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The spirit of JMU personified

It's in the fact that I've never met a stranger wearing purple and gold. It's in the way that the men's head basketball coach said sorry after he missed a congratulatory fist-pound from a fan after an exciting overtime win at the Convo. It's in the literal and figurative "opening doors" philosophy we have. It's in my observation of a student holding the door open for a good 20 seconds while waiting for the next student.

It's in running into a former SMAD professor at the suite level of a football game.

It's in the Facilities Management staff waving hello to me in the mornings.

It's in the way cars slow down at campus crosswalks to wait for pedestrians to cross.

It's in the way one student-athlete sat down with a fellow student who had said, "I feel stuck" following a powerful campus event about mental health. It's in my observation of her listening and offering a shoulder.

It's in my witnessing a community member picking up trash on a downtown street.

It's in the way a student was moved to tears while asking a question about a loved one's suicide. It's in the way a fellow student offered a comforting gesture and said, "It's OK."

It's in the way I strike up conversations with random tailgaters before football games. (See above: There are no strangers in purple and gold.)

It's in the way I left a lunch with the vice president for university advancement feeling inspired and motivated to achieve great things.

It's in the way I spoke with pride to parents and prospective students who asked about my Madison Experience while volunteering at two college fairs.

It's in seeing my supervisor on Saturdays at the farmers market and at a local brewery.

It's in the pleasure I got from reviewing and critiquing student resumes at SMAD Day.

It's in the way our student assistants look out for each other. It's in how they text one another to give a heads-up about the parking lot being full before coming to work.

It's in the head nods of approval I get from strangers—er, JMU community members; no strangers, remember—while I walk around town in a JMU shirt.

It's in the feels and positive vibes many of us got after working awesome campaign events.

It's in the way that I fell in love with JMU all over again.

It's in the way I got goosebumps while writing the above.

This is the spirit of JMU. It's what we're known for, and it's what we fully embrace. We are a community of doers, collaborators, leaders, team players, advocates and allies. It's a factor in what drew me back to serve this place I hold dear.

But I don't want to make this about me. It's about all of you. In the spirit of collaboration, we want *Madison* magazine to be a vehicle by which we collaborate on storytelling. There are so many interesting things happening on campus and around the community. We want to tell those stories. Please email madisonmag@jmu.edu if you have a compelling angle, which speaks to the JMU spirit, that you'd like to pitch.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Feedback is always welcome.

Sincerely,



Khalil Garriott

Khalil Garriott ('04)

Executive Editor, *Madison* magazine

"It's in the way that I fell in love with JMU all over again."

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Staff Snippets

What does “engaged with ideas and with the world” (from JMU’s vision statement) mean to you?

“It means that we need to transcend ourselves and use our knowledge to shape the world.”

PAM BROCK
Senior editor-at-large

“To me, being engaged means being true to oneself while also maintaining an overall feeling of connectedness with others. It is about working together to make our communities and our world a better place.”

HANNAH LONG ('19)
Editorial intern

“It means having an open mind full of concepts and being actively involved in the world around us. The ability to imagine a variety of possibilities and heartily participate in all that life has to offer is fulfilling.”

CAROLYN WINDMILLER ('81)
Art director

Stephen Abramowitz ('19) is an editorial intern in University Communications and Marketing. Originally from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, the senior communication studies major serves as vice president of JMU’s chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America. He also was selected for JMU’s first student-run PR firm, Bluestone Communications. His feature on digitizing the Madison Art Collection is on Page 44.



Lynda Bostrom ('18M), a digital media specialist at Shenandoah Valley Organic, graduated from JMU with a Master of Fine Arts degree in drawing and painting. For the last 10 years, she has been working on a wide spectrum of projects—creating personal and commissioned artworks and murals, teaching, brand development, web design and print materials. Her art appears on Pages 7 and 46.



Martha Bell Graham is a freelance writer, novelist and author of *Cair-naerie*, a historical fiction published in 2017. She has been a staff writer for her alma mater, Virginia Tech, and JMU, where she coordinated the Be the Change program. She and her husband, Mark, a CPA who teaches finance in the College of Business, have four married children, three of whom graduated from JMU. Graham wrote the cover story on 50 years of the JMU Foundation, which begins on Page 24.



University Communications and Marketing design intern **Aereen Lapuz ('19)** is a senior graphic design major with a minor in studio art. Her passions include interactive design and illustration, which she enjoys applying to her work in the printmaking studio. She hopes to join a design firm to use her creative abilities and grow as a designer and artist. She designed this issue’s “By the Numbers” layout and infographics on Page 15.



Hannah Long ('19) is an editorial intern in University Communications and Marketing. She is a senior media arts and design major with a concentration in journalism and a minor in communication studies. She contributed two features for this issue: “Scope of Practice” (Page 34) and the Alumni Spotlight, “From JMU to SNL” (Page 60).

