

et al.: A homecoming for the ages

Alumni News



A HOMECOMING FOR THE AGES



(Aerial): A sea of purple in Bridgeforth Stadium for the sold-out football game. (Above, inset, from top): students sport JMU fight song T-shirts; alums tailgate on Godwin field. (Opposite, clockwise from top): alumni dance to their favorite tunes; D.J. Godinez ('11) sings the national anthem; a cappella group performs at HomecomSing; a foursome at the annual Golf Tournament.

The wrap-up video from Homecoming 2015 was titled "A Homecoming for the Ages." It was the truth! The energy, excitement and all-over Purple Pride that comes with every Homecoming was taken to all-new levels with the broadcast of ESPN's College GameDay from the Quad on Oct. 24.

Alumni responded by heading to Harrisonburg for the weekend.

Student events started mid-week with the revamped Purple Out T-shirt giveaway in Bridgeforth Stadium. The Student Government Association, in partnership with Student Alumni Association and JMU Athletics, held a pep rally featuring the Marching Royal Dukes, cheer and dance teams, and football players, and gave out more than 5,000 shirts. On Thursday students got their cars decorated at Pep My Ride and attended the Homecoming-themed Late Night Breakfast. The buzz on campus for ESPN's College GameDay was in full force by Thursday evening as thousands of students welcomed the famous orange bus to the Quad.



Friday saw a Purple Out across the nation and definitely on campus where students who were wearing their fight song T-shirts were rewarded with Homecoming swag on the Commons. Although most alumni headed straight for campus, over 80 golfers hit the links for the Homecoming Golf Tournament. The tournament sold out for the second year in a row, and it was a beautiful day to be out on the links reconnecting with friends. D-Hall hosted an “alumni favorites” lunch and a more formal dinner to showcase construction plans for the new D-Hall. Alumni and students packed Wilson Hall for the debut of HomecomSing, an a cappella concert. Alumni of the a cappella groups were encouraged to jump up on stage and join their group for a song. The Duke Club hosted over 350 people on the football field — a great experience on the eve of the big game.

Over 20 reunion groups gathered all over Harrisonburg and on campus during the weekend to reunite and reconnect. The Alumni

Office was able to help large reunion groups, like the College of Business, Black Alumni Chapter, and Alpha Chi Omega, and smaller groups, like former D-Hall employees, plan events catered just to them.

College GameDay brought students, JMU employees, alumni, community members and visitors to the Quad on Saturday morning. The energy on campus was at an all-time high as we showed the ESPN viewers what we already knew — JMU is a special place! After the show ended, the crowds made their way to tailgates all over campus and stopped by Spirit Alley to pick up some Homecoming swag. The Office of Alumni Relations hosted more than 600 alumni on Godwin Field for a barbecue feast at Homecoming Headquarters. The football game versus Richmond brought out a sea of purple fans to cheer on the Dukes. Although the game did not turn out in our favor, no one could say that this was not a Homecoming for the ages! M