A bold new era begins.

The university celebrates Madison Week 2013 and the inauguration of only its sixth president in 105 years.

PAGE 28
"A return to Madison"

BY JIM HEFFERNAN (’96)

JMU President Jonathan R. Alger capped a weeklong inauguration celebration by delivering the keynote speech at Montpelier for President James Madison’s 262nd birthday on March 16.

Alger called for a return to the Madisonian ideal of a civil society and pledged to strengthen JMU’s relationship with Montpelier to help bring more attention to James Madison and his legacy. “Perhaps more so than any other president or founder, James Madison is responsible for the creation and miraculous endurance of our republic,” Alger said.

Madison’s great innovation was to devise a system of government that allows for differing opinions and competing interests, Alger said. While Americans today profess respect for the Constitution, too often public discourse on important social challenges degenerates into shouting matches, name-calling and a cry for the elimination of opposing political, social and economic views, Alger said. “We need a return to Madison. If James Madison were here today, I believe he would remind us of his level-headed assessment of our human limitations when we encounter and react to views that differ from our own,” Alger said.

JMU can best honor James Madison’s legacy by fostering and modeling civil and respectful discourse on the great issues of our time, Alger added. “If we enlighten ourselves through education and believe that we all are connected — even with those whom we might passionately disagree — we honor Madison. I intend for this idea to be a hallmark of my administration.”

Alger also announced that JMU and Montpelier will partner on several upcoming projects, like a collaborative course on James Madison offered by the JMU history department and Adult Degree Program working with Montpelier’s Center for the Constitution. (Read more on Page 18).

Alger urged those in attendance to go from the ceremony “with a renewed sense of our roles as citizens and the power we have to live the ideals James Madison handed down to us through the ages.”
In honor of President James Madison’s 262nd birthday, JMU President Jon Alger delivered the keynote speech and presented a wreath at the tomb of the fourth president during the birthday celebration on the grounds of Montpelier, March 16.
26 The ‘Holy Grail’ of Astronomy
by Eric Gorton ('86, '09M)
Anca Constantin, JMU physics and astronomy professor, and her student Emil Christensen ('14) are using a $10,000 Jeffress Memorial Trust grant to review water megamaser data to help scientists learn more about how galaxies are formed.

28 Why Madison? Because Dreams Should Be Big
by Pam Brock
JMU has inaugurated its sixth president, Jonathan R. Alger. With Alger’s vision and Madison’s historical refusal to be summed up in conventional higher education terms, two compelling forces align to make James Madison University the national model of an “Engaged University” that can work to improve society. The work begins.

38 A Passion for People
by Carol Hamilton ('97M)
JMU’s new first lady, Mary Ann Alger, is using her unique skill set, her graciousness and her passion for people to help create the new national model of the “Engaged University.” Carol Hamilton ('97M), director of the JMU College of Business Center for Entrepreneurship, invited Alger to be a judge for the College of Business Venture Creation Business Plan Competition for students. The two have worked closely on other JMU projects and Hamilton says, “Mrs. Alger has an eye for opportunities and a passion for people.”

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A “return to Madison.” President Jonathan R. Alger announces new partnership with Montpelier

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Your letters and feedback

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Help President Alger make JMU the national model of an Engaged University

ON THE COVER:
2013 Madison Fest fireworks by Mike Miriello ('09M)

JONATHAN AND MARY ANN ALGER PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE MIRIELLO ('09M).
HUBBLE HERITAGE TEAM PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF NASA.
**Madison**

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**Gourmet Dreams**

Frostings Bake Shop owner Matt Fraker (’03) competes on Food Network’s Cupcake Wars

**Beauty in diversity**

Art history professor teaches diversity through dress culture

**Madison Fest**

Students take a sweet photo op at the wall of cupcakes during Madison Week

**CAA Champs**

Men’s basketball team captures 2013 CAA title

**Guest of Honor**

Road Dawg has celebrated more than 100 alumni weddings

**VISIT JMU:**

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

**www.jmu.edu/admissions/visit**

**NEWS:**

JMU Alumni Association announces $100,000 matching gift to the Madison Forever Vision Fund, Madison Perspectives by JMU Alumni Association President Jamie Jones Miller (’99), new candlelighting tradition, new alumni directory and the Save the Date calendar

**GET CONNECTED:**

www.jmu.edu

**GET INSPIRED TO BE THE CHANGE**

The Be the Change website has stories and videos about students, professors and alumni changing the world.

Sign up, connect, chime in:

[www.jmu.edu/bethechange](http://www.jmu.edu/bethechange)

Share your Be the Change story at madisonmag@jmu.edu

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**www.jmu.edu/admissions/visit**

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**PARENTS:**

Visit [www.jmu.edu/parents](http://www.jmu.edu/parents)

**WNIT quarterfinals**

Women’s basketball makes it to the final eight

**PAGE 21**
Your letters, stories and photos

JMU IS THE NO. 1 CHOICE IN THIS FAMILY

One picture does indeed mean more than a thousand words to our family! When my granddaughter, Lacey Eubank (’17), received her early action acceptance letter from the JMU admissions office we were thrilled! JMU was her No. 1 choice of colleges. We knew we had to capture the Madison generations moment in a photograph of Lacey’s mom, Sally Hall Sneed (’88), Lacey and myself. My son, Bill Eubank (’88) is also an alumnus!

Carol Eubank Coburn (’62)
Glen Allen, Va.

Three generations of Dukes celebrate the early action admission of Lacey Eubank (’17), center. At left is her mother, Sally Hall Sneed (’88), and at right is her grandmother Carol Eubank Coburn (’62). The family bulldog was anxious to get in on the “Let’s Go Dukes” action.

COnGRATULATIONS JOHN HILLIARD!

I was ecstatic to see the JMU School of Music honor Dr. John S. Hilliard for his 25 years of teaching with the special concert performance by students and professors — “The Music of John Hilliard: Celebration Concert” on March 24. Dr. Hilliard chaired JMU’s Contemporary Music Festival for 17 years. His works have been performed worldwide and at the Kennedy Center and more than 20 U.S. music festivals. I continue to apply the many lessons I learned from Dr. Hilliard in my daily life as a composer and educator in Boston. I appreciated his one-on-one instruction, but he also taught by example. His profound dedication to music scholarship alongside his prolific creative output set a model that I aspire to repeat for my own students today. A true musical peripatetic who is able to find meaning and value in music ranging from shakuhachi improvisations to the hyper-specific notations of Elliott Carter, Dr. Hilliard engages a panoply of experience in his roles as a scholar and composer and former Fulbright Scholar-Artist in Hong Kong. As I have progressed as a musician, my awareness of the worth of what I learned from Dr. Hilliard has steadily increased. Even as he retires this year, I have no doubt that I will continue to benefit from his teaching when I begin my doctoral studies in music. Thank you Dr. Hilliard!

William Kenlon (’09)
SOMERVILLE, MASS.

Keep those letters and story ideas coming!

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, 235 Cantrell Ave., MSC 3610, JMU, Harrisonburg, VA 22807, or email madisonmag@jmu.edu.
BEST WISHES PRESIDENT ALGER!
President Alger: May your presidency be inspirationally successful as you carry out James Madison University’s outstanding reputation for highly personal administrative interaction with students and faculty and staff members.

Virginia Aliotti ('57, '67M)
JMU Professor Emerita of French
Strasburg, Va.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Read more well wishes for President Jonathan R. Alger (on Page 32 of this issue). Then, leave your own special note at www.jmu.edu/inauguration/your-comments.shtml

PICTURE PERFECT
I wanted to submit this picture of the night-time JMU Quad for consideration in Madison magazine. As a proud alumnus, I think this image demonstrates just how pretty our university really is. The photo was taken by Paul Roberson ('14), a junior kinesiology major who is concentrating in exercise science. He is from Colonial Beach, Va., and is a friend of my daughter, Jessica Nicole Bowen ('14), a junior nursing major. Thank You!
W. Danny Bowen Jr.
Roanoke, Va.

President Jonathan R. Alger’s vision of the Engaged University means every member of the Madison community is connected!

Have you signed up for Madison Update?
Receive special invitations, read the latest alumni news and get timely university updates. Find out how you can connect to the Madison community. Your subscription to Madison Update is free and includes monthly and special editions of the official JMU enewsletter.

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Minds ignited by learning

Attentive readers of Madison will notice that much ink is spilled in this issue covering the inauguration of Jonathan R. Alger, James Madison University’s sixth president. Is this an inordinate amount of attention paid to what is essentially an administrative transition? Some may argue yes. Although with the turmoil that often accompanies senior executive transitions, such a smooth transition is news indeed.

Yet, at a time when voices in the public dialogue daily call into question the purpose and direction of higher education, the executive responsible for steering an institution where change is the norm ought to be paid much attention. As our society becomes ever more reliant on a knowledge economy populated by educated and enlightened citizens to survive, what happens at Madison in the next few years may become a model for the rest of higher education — at least if Jon Alger has his way. So you will read much in this issue about a new excitement in the Madison community sparked by its new leadership. Coverage of Madison Week when President Alger was inaugurated reveals a positive exuberance rarely captured in the news lately.

But please make no mistake: While the pomp and circumstance make for great images and headlines in a magazine, these proceedings were held in celebration of the teaching and learning that goes on daily at Madison. For instance on Page 22 read how art and art history professor Aderonke Adesanya and her students are exploring diversity through African dress and culture. And on Page 26 learn how physics and astronomy professor Anca Constantin and one of her students are using a $10,000 Jeffress Memorial Trust grant to identify properties of galaxies that host water megamasers suitable for measuring distances from Earth to the galaxies they reside in.

While the fireworks on this issue’s cover were set off to culminate the Madison Week celebrations this year, let their explosions symbolize the minds ignited by learning on the campus illuminated by their fiery trails.

— Andrew D. Perrine ('86), executive editor
On Page 41 Samier Mansur ('07) writes this issue’s essay, “Lessons with global consequences,” on the topic of leveraging pluralism to meet Bangladesh’s national development goals. His essay also appears in the Spring 2013 issue of Political Currents, the newsletter for the JMU Department of Political Science. An international relations major, Mansur is a research scholar, writer and photographer. He is the founder and director of the Bangladesh Pluralism Project, which he initiated to create a more open, inclusive and globally engaged Bangladesh. The former president of the JMU Muslim Student Association, Mansur also completed minors in economics and religion.

Rosemary Girard ('15) is a double major in writing, rhetoric, and technical communication, and application studies. The Arlington, Va., native plans to attend graduate school and pursue a career in professional writing. A member of the JMU Honors Program, she studied abroad in Florence, Italy, for a summer program in May, and says she loves to travel. Some of her favorite Madison experiences so far include her work as a Student Ambassador leading tours for prospective students and serving as a First Year Orientation Guide in 2012.

Kelly Snow is director of the JMU Annual Fund. She joined the JMU development staff in 2005. Throughout her tenure at Madison, Snow has worn many annual giving hats and her fundraising career has also focused on children's health and education. She has worked for the Children’s National Medical Center, the University of Virginia Children's Hospital and the Explore More Discovery Museum. Snow earned her bachelor’s degree from Penn State University. She and her husband, John R. “J.R.” Snow III ('99, '08M), live in Harrisonburg with their two daughters, Annie and Olivia, and their black lab, Duke.

