Accessible, engaging professors
superior academics
undergraduate research
study abroad, internships
a focus on student success
community volunteerism
successful, engaged alumni
— the enduring qualities of

THE MADISON EXPERIENCE

INSIDE: Find out what’s cool in the ‘Burg and read alumni’s Top 10 list of things not to miss • A special pull-out section with JMU’s rich academic offerings • Creating historians: Madison’s top-notch history program
An artful Madison Experience

By Michelle Hite ('88)

JMU students and professors in the College of Visual and Performing Arts eagerly await the opening of the new performing arts center, but they are not waiting silently in the wings.

More than 1,000 student actors, artists, art historians, dancers and musicians, along with professors and guest performers, make art a daily part of life at JMU.

The College of Visual and Performing Arts is one of the largest programs on the East Coast. The School of Music is considered the best in Virginia, and students in the School of Theatre and Dance have twice been chosen to perform at the Kennedy Center.

Students have the opportunity to present, participate in or attend more than 250 concerts, fine arts exhibitions, performances or guest lectures annually.

One of the many performances last semester included the School of Theatre and Dance’s production of Blood Wedding, by poet and playwright Federico García Lorca. Victor Maog, a New York City-based stage director and educator, directed the play and was in residence at JMU for the majority of the spring semester.

“In Blood Wedding,” says Maog, “two lovers have failed to purge their desire, and their passions lead all characters down an inevitably destructive, yet man-made, path. As a theater maker and guest director, I wanted the students to fuse their identities and experiences with mine through conversation about what all our stories might mean within the framework of Lorca’s ‘Spanish world’ text.”

Maog is director of theater and music theater for the Perry-Mansfield’s Performing Arts School and Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colo. He has served as an evaluator for the Rockefeller and Princess Grace Foundations and represented the United States at the 31st International Theatre Institute/UNESCO World Congress.

“JMU has talented students, wonderful artists, wonderful performing groups, and now we’re going to have a venue in which our patrons can enjoy both our stellar performances and a high quality social experience,” says George Sparks, dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Learn more about the new facility where JMU fine and performing arts majors will learn and perform by visiting www.jmu.edu/performingartscenter.

*Access all the arts at JMU at http://cvpa.jmu.edu/*
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by Cara Ellen Modisett (‘96, ’98M)
From country roads to rich local history to downtown nightlife, find out what’s cool in and around the ‘Burg. And, read alumni’s Top 10 favorite parts of JMU and the Shenandoah Valley.

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by Harry Atwood (‘87)
History certainly isn’t the only JMU major with a formidable capstone course. HIST 395 students may disagree. “The course beats them up a little bit,” says history professor Chris Arndt, “but they come out knowing how to do research.” The course earned a whole new reverence this year when the American Historical Association gave a nod to the JMU history department.

What’s cool in the ‘Burg?
Cara Ellen Modisett (‘96) explores the rich local history around Harrisonburg (including Reddish Knob shown here) and showcases alumni’s favorite things about JMU.

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**Get connected:**

www.jmu.edu

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR MADISON EXPERIENCE**

What's happening at JMU? What's on your mind? Tell prospective students and alumni about your Madison Experience or share other JMU-related thoughts:

www.facebook.com/jamesmadisonuniversity

**VISIT JMU**

Prospective students, JMU alumni, community members, JMU friends: Find it all here. The JMU events calendar, campus map, community news, area lodging and dining. Log on before you roll in to the 'Burg:

www.jmu.edu/jmuweb/visitor/

**ALSO:** Follow @JMUnews on Twitter

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**Study Abroad**

Alessandro Gentili (above) directs the JMU Semester in Florence program.

**Community building**

JMU students are helping education professor Mary Slade with community building in Welch, W.Va.

**Making historians**

Vigorous class discussions, accessible professors and a challenging capstone course help JMU create well-prepared historians and researchers.

**Expressions**

Read how Emily Street ('09), right, created Harrisonburg's first city poster. Plus, more on dance and writing students.
Your letters and feedback

Sustainable Inspiration

I just received your digital magazine. I'm amazed and proud of everything that Madison is working on in the area of sustainability. I am now living in Corvallis, Ore., home to Oregon State University, where I received my master's degree. I have sent a copy of this JMU magazine to them for ideas and inspiration. I am a volunteer working as a part of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, a network of more than 140 organizations working together to accelerate the creation of a more sustainable community. With a great deal of community input and funding from the City of Corvallis, we have developed a Community Sustainability Action Plan with specific goals and actions that our government, schools and residents can use to move us toward increased sustainability. I am excited that JMU is taking a similar path! Keep up the good work.

Betty Harrington Griffiths (’62) Corvallis, Ore.

Focus on Graduates

Seeing Paul Holland (’82) on the inside cover of your magazine [Summer 2009 issue] prompted me to write and tell you how disappointed I was in his address at Spring Commencement in May. While his accomplishments are laudable, a graduation speech should be focused on the graduates. I did not seem to be alone in my feelings based upon my conversations with several other JMU parents on graduation day. My son was in the graduating class, and I can tell you that I still hold James Madison University in very high regard.

Alan Meyer (’09P) Hillsborough, N.J.

Good Job

The summer 2009 issue of Madison is beautiful. Excellent writing, engaging. Just wonderful.

Gabriella G. Swartwood (’95) Ringoes, N.J.

Positive Purple Pride

I am honored to express my love of JMU. Two of my daughters are graduates — Classes of 2003 and 2008. I never saw a university that engenders the positive, enthusiastic atmosphere that is everywhere on the JMU campus. The quality of education is evident from the success that its students achieve and the kind of people they become.

Cynthia M. Anderson (’03P, ’08P) Richmond, Va.

Miss Savage Did Get in the Water

I wanted to comment on your Professors You Love article about swimming instructor Dorothy Savage, “She never got in the water.” [Summer 2009 issue, Page 46]. Miss Savage was my swimming instructor during my freshman year, 1947–48. On the first day of class, Miss Savage asked the students to form a large circle in the pool and hold hands. I was side by side with another freshman, Mary Upshur Mears, who could not swim. The girls beside us let go of our hands, and we started to sink. Fortunately, Miss Savage jumped in the pool and saved us! This business education major is thankful she DID get in the water.

DUKE DAWGS
I have an adorable photo of our family shih tzu, Button, wearing my daughter’s 2009 graduation cap. The whole family enjoyed Renée’s graduation ceremony in May. We live in Pennsylvania, and every time that Renée returned to campus from a visit home, we teased Button that she got to see Duke Deg. During graduation, we let Button “meet” Duke Dog. Graduation — and the entire JMU experience — was wonderful. James Madison is definitely a special university.

M aria J. Revetta (’09P)
Export, Pa.

Madison welcomes letters in response to magazine content. The staff reserves the right to edit for clarity, length and style. Anonymous letters will not be published. Send to “22807” Madison, 220 University Blvd, MSC 3610, JMU, Harrisonburg, VA 22807, or e-mail madisonmag@jmu.edu.

Spend a Friday with Madison magazine will sponsor two events in Harrisonburg’s Fridays on the Square 2009 concert series and film festival.

MUSIC Aug. 28 Emily Brass Band
MUSIC Sept. 4 Trent Wagler and the Steel Wheels perform at last year’s festivities.
MUSIC Trent Wagler and the Steel Wheels perform at last year’s festivities.

FILM Nacho Libre

2009 CONCERT & FILM FESTIVAL
Fridays on the Square
Presented by Citizens for Downtown & Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance

Learn more at www.fridaysonthesquare.com

THE FINE PRINT

James Madison University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation or disability in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with respect to employment or admissions, or in connection with its programs or activities. Inquiries or requests for reasonable accommodation may be directed to the activity coordinator, the appropriate university office, or the Office of Affirmative Action, JMU, Harrisonburg, VA 22807, (540) 568-6908, JMU 2008.

A copy of the university’s annual Harrisonburg (main U.S.) campus, Washington (U.S.) Internship Semesters plus three semester branch campus security reports are available upon request. Also available is the university’s Annual Fire Safety Report. The crime report includes statistics for the most recent three-year period concerning reported crimes, including “bias” motivated crimes, that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings or property owned or controlled by JMU or its affiliates, and on public property within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. This report also includes information regarding the fire safety enforcement authority of the university, public awareness of immediate notification of students and staff upon confirmation of a significant emergency or campus public safety philosophy for students spending more than 24 hours, including voluntary student contact. Information in cases where the student is missing and following person investigation procedures; policies concerning campus security, such as crime prevention, alcohol and drug use, sexual assault, state sex offender registry and reporting of any crimes that may occur on campus. The Annual Fire Safety Report includes campus housing fire statistics for the most recent three-year period; description of each on-campus student housing facility fire safety system; number of fire drills held during the previous calendar year; policies or rules on portable electrical appliances, smoking, and open flames in student housing; procedures for student housing evacuation in the event of fire; policies regarding fire safety education and training programs provided to the students, faculty, and staff procedures that students and employees should follow in the case of a fire evacuation; and other fire prevention and fire safety education information. You can obtain a copy of any of these reports by contacting the Office of Public Safety, MSC 6870, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA 22807 or request that a copy be mailed to you by calling (540) 568-6909/6909. This information is also available by clicking on the "Your Right to Know" link at the JMU home page. Under separate cover, citizens are notified of fire safety and life safety hazards in the area of respiratory protection, and of any potential fire safety and life safety hazards associated with the use of chemical agents.

J une Madison University is stronger than ever, and we need alumni to help spread the word.

The experience of a family that I happened across recently illustrates perfectly a recurring scenario we think you can help us address. This family saw our campus while traveling to another school, returned the next day for the admissions presentation and campus tour, then returned to JMU another time when school was in session for a second visit. Their bottom line, they said, “Before we made our visits, we knew of you, but we didn’t know all you had to offer.”

Freshman applications have increased 39 percent in the last five years. The quality of students who apply to JMU has skyrocketed. The university receives high rankings in many areas, including overall academic experience, undergraduate research opportunities and student commitment to public service.

Despite our popularity and selectivity, prospective families often tell us, “We had heard of you, but until we visited, we didn’t understand the true quality undergraduate experience that exists at JMU.”

Combining Madison magazine and the Admissions Viewbook is a bold new approach that allows us to show, through a variety of in-depth articles and spectacular photography, the true essence of JMU. In this issue, you will witness the accessibility of our professors, our academic quality, and faculty members working hand-in-hand with undergraduate students. You will see abundant opportunities for students and the dramatic return on investment that a JMU education affords our graduates. In this format, you can also read about what our alumni are doing, both recent alums and those who have built successful careers.

Here’s how you can help: If you have an upcoming student who may be interested in us, or if you have a friend or colleague who has a student who may be interested in us, please share this issue of the magazine with them. Also, share with them your personal experiences. Help us show the amazing and enduring quality of the Madison Experience.

— Michael Walsh, director of admissions

Michael Walsh, director of admissions

Guest Editor’s Note

Sharing the Madison Experience

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— Michael Walsh, director of admissions
CONTRIBUTORS

Cara Ellen Modisett (’96, ’98M) is editor of the award-winning regional magazine Blue Ridge Country, a reporter/producer for WVTF public radio, and she has written the text for two books on the Blue Ridge Parkway. A Harrisonburg native, she graduated from JMU with degrees in English education and piano performance. She was a reporter and columnist for The Breeze and founding editor of Yogue, the JMU Honors Program arts journal. She lives in Roanoke with her husband, Phil Atkins, and their two cats and performs frequently as a classical pianist and chamber musician. She writes a blog, RidgeLines, at BlueRidgeCountry.com.

Bill Goodykoontz (’85) is the film critic for The Arizona Republic, in Phoenix, and chief film critic for Gannett. He lives in Chandler, Ariz., with his wife, Susan, four children and assorted rodent-type pets, as well as a parakeet. He details JMU writing professor Inman Majors’ new book The Millionaires in the Mixed Media department on Page 53. Read his blog at goodyblog.azcentral.com, and follow him on Twitter @goodyk.

Carolyn Schellhorn Windmiller (’81), communications design director, has held numerous leadership positions within the university advancement division since joining the staff in 1989. In addition to her work on the magazine, she designs communications for JMU admissions, student recruitment and academic departments. She received an MVP Design Award for Outstanding Graphic Design for the College of Visual and Performing Arts pocket folder. An animal rescue advocate and Cat’s Cradle supporter, she adopted her dog from the SPCA and her two cats came from feral colonies.

Frequent Madison contributor Bill Gentry has worked at JMU since 1996 in a variety of editing, writing and creative concept capacities. Currently marketing coordinator for student recruitment, Gentry works closely with the JMU Office of Admissions in its quest to spread the word about the Madison Experience. Spare-time activities include marathons, 50- and 100-mile races, and a consecutive-day running streak slated to hit 1,000 days on Nov. 15, 2009.

Michael Miriello (’09M) photographed students and professors in JMU’s Department of History for the feature on Page 42. He graduated from JMU’s College Student Personnel Administration master’s program. Miriello discovered photography while in graduate school and the rest is history. He has since opened his studio in Harrisonburg. View more of his photography at www.miriellophotography.com.
Be a Madison Experience ambassador
Share with others what is so compelling about Madison

James Madison University never stands still. JMU continues to grow and progress, offering many new programs that prepare our students for the demands and opportunities of the changing world in which we live.

In this issue of Madison you will learn about some of our latest achievements and about some of the people who contribute to the Madison Experience. You’ll discover more about our Study Abroad program from the perspectives of May 2009 graduate Caroline F. Braun and professor Alessandro Gentili. Professor Dave Pruett’s essay on his honors course illuminates our rigorous Honors Program and the dynamism of JMU students’ scholarship. In the conversation between Dingleline Scholar Josh Kehaner (‘11) and Virginia political leader Levar Stoney (‘04), you’ll notice that the spirit of JMU remains the same, even while our population and programs expand.

Prospective students and their parents are also reading this issue of Madison as a tool to help them decide which college or university is right for them. As alumni, you know that a single issue of Madison can’t fully convey the Madison Experience. So I ask you to update your knowledge of JMU and act as ambassadors in informing those who are searching for the right university.

Please explore the evidence. Review this issue’s insert of majors and academic programs. Investigate JMU’s Web site. Read the Decade Report at www.jmu.edu/president. Learn more about the scope of JMU today. This information, combined with your very own Madison Experience, can enrich your conversations with friends and neighbors as well as prospective students.

JMU is popular among prospective students with 22,150 applications for this year’s freshman class of 3,960. JMU is also highly selective. In fact, the threshold for admittance to JMU has never been higher. Many of today’s JMU students qualify for acceptance to other top academic schools. They have chosen JMU because our academic programs are intellectually demanding, our classes are smaller and our faculty is accessible.

Professors who are experts in their fields teach our courses. At other universities, graduate students commonly teach lower-level courses. Our professors also publish and conduct serious research — and that research informs their courses. Equally important, they involve undergraduates in their research, while others mentor undergraduates who conduct and publish their own independent research. Undergraduate students at large research universities simply don’t get these opportunities.

As JMU Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Teresa Gonzalez says, “Our faculty members aren’t instructed to involve undergraduates in their research. They do so because they want to.” Their commitment to teaching and undergraduate research sets JMU apart.

Our faculty is also committed to the liberal arts as the basis for a meaningful education. Our General Education program offers students access to the insight gained through ages of scholarly thought. This is the essence of JMU.

This combination of academic demands and opportunities offers an incredibly rich learning environment. For students who reciprocate by showing initiative and taking full advantage of the menu of student activities, the impact of the Madison Experience is profound. Where some schools may offer prestige, JMU offers exceptional education.

What’s more, the JMU community realizes that universities shouldn’t exist in a vacuum. Arguably, nearly all academic and scholarly endeavors at Madison have direct, indirect and often immediate impact on the public good — whether through faculty and undergraduate research, hands-on learning opportunities, environmental initiatives, health care accessibility, communications outreach or community service learning.

JMU students are intelligent, social and active people who care about the world. They make a difference. The National Survey of Student Engagement tells us that during their Madison Experience JMU students become even more engaged in their own learning and the world.

When you hear of high-school students who cherish academic rigor, offer Madison as a superior institution. Explain what JMU offers. Talk to students who live out of state — or out of the country. Students from all geographic points and cultures, together, contribute diverse viewpoints that are essential in an increasingly interrelated world.

Alumni have a unique opportunity to help young people learn what’s so compelling about Madison. Please talk about JMU with your friends and neighbors and prospective students. Give them your copy of this magazine. Tell them about your experience. Encourage prospective students to visit JMU. That’s Madison pride in action.

Linwood H. Rose
President
James Madison University
Scholarship Honors

Physics major earns Goldwater Scholarship

Jamey Szalay is second JMU student tapped by foundation

BY ERIC GORTON (’86, ’09M)

A classmate had to talk Jamey Szalay into applying for a scholarship and then, at the last minute of the application process, Szalay found himself scrambling to get one more letter of recommendation.

To say it all worked out would be a bit of an understatement. Szalay, a rising senior from Winchester, won one of 278 Goldwater Scholarships for the 2009–10 academic year. Szalay’s application was one of 1,097 considered by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation.

The Goldwater Scholarship was established in 1986 to support highly qualified scientists, mathematicians and engineers by awarding scholarships to college sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue careers in these fields. Goldwater Scholars and honorable mentions are selected on the basis of merit from a field of mathematics, science and engineering students nominated by their respective colleges and universities.

Szalay is majoring in physics and is the second JMU student to earn the prestigious scholarship in the past three years. Katherine Kross received the award in 2007. The Goldwater foundation recognized two JMU students, Jeremy Harris and Rachel Mutnick, with honorable mentions in 2008.

Szalay could receive up to $7,500 for tuition, books and room and board expenses. During the past two summers, Szalay has completed internships at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Columbia, Md., working on a project to develop an instrument for monitoring radiation inside spacecraft. Much of his research has been in particle physics.

Szalay credits his high-school physics teacher for sparking his interest in the field and the JMU physics department for providing a top-notch undergraduate experience.

“I’d like to thank the JMU physics department for providing an excellent undergraduate education in physics,” he says.

* Learn more at www.jmu.edu/jmuweb/general/news/general/10606.shtml

Marketing students dominate 2009 Google Challenge

Three marketing students won first place in the Americas region of the 2009 Google Online Marketing Challenge, an international search-engine marketing competition. Seniors (l-r) Rachel Bruton, Brandon Sockwell and Meredith Rauh placed in the top four globally, beating 2,187 teams from 57 countries. Under the direction of College of Business professor Theresa Flaherty, the team designed and executed a Google AdWords campaign for the Washington, D.C., business MobileTours.org. With a $200 voucher the students successfully increased Mobile Tours’ sales by 20 percent. The students’ strategy included two AdWords campaigns with 15 ad groups. All three students volunteered for the competition, receiving no class credit. Their motivation was “a competitive edge” in the workforce, says Bruton. Since graduating in May, all three students have earned positions leveraging their online marketing savvy. —Jamie Marsh
Chocolate, beer, learning and culture

College of Business Semester in Antwerp marks 10th year

BY RYAN FARRELL (’10) AND STEVE NELSON (’10)

The JMU College of Business Semester in Antwerp program marked its 10th anniversary in January and its 17th Study Abroad cohort in April. This experience makes it possible for students to take junior-level core courses in finance, management, marketing and operations in a European environment. In addition to learning the essentials of business and studying the environment in which the European Union operates, one of the most overlooked aspects of the program is that it allows students opportunities to travel independently and experience the customs and cultures of many European countries.

For 13 weeks this past spring, we joined 35 JMU students and completed COB 300 and 301; explored European Union institutions, policies and decision-making procedures; enjoyed educational field trips; and learned firsthand about many European industries and businesses. All of the Semester in Antwerp classes are taught in English by Belgian professors.

Why Antwerp? Antwerp is located less than an hour from numerous European Union institutions in the trilingual capital of Brussels, Belgium, a city now often referred to as “the capital of Europe.” We visited Brussels twice during the semester, once for a tour of the city and once to tour the European Union’s Parliament and Commission buildings. Other trips within Belgium included the town of Bruges to see the College of Europe and a trip to Leuven, the national headquarters of InBev Corp., where our group toured the Stella Artois factory. Overnight group trips this semester included Berlin; Strasbourg, France; London; and the Alsacia wine country, Ardenes/Luxembourg.

The trip to Berlin proved to be one of the group’s favorites and most educational. The formerly divided city was reunited only 19 years ago, and the scars of World War II are still clearly visible. Students learned there was much more to Berlin than its famous wall when we visited many historically relevant sites like the German parliament in the Reichstag, where we learned about German government history from pre-World War I through today. Later during the week, our group visited the 1936 Olympic Stadium, constructed by Adolf Hitler’s army, and where 22-year-old African-American Jesse Owens won four gold medals — clearly demonstrating the fallacy of the Nazi’s claim of Aryan superiority. We also toured the immensely tragic sights of Auschwitz, a concentration camp built in 1936.

Strasbourg is an interesting amalgamation of cultural and historical relevance. Since the Franco-Prussian War, this area of eastern France has changed nationalities between France and Germany four times. It was because of this turmoil that Strasbourg was chosen to serve as the co-home of the European Parliament. It hosts sessions one week out of the month while the Parliament in Brussels is home for the rest of the month.

After a day of touring the city, we made our way through the Alsation Valley by following a centuries-old wine road. While in France, we stopped briefly to tour Colmar, the region’s capital, and then continued on to Obernai, which remains miraculously unscathed after both world

(Above): While in Belgium, students enjoyed a show featuring a trained Ardenes hawk. The show took place at the castle of Sir Godfrey, a leader in the first crusades. (Right): Students pose for a photo at Berlin’s Olympic Stadium.

During a trip to Berlin, Germany, students and professors learned more about World War II history and saw the immensely tragic Sachsenhausen, a concentration camp built in 1936.

About the Authors: Ryan Farrell (’10) and Steve Nelson (’10) are senior business management majors from Fairfax County. Both are members of JMU’s Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. After graduation in May 2010, Farrell plans to pursue his entrepreneurial aspirations. Nelson is currently the webmaster for Sigma Phi Epsilon and is considering a career in the field of photojournalism.

Published by JMU Scholarly Commons, 2009

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE NELSON (’10)
Nursing adds new programs, welcomes scholar

Doctorate and nurse practitioner programs address shortage and service gaps

The JMU Board of Visitors approved the Doctorate of Nursing Practice in June, and the new Master of Science in Nursing Program began the Family Nurse Practitioner concentration last summer, offering its first course to nine students.

“The American Association of Colleges of Nursing recommends that all advanced practice nurses have a doctorate in nursing by 2015,” says Merle Mast, head of JMU’s nursing department. “We have worked hard to expand all of our nursing programs because of the national shortage in practicing nurses and nurse educators.”

The doctoral program will help the shortage by better preparing advance practice nurses to address health care needs, according to Mast. The Family Nurse Practitioner master’s program prepares nurse practitioners to provide primary-care services to pediatric and perinatal patients in addition to the adult population; and that translates into more practitioners to fill the gap in primary-care services.

New programs were not the only exciting news for the nursing department this year. Professors and staff members welcomed the department’s first-ever international visiting scholar. In conjunction with JMU’s international programs, the Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services and the College of Integrated Science and Technology dean’s office, the nursing department welcomed Sandra Buttigieg, a practicing physician, researcher and director of the Institute for Health Care at the University of Malta. Buttigieg visited with students and professors for two weeks and presented a lecture series on health care leadership, global health issues including childhood obesity, and the need for transformational interdisciplinary health care teams.

