



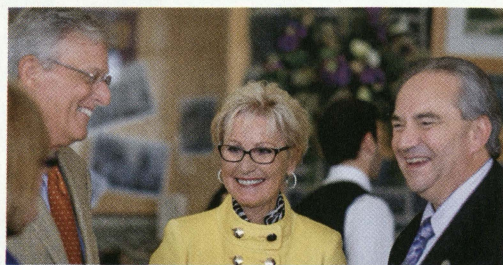
## Portrait of a president

BY PAULA HARAHAAN POLGLASE ('92, '96M)

Anticipation was high in the Great Room of the Leelou Alumni Center, filled to capacity with members of the Alumni Board of Directors, members of the Board of Visitors, President Jonathan Alger and senior staff members, all focused on the large black-draped portrait at the front of the room. "The Alumni Association Board has worked for several years on this project to honor Dr. Rose," said Ashley Privott, executive director of the JMU Alumni Association. "It will be an important piece of JMU history."

Dr. Linwood H. Rose, JMU's fifth president, retired in 2012. His 14-year tenure as president was marked by astounding growth, including the addition of more than 20 academic programs, 25 new major buildings and an enrollment increase of 35 percent. Having served JMU in various roles since 1975, Rose continues to serve in retirement as the vice president of strategic planning for the JMU Foundation.

Addressing Rose just before the portrait was unveiled, Larry Caudle ('82), president of the JMU Alumni Association, said, "On behalf of the JMU Alumni Association, and its 124,000 members all over the world, I would like to thank you for your leadership, guidance and service to our beloved alma mater." With that, Caudle and Privott removed the black draping to reveal the presidential portrait. Artist Steve Craighead's work was met with overwhelming applause from alumni, friends and colleagues.



(Top L-R): Dr. Linwood H. Rose and artist Steve Craighead with the Rose presidential portrait. (Above): The Roses with former Virginia Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling at the June portrait unveiling in the Leelou Alumni Center Great Room.

Craighead had an important job in capturing the likeness of Dr. Rose. He chose the setting by a large window and spent hours photographing and then sketching Rose. Craighead said he spent approximately 60 to 80 hours on the finished painting.

Calling the artist to the front of the room, Rose pointed to the portrait, saying, "I know it's me, but I do think he did a wonderful job." The portrait will be hung in Carrier Library with the other presidential portraits, but the long-term plan is to move all the portraits to Gibbons Dining Hall once construction is completed.

Rose did admit that he took awhile to get the process started. "I understand I was Old Business on the Alumni Board's agenda for a few years," he joked. Craighead said he was not surprised by Rose's resistance. "Even though portraiture is a part of Virginia's history and tradition going back to Colonial times, it's often difficult to get contemporary Virginians of accomplishment to agree to pose for a portrait," said Craighead. "I'm glad, after much prodding, he finally agreed; and I hope that the JMU community is pleased with the result."

Rose concluded his remarks, saying, "I want to thank the Alumni Board and the Alumni Association for this gift to the university; it is something that memorializes the history of this institution. I think as the years pass it will mean more and more that the Alumni Association did this."