JMU University Marketing Photography and Videography Department staff members and students captured image and video content of more than 40 events throughout Madison Week 2013, including the inauguration of President Jonathan R. Alger. University Photographer Mike Miriello’s (’09M) team is assistant Katie Landis, and students, Michael Carafa (’13), Rachel Lam (’14) and Jeffrey Thelin (’15). Video Producer Chris Meyers’ (’11) team includes assistant Justin Roth and students Jake Williams (’14) and Riley Hanlon (’14).
With all the uncertainty in the world – waste, war, hunger, corruption, lack of civility – it’s hard to imagine

A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

The Engaged University will help change those realities – create, heal, build, educate, discover, lead and breathe life into ideas, hopes and dreams.

THAT’S WHY MADISON.

Join President Jonathan R. Alger and help create a new model for higher education. One that thrives on asking the right questions. And uncovering the right answers. That is the essence of Madison. With your help, we can bridge the gap to a brighter future.

THAT’S WHY NOW.

GIVE TO THE MADISON FOREVER VISION FUND.

Join the

VISION

MAKE YOUR GIFT BEFORE JUNE 1, 2013

‘Together, we will establish a new national model of higher education. And create a brighter future for us all.’

~ JONATHAN R. ALGER, PRESIDENT

Increase the impact of your gift – give by June 1 and the JMU Alumni Association will match* it!

* The JMU Alumni Association will match gifts to the Madison Forever Vision Fund at 50 percent up to a total of $100,000.

Give online at www.jmu.edu/give
James Madison University has stayed true to its character and its mission to educate and enlighten students in spite of a remarkable transformation from a small women’s teachers college to a major university. Yet, through 105 years of cherished traditions, the Madison community has embraced positive change as fundamental to the university’s character of engagement, students-first philosophy, culture of service, and civic-minded, quality academics.

On March 15 the JMU community inaugurated a new leader with a vision for an even greater level of engagement. Jonathan R. Alger became the sixth president of James Madison University, commemorating the beginning of a bold new era.

Alger says it’s time to “dream big and create the national model of the Engaged University — a place where knowledge, creativity and critical thinking skills are put to use addressing the most pressing challenges of our society and our world.”

Alger began his presidency on July 1, 2012, and on March 10–15 the university community celebrated his vision with a full week of events. The weeks’ events brought together students, alumni, faculty and staff members, JMU Board of Visitors, community leaders and numerous friends of the university.

The JMU Alumni Association kicked off the historic week with the announcement of a $100,000 matching gift to the university. JMU Alumni Association President Jamie Jones Miller (’99) told the Madison community that the alumni association will invest up to $100,000 into the Madison Forever Vision Fund.

“This gift will allow the alumni association to match every two dollars given to the fund with one dollar from the alumni association — up to a maximum of $100,000,” she said.
March 10

JMU Alumni Association
President Jamie Jones Miller ('99) kicked off Inauguration Week with the announcement of the alumni association’s $100,000 matching gift to the Madison Forever Vision Fund.

“The alumni association challenges each and every alum to join us in this commitment.”

Madison Week 2013 featured lectures on fourth President James Madison, the man the university honors for his contributions to the crafting of the U.S. Constitution and for legislative leadership to Virginia and the United States of America. The week also included a public lecture about Dolley Madison.

Throughout Madison Week 2013 alumni, professors, students and friends shared in an ice cream social, campus tours, a panel discussion on ethical reasoning, a faculty roundtable, a community day of service, Madison Fest, a bus trip to Montpelier, and a Presidential walk from the Quad to Court Square where Alger gave the “keys to JMU” to Harrisonburg’s mayor and the Rockingham Country Board of Supervisors.

Learn more about President Alger, read his inauguration speech and see videos and photos of Madison Week 2013 events at www.jmu.edu/president.

March 11

JMU first lady Mary Ann Alger welcomes students to the First Lady’s Ice Cream Social, kicking off Madison Week 2013. JMU Dining Services’ offerings included several ice cream stations with flavors like vanilla with bacon and pop rocks.

(March 11)

JMU faculty and staff members write messages of greeting and warm wishes for President Jonathan R. Alger on a ceremonial scroll. (Below) Faculty and staff members presented the Alger family with a park bench to be placed in the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum to honor and welcome the Algers to JMU.

(Above): Meg Mulrooney (QEP, history and University Studies) and Chaz Evans-Haywood (Clerk of the Circuit Court Harrisonburg-Rockingham County) speak at the Citizenship Forum. (Right): JMU freshman Erin Hodi ('16) and faculty member Judy Cohen offer their perspectives at the Citizenship Forum, where JMU and local community members discussed higher education’s responsibility in producing educated and enlightening citizens.
JMU students and faculty and staff members gave of their time and talents to numerous area organizations during Inauguration Week’s day of community service.

‘Many universities talk about public service. JMU does it.’
— JONATHAN R. ALGER
president, James Madison University

Holly Shulman, editor of the Dolley Madison Digital Edition at the University of Virginia, examines Dolley Madison’s life and legacy and talks about how Mrs. Madison defined the role of first lady. More than 100 faculty, students and friends attended Shulman’s public lecture.

JMU professors (l-r) Kevin Hardwick (history), Howard Lubert (political science), William Hawk (philosophy and religion) and moderator Rebecca Brannon (history) discuss the fourth president in the Faculty Roundtable: “The Political Thought of President James Madison.”

Harrisonburg High School singers perform in a pre-reception performance for the Alumni Reception in the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts.
JMU employees’ and students’ volunteer projects include work at Mercy House, Generations Crossing and Meals on Wheels. Students and staffers also joined staff at Second Home to make cards for soldiers in Afghanistan and decorated picture frames for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

March 13

JMU faculty members Bruce Brunton (economics), Pam Johnson (theater), Matt Rebhorn (English) and David Owusu-Ansah (history) offer interdisciplinary expertise in the Faculty Roundtable: “The Madisonians’ World.” The discussion focused on the economy, literature and dress of the era.

Professor Emeritus of Communication Rex Fuller welcomes faculty emeriti to the Faculty Emeriti reception. Fuller is president of the JMU Faculty Emeriti Association and the former chair of the School of Communications Studies.

David Waldstreicher, a professor in the Temple University Department of History, speaks about President James Madison’s pivotal role in framing the Constitution and the dilemmas posed by the institution of slavery.

(Above): More than 300 students, professors and staff members enjoy Colonial Tea Time during Madison Week. (Right): Former JMU professors enjoy a reception in their honor at Carrier Library. The JMU Faculty Emeriti Association sponsors social events throughout the year like a trip to the Dale Chihuly exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.
March 14

The annual JMU Stewardship Luncheon brings together donors and the recipients of their scholarships. (Left): “My family is forever grateful to Jim and Julie Riley (‘99P, ‘05P) for this life-changing donation. We cannot express how much this means. It’s a contribution to my future,” says Centennial Scholar Mya Lee (‘16). (Above): President Jonathan R. Alger tells participants, “Our main message from this Stewardship Luncheon is gratitude. Thanks for giving our students and faculty opportunities to participate in the Madison Experience we all cherish.”

(Above): Lois Cardarella Forbes (‘64) chats with alumni at the Purple and Gold Reception. Forbes and husband, Bruce, helped fund the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts and donated two James Madison statues to JMU.

(Curtis R. Carlson, president and CEO of SRI International, discusses the climate of innovation in America, SRI’s innovation strategies and the company’s successful partnership with JMU.)

(Left): Furious Flower Poetry Center Executive Director and English Professor Joanne Gabbin talks with Rex Fuller, professor emeritus of communication and president of the JMU Faculty Emeriti Association.

Clad in their purple and gold best, JMU students party at the Inaugural Ball to cap off Madison Week.
Mary Ann Alger and daughter, Eleanor, join in the inauguration ceremony of Jonathan R. Alger in the Convocation Center. “As only the sixth president to be installed as president in the 105-year history of James Madison University, I am especially grateful to those who have come before me and opened the doors of opportunity for future generations,” Alger said during his inaugural address.


JMU President Jonathan R. Alger and JMU students participate in the 262nd birthday of the Father of the Constitution. The celebration at Madison’s home, Montpelier, included a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Madison in their home and a wreath presentation ceremony. Learn more about the Montpelier/JMU academic partnership on Page 18.

Learn more about JMU’s sixth president, Jonathan R. Alger, and his vision for JMU, beginning on Page 28. Also read a feature about Mary Ann Alger on Page 38.

262 years young

Happy Birthday!
By the numbers

160

As the sixth president in JMU’s 105-year history, Jonathan R. Alger announced his first major initiative as the Madison Future Commission. More than 160 faculty and staff members, students, former faculty members, alumni, former JMU Board of Visitors members, and community friends comprise the commission, which is working on JMU’s new strategic plan. (Read more on Page 16.)

President Jonathan R. Alger directs members of the Madison Future Commission, who are working on JMU’s new strategic plan.

JMU Nation!

Are you connected to the Madison community? Sign up for the JMU Be the Change blog and get in on the conversations — jmubethechange.wordpress.com. On Feb. 11, 2013, Be the Change blogger Martha Graham shared the “Top 10 reasons to pick JMU.” With 14,300-plus views, it is the most-viewed post in the Be the Change blog’s history.

1 You’ll earn a degree of substance and significance that will mean much more in practice than it ever will mean on paper. Madison has always charted its own path and never believed that the status quo or the experience of another university is what works best for us. In fact, Madison offers exceptional opportunities to students — from athletics and leadership to dazzling arts and undergraduate research. Many opportunities here simply aren’t available at other schools.

2 JMU is a fun place to go to college. Students love it here. In fact, more than 90 percent of freshmen come back for their sophomore year.

3 Harrisonburg has a little bit of everything: beautiful mountains (for climbing, biking, skiing), a lively downtown, great food (Ethiopian, Asian, Greek, Cuban, and more), convenience (everything is close to campus), and shopping.

4 JMU students are ambitious but not obsessed. The typical JMU student wants to wring every drop out of the college experience. Many pursue two and three majors. They also devote their time and talent to worthy campus and community organizations. Few students spend four years only studying. They work hard, don’t misunderstand me, but they look at life in balance, a philosophy promoted by the university. At JMU, it’s about the whole person.

TOP 10 reasons to pick JMU!

BY MARTHA BELL GRAHAM
JMU is among the top producers of U.S. Fulbright Scholars according to the Oct. 29, 2012, issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. With two current Fulbright professors, JMU made the *Chronicle’s* list of top-producing master’s institutions. Anthony Tongen, professor of mathematics and statistics, and Sang Yoon, professor of art, design and art history, are teaching in Mexico and South Korea, respectively. The pair joins 19 previous JMU Fulbright faculty members.

