

Leading a purposeful life

At JMU, students learn by doing in every discipline. The result is transformative and lasting. *Madison* magazine regularly receives word from our alumni who tell us of the ways they are pursuing an engaged life, a life that brings meaning to themselves and others. This purposeful life is Being the Change.

BEING THE CHANGE

Seeing the good: Vine Adowei ('17)

Vine Adowei is an international graduate student from Warri, Nigeria, pursuing a master's degree in communications and advocacy from JMU.



While adjusting to cultural differences and challenges, Adowei has supported and lived with two of her three siblings while their parents are still in Nigeria.

"I think Being the Change means acknowledging that there are problems in the world, but determining to be a part of the solution, rather than sitting around lamenting our woes or pointing fingers at the 'bad guys.' It means going out into the world now and doing whatever you can in whatever capacity you are able, to bring about good." For Adowei, that means pursuing a master's, providing for her family and seeing the good in every trial she faces. To read her full story, visit alumni.jmu.edu/vineadowei.



Making a difference: Mark Rendell ('88)

An educator since 1993 and currently superintendent of the Indian River County (Florida) School District, Mark Rendell has always gone the extra mile to be accessible to his students. This idea of approachability is largely influenced by an experience Rendell had as a JMU student with President Emeritus Ronald E. Carrier. After bravely asking Carrier out to lunch, Rendell was surprised that Carrier actually agreed. They met at a local restaurant. "He was larger than life in some aspects, yet so accessible and so down-to-earth ... I've tried to emulate him to be a great leader and accessible to my students." In recognition of Rendell's professional achievements and dedication to education, it seems fitting that earlier this year, Rendell was awarded the Ronald E. Carrier Alumni Achievement Award, the highest recognition presented to an alumnus by the JMU Alumni Association.



(Top): Mark Rendell ('88) with children from the Boys & Girls Club of Indian River County. (Inset): Rendell receives the Real Men Wear Pink 2017 Certificate of Achievement and 1st Place award.



(Above): Casey Templeton ('06) enjoys spending time with his wife, Ashley, and their three children. (Inset): Templeton fishes with his son.

Checking the boxes: Casey Templeton ('06)

Even before graduation, Casey Templeton had an epic bucket list of activities that included flying an airplane, delivering a baby, officiating a wedding and starting a charity—all of which he has been able to check off. In November 2016, Templeton was diagnosed with a connective tissue disorder that affects his arteries and veins. "I had to change the way I lived, how I worked, and I had to tone back all of my physical activities. I now have to think twice before picking up my children." After the initial shock of his diagnosis, Templeton made the choice to actively pursue life and achieve his goals. Being the Change for Casey means finding joy regardless of life's circumstances and bravely checking off the next items on his bucket list. To read more, visit alumni.jmu.edu/templeton.