Buttigieg also consulted with leaders at Rockingham Memorial Hospital and graduate students from varying disciplines and attended several classes taught by JMU professors. She observed the practices of primary-care physicians and nurse practitioners in the Shenandoah Valley.

Through the Semester in Antwerp, 37 Madison students gained an international perspective on both business and culture. The ever-expanding European Union currently offers access to roughly 500 million consumers in the global marketplace, and that makes familiarity with EU laws and practices extremely valuable assets for business majors. The semester was a great academic, cultural and traveling experience. These three factors can make any business student better able to navigate the increasingly global business environment.
JMU ranks No. 1 regionally for graduation rates in a new report by the American Enterprise Institute. The study suggests that institutional practices play a role in college completion. Getting into college is good. Graduating from college, priceless.

BusinessWeek ranks JMU in the top 5 percent among undergraduate business schools for the second straight year.

JMU is among 35 top schools noted for "excellence in undergraduate research/creative projects" by U.S. News & World Report.

Thirty-three social work majors traveled to New York for 2009 Social Work Day at the United Nations and to attend Fordham University's Global Social Work Conference. At the U.N., social workers and students from across the nation represented various areas of international practice and issues, which focused on social workers' roles in international development, effects of extreme poverty, child endangerment and UNICEF. Read more at www.jmu.edu/MadisonOnline.

Carissa Lynch, a student officer in JMU's chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, and Liz Riggin, Virginia NASW's student social worker of the year, visit with social work alumna Kacie Welsh ('05) at the United Nations. Welsh (right) is a graduate student at Rutgers University.

JMU sent 20 students to the prestigious 2008 National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

27.59 percent of JMU employees (880) participated in the 2008-09 Employee Giving Campaign: Giving Back is Moving Forward. Employee gifts support faculty enrichment, scholarships, facilities, athletics and classroom equipment. www.jmu.edu/give

"Jemmy," aka President Madison, had a keen sense of humor. In a Sept. 17, 1787, letter from Paris, Thomas Jefferson thanked James Madison for a shipment of pecans. Jefferson writes, "I have received the box with pecans, which you were so kind as to send me. There were 13 nuts in it, which I mention because I suspect that it had been pillaged." Since he was in Paris, Jefferson could not have known that Sept. 17, 1787, was the very day delegates from the 13 colonies signed the...
By the Numbers

52 JMU has 52 freshman-only academic advisers, who help with everything from choosing a major to study habits.

365 The wait list to read JMU writing professor Inman Majors' The Millionaires at the Knoxville, Tenn., public library is one year, according to Metropulse.com. Learn more on Page 53.

12 In 2008, 15 alumni stepped in for President Linwood H. Rose to represent JMU at 12 college and university presidential inauguration ceremonies around the nation. Most recently Bruce Schilling ('78, '80M) represented JMU at Portland State University on May 1.

15 The Furious Flower Poetry Center celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2009. The center has promoted the genre of African-American poetry through education, publication and research, which has included two historic conferences, three books, two video documentaries, an annual summer poetry camp for disadvantaged children and a national writing project in response to Hurricane Katrina.

22,150 In 1909, on opening day of the Normal school (now JMU), a total of 150 students were registered after each had a personal interview with President Julian Burruss. Last year, 22,150 students applied for admission to JMU.

27% JMU’s full-time faculty and staff from underrepresented minorities increased from 126 to 160 between 2003 and 2008 — a 27 percent increase.

6/24 JMU’s award-winning CyberCity program welcomed 40 underrepresented area teens to campus June 24–27 to experience college life and learn about business and technology academic programs.

93% JMU’s 2008-09 freshman retention rate is 93 percent.

Engaging faculty members (like education professor Solange Lopes-Murphy at right), small class sizes, the Madison Experience and the friendly campus are some of the reasons for JMU’s high freshman retention rate.

In June, the Furious Flower Poetry Center hosted noted poet and author Lucille Clifton.

Kiplinger's Personal Finance ranks JMU No. 22 in its Top 100 “best values in public colleges” based on quality and cost.

10 The JMU Break Dance Club turned 10 this year and hosted its annual hip-hop charity event Circles. The club raises money for multiple sclerosis research and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America through the Circles event, which includes a graffiti expo, a 4v4 break dance battle and an emcee battle.

The JMU Break Dance Club celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. The group members raise money for MS research.

In Madison Magazine, Vol. 32 [2009], No. 4, Art. 1
**Energy Vision**

**JMU leads Virginia efforts in renewable energy**

**JMU to coordinate state’s green goals**

By Eric Horton ('86, '09M)

While a number of individuals, organizations and businesses across the state have been involved for many years in trying to boost Virginia’s use of renewable energy from agriculture, solar and wind, there has not been a coordinated effort.

Enter JMU. With the recent creation of the Virginia 25x’25 State Alliance, headquartered at JMU, a coalition now exists that can shape the state’s energy policy and demonstrate renewable energy strategies for other states as well.

Research officials at JMU organized the Virginia 25x’25 State Alliance, which is modeled after a national organization with similar goals. The alliance will develop a new energy vision for the commonwealth and will promote such vision to decision makers, opinion leaders and other stakeholders.

To further exemplify the commitment of Virginia stakeholders to meet the goals of 25x’25, JMU is coordinating the 25x’25 Shenandoah Valley Demonstration Project. The project will use a mix of local resources to increase local renewable energy production while emphasizing efficiency to reduce overall energy consumption. Because of its proximity to Washington, D.C., and the Eastern Seaboard, the Shenandoah Valley presents an excellent opportunity to demonstrate how America can achieve the national goal of getting 25 percent energy from clean, renewable sources. The 25x’25 Shenandoah Valley Demonstration Project will be a model for other regions of the state and nation in implementing renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

“It’s an exciting time in our country for renewable energy and Virginia’s 25x’25 Alliance is dedicated to making our state a front-runner in this industry,” says Kenneth F. Newbold Jr., director of research development at JMU and a member of the Virginia 25x’25 State Alliance. “Our vast agriculture and forestry resources will play a key part in Virginia’s energy future.”

Other members of the alliance include the Virginia Department of Agriculture, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, Hampton Roads Clean Fuels Coalition, and Osage Bioenergy.

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**Fulbright Honors**

**Alumna earns Fulbright to teach in Slovakia**

Traci Cox ('08) will prep Slovakian teens for college

Traci Cox ('08) spent her summer learning to speak Slovak while also studying the history of Slovakia. In September, she will travel to the central European country to teach English to high-school students who are preparing for college. Cox earned a highly competitive Fulbright teaching assistantship, the culmination of an arduous application process that began last year.

“The Fulbright application is a very lengthy process with lots of waiting and frantically running back and forth to the mailbox,” says Cox, an Honors Program graduate who majored in English and minored in anthropology.

The application included writing a pair of essays, interviewing with the JMU Fulbright panel and sending the application package to the Fulbright Commission in New York. After gaining approval from the New York panel, which took four months, Cox had to send her application to a panel in Slovakia for further review — and more anxious waiting.

Learning the Slovak language, which is full of consonant strings and different sounds, is a breeze compared to waiting for the Fulbright award decision, says Cox, who also speaks some French and German.

The high-school students she will teach at a private school in Zilina, Slovakia’s fourth largest city, will be intermediate English speakers and should have a fairly good command of the language, she says. To get into college, Slovak students are required to pass a rigorous English exam. In addition to learning grammar, they learn English literature and study American culture.

Cox is not required to learn Slovak for the assistantship, but she wants to be able to interact with the Slovak people as much as possible during her 10-month assignment. Following her work in Slovakia, Cox plans to attend graduate school and pursue her passion for creative writing.

*www.jmu.edu/jmuweb/general/news/general0666.shtml*
CyberCity prepares teens for college

Tech camp program prep underrepresented youth

By Toni Mehlng

JMU’s nationally recognized CyberCity technology program hosted underrepresented teenagers and their high-school teachers on campus June 24–27.

The tech-intensive week “sends a strong message to underrepresented students interested in business or technology majors,” says Daphyne Saunders Thomas, CyberCity co-creator and Adolph Coors business professor of finance and business law. “We want to let students know that they can be successful studying at a university like JMU.”

The program has received numerous awards since its inception two years ago, including a 2008 President’s Award for Diversity from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology and two awards from the Shenandoah Valley Technology Council for innovation in education.

CyberCity participants live on campus to get a taste of college life. Student activities include programming in secure code, designing a Web site, installing a secure wireless network, examining ethical issues in information technology, and practicing business protocol and dining etiquette.

Teacher activities include learning to teach all of the concepts presented to students, joining an online community of teachers to share ideas, and creating videos and podcasts of camp activities.

Nearly 40 participants in Virginia have been selected to receive full scholarships to the CyberCity program.

JMU’s Outreach and Engagement, the College of Business, the CoB Executive Advisory Council and individual donors fund the scholarships.

Like many JMU programs, CyberCity’s tech camp is a collaborative effort among the College of Business, College of Education, admissions office and JMU’s Outreach and Engagement. Numerous scholarships have been awarded to area teens.

MADISON

Increase the value of your JMU diploma

The better the reputation of James Madison University, the more valuable a JMU degree. Private giving enhances all the extras that tuition and state funding cannot sustain alone — scholarships, undergraduate research, volunteer opportunities, the excellent Madison Experience.

Donations from alumni, parents, employees, students and friends are the backbone of giving at JMU. Help support the Madison students and professors who are making a difference in the world.

www.jmu.edu/give

CYBERCITY PHOTOGRAPHS BY DIANE ELLIOTT (’90) AND KATHY LAM
Connections

Study Abroad
The Chronicle of Higher Education recently ranked the JMU Office of International Programs second in the nation among master’s-level schools for the number of students studying abroad. Your JMU Shakespeare class could include a trip to Stratford-on-Avon. Or your art history class, a visit to a Florence museum. Read about May 2009 graduate Caroline F. Braun's junior year experience studying in England and Spain on Page 28.

Honors Program
The Nuclear Age: Living with the Genie. Astrobiology: Search for Life on Other Worlds. Evolution, Human Nature and Morality. These are some of the classes you may find yourself engrossed in when you take part in JMU’s Honors Program. Small classes and vigorous discussions are the norm.

Career and Academic Planning
Do you have so many interests that you’re having a hard time deciding on a major? Maybe you have a favorite academic area but are wondering where it will lead you in today’s economy. From your first day at JMU until you graduate, the Career and Academic Planning team has you covered.

General Education
Madison’s General Education Program, the core academic offerings required of each JMU student, is all about helping you weave together courses that promote the habits of the mind and heart essential to informed citizens. General education sets the stage for a life of reason, ethics, understanding and joy.

Be the Change
May 2009 graduate Ryan Powanda, an integrated science and technology major, spent much of his Madison Experience making the JMU community aware of environmental issues. The National Science Foundation and Stanford University took note. Powanda is in his first year at Stanford in a master’s program studying energy and atmospheric science (all expenses paid) thanks to an NSF Graduate Fellowship. Only about 10 percent of applicants receive the fellowship, which is covering three years of Powanda’s tuition. At JMU, Powanda helped establish the JMU Clean Energy Coalition and was a member of the EARTH Club and the Environmental Business Club. He was the student representative to the JMU Sustainable Campus Work Group and the Center for Energy and Environmental Sustainability governing body. See a video Q&A and read more about him at www.jmu.edu/news/RyanPowanda.shtml.

Published by JMU Scholarly Commons, 2009
Members of the Class of 2013 and their families were welcomed to the Madison Experience in a series of 17 First-Year Sendoff events in several states from July 18 to Aug. 8. Staff members in the JMU Office of Parent Relations, JMU parent volunteers and alumni hosted sendoff events and picnics in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New England, northern and southern New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas. And in Virginia at Charlottesville, Fairfax County, Lynchburg, Newport News, Prince William, Richmond, Roanoke and Virginia Beach.

“It’s a great opportunity for incoming students to meet fellow classmates from their hometown or near their hometown area,” says Sherry King, director of parent relations. “We provide the fun and the JMU families enjoy the food, and the JMU families enjoy the fun and get their first taste of the Madison Experience.”

King urges JMU parents to register their e-mail addresses at www.jmu.edu/parents/Update_Form.shtml to receive the Madison Family Connection newsletter for news and special campus announcements concerning JMU parents.

JMU freshman move-in days are Aug. 18–19.

For more information about the JMU Office of Parent Relations, visit www.jmu.edu/parents/.

Stay in the know, get Madison

To receive Madison electronically, keep your e-mail address up to date with JMU. Log on and share your e-mail at www.jmu.edu/madisononline/emailme.shtml
Dear future Dukes

An open letter to all high-school seniors  By Andy Perrine ('86)

What is really weird is that when I was 18 years old people in their 40s seemed old. I understand now how utterly wrong I was. That was 28 years ago this fall, and I am still as hip and cool as I was back then. Sure, some things have changed: I no longer have acne, and I have a car and a girl who likes me. Ok, maybe I am actually cooler now.

As a freshman at Madison in the fall of 1981, everything seemed possible to me. Going to college was exciting, and my arrival on campus was a speedy blur. Back then we lived our lives without cell phones, the World Wide Web and Red Bull. That world may not seem anything like the world you live in today. But, just like you the pace of change seemed fast to me back then when something new named MTV launched just as school began and made concentrating on my studies an even greater challenge, when President Ronald Reagan fired 11,000 striking air traffic controllers, when an era ended after the great Muhammad Ali lost badly in what would be his final fight against Trevor Berbick, and when the last hippies vanished as thin neckties and mullet haircuts became cool as punk yielded to new wave.

Madison was a much different place then. Only about half the number of students attended JMU then as attend today; campus had not yet grown to straddle Interstate 81 and gaining admission to the university was far easier, hence my thick envelope. Only kidding. Actually, I got into most of the good schools I applied to, so I had my choice. But when I visited the JMU campus during fall of my senior year, I fell in love with the place. An intangible spirit and atmosphere exists at Madison that I didn’t feel on any other campus. It’s difficult to describe, but I guarantee you there are alumni reading this column right now nodding and thinking, “Yep, me too.” It’s a story I’ve heard from fellow Dukes now hundreds of times.

My very first class freshman year was Introduction to Oceanography in Miller Hall with geology professor Stan Ulanski. The subject had an exotic allure to me and even though the class met at 8 a.m., I was excited. As I sat down in the large lecture hall and took in the scene before class, a mixture of fear and daring overtook me — I realized that I was now utterly gone from home for the first time. But that I was about to embark on a mysterious undersea adventure with Dr. Ulanski. As I emptied the contents of my backpack onto my folding desktop, the fresh promise that only new blank notebooks can inspire elevated my anticipation.

Ulanski (who we’d later fondly refer to as “Stan the man”) began his lecture. Suddenly I knew that my world indeed had changed. I’d had good teachers before and can still name the ones who inspired me in grade school. But Ulanski was another species of teacher. He was so into what he was teaching. Despite ourselves, all of us freshmen leaned forward drawn by his enthusiasm for the subject. He was brilliant and hilarious, he asked us hard questions, he jumped around — he even threw an eraser at a kid who was reading a newspaper in the back row and righteously scared the daylights out of him. I was officially in Heaven.
An intangible spirit and atmosphere exists at Madison that I didn’t feel on any other campus. It’s difficult to describe, but I guarantee you there are alumni reading this column right now nodding and thinking, ‘Yep, me too.’

I didn’t know then that unlike a lot of other universities, most classes at Madison — even the ones offered to dazed freshmen — are taught by Ph.D. faculty members instead of graduate students; not that there’s anything wrong with graduate students. But the reason I clearly recall my first class at Madison after 28 years is that Dr. Ulanski switched on the true and lasting light of intellectual curiosity in me.

Now I am not saying that everything at Madison was la-la land after that. I struggled in some classes. I made a few dumb personal choices. But still, with this new light switched on in my head, I looked deeper and more thoughtfully at everything I encountered in and out of class. It was the beginning of a new and lasting worldview that has made my life far more meaningful than it would have been otherwise.

My only regret from my days as a student was that I didn’t take more advantage of everything Madison offered me. In fact, when asked in surveys to reflect on their Madison Experience alumni often say they wish they had attended more lectures and wish they were more involved in campus activities. Your college days may be the only time in your life that you can totally immerse yourself in the wonderful life of the mind. No matter where you choose to attend college please completely engage in what your university has to offer. You’ll never regret it. I hope that Facebook will not suck away as much of your precious time as MTV did mine.

By the way, professor Ulanski is still on the Madison faculty. He may not jump around as much as he did when I was a student, but take a course from him if you can.
All in the family

All four Newmans are JMU varsity athletes

By Carrie Klamut (’10)

Back in the ’80s when JMU football uniforms were more mustard yellow than shiny gold and women were recruited to play both field hockey and lacrosse as two-sport athletes, Charlie Newman (’83) and Robyn Dunn (’85) found themselves sharing the same practice field.

“We met on the turf,” says Robyn, now a Newman herself, pointing to a team photo of when Charlie played for JMU. “I married that big guy right there.”

JMU athletics are sure happy she did. Charlie Sr. and Robyn realized they just could not leave the area and nestled into the Shenandoah Valley. Here they raised two children: not-so-little Charlie (’10) is now playing football for the same school where his parents tore up the turf, and Nikki (’13) joins the women’s basketball team as a freshman this season.

From the very beginning, Charlie and Nikki became big fans of JMU. Their mom surrounded their house with gardens full of flowers in every shade of purple and yellow imaginable. There are countless childhood photos with Duke Dog, and Charlie and Nikki spent a lot of time on campus as children. “We went to all the home football games and most of the field hockey and lacrosse games when they were little,” says Robyn.

JMU was not the only place little Charlie was running around. He spent many days at the high-school football field where his dad was an assistant coach. As he began to play and move through the school years, little Charlie was not so little, and colleges became interested in signing him. JMU coach Mickey Matthews was quick to start recruiting. “Charlie is now a cornerstone of our program. He is the hardest worker on the team and never makes any mistakes. He is just fun to coach,” says Matthews.

Charlie is proud of the role model he has become for his sister, and he hopes his outlook on being a college athlete will rub off: “I am truly passionate about the game, and I understand the time and effort you have to put into it. I have a huge respect for football, but I have grown to realize it is not my whole life.”

A finance major, Charlie remembers that the change in the overall strength and size of the competition was not only on the field but also in the classroom. “Getting used to the workload of student-athletes is a real eye-opener, but Nikki will be fine. Our parents have always stressed that we are students first,” he says.

With such a strong reputation as a family of JMU student-athletes, Charlie certainly did not show any lack of ability to succeed. He expects his sister will not disappoint.

“I was really excited for her to sign with JMU,” he says. “I’ll get to see her play a lot more. We definitely anticipated her playing at the college level, and she really has lived up to some big expectations already.”

JMU women’s basketball coach Kenny Brooks (’91) could not agree more. “We’re so excited about having her on the team. She is the kind of player who makes other players around her better and that makes our program better.”

Nikki’s decision to play for Madison came easily. She started coming to JMU open gyms when she was a high-school sophomore, and that’s when she showed up on coach Brooks’ radar as someone with a lot of potential. The Newmans have been big supporters of the JMU basketball program for many years. “The atmosphere is just so much fun,” explains Nikki.

The Newman family will, without a doubt, be in attendance for every women’s basketball game possible. And Nikki is certain that her mom has the wardrobe to cover each contest. “She has so many purple and yellow and gold earrings, she can wear a different pair to every game.”

Watching their kids play today versus when parents Charlie Sr. and Robyn played almost 25 years ago, there have been many changes not only in styles of play but also in styles of uniforms. “The cool thing to see from our era is how the uniforms have evolved,” says Robyn, who donned a skirt as a JMU lacrosse and field hockey player.

Now Charlie Sr. and Robyn will get to see their children model Madison uniforms a bit longer.

### 2009 Football Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>AT Maryland</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>VS. VMI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>AT Liberty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>AT Hofstra*</td>
<td>VS. Richmond* (Family Weekend, TV at noon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>VS. VILLANOVA* (Homecoming, TV at 3:00 p.m.)</td>
<td>VS. Villanova* (TV at noon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>AT William &amp; Mary* (TV at noon)</td>
<td>AT Delaware* (TV at noon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>VS. Maine*</td>
<td>VS. Maine*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>AT Massachusetts* (TV at noon)</td>
<td>VS. Towson*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 21</td>
<td>VS. Towson*</td>
<td>VS. Towson*</td>
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*CAA games

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About the Author: Carrie Klamut (’10) is a communication studies major, Duke Club assistant and an intern with the JMU athletics multimedia office.

Published by JMU Scholarly Commons, 2009
The professors, students and alumni who shine in Madison’s constellation

Firenze
Florence’s world contribution to arts, science, politics and humanities, together with its manageable size, makes it very popular with students who can traverse the city in less than 30 minutes by foot. Learn more about the Semester in Florence or JMU’s master’s program in European Union Policy at www.jmu.edu/international/abroad/jmu_florence/.
Florentine rock star

By Martha Bell Graham

Students call him Alessandro. JMU President Linwood H. Rose called him a “rock star” because even in Harrisonburg — 4,500 miles from Italy’s cultural cradle — students who’ve studied with the bearded Florentine greeted him enthusiastically during a recent trip to campus. He’s Alessandro Gentili, professor in residence and director of the JMU Semester in Florence program.

Florence, or Firenze in Italian, is one of JMU’s long-standing Study Abroad programs. For 23 years the program has introduced students to Italy, to European culture, to the masters of arts and science — and to Alessandro Gentili.

“Florence is the city of Renaissance,” Gentili says, “a revival of classics, Greek or Roman culture — and Greek or Roman philosophy. It’s through the knowledge and appreciation of the other that you can return to a full appreciation of your own self. And that’s what we’re trying to do in Florence with our students. In ancient Greek, ‘to travel’ was synonymous with ‘to return,’ and ‘home’ was synonymous with ‘self.’ If you don’t leave home, there is no way you can return home, no way you can find your own self.”

A graduate of the University of Florence, Gentili began teaching JMU students studying abroad in the mid-1980s when he returned to Italy after a stint at University College Cork in Ireland to join the academic staff of the British Institute of Florence. In 2000, he became director of JMU’s Florence program.

“Our undergraduate students are staying with families, where they have the possibility of experiencing Italian life, Italian customs, Italian traditions on a daily basis, starting with food and cuisine,” Gentili says. “Our families have very, very, very little English or no English at all, so our students try to speak Italian. And that’s already a class in itself. It’s a form of education all around.”

Students study in the Palazzo Capponi, the glorious and historic 16th-century palace of the Capponi family, now owned by Pio Instituto de’ Bardi (The Bardi Institute), a philanthropic organization dating from the 18th century that provides educational opportunities. It was with Gentili’s help that the choice location was acquired. JMU is the only American university program located in Florence — the city that nurtured Dante, Galileo, Machiavelli and Michelangelo.

“When we work on a program overseas,” Gentili says, “I think we need to listen to what the place, or rather the spirit of the place, dictates — the tradition, the history, the legacy of Florence, so we are perfectly in the grain of Florentine history.”