Every 10 years JMU must reaffirm its accreditation with the Southern Association of Schools. As part of the process, JMU must prepare a Quality Enhancement Program. JMU’s QEP is the “Madison Collaborative: Ethical Reasoning in Action,” and the mission is to prepare enlightened citizens who apply ethical reasoning in their personal, professional and civic lives. At the core of the effort are eight key questions that students can ask to discover what ethical issues exist beneath the surface of any situation.

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Swimmer Sin Hye Won (‘15) of Springfield, Va., was selected to participate in the 2013 NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships. She qualified in the 100-yard breaststroke and is listed as an optional entry in the 200-yard breaststroke. Won competed in the NCAA championship on March 21–23. She established a new JMU record in the 100, timing a 1:00.29 to finish second. Her time of 2:13.60 in the 200 is a career-best and is the second-fastest time in JMU history.

It could change your way of looking at the world – literally. JMU is one of the top master’s-level universities in the nation for the number of students who study abroad. Almost all of these students returned “home” to JMU changed in some way. It is an enlightening experience to step out from the comfort of the familiar and venture into another world that is exotic, often challenging, but always interesting.

At JMU students are people, not numbers. The student teacher ratio at JMU is 16:1. At an institution of higher education with an enrollment around 20,000, that’s remarkable. Teaching matters here. It’s not an ancillary activity that professors endure so they can do their research. Over and over students share stories about their lives being changed by diligent and dedicated professors, who generously give of their time. A top piece of advice that new grads almost always offer to freshmen is this: “Get to know your professors.”

You’ve got a great shot at landing a good job. There’s a very practical bent at JMU. School of Media Arts and Design students report that their professors regularly remind them that they are teaching them for jobs that don’t yet exist. JMU’s determination to respond to the marketplace sets it apart. The combination of a liberal arts-focused college with a penchant for understanding the reality of landing a job is priceless.

You can make it through in four years if you work and plan well. JMU has one of the highest four-year graduation rates in the nation. And you can change your major if you wish. JMU offers 71 undergraduates degrees. The programs are strong and many are nationally ranked.

JMU turns out citizens. There’s more to life than education; and there’s more to education than academics. Eventually, all students graduate and what they do with the rest of their lives is important. That is key at JMU, so from day one professors cultivate the habit of thinking big, thinking broadly, and thinking how one person, one group, one JMU class can change the world. We’ll challenge you to do that – to start a meaningful life right here.

JMU has a spirit like none other. It’s an extraordinarily open and friendly campus. If there’s one stat to remember, this is it: 97 percent of students give JMU high marks. You should keep that in mind when making this all-important decision. And if you are, by chance, leaning elsewhere, you can always change your mind.
When Jonathan R. Alger accepted the presidency of James Madison University, he did so with a specific vision in mind — make JMU the national model of an Engaged University. “The excellent leadership of JMU’s former presidents, decades of thoughtful and dedicated work by faculty and staff members, and achievements of students and graduates year after year have brought us to a point from which the university can now enter into a new phase of greater accomplishment,” he says.

Not long after joining the Madison community President Alger embarked on the “Why Madison?” Presidential Listening Tour to ask alumni, students, faculty and staff members, community members, parents and friends of JMU the question, “Why Madison?” Alger listened intently and is using the feedback to help shape the university’s strategic plan for 2014–2020.

In addition to the listening tour President Alger also announced the formation of the Madison Future Commission — a group of 160 faculty and staff members, students, former faculty members, alumni, former JMU Board of Visitors members and local community members who are working to shape JMU’s new strategic plan. Why so many people? According to Mark Warner, senior vice president of student affairs and university planning, this way the process is “created and owned by the entire community. It wouldn’t be meaningful unless there was a broad range of constituents giving input.”

Warner adds, “President Alger’s listening tour plan is brilliant. It has helped shape and craft what the final strategic plan will look like.”

The Madison Future Commission is tasked with creating a plan that aligns the university’s core qualities, objectives and action steps to support JMU’s mission and vision. The strategic plan will directly further the mission and vision, represent a spirit of fearless innovation, be the work of the Madison community and align all university planning. Warner describes the commission’s work as the most sweeping and intensive strategic planning process since the Centennial Commission in 1998.

“We are creating something new,” adds Warner. “It was a continuation with Dr. Carrier and Dr. Rose, but this is really a new era to create, to start from scratch, and that’s really exciting.”

The Madison Future Commission includes the university planning team, two preparation teams, a town hall planning team and five committees. Members of the prep teams established groundwork and a foundation for the work of the five committees. The Internal Analysis prep team studied JMU’s vision, values and internal concepts related to the university’s future. The Environmental Scan prep team researched external concerns related to the university’s future. The two prep teams submitted their final reports on Feb. 15. Town hall meetings began in February and run through April.

The Madison Future Commission’s five committees are focused on academics, faculty and staff success, fundraising, resources, and student life and success. Part of each committee member’s job is to listen to colleagues and constituents and to inform others of the strategic planning process. Each committee’s final report is due to the president by Sept. 3. The strategic plan’s objectives and action steps will be developed by deans, associate vice presidents, academic unit heads, and directors by Jan. 31, 2014.

“Everyone in the Madison community has a grand opportunity to help shape what our university looks like,” says Warner. “We really value feedback and encourage everyone on campus and in the JMU community to visit the website and offer ideas and feedback. Everyone has a voice in helping decide what Madison is going to be for future generations.”

Learn more at about the Madison Futures Commission and offer feedback at www.jmu.edu/madisonfuture
JMU has more than 41,500 Facebook likes, 15,600 Twitter followers, 11,800 LinkedIn members and more than 295,500 YouTube channel views.
In one of his first acts as president, Jonathan Alger joined honored guest Maya Angelou and presented a lifetime achievement award to Toni Morrison in front of thousands at Virginia Tech’s Pamplin Hall.

The award ceremony was a collaboration between JMU Furious Flower Center Director Joanne Gabbin and Virginia Tech poet Nikki Giovanni. India Arie, Sonia Sanchez, Jericho Brown and Rita Dove were among the other literary and musical guests who presented and performed at the October tribute, “Sheer Good Fortune.”

Alger’s remarks described Morrison’s and Angelou’s contributions to literature and the significance today of writing and the arts. “Great writing touches the soul and helps us to see and experience the world in new ways.”

Gabbin and Furious Flower are known for large-scale poetry events, the most recent being a collaboration with Giovanni — the “73 Poems for 73 Years” — a 2010 memorial tribute to Lucille Clifton. The obvious absence of the guest of honor, however, was something neither Gabbin nor Giovanni could shake off. “We said it was a shame that Lucille was not here to know how people read and owned her work,” Gabbin recalls. “Nikki said ‘we should do one for a living writer so she can be in the audience and experience it.’”

Thus “Sheer Good Fortune” was born, with hopes to bring a voice to the arts around the country. Gabbin followed up by producing a “Sheer Good Fortune” documentary DVD and a commemorative booklet highlighting Morrison’s work. “The program was one day,” Gabbin says. “Now it will last.”

Gabbin is now planning the third epic event in her signature poetry conference series. “Furious Flower: Seeding the Future of African American Poetry” is slated for Sept. 23–27, 2014, and will honor Rita Dove. The poetry conference will focus on the impact of the newer generation of African-American poets.

Learn more at www.jmu.edu/furiousflower.

Renewing the Madison and Montpelier partnership

JMU has an important ally in its goal to bring more attention to the life and legacy of fourth President James Madison.

Katherine L. “Kat” Imhoff is the new president and chief executive officer of the Montpelier Foundation, which manages the 2,650-acre Madison family estate in Orange County. Imhoff returns to Virginia after a successful five-year tenure as state director of the Nature Conservancy in Montana. She previously served as chief operating officer and vice president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello, executive director of the Preservation Alliance of Virginia and chair of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

She says she is inspired by the intellectual legacy of James Madison, which is brought to life in the mansion, gardens and grounds at Montpelier, and in new JMU president Jonathan R. Alger she has found a legal scholar with a deep appreciation of the impact of James Madison on our government and our constitutionalism.

JMU’s relationship with Montpelier began more than 25 years ago when Clarence Geier, professor of archaeology, arranged an archaeology field school on site. Students and faculty members have been participating in digs there ever since.

During his remarks at Montpelier on the 262nd anniversary of James Madison’s birth, Alger announced that faculty at JMU and Montpelier are working together to create a course about James Madison’s ideas. The course will include online and in-person instruction and visits to the estate. JMU will also honor the memory of James Madison’s wife Dolley, herself an intellectual and social force, through a new initiative called Women for Madison that will celebrate the vital role women play in leading and cultivating a culture of philanthropy.

Learn more about Montpelier at www.montpelier.org.
A bat and a ball cost $1.10. The bat costs $1 more than the ball. How much does the ball cost?

Many people will answer quickly and confidently: 10 cents. But that’s wrong. If the ball costs 10 cents, the bat would then have to cost $1.10, for total of $1.20. The correct answer is 5 cents (and $1.05 for the bat).

Rational thinking profits from this type of information processing according to Richard F. West, JMU professor emeritus of graduate psychology.

The John Templeton Foundation has awarded West and his longtime research partner, Keith E. Stanovich, a $1 million grant to develop an assessment of rational thinking. The funding runs through 2015.

“We’ve been working toward a test of rational thinking for more than 15 years, but it has been a piecemeal effort and something we have had to juggle along with other projects in research and teaching and consulting activities,” says Stanovich, a professor at the University of Toronto. “We have already collected an enormous amount of data relevant to the project, but much of this data has been lying unanalyzed. Now we will have time to look into data sets that we have been collecting for a decade.”

West and Stanovich’s career-defining collaboration began as idle conversation between fellow graduate students at the University of Michigan. “We found ourselves spending free time engaging in this sort of nerdy gossip, which centered around questions of rationality and how people, even very bright people, would sometimes make poor decisions,” recalls West.

Human cognition is characterized by two types of processing. Type 1, whether innate or acquired through extensive practice, is autonomous — looking both ways before crossing the street, for example — and can be executed at the same time as other higher levels of processing. Type 2 requires conscious mental effort. Although either type of processing may underlie decisions that are rational, many of the most important individual differences in rational thinking involve problems with Type 2 processing.

Traditional philosophy equates rational thinking with logic, but most cognitive scientists consider rational thinking in terms of how well our beliefs map onto the real world and whether our decisions help us fulfill our goals — in essence, “what is true” and “what to do,” respectively. “If you think in a way that brings you closer to a true understanding of the world and helps you get what you want, that’s rational,” West says.

Yet humans are often highly susceptible to cognitive illusions and thinking biases that can hinder good judgment and decision-making, West adds. These biases have been linked to everything from Ponzi schemes to medical error.

In addition to being cognitive misers, many people simply lack the knowledge and strategies needed to think rationally in certain situations — what psychologists have termed “mindware gaps.” Others, when choosing between two similar options, tend to rely on the personal testimony of an individual or small group over a larger sample that may include extensive research and expert opinion.

We may assume that intelligence and rationality go hand in hand. But even smart people do foolish things. According to Stanovich, author of the 2009 book What Intelligence Tests Miss, IQ tests are very good at measuring certain mental faculties, but they often fall short in their assessment of an individual’s ability to think rationally or override cognitive biases. In fact, numerous studies by West and Stanovich have shown that so-called intelligent people may be no less susceptible to many of these pitfalls than those with lower IQs.

