, playing club sports in JMU's new backyard at University Park, studying abroad in Florence or London, attending a foot-

ball game with 25,000 Dukes at Bridgeforth Stadium, or watching the Diamond Dukes at Veterans Memorial Park — there really is something for everyone at Madison.

Choose Madison because your experience here will change your life. JMU values the contributions of every individual who makes up the fabric of our diverse community. You will have the opportunity to make your mark on Madison from day one, and before you know it, Madison will have made its mark on you.

The best part about JMU is your Madison Experience will last far beyond your years on campus. A few months ago, our graduating Class of 2013 and our reunion Class of 1963 joined together in our alumni candle-lighting ceremony, an event inducting the newest graduates into the JMU Alumni Association. The ceremony dates back to 1912, and may be the oldest university tradition. It was a wonderful moment that brought together alumni from two eras, bonding their collective passion for their alma mater.

The JMU Alumni Association would love to hear why you chose Madison. We can't wait to welcome our newest Dukes to campus. **m**



(Top, l-r): Students practice at the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts, students study abroad in Florence and the new club sports venue at JMU's University Park.