



Keeping it in the family

BY JESSICA SAVOIE ('14), *alumni relations assistant director*

Family legacy is an important part of the Madison Experience. The shared history created by having an alumni parent or grandparent creates a unique bond with James Madison University and the campus.

Many prospective legacy students have grown up attending JMU athletic events, hearing stories about their alumni parents' time on campus and knowing what it means to bleed purple. Legacy families are important because they have an unwavering loyalty to JMU and a special pride in JMU's traditions that they want to instill in the next generation of Dukes.

In celebration of our prospective legacy families, the JMU Alumni Association and Office of Undergraduate Admissions collaborated on Legacy Family Days. This inaugural event was designed to bring alumni parents/grandparents and their rising junior and senior high-school students to campus.

Over the course of two days, 42 alumni families received an insider look at the college admissions process and heard a panel of experts provide a holistic view of college admissions. Participation in Legacy Family Days has no bearing on a candidate's admission to the university. The event is intended to be a valuable experience for families engaged in the college search and application process.

Sessions such as "#Iwantogohere: How to make the most of your college visits" and "Writing 101: The college essay and supplement-

tal materials" provided alumni and their prospective students valuable information on how to tackle the process of applying to college.

Being back on campus with their prospective students brought up a lot of memories for the alumni participants. Jerry Pierce ('81) attended Legacy Family Days with his son, Drew, and reflected, "It brings back so many memories and makes you appreciative of all the great times and great friends you made. Most of all, you appreciate the great education you received. You can only hope your son or daughter will have as much fun as you did while receiving a top-notch education."

Not able to make it to the 2018 Legacy Family Days event? Here are some key takeaways from this year's participants.

- "Get started on applications now! Don't be afraid to ask questions along the way." — Maria Howard ('87)
- "The actual process of how applications are compared and chosen was completely different than I expected. Very enlightening!" — John Fannon ('90)
- "It made me realize that JMU had been the perfect school for me. The things that the staff and alumni emphasized—community and relationships—defined my college experience, but now I realize that it wasn't just my experience, but the JMU Madison Experience." — Deana Platt ('94)

For more information about the 2019 Legacy Family Days event, visit alumni.jmu.edu.



(Left): Legacy Family Days participants listen to a panel of experts provide a holistic view on college admissions. The panel included Michael D. Walsh, JMU dean of Admissions, and representatives from the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Davidson College and the University of Richmond.