West believes that humans need to be good rational thinkers to be able to navigate an increasingly complex world. Granted, our culture has developed tools, such as statistics and probability, to help govern decision-making. But most people are not natural statisticians, he says.

And that’s where a rational thinking test like the one West and Stanovich are working on can help. “If you’re going to train people to become more rational thinkers, you’re going to need ways to assess whether your efforts are successful,” West says.

Eight busloads of students and thousands of others from the “JMU Nation” turned the Richmond Coliseum into a sea of purple on March 11. They had come to witness Madison’s first men’s basketball conference championship in 19 years, and the Dukes responded by rocketing to a 22-point first-half lead over top-seeded Northeastern and cruising to the historic 70-57 victory. The championship clinched JMU’s first trip to the NCAA Tournament since 1994.

“There’s tremendous school spirit here. It’s really unlike anything I’ve seen,” JMU Coach Matt Brady told an ESPN reporter after the win.

Brady’s talented, but perennially injury-prone squad ended Madison’s title drought largely due to fifth-year seniors A.J. Davis, Devon Moore and Rayshawn Goins. Davis (’13) scored a championship game-high 26 points on his way to being named the tournament’s Most Outstanding Player.

The win ignited nationwide interest in the Dukes, and when JMU took the floor in the NCAA Tournament, dozens of game-watching parties had sprung up across the country. This time, the Dukes’ talented corp of freshmen were on point for Madison’s first NCAA tournament victory in 30 seasons.

In a game-changing three-minute period in JMU’s opening-round contest against LIU-Brooklyn, freshman Andre Nation scored four points, grabbed three rebounds, blocked a shot and dished out an assist. Nation scored 14 points and added seven rebounds, four assists and a career-high five blocks in the 68-55 win. Fellow freshman Charles Cook (’16) added 15, while Davis chipped in a team-high 20.

JMU’s run ended two days later in an 83-62 loss to top-seeded Indiana University, but the 2012–13 Dukes had clearly put Madison basketball back on the map.
Future bright after women make eighth straight postseason run

On Dec. 17, with his team off to its slowest start (3-6) in years, JMU women’s basketball coach Kenny Brooks (’92) received what seemed like the worst possible news. Senior captain and 2012 Colonial Athletic Association Defensive Player of the Year Nikki Newman (’13) was out for the season with a broken foot.

An eighth straight 20-win season and trip to postseason play seemed nearly impossible. “We had to reinvent ourselves,” Brooks remembers. “But we didn’t panic.” And with the emergence of senior Tarik Hislop (’13) and junior Kirby Burkholder (’14) as first-team All-CAA performers and lineup that included freshmen Precious Hall (’16), the CAA Rookie of the Year, and Jazmon Gwathmey (’16), a CAA All-Rookie Team player, the “reinvented” Dukes went 18-3 over the remainder of the regular season, posting 21 regular-season wins and finishing second in the CAA.

After a loss in the CAA tournament semifinals, Madison accepted its eighth straight postseason bid – to the Women’s National Invitation Tournament. JMU, which advanced to the WNIT final in 2012, was poised to make another run in 2013, dispatching North Carolina A&T, North Carolina State and Fordham before falling to Florida, 85-80, in a hotly contested “Elite Eight” game at the JMU Convocation Center.

Hislop finished her brilliant career with 1,847 points, third best in JMU history, and the Dukes ended the year with a record of 25-11. Next season, Newman will return to join the youthful core of the team. Brooks can hardly wait. “The sky’s the limit for next year’s team,” he says.
Professor of Art and Art History Aderonke Adesanya’s vision and JMU’s Innovative Diversity Efforts Award program came together in fall semester to provide real-world experience and a window into cultural diversity for students from varying academic programs.
The beauty in diversity

Students’ hands-on exhibit work offers window into cultural diversity

By Kelley Freund (’07)

Professor of Art and Art History Aderonke Adesanya was eager to give her students opportunities to explore the diverse traditions found in African dress and culture — she just needed the resources to bring her idea to life.

That’s where JMU’s Innovative Diversity Efforts Award program provided her both resources and a platform to give students hands-on learning opportunities in cultural diversity. JMU IDEA grants provide funds to students, professors and staff members who want to enrich the diversity of campus. Adesanya’s idea? To have her ARTH 491 Exhibition Seminar students assist her in creating the exhibition Dress and Identity in African Cultures. Adesanya applied for, and won, an IDEA grant. “This grant was the launch pad,” she says. “It was pivotal to what we did.”

The $4,000 grant may have been a launch pad, but the work was not done. More funding was needed. Adesanya sent proposals to the JMU Office of International Programs and the Center for Faculty Innovation. Various other units contributed, and enough money was eventually raised to fund the exhibit. Then it became a question of what resources were on hand for the project. Adesanya had to take into account what JMU had available and what needed to be brought in. She made numerous trips to request items from donors — not just the display pieces for the exhibit, but also essential items like mannequins. She traveled Washington, D.C., Austin, Texas, and Baltimore to obtain items from an African textiles collector and to request other relevant resources.

The subject of the class, and the exhibit, was very important to Adesanya. She wanted people to see firsthand how rich and diverse traditions of Africa are reflected in their dress forms. There are major regional differences in Africa’s dress traditions: dress is used as a reflection of religion, sexuality, gender and leadership as well as an index of transition. Students sought to determine what constitutes dress in Africa, how it embodies identity and the types of identities signified by African dress. Their task led to an integrated approach incorporating discussions, digital storytelling, writing assignments and creating the exhibition as the concluding event of the class.

“We surveyed the continent, taking samples from all four compass points,” says Adesanya. “We conducted class exercises and carried out research on some of the traditions. These culminated in essays featured in the exhibition catalog, a book of essays, Dress and Identity in African Culture.”

Staying true to the hands-on nature of the academic experience at JMU, Adesanya assigned roles for each aspect of the exhibition so students would have ownership of the project. Everyone became responsible for something. There was a floor manager, students in charge of publicity, even T-shirt designers.

“The art faculty has a tradition of allowing students to really engage, hands-on, in a project,” says Adesanya. Even people who weren’t enrolled in the class had the opportunity to make significant contributions. A graphic design student created the catalog for the exhibit. “We really used our own resources,” says Adesanya. “Many faculty members were involved and supportive, and I have such high regard for and gratitude to my colleagues.”

Relevant career preparation was one reward for the students. As they collaborated on the numerous components necessary to create such an exhibit, they received valuable gallery and museum experience. “This was such a good preparation,” says Adesanya. “It was hard work but at the end of the day, we all were smiling. We sweated, but then we smiled.”

But there was another reward — Adesanya feels the experience was very insightful for her students.

“They saw people (not only Africans) and identities as onions that you keep peeling to reveal yet another layer. Through their individual studies and group collaborations, students acquired new skills, and took great strides in increasing their awareness of and care for other cultures. They have also promoted the diversity culture of JMU. At JMU there is a growing effort to nurture diverse traditions and welcome students of different cultures. JMU has that spirit of multiculturalism.”

Photos by Mike Miriello (’09M)
Alison Stephen ('99)

exhibited a keen interest in — and a natural talent for — drawing at an early age, so her decision to major in biology at JMU came as a bit of a surprise to her family and friends.

“As an idealistic 17-year-old, I entered JMU as a pre-med biology major with the plan of doing something good for the world,” says Stephen, who also minored in art. “I dropped pre-med pretty quickly, but I still really enjoyed the biology classes, plant studies and research. I did some scientific illustration as well, so the combination of art and science seemed like a natural one.”

One of Stephen’s student projects involved cloning and sequencing the DNA of a flowering plant called Arabidopsis thaliana. Little did she know then how significant that student project would become in her and JMU’s future. Following graduation, Stephen pursued a career in art, and in 2004 she earned a master’s degree in fine arts from Savannah College of Art and Design.

When her former professor asked her to draw a three-story mural for JMU’s new bioscience building she was both flattered and unnerved. “I had never created a billboard-sized illustration before,” Stephen recalls.

JMU biology professor Jonathan Monroe immediately thought of Stephen when architects proposed a mural for the wall spanning three floors of the south end of the bioscience building. Stephen currently works in administration at the School of Visual Arts in New York City and also does freelance illustrations, mostly for magazine and newspapers.

The process of creating the mural took about six months, starting in December 2011. Once a decision was made to create a mural featuring the DNA from the Arabidopsis thaliana plant, the one Stephen

worked with as a student, a lot of work had to be done to get the DNA in a form she could use in the mural. Using a pair of computer programs, Monroe created a 3-D model of the strand.

“I needed to start with the 3-D model so the resulting illustration would very accurately depict the ‘topography,’ so to speak, of the molecule,” Stephen explains. She merged the model with a version she traced by hand “for the hand-drawn feel” and replaced the bold colors of the 3-D computer model with five earth-tone colors.

Following an early review, Monroe asked Stephen to draw some organisms around the DNA. “The department offers a lot more disciplines than molecular biology, and I knew Alison drew a lot of animals,” Monroe says.

Stephen said she drew the organisms — sea plants and animals for the first floor, land plants and animals for the second floor and flying creatures for the third floor — in a style resembling a naturalist’s notebook. She also used a program to create the drawings as vector images so they could be enlarged without losing their visual quality.

“Since I’d never worked on a project of this scale, the biggest challenge was adjusting the final illustration’s dimensions, colors and specifications so it would come out right at the printing vendor. That was a very stressful night. I sent it in and held my breath,” Stephen says.

A Harrisonburg sign company printed the mural, which was installed in June 2012. Thanks to the building’s front window structure, the entire mural can be seen from outside the building. Stephen says, “I feel like my life has come full circle, and my disparate interests and experiences have finally combined in just the right project,” she says.


N.Y.C. artist Alison Stephen ('99), a biology major and art minor, created a mural for the bioscience building with the help of her former biology professor Jonathan Monroe. (Read more on Page 50.)
For Philadelphia Inquirer reporter Jeff Gammage (‘82), everything has changed and nothing has changed during a 30-year career in journalism that has witnessed the rise of cable television news, the Internet, social media and blogs.

“Technology has changed everything. It may put newspapers out of business or we may evolve into something else, but a good story is a good story. The building blocks are the same. Whether it’s print or online, content is still king and the best story gets read,” says Gammage, the 2012 recipient of JMU’s Ronald E. Carrier Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. Gammage returned to campus in October to speak to School of Media Arts and Design students about the state of journalism.

Gammage knows a thing or two about good stories. Among his many professional accolades, he was part of a team of reporters that won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for its seven-part series on the culture of violence in Philadelphia public schools.

