A dance and physical therapy partnership

BY JEN KULJU ('04M)

A new partnership between JMU and Sentara RMH Medical Center allows dance majors in the School of Theatre and Dance to receive training and treatment, much like what athletic trainers provide for student-athletes at JMU. Three years in the making, the program is the brainchild of Sarah Gosselin ('08), a physical therapist at the new Sentara RMH Orthopedic Center.

Gosselin, who graduated from JMU with a double major in dance and pre-physical therapy, says her Madison Experience guided her career traj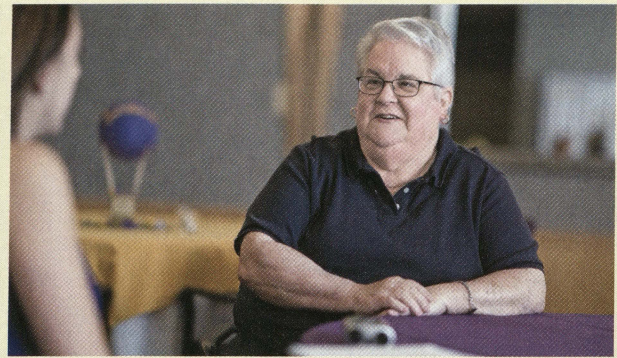ectory. "I just loved the atmosphere at JMU. Everyone was so welcoming, and it offered everything I needed for my career path. … My time as a dance major confirmed my true passion for dance and that I would always need it in my life," she says. "It was also during that time that I realized I wanted to help dancers. It was always difficult to find a health care practitioner who understood my needs as a dancer."

According to Gosselin, the goal of the partnership is "to provide dancers with quick and easy access to a medical professional who specifically understands their needs and demands, and how best to treat them." In addition to serving as a guest lecturer at JMU, Gosselin facilitates screenings to educate dance students about injury prevention. The collaboration will also provide students with internship opportunities in the Sentara RMH Orthopedic Center. "The program is going great and continues to grow," she says.

Gosselin maintains connections with JMU on a personal level as well. "The dance professors were always so approachable and supportive. I love being connected with them even now, so many years after graduation. This is also true with my roommates and other dance majors. Even if we don't speak on a regular basis, as soon as we see each other again, we always relive the great time we had at JMU." Ⓜ

Physical therapist Sarah Gosselin ('08) treats Kayla Bolton, a senior dance major and pre-physical therapy student.

Anne Collins ('67, '78M) encourages students to set their sights high.

Paying it forward for the success of future Dukes

BY SAM ROTH

Honors College Advisory Council member Anne Collins ('67, '78M) was not always the generous and involved alumna that she is today. When she first arrived at JMU, she was a self-described "little kid from the Eastern Shore of Maryland who had not done much in school." It was not until her freshman year when history professor Dan McFarland took her aside and told her, "It's time for you to get yourself together and start achieving. You have the ability; let's start using it," that she started doing better, going to summer school and becoming a double major and double minor who graduated with 169 credit hours.

Collins became a high-school history teacher, working in Chesterfield County, Virginia, for nine years before moving back home. There, she continued her career and began recruiting high-achieving students for JMU. In her retirement, she has continued to travel along the Eastern Shore of Maryland, speaking to students about applying for college and encouraging them to set their sights high.

She has become an active member of the Honors College Advisory Council, for which she helped to create the Hillcrest Scholarship. She also created the Sidney Rodrick Bland History Scholarship Endowment in recognition of the dedicated faculty member and innovative educator in the JMU Department of History for more than four decades.

'We're giving the best education we can give to the best students, so we can continue to recruit the best.'

"This is a place that was not just where you had fun … or met your best friends for life; it's also a place that tried to provide for you for the rest of your life with an education and with challenges that would help you," Collins says. "We're giving the best education we can give to the best students, so we can continue to recruit the best. This is just one of the ways that a supportive, student-centric environment and an inclusive campus is critical for students. We're all here together." Ⓜ

GOSSELIN PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE MIRIELLO ('09M)