

et al.: From T-shirts to tailgates, Homecoming had it all

Alumni News



From T-shirts to tailgates, Homecoming had it all

BY JOLIE KLEIN, DAILY DUKE INTERN

Homecoming is a beautiful time of the year, and not solely because of the fall colors on campus. Students, alumni, faculty and staff came together Oct. 24–29 to celebrate what we all have in common—a deep love for JMU.

The week's festivities began Monday with the first-ever Homecoming Kickoff Party. Godwin Field was filled with music and glow lights to get the party started. Students celebrated with free food, giveaways and plenty of great dance moves. Following the Kickoff Party, JMU hosted various events throughout the week to keep the spirit alive. On Tuesday, students followed a series of clues to find the giant purple-and-gold JMU letters around campus. And on Wednesday, the 14th annual Purple Out Pep Rally took place in Bridgeforth Stadium, with 5,000 "I bleed purple" T-shirts given out to students. Members of the football team, cheerleading squad, dance team and Marching Royal Dukes were in attendance to get everyone excited for Saturday's game against Rhode Island.

(Clockwise from top): Students pose with the letters from the "Find the JMU Letters" game and Pep My Ride at the D-Hub tailgate; Gary James Downey ('74) shows off his 2010 Plum Crazy Challenger RT car to President Alger; Class of 2006 women celebrate their 10-year reunion and display their Purple Pride; JMU alums enjoy listening to the country-rock band Justified while tailgating before the football game at Homecoming Headquarters on Godwin Field.

The weekend was fully underway on Friday with Fight Song T-shirt Day. Campus was covered with the famous upside-down fight song T-shirts that all students receive during orientation from the Student Alumni Association. The icing on the JMU cake came Saturday, as campus quickly filled with tailgates hosted by JMU fans from near and far. All major tailgating lots and plots were packed with Purple Pride to show support for our Dukes. And in case you missed it, the football team put on quite a show, winning 84-7.

As always, it was a great time to be a Duke.

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