For his part in the Inquirer’s yearlong investigation, “Assault on Learning,” Gammage was embedded at South Philadelphia High School, an institution rife with racial tensions that came to a head in 2009 when a group of Asian-American students was brutally attacked near campus. In the wake of the incident and a subsequent change in leadership, the school was willing to risk having a newspaper reporter walk the halls, and Gammage’s editors saw value in releasing him for the long-term assignment. “I knew this was going to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Gammage immersed himself in the experience, attending school functions and getting to know administrators, teachers and students. The biggest hurdle, he says, was earning trust. “This was a failing school, a violent place. On any given day, some disaster could occur right in front of me that was going to give the school district a black eye. A lot of people were nervous just to have me around, but the more I was there the more I just became a part of the furniture.”

Newsrooms at large metropolitan newspapers can be full of egos, but Gammage has always been comfortable working on a team. “I don’t know if people who can work collaboratively tend to choose JMU, or if JMU turns out people who can work collaboratively,” he says. “Either way, when I graduated I was comfortable working in a group to accomplish a singular goal. On the Pulitzer project, we depended on each other for different things at different times — not least the ability to turn to a trusted colleague for ideas, guidance or a sympathetic ear to listen and offer feedback.”

The winning series is proof, Gammage says, that enterprise journalism is still relevant in an age of text messages and tweets. “So much happened after that series came out. Everybody in the Philadelphia schools was focused on safety. There were concrete changes that were made, not only safety measures but also the culture and the mindset. Children there are safer today. That’s important to me. That’s why we, as journalists, got into this business.”

‘I don’t know if people who can work collaboratively tend to choose JMU, or if JMU turns out people who can work collaboratively.’

— JEFF GAMMAGE (‘82), Philadelphia Inquirer reporter
How far is it from Earth to galaxies in the outer reaches of the universe? And how much does a supermassive black hole weigh? Scientists are on the verge of unlocking answers to two of astronomy's biggest questions and a JMU physics professor is right in the middle of the discoveries.

Anca Constantin, professor of physics and astronomy, received a $10,000 grant from the Jeffress Memorial Trust to continue working on her part of the project — finding water megamasers suitable for measuring distances from Earth to the galaxies they reside in and for measuring the mass of their galaxy's supermassive black hole.

“For the whole history of astronomy, we wanted to get estimates of these,” says Constantin, who has received several other grants for the research. “We do have some other methods for weighing supermassive black holes, but this method gives us the most accurate estimate on how massive they are,” adds Constantin, who also is part of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory’s Megamaser Cosmology Project.

As for measuring distances to galaxies in the outer reaches of the universe, certain megamasers — those located near the supermassive black hole in the center of their galaxies and whose water molecules produce the emissions — provide the most accurate distances ever. “We know many things about how the universe looks geometrically, but it’s not going to be as accurate as the distance given by megamaser information,” she says. “It’s a direct method.”

An astrophysical maser is similar to a laser, which stands for
‘We know many things about how the universe looks geometrically, but it’s not going to be as accurate as the distance given by megamaser information.’

— ANCA CONSTANTIN, professor of physics and astronomy

Light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation. The difference is that maser emissions are typically in the microwave portion of the electromagnetic spectrum while laser emissions are in the visible light portion of the spectrum. James Braatz, who leads the Megamaser Cosmology Project, described masers as the radio-frequency equivalent of lasers.

Because megamaser emissions are not visible to optical telescopes, they are observed through radio telescopes such as the Green Bank Telescope, the world’s largest fully steerable radio telescope, located two hours west of Harrisonburg in Green Bank, W.Va. Finding the right kind of megamaser to make the measurements is a challenge, especially since there are hundreds of billions of galaxies in the universe. That’s where Constantin comes in, with her research identifying properties of galaxies that host megamasers.

“There seems to be a Goldilocks region for a bunch of properties, like the rate of accretion of matter onto that super massive black hole has to be in a certain narrow range, the density of the material in the nuclear region needs to be in a certain narrow range, the galaxy can’t be too big or too small, the star population can’t be too old or too young,” she explains.

Emil Christensen (‘14), a junior physics major, is assisting Constantin with her research. “We try to find out what makes them tick, why they are there,” he says. Christensen also is assisting Constantin on a research paper about their findings.

Water megamasers that are formed in disk-like configurations are like “holy grails of astronomy,” Constantin says. “If it’s in a disk, we can actually map the rotation of the disk. It’s actually a very simple mathematical model that any planet would follow in its orbit around its sun,” she explains. “So you fix mathematically those positions and velocities of those masers and you can obtain the most accurate measurements of how massive the thing in the middle is, and that is the mass of the supermassive black hole.” And if the disk is face-on, simple geometry can be used to measure the distance to the galaxy, she says.

Megamasers — discovered about 50 years ago — are relatively new to astronomers, and water megamaser disks have been rare finds. So far, only about eight megamaser disks with the right properties for making the measurements have been discovered. More are needed to improve the accuracy of the results so knowing where to look is vitally important. “We just don’t have the time and the money to point these radio dishes toward all of these galaxies,” Constantin says. “We’re just never going to find them. We need to be more efficient in our search.”

The way to do that, she adds, is by comparing the properties of the galaxies where they have been found to the properties of galaxies known to contain maser emissions. So far, there are about 150 galaxies with detected maser emissions and about 40 of those show promise for having the right properties. “It’s not easy,” Constantin says, explaining that researchers have to mine the data captured by the telescopes to find what they’re looking for. “It’s a lot of work, but it’s amazing when you find something.”

“It’s very incremental,” Christensen says of his search through various databases and literature. “We learn a little bit of the puzzle, a very little bit. But it is important. And if somehow we get something that really can narrow it down, we find a lot of them, then statistically, a certain fraction of them are going to be useful.”

“So, what is the relationship between the galaxy and the black hole in the center? It’s like a chicken or the egg question, what came first, the black hole or the galaxy?” Constantin says. “There are some hints that they co-evolved.”

For every question she answers, at least one more arises, and that’s one of the reasons Constantin, a native of Romania, is passionate about being an astrophysicist. “Every time we get an answer, there are at least a few new doors that we need to open, new questions to ask, new research projects to tackle.”

* More at www.jmu.edu/madisonscholar
Why Madison?

Because dreams should be big

President Jonathan R. Alger predicts JMU can be the ‘best answer for higher education’ — the national model of an Engaged University that works to improve society.

The perfect storm. Converging flightpaths. The sweet spot on the strings. That space in the Venn diagram where critical interests overlap.

When the JMU Board of Visitors announced Rutgers University Senior Vice President and General Counsel Jonathan R. Alger as JMU’s new president in November 2011, two compelling forces converged. Alger arrived espousing an intriguing idea he called the “Engaged University.”

Those words — and his tone and message since — have caught the attention of many in the JMU community as foreshadowing a future already uncannily familiar.

As JMU College of Education Dean Phil Wishon interprets, “President Alger’s tone and message have been unwavering: There is important work to be done — work that must be done — to address those challenges that most vex our communities, our nation and societies the world over.”
JMU — which had already been making a name for itself as an entrepreneurial institution on a catapult of growth and successful innovation — was deeply engaged on many levels: A world-class faculty that stresses teaching and mentoring students, a curriculum that not only provides a well-rounded liberal arts foundation, but also emphasizes hands-on learning experiences that give a JMU education real-world relevance. An educational community that stresses teamwork, collaboration and strategic partnerships with business, industry and the community. An ethos of public service that ranks JMU among the 8 percent of American colleges and universities designated by the Carnegie Foundation as a Community Engaged Institution. Alger was impressed. As he says, “Many universities talk about public service. JMU does it.”

Alger’s vision of the Engaged University, meanwhile, is born of a personal philosophy and professional career that has taken him on a journey through the full array of higher education institution types. After graduating — as a member of Phi Beta Kappa — from Swarthmore, a reputed liberal arts college, he went on to earn his juris doctor from Harvard Law School.

As attorney-adviser for the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, he was the point person on developing and implementing national policies involving race-conscious financial aid, racial harassment and free expression.

As assistant general counsel of the University of Michigan, Alger played a key leadership role in the university’s efforts in two landmark Supreme Court cases on diversity and admissions and coordinated one of the largest amicus brief coalitions in Supreme Court history. He has since advised universities nationwide on how to build and sustain diversity initiatives and programs. (Learn more on Page 36).

On his journey from small liberal arts college, to Ivy, to Research-1 university to JMU, Alger acquired a keen grasp of the strengths and challenges of the higher education landscape. He saw for himself the real and imagined perceptions of ivory towers and research agendas. He dealt daily with the economic, political, sociological and technological forces with which higher education must contend. And he made a name for himself.

“Your president begins his tenure with a strong national presence,” says Kathleen Curry Santora, a former Alger colleague and chief executive officer of the National Association of College and University Attorneys, who spoke at Alger’s March 15 inauguration ceremony. “Leaders from all over the country stand ready to provide whatever he needs to successfully lead this great university.”

So when Alger’s risen star encountered JMU’s lightning trajectory, it was decidedly not coincidence. Deliberate, thoughtful and a self-proclaimed perfectionist, Alger recognized JMU as the place his vision of a university that is engaged with ideas and with the world could become a national model and improve society. He’s betting JMU can become the best answer for higher education today.

In today’s political atmosphere, when costs are high, budgets small and critics loud, this leading scholar of higher education policy and champion of diversity has seized on JMU’s historical refusal to be neatly summed up in conventional higher education terms. As Alger says, “JMU has some aspects of a small liberal arts college and characteristics of a research-intensive university. And yet it is neither.” And, he adds, “there is no law that says we have to emulate one or the other. In fact, that would be a mistake. I want us to set our own course and become the best JMU we can be.”

Setting that course began with the “Why Madison?” Presidential Listening Tour.

“I suppose I could have written a strategic plan on the back of a napkin and been done very quickly,” Alger says. “But this is a community where we want everybody to feel valued and be part of the process, because, after all, it’s about our collective hopes and dreams. That’s very important to me as we conduct our strategic planning and think about the future.”

By the time of his March 15 inauguration, Alger had held almost 50 listening tours and sessions on campus and around the country. As Art Dean, special assistant to the president, says, Alger acquired a reputation for “being able to be everywhere at once” — stepping off a plane from Tampa, for instance, and appearing none the worse for wear at a diversity council meeting on campus that afternoon. Throughout, Alger has withstood New Jersey jokes in good humor and even offered a few of his own.

People are impressed. “Participating in the listening tours, one senses that President Alger speaks forthrightly,” Wishon says, “that he is genuine. When all is distilled, that is what seems to be most recognizable and most reassuring: President Alger’s genuineness.”

And word is spreading. As Alger’s colleague Santora reported hearing at a national conference: The new president of JMU was on a listening tour — and he was actually listening!

Here’s what Alger has been hearing: Students, professors, alumni, parents and friends consistently testify that JMU’s hallmark welcoming community and “door-opening” and “say ‘yes’” culture constitute two of Madison’s greatest strengths and must be preserved.

So, too, must Madison’s signature focus on student success and

‘This is a community where we want everybody to feel valued and be part of the process, because, after all, it’s about our collective hopes and dreams.’

JONATHAN R. ALGER, president, James Madison University

‘Your president begins his tenure with a strong national presence,’ says Kathleen Curry Santora, former Alger colleague and chief executive officer of the National Association of College and University Attorneys.
‘We are heartened because we understand that Jon Alger exhorts not for the sake of ambition, but out of a genuine concern for the human condition and for the environment that sustains us all.’

