

NEWS & NOTES

JMU Debate brings home Madison Cup

JMU Debate captured the 17th annual Madison Cup on April 17 at James Madison University. It was the host team's first cup win since 2003.

Students Nick Lepp ('17) and Cecilia Cerja represented the university, debating passionately the topic of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

The Madison Cup annually draws many of the top collegiate debate programs, including Yale, Harvard, Cornell, Johns Hopkins and William and Mary. It is funded by the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation, which provides cash prizes for teams and individual competitors.

Also known as the James Madison Commemorative Debate and Citizens Forum, the event began in 2001 on the commemoration of James Madison's birth to honor his belief that public debate is necessary for a healthy democracy.



"Our goal for this debate, and really all of the debates, is to provide a model to our community for what civic discourse can look like," said director Mike Davis. "Too often in society today, what passes for debate includes name calling or yelling and lacks the research necessary to make an informed decision. We hope to show through our model of public debate that just because you disagree about the world you live in you don't have to hate the other person."

Ranked as one of the top collegiate debate teams in the country in eight of the past 11 years, JMU Debate hosts public events throughout the year. To learn more, visit jmu.edu/debate.



Giving to JMU tops \$18 million for the third year in a row

Private donors gave more than \$18 million to JMU during fiscal year 2017, which ended June 30. The total marks the third consecutive year that private support to JMU eclipsed the \$18 million level, after averaging \$10.1 million per year during the previous three fiscal years (2012-14).

For the second consecutive year, the university set single-year records for number of alumni donors (9,163) and total donors (21,137).

"The JMU community has really stepped up and is supporting this wonderful institution philanthropically at a consistently heightened level," says Nick Langridge ('00, '07M, '14Ph.D.), vice

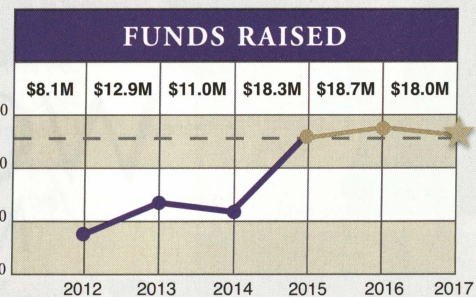
president for university advancement. "Alumni, students, parents, friends, foundations and corporations feel the momentum Madison has gathered over the recent years, and they see a gift to the university as a wise investment in a rising stock. That's exciting, and it ought to make everyone connected to James Madison University proud."

The \$18 million total included increases over the previous year in several categories. Annual giving totals increased from \$5.9 million to a record \$6.2 million; organizational major gifts grew to \$5.5 million from last year's \$3.8 million total; and planned gifts jumped from \$617,000 to nearly \$2.2 million in fiscal year 2017.

JMU's second annual Giving Day was among the highlights of the year. During a 24-hour campaign on March 15, the university raised more than \$600,000 from more than 4,000 donors.

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NICK LANGRIDGE, *vice president for university advancement*



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