



Get to know your alumni board of directors

The JMU Alumni Association Board of Directors is made up of 22 alumni who represent the interests of over 135,000 JMU graduates. As a governing body, the board provides guidance, leadership and active support for the association and the university.

In the fall, the JMUAA welcomed five new members:



Zac Hittie
(‘06, ‘10M)

Hittie graduated from the university in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science degree, double majoring in integrated science and technology and computer science. He was a member of the Marching Royal Dukes, a resident adviser, aquatics manager at UREC and a member of the men’s club water polo team.

Hittie continued to give back to the JMU community as president of the Harrisonburg Alumni Chapter with his wife, Laura (‘07). “I was asked about being on the board and the more I thought about it, the more I realized that I could give back on an even broader scale,” Hittie says. “I’m looking forward to reaching out to people for them to understand what’s going on with the community at JMU.”

‘I believe that we all need to give back because this is our university and it matters.’

— ROBIN GOODMAN (‘83)

Hittie currently works as a systems engineer for a private firm in Harrisonburg.

Ellen Hineman (‘89)

Hineman completed her undergraduate degree in 1989, earning a Bachelor of Science in elementary education. She was a Student Ambassador.

Since graduation, Hineman has been involved in the Parents Council, advancement recruitment college fairs, and countless Homecoming reunions and football games with her husband and two JMU alumnae daughters, and has participated in CHOICES and hosted numerous JMU send-offs.



“I decided to serve on the board largely because I just want to give back. I have so much pride in the university,” Hineman says. She is most excited about connecting alumni back to the uni-

(Above, L-R, front row): Stephanie Mendolia (‘08), Heather Hedrick (‘00), Robin Goodman (‘83), Cathleen Dotter (‘89), Ellen Hineman (‘89), Kaitlin Holbrook (‘13) and Chiquita King (‘09, ‘11M). (L-R, back row): Carrie Combs (‘07, ‘09M), Zac Hittie (‘06, ‘10M), Tripp Hughes (‘09), Jeremy Brown (‘94, ‘96M), Dave Urso (‘03), Dirron Allen (‘00), Kimberly Turner (‘00, ‘04M), Carrie Hawes (‘04), Eric Bowlin (‘02), Carol Benassi (‘82) and Joe Showker (‘79).

versity and making them feel part of something bigger than themselves. “I think when you reconnect to the JMU community and the energy that lives there, you’re compelled to give back and be integrated with it.”

Hineman is a full-time volunteer and lives in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.

Carrie Hawes (‘04)

Hawes graduated from JMU in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science in communication sciences and disorders. She earned a master’s in higher education from North Carolina State University. As a transfer student, Hawes made the most of her time at JMU by being a resident adviser for one year and then a hall director during her senior year.

Hawes has stayed connected to her JMU community via the many alumni profession-



ALUMNI FOR LIFE

als she has had the opportunity to work with in higher education, her local chapter, giving back financially and always being an advocate for everything that's going on at JMU.

"I decided to serve on the board because it's a great way for me to grow professionally with a great group of people," Hawes says. She's most excited about connecting with alumni and finding ways they can get involved.

Hawes lives in Richmond, Virginia, and works in employer relations at the University of Richmond.

Kaitlin Holbrook ('13)



Holbrook graduated from JMU in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts in media arts and design.

She was a student member of the Duke Club and is a member of Phi Mu fraternity.

Since graduation, Holbrook has stayed connected to JMU through the GOLD Network Board and served as a Madison Champion and president of the Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter.

"I've dreamed of serving on the board because I've always looked up to everyone who serves on it and how much they've had an impact on so many alumni," Holbrook says. She hopes to help alumni get involved and give back through opportunities that they may not know about. "If I can shed a light on how giving back financially is helpful, I'd love

to help alumni understand that even small amounts are huge," she says.

Holbrook lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and is a market scheduler for Adams Outdoor Advertising.

Robin Goodman ('83)

Goodman completed her undergraduate degree in 1983, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance. During her time as a student, she was a member of Sigma Kappa sorority, a Sigma Phi Epsilon little sister and a member of *The Bluestone* staff.



Goodman has continued to be a part of the JMU community through the Parents Council, various advancement and university strategic planning committees, being a member of the Duke Club with her husband and hosting numerous events for the President's Council.

"I'm always searching for new ways to get involved and the board seemed to be a good fit for me," Goodman says. She hopes to encourage and inspire alumni of all ages to be more involved with their alma mater, in any capacity.

"I believe that we all need to give back because this is our university and it matters," she says.

Goodman lives in Richmond, Virginia, and is the retired co-owner of Goodman and Pettit LLC, a real estate appraisal firm.



Becoming a Madison Champion

BY ERIC BOWLIN ('02), *Alumni Association president*

Broadening my Madison Network has been the most rewarding part of my JMU alumni experience. It always amazes me how a shared experience can bring a group of people together. I'm lucky to work at Deloitte, an organization that recruits heavily at James Madison. We've seen the success that Dukes have when they join us. They are great team members and are always eager to jump in and contribute.

Over the past several years, our Madison Network has really solidified at Deloitte. We have a fantastic group of alumni working together to encourage philanthropy and engagement with JMU through social events, on-campus recruiting and rallying around JMU Giving Day each year.

'The Madison Experience doesn't end at graduation; it lasts a lifetime.'

We even have an internal newsletter just for Dukes at Deloitte that highlights campus news, alumni who are joining Deloitte, upcoming networking opportunities and other topics.

It's also great to see my fellow Dukes rocking their purple gear on football Fridays at the office and then reconnecting on Mondays after another great visit to Harrisonburg.

I encourage you to become a Madison Champion and capture the same energy at your workplace, whether it be corporate, education, health care, nonprofit or otherwise. As of today, we have 20 Madison Champions representing 15 organizations/businesses including Deloitte, Dominion Energy, Accenture and more.

The Madison Experience doesn't end at graduation; it lasts a lifetime. You never know when a new connection with a fellow alum might lead to a new friendship or professional opportunity.

To learn more about how to become a Madison Champion, please visit j.mu/champions.



Hear what entrepreneur and JMU faculty-member-in-residence Bryan Bostic ('83) has to say about Dukes in the workplace at j.mu/bostic.