PHIL WISHON, dean, JMU College of Education

the educational dynamic between a world-class faculty and students. “That’s a rare and important thing, but it’s also a fragile thing, and needs to be nurtured,” says 2012 Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jeff Gammage (’82).

Another critical element that has come through loud and clear on the “Why Madison?” Presidential Listening Tour is JMU’s passion for public service and civic engagement. Junior psychology major Krysten Yee (’14) calls the university’s Office of Community Service-Learning her home base. “The people I work with have inspired and pushed me into leadership positions I never would have thought I was capable of pursuing when I first entered JMU,” she says.

The tour has also highlighted areas where JMU can improve — like increasing resources and expanding diversity. “I appreciate it when people offer suggestions and solutions for how we can get there,” Alger says. “Together I think there’s nothing that we can’t overcome.”

Alger’s answer to building on JMU’s strengths and tackling its challenges is to “dream big.” (Read the President’s Journal at www.jmu.edu/whymadison to learn what else the president heard on the listening tour).

“Listeners are heartened when President Alger implores us to ‘think big,’” Wishon says. “We are heartened because we understand that he exhorts not for the sake of ambition, but out of a genuine concern for the human condition and for the environment that sustains us all.”

Alger has consistently backed his idealistic words with an attorney’s sense of realism.

On the listening tour, he has been calling on alumni to volunteer and engage directly with students and young alumni — in the classroom, in career advising, resume review, offering internships, welcoming young alumni to their communities, and more. And he has called on the campus community to provide those opportunities and to make connecting easier.

Alger has not shrunk from counting on alumni to step in and back up those big dreams with dollars. He has been pressing the need for JMU’s 110,000 alumni — who report a 97 percent satisfaction rate with their Madison Experience — to improve their 7 percent giving rate. The disparity between those two percentages has shocked many alumni, who say they are more motivated than ever to give and to persuade others to give.

Jonathan R. Alger has a wealth of experience working with faculty members. As former counsel for the American Association of University Professors, Alger worked with faculty from around the country in developing and advising institutions on policies, procedures and cases on issues such as academic freedom, shared governance, tenure and discrimination.

“One point Jon has made clear,” says University Advancement Vice President Nick Langridge (’00, ’07M), “is the great emphasis he places on philanthropy and the increasing importance and value it serves in the life of a university. He has been generous with his time and energy toward that pursuit, and I believe you will find him to be a real champion and visionary for the ways in which giving can continue to touch lives while enhancing and transforming JMU.”

Alger has now called on the JMU community to help set the precise contours of the national model of the Engaged University. The Madison Future Commission, a committee of 160, is at work deliberating on the listening tour input and working to chart JMU’s future. (See Page 16).

Quite certainly, the national model will stress a renewed awareness of the relevance of James Madison, the Father of the U.S. Constitution, in our civic life. Alger has already announced his intention to elevate JMU’s decades-long relationship with Montpelier, Madison’s home, to a higher level. Also, ethics will play a pervasive role across the curriculum, as JMU implements the Madison Collaborative: Ethical Reasoning in Action.

“If we work together, there is nothing we can’t accomplish,” Alger says.

“One behalf of what greater cause than improving the human condition would a proud and forward-looking university be engaged?” asks Wishon. “Now that’s thinking big. New leadership, a new vision, new opportunities; excitement abounds, and a new era beckons.”

That’s why Madison.
Welcome to James Madison University!

Alumni, students, parents, and faculty and staff members wish President Alger success in leading JMU to a bold new future

‘Congratulations, Starting August we will have two children at JMU. My wife and I are very excited about their future with you and JMU!’
— EARNEST GORHAM (‘83)

‘Congratulations, sir, on becoming the sixth president of the best university in the state. I am a proud graduate of the JMU Class of 1987 and an even prouder mom of a future graduate of 2016. We know that you will guide JMU with wisdom and with an eye always toward what is best for your students. Blessings to you and your family as you officially embark on this new journey!’
— TERRI HOBSON (‘87, ’16P)

President Alger, I want to wish you the very best and thank you for what you have already done for our university. I am a graduate of JMU, having arrived in the very first year of JMU vs. Madison College, and am a proud parent of a current student in the Class of 2014. I intend to encourage my fellow alumni to contribute to the school that helped to define our lives. Congratulations!
— KAYE DARONE (‘80, ’14P)

‘Good luck! All the best for you and your family! We are from Argentina, and our daughter, Vanina Julieta Waingortin (‘16), is a JMU student. She is very happy to be a Duke!’
— NOEMI KARINA MERLEN LENDER AND ARIEL DAMIAN WAINGORTIN (‘16P)

‘I am on the JMU Alumni Board of Directors and was unfortunately unable to attend in person, but I am watching the live streaming of the inauguration ceremony. It has already been a pleasure to work with you and meet your lovely family. I am truly excited for the next chapter in JMU’s history. Go Dukes!’
— BRIDGETTE WALSH (‘01)

‘I want to welcome you and your family to the JMU family. It is a very special place and I wish you the best. I am sure you have the full faith and support of all my fellow students. I know you have mine, and we are anxious to see what this university can become under your leadership.’
— RICHARD DEAN (‘14)

‘Best wishes during your presidency of our proud university. My wife and I are alumni of James Madison and are very pleased that you have taken the time to listen to the students, former students, and faculty leading up to your...’

✱ Read all the well wishes for President Jonathan R. Alger and leave your own special note at www.jmu.edu/inauguration/yourcomments.shtml

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE MI RELLO (‘09M)

https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/madisonmagazine/vol36/iss2/1
inauguration. We hope to see continued stability but also growth at James Madison University under your leadership.’
— JONATHAN KIM (’04)

‘Thank you for coming to James Madison University and for taking the time to listen to us. We are extremely blessed to have you as our leader. Best wishes.’
— DEBORAH GORDON, JMU Facilities Planning and Construction capital outlay accountant

‘I am looking forward to congratulating you in person as a delegate at your inauguration. I will proudly represent Towson University, where I earned my M.A. in 1994 after earning my undergraduate degree at JMU’
— TERESA HARDIN (’89)

‘Welcome and congratulations! After graduating in 1983 with an accounting degree, I continue to return for football games and special events. Even though the numbers have increased, the campus is still beautiful and the people are friendly. I feel that JMU has always made students feel that they are special and not just a number. That is what sets JMU apart. I wish you much success and happiness as you become the leader of our great university!’
— LINDA VARLEN SMITH (’83)

‘I want to congratulate you and thank you for taking on this respectable and honorable position. You truly are making a difference in and around James Madison University as well as the surrounding Harrisonburg community. I hope you take the opportunity to get to know the students on this campus because you are affecting them in so many ways. Please continue to work hard and stay dedicated to this incredible university. Thank you and congratulations.’
— KAYLA KNOX (’16)

‘While I will not be able to be in Harrisonburg on your inauguration day, I do wish you the very best as our new president. We look forward to many amazing years with you at JMU.’
— BARBARA SHAFER OHMSEN (’55), Class Agent

‘Congratulations! I applaud your bold vision for engagement and citizenship. No better place than Madison’s namesake to renew our historic commitment to civic engagement. Our nation needs JMU to train students for constructive exchanges of ideas, peaceful cooperation among a diverse citizenry with myriad perspectives on hard-to-solve problems.’
— DREW STELLJES (’97M, ’99PH.D.)

‘My JMU school ring states ‘Knowledge is Liberty.’ I still look at that ring from time to time and think to myself, we got that right. Big ideas, big dreams and a can-do attitude is what made us the great country we are today. I look forward to doing my part to help you continue JMU’s mark on our nation’s future.’
— JOHN CASLER (’85)

‘Thank you for new vision of JMU! I attended the “Why Madison? Presidential Listening Tour” event in Charlottesville, and I understand the challenge you have for fundraising/development at JMU. Turn-
In 1908 slightly over 42 acres of farmland fronted Harrisonburg’s South Main Street. The land was marked by a gradual rise that crested on an east hill. Observers noted that a school built on the site would be in full view of the surrounding area, its turnpike and railroads. It was the spot chosen to build the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Harrisonburg — a school that, a century later, would be known as James Madison University, one of the top universities in the country.

How do you go from an open field to an institution with award-winning programs, professors and students? This would not have been possible without the men appointed to lead — each possessed of his own unique blend of traits that proved to be the right thing at the right time. And common to all were the gifts of purpose, imagination, drive and vision.

It was his visionary skill that Julian Burruss put to immediate use when he was appointed president of an institution yet to be built. Frequently urging that “the school should be planned for the future as well as for the present,” Burruss worked in tandem with architect Charles Robinson. The blueprint for the new institution was in fact a detailed plan for the future. The phrase “the next 25 years,” was in frequent use in 1908 when Burruss began his tenure as president of the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Harrisonburg. His vision was not just for the stone and mortar of the new school. Burruss was consumed with purpose for the school’s students, for what their education would mean. The school should “teach its students to do as well as to think.” The value of the students’ knowledge would be found in application in real life. Burruss had begun with the unknown, the undeveloped and untried; when he left office in 1919 the school was an institution respected throughout the state with a 49-acre campus.

Samuel Duke, the school’s second president, applied his enthusiasm to fulfill his own vision — continued growth. Particularly adept at bringing hopes to reality, he employed a creative gift for fundraising so expertly as he addressed the capital needs of the school that he earned two monikers — “builder” and “financial wizard.” His tenure, 1919–1949, saw world war and the Great Depression, yet Duke stayed focused on meeting the needs of students and faculty. The results were undeniable. During his presidency, as nine major campus buildings were constructed, enrollment quadrupled. By the end of his tenure, the institution had gone from normal school to teachers college to Madison College. It was a name Duke had argued for, pointing out that no other college honored President James Madison, an early champion of higher education.

In 1949, G. Tyler Miller brought Madison College the right vision at the
When Normal School President Julian Burrus left office in 1919 the Normal School had six buildings, 49 acres and room for future growth, as depicted in this architectural drawing by Charles Robinson.
Why diversity?

In higher education, diversity and excellence go hand in hand  

BY MARTHA BELL GRAHAM

When Jonathan R. Alger came to James Madison University, he brought — along with many notable abilities and aptitudes — a reputation as an eloquent and effective advocate for diversity in higher education. In its Jan. 1, 2012, edition, the Chronicle of Higher Education noted, “On the whole, Mr. Alger is one of the most recognizable figures in higher-education law,” citing, among other things, his work for diversity in higher education.

While he was assistant general counsel at the University of Michigan, Alger played a significant role in preparing the university’s case defending a challenge to Michigan’s implementation of the landmark Supreme Court case, Regents of the University of California vs. Bakke, in which the court affirmed a university’s right to use race as one factor in establishing a diverse student body. Eventually, the court affirmed Michigan’s right to compose its student body in a way that most effectively supported its educational mission.

It was a significant victory for higher education.

