

Alumni news

N.Y. Times best-seller comes home

BY PAULA POLGLASE ('92, '96M)

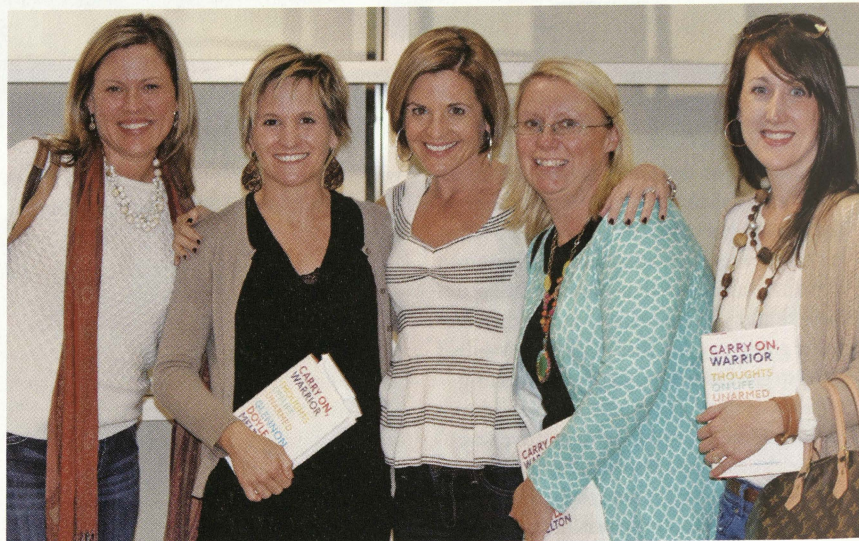
The *New York Times* best-selling author Glennon Doyle Melton ('99) visited campus during Homecoming 2013 to sign copies of her memoir *Carry On, Warrior*. Melton's talk, "Building Community Among Women," was followed by a book signing. Her message is compelling. "One thing we have in common is life is hard," she said. "For all of us. Nobody has it all figured out. We can either be perfect alone or messy together. And messy together is always better."

The audience of more than 250 alumni, students and community members responded to Melton's personal anecdotes with nods, tears and laughter. Michelle LoVuolo Militello ('97) and Tamlyn Schafer Peterson ('97) saw the announcement that Melton was speaking at JMU and decided it was time for a reunion. Militello traveled from New York City to meet up with best friend and college roommate Peterson who came in from San Francisco, Calif., — both visiting campus for the first time since graduating. Militello said Melton's writing resonates with her, "She just tells it like it is. I intensely dislike pretense and the thought that so many people hide behind their perfect pictures and clothes, saying how great everything is. Life is so hard, and Glennon actually says that."

Melton, an English major from Naples, Fla., is founder of Momastery.com, an online community where 100,000-plus members read Melton's daily essays on marriage, motherhood, faith, addiction, recovery and connections. Her ever-growing numbers of followers are called Monkees. According to Momastery.com, "We call ourselves Monkees because we're like monks in that we put our faith in something beyond ourselves, we find value in quiet and we practice living peacefully in community — here on the Internet and beyond. We're unlike monks in that we curse and watch trash TV and become annoyed quite easily. So we settled on Monkees." Melton also is creator and president of the nonprofit organization Monkee-See-Monkee-Do, which helps families in need with donations of time, talent and funding from the Monkees.

→ [LEARN MORE](#) at Momastery.com

'Nobody has it all figured out. We can either be perfect alone or messy together. And messy together is always better.' — GLENNON DOYLE MELTON ('99)



N.Y. Times best-selling author Glennon Doyle Melton ('99), center, is a regular contributor to *Huffington Post* and numerous publications. Her memoir *Carry On, Warrior* and her philanthropic work have been featured on *The TODAY Show* and *The Talk* and in *Ladies' Home Journal*, *Woman's Day*, *Family Circle*, *Parents Magazine*, *American Baby* and other media.

Carry on Warrior

BY GLENNON DOYLE MELTON ('99)

SCRIBNER, 2013

ISBN-13: 978-1451697247

**CARRY ON,
WARRIOR**
THOUGHTS
ON LIFE
UNARMED
**GLENNON
DOYLE
MELTON**

From the creator of Momastery.com

