

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY Alumni news



Madison Traditions Classes of 2014 and 1964 connect

Candlelighting ceremony unites seniors with the alumni family

One of Madison's oldest traditions is the candlelighting ceremony inducting graduating seniors into the alumni family. JMU candlelighting ceremonies began on campus in 1912, when, during the second commencement exercises at the State Normal and Industrial School for Women, graduating students participated in a small ceremony inducting them into the alumnae association. More than 100 years later, this simple, meaningful event

celebrates the induction of nearly 4,000 students into an organization nearly as old as Madison itself. The past two years' Madison reunion schedules have allowed the JMU Alumni Association to combine the senior candlelighting ceremony with the Bluestone Reunions candlelighting ceremony, which annually celebrates the 50th reunion class. This year seniors shared the ceremony with members of the Class of 1964.

Bluestone Reunions 2014

"WOW, you folks really know how to throw a great celebration!" wrote Sandra E. Dutemple, ('62) in a letter of thanks to the alumni office after participating in Bluestone Reunion Weekend, May 2-4. Approximately 130 alumni gathered on campus to reconnect with friends, talk to current students, learn about JMU and reminisce about their time at Madison College. Seventy alums from the Class of 1964 were inducted into the Bluestone Society and received medallions to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their graduation. "With the huge changes in the 50 years since my graduation, the focus seems to remain on the fostering of individual student success and each being part of the JMU family while on campus and forever," said Dutemple. Plans are already underway to celebrate the Classes of 1965, '60, '55, '45 and '40 at the 2015 Bluestone Reunions April 23-25, 2015.



The Class of 1964 presents a 50th reunion class gift of \$208,574.