

NEWS & NOTES



During a guest lecture in March, former Virginia Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling emphasized the need for more mainstream voices in American political debate.


Bend, don't break, Bolling advises

Bill Bolling, former lieutenant governor of Virginia and a member of the JMU Board of Visitors, was the guest speaker for the third session in the Department of History's series *Democracy in Peril?*

"Since When Did Compromise Become a Bad Thing?" focused on the art of compromise as the essence of a working democracy. "This was a principle embedded in the very creation of our government by the founding fathers of our country, including, our favorite, James Madison," he said.

Bolling, a Republican known for reaching across the political aisle, said, "Neither party has a monopoly on wisdom, common sense or good government."

The voices of people who represent mainstream America are frequently drowned out by opinions on the poles of the political spectrum, Bolling said. He encouraged the students, faculty and members of the community in attendance not to shy away from public debate. "There's nothing wrong with resisting the extremes and being involved in the mainstream, but to take this back we're going to need more reasonable people, more mainstream people, who are willing to re-engage with this process."

"We need to understand that at the end of the day, to reach consensus about public policy, everybody has to give a little bit," he said. "It's better to bend a little than to break." 



Hotel Madison, located at the corner of South Main Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way, is scheduled to open May 1, in time for spring commencement. The official hotel of James Madison University, it will feature 230 guest rooms, more than 21,000 square feet of event space and a full-service restaurant.