

Four new coaches take the reins

BY JOHN MARTIN

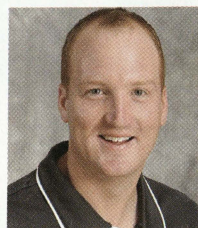
The JMU Department of Athletics hired four new head coaches during spring and summer. Sarah Sargent (women's golf), James Bryce (women's tennis), Ta' Frias (women's track and field) and Dane Pedersen (women's swimming and diving) have taken the reins of their respective programs for the 2014–15 school year.

Sarah Sargent, who replaces Paul Gooden after his retirement, spent the past two years at University of North Carolina at Greensboro as the head coach. In 2013, she coached Fanny Cnops to the Southern Conference Player of the Year award and an at-large berth into the NCAA Central Regional. Sargent, a former LPGA Tour and Duramed Futures Tour member, spent six years on the Futures Tour and two years on the LPGA Tour before heading into collegiate coaching as an assistant coach in stops at Furman and Coastal Carolina.

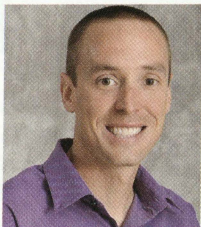
James Bryce, who took over following Maria Malerba's retirement after 38 years at JMU, spent the last year as an assistant coach



Sarah Sargent
(women's golf)



James Bryce
(women's tennis)



Dane Pedersen
(women's swim-
ming and diving)



Ta' Frias (women's
track and field)

with the Mississippi State women's tennis program. During that time, he helped coach Georgiana Patrasc to a No. 49 national singles ranking, a 23-9 overall mark and a berth in the 2014 NCAA Singles Championship. Prior to his year at Mississippi State, Bryce was at Saint Leo University, where he served as the head coach of the men's and women's tennis teams from 2009–13. He took over programs that were unranked when he arrived, and by the end of his tenure elevated both programs to a No. 8 national ranking.

Dane Pedersen recently completed his seventh year with the women's swimming and diving program and his second as associate head coach. He has helped JMU finish in the top two the last four years at the Colonial Athletic Association Championships, including taking home the 2012 team title. He has helped coach a pair of NCAA qualifiers in the last two years in Sin Hye Won and Shannon Dubay, as well as 2012 Olympian Eva Hannesdottir and U.S. Olympic Trials qualifier Kelsey Holmgard.

Ta' Frias is the new director of track and field, following Bill Walton, who retired after 38 years. Frias was the head JMU women's track and field coach for the last five seasons. In 2012 she was selected as the CAA Coach of the Year by a vote of the league's head track and field coaches. Frias earned the CAA honor after guiding the Dukes to their first conference title in 2012. JMU captured individual titles in six events (high jump, long jump, 100 meters, 800 meters, 1,500 meters, 5,000 meters) en route to winning the CAA crown.

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Top Dawg fan

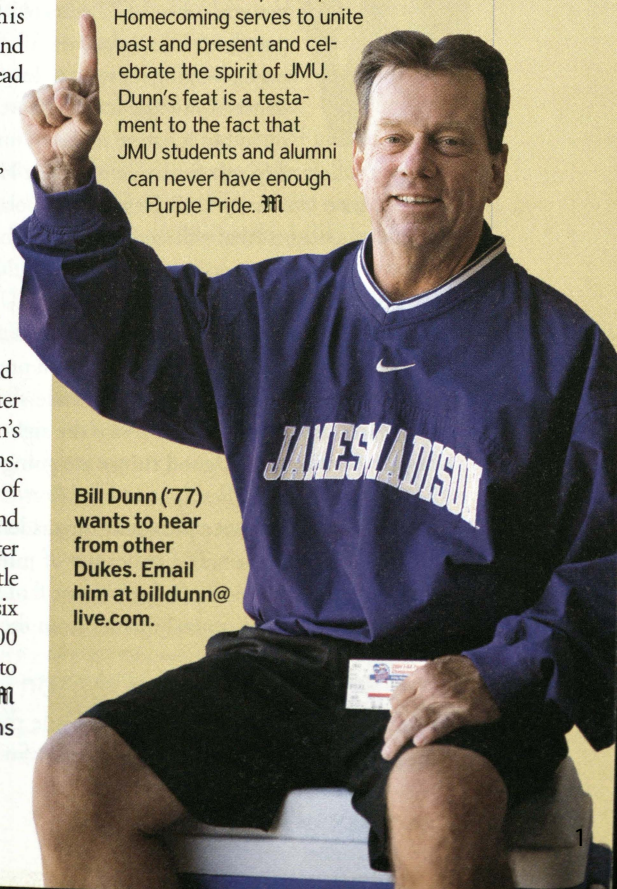
Homecoming "king"
Bill Dunn ('77)

BY EMILY TAIT ('15)

Nothing can keep William "Bill" Dunn away from his beloved alma mater. A member of the Class of 1977, Dunn has made it to 40 straight JMU Homecomings! He participated in his first four Homecomings as a student, and from there on out he just couldn't stay away. "I love coming back to campus and Harrisonburg. What better way to spend a Saturday afternoon than tailgating on Godwin field, mixing up my 'Famous Bloody Mary' – and enjoying good food and a great atmosphere," says Dunn. "Anybody who knows me well knows I will be there. I have missed friends' weddings on three occasions to make it to Homecoming. It's something that I look forward to and will continue to look forward to as long as I can."

While at JMU, Dunn was a College of Education business administration major and an active member of Theta Chi Fraternity. He has volunteered at the university for more than 25 years and is a past president of the Northern Virginia Duke Club of chapter representatives.

Homecoming serves to unite past and present and celebrate the spirit of JMU. Dunn's feat is a testament to the fact that JMU students and alumni can never have enough Purple Pride. 



Bill Dunn ('77)
wants to hear
from other
Dukes. Email
him at billdunn@live.com.

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