Alger’s understanding of the legal issues — vast as it is — pales in comparison to his ability to thoughtfully and persuasively articulate the case for diversity in higher education, which is about far more than race, a point, which Alger explained in an Oct. 22, 2008, interview with the Rutgers University publication, Focus, News for and about the Rutgers faculty, students and staff:

“When we talk about diversity in the educational context, what we’re talking about is not diversity for the sake of diversity, but diversity as a means to an end. And that greater end is educational benefits. Diversity is not just about race, but also — among other things — about gender, socioeconomic background, geography, special abilities, different life experience and disabilities.”

Alger reinforced that point in an interview for the Winter 2013 Madison magazine. “Throughout my career, I have been very dedicated to the proposition that diversity and excellence go hand in hand in higher education,” he said. “The two concepts are not competing with each other, but they are mutually reinforcing. So when I think about diversity, I think about the fact that students and faculty learn from each other, that they bring different attributes and skills and talents and perspectives to the table.”

A significant factor in any discussion of diversity at James Madison University is how well diversity aligns with and validates the university’s core mission to educate enlightened citizens. Preparing students to enter a world that has become increasingly interconnected is an important task. Alger went on to say: “We want to produce graduates who are prepared for that world of global competition, who are comfortable working in different environments and different contexts with people from different backgrounds. I think we do our students a great service if we can increase the diversity all around them on campus so that once they go off campus and graduate, they will be prepared for that world.”

That kind of preparation, Alger has written, has ramifications far broader than the success of individual students, significant as that is alone. In a 1997 article for the American Association of University Professors bulletin Academe, (Vol. 83, No. 1, “The Educational Value of Diversity,”) Alger wrote: “In the post-Cold War world, racial and ethnic tensions have emerged as the greatest single threat to societies all over the globe — ranging from the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia to South Africa, Rwanda, and even Canada. Face–to–face interaction in the higher education context can play a key role in developing genuine interracial understanding and tolerance to overcome such tensions.”

Diversity, in the final analysis, is about constantly creating and honing the best opportunities for students’ futures and the excellence that engenders. “Once in college together,” Alger wrote in 1997, “… students of different races may discover that their political beliefs or extracurricular interests provide as much or more common ground as does race. No textbook or computer can substitute for the direct personal interaction that leads to this type of self-discovery and growth.”

JMU’s mission to educate enlightened citizens clearly demands a student body that is, as Alger has termed, a microcosm of the world. Seeking diversity looks beyond the easy or the obvious or the status quo to discover what is best for this university and these students in these times and for this future.

President Jon Alger brings to that task a balanced, forward-thinking and deeply reasoned approach that will propel JMU forward as the university continues to prepare students to be citizens of the world.

‘When we talk about diversity in the educational context, what we’re talking about is not diversity for the sake of diversity, but diversity as a means to an end. And that greater end is educational benefits.’

JONATHAN R. ALGER, president, James Madison University
Why Alger?
I am confident in President Alger’s integrity and his vision for JMU
BY ROSEMARY GIRARD ('15)

As the Convo filled with guests, I sat in my seat awaiting the inauguration of JMU’s sixth president. It was the same place I had sat as a rather lost freshman during 1787 Orientation two years ago, and it was the same place I performed the annual “FROG dance” for new freshmen last year. Both of those events were full of hope and promise. Ushering in the new incoming class is a substantial thing. As I looked around the Convo on March 15, I felt an overwhelming sense of exception. I was in the company of Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell, former JMU Presidents Ronald E. Carner and Linda H. Rose, my professors, my peers, alumni and JMU legends.

I flashed back to my freshman year when Mr. Alger was selected as JMU’s president, and to this past summer as I read articles about him. The more I read, the more excited I became for his vision for JMU. I felt that he had already captured the spirit of being a JMU Duke. One of the first photos I saw of President Alger was a snapshot of him doing the “J-M-U Dukes” cheer at Summer Springboard. His credentials are, of course, outstanding — but to connect so quickly with an entire community also takes a warm and inviting spirit.

As a double major in writing, rhetoric and technical communication, and communication studies, I have gained a particular interest in speechwriting. After toying with the idea of working with President Alger’s staff on his written works, I completed an internship before I contacted the Office of the President. I considered my inquiry to be a shot in the dark. I sincerely thought that whoever was in charge of assisting the president with his speeches would be far too busy to respond. A few weeks after my inquiry, I received an email from President Alger’s administrative assistant that read: “Mr. Alger does not have a speechwriter, ... However, he would like to meet with you.”

President Alger would be taking time out of his jam-packed schedule to meet with me? I had to re-read the email! Responding to a young volunteer is a true testament to President Alger’s desire to get to know students. During our meeting he asked me quite a bit about myself, where I grew up, my JMU activities and my academic interests. He shared some information about himself, and then we discussed what work I could do for him.

In January I began to attend meetings with President Alger and staff members who were in charge of researching and writing his inauguration speech. I was in awe of President Alger’s intelligence. Yet his humility was equally notable.

I was excited to use my experience to research potential anecdotes for the inaugural address, and I copiededited early drafts. I also edited and condensed first drafts of various articles that are published on the president’s webpage including reflections from the “Why Madison?” Presidential Listening Tour and President Alger’s remarks from the 2012–13 opening staff meeting.

I have been inspired by President Alger’s vision for JMU’s future. He wants JMU to serve as a national model of the “Engaged University” that is not only engaged in ideas, but engaged in the world. He wants to take JMU’s academics further on the national stage, yet he wants to maintain the student and professor relationships that students so highly value, and cling tightly to JMU professors’ love of teaching.

I am confident in President Alger’s brilliance, his integrity and his vision. He spent countless hours on a listening tour hearing the answers to “Why Madison?” Now the JMU community has captured, “Why Alger?” The spirit of Madison and the leadership of President Alger are two complementary facets of our future.

Presidential Listening Tour at the Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Va. My answer to “Why Madison” is simple: “Why Not?” My daughter, Megan (’10), and I look forward to being on campus March 15 for the inauguration. My very best wishes to you.’
— KAREN WOOD GRIZZARD (’76)

‘As a graduate with a master’s in counseling education, I have been able to send students to James Madison with the conviction that they will benefit as I did from attending a large and active university with a unique flavor of down home concern. May you have the vision, courage, integrity and stamina to continue the journey of excellence established by your predecessors.’
— C. L. ANDERSON (’60)

‘Welcome to our JMU family! I feel that everyone at JMU will flourish under your leadership. I am excited for the years ahead as you “Make Your Mark on Madison.” Enjoy your special day. Go Dukes!’
— TRUDY HARRISON HAM, JMU Office of the Registrar, Virginia program coordinator
Mary Ann Alger’s eyes light up when she talks with students, professors and community entrepreneurs who are thrilled to tell their startup story to an eager listener.

At a Friday Fusion event, 12 JMU students gather to explore their own business ideas and to meet JMU’s new first lady. Friday Fusion events invite collaboration among student innovators, inventors and entrepreneurs. For two hours, conversations spark from one aspiring entrepreneur to another, “What is your idea?” “How do you make money?” Together, they share their successes and failures. Alger helps the students discover options for growing markets and inexpensive resources. The animated entrepreneurs depart, exchanging contact information and planning next steps to help realize their dreams.

At the 2012 College of Business Venture Creation Business Plan Competition more than 75 sharply dressed students, professors and alumni gather in the Montpelier Room of East Campus Dining Hall. Animated voices fill the banquet room as alumni greet old friends, student teams huddle with their mentors in final preparation and newcomers are introduced to others who love the thrill of entrepreneurship. A buzz of excitement stirs the crowd each time a local celebrity enters — former JMU presidents Linwood Rose and Ronald Carrier and then Mary Ann Alger. College deans, faculty members, and students’ families and friends greet Alger and the former presidents and then sit with their favorite student teams.

Joining local entrepreneur Keith May and attorney Michael Drzal, Mary Ann Alger takes her seat at the judges’ table. She is in her element.

Alger graciously shares her expertise in business, her eye for opportunity and her passion for people. “I am very interested in helping all students become productive citizens after graduation and helping them experience the best of what JMU has to offer while they are here,” she says.

And she is proving it. Alger is meeting student entrepreneurs in their classrooms, exploring business strategies with professors and engaging alumni who are investing their time, money and talents in JMU. Andrew Mortillo (‘14), a junior psychology major, created the publication, Life Lessons from JMU Professors, featuring advice from JMU faculty members. His magazine shares JMU stories through the experiences of several JMU professors. “Mrs. Alger gave me a better sense of direction and brought up issues that I had not thought of,” says Mortillo.

Alger’s advice emanates from experience. She brings a wealth of business experience and entrepreneurial passion to the Madison community. After earning a B.S. degree in international business and Spanish from Auburn University, she launched a professional career in international and corporate banking. A Florida native, she pursued her love for business and earned an M.B.A. in international finance from the University of Miami. Fluent in Spanish, she worked in international banking and then spent several years as a consultant performing business valuations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Alger then moved into the venture capital space and made investments in the renewable energy/energy efficiency sectors in Mexico and South America. When her family moved from the Washington, D.C., area to Ann Arbor, Mich., she naturally gravitated toward teaching at the University of Michigan business school and consulting for early-stage, technology-based companies. Alger is a founding board member of the Great Lakes Entrepreneurs Quest, an annual statewide business plan competition and entrepreneurial training network. She also served as an adviser to the Wolverine Venture Fund, a $6-million student-run investment fund at the University of Michigan business school.

Since arriving on campus, Alger has been eager to listen, learn and contribute. “JMU is a wonderful and high-spirited place with much to offer,” she says. “I have been particularly captivated by the quality of students, faculty and staff. There are many smart and hard-working people here who are pursuing excellence every day. They inspire others to that work ethic. Moreover, I am impressed by “Working with students and professors, Mary Ann Alger brings warmth and grace in her role as first lady,” says business professor Carol Hamilton.
The quantity and quality of daily activities on campus. Many days I have to pick and choose from among several options. I often chuckle that I have been busy all day with meetings and events, but have put only five miles on my car!"

Mary Lou Bourne, director of the JMU Office of Technology Transfer, welcomed Alger to campus by inviting her to lunch. To their delight the pair discovered a common interest — entrepreneurship. Conversations led to growing connections that formed a business network of people and knowledge in the startup space. Technology transfer staff assist in moving JMU innovations and intellectual property to commercialization. Alger’s previous banking and investment experience filled a missing link for this network.

Bourne then reached out to me, as director of the College of Business Center for Entrepreneurship, and Joyce Krech, director of the Shenandoah Valley Small Business Development Center, to join in planning the network. We recognized the synergies of a JMU professional network to promote innovation, business development, job creation, entrepreneurship and career mentoring. The Madison Business Network emerged. More than 60 JMU faculty and staff members attended the 2013 Madison Business Network Kickoff event.

Serial entrepreneur John Rothenberger (‘88) also recognizes Alger’s successful track record in business development and higher education. He asked her to join the JMU Center for Entrepreneurship Advisory Board. “I am happy to welcome Mary Ann to our team,” he says. “She is passionate about entrepreneurship and has chosen this as one of her main initiatives to support.” The goal of these eight successful entrepreneurs/ alumni is to lead the Commonwealth of Virginia with excellence in undergraduate entrepreneurship education.