In 2007 JMU added a new master’s program in European Union Policy. “It’s the very first American program of that kind in Europe,” Gentili says, “The Florence program now has two tracks: one in European studies and the other in art and art history that includes museum work and the history of decorative arts.”

Gentili’s academic interests include Italian language and literature, Irish poetry and Dante. He has written four books published by Passigli Editori. “I love editing and writing books and translating,” Gentili says, “but what I really love is the company. ... ‘Company’ comes from the Latin compani — sharing bread, the bread of knowledge, the bread of education, the bread of culture, the company of students.

“When JMU students arrive they look, well, they’re like lost souls,” he says, “but slowly and surely they grow more and more self-confident. And they also grow stronger. It’s fascinating to see them grow.”

‘JMU’s master’s program in European Union Policy is the very first American program of that kind in Europe.’

— Alessandro Gentili, director of JMU Semester in Florence
SGA president makes his mark with cool confidence

By Sarah Mead ('09)

Larson Thune ('09) has the kind of cool confidence that characterizes success. It’s probably why the student body elected him Student Government Association president. His fellow Dukes believe in him. What’s cool: He believes in them right back.

During his tenure as SGA president, Thune developed a program for freshmen that encourages them to get involved in JMU organizations. This program “stress involvement as the key to having the best possible Madison Experience,” says Thune, who collaborated in promoting off-campus safety with other student leaders, JMU administrators and Harrisonburg police.

Tackling the many tasks of student body president would be enough of a challenge for most overachievers, but Thune has shared his leadership with numerous student organizations. One of his favorite mottos is “comfort is the enemy of success.” He encourages the philosophy of always striving for change — “creating bigger and better things out of what we are given.”

Thune served as a leadership counselor for Make Your Mark on Madison, a semester-long leadership program where students gain insight into their personal values, leadership styles, facilitation techniques and decision-making. The program is a springboard into authentic involvement in the Madison Experience. Thune is the founding chapter president of his fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega, and he served as an analyst for the Madison Investment Fund and as a campaign captain for the Madison Student Giving Campaign.

“I found myself wearing many different hats as student body president,” says Thune, who became involved with the SGA during his junior year when he joined as a representative in spring 2008. “Some days I spent a lot of time meeting with various administrators about any number of issues, from dining services questions to off-campus safety to parking concerns. Other days my focus was more internal, and I worked with other student representatives to determine the direction of the SGA and how we could position ourselves to best serve students.”

A finance major, Thune has long-term career goals that point toward financial consulting. “I’ve always loved problem-solving and helping people, so my major seems a perfect fit,” he says.

Thune says his Madison Experience has fully prepared him for the “real world” and his launch into the competitive job market. Even graduating in a time of economic instability, Thune is confident. “With its emphasis on service, JMU has taught me what it means to be a vested member in a community. Even if I don’t [have a career in finance], I will still possess the tools and knowledge to be an enlightened and invested member of society.”

During his Spring 2009 Commencement speech, Thune reflected on his Madison Experience and what makes JMU special. “Our purple and gold campus is a unique place,” he told fellow graduates. “It is a place largely free from the social, political and economic upheaval that afflicts other areas. We have a greater sense of community than any place I’ve ever been. And that sense of community is rooted in the people of JMU — people who believe in friendliness, in service and in each other.”

SGA President Larson Thune ('09) developed a program that encourages freshmen to get involved and have the best Madison Experience.
Engineer’s success stems from strong foundations

By Katie Hudson ('10)

Now, more than ever, is the time to enter the math or science field,” says Paul Spraggs ('78), who knows first-hand the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. During his recent tenure as a senior network specialist at Science Applications International Corp., Spraggs was named one of the Black Engineers of the Year for 2009.

U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology magazine and the Council of Engineering Deans have sponsored the Black Engineer of the Year Awards for 23 years, and Spraggs is one of 500 recipients during the two decades. Lockheed Martin Corp. hosted this year’s four-day conference and gala award presentation in Baltimore. Spraggs gave a short speech and mingled with other award winners from across the country.

The “humbling experience,” as Spraggs describes it, was not something he would have imagined as a JMU freshman. “I did not know what I wanted to do when I came to Madison,” Spraggs says. “Madison allowed me to challenge myself and not be afraid to try new things.”

A mathematics major and physics minor, Spraggs graduated cum laude and continued his education, earning a master’s degree in statistics at Virginia Tech and an M.B.A. at Rutgers University. After working with Bell Labs, Telecordia Technologies and AT&T, Spraggs took a job at Science Applications International Corp. The Fortune 500 company works significantly with the U.S. Department of Defense, and officials at the company nominated him for the BEYA award.

In August, Spraggs accepted a new position with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. “I am fulfilling a desire to work as a part of our national government on issues of national importance,” says Spraggs.

During his time at Science Applications International Corp., Spraggs analyzed the effects of nuclear weapons on electronic systems. “I developed models and conducted tests to better predict how telephone systems, electric power system components, anything electronic, would behave after a detonation,” he explains.

Surprisingly, Spraggs’ interest in nuclear weapons has a JMU connection. In 2002, George Baker, professor of integrated science and technology, met Spraggs when they worked together as part of the principal staff of the Congressional Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack. The two were responsible for organizing commission meetings, and briefing the commission on U.S. and international research. “We immediately became friends due to the JMU connection,” says Spraggs.

“Paul was always pumping me for information about new JMU developments,” Baker adds.

In addition to a strong spiritual foundation and very supportive family, Spraggs says his success stems from two strong foundations — his hometown of Palmyra, Va., and Madison.

“I grew up in a very rural community where people would see you in the grocery store and congratulate you on a good grade,” he says. “They would also let you know when you got a bad one,” he laughs.

Spraggs’ community connections continue. One of his seventh-grade teachers gave him a congratulatory call after reading about his Black Engineer of the Year Award.

Now, more than ever, Spraggs sees the importance of teaching. “We’re going to need some bright minds out there,” he explains. “Scientific, economic and cultural breakthroughs are going to have to come from young people at Madison and other schools. I know JMU will meet the challenge. The university has a strong foundation in the core courses. The general education program challenges a small-town freshman like me to try new things. And, the strong commitment of JMU professors cannot be denied.”

Another benefit of his Madison experience was meeting his wife, Rynelle M. Spraggs ('79). “JMU was a great experience for her as well,” says Spraggs. The couple has two children.
Harrisonburg has found its first official city poster, and the designer is Emily Street (’09). The May graduate earned her bachelor’s degree in fine arts with a concentration in printmaking and a minor in French. Street is the winner of the “Picture Downtown” art contest, and her screen print drawing of Harrisonburg has been replicated into a poster and printed by contest sponsor Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance.

Street heard about the city’s poster contest from a classmate. After completing a cityscape of her parents’ town, Chalon-sur-Saône, France, she felt the poster contest would be a good next step. But she had to scramble; she only found out about the contest a week before the deadline. Her prizewinning picture is a screen print, which is an extensive process that requires patience and a steady hand. “Screen print drawing is a process that satisfies many different aspects about the way I like to create art,” says Street. “I almost always like the outcome, and if not, the process to get there is good. It can be very meditative.”

Street’s family has had a huge influence on her art interests. “My mom is a good artist, and my older sister is a graphic designer and JMU graduate. I grew up appreciating culture and the art world. There are many different types of beauty.”

Early in her Madison Experience, Street decided on an interior design concentration within her fine arts degree, but she quickly switched to printmaking after finding Lithography was her favorite class. She is very optimistic about the preparation JMU has given her for entrance into the real world of art. “JMU has a great art department. Having many different concentrations within studio art has allowed me to pursue a track that I never even knew about,” she says. “As you get into the upper-level art classes you fine-tune your skills and your thinking, and you can see how the program gets you ready for the real world.”

Street’s replicated poster can be purchased for $10 at Rocktown Gift Shoppe at 212 S. Main St. in Harrisonburg.
EXPRESSIONS

**Hummingbirds**

*By Luke Manning (’11)*

That spring my grandmother hung
the feeders out above the porch,
plastic flowers shining like
saliva-wet cinnamon candy,
their glass cylinders full of thick sugarwater.

The next afternoon the hummingbirds came,
a mass of them, their feathers a spectrum
of sunlit corundum, from rubies to emeralds
to sapphires. They flitted in an orgiastic
furor, their wings blinking, the long tendrils
of their snouts entering and exiting the
tiny openings, engorging themselves.

A wind blew one of the feeders from the string,
it’s shattered on the porch. All the hummingbirds
went at the quickly dissipating sweetness,
hovering above the pile of shining glass.

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**About the Poet** Luke Manning (’11) of Woodbridge, Va., published
his poem Two Oceans in the 2009 issue of Gardy Loo, the JMU student arts
magazine. Manning is an English major and a creative writing minor and
has his own show on WMJN Radio. He enjoys using the techniques of multiple
voice and multiple characters in creating his poetry, and his favorite poets
include Charles Simic, James Wright and Sharon Olds.
Dance comes first at JMU for Kelsey Hickson ('10), a Richmond native, who has been dancing since she was 3. Hickson is a pre-med student with a major in dance and a minor in biology. In recognition of her dance achievements, community service and academics, the School of Theatre and Dance awarded Hickson a partial tuition scholarship for the 2009–10 academic year. The biology program also honored her with the George Warren Chappellear Jr. Scholarship for outstanding success in the program. Hickson danced in both the JMU Fall Student Dance Concert and the Contemporary Dance Ensemble Concert this past year. As the dance and theater community service chair, Hickson served as captain of the Dance Theatre Relay for Life team. She is also involved in Alpha Epsilon Delta, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Up 'til Dawn. Hickson studied abroad last summer with the JMU London Contemporary Dance and Performance Summer Intensive. The rising senior, who “loves to perform,” is excited about the 2010 debut of JMU’s new performing arts center. “It will give JMU the opportunity to kick it up a notch in the world of performing arts.”

Kelsey Hickson ('10), far left, performs as a doll clown in “Jill in a Box,” a dance choreographed by JMU dance professor Cynthia Thompson. Performing with Hickson, the 2009–10 George W. Chappellear Biology Scholar, are Jordan Smith ('09), center, and Charoka Daniel ('10), right.
The best year of my life
My two Study Abroad experiences in England and Spain  By Caroline F. Braun ('09)

I t was the best year of my life.
My family and close friends thought I was crazy to want to spend my entire junior year studying abroad. They said it would be hard. I will never regret my decision. I spent the entirety of my junior year learning culture, history and language in England and Spain.

I started in London, arriving on Sept. 7, 2007. I was promptly escorted via taxi cab to Madison House, where I slept for a few hours in my cubicle — oh, I mean bedroom — and woke up to 17 overly excited and slightly intimidated, smiling faces. Over the next 13 weeks the group and I had more fun and saw more of the world than I ever thought possible. We toured the iconic Westminster Abbey and Parliament and saw the changing of the guards at Buckingham Palace. We listened to Beefeaters’ ghost stories of Henry VIII at the Tower of London and worshipped at evensong at St. Paul’s Cathedral. We caught in-person glimpses of all three royal princes (sigh…) and Queen Elizabeth II in her crown jewels. We fought the crowds on Portobello Road and found inimitable treasures in Camden. We strolled the neighborhoods of Notting Hill, and Hyde, St. James and Regent’s Parks. We took the tube infinite times daily and watched street performers at Covent Garden. We got a tour of BBC Studios. We rode the London Eye and double-decker buses, watched England in the 2007 Rugby World Cup, ate fish and chips, shopped Oxford Street and Harrods at Christmas, and had traditional English tea at Kensington Palace.

I saw 19 plays including five on the West End and one at Shakespeare’s Globe. We traveled through Scotland, where we climbed to Arthur’s Seat and partied in underground caves with university students and a bartender named Gary. In Paris, we toured Notre Dame and the Louvre, and all of us coincidentally found ourselves under the Eiffel Tower on one of our last nights. We watched the stars and tower lights merge into one.

Caroline F. Braun ('09), above left, spent her entire junior year abroad studying in England and Spain. She and Lindsay Casale ('09) share a moment at the Belém Tower in Lisboa, Portugal.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF CAROLINE F. BRAUN ('09)
On Jan. 17, 2008, just more than a month after I unwillingly left London, I arrived in Madrid. Two and a half hours northwest of the city, Salamanca became my new home. I spent the next 15 weeks studying Spanish at the second oldest university in Europe: La Universidad de Salamanca. Our 32-person group was divided into pairs and groups of three, and we lived with families who did not speak English. (This division was very obvious when my madre invited my roommate and me to a “play” which turned out to be an erotic workshop. Lost in translation? I think so.) By March, however, the language barrier was almost nonexistent.

You definitely become immersed in Spanish culture and language in this JMU Study Abroad program. In less than 15 weeks I toured seven of Spain’s 17 autonomous communities, 12 of its major cities, and even took a weekend trip to Portugal. My study group had an art overload in Madrid at the Museo del Prado, the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum of Art and the Reina Sofia, and we became quite acquainted with our dear friend Pablo Picasso. We toured the Catedral de Toledo, the Roman aqueduct and la Alcázar in Segovia. In Barcelona we marveled at Gaudí’s Parc Güell and Casa Milà and the perpetually unfinished Sagrada Familia. We mistook the decorative oranges in Valencia as delicacies and survived the burning of Las Fallas. On the beaches of Málaga we turned red like tomatoes and witnessed the procession of Semana Santa and an honored bullfight. We were entertained in the caves of Granada by flamenco dancers and saw for ourselves the transculturalization between the mudéjares and the españoles at la Alhambra. My experience in Spain was (besides long bus rides and bacaladdas) 15 weeks of pure cultural immersion.

An entire year abroad fostered my independence and growth. Back at school and at home I had struggled to find my niche — a mode in which I could freely, comfortably, and confidently express myself. I had needed to get away, and I wanted to experience something new, something that would reawaken me for pushing myself beyond my comfort level. With help from JMU’s Office of International Programs, guidance from my foreign mentors and teachers, encouragement from 48 student travelers, and love and support from my family and friends, I found my niche. Traveling, challenging myself, intermingling with different persons and cultures, understanding new cultural perspectives, making my own decisions, and being on my own are what make me happy.

Above, Caroline F. Braun (‘09), (center, back row in sunglasses) captures a moment in time with fellow Study Abroad participants at Buckingham Palace in London. Left: Braun, (center, back row), takes in the Las Fallas Celebration with fellow student travelers in Valencia, Spain.

I made the decision to go abroad. I made it happen, and I did it despite others’ apprehensions and one trusty teller at the Spanish Embassy. I left Europe knowing that my life had changed forever. I am a stronger, more independent, confident and happier person because of my Study Abroad. Being on my own, confronting language barriers, and engaging in cultural and ethnic diversity taught me to adapt, change and grow. It also prepared me for life after JMU. I am now pushing myself further than I ever imagined teaching Spanish in low-income communities with Teach For America.

‘The people, places and events I encountered abroad favorably altered my perception of both my world and myself. Neither will ever be the same again.’

— Caroline F. Braun (‘09), English and Spanish major

About the Author: Caroline F. Braun is from Philadelphia and graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in English and modern foreign languages-Spanish in May. She was a co-resident assistant in the London Study Abroad program, a member of SoftRides and Phi Kappa Phi, and a volunteer for CHOICES and the student Homecoming Committee. A Sisser Speaks contributor, Braun presented at the 2006 General Education Student Conference. She now teaches secondary education Spanish in the Bay Area of California with Teach For America.
Possibilities, opportunities and results
DISCUSSING THE UNIQUE MADISON EXPERIENCE

JMU alumnus Levar Stoney ('04) traveled back to campus to talk to JMU Dingledine Scholar Josh Kelaher ('10) about what makes the Madison Experience unique — the focus on students and citizenship, the hard work, the passion of professors and students, the challenging academics, the social opportunities and responsibilities, the openness of faculty and the numerous cross-disciplinary degrees and collaborative programs.

A public administration major, Stoney (above left) began laying the foundation for his career in Virginia politics while serving as SGA president for two years at JMU. Kelaher says the integrated science and technology program is the “perfect fit for his interests,” which include having a voice in environmental policy. He has tutored students through the Spanish Honor Society, volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and studied abroad in Costa Rica, getting a firsthand look at renewable energy projects.
Josh Kelaher ('10): Welcome back to JMU, Levar. What do you do?

Levar Stoney ('04): Right now, I’m working for Creigh Deeds in his campaign for Virginia governor. I’m in charge of outreach to elected officials and advocacy groups.

Kelaher: That’s an accomplishment. Very cool. What was your first job like?

Stoney: Well, I got my first job in politics because the guy who ran the John Kerry presidential campaign in Virginia was a JMU grad. I worked in Gov. Mark Warner’s administration, in his office of constituent services, for three or four months. Then I was a field organizer for the Kerry campaign for president. My job was to knock on a lot of doors. That year it was really exciting because I got to travel to a battleground state and see how interested people were — on both sides of the aisle — in electing the next president of the United States. I also served as executive director of the Democratic Party of Virginia. How about you Josh: What are your interests?

Kelaher: I’m an integrated science and technology major focusing on energy and sustainability.

Stoney: I’ve heard that JMU is really front and center on sustainability issues.

Kelaher: President Rose has led the charge to make this campus as sustainable as possible. It’s tangible. The biomass incinerator is right out the window there; you’ve got the solar panel fields, and then all the work that ISAT does. And listen to this: A graduate from several years ago started his own company with his dad called Shenandoah Sustainable Technologies. They built a model house for ISAT students to live in. This doesn’t exist at more than a couple other universities — a sustainable structure to live and research in as an undergrad is quite an opportunity.

Plus, last year the College of Business sponsored a sustainable business proposal contest. Students and professors developed business plans that incorporated sustainable ideas. The one deemed most plausible and effective was awarded startup funds for the proposed business. Our university really gives you opportunities, and there are results that you cannot argue with.

Stoney: It’s so cool to see that we’re actually implementing some of these ideas, especially in today’s economy.

Kelaher: Even the SGA is working on environmental endeavors — they supported the dining halls going trayless to stop using as much water to wash dishes. It’s become a huge effort here on campus. Weren’t you involved in SGA?

Stoney: Yes. I was student body president for two years. I was also in the student senate two years before that. So, Josh, why did you choose JMU?

Kelaher: I’m from Northern Virginia. Everybody from Northern Virginia applies to JMU. I was adamant about not applying to JMU. My dad knew that I was interested in sustainability, though, and he said, “You should really check out the ISAT program at JMU.” And I said, “I’m just not interested. I don’t want to go where everyone else is going.”

So, I love Waffle House, right? And my dad loves Waffle House. One morning he wakes me up, and he says, “Hey, let’s go to Waffle House.” He rolls me out of bed — it’s six in the morning. I pass out in the car. I wake up, and I’m on I-81 headed toward JMU for the ISAT open house. I was so upset; and then I got there and spent three hours talking to two professors in the ISAT program. They sat down and just talked to me. I walked out of that building knowing that I was not going to apply anywhere else. I had to go to JMU. I knew beyond any doubt — just from setting foot on this campus and talking to those two professors.

— Josh Kelaher ('10)

Kelaher: My question is, did you get the chance to go to Waffle House?

Stoney: Oh yeah. We hit that on the way out. Students here love it. How about you; why did you choose JMU?

Stoney: Well, I applied at many schools and was recruited to play football at different schools, some in-state and some out of state. On a whim — the day before the JMU admissions deadline — I got an application from a friend and filled it out that evening. When I got my acceptance package, I knew I was going to JMU. It is probably one of the best things that ever happened to me. I talk about it all the time. You meet alumni at different events, and hear them say, “Oh yeah, I went to James Madison.” And I say, “Go Dukes!”

Kelaher: One of the many things I love about JMU is the sense of camaraderie. With almost 18,000 students, it’s not a small school; yet it doesn’t have the feel of a big campus.
Stoney: I agree. When people see college on TV or in the movies, they’re thinking large lecture halls or graduate assistants. I had maybe two or three large lecture classes. Most other times it was 25 people to a class — an intimate relationship setting where you could engage your professor.

Kelaher: It’s still that way. Especially ISAT. And the GenEd program is great; it gives you insight into other sectors of academia.

Stoney: Is JMU challenging you?

Kelaher: Oh yeah. I’d have to say that I certainly do find some nights at 2 a.m. in the East Campus Library to be a little difficult to power through. And it certainly is challenging to grasp some concepts, but the professors are always there to help, and that’s a wonderful thing. I can’t tell you how many professors’ open office hours I’ve used, or how available they make themselves. There’s one professor in ISAT — no matter what he’s doing, he’ll drop his stuff and talk to me. And it could be about anything — his class, someone else’s class, stuff that’s going on in life. It doesn’t matter.

JMU professors are there for you. And that’s a really cool thing. But by the end of the semester you look back and think, ‘I’ve come away with so much more than I ever thought. I could from this class.’

Stoney: That’s a challenging experience for me, too, but that’s what you want out of your academic career. I remember one professor telling me, “I gave you a B because you can do better.” That type of challenge is something that motivates you to try harder and bring out the potential you really do have. JMU has always had that open door policy where you were always able to just walk up, see an open door, stop in and ask a question. In the beginning, someone told me that the key to being comfortable with your course is to have a conversation with your professor. I took that to heart. I made sure for every class that I took that I would stop by and visit and have a true relationship with the person who was actually instructing the course.

Kelaher: Yeah, and even professors who you may not have or you’ve never had. If their door is open, they’ll talk to you. It’s a really beautiful thing. I can’t tell you how much help I’ve gotten from professors who I’ve never had in a class. But, another student will say something like: “Hey, this professor really gets it. You should go talk to him or her.” The professors are not here to just do research.

They’re here because they love teaching. And that makes courses more challenging because they want to see you succeed. They will help you through a class the whole way. They’re in the back pushing you, and when you’re standing at the end of a course and you know your stuff, there’s really not a better feeling than that.

Stoney: I see a lot of people who get good grades, yet they have nothing else to show for it. But if you talk to JMU grads there’s always something additional. I have friends from other universities, and I don’t hear them talk about the same experience. I hear of fun times, but I don’t hear of the passion. JMU takes a different approach to student affairs, and that’s just obvious in the students it produces. JMU gives you those challenging opportunities.

You want to go to college where the professors and administrators and other students are going to challenge you, not only academically, but socially, as well. As student body president, JMU really helped with my interpersonal communication skills, allowed me to manage an office, manage projects and also motivate indi-
‘JMU sees something that they can bring out in every student. They see hope and the ability for every student to change the world. You’re not going to be successful unless you can really interact with people and communicate ideas.’

— Josh Kelaher (‘10)

Kelaher: I think JMU is really pushing students to places they never thought they could go. JMU sets you up on this edge, and says, “Look at all this. This is your domain. You are able to do something with this.” Learning at JMU is so much more than just a lecture hall or a classroom. …

Stoney: It’s a community.

Kelaher: And it’s real-world focused. JMU sees something that they can bring out in every student. They see hope and the ability for every student to change the world. You’re not going to be successful unless you can really interact with people and communicate ideas. I have a professor who says a ridiculous majority of business graduates lose their jobs in the first six months because they are unable to communicate ideas effectively. Our College of Business focuses on interpersonal relationships. JMU grads are known for that skill.

JMU wants you to go out and get a real-world experience, communicate with people, interact with people, be social. They’re not cooping you up in a study lounge all the time. Everyone makes you work hard but part of that work is emphasizing that you’ve got to learn what the world’s about, too.

