

Ride with JMU Pride

BY JAMIE SIMPKINS

Traveling down Interstate 81, one might notice purple-and-gold license plates that stand out from the standard Virginia plates. With more than 4,900 on the highway, these license plates are not hard to find. Available in two styles, drivers have the choice between plates featuring Duke Dog or the JMU seal. Besides being a great way to show school spirit, JMU license plates also help make college more affordable by funding legacy scholarships.

The legacy scholarships, given by the JMU Alumni Association, are awarded to incoming freshmen who have a parent or grandparent who graduated from JMU. Some scholarships can be renewed each school year.

The legacy scholarship has given Ana Hart, a freshman scholarship recipient and dance major, the opportunity to pursue her dreams at JMU, just like her alumna mom, Vesna ('13 Psy.D.). "I definitely have looked to her [my mom] as an example, and I think that JMU definitely gave her the tools to be able to do what she's doing now," Hart said. "I've seen that and it's inspired me. Being a scholarship recipient has meant so much to me, because I'm able to continue in her footsteps."

Brittany Goldman, a senior scholarship recipient and marketing major, credits a memorable experience she had with her mom, Jen-



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— BRITTANY GOLDMAN

nifer ('09 Au.D.), who was then a doctoral student in audiology at JMU, for helping her choose to attend the university. "My mom's professor actually got a connection to donate free hearing aids to me while I was in school, which was just the sweetest thing," Goldman said. "I got my first pair of hearing aids in ISAT, and I have very vivid memories of walking through the hallways, so that was always a big piece of my mind."

For Goldman, being a legacy scholarship recipient means she has been able to focus on her academics, rather than finances, for the past four years. "It just makes it more possible to get an education and not have to worry about where my finances are coming from this semester," Goldman said. "I can be a student and let that be my first and foremost job and just succeed in all of my classes."

Not only do the legacy scholarships help ease the financial burden of attending college, but they motivate recipients to work hard and give back. "Just by being able to have that support behind me, I think inspires me and motivates me to keep moving forward pursuing my education and to

make my experience at JMU purposeful and meaningful," Hart said. "It's setting me up for the future so I can continue to do the same out in the world."

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