

NEWS & NOTES

MRDs perform in Macy's parade

The Marching Royal Dukes represented Virginia and JMU in the 92nd annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, marking the band's fourth appearance in the American holiday classic.

The Marching Royal Dukes performed in previous Macy's parades in 2001, 2008 and 2013. The band, directed by Scott Ridders ('03M) and Amy Birdsong ('01), was one of more than 100 applicants for 10 band spaces in the parade. Their appearance adds to the band's extensive résumé, which includes performances at NFL games, presidential and gubernatorial inauguration ceremonies, numerous exhibitions, recruiting trips and goodwill tours.

"As one of the largest and most visible student organizations at JMU, we have the opportunity and responsibility to positively represent our university and the community of which we are part," Ridders said. "We are proud to appear in the Macy's Parade, an American tradition that most of us watch growing up and with our families each November. For the members, it is an exciting opportunity to get to experience the inner-workings of the parade production. For the university, our alumni and the entire JMU community, we are proud to represent them in such an important and public event, and make them proud representing the Dukes in front of an audience of millions on Thanksgiving Day."

This year's band has 535 members—the largest roster in the ensemble's 46-year history.



Partners in education

A JMU delegation traveled to Kosovo in October to help officials understand how technology can be used to improve the higher education experience.



You are:
Bold. Passionate. Collaborative.

Madison Trust needs you!

03.01.19

Invest in the future and leave your philanthropic legacy at Madison. Become a Madison Trust investor-judge. Bring your enterprising spirit and foresight to the table to explore visionary, innovative ideas from JMU faculty and staff.

Solving real-world problems with life-changing innovations.



MADISON TRUST
FOR INNOVATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Ready to be our next investor-judge?
Call 800.296.6162 or email madisontrust@jmu.edu
Learn more and watch the video: j.mu/mtrust