Stoney: I think JMU’s definitely perfected the recipe for that. And I’ll tell you this, Josh: there has not been a day that I’ve been intimidated in a room full of colleagues who have degrees from Cornell or Harvard or U.Va. I’m just as prepared as these guys from Ivy League schools. That says a lot about the Madison Experience.

Kelaher: I certainly see that. So many professors have this real sincere desire for you to become a cultivated member of society, a refined citizen of whatever you choose to be a part of.

Stoney: I love that JMU puts it in the mission statement — that students are to become educated and enlightened citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives. I think that’s one reason JMU emphasizes undergraduate education, and why undergraduate research opportunities are so important. They’re known for it. What are you involved in at JMU, Josh?

Kelaher: I’m talking with Dr. C.J. Broderick Hartman about sustainability efforts on campus. My good friend was on a graduate research team working on developing biodiesel from pond algae — as a freshman! That’s right on the edge of alternative fuel research, and she was there — as a student — pulling her weight. It wasn’t just gofer work. She was responsible for doing research and filing reports. She was able to get onto this graduate research team with an ISAT professor and other graduate students. And that’s a phenomenal thing to recognize. JMU recognized her ability to contribute and extended her that opportunity. You can have a lot of brilliance in your student body that goes untapped unless you have the opportunity to really give what you have to give. It’s wide open at JMU.

Stoney: JMU definitely puts the ball in your court.
Country roads to
downtown nightlife:

What’s cool in and
around the ’Burg
I am on top of a mountain; it is April, and I am freezing. It feels like the wind could just about topple me over the edge, and just then I see the view. On one side, I see valleys and hills far below. On the other side, I see ridge after ridge of mountains disappearing into the distance and the red glow of the sunset.

I’m on Reddish Knob, an hour and a world away from campus, one of my favorite places in the mountains and as beautiful as I remember it from my years at JMU. All kinds of memories surface up here: trips with friends from the music department, leaving the practice rooms and heading out of Harrisonburg on a weekend evening, coming here to watch the sunset and staying to watch the stars come out, the satellites crossing the sky and the moonrise, driving back through the Shenandoah Valley countryside, and watching the moon shine on the barn and farmhouse roofs as we headed back to civilization.
The sun rises above farmland along Cross Keys/South River Road near Grottoes. Many roads in the Shenandoah Valley — great for day trips from the JMU campus — pass through rolling farmland and by Civil War battlefields and other sites rich in history and culture.

(Above and right): students enjoy yoga on top of Reddish Knob and cycling down the mountain. (Left): Students take in the scenery in downtown Harrisonburg, which includes numerous eateries, art galleries and historic sites offering multicultural, culinary, educational and recreational experiences.

(Left): As a student, Laura Lindsey Coletrane ('01) worked for the ski patrol at Massanutten Resort near Harrisonburg. Here she is shown traversing the Rebel Yell Trail in 1999 in her patrol uniform. Today, Coletrane is a marketing assistant with Gannett Fleming Inc., but she still enjoys skiing at Mont Tremblant in Quebec, Canada, and Timberline Ski Resort in Davis, W.Va.
hat farmland, those mountains, that wide sky full of stars are what make the Shenandoah Valley, and JMU’s home in it, so unique and so beautiful. There are ski slopes, trails for biking, rivers for fishing, forests for camping — on any given evening you can choose between home-cooked southern-fried chicken, an edgy coffee shop, live music in a bar or Ethiopian cuisine. It’s small town, but it’s not sleepy. It’s rural, but it’s not backward. Throw out the stereotypes and choose between country roads or downtown nightlife, farmer’s markets or vintage thrift shops, live Shakespeare or live jazz.

**CAMPUS LIFE**

I grew up in the valley, yet somehow I never made the trip to Reddish Knob until after I was in college. Eleven years after graduating, I still live just two hours southwest in Roanoke. I’ve made the trip back to Harrisonburg to visit old haunts, talk to current students and fellow alums, and be reminded of what I love so much about this part of the country. I’ve also discovered reasons to return more often.

One windy weekend, I walked onto the Quad. The trees I remember napping and reading under are still there, though they are currently fenced off because the center for the performing arts is now under construction. So, I start my nostalgic walkabout heading uphill to Carrier Library. On this Saturday and holiday weekend, campus is quiet; the library is even quieter. When I open the door to the stacks, the smell of paper and books and history is just as I remember. I spent a year and a summer shelving books as a part-time job, and I loved the peaceful migration from aisle to aisle wheeling a book cart.

Next stop, D-Hall. Aha, I discover that this is where all the students are on this holiday Saturday and that D-hall has been renovated since I was a student. Now, it’s more open, has big food islands and themes, yet there are no trays. I wonder, what do students use for sledding these days?

Though much has changed at James Madison University since its founding in 1908, the Quad’s welcoming atmosphere has remained the same. Alumni who graduated prior to the 1960s wince at the thought of walking on the grass, (for fear of a “call-down” from the dean), but now students bring their computers and connect to wireless internet service, play football and frisbee, sunbathe, and socialize on the campus’ enduring hot spot.

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*frontier.org, (540) 332-7850*

**A PIECE OF HISTORY**

George history slept here?

Well, not in Harrisonburg as far as we know, but Virginians have shared their home state with good company. Eight U.S. presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor and Woodrow Wilson were born in Virginia, and some of their homes are an easy drive from Harrisonburg. So, soak up a little history, enjoy Virginia’s beautiful countryside and make a special effort to see James Madison’s Monticello. Yes, we are a little partial.

Visit Hardesty-Higgins House, completed in 1853, in downtown Harrisonburg. It houses Harrisonburg’s Visitor Center the Downtown Renaissance, and Harrisonburg Tourism offices, a gift shop, the Valley Turnpike Museum and Mrs. Hardesty’s Tea Room with four columns of tea to chose from.

* harrisonburgtourism.com, (540) 432-8935; hardestytea.com, (540) 432-8942*

**The 1853 Hardesty-Higgins House is now home to Harrisonburg’s Visitor Center.**

The Museum of American Frontier Culture in Staunton is about 20 miles south of Harrisonburg. Besides historic restorations of American, English, German and West African farms, the museum hosts a yearly calendar of events including shape note singing and barn dances, among other things. Take a step back in time to hear the great old harmonies and square dance callers.

*frontier.org, (540) 332-7850*
CHEAP THRILLS

Bordered by North America’s oldest mountain range — the Appalachians — rivers, waterfalls, forests and scenic roads like the Skyline Drive and the Blue Ridge Parkway are less than 30 minutes from Harrisonburg. Get outdoors for hikes through fall foliage; skiing and snow tubing in winter; wildflowers and cool walks in spring; and swimming, canoeing and fishing in summer. With four distinct and beautiful seasons, there are endless and inexpensive, fun ways to enjoy weekends. For mountain bike outings get suggestions at Shenandoah Bicycle downtown. JMU students may use camping, canoeing and climbing gear from the James Madison University Recreation Center.

Just a short walk from JMU’s Festival Conference and Student Center, you will find the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, a quiet refuge with walking trails and gardens. The arboretum also hosts special events and festivals.

The Green Valley Book Fair has been a long-time mecca for readers. A short drive out of Harrisonburg to Mount Crawford brings you to a farm with several warehouses full of books: overstock and heavily discounted books of every genre, from classic literature to bestsellers to cookbooks to children’s books. It’s a great place to do holiday shopping on a budget.

Like stalactites? Want to spend a little time underground? While you’re in town, be sure to visit one or more of the local caverns, which include Luray, Shenandoah and Skyline.

Historic Natural Bridge in Lexington is close enough to JMU for a day trip and offers both recreational and educational venues.

RICH LOCAL HISTORY

Senior psychology major Chris Gesualdi is eating with his parents, Charlie and Lucille, who are visiting from New Jersey. They told me I’ve picked the right family. “The week before Chris came down as a freshman,” Lucille says, “we wanted him to get an idea of what was here.” So they spent a week vacationing in Virginia and along the Blue Ridge Parkway, staying in historic bed and breakfasts, visiting Charlottesville, the University of Virginia and Natural Bridge. Now, they come back year after year.

“Staunton is a great little area, with its American Shakespeare Center and architecture,” she says. Four years ago they visited James Madison’s historic home, Montpelier, in Orange County, at the beginning of a major restoration project. This year they saw the results of that restoration completed.

“A lot of people don’t know Massanutten Resort,” she adds, “best kept secret someone passed on to us.” They rented a house there for graduation weekend and avoided crowded hotels in town. They even love D-Hall: “I love the food here,” says Charlie. “I’d rather come here than go to a restaurant.”

At a table in the next room, five freshmen girls (Olivia Lawson, music industry; Emily Mullen, communication studies; Meredith Rout, “nursing, hopefully,” Laura Smith, international affairs and Sara Korpeck, music education) agree: “We love downtown.” They don’t own cars yet, but, “It’s an easy walk,” says Korpeck.

Student jazz bands still play at Dave’s Tavern, the Greek restaurant where I used to listen to them. I hear more echoes from my own college years like roller-skating, salsa night at the Artful Dodger and trips to the arboretum.

Elizbeth “Libby” Smoot (’83) came to Madison in the late ’70s. “When I visited, it was absolutely beautiful,” she remembers. She played basketball and wanted to be a sports writer. Like me, she didn’t move too far away from Harrisonburg after she graduated. Smoot is general manager of the Northern Virginia Daily in Winchester. She knows the region well and lists the spots she thinks college students should make a point to experience: “The Apple Blossom Festival in Winchester is such a unique experience. It’s in spring when the trees are in bloom. The Museum of the Shenandoah Valley is really beautiful.”

One of her favorites, the Green Valley Book Fair in Mount Crawford, is also one of my favorites. I wrote a story about it for The Breeze, American Celebration on Parade at Shenandoah Caverns, just north of New Market, is a kind of campy destination for students. “It is almost like being in an animated cartoon,” Smoot says, and Strasburg “is touted as the antiques capital of the world” for those who love antiques shopping.

For four years, ski patroller Laura Lindsey Ceketane (’01), media arts and design, spent a lot of time on the slopes at Massanutten Resort, where she worked 20 hours a week. Now, she works in marketing for international engineering firm Gannett Fleming Inc.

“That was an amazing experience that I couldn’t have had at any other college; I had to be on the snow by 8 a.m.,” she says. She remembers watching sunrises from the summit. “It was indescribable... the sun would rise and there would be fog, and you’d be above it.”

Elizabeth Bezars Poe (’04), now director of client services and marketing for the Pinnacle Group in Amelia, found her own outdoor escape at Lake Shenandoah, just outside of Harrisonburg. “I would take a blanket... I did a lot of running, a lot of power walking, a lot of studying” there. “It was my get away. Every time I go back to Harrisonburg, I go there.”

Jennifer Myers (’06), who now works in emergency services for the Valley Community Services Board in Staunton, loved being able to rent tents and sleeping bags from the University Recreation Center. She and her friends would head to swimming holes for a day, go snow tubing and skiing at Massanutten, or canoeing near Route 33 West. “We’d have bonfires, and it was a place we could bring our dogs,” she says.
DUKES’ TOP 10

The best parts of JMU and the Shenandoah Valley according to alumni survey respondents:

1. The Quad
2. Blue Hole and the Shenandoah River
3. Homecoming and JMU football
4. Massanutten and Reddish Knob (skiing, hiking, biking or exploring)
5. Kline’s ice cream
6. Green Valley Book Fair
7. D-Hall food
8. JMU arboretum
9. Duke Dog (getting a hug)
10. JMU’s friendly faculty and creating lifelong friendships

(Above): The Edith J.Carrier Arboretum is a favorite “get-away” that just happens to be on campus. Cara Modisett (’96) couldn’t wait to get back to D-Hall.

(Above): Located just south of Harrisonburg, the Green Valley Book Fair is a must-see experience according to JMU alumni. The discount book outlet is within a 30-minute drive. (Above right): Kline’s Dairy Bar is located in downtown Harrisonburg and is a JMU and local favorite.

Swimming, socializing and camping at Blue Hole and kayaking the Shenandoah River’s North Fork near this hot spot have been favorites of JMU students and alumni for decades.

The Purple Pride fever of Homecoming and JMU football are No. 3 on the Top 10 alumni favorite things about JMU and the Shenandoah Valley. Be on campus for Homecoming 2009 on Oct. 16-18! (Below): Breathtaking mountainscape sunsets are visible daily from campus and the local area.
MORE COWS THAN CARS

Get a bunch of alums together in a restaurant, talk for a few hours and you’ll hear lots of sentimental and funny stories about marriage proposals, barhopping, cramming for exams, playing Frisbee on the Quad, eating bagels at Mrs. Green’s, playing on the football team and playing in the Marching Royal Dukes during halftime. “You feel like a rock star with 300 of your best friends,” as Brooke Brosious (’92) puts it. That’s pretty much the way I remember it too.

Twelve JMU grads gathered at Blue Nile on a Friday night downtown. All have settled in the area, some are married and some are parents. We shared more recent stories about the JMU and Harrisonburg of today, how both the university and the city have changed and grown, and what is wonderful about the area. Those stories were about fly fishing 15 minutes from work, buying locally grown foods and having too many choices for live music on a Saturday night.

We also talked about the farms, the back roads and the rural beauty of the Shenandoah Valley. Shiree Harbick (’96, ’97M) brings it into perspective when she says, “I see more cows on my way to take my preschooler to school than cars, and I love that.”

After dinner I headed out, leaving the warmly lit, low-key but elegant Ethiopian eatery. I looked up at the beautiful old Catholic church, caught a glimpse of the Klince’s Dairy Bar neon sign and thought about a chocolate malt, but decided it was too late. Back to my car, back to Route 33, the mountains, the stars and thinking about what a great place this is to come home to again.
‘It’s small town, but it’s not sleepy. It’s rural, but it’s not backward. ... choose between country roads or downtown nightlife, live Shakespeare or live jazz.’

— CARA ELLEN MODISETT (’96), editor of Blue Ridge Country

H I G H A R T

Shakespeare, bluegrass, rock, country. Like them all? No problem; all are easily found in Harrisonburg and the surrounding areas.

About 20 miles south of Harrisonburg in Staunton you will find the American Shakespeare Center’s Blackfriars Playhouse, a replica of William Shakespeare’s 1596 indoor London theater. Ralph Cohen, former JMU professor and current director of the American Shakespeare Center, says, “It puts the audience back in the show. Shakespeare wrote the audience into these plays.”

* americanshakespearecenter.com or (877) MUCH-ADO

Experience everything from nationally known touring musicians to the homegrown Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival. On-campus offerings include student productions, great theater, music and dance performances, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts’ Masterpiece Season. Get tickets early as these events sell out fast!

* jmu.edu/catalog/09/colleges/cvpa.html

Harrisonburg’s Court Square Theater is host to local and not-so-local performances from community theater to an annual Latino film festival to regionally and nationally touring musicians. Some of its programming is in collaboration with JMU and other area schools. “Many of Court Square Theater’s music programming reflects the community’s cultural roots and creative spirit,” says Cecilia Carter Brown, executive director of the Arts Council of the Valley. “That said, I also believe that it is important to look beyond the region’s cultural paradigm to stretch the community’s cultural vocabulary by introducing new artists and media.”

* courtsquaretheater.com or (540) 433-9189

Among the area’s annual music festivals is the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival, a weekend celebration hosted every June for 17 years on the campus of nearby Eastern Mennonite University.

* www.emu.edu/bach or (540) 432-4882

About an hour north of Harrisonburg, in the little town of Orkney Springs, the Shenandoah Valley Music Festival presents performers ranging from virtuoso Banjo Flick to country music star Travis Tritt to the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.

* musicfest.org or (540) 459-3998 or (800) 459-3996

JMU’s Masterpiece Season musical, theater and dance events are a wonderful cultural opportunity for students and patrons.
In the movie *National Treasure*, Nicolas Cage plays a historian who has discovered — with help from his crusty old historian dad — that a Masonic secret is inscribed in invisible ink on the back of the Declaration of Independence. Meanwhile, a group of ruthless villains learns the same secret and sets out to steal the priceless relic. Of course, mayhem ensues when the hero preempts the baddies by stealing the document himself. In the end, the hero performs a selfless act of patriotism at great personal peril, reveals a 200-year-old secret worth millions of dollars and falls in love with a gorgeous blonde who just happens to share his madcap sense of adventure and quirky fetish for the mysteries found in dusty archives. *Ah, to be a historian!*

**Making**

**HISTORY**

Well that’s Hollywood’s take on it — history on steroids shall we say. HIST 395 students will probably tell you that it is not history at all. For them, and for anyone who seeks a history degree from JMU, any romantic notions about historical research are quickly demolished by this intensive course.
RIANS

HIST 395: Gateway or gauntlet?  BY HARRY ATWOOD ('87)
Certainly, history is not the only JMU major with a formidable course. For science majors, organic chemistry is something of a rite of passage, and accounting students take pride in the challenges of COB 300. However, HIST 395 is one of a very few courses that is so reputed for its grueling demands that it has spawned a T-shirt that declares ‘I Survived HIST 395.’

**The Course**

Paul McDowell (’11), who completed the course in May, recalls the angst he had before taking the class, “I was told by someone, ‘Whatever you do, don’t fall behind. You better keep up or you’ll be in big trouble.’”

William Hayes (’09) recalls the early days of his course work. “About two or three weeks into it, I was pulling my hair out,” he says. “I was to the point of considering changing my topic and starting all over. It was excruciating.”

Not surprisingly, the professors put a more sanguine spin on the class. “It’s a gateway,” says Chris Arndt, JMU history professor and associate dean of the College of Arts and Letters. “It beats students up a little bit, but they come out knowing how to do research.”

Gateway or gauntlet, students and faculty members alike treat this course with special reverence — a reverence borne out on a national level this year when JMU was one of five universities recognized by the American Historical Association and highlighted in a video about excellence in undergraduate research programs. Check it out at http://jmutube.cit.jmu.edu/content/hollowwhl/p/162/playlist.

At the heart of the course is a 15- to 20-page research paper that must meet with the approval of each student’s academic adviser. Most students become quite attached to their topics and are understandably proud of their papers. However, the paper is not nearly as important as the knowledge and skills students acquire through the research process. The ability to conduct solid, trustworthy research is the real reward.

“This is an apprenticeship program — a process class,” says Michael Galgano, history department head and co-author, with Arndt and Raymond Hyser, of one of the textbooks, *Doing History*. “I see our role as training students to be independent researchers as early as we can.” Students are encouraged to take HIST 395 as sophomores or juniors. In 20 years of teaching the class, Galgano has seen countless students transform from well-meaning but novices into competent researchers. The skills they learn in this class inform the rest of their college careers, not to mention their lives beyond JMU.

**The Digital Age: Leveling the Playing Field**

The subtitle of *Doing History* is “Research and Writing in the Digital Age.” Clearly, digitization has been a watershed occurrence for all researchers.

As a graduate student, Galgano, an expert in European history, had no choice but to travel to England and search various archives to locate materials on Earls Colne (1375–1854). Whereas today, that information is available online. And, Jessica Harvey (’11) has access to 250 years (1674–1913) of rich sociological data from the online archives of London’s Old Bailey literally at her fingertips via the World Wide Web.

Access to information is expanding exponentially. “It grows daily,” says Galgano. “It’s also leveled the playing field.” At one time, only schools with large archives or those in big metropolitan areas with access to government and private collections could expect students
to conduct the kind of first-rate research now produced at JMU. “Before the digital revolution, the topics for research at JMU were based on the instructors’ knowledge of what was in the library,” Galgano says. Students made trips to the University of Virginia or the National Archives in Washington, D.C., to do research. “A common question I asked back in those days was, ‘Who’s going to Charlottesville on Saturday, and who’s got room in their car?’”

Now, JMU students can compete with anyone. Last year, Anna Klemm (’08) won the National Phi Alpha Theta prize for her essay “Pulpits, Pews and Patronage: The English Protestant Reformation’s Effect on Architecture.” She is now pursuing a graduate degree in Slovakia.

NOT EVERYTHING IS FOUND IN CYBERSPACE
In the first week of HIST 395, students meet Patricia Hardesty, history liaison librarian and creator and maintainer of the much-referenced Appendix A in Doing History. Hardesty’s first objective is to give students an overview of the vast array of resources available and how to access them. She says, “I do this baptism by fire thing.” The gamut of available material can be overwhelming. As more and more information becomes digitized, the access to information grows exponentially. Yet, it would be a mistake to think that students need only plop themselves down in front of a computer and start “Googling” away. “Not everything is going to be digitized,” Hardesty says.

The HIST 395 students meet with Hardesty in Moody Hall. The librarian brings some props with her. She pulls a microfilm reel out of her bag. For most students it’s the first time they have seen one. The day may come when using microfilm will be a thing of the past, but for now five machines sit ready in a quiet, vault-like room on Carrier Library’s first floor. Next to the machines are more than 100 metal cabinets with pull-trays full of reels of microfilm and microfiche cards containing facsimiles of newspapers, manuscripts, maps, collections and other documents. Some students enjoy the tactile part of their work; it’s nice that it’s not all in cyberspace. “I do see them in there sometimes,” Hardesty says of the students in the microfilm room, as if she were referring to some crafty raccoons rummaging for morsels in someone’s pantry.

A Q&A WITH PAUL MCDOWELL (‘11)

Validating my potential
Rising senior Paul McDowell is a member of the Honors Program and the JMU Honors Learning Community. In addition to his history degree, he is pursuing a minor in Italian. He completed his HIST 395 research project about the 19th-century lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans. He is continuing that research for his honors thesis and will be presenting his research at several conferences next year.

Where are you from? Why did you pick JMU?
I was born and raised in Atlanta. As a high-school junior I decided that I wanted to go out of state. JMU was the most affordable out-of-state school I had applied to and, once I had been accepted into the Honors Program and its Honors Learning Community, I was sold.

What would you tell a student considering becoming a JMU history major?
The four or five professors I have had for classes have been the four or five best teachers I’ve ever had, from kindergarten all the way up. That’s worth it right there. They spend an incredible amount of time with you.

When did you realize the work was going to be demanding?
The second semester in one of my Gen. Ed. classes — World History 1500 to present — I bombed my first paper. I thought it was going to be easy, and I just completely bombed it. That’s when I thought, OK, they’re serious, and I had better get serious too. The next paper I aced, so I think I learned that lesson.

What has HIST 395 done for you?
I believe this class has been a validation of my potential as a serious student. HIST 395 requires brains, critical skills and determination, but it also requires heart. You have got to enjoy what you are doing.

Do you see yourself as a historian?
I do not see myself as a true historian, yet. The discipline of history is too complex for me to say that at this point in my collegiate career. For my career, I plan on utilizing both my history degree and my Italian to work for the foreign service or the Italian division of a major international corporation such as Coca Cola, Delta, UPS or the like.

What’s it like to be so knowledgeable about your topic?
HBO did a film about the lynching featuring actor Christopher Walken. It wasn’t entirely true. The real incident was actually a lot more brutal than they depicted it, and they added a romance between an Italian boy and an Irish girl that probably wouldn’t have happened in that community; but it was impressive that someone cared to do a film about this little known incident.
The Tutorials

Jackson Hall, situated at the top of the Quad near Wilson Hall, has been the JMU history department's longtime home.

