


# news+noteworthy

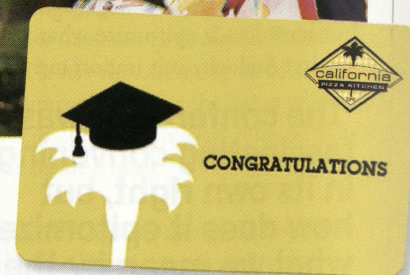
## December graduates urged to be a "go-to" person

Winter 2013 Commencement speaker G.J. Hart ('84), executive chair, chief executive officer and president of California Pizza Kitchen, celebrated the more than 700 students who graduated from JMU Saturday, Dec. 14, for their great achievement. Approximately 588 undergraduate students and 141 graduate students — 137 master's degree, three educational specialist degrees and one doctoral degree recipient — joined family and friends in the JMU Convocation Center for the program.

Hart encouraged graduates to become self-aware and to develop an internal compass. "Self-actualization will allow you to truly adapt and adjust your expectations as well as your attitude in all situations that you might encounter," he said. "Be that go-to person. What I mean is, be that reli-

able, accountable and dependable person every time, every day." Developing a "get to" attitude, rather than a "have to" one is important. "Every single day is an opportunity for each and every one of us to adjust our attitude and create our own destiny," Hart added.

JMU President Jonathan R. Alger described Hart as "an inspirational leader, supporter and friend of JMU." Hart is a member of the College of Business Executive Advisory Council and is chair of the College of Business Research and Development Board. Alger encouraged the graduates to embrace Hart's lessons of leadership, service and passion to dream big about how they can use their gifts and talents to address challenges and issues facing all communities. 



**G.J. Hart ('84) tells December grads to "be that go-to person."** Hart is president of California Pizza Kitchen, an international chain with more than 250 restaurants in 30 states and 11 countries. He joined CPK in August 2011 after serving as president and CEO of Texas Roadhouse. Hart emailed each December graduate a coupon for a pizza from California Pizza Kitchen.

→ **LEARN MORE** about G.J. Hart ('84) at [www.jmu.edu/cob/about/eac-profiles/g-j-hart.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/cob/about/eac-profiles/g-j-hart.shtml)