The second floor of Jackson Hall is a curious place. At each end of the building is a pod-like lounge connected by a central hallway. Each pod houses eight offices — the offices of some JMU veteran professors with a wide range of specialties. For more experienced students, Jackson's second floor is a kind of nerve center, a multifaceted resource to be tapped, but for students just beginning HIST 395 it might seem more like the den of the Hydra.

On a March morning, two months before the final paper due date, professors Raymond Hyser and Mary Gayne are conducting tutorials in their offices. Paul McDowell ('11) meets with Hyser. McDowell submitted the first five pages of his paper the previous week via e-mail, and Hyser returned it electronically with his edits, suggestions and questions printed in the margins along the right-hand side of the paper. The footnotes printed in smaller font are still longer than the body of the paper on the first few pages. With the draft in front of them, Hyser and McDowell discuss the remarks and form strategies for approaching the rest of the paper.

McDowell got the idea for his research from a story he had heard from a relative about the 1891 murder of a police chief and the subsequent lynching of 11 Italian-Americans in New Orleans. Through a variety of resources, McDowell has tracked down coverage of the event in a dozen or more newspapers — some of them as far ranging as the San Francisco Bulletin and the New Haven Register. Hyser is clearly pleased with the hard work McDowell has put into his paper and encourages McDowell's flare for the narrative, but counsels him to tell the story quickly and get to the nuts and bolts of his thesis. For, as interesting and lurid as the story may be, McDowell is not pitching a movie script to a Hollywood producer. His job is to be disciplined about his research — to cogently and objectively present and analyze the media's coverage of a shocking case of vigilantism in 19th-century America.

Hyser points out that one of the integral components of the class is to teach students what history is not, which explains why the first three sections under Chapter 1 of Doing History are "The Misuse of History," "How Much Can We Know of the Past?" and "The Problems of Historical Inquiry." Students learn how flawed methods can lead to misconceptions and inaccuracies. "We want the students to develop an argument with a preponderance of evidence," says Hyser. "Because often times evidence presents conflicting viewpoints, and it is the task of the historian to weigh the evidence and to rethink and reshape the questions necessary to develop a solid thesis."

Sometimes students get to expose and correct misconceptions through their work. "It's a matter of figuring out how to use all this stuff to answer their own questions," says Galgano, "and [to] reach independent conclusions that at times challenge conventional historical thought."

Next door to Hyser, Gayne is meeting with sophomore Jessica Harvey and junior Gabe Camut.

Harvey is researching 18th-century lead poisoning in England, and how the open communication between scientists and the public through pamphlets and other publications correlates with a shift in how lead was used in society. For Harvey, it took considerable time to find what she was looking for, and her thesis was shaped and reshaped through the research process. Harvey reflects on the tedium and frustration of the initial phases, but at long last she says she found what she was looking for. "It's the greatest feeling to finally find information that is helpful, and you just want to tell your friends. But let's get real, reading a primary source from 1750 about lead doesn't rate high on many people's cool scale, but it does on mine."

Camut grew up interested in history. "I was definitely a History Channel kid," he says. "I remember as a little kid watching Dames with Wives with my parents and being fascinated. I used to dress up like an Indian." Camut came to JMU interested in American Colonial history but now finds himself studying the records of French glove makers and perfumers of the 18th century to better understand the luxury debates, a philosophical debate of the Enlightenment about the growth in consumption and decline of moral values as tied to the economy (a topic eerily familiar to recent questions in our own time about the global economy).

"It's a matter of figuring out how to use all this stuff to answer their own questions, and [to] reach independent conclusions that at times challenge conventional historical thought."

— MICHAEL GALGANO, history department head
During the tutorial, Camut fields questions not only from Gayne but also from Harvey. The familiar tone is testimony to the time they’ve all spent together in class and in sessions like this one. Gayne instructs Camut to look analytically at the facts and figures from an inventory of perfume manufacturers in Paris. “What do the numbers suggest?” she asks, running her index finger down a column of numbers. “This grows at this rate; this declines at that rate; and what does that say?”

At some point, Gayne pulls a book from her shelf that might be useful to Camut. Before she hands it to him, she fixes him with a serious look. “If I loan this to you, I’ll get it back, right?” she asks.

“Yes,” replies Camut.

“Even before you get a grade?” Gayne persists.

“Of course,” Camut says, laughing.

Gayne says, “A surgeon shouldn’t loan out her scalps,” but hands him the book anyway. “Remember, you’re not telling the whole story of the Enlightenment.” She then instructs both students to “Forge ahead; forge ahead.” She sounds more like a coach than a professor. Then she drops a bomb on both of them. “I want new drafts of these by Friday.”

Harvey’s eyes grow wide. “You mean tomorrow?” she says.

“Yes,” smiles Gayne. She is demanding, but there is a clear rapport here, developed during a course that resembles a journey more than just another college class. As far as Camut and Harvey have come, they still have a good way to go.

“My paper is constantly on my mind,” says Harvey, “I’m always thinking of new ways to approach my thesis — all the sources I should look at and changing my schedule to fit the demands of the time I spend in the library.”

HAYES AND WEBER: THE MUSICIAN AND THE SOFTBALLER

On a March afternoon a group of eight history professors gathers in a classroom in Jackson Hall to discuss the pros and cons of the best HIST 395 papers for that year. The best paper will win the $1,000 Bland Scholarship. Out of six or seven superior students, the names Kelly Weber and Ben Earman keep coming up. The professors analyze the papers at length, mostly citing the strengths of both papers. Clearly, the professors would like to see both students recognized for their excellent work. After some hemming and hawing they vote by voice, and Earman wins the scholarship.

Last year’s winner of the Bland Scholarship, William Hayes, is something of a star in the history department. A musician with Pony Express and R&C Productions, Hayes researched the evolution of the English concertina (the predecessor of the modern accordion). Tracing the origins of the instrument back to the third millennium B.C., in China, Hayes greatly impressed his professors.

In 2008, Hayes presented his paper at the regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference at Christopher Newport University and took first place in European History. He chose to continue his research and completed his honors thesis on the same topic on April 8.

William Hayes (‘09) presented at the 2008 Phi Alpha Theta conference and took a first place. The proficient accordion player is also a member of the band Pony Express.

JESSICA ZIPARO (‘01)

Lawyer turns historian

Jessica Ziparo (‘01) is a reminder that the skills learned in HIST 395 can launch one on an interesting career path. Eight years ago, using the first chapter of her senior honors thesis as her writing sample, she applied to and was accepted by Harvard Law School. Following her time at Harvard, she practiced environmental law for three years in San Diego. “I had a good job, but found myself coming home at night and reading Civil War diaries. I’m a nerd like that,” she says. Unable to subdue her interest in history, she applied to Johns Hopkins University to return to an old dream of becoming a professor like her JMU mentor and adviser Raymond Hyset. “I gave up a lucrative career and some security for something I love. It was the hardest and easiest decision I’ve ever made.”

“That was a big day,” Hayes says, and reflects on the whole journey. “It’s like a treasure hunt. Sometimes you find it and don’t even realize it. Sometimes it’s a dead end.” The first month of her research had gone poorly. He wasn’t finding anything. “Then one day I stumbled across a patent by this guy Charles Wheatstone, and it was like pay dirt. Then it just exploded.”

There is a confidence in Kelly Weber (‘10) that befits a woman who has played competitive softball since she was 9 years old and pitched for the JMU club team that made it all the way to the National Club Softball World Series in her freshman and sophomore years. She sits now in David Dillard’s office planning her course of action for her honors thesis. Her HIST 395 paper, “The Effects of the Civil War on the Confederate Women of the Shenandoah Valley,” yielded intriguing details about many strong-willed women determined to make the best of life in a region ravaged by war. Focusing her research on the journals and letters of five Confederate women in Virginia, Weber revealed a diverse picture of women engaged in the business of survival and commerce while their world lay in ruins around them. She found details about small acts of espionage against the Union Army as well as sentiments sympathetic to the federal cause.

In these wartime writings, women revealed the kind of people they were through their thoughts and convictions, their charm and even their naïveté. Julia Chafee criticized the emancipation proclamation as hypocritical. Cornelia McDonald expressed surprise that her slaves had run away during the war and she was now forced to do much of the work they once did. Doing her own laundry, she learns, is not as easy as she thought it would be.

Unfortunately, many of the women stopped writing when the men returned home from the war. “There’s a significant drop-off of women who continued to write,” Weber says. For her, this means primary sources are harder to come by. Seemingly, the trail has turned cold, which is why Dillard’s insistence that Weber continue her research is such a strong testament to his confidence that HIST 395 has endowed Weber with the necessary skills to conduct serious research.
TRANSFORMATIONS

From Black Elk to Black Holes

A joint venture to integrate the intuitive and the rational  

By Dave Pruett

The true voyage of discovery lies not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.

— Marcel Proust, French novelist

Ten years ago, with considerable trepidation, I left my academic comfort zone. To my continuing amazement and gratitude, some courageous undergraduates followed — and sometimes led — into a new dimension of intellectual exploration. For the first time I was teaching an honors course, From Black Elk to Black Holes: Shaping a Myth for a New Millennium (HON 200D). Although delighted to have the opportunity to teach a course that had been germinating for several years, I wondered whether, as a mathematics professor, I might be out of my depth.

The premise of the course was to view the universe from vastly different perspectives — from a mythological perspective of Native Americans on the one hand and a modern scientific perspective on the other — and then to look for resonances between these seemingly disparate and possibly irreconcilable worldviews.

Humans have two primary ways of knowing. Let’s call them head knowledge and heart knowledge. The Black Elk to Black Holes course was born in the recognition that most humans, particularly in the West, struggle to effectively integrate these two modes of making sense of the world. For me that struggle was acute. On the one hand, I had majored in engineering, loved mathematics and science, was a child of the space race, and had worked for NASA. On the other hand, I have a “poet nature” and had learned over the years to listen carefully to the still, small voice of intuition. These two sides — the rational and the intuitive — often seemed in conflict. I had begun to suspect that the roots of the conflict were societal and universal.

There were no guarantees that a course so conceived could or would work, and in the first weeks I experienced considerable anxiety over it — until one fateful day. We were preparing to discuss our first text, Black Elk Speaks, an American classic about the life and wisdom of a Lakota (“Sioux”) holy man. In Lakota mythology, the four cardinal directions — north, south, east and west — are personified by four benevolent “grandfather” spirits. When Rebecca, one of the discussion leaders, inquired before class “Which direction is east?” I knew it would be a good day, and it was. The four student leaders, of their own initiative, assumed the roles of the four grandfathers. The resulting discussion was riveting. It was, in fact, the best day in my teaching career.

With uncanny synchronicity, just a few weeks before the second student-led discussion, a magazine arrived in the mail bearing an article titled “The Great Initiation.” It remains to this day the single most enlightening article I have read, and it afforded clear-eyed context for what the course was trying to accomplish. In it, cultural historian Richard Tarnas summarizes the Western dilemma:

In a sense, the modern soul’s allegiance is to Romanticism, while the modern mind’s allegiance is to the Enlightenment. And science rules the outer cosmos and the objective world, while the Romantic aspirations of our poetry, our music, our spiritual yearnings rule the interior world of the modern soul. That’s the schizophrenia all of us grew up with in
the 20th century. There is no easy congruence between those two radically different worldviews — yet, to use Faust’s term, they are somehow forced to ‘cohabit within our breast.’

In short, Westerners are afflicted by a kind of collective “schizophrenia,” torn between conflicting allegiances. In the individual psyche, this manifests as disharmony between mind and spirit. At the cultural level, it manifests as animosity between science and religion.

Prior to the publication in 1543 of Copernicus’ De Revolutionibus, truth was to be found in religious authority, and meaning in religious mythology. Both placed the human squarely at the center of the universe, literally and figuratively. The Copernican revolution, a revolution in cosmology, ushered in a paradigm shift of monumental proportions. First, Copernicus’ heliocentric theory of the solar system dethroned the Earth and its inhabitants from the center of the cosmos. More broadly, Copernicanism launched the Age of Reason, in which the locus of truth shifted from ecclesiastical authority to direct experience in the form of scientific inquiry. Big Bang cosmology and the deep-space images of the Hubble Space Telescope are but aftershocks of the intellectual seismic waves that Copernicus unleashed 450 years ago.

‘Humans have two primary ways of knowing. Let’s call them head knowledge and heart knowledge. The Black Elk to Black Holes course was born in the recognition that most humans, particularly in the West, struggle to effectively integrate these two modes of making sense of the world.’

While the Copernican Revolution was yet in mid-stride, a mild-mannered biologist named Charles Robert Darwin scandalized Victorian England in 1859 with the publication of The Origin of Species. Freud observed later that Darwinism was the “second blow to human narcissism.” Darwin upset our biological sense of place as unceremoniously as Copernicus had upended our physical sense of place. Feeding the firestorm of controversy his theory would unleash, Darwin delayed publication for 20 years. As continuing controversies over genetic engineering, embryonic stem-cell research and intelligent design attest, Darwin’s fears were well-founded.

Science and religion tell compelling but conflicting stories about our origins. The scientific story speaks to our rational selves, but is largely devoid of meaning. The religious story speaks to our intuitive selves and our need for meaning, but it often denies the facts. Each story, although compelling, is incomplete. In Einstein’s most famous aphorism, “Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind.” And so the Western psyche is faced with a choice between competing mythologies, neither of which leads to wholeness. In the words of ecotheologian Thomas Berry, “We are in trouble just now because we do not have a good story. We are between stories.”

When all is said and done, Black Elk to Black Holes is about crafting a new story. It is an opportunity for individual and collective mythmaking. This is not merely an academic exercise. Our mythology shapes our future.

What form will the new story take? Foremost, to speak to our rational and our intuitive natures it must synthesize modern scientific knowledge with time-honored wisdom. As a model, a particularly hopeful synthesis of scientific and religious thought can be found in the writings of the French paleontologist, priest and mystic Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. As a man of the cloth and deep faith, Teilhard
wished to die on an Easter Sunday, a wish granted by a massive heart attack on April 10, 1955. As a paleontologist who carried a geology hammer on every outing, Teilhard embraced evolution to the core of his being, believing that “evolution is a light illuminating all facts.”

How did a man of such faith arrive at so bold a view of evolution? By the simple recognition that the nature of nature is to change: this indeed is the central message of both the Copernican and the Darwinian revolutions. Keenly aware of 20th-century developments in cosmology, among them that the universe is expanding, having originated in a “primordial atom” (to use fellow scientist-priest George Lemaître’s original term for the Big Bang), Teilhard grasped that evolution applies not just to biological processes but to the universe as a whole. The universe, as he experienced it, is continually unfolding. For this process he coined the beautiful term “cosmogenesis.”

The more one views the universe through the wide-angle lens of cosmogenesis, the more resonance one finds between scientific understanding and traditional wisdom. The revelations of modern science — Darwin’s tree of life, wave-particle duality, quantum entanglement, even the space-time web of general relativity — all have mythological counterparts if one is willing to grant oneself a certain poetic license.

For their final writing assignment, my first honors students crafted personal “myths of meaning” from the strands of the course. These were written as brief letters to a beloved grandchild from the hypothetical perspective of old age and near death. At our last class meeting, we shared those myths while seated in the “sacred hoop” — a circle. I was overwhelmed by the wisdom in those letters, and after reading them in private following that last class meeting, I wept for a long time at their beauty and power. There is hope for the world if these students are its future.

Dave Pruett credits the use of a ball of yarn during student-led discussions to former 2004 student Colleen Gorman. The yarn web symbolizes several intentions of the course: connecting ideas and individuals.

A decade later, Black Elk to Black Holes is in its fifth offering. It is no longer experimental, which may mean it is destined to be around for a while longer. I hope so. The subtitle is now Tales of a Mysterious Universe. But it is still about the story of the cosmos and our place in it.

In the preface to one class text, What is Life?, the author, quantum physicist Erwin Schrödinger wrote: “The very name [university] given to the highest institutions of learning reminds us that, from antiquity and throughout many centuries, the universal aspect has been the one to be given full credit.” That original and noble calling of higher education has largely been lost to the explosion and subsequent fragmentation of knowledge. At few major institutions of higher learning would a holistic course such as Black Elk to Black Holes have seen the light of day, let alone be celebrated. I cannot adequately express my gratitude to the JMU community for the inspiration of students and the support and encouragement of colleagues. I look forward to continuing this journey with future undergraduates.
Back for the future

Sustained volunteerism in Welch, W.Va. By Mary Slade

Imagine a wreck in which both the driver and passengers are pinned. Rescuers come, haul them out, but leave them by the side of the road to dress their own wounds. No one would do that, right? But isn’t this exactly what happens with many relief trips and many volunteer efforts? Get in. Do a job. Get out.

Fixing a town devastated by a flood or hurricane or decimated by crushing poverty caused by decades of economic drought cannot be accomplished in a weekend or a week or even a month. It takes decades. It takes commitment. It takes a sustained effort.

One such community is Welch, W.Va., which is located in the southern region of the state and in the heart of Appalachia. Welch, where unemployment tops 10 percent and 40 percent of the population live below the poverty line, is the county seat of McDowell County as well as the eighth-poorest county in the nation. Welch was once a thriving community before an insidious contraction in the coal industry robbed it of its economic stability and left a population of proud people to deal with the consequences—joblessness, illiteracy, poverty and a crumbling infrastructure.

This is the same pattern being replayed around the world when the economic heart of a town or city fails. Efforts to revive such a community can seem insurmountable. JMU, which is already predisposed to service, has looked at the problem with a focus on sustainability and is applying that principle to Welch by involving the university community. This long-term approach is changing the paradigm of volunteerism while pursuing a new kind of mission—a sustainable, permanent, transformative relationship that produces long-term civic health in the community instead of a “get in, do a job and get out” philosophy. This is help that attends until the patient is well.

The program in Welch grew out of a series of relief trips that I spearheaded and made with College of Education students to several Gulf Coast regions following Hurricane Katrina. The original Katrina Relief trips were exceptional in that they drew students, professors, alumni, staff members, associated families and high-school students. In all, more than 500 volunteers have participated in six significant outreach opportunities through the College of Education since 2005.

Nathan Plowman with Aid for the World, a nonprofit organization committed to reversing the effects of poverty, made the first entree into Welch. After seeing the dedication of the JMU community firsthand during a Katrina Relief trip, Plowman contacted me last year to get together a JMU contingent to join him in the long-term, sustained effort in Welch. “Of all the people I worked with during the Katrina relief it was JMU students who stood out the most,” Plowman says. “They really seemed to understand the nature of what it means to be a volunteer.”

Since the initial trip to Welch, efforts have been deep and enduring, and will continue for at least another three to five years. Only a sustained effort will produce long-lasting results.
ONEWORLD

One student volunteer says, "Fifty volunteers can come in and rebuild a building, but what about the people that live in the building? Sustained efforts have a positive domino effect."

This practicum experience in Welch enhances students’ cultural competence, fosters civic engagement and improves their knowledge about impoverished rural schools. The college’s Exceptional Education Student Ambassadors and the student chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children have collected and sent books to Welch. Another group renovated a nearly unlivable intergenerational house for a Welch family. Another 15) JMU volunteers restored 31 apartments to live-in condition following a fire, and progress continues on reclaiming an old medical building for a community center. Plans also are under way for JMU practica students to work as tutors and student teachers — an initiative from JMU College of Education Dean Phil Wishon.

In the process, Welch is changing — and so are the student volunteers. Most have grown up far from endemic poverty. Their experience in Welch has been transformational. One high-school student volunteer says, “I finally know what it feels like to be a part of the human race.”

The pervasive nature of the Welch program spreads beyond the JMU community. The college initiated a curriculum that has introduced some 23 middle- and high-school classes to JMU’s service learning. Someday, College of Education graduates may teach students in Welch how to read. As they do that, and as they rebuild buildings, they are also, as one student says, “helping a community regain hope one step at a time.” No single college student can change Welch, nor can a thousand. But by linking together that continuum of care and support, they can spark an uplifting positive motivation that will allow Welch citizens to plan and execute their own futures.

Helping to resuscitate Welch — Herculean from one perspective — is exemplary of JMU’s Be the Change spirit as well as the university’s long history of service. CoE Dean Phil Wishon sums it up best: “Our imprint on the future begins with the belief that nourishing wounded spirits is achievable, and that strengthening civil societies is attainable. We need universities that do far more than just fit young people with economically valuable skills. We must also prepare students for a civic life in which they will have to work with fellow citizens of very different backgrounds, needs and points of view. Nothing less than the transformation of society is at stake.”

The problems facing Welch won’t be solved overnight as these problems are not lesions that can be easily excised. These problems are more like profound brain injuries that require the devotion of myriad specialists and the consideration of every organic function. These problems also require compassion, long-term commitment and a fundamental change in the psyche of the community.

As one JMU student aptly put it in this situation, “Going back is moving forward.”

* See more photos of the College of Education’s Welch, W.Va., relief trip at http://picasaweb.google.com/dukesprof/20081128November08WelchTrip.

Welch, W.Va., BY THE NUMBERS

- located in McDowell County, 226 miles southwest of Harrisonburg
- eighth poorest county in the nation
- 79% white, 19% African-American and 1% Hispanic
- 40% of residents live below the poverty line
- residents under age 18 living in poverty: more than 50%
- unemployment: more than 10%
The Millionaires
Inman Majors draws on personal inspirations for his nuanced and complex characters
By Bill Goodykoontz ('85), The Arizona Republic

When he set out to write *The Millionaires*, a novel about two brothers who rise to great heights only to suffer a precipitous fall, Inman Majors didn’t have to look far for inspiration.

“I have a brother,” Majors says, who teaches creative writing at JMU, in his thick Tennessee drawl. “All my friends who know us realize there’s a lot of me and my brother in the book.”

Happily, Majors mined only their close relationship for material. For the tale of epic financial gain and loss, he relied heavily on another set of brothers: Jake and C.H. Butcher, who spearheaded the effort to bring the World’s Fair to Knoxville in 1982, only to be convicted of bank fraud not long afterwards.

In *The Millionaires*, they’re depicted as Roland and J.T. Cole. Like the Butchers, the two work all manner of angles to bring the fair to a relatively small town — Glensville. They are helped by who might be the book’s protagonist, though that role seems to shift, and its most interesting character: Mike Teague, a seasoned, deferential political fixer.

The facts hew closely to the Butchers’ real-life rise and fall from grace — rural boys wind up in the city, grabbing all the money they can before wildly overreaching — but Majors, while acknowledging the similarities, warns not to read too much into them. “I hope people will read the book on its own regards, and not just try to connect the dots to real life,” he says. “Because I wasn’t trying to do real life.”

What he was trying to do, Majors says, was get past the stereotypical Southern character. “I’m presenting characters that I hope are nuanced and complex,” he says. “I don’t do rednecks. I don’t do aristocrats. I do these people who have been to college, they do drink a martini on occasion, they do dress nicely, not necessarily gauche. At the same time they can be rough around the edges at times. They can let their hair down at other times.”

Again, he drew on experience.

“If I’m around some of my old high-school friends, I act one way. If I’m around my college colleagues, I act another way. My values don’t change, but my speech pattern might change, or how loose I am might change a little bit.”

Anyone who includes “y’all” as a vocabulary staple is familiar with these shifts. Those who don’t aren’t always willing to indulge a writer trying to portray them.

The novel is a sprawling affair. While the economic meltdown and mistrust of banks it inspired make it timely. Majors was going for something less contemporary. “I wanted to write a book about that generation, my parents’ generation, who grew up in the 30s and 40s and 50s in small towns and on farms,” Majors says, “and then in the 60s and 70s began moving to cities like Knoxville and Atlanta and Birmingham and Charlotte. That migration from the small towns, from a rural South to a suburbanized, urban South. That generation always seemed to me to have one foot in the rural past and one foot in the urban cities.”

For flavor, Majors was mostly influenced by his upbringing. His father was a longtime lobbyist in Tennessee; growing up, Majors was surrounded by political types. He soaked up the lifestyle. “One of the best compliments I got was... at a book signing in Nashville,” Majors says. “I invited about 20 or 30 of my father’s old friends, almost all of whom were legislators and lobbyists, and many who had read the book. And they go, ‘Well, you got us right.’”

democracy. Blake has also published Politics in Latin America: The Quest for Development, Liberty and Governance.


Revisiting Thomas F. O’Dea’s The Mormons: Contemporary Perspectives
EDITED BY JOHN P. HOFFMANN (’84), CARDELL K. JACOBSON
AND TIM B. HEATON

Fifty years ago, Thomas F. O’Dea, a Catholic sociologist who taught at the University of Utah from 1959 to 1964, published a landmark study titled The Mormons. It remains one of the most widely cited social science treatments of Mormon society and culture. After five decades of additional scholarly inquiry, this new volume revisits O’Dea’s life and work, while offering new insights about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its members. European and U.S. scholars contribute to this examination of the interplay between contemporary social issues and the church. Topics include civil rights, homosexuality, divorce rates, the women’s movement and the relationship between the church and the nation. John P. Hoffmann (’84) is a professor in the department of sociology at Brigham Young University.

* www.usupress.com/ (click on “complete catalog”)

The Monty Hall Problem: The Remarkable Story of Math’s Most Contentious Brainteaser
BY JASON ROSENHOUSE
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, USA, 2009; ISBN-10: 0195367898

In this lighthearted yet serious book, Jason Rosenhouse, JMU professor of mathematics, explores the history of one of the most interesting mathematical brainteasers of recent times. Mathematicians call it the Monty Hall Problem. Imagine that you face three doors, behind one of which is a prize. You choose one but do not open it. The host — call him Monty Hall — opens a different door, always choosing one he knows to be empty. Left with two doors, will you do better by sticking with your first choice, or by switching to the remaining door? Using a minimum of mathematics, Rosenhouse examines the many variations that have appeared over the years and shows how the problem has fascinated philosophers, psychologists and others.

* wwwoup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Mathematics/ProbabilityStatistics/?view=usa&ci=9780195367898

Wildlife: A Photographic Record of the Shenandoah Valley
BY EVAN DYSON (’08)
Photographer Evan Dyson (’08) dedicated much of the past year to documenting wildlife within the Shenandoah Valley. The result is 88 images from the Shenandoah Valley region of Virginia, including deer, black bear and a variety of birds.

The project was a “self-assignment to learn about both the animals within the region and to continue learning about publication methods.” Dyson graduated from the JMU School of Media Arts and Design, concentrating in print journalism. “I wanted to continue learning as much as I could,” he says, “and I view this project as a continuation of my education.”

* http://wildlifeinphtography.com/

Music

THE ROYAL GREENS, SELF-PUBLISHED DEBUT CD, 2009

Zachary Bishop (’06) and Matt Stump (’03) make up half of The Royal Greens, which recently released its self-titled debut CD. The Royal Greens is a four-piece band from Fincastle, Va. Their roots are in classic rock and folk music. Band members came together writing original music and now enjoy including cover tunes in their live shows throughout Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina.

* www.myspace.com/theroyalgreens

A great gift for your student or your favorite grad

A visual history of the first 100 years of the Madison Experience. Read about the historic Quad tunnels and JMU traditions like May Queens, “call downs,” the University Farm, The Stratford Players, the Marching Royal Dukes and much more!

Get your copy of Madison Century at www.jmu.edu/centennialcelebration
Reunion Dawg!
Road Dawg joined members of the College Student Personnel Administration graduate program’s Class of 2004 for a reunion in Ocean City, N.J. Dukes in attendance were (front row, l-r): Pete Swierzewski and Heather Waals Duhart. (Back row, l-r): Jen Forman, Kristin Hartler Gardner with Reese, Misty Newman and Jen Potson Huber with Ella. Gardner and Newman both work for JMU in the offices of health services and financial aid and scholarships. JMU’s College Student Personnel Administration professional program integrates academic coursework with practical experiences. The unique blend of theory and practice is due to the collaboration between the JMU Department of Psychology and the Division of Student Affairs and University Planning. Learn more at http://web.jmu.edu/cspa/.
Connecting at Alumni Volunteer Weekend
Alumni leaders rejuvenate and reconnect

More than 35 alumni volunteers from across the country (some from as far away as Texas) joined the members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and staff members from the Office of Alumni Relations for Alumni Volunteer Weekend June 5–7. The annual leadership conference focused on strengthening alumni leaders and groups, and educating new volunteers. Highlights included presentations from alumni group leaders, educational sessions led by alumni and staff members, and special guests Ronald E. Carrier, JMU president emeritus, and Mark Warner (’79, ’81M, ’85Ed.S.), vice president for student affairs.

This year’s Alumni Volunteer Award winners were recognized during Alumni Volunteer Weekend. Special congratulations go to:

- Most Innovative Program, Charlotte Silent Auction
- Most Improved Alumni Group, Colorado Alumni Chapter
- Volunteer of the Year, Carolyn Bradford, Charlottesville
- Chapter Leader of the Year, Chris Doi, North Carolina Triangle
- Alumni Group of the Year, Charlottesville Alumni Chapter

(Above, l–r): Alumni president Jon Offley (’89) and JMU staffer Stephanie Whitson (’06) congratulate Will Tragert (’04) and Charlottesville chapter alumni. Inset: Kristin Gibson (’06) celebrates AVW.

New leaders take helm of alumni association board

In July, A-J Fischer (’89) was elected president of the JMU Alumni Association Board of Directors. He is joined by Jamie Jones Miller (’99) as president-elect and Sam Jones (’91) as treasurer. Other new members of the association board for the 2009–11 term are:

- Tom Culligan (’05)
- Ed Kardos (’82)
- Curtis Perry (’95)
- David Rexrode (’01)
- Scott Rogers (’02)
- Bridgette Walsh (’01).

THANK YOU ALUMNI LEADERS

The JMU community and alumni association members express gratitude to the following alumni whose current terms on the alumni association board ended in June:

- Trip Boyer (’96), Mark Chernisky (’91), Sean Harrington (’96), Meda Lane (’71), John Leake (’87), Josh Pringle (’95), Kelly Stefanko (’94) and Lorraine Warren Strickler (’52).

Thanks also to Jon Offley (’89) and Margot Knight (’74), who finish 2007-09 terms as president and treasurer, but remain as active members of the board.

Welcome to the family
Class of 2009 joins alumni association

I’d like to extend the warmest of welcomes to the newest members of the JMU alumni family, the Class of 2009. Receiving your diploma is not the end of your Madison Experience – it’s just the beginning. As you venture off to graduate programs and exciting careers, members of the JMU Alumni Association encourage you to stay connected to your JMU family, whether through your own circles or through the vast alumni network. Alumni chapters and groups exist throughout the country for your enjoyment and support. Networking events, reunions, tailgates, golf tournaments, walk-a-thons and Homecoming are events designed for you to stay connected and continue to grow within the JMU community. We also hope you will return to campus as often as possible. Whether it’s to cheer on the Dukes, to guest lecture in your discipline or to celebrate Homecoming, we hope you will continue to think of JMU as your second home.

Congratulations and best wishes. Wherever life takes you, you will forever have the support of JMU and your fellow alumni.

— Ashley Privott, executive director, JMU Alumni Association

Black Alumni Chapter President Sean Bates (’92) celebrates 2009 Senior Week with JMU students.

A J Fischer (’09)

ALUMNI VOLUNTEER WEEKEND PHOTOGRAPHS BY KATHY LJM; CLASS OF 2009 BY DAN GURIN (’10); FISCHER BY KATHY LJM
Generation Y and Millennials are stirring up the workforce

By Kristin Andrews ('08)

A ny recent graduate will most likely tell you that the first year after college is the hardest. This was the case for me. As soon as I graduated, I was eager to jump into the working world. With a great education and a resume full of internship experiences, I felt ready to tackle anything. I found my dream job as a Web designer for the U.S. Army Web site and signed a lease for a beautiful apartment in the Washington, D.C., area. Feeling on top of the world, I hit the ground running.

I started my new job with the expectation that I would go above and beyond the call of duty, and I was determined to prove my worth. However, several months into my job, I found that I was beginning to clash with some more seasoned employees. My drive for immediate success was causing conflict among those with years of experience. Questioning why this would be, it became very clear: I am a classic product of Generation Y or the Millennials. According to Brazen Careerist.com, an online community of Generation Y leaders, the millennial generation can be defined as the generation born between 1981 and 2000 and is the largest of the four generations currently in the workforce.

Wikipedia.com further defines Generation Y as people born between 1979 and 1995. The Web site defines Millennials as those born between 1982 and 2001. Both groups consist primarily of the offspring of baby boomers and Generation X. Once you begin to research generation definitions, it becomes clear that there is no consensus on which birth years make up a generation. Most data shows that Generation Y and Millennials make up more than 70 million people and is the largest generation since the baby boomers.

Most definitions also describe Generation Y and Millennials as racially and ethnically diverse, and extremely independent because of divorce, day care and latch-key parenting. Millennials are driven, self-motivated, enthusiastic and competitive. We put more emphasis on balancing life outside of work, yet we still expect to be rewarded for the time and effort we put into our jobs.

So why do we clash with other generations? Many critics see us as a group of lazy, young individuals who don’t want to pay our dues. They categorize us as impatient with no job loyalty. While many critics are extreme in their generalizations, some of their claims do have a degree of validity.

Here’s why: Throughout our school years, Millennials have benefited from some of the finest opportunities to learn and grow from other generations — like internships with CEOs and retail work experience. We’ve been able to learn through the successes and failures of others. We’ve built a knowledge-base to fall back on when we encounter problems. We are solutions oriented, and when we see a better way to do something, we will push for it. Hence, the clash.

For example, a project came up at work, and my supervisor was tasked to head up a brainstorm meeting. Knowing very well that some meetings can be time consuming without any real take-away points, I decided it would be more effective for each of us to come up with ideas on our own and then to reconvene. I proceeded to do so on my own. After all was said and done, my supervisor politely pulled me aside and asked me to get jumping the gun on projects and to wait until I had been directly told to do something. I couldn’t see how I had done anything wrong, but now I realize that my way of thinking came across as domineering and threatening to those above me. I saw my approach as a more effective way to reach the end goal, while to others it came across as me pushing and not respecting their way. Where did I fall short? By taking the initiative, as many Gen-Yers like to do, I had failed to communicate my intentions to my team.

With an increasing number of baby boomers retiring, the generations need to work together. As Dan Schawbel, author of Mr. 2.0: Build a Powerful Brand to Achieve Career Success, points out, “Gen-Y is going to start to overtake the workplace.” Our generation sees this as an opportunity to help carry on the torch that the generations before us once carried. We grew up in a time of emerging technologies and want to help companies learn how to leverage these to their advantage. Carla Blumenthal ('08), a 2009 graduate of Emerson College’s Global Marketing master’s program, says, “Millennials are constantly connected through social networks, BlackBerrys, e-mail, Facebook and Twitter, something older generations in the workforce may see as a waste of time. But, together we can help companies adapt to new forms of communication.”

As with any type of change, there will be opposition. However, I am confident that with a combination of teamwork, effective communication and leadership skills, we can make our workforce a better one.
Back in the 'Burg

Columbia Records exec shares with students

By EVAN DYSON ('08)

Seven years after graduating from JMU, Brian Nolan ('02) has learned that persistence and dedication pay off. Now an executive at Columbia Records, Nolan told his story to a group of nearly 100 students in David Cottrell's spring semester Music Industry class.

Nolan grew up near Washington, D.C., in Silver Spring, Md., and arrived on campus in 1998, unsure of what path to take. As a sophomore, he began a marketing major with a music industry minor and obtained a promotional internship with Arista Records. With that, he had found his niche.

Though "mundane," the internship provided an inside look at the music industry and the opportunity to gain contacts at Arista, Jive and RCA Records. "Everyone has the potential to help you out, not just the people you're working with," Nolan says.

Through a series of fortunate events, work with an online company led to a chance encounter with an employee at Rawkus Records. The connection landed him a Rawkus internship in 2001. Everything was going well and there was even the promise of a job after graduation. However, after 9/11, Nolan says, Rawkus cut a number of their employees and there was no longer room for him at the label.

Disappointed but not deterred, Nolan worked his way through a variety of low-income jobs after graduation, including a stint in the mailroom at Arista Records.

"There are so many different hurdles that knock you down," he says. But determined to work his way up from the bottom, Nolan looked at those experiences as a test of dedication. "It just weeds out all the people who don't really care, and it weeds out the people who aren't really focused."

In 2005, Nolan's boss at an independent promotion company in Baltimore was hired by Sony. Columbia's parent company. Nolan accompanied him to Columbia, where he remains today. Nolan's department is responsible for getting the label's artists on the radio.

After sharing several more stories and dishes of advice on how to get ahead in the business, Nolan answered students' questions ranging from internship advice to the future direction of the music industry.

Nolan is optimistic about the future of his business and the job prospects for current students. "I want to tell these kids that I was in their position," says Nolan. "I didn't come from a music industry family. I didn't go to NYU undergrad. You know, it's absolutely possible if you put your mind to it."

Nolan credits music professor David Cottrell as an early mentor.

"Brian is a hardworking guy and a great example of what students can become," Cottrell says.

In 2005, Nolan married JMU alumna Ashley Day ('02), and the couple lives in New York City.

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22nd Annual JMU Hall of Fame Dinner

JMU Festival Conference & Student Center • Oct. 15 • During Homecoming Week

Grand Ballroom • Black Tie Optional • Cocktails at 6:30 p.m. • Four-Course Dinner Served at 7:15 p.m.

2009 Hall of Fame Inductees

Ronald E. Carrier, JMU president emeritus
Lynn Czuz (75), lacrosse
Missy Dudley Heft (89), women's basketball
Bethany Eigel ('99, '01M), cross country, track & field
Ted Winterfeldt ('80), baseball

Legacy Award

Ray Sonner ('72), former vice president for university advancement

Visit the JMU Hall of Fame online at JMUATHLETICS.COM by clicking under the Athletics Department link.
Calling all Semester in London alumni

Reconnect at the program’s 30th-anniversary reunion

By Judy Cohen, international programs office

Were you a part of the pioneer 1979 Semester in London Study Abroad group? Did you study in London in the last 30 years? Do you remember Gower Street, the Tate, Regent’s Park, Camden Market? If so, plan now to join fellow Semester in London participants to celebrate the program’s 30th anniversary. Get a head start on Thanksgiving break by coming back to the valley Nov. 21–22 for a time of recollection and reconnection with former Londoners. Share what your Study Abroad in London meant to you and how it still informs your life.

The JMU Office of International Programs has a wealth of events planned for the Semester in London Reunion, including:

- Launch of London Bound, the 30th anniversary Semester in London commemorative book;
- Saturday lunch and tour of campus;
- Saturday afternoon “London Walk” in historic downtown Staunton;
- Saturday evening supper at Staunton’s renovated Stonewall Jackson Hotel and Conference Center (brought to its current elegance by SIL alum Paul Gladd);
- Saturday night performance of Shakespeare’s Henry IV, Part 1, at Blackfriars Playhouse, the world’s only re-creation of Shakespeare’s indoor theater and home to the American Shakespeare Center, whose founding executive director is Ralph Cohen, JMU Semester in London founder (www.americanshakespearecenter.com);
- Dessert, toasts and reminiscences from the Blackfriars stage after the show; and
- Sunday brunch.

Enjoy your reunion with former Semester in London directors, faculty members-in-residence and your London friends. For more details and booking options, visit www.jmu.edu/international or jmu.edu/alumni/events and click on the online calendar.

Semester in London 30th reunion

Nov. 21–22, 2009

Mark your calendars and reserve your space now; registration is limited to 250.

Special rates at the Stonewall Jackson for Friday and Saturday nights. Come early and have more fun in the valley. www.stonewalljacksonhotel.com

More questions? Contact Judy Cohen in JMU’s international programs office at cohenjk@jmu.edu or (540) 568-6979.
Don’t miss Family Weekend fun, Oct. 9–11

By Steve and Jane Smith (’10P, ’13P), JMU Parents Council chairs

On behalf of the JMU Parents Council, we invite all JMU parents and family members to join in the fun and excitement of the annual Family Weekend Oct. 9–11. We certainly look forward to spending this special time with our sons, Austin (’10) and Mason (’13). Thousands of JMU families travel to Harrisonburg and take advantage of this opportunity to get a taste of campus life and the Madison Experience. Visit with your son or daughter and enhance your JMU family experience. Be sure to register early as many Family Weekend ticketed events are limited and sell out quickly. Visit the Parents Council Web site for more information at www.jmu.edu/parents.

JMU Parents Council members serve as liaisons between parents and the university. The council is a great way to get involved in JMU. Parents Council members are eager to answer your questions about the council and other general JMU questions. We encourage your involvement with your student in the Madison Experience — especially during Family Weekend. Don’t miss a minute of the fun!

Steve and Jane Smith (’10P, ’13P), the proud parents of Austin (’10) and Mason (’13), are serving as JMU Parents Council chairs for the 2009-10 term.

2009 JMU FOOTBALL AWAY-GAME TAILGATES
Sponsored by the JMU Alumni Association and JMU Duke Club

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Seventy years of sisterhood
ASA and SSS sororities mark 70th year  By Martha Bell Graham

1939. A banner year for Madison. It was the first full year for the newly minted Madison College. Enrollment topped 1,000 for the first time. The campus opened its first dedicated library, Madison Memorial (now Carrier) Library. And, as if to crown the year, the faculty — after three decades of refusals — finally acquiesced to students and approved sororities. On Valentine’s Day.

Within weeks, 39 students petitioned to form a chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma. Alpha Sigma Alpha followed close behind. In May, both sororities were chartered in a three-day celebration that drew both organizations’ national presidents to campus. Seventy years and more than 3,000 members later, these pioneers of Greek life still enhance the campus and community, while enjoying bonds that last a lifetime.

ASA member Helen Warren Tuttle (’59) says, “It’s an overused term, I think — sisterhood — but it truly was like having a number of sisters.”

ASA Blair Batemen (’07), who teaches in Northern Virginia, agrees. “I have so many wonderful memories of JMU, and the vast majority of those are associated with the sorority. ASA gave me a sense of purpose. Whether it was attending weekly chapter meetings, social events or philanthropy, I was a part of something.”

Tuttle remembers collecting and painting seashells for rush. Rush parties always involved imaginative themes. In 1944, ASA created a dude ranch, and SSS organized a canteen for pledges. ASA’s 1963 rush party was a luau replete with hula girls, and SSS transformed Sprinkle House into Sigmayoki, Japan, with lanterns and cherry blossoms.

When Tuttle joined ASA, she and her sisters lived three-to-a-room in Carter House, an old Victorian home on the edge of campus. When told the structure had been razed in the mid-1960s to make way for Duke Hall, Tuttle says with a smile, “it needed to be.” Later ASA moved to Baker House.

While Carter House was home to ASA, Tri-Sigs lived first in Lincoln House and later in Sprinkle. During the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, as more sororities and fraternities were chartered, members lived at various times in houses that fenced the west and north borders of campus: Zirkle House, Baker House, Messick, Shenandoah, Nicholas — all now gone from campus.

In the mid-70s, sororities and fraternities moved to Greek Row, along Newman Lake. While Greek life was waning at most other colleges, it was growing at Madison.

Although their digs changed, dedication to the community did not. Service has always been a significant part of the ASA and SSS experience — often benefiting local children. Sisters made clothes, curtains and bedspreads for the Harrisonburg Children’s Home and taught crafts, reading and nutrition to the children. In 1946 Tri-Sigs conducted a tuberculosis information drive, prompted in part when one member was confined to a sanatorium for the disease. That year, ASA also collected clothes to send to Europeans recovering from the aftermath of World War II. In 1961 Tri-Sigs contributed to the Robbie Page Memorial, a national charity established by SSS that has remained a constant beneficiary of JMU Tri-Sigs for decades. In 1997, ASA sisters held holiday parties for special education students and contributed to a camp for exceptional children.

Today’s ASA continues to give. “In addition to our annual ‘ASA Madness’ week to raise awareness of the risks associated with alcohol and drinking,” Bateman says, “we are connected to Special Olympics.”

Although much is the same for today’s ASA and SSS, some things have changed. In 1543 Tri-Sig sisters took a “charm school” exam. Presumably, they passed. Never changing, however, are the friendships.

After 70 years, ASA and SSS still hold rush parties, and the word “sisterhood” is still appropriate. Bateman says: “ASA gave me a deeper connection to JMU. You become part of a legacy that you share with those who came before you and will come after you. A sense of shared purpose and sisterhood solidified our friendships.”

A copy of an 1809 medal, featuring James Madison and struck to symbolize friendships for Indian tribes, is displayed on the 1939 yearbook. The Blue-Stone Colliion Club presented a copy of the medallion to the Madison Memorial Library Museum and devoted the yearbook to President Madison, since it was also the first full year of Madison College. Friendship was a big theme in 1939 as ASA (above) and Tri-Sigma sororities were formed.
Bluestone Reunions

Bluestone Reunion reunites Classes of 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954 and 1959  BY MARTHA BELL GRAHAM

Madison has seen many changes during the past 50 years — but some things in the Madison Experience will never change. Supreme among those are the friendships and memories that bind the members of the Bluestone Society. The society honors graduates of 50 or more years ago. In May, members of the Classes of 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954 and 1959, along with others, gathered on campus to share those memories, to induct their newest members and to reminisce about the school they left a half-century ago.

Helen Warren Tuttle (’59) remembers her first days on campus. “Coming to Madison was my first time away from home,” she says. Orientation was a bit different in the 1950s. Tuttle and her fellow students met their “Big Sisters,” upperclassmen who helped them adjust to campus life. Four years later, they would play the same role for incoming freshmen. The tradition of Big Sisters and Little Sisters vanished along with freshman beanie sometime in the 1960s. Freshmen also had to memorize the Alma Mater, rules of conduct and the planks of the honor system.

This fall, Tuttle’s grandson Stephen Hardy will have a very different orientation when he enrolls at

During the Madison Confessional program Helen Warren Tuttle (’59) recalled Big Sisters, Little Sisters and house mothers. She was excited to announce that her grandson, Stephen Hardy, joins the Madison Class of 2013 in August.

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The JMU Dukes battle the Villanova Wildcats on Oct. 17

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JMU. “He’ll be playing tennis,” Tuttle says, “and I’m sure he’ll be studying hard as well.” Tuttle and her classmates also remember fondly their residence hall hostesses, women who lived alongside students. “Mrs. Malmborg was like a grandmother to us. She always had fresh flowers set out,” says Tuttle, who served as Student Government Association president.

Ann Wolfe Jackson (’59) remembers Dr. Locke, head of the English department. Jackson worked in his office as a student. “I was his ‘Girl Friday.’ I think because I was the only one who could read his handwriting,” she recalls. “He was the typical absent-minded professor.” One day he was sure his car had been stolen when he could not find it in the parking lot. At his staff’s suggestion before calling the sheriff, “he called his wife and she reminded him he had walked to work.”

Jenet Coffman Sohn (’40) remembers Dr. Pitman. As soon as he learned she was a math major, he recruited her for his class. “I’m new, too,” he told her, “I need students.” In fact, he refused to sign her class card until she registered for his class. She also remembers his wonderful sense of humor.

Several alumnæ remembered campus visits by male students from the University of Virginia. Virginia “Ginny” Moffett Bernstorf (’59) remembered “lots of times on Saturday men would show up in the open space behind the residence halls.” One particularly memorable group of Wahoos came in a black Cadillac convertible. “The rag top would be folded down,” she says, “and they drank.” At the time, “the rules were that we could not go out with any men who weren’t wearing a jacket, tie and shoes.” So the enterprising men shared a single suit jacket and a shoelace they passed from collar to collar as they arranged dates with Madison women. (Today, that caddy driver, Bernstorf whispers cryptically without speaking a name, is a United States senator from Massachusetts.) Once, she recalls, the infamous caddy failed to successfully navigate the drive near Junior Hall (now Converse Hall) and drove straight through the rose garden.

Bernstorf also remembers how much she loved running around campus at night with Breeze editor Pat Nicholas (’59), “after Pat had put The Breeze to bed.” “Do you remember The Hurricane?” another class member pipes up. The Hurricane was an underground newspaper that appeared in 1958. “I have a copy in my car.”

But despite the fun, these young women — and a few men sprinkled in — came to get an education. Madison College already was considered an excellent school, one class member said. Madison administrators worked hard to promote the college as a serious destination for young women who believed in education.

Bernstorf says physics professor Stephen Baske was the one “who taught me how to be a teacher. He would give students ample time to find answers to questions. If they didn’t succeed, he blamed himself.”

Perhaps speaking for all — Bernstorf summed up Bluestone Reunion Weekend best: “My head is so packed with the wonderful things that happened here.”

**Bluestone Society Inductions**

Close your eyes, and they chatter like college girls. Years have given them grace and wisdom, but time has not dulled the cherished memories they hold and shared so generously during this year’s Bluestone Reunion.

Each year the Bluestone Society inducts new members — alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago. This year the society bestowed this honor on 64 members of the Class of 1959. Back in 1959, their class was the largest to date to graduate from Madison College. That year 233 degrees were awarded, including 36 master’s degrees. Twelve members of the graduating class were men, and later, seven class members went on to earn doctorates, and three returned to Madison to teach.

Returning Bluestone Society alumni represented classes as far back as 1939, this year celebrating their 70th anniversary. Alumni enjoyed tours of a vastly changed campus and town, plus tours of the JMU arboretum and the new East Campus Library. The weekend’s activities also included receptions hosted by President Linwood H. and Judith Rose and Friday’s Madison Confessional program.
Stay in touch, get involved and be Mad cool

53 Harry Jeavons (aka Eric Stevens) was commissioned to write songs for the musical Fift F: Ain’t Nifty for a September opening in Ocean City, Md. He is also writing lyrics for Frank Foster’s Ode to John Newman. Jeavons performs about six shows a month.

65 Mary P. Berry of Las Cruces, N.M., is assistant director of career services for New Mexico State University, where she helps sponsor student job fairs, offers career advice and conducts training seminars for students seeking employment.

70 Susanne Palombo of Rahway, N.J., was named the 2009 Mary Faillace Social Worker of the Year at St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center in New Jersey. The award was part of the ninth-annual Social Work Day Celebration at St. Joseph’s. Palombo joined the SJRMC staff in 2003 and is currently the assistant director of the Harbor House partial hospitalization program. Palombo earned her master’s of social work from Barry University. She is fluent in Creole, French, Haitian and Spanish. Her career has taken her to France, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica and various U.S. states.

76 Linda Greene Tiller was named executive director of the Richmond affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure breast cancer foundation, which held its 12th-annual Race for the Cure on May 9. The Richmond affiliate of the foundation funds education, screening and treatment for uninsured and underinsured women in central Virginia.

78 Robert P. “Bob” Grimesey was named superintendent of Orange County Public Schools. He previously served as superintendent of Allegheny County Public Schools. *T. David Grist* and a group of local businessmen opened Corner Stone Bank N.A. in Rockbridge County on Feb. 17. “In spite of the recession, we are off to a great start,” says Grist. *In April, David O’Donnell was appointed a juvenile and domestic relations court judge for Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.* Patricia Mahoney Watson wrote the second edition of the Veterinary Technician’s Daily Reference Guide with Candycce Jack. The book was released last September.

81 Katherine Campbell Heerbrandt and Fred Heerbrandt (’80) celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary. The couple has two children, Jordan, 23, and Ryan, 27. Katherine is lead columnist with the Frederick News Post in Frederick, Md., and hosts a radio talk show on 930 WJMD. Fred, who earned a master’s degree from Penn State University, is a professional engineer and vice president of William F. Hill & Associates in Gettysburg, Pa. *Susan McVeigh* of Palm City, Fla., completed the Chartered Retirement Planning Counselors professional designation program. Individuals who complete the program, pass a final exam, and sign an oaths of ethics and disclosure form earn the right to use the CRPC® mark. McVeigh is a financial adviser at Smith Barney in Stuart, Fla., and is licensed by the National Association of Securities Dealers. She serves on the board of directors of Stuart-Sunrise Rotary Club, the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce, the Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County, and Caring Children, Clothing Children. She is also an active volunteer for the Martin County Library System, a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church and a member of the Financial Planning Association.

83 Ken Bartee received the 2009 Beta Gamma Sigma Medallion for Entrepreneurship. The international business honor society presents the award annually to individuals who contribute significantly to the strength of the economy, combining innovative business achievement with service to humanity. Bartee, former president of McDonald Bradley Inc., was nominated for the medallion by JMU. He is one of five recipients this year. Under Bartee’s leadership, McDonald Bradley Inc. became a leading information and IT solutions provider to the federal government and one of the fastest growing companies in the Washington, D.C., area. Bartee has supported the Teardrops to Rainbow organization that funded upgrades to the pediatric oncology unit at Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children. He also served as corporate chair of the Loudoun County Light the Night Walk for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

*Sue McVeigh (’81)

Amy McPherson (’93) is president and managing director of European lodging for Marriott International Inc. She was prev

SCHOLARSHIP THANKS

Dear Jeff (’90) and Robin Tickle:
My name is Douglas Fordham, and I am from Flemington, N.J. I’m a rising senior studying mathematics in hopes of becoming a high-school educator. I’m a goalie and vice president of JMU’s first club ice hockey team. Last summer, I conducted research in mathematical programming with JMU mathematics professor James Sibacki. Without the support of your scholarship and the facilities provided by JMU, my research opportunity would not have been possible. I sincerely thank you for your generous donation. It truly means a lot to me!

Douglas R. Fordham (’10)

*Continued on Page 65*
Classroom in the frozen north

Inspiring students from the Arctic’s edge

By Barbara Finnegan (’05 M, ’03 P)

Julie Schneider (’99) knew her journey to the edge of the Arctic would be a once-in-a-lifetime adventure and a great way to liven up science lessons for her young students. But she had no idea that her entire community, including parents at her school and her circle of friends and acquaintances, would be fascinated and informed by her trek to study climate change in Canada’s tundra and boreal forest.

Schneider teaches second grade in Arlington County’s Barrett Elementary School, a participant in NASA’s program to bring innovative science and mathematics instruction to educators, students and their families. When Schneider heard about Earthwatch Institute’s 11-day expedition, Climate Change at the Arctic’s Edge, she decided to apply for a grant to cover the cost of the trip. She won the experience of a lifetime.

Schneider headed for the tiny West Hudson Bay town of Churchill in Manitoba, Canada, in February to join other members of her team. Her destination was the Churchill Northern Studies Centre about 30 miles outside of town. The center supports scientific researchers working on a diverse range of topics of interest from climate research to northern science.

Schneider worked directly with scientists on their projects at the center. She helped gather data for research about the effect of climate change on spruce trees and various characteristics of snow in the center’s snow pit. Data she gathered at the snow pit will be added to work that has been ongoing since 2001.

As part of Earthwatch’s Live from the Field program, Schneider shared photos and her daily experiences through a blog and conducted two videoconferences with her class back in Arlington.

The English major and early childhood education minor spoke “face-to-face” with students and others from her school for 15 to 20 minutes, and explained to them what it was like to do scientific research. She also showed the students the various tools her team used for snow pit research. “They oved it,” she says.

They also loved seeing pictures of their teacher helping to build a real igloo. Schneider opted to spend an uncomfortable, but memorable, night in the igloo, braving 20 degrees below zero temperatures. On her blog, Schneider told her students about her experiences with two authentic modes of Arctic transportation—the dog sled and “qamutik.” She described a qamutik, which carried her team to the snow pit for research duties, as a “winter roller coaster ride across the snow and ice. We sat in a box with couch cushions and were pulled by a snowmobile.”

Schneider says the scientific method she observed during her expedition will help in the classroom: “The scientific method is important in my teaching, and I learned much more about science by working with the scientists and seeing science in action.”

She plans to use some of her tundra pictures and videos when she presents lessons about how weather affects the Earth and plant and animal habitats, and how plants and animals adapt to change. But it’s her enthusiasm and love for the subject that’s likely to inspire her students to keep learning all they can about the world around them. “One of my goals was to go and inspire my students,” she says. “I think by seeing me work as a scientist for a few days, it helped them realize they have many opportunities—they can grow up and do anything.”

*Read more at www.earthwatch2.org/ilf/schneider/*.
ously executive vice president of global sales and marketing with Marriott, McPherson will be responsible for the performance and growth of a new division that combines the United Kingdom, Ireland and continental Europe. A JMU College of Business graduate, McPherson has been with Marriott since 1986. “Amy brings a wealth of experience and a global perspective to this important position,” says Arne Sorensen, Marriott president and COO. “As one of our top leaders, she created a sales and marketing, eCommerce, reservations and customer care organization that is truly world class.” Holley Barden Stadler presented her award-winning documentary Finding Our Voices on campus in November. Stadler is the founder of Dream Catcher Films Inc. and has produced commissioned documentaries for Animal Planet, Discovery, TLC and National Geographic Channel. Prior to founding her own film company, Stadler worked as a production manager for NBC Nightly News. Finding Our Voices won best political documentary from the Action on Film Festival and best feature documentary from the West Hollywood Film Festival.

Phil Vassar headlined the three-day Rosefest music festival sponsored by the Wild Rose Casino in Emmetsburg, Iowa, July 17–19.


Carl P. Humphries was named director of instrumental studies and music education at Manchester College in North Manchester, Ind. He is an assistant professor of music and conducts the Manchester Symphony Orchestra and the Manchester College Symphonic Band.

Michelle Westerkamp Jones was named director of convention and meeting services at Associated General Contractors of America located in Arlington. She was previously employed at the Forum Group as senior meeting planner. “I am very excited to be working for a trade association again,” she writes.

John C. Rodal was promoted to vice president at Alban Tractor/Caterpillar in Baltimore. He and his wife, Candy (’94), live in Lovettsville, Va., with their three children, J.C., Jake and Becca.

Kristen Wilkes (’97) is reading specialist at East Salem Elementary School in Salem, Va., where she previously taught music.

Dave Rennyson of Centreville was named president of Angel.com, the McLean-based on-demand voice application provider. Rennyson previously served as vice president of sales for the dot-com.

Lee Van Atta of Alexandria joined Ventxy as vice president of fuel markets for the company’s advisory services team. He will lead Ventxy’s natural gas market outlook and direct client engagements involving natural gas market analysis. Ventxy is the world’s largest private software, data and advisory services provider to the energy and utility industries. Van Atta, a political science major at JMU, earned a master’s in public administration from George Washington University.

John Pruett joined the strategy consulting firm Principia Partners in early 2006 after nearly eight years as a marketing manager for CertainTeed (Saint-Gobain) Corp. in Valley Forge, Pa. In the past three years he has assisted building product manufacturers’ plastics and specialty chemical suppliers and private equity groups in developing new go-to-market strategies and marketing distribution strategies. In 2008 Pruett was promoted to lead the firm’s building products and construction materials practice. He and his wife, Anna, and their son, John, live in Wayne, Pa.

Kristen Wilkes was named reading specialist at East Salem Elementary School in Salem, Va. For the last eight years she taught music at East Salem and South Salem Elementary.

Flora Townes Hezel joined the Rack Law Firm of Hampton as an associate. He will concentrate her practice in tax compliance and controversies, estate litigation and advanced estate planning. Hezel was previously an assistant attorney general for the Virginia Department of Taxation.

Matt Miller is the new face of AVON’s ‘Irresistible’ fragrance for men. The former marketing major is founder of C.Different Foundation, a nonprofit that helps visually impaired people participate in athletics competitions and realize their potential through sports.

Lt. Cdr. George P. Coan III, who serves in the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps, was promoted to his current rank on April 1, 2009. Coan was also selected as executive assistant to the director of TRICARE Regional Office-West in San Diego. He earned an executive M.B.A. at the University of Southern California in August. Coan is married to Lt. Cdr. Erin Pitt Coan (’98), who graduated from the University of Virginia Medical School in 2003. She is serving an ophthalmology residency at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. The Coans married on Sept. 1, 2004, on Anini Beach, Kauai. Shauna L. Payne asks alumni to sign her wedding guest book at www.paynegoldwedding.com. She and Adam Gold married on Aug. 1, 2009, at Sweet Briar College.

Nelson Cragg received the American Society of Cinematographers 2009 award for outstanding cinematography in a narrative television series at the 33rd-annual ASC Outstanding Achievement Awards in February. Cragg topped the episodic TV competition for CBS-TV’s CSI: Crime Scene Investigation episode titled “For Gedda.” Simon Baker, who presented the award to Cragg, said, “Artful cinematography for a television series is no easy task. The extraordinary work done by this year’s nominees includes some of the most beautiful pictures on television today.” This is the first time that an ASC Outstanding Achievement Award has been presented to a former recipient of the student award. As a graduate film student at USC in 2004, Cragg won the ASC Heritage Award student competition.

Actor Simon Baker congratulates Nelson Cragg (’00) for his American Society of Cinematographers 2009 award for outstanding cinematography for a television series.

Meghan Baillargeon accepted the director of catering position at Buz and Ned’s Real BBQ in Richmond. Baillargeon was most recently employed at WXCX-FM as an account executive. She has been with the station since 2007.

Continued on Page 69
Comedy and camaraderie in the Windy City

Stirring up JMU spirit in Chicago

By Martha Bell Graham

Mix Seinfeld's shtick, Carmack's headdress and JMU's Duke Dog — and you get Raminder Chadha ('93), a Chicago-based alumnus, known to his fans and friends as "The Turbanator." He's a stand-up comic, a realtor, a friend, a family man — and an avid JMU Duke.

Born in New Delhi, India, Chadha has lived all over the world — Poland, Somalia, Suriname, to name a few. When he finished high school at the American Cooperative School in Suriname, he says, "My parents were going to Fiji, and I was going to go to school in Australia." A last minute switch to Namibia where educational opportunities were unknown changed his plans. His father, a career diplomat with the Indian Foreign Service, had done an earlier stint in Washington, D.C. The Virginia connection led Chadha to JMU, and he graduated cum laude in international business.

After JMU, Chadha worked in D.C.'s travel industry until his company transferred him to Chicago. While in D.C., he first tried stand-up prompted by a newspaper ad, "A friend I worked with decided he would do his 'angry New Jersey' shtick, and I would be the poor befuddled Indian on stage. But it turned out the venue couldn't support two microphones. We each had to get our own material; so I developed a routine in an Indian accent and it got laughs. I'm still not sure if it was just me talking in an Indian accent that was getting laughs or the actual material. Nonetheless that performance at My Brother's Place went well. That was the kick I needed."

Moving to Chicago put him near Second City, the famous comedy incubator whose alumni include Stephen Colbert, Dan Castellaneta (aka Homer Simpson) and most of the cast of Saturday Night Live. He took advantage of the proximity and took classes. Since then he's performed at Zanie's Comedy Club.

"You can even see my headshot on their wall along with many, much more reputable comics."

Chadha has also dabbled in acting, landing a spot in an ad for the Chicago 2016 Olympic movement, and doing a VISA commercial. "It never aired, but I got paid," he says. He has his day job too, as a Chicago realtor. "I think the well-rounded liberal arts education at JMU helps me relate to many different types of clients."

His stand up act has been on hold since the birth of his daughter, Misha, this year. Chadha and his wife Nabeela have three children; Misha joined son Alexi, 3, and Katya, 6.

It was Katya who cheered alongside her dad when JMU wrestled the national championship from the University of Montana Grizzlies in 2004. "I was in the basement with Katya watching on ESPN2. We were both cheering. Katya didn't know why she was excited, but she knew I was. Throughout the game, I was calling friends Jeff Rae ('93), Steve Gomez ('93) and Ed Wilson ('94) and enjoying each moment of camaraderie. My college roommate Craig Stallings ('94) called from the game in Chatarroga as the final seconds were winding down. As much as I enjoyed cheering in the basement with my daughter, I felt that the next time I'd like to be around fellow alums."

So Chadha and other Chicago alumni formed JMU's Chicago Alumni Chapter. "Our chapter logo was designed by Melanie Hooyenga. Our Web site was built by Ken Horinko ('01), and the folks in the core group who showed up and helped out were Danielle Turley ('00), now living in D.C.; Eric McCann ('99); Megan Fitzpatrick ('98); Heather Olsen ('05), now living in Boston; Sean Ludford; and Erik and Sarah Cope ('94). Without them, I don't think our events would have been so well-attended and successful."

Since its 2005 beginning, the chapter has fellowshipped over Chicago's Cubs, pubs and hikes — especially during football viewing parties. "It's hard to capture our amazing JMU spirit in words," he says. "We sang the JMU Fight Song each time JMU scored. The friendly nature of JMU alums is contagious and that might have to do with the closely-knit JMU community on campus."

"It's exciting when people haven't heard about JMU because you get to shape their perception of the school. When we descend on locations for alumni gatherings, people are always amazed that we have such a lively group. They always say things like 'you guys seem like you've known each other for ages,' or 'I wish my school had a strong alumni group like yours.'" But they don't. Only JMU has the Turbanator — and purple and gold friendships.
Madison magic at Disney

Seven students gain real-world experience at Walt Disney World® by Hall Chiet ('07)

While most JMU students spent the spring semester on the beautiful grounds of JMU’s campus, seven students had the opportunity to work at the Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, Fla. As part of the Disney College Program, these students took on various roles at Disney’s theme parks and resorts and gained valuable, real-world skills and experience.

Many of the students who participated in the program found out about it through an on-campus presentation. “I was on my way to class one day when I saw some colorful sidewalk chalk that read, ‘Love Disney? Come find out about the Disney College Program!’” says Elizabeth Kibler ('10). Kibler, a business management major, was excited to apply. “I knew the program would give me a chance to experience how the concepts I have been studying actually apply in a business setting.”

Kibler worked at Magic Kingdom® Park, where she learned how to make homemade goods in the Main Street Confectionery and also worked in the merchandise shops. “My favorite part of the job was talking to guests and connecting with them on a personal level,” she says.

Erin Cody ('11), a JMU School of Media Arts and Design major, also had the opportunity to connect with Disney guests in her role as a Character Performer at all four Walt Disney World theme parks. “My job was to make dreams come true by interacting and taking pictures with the guests,” Cody says. “It was amazing to be one of the first to create that magic that all the guests expect when they come to a Walt Disney World resort.”

Jesika Hayes ('09), a theater major who worked in costuming at Magic Kingdom Park, agrees that being able to create memories for people of all ages was a magical experience. “I truly did work at the happiest place on Earth,” she says. “I really enjoyed the people I worked with – both guests and other performers.”

In addition to gaining hands-on experience, students could enroll in courses that focused on the leadership and management concepts they learned and practiced on a daily basis. Amy Hunt ('10), a hospitality and tourism management major, completed a course called Exploring Leadership at the Walt Disney World Resort. “I loved every minute of the class,” Hunt says. “The professor was great, and we did activities that improved our communication skills.” For her internship, Hunt worked in Disney’s Hollywood Studios™ selling snacks and beverages. After a month, she moved into support, where she prepared food for the main quick service food and beverage location and made sure that all other locations had the daily supplies needed to operate.

Taylor Faulkinberry ('12), a theater major, enjoyed other perks of working at Disney. “I liked being able to access the parks limitless times, getting family and friends into the parks, receiving discounts on food and merchandise, and being able to see things backstage,” she says. Faulkinberry worked in costuming at Disney’s Hollywood Studios™. She plans on staying with the company as a seasonal employee and hopes to transfer to an entertainment role.

Christopher Shockey, a hospitality and tourism management major, worked at Disney’s Port Orleans Resort and Kathryn Wittman, an anthropology major, worked at the Tony’s Town Square Restaurant at Magic Kingdom Park. While some students choose to stay on as seasonal employees, others may choose to apply for a Disney professional internship, which offers opportunities in communications, finance, management, marketing, sales and information technology. Internships are paid and enable participants to gain skills, knowledge and hands-on experience directly within their field of study.

Both Hunt and Kibler plan to apply for a Disney professional internship. “The Disney College Program helps you discover who you are and who you can become with a little bit of hard work,” says Kibler. “Coming out of this program, I feel much more confident and prepared for my future.”

* Learn more at www.disneycollegeprogram.com or at www.disneyinterns.com.
at The Jefferson Hotel as catering sales manager.

Josh Dively was named general manager of Boston’s Newbury Street J.P. Licks. The homemade ice cream, frozen yogurt and specialty shop has served the Boston area for 27 years. Dively has served as assistant manager since 2008. For four years, Dively has also served as a road crew team leader for WZLX-FM, managing and coordinating promotional events and concerts. He also volunteers at the New England Aquarium in the penguin husbandry program.

Jennifer Grampino and Scott Ruffner will have a Purple and Gold wedding on Sept. 19 at Felicita Resort in Harrisburg, Pa. The couple met as freshmen at JMU and nine Dukes will be in the bridal party including, Jennifer Dobberfuhl (’03), Arash Ellini (’04), Chris Giguerre (’04), Wes Heinel (’04), Jennifer Oberholzer (’03), Victor Pirozki (’04), Sean Ruffner (’99), Van Scherer Ruffner (’99) and Becki Wronko (’04). Former JMU football standout Matt Lezotte is head football coach at Aquinas High School. Lezotte has served as assistant coach for two years.

Speech pathologist Kathleen “Kati” Capitan (’05M) opened a speech and language pathology clinic in January. The Delaware State News covered the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Central Delaware Speech-Language Pathology Inc. on Jan. 29. “It’s been a lifelong dream to operate a speech-language clinic in my hometown,” Capitan told the State News. “I believe every child has limitless potential. My goal is to provide the foundation, tools and encouragement for each child to achieve his or her personal best.” Capitan’s practice specializes in pediatrics, and she is a certified speech-language pathologist with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. She earned her master’s in communication sciences and disorders at JMU and did cross-disciplinary work with Young B. Choi, JMU professor of computer information systems and management science. With Choi’s guidance, Capitan published several papers and presented at the 38th Hawaiian International Conference on System Science.

Jessica Goins is in American Samoa as a WorldTeach volunteer for one year. She was accepted as one of 20 teachers in the competitive service program because of her commitment to education and public service. She teaches English, math, science, social studies, and completed an orientation program in cultural studies, language and teacher training on Tutuila Island. The international affair major taught English in a rural Iraqi classroom and has served Habitat for Humanity and the Lutheran Presbyterian Campus Ministries. She also directed American Red Cross disaster service programs in the greater Richmond area. WorldTeach is the first volunteer organization to partner with the U.S. Department of Education in American Samoa. * Lindsey Drummond Watson and Christopher Watson celebrated their second wedding anniversary on June 6.

JMU Nursing Alumni Association President Karen Jagiello (’06M) encouraged alumni to cast their votes for Duke Dog for President with a poster that outlines both the candidates’ and Duke Dog’s views on healthcare during Homecoming 2008. The alumni chapter sponsored an information table at the Alumni Village.

Karen Jagiello (’06M) is president of the JMU Nursing Alumni Association, which became an official nonregional alumni chapter this year. To stay in touch, the group has launched a Facebook page for nursing alumni. Jagiello says that a Web site dedicated to JMU nursing alumni is in the works. If you are interested in being more active or in becoming an officer, please contact Jagiello at jagiellop@jmu.edu.

Lon Hopkins earned a Master of Arts in Psychology from Northcentral University in Arizona on June 9. He graduated summa cum laude and was promoted to first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force on May 29.

JMU quarterback standout Rodney Landers worked out with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in May at the team’s rookie camp. On May 4, Bucs coach Raheem Morris told TampaBayOnline that he was thinking of giving Landers a “second look” as a cornerback. * Former cornerback Evan McCollough also participated in the Bucs’ rookie camp. * Former football safety Marcus Haywood tried out in the New Orleans Saints rookie camp May 9-10.

After graduation in May, 2nd Lt. David Prezewski was assigned to the Army Medical Service Corps in Fort Knox, Ky., to help train ROTC cadets. He is now stationed with the 10th Mountain Division in Fort Drum, N.Y. During JMU’s Spring Commencement, retired Army Col. Stan Prezewski administered the oath of office at his youngest son’s commissioning ceremony. All three of Prezewski’s children have followed in his footsteps as Army officers. Both of David’s siblings were granted leave to attend their brother’s graduation and commissioning. It was the first time the family had been together in more than two years. * Kristen Taylor is one of 31 students in the 2009 PGA Tour’s Diversity Internship Program. The interns work in various departments of the PGA Tour including marketing, tournament operations, new media and golf course operators. Taylor earned her bachelor’s in business administration with a concentration in business marketing and a minor in sports communication. She has served as a ticket operations trainee with the Richmond Braves and was president of the JMU club softball team.

Dear Myra Doherty family:

I would like to convey my gratitude for the aid that the Myra Doherty Scholarship Fund has given me. I transferred from a community college in Seattle, Wash. I grew up with a single mother after my father passed away. The Myra Doherty Scholarship combined with loans actually covered all of my fall semester tuition. The money I earned from tutoring could then help with rent and necessities. As a senior physics major, it was a relief to be able to study more and worry about money less. Thank you for your gift of giving.

Gregory Maust (’09)

Published by JMU Scholarly Commons, 2009

SKOLNITSKY PHOTOGRAPHS BY LONNIE L. HUSHER (’87)

Continued on Page 71
Shaping Virginia education
Alumna named superintendent of public instruction
By Sarah Mead (’09)

Patricia Wright (’75) worked her way from a B.S. in mathematics at JMU to the “top teacher” position in Virginia. She was named state superintendent of public instruction this year.

“My undergraduate experiences at JMU gave me a solid grounding in mathematics and in teaching mathematics,” says Wright, who has 33 years of experience in the education field. “Teaching for 10 years in diverse school environments and working with students both inside and outside of the classroom made me recognize the important roles teachers play in shaping a young person’s life.”

Wright’s responsibilities as superintendent are imperative to Virginia education. She makes recommendations for education policy and programs to the state board, reviews decisions, speaks with stakeholders’ groups, reviews data on program effectiveness and devises new ideas and strategies to meet the goals of the Virginia Board of Education. She also works side-by-side with Virginia Gov. Timothy Kaine. On May 8, Wright and Kaine signed an agreement on the State Common Core Standards Initiative. The program will produce a core of academic standards to raise English and mathematics standards for grades K-12 and prepare students for postsecondary education and the workplace.

“Virginia remains committed to the Standards of Learning,” says Wright, who has played a key role since the mid-1990s in the development and enhancement of Virginia’s nationally recognized accountability system. “But commitment to the SOL program does not preclude contributing to an effort to raise standards nationwide and learning from the process.”

Wright earned a Master of Education in mathematics from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a Doctorate of Education in mathematics with a concentration in mathematics, and research and evaluation from the University of Virginia. Prior to her appointment as superintendent of public instruction, she held multiple titles during her tenure with the Virginia Department of Education. She served as mathematics supervisor, director of secondary instruction, assistant superintendent for instruction and deputy superintendent. Her work has enabled her to influence education policy and practices at the federal, state and local levels. “Through all of these experiences I have acquired new perspectives, knowledge and skills that I use every day in my role as state superintendent,” she says.

Wright attributes her passion for mathematics and education to her Madison experience. “I believe to be successful in any career one needs passion; you have to love what you do. I had great JMU professors who spurred my passion for teaching. They gave me inspiration to reach heights I only dreamed possible for others.”

Marcia Dake, dean emerita of the nursing department, talks with Lisa Hess (’88), an R.N. at Greenspring retirement community.

Marcia Dake, founding dean of the JMU Nursing Department (1980–89), lives in Greenspring retirement community in Springfield. “We have staff members responsible for promoting activities that involve residents and bring joy, laughter and esprit de corps,” she told staff of The Pulse, the newsletter of the JMU Department of Nursing. Dake enjoyed promoting JMU at Greenspring’s last “school spirit” day, and she met Lisa Hess (’88), an R.N. and new Greenspring staff member. Hess says, “Dean Dake officiated at my pinning ceremony at JMU.”

Lee Morrison, professor emerita of physical education, participated in an Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women pioneers press conference in Florida in February. Morrison served as president of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women in 1974–75 and worked tirelessly for the adoption of Title IX. The spring press conference was the first time the former AIAW presidents had met since 2003. Morrison coached JMU field hockey for 17 years and served as associate director of athletics. The JMU Morrison-Bruce Center for the Promotion of Physical Activity for Girls and Women is named for her and her colleague Pat Bruce, professor emerita of swimming, sport psychology and motor learning. Bruce also supervised student teachers, advised Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, served as speaker of the JMU Faculty Senate and helped found the JMU Faculty Women’s Caucus.

Former volleyball coach Pat Sargeant (1976–80) and “Skippy” Courter, former swimming and diving team coach (1977–79), compete in the Master’s Competition swimming events.

To submit an EMERITI NOTE or a CLASS NOTE, please e-mail madisonmag@jmu.edu
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Future Dukes**

1980s
- Anthony Michael Falco (’86) and Lori, twin daughters, Maria Margaret and Julia Michelle, 3/13/09
- Kelli McHugh Klein (’88) and Paul, a son, Patrick Thomas, 1/3/09

1990s
- Molly O’Hear Butler (’90) and Jeff, a daughter, Sophia Nga Butler, 3/10/08 (adopted 11/24/08)
- Lori Alexander Woodruff (’91) and Troy, a son, Micah John, 2/19/09
- Jacqueline Gambale Rocco (’92) and John, a son, John, 2/11/09
- Jennifer Minnette (’93) and Paul Tavernise, a daughter, Pia Rose, 11/08
- Robin Schooley Moffett (’93) and Henry, a daughter, Finley Page, 2/18/08
- William Slann (’93) and Nicole, a daughter, Meredith Gabrielle, 3/18/09
- Kelly Floyd Troxell (’93, ’97M) and Greg (’87), twin daughters, Sydney Paige and Alison Jones, 6/11/08
- Elizabeth Gross Malomo (’95) and Olufemi, a son, Olufemi Jonathan, 10/22/08
- Lisa Nimmich Conway (’97) and Brian (’97), a daughter, Caroline Elizabeth, 10/10/08
- Stephen C. Jennings (’97) and Jan, a son, Luke Atticus, 2/8/09
- Patricia Sparks Pieper (’97) and Michael, a son, Keenan Michael, 9/29/08
- Caitlin Stephens Sell (’99) and Craig (’97), a son, Garrett Evan, 9/18/08
- Kristin Wetterhan Antonucci (’98) and Tom, a daughter, Julia Maryn, 11/24/08
- Renee Macri (’98) and Phil Livingston, a son, Edward William, 10/22/08
- Kelly Jensen McAleer (’98) and Justin, a son, Liam David, 11/7/08
- Kelly O’Conner Oipari (’98) and Benjamin, a daughter, Francesca Milana, 12/13/08
- Lisa Owens Philips (’98) and Sean, a daughter, Reagan Olivia, 2/11/09
- Casey Burnett Yu (’98) and Joshua, a daughter, Lindsey Caroline, 12/23/08
- Sam Bogan (’99) and Deborah, a daughter, Rachel Elizabeth, 12/30/08
- Betsy Scheifen Kannenberg (’99) and Brian, a son, Chase Patrick, 3/17/09
- Jessica Harding Scheible (’99) and Brian, twin daughters, Lucy Anne and Brianna Kate, 5/1/08
- Christina Ward (’99) and Ken Cullen, a son, Andrew Ward, 12/13/08

2000s
- Eve Drewry Bailey (’00) and Dave, a son, Byron Lee, 10/19/08
- Rebecca Ann Loeffler Benson (’00) and Philip (’99), a son, Sawyer McKade, 12/24/08
- Anne Stokes Bowman (’00) and Brent, a daughter, Anne Hayes, 6/12/08
- Therisa Perez Cerfice (’00) and Mark (’00), a daughter, Emilia Rose 12/20/08
- Arria Ibach Durham (’00) and Ryan, a daughter, Elliott O’Hara, 1/9/08

*Amie Adams Spencer (’00) and Sean, a daughter, Natalie Mae, 12/31/08
* Melinda Butter Heflin (’01) and Scott (’01), a son, Lucas Scott, 2/8/09
* Katie Plemmons Inman (’01) and Charlie (’98), a daughter, Sydney Hope, 12/29/08
* Katie Beidler Jacoby (’03) and Keith (’03), a son, Conner Andrew, 3/17/09
* Elizabeth Simmons Kahl (’03) and Ryan (’03), a son, Graffon Nathaniel, 7/22/08
* Brihd K. Peyton (’03) and Matthew Tardio, a daughter, Kaitlyn Grace, 3/9/09
* Ben Chiet (’04, ’05M) and Katie Millyk (’03), a daughter, Audrey Brooks, 5/14/09
* Jessica Alexander Daily (’04) and William (’04), a son, Liam Alexander, 3/10/09
* Laura Hinson Sampson (’04) and Christopher (’05), a son, Dylan Edward, 2/22/09

**Weddings**

1980s
- James A. Lagergren (’82) to Cathie Barbain, 3/7/09
- Rebecca Ann Shoemaker (’84) to Rick Minnick (’81), 8/2/08

1990s
- Roberta Roberts (’94) to Yiannis Gianareas
- Karen Elizabeth Rule (’94) to Scott Darden, 8/21/08
- Timothy S. Emy (’99) to Zaria Emy, 7/18/08

2000s
- Lindsey O’Dell (’00) to Robert Saksia, 8/31/08
- Jessica Plageman (’00) to Corey Christensen, 3/16/08
- Holly Bayliss (’02) to Jeffrey Kalkin, 8/31/08
- Jamie Hasenauer (’03) to Adam Davidson (’06)
- Keith Ancowitz (’04) to Emily Bagby (’04)
- Olivia Marriott-Yancey (’04) to J. Locklier (’04)
- Any Mitchell (’04) to Daniel McDonald, 6/28
- Stephanie Wilkins (’04) to Brandon Hansen, 8/8
- Danielle Cuteri (’05) to J. L. Avery (’00)
- Rachel McCray (’06) to Jeb Ware, 7/26
- Georgette Flood (’07) to James E. Lawlor III (’06)

**In Memoriam**

Elizabeth Laprade Ginther (’28) of Brookneal, Va., 1/4/04
Evelyn Vaughan Shrum (’38) of Harrisonburg, 6/20/09
Florence Atherbolt White (’42) of Bethlehem, Pa., 9/20/08
Gary R. Martin (’71) of Providence Forge, Va., 12/1/08
Virginia Grant Sencindiver (’30) of Akron, Ohio, 1/18/09
Ann O’Connor Journey (’83) of Arlington, 2/6/09
Kenneth S. Harper (’85) of Denver, Colo., 2/21/09
Fay Graham Polhill of Fishersville, 3/4/09

“Peace dogs” full of Madison connections

The self-named “Peace Dogs” take a breather for a photo after their first 50-mile bike ride in May. While training for their big ride, the 14 members of the group discovered almost all had a JMU connection as an alumnus. JMU parent or professor. From row kneeling (l-r) are Madison contributor Harry Atwood (’87), Brennan Mills (’90) and Ron Smith (W&M). Standing are (l-r): JMU parent Dale Wilson (’08P), Evan Wilson (’08), Dan Wilson, Hugo A. Kohl III (’89), art history professor and director of the JMU Institute for Visual Studies David Ehrenpreis, Madison magazine art director Bill Thompson, accounting professor and JMU parent Chuck Baril (’10P), Glenn Robertson (W&M), Keith Mills (’83), John Eckman (’82) and Paul Berge (W&M).
Biology on the Quad

Playing hard and studying hard have been part of life on the Quad for more than 100 years. Vicki Stratton ('10) captured this image while studying for a biology test. Stratton has served as a resident adviser, participated in the 18th-annual JMU BioSymposium and is a member of the “PictureIt! JMU” project. Frank Doherty, director of the JMU Office of Institutional Research, established the student project in 2006–07. Doherty (inset, back row) received an innovation grant from the division of student affairs to create the project – based on the old adage that “a picture is worth a thousand words.” Doherty says, “Through the students’ images and our discussions, we are learning more about the Madison Experience and how students adjust to college life. This helps our team with its primary mission of reporting official university data to state, regional and federal governments.” See more student “PictureIt! JMU” images at www.jmu.edu/pictureitjmu. — Michelle Hite ('88)
Submit your Madison class note

The magazine staff welcomes news for class notes that is no more than a year old. Please submit news of personal and career achievements online at www.jmu.edu/alumni/classnote or use this form and mail news to:

Class Notes, Madison Magazine, 220 University Blvd., MSC 3610, JMU, Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Full Name (include maiden)______________________________
Class Year________________ College/Major______________________________
Home Address__________________________________________________________________________
City________________ State________________ ZIP________________________
E-mail Address________________ Home Phone__________________________
Employer________________ Job Title__________________________
Spouse Name (include maiden)________________ JMU Class Year________________
News______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

It can take up to six months, or two issues, for your class note to appear in Madison. We appreciate your patience.

www.jmu.edu/alumni/classnote/

If you've had a Coke in the last 20 years, you've had a hand in giving college scholarships and support to thousands of our nation's most promising students.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation is proud to have been opening doors and creating opportunities for students since 1988.

Coca-Cola is a proud sponsor of James Madison University
'Whether you are a prospective JMU student or an enthusiastic alum, Harrisonburg and Madison are great places to visit and connect.'

— KAI DEGNER (’03,’05M)
JMU alumnus and Harrisonburg mayor

More about Degner at www.jmu.edu/BetheChange

Welcome to Harrisonburg

MADISON EVENTS

9/17 Constitution Day
9/21 International Day of Peace
10/2 Block Party in the ‘Burg
10/9-11 Family Weekend
10/16-18 2009 Homecoming
10/24 Open Houses
College of Business / College of Education
10/31 Open Houses
College of Integrated Science and Technology
College of Science and Math / School of Engineering
11/14 Take-A-Look Open House
Take-A-Look: A Multicultural Perspective
12/12 Winter Commencement

Visit JMU

www.jmu.edu/admissions
Tradition, Innovation

Award-winning academics

Intellectual creativity

Dramatic social conscience

Gorgeous surroundings

A place where imagination and curiosity are demanded, nurtured and supported.

Tradition
For a century, JMU has led the way in Virginia in training teachers who have gone on to work their unending magic in classrooms across the country and the world.

Innovation
Our cross-disciplinary engineering degree, one of our most recent gems, concentrates on sustainable systems design and analysis. Forensic science; integrated science and technology; quantitative finance — and this is just the short list.

Social conscience
JMU graduates are known as positive risk-takers who embrace the idea that the world can be a better place when caring people listen, think and act. Expect that to start when you get here.

We work on your weaknesses and your strengths. Mixing in your imagination and curiosity, and adding our insight and support guarantees that your Madison Experience will be special. It happens over and over because we work hard to keep the focus on you. Expect to live your dream.
TRANSFER ADMISSION

We consider transfer applicants’ college program and grade-point average, high-school program and grades, and SAT I or ACT scores. The more credit hours you have earned in college, the less emphasis is placed on your high-school record. Competitive transfer applicants must successfully complete college course work in the following areas: English, mathematics, social science and lab science. Transfer applicants for fall must apply by March 1 and are notified of their admission status in late April. The summer application deadline is Jan. 15 and applicants are notified in late March. JMU offers spring admission to roughly 30 to 60 students. Priority consideration is given to associate degree completers or those with at least 48 college credits earned. The spring application deadline is Oct. 15 and applicants are notified in late November.

www.jmu.edu/admissions/transfer/

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Your college education is one of the most significant investments you will ever make. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will help simplify and guide you through the financial aid process as you seek avenues to fund the cost of your college education. No matter what your family income, you have the potential to afford the high-quality education JMU offers.

Madison Achievement Awards: The 50 Madison Achievement Awards range from $2,000 per year for two years to $1,000 for one year. The application for admission also serves as the Madison Achievement Award application. For more information on JMU scholarships, visit www.jmu.edu/admissions/scholarships/

FINE ARTS AUDITION DATES

School of Music
Students who want to major in music must submit both a JMU Admission Application and a JMU School of Music Audition Application.

AUDITION DATES
Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010
Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010
Monday, Feb. 15, 2010

www.jmu.edu/music/admissions/application.html

Dance
Call (540) 568–6511 for a specific appointment.

Theater and Musical Theater
Call (540) 568–6342 for more information.

Art Portfolio Dates
Call (540) 568–6216 for more information.

Nov. 7, 2009 Richmond
Nov. 14, 2009 Duke Hall
Dec. 5, 2009 The Corcorran, Washington, D.C.
Jan. 16, 2010 Duke Hall
Jan. 23, 2010 Duke Hall

www.jmu.edu/admissions/apply

It’s easy to apply. Simply submit the application electronically along with your electronic payment.
UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION

JMU’s admission process is competitive. We receive more qualified applications than we can accommodate. For the 2009 admissions process, 60 percent of the applicants were admitted; however, 88 percent of the applicants were competitive. We do not have a prescribed formula for gaining admission. JMU works to select the strongest candidates from a high-quality pool. We consider the following factors in evaluating applicants: program of study; academic achievement; standardized test scores; Secondary School Report Form and recommendation; extracurricular activities; and personal statement (optional). Each applicant is rated in the following four areas, which are listed in order of importance:

Academic Program

Competitive applicants should minimally have the following:
- four years of math (one full year beyond algebra II);
- three years of laboratory science (preferably including biology, chemistry and physics; general science or earth science usually does not count as a lab science);
- three to four years of the same foreign language or two years of two different foreign languages;
- four years of English; and
- four years of social studies.

Students who challenge themselves with the upper-level courses offered in their high school (i.e. Honors-level courses, Advanced Placement classes, International Baccalaureate, dual enrollment, etc.) increase their competitiveness. Although schools provide different opportunities, you should pursue the most demanding college preparatory programs available. Because strong students come from many different types of schools, we examine each applicant within the context of his or her high school.

Academic Achievement

To evaluate your achievement in high school, we evaluate your grades in core subject areas: mathematics, English, foreign language, social studies and lab sciences. A competitive candidate is an A/B student in core courses. We look at your performance throughout your entire high-school career.

Standardized Tests

Performance on the SAT I or ACT helps us discern your past academic achievements and your potential for future academic success. JMU’s application review process will only consider the mathematics and critical reading sections of the SAT. For the ACT, we use your single highest composite score. SAT IIs are not required for or considered in the admissions process.

Extracurricular Activities

We are looking for quality rather than quantity. For instance, we like to see what you have done in clubs, organizations and athletics beyond just being a member. We also consider community service and part-time jobs. We look at the variety and depth of your involvement. You must be academically competitive before your extracurricular activities are reviewed.

JMU’s Honors Program

A stimulating, challenging, rewarding world of ideas awaits you in JMU’s Honors Program. Learn more at www.jmu.edu/honorsprog/.

Advanced Standing

Students can earn college credit for course work taken in high school. JMU awards credit for AP and IB courses. For more information, see www.jmu.edu/admissions/info/scores.shtml.

Early Action (nonbinding): Nov. 1

Early Action is more competitive than the Regular Decision process. To be admitted through Early Action, a student needs to be superior in curriculum, grades, test scores and extracurricular activities. For the last two years, 45 to 50 percent of the students deferred from Early Action to Regular Decision were eventually admitted. Students who apply through the Early Action process do not have an advantage over students who apply Regular Decision.

Regular Decision: Jan. 15

Because Early Action is more competitive than Regular Decision, students who apply through Regular Decision are not at a disadvantage. For fall 2009, 60 percent of our applicants were competitive and 88 percent were admitted.

Fast Facts 2009–2010

Admitted Freshmen
- SAT mid-50 percent range: 1070–1230
- ACT mid-50 percent range: 24–28
- Mostly A’s and B’s in core academic areas (English, math, lab science, social science, foreign language)
- Ranked in top third of their high-school class: 88 percent
- Applications: 22,150
- Applicants accepted: 59 percent
- Applicants enrolled: 3,980
- In-state/out-of-state ratio: 67/33

2009 Transfer Students
- Applications: 2,948
- Applicants accepted: 42 percent
- Applicants enrolled: 810

Undergraduate Student Body
- Male: 39 percent
- Female: 61 percent
- Total minority: 13 percent
- International: 1 percent
- Total enrollment: 18,771

Faculty
- Full time: 854
- Part time: 398
- Doctoral degree or appropriate terminal degree: 81 percent
- Student/professor ratio: 16/1
- Average class size: 29

Financial Aid
- Students receiving financial aid: 47 percent
- Average amount of assistance: $6,232

2009–2010 Tuition and Fees for Full-Time Students

In-state tuition and fees: $7,244
Room and board: 7,386
In-state total: 14,630
Out-of-state tuition and fees: 19,376
Room and board: 7,386
Out-of-state total: 26,762
### Undergraduate Programs of Study

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