Nick Langridge (‘00, ‘07M), vice president of advancement for JMU, has seen Alger’s passion for relationship building firsthand. “Mary Ann is a systems-builder with a strategic view,” says Langridge. “She has demonstrated a clear interest in actively engaging with constituents on and off campus. Such engagement is key to stimulating growth in our volunteer ranks and ultimately leads to investment in JMU’s future.”

Alger’s engagement within the Madison campus extends to the local business community as well. “We have been warmly welcomed, and it has been easy to get involved and to make friends,” she says. “I have been impressed by the widespread civic pride and efforts to continue building the community.”

She serves on the Advisory Council of the Shenandoah Valley Small Business Development Center, which supports business development in a seven-county area. “Mary Ann is a welcome addition to our team,” says Krech, SVSBDC director. “She played the role of investor in a recent client meeting, and her observations and questions helped the owner re-imagine the potential and direction for the business. She is an important member of our business community in the valley.”

JMU President Jon Alger shares her commitment to the local area and economy. The couple participated in the first Harrisonburg Startup Weekend, April 5–7. Mary Ann Alger’s tireless efforts in campus and local initiatives are infusing renewed energy into entrepreneurship, innovation and business development — vitalizing partnerships of education, business and government.

Her professional and personal pursuits clearly show that Alger relishes a challenge and likes to see results. An avid sports fan, Alger already bleeds purple, and she and her family are seen regularly at numerous athletics events cheering on the Dukes. In her spare time, she enjoys a brisk walk or a game of tennis. Alger also loves music — an integral part of the Alger family. A gifted pianist, she has accompanied choirs, vocalists and instrumentalists since she was a teenager. She, Jon and their daughter, Eleanor, enjoy singing, and the family regularly attends Eleanor’s choral and musical theater performances.

“I am very interested in helping all students become productive citizens after graduation and helping them experience the best of what JMU has to offer.”

— MARY ANN ALGER, JMU first lady

“We are very happy with the public schools and the array of quality course offerings and high-impact teachers,” says Alger. She volunteers at her daughter’s school and is a member of the advisory board for the Shenandoah Valley Children’s Choir, a nationally acclaimed program based at Eastern Mennonite University.

As Alger settles into her role as first lady of the JMU community, she is focused on nurturing relationships. “As a volunteer, I don’t have a job description, so thankfully I can create a role for myself that advances the university’s goals. Relationship building is a priority among students, alumni and other JMU friends and organizations, which serve and interact with JMU. I will continue to devote many hours to outreach and cultivating relationships that will benefit the university.”

The Algers enjoy working together as a team to align their professional interests and gifts with a single vision. “Jon and I have always supported each other’s careers, but I must say that this is the first time we have been in the same workplace, and I love it,” she says. “We are in the same boat and rowing in the same direction. We are both working to advance James Madison University and to nurture internal and external relationships. Our daughter enjoys being part of the team as well.”

“Jon and Mary Ann seem like the perfect power couple for JMU,” says Paul Holland (‘82), who hosted the Portola Valley, Calif., event of the “Why Madison?” Presidential Listening Tour. Holland is a general partner with Foundation Capital, one of the leading venture capital firms in the United States. “Jon’s background in school administration and Mary Ann’s experience with entrepreneurship is a terrific fit,” Holland says. “They are a perfect combination for JMU coming into the 21st century as we attempt to build a student body that is both strong in traditional skills and strong in skills needed for today’s entrepreneur.”

Students are already buzzing about the next Friday Fusion event to be hosted by Alger. She has invited students to meet at the president’s home. “Really? The President’s home?” students inquire. Their eyes widen and they quickly key the date into their iPhones. It is a new world, in more ways than one.
seven years ago when I was a sophomore at JMU, I was challenged with the profound question, “Does your religion claim to be the one true path?” I was dumbfounded. This was part of a classroom experience in interfaith dialogue, and I was on a panel tasked with representing the philosophical tenets of Islam. Being the only Muslim on the Islam panel, I felt an added pressure to answer this question correctly, and yet how does one answer a question that has been a source of debate for thousands of years? After deep thought and awkward silence, I spoke from my heart: It is not a question of religion being "the" path. It is “a” path. A path among many.

It was in this JMU classroom that I first encountered the idea of pluralism, the theory encompassing the acceptance of all religious paths as equally valid, as well as the belief that there should be diverse and competing centers of power in society so that there is a marketplace for ideas. A pluralistic society is open, inclusive and socially progressive. Pluralism was a powerful idea that would directly influence my work in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is an emerging country located in the heart of a politically, religiously and economically fragmented South Asia. When I moved there two years ago, I was immediately drawn to the narrative of Bangladesh as a multi-faith, multi-ethnic society. During the popular Hindu celebration of Durga Puja, for example, in the midst of dancing, singing and other colorful expressions of devotion and merriment, the city’s loudspeaker echoed with, “Today we gather as Hindus and Muslims, together we stand as Bangladeshis, as one nation.”

There is strength in this pluralistic vision, and it has made me wonder: Beyond just a feel-good theory, could pluralistic ethics be leveraged to meet Bangladesh’s national development goals?

I began to see that this was possible, that pluralism could be an effective tool of nation building.

Through my work as a consultant evaluating the successes of the U.S. Agency for International Development Leaders of Influence program in Bangladesh, a project that trains thousands of religious leaders in major development themes, I witnessed Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians all seated together discussing creative ways to address local development concerns. While each group’s external trappings were different, their purpose was the same: to lift Bangladesh toward greater social and economic progress.

This experience led me to establish the Bangladesh Pluralism Project where my goal is to help foster a more open, globally engaged Bangladesh society.

Lessons with global consequences
Can pluralism be leveraged to aid Bangladesh’s national development?

BY SAMIER MANSUR (’07), BE THE CHANGE COHORT MEMBER

Samier Mansur (’07) is founder and director of the Bangladesh Pluralism Project, which he founded to create a more open, globally engaged Bangladesh society.
What I appreciate now about my education at JMU is the interdisciplinary approach that allows me to understand the world in a holistic way. Majoring in international relations with minors in economics and religion helped prepare me to grasp the dual forces of globalization and identity that drive our world. This preparation would eventually become central to the Bangladesh Pluralism Project.

In September 2012 I found myself on the prestigious stage of TEDxDhaka in Bangladesh. TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, live speakers and TEDTalks videos spark discussions and connections in a small group. The programs are designed to give communities, organizations and individuals the opportunity to stimulate dialogue on a local level. At TEDxDhaka, I faced young change-makers, corporate officers, policy makers and ambassadors. My goal was to highlight Bangladesh’s ancient tradition of pluralism and the promising future that pluralism holds for the nation. My message was received enthusiastically, and the Embassy of Denmark’s social media broadcast of it was one of their social media favorites.

Being on the stage represented the sprouting of a seed first planted during my years at JMU and the subsequent fulfillment of a personal dream. My recognition served as a resounding testament, not only to the future of a powerful idea, but also to the respected institution that nourished it.

About the Author

International relations major Samier Mansur (’07) is a research scholar, writer and photographer. He is the founder and director of the Bangladesh Pluralism Project, which he initiated to create a more open, inclusive and globally engaged Bangladesh. At JMU Mansur also completed minors in economics and religion, and he served as president of the Muslim Student Association. He also served as a pro-democracy and anti-terrorism student fellow of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank. Mansur’s essay above also appears in the spring 2013 edition of Political Currents, the newsletter for the JMU Department of Political Science, and is the Jan. 22, 2013, post for the JMU Be the Change blog site. The U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh, also shared the Be the Change blog post on its social media outlets.

Listen to Samier Mansur’s TEDx-Dhaka presentation on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRZ20kD3Wck.

Learn more about the Bangladesh Pluralism Project at www.ThePluralismProject.org.
A passion to inspire
Biology professor Patrice Ludwig’s motivation inspires

BY MEGHAN FRAWLEY (‘13)

lot of people have gone farther than they thought they could, because someone else thought they could.” This popular yet anonymous quotation reminds me of my favorite JMU professor, Dr. Patrice Ludwig.

When I began my exhilarating four-year journey of all-night study sessions and social events in August 2009, I was an uninspired and inexperienced 18 year old. Like my classmates, I was eager, but I didn’t know what I was eager for. As I continued my undergraduate career in the biology department, I remained static. Similar to many undergraduates, I experienced a few bumps in the academic road. Being so far away from home, I needed an outlet to relieve stress, so I started long-distance running for exercise and as a hobby. I had no idea that my new hobby would steer me in the direction of a woman who remains one of the most inspiring and influential people I have met.

I met Patrice Ludwig in the spring of my sophomore year. What I knew of her: she was an ecologist, her husband owned a local bar and she was a runner. When another biology professor introduced me to Dr. Ludwig, I never dreamed she would have such a significant impact on my life.

The following summer I began running with Dr. Ludwig several times a week. We were both training for a half marathon. I soon realized that Dr. Ludwig’s contagious desire to always push her personal limits was something I also wanted to employ in my own life. I became incredibly envious of her drive. She is always hungry to do more — to teach another class, start another research project, or volunteer on a new committee.

I try to emulate the enthusiasm she possesses. During our long runs, Dr. Ludwig would share stories of her journey to become a biology professor. Dr. Ludwig’s fervor in talking about her research and biology interests is captivating. She is extraordinarily zealous and her ambitiousness is an inspiration.

I thought to myself, “I want to be as inspired as she is. I want to work as hard as she does.”

Dr. Ludwig always wants me to strive to do more. As a junior and senior I became intrigued with the field of medicine. When I told Dr. Ludwig of my passion to study medicine, she told me that I could do anything I set my mind to. It may sound cliché, but Dr. Ludwig’s support is extremely motivating.

She always challenges students to push harder, and I have learned to challenge myself to go that extra distance. As a senior biology major with graduate school plans in the works, I can say that Dr. Ludwig remains one of the most inspiring and ambitious professors I have met.

Dr. Ludwig has provided me with important life tools that have molded me into the undergraduate student I am today. Her support of my future and witnessing her passion and drive have taught me to always believe that I can accomplish my dreams. Dr. Patrice Ludwig has made an incredible difference in my life, and she continues to change the lives of JMU undergraduates with her benevolent persona and passion to inspire.

Thank you, Dr. Ludwig!

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Thank you, Dr. Ludwig!

About the Professor  Patrice Ludwig, biology professor, earned her B.S. and M.A. from James Madison University in 1996 and 2001. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of Virginia in 2008. She has worked in the JMU Center for Faculty Innovation, and her research interests include population and community ecology; population dynamics; dispersal ecology; conservation biology; and life history evolution.

About the Author  Meghan Frawley (’13) is a biology major in the pre-med program. She is a member of the American Medical Student Association, JMU’s chapter of Tri-Beta, and the JMU Pre-Med Organization. She plans to attend medical school and complete a program to become a nurse practitioner and focus on women’s health. Frawley hopes to work in an obstetrics and gynecology practice.
Colonialism, Antisemitism, and Germans of Jewish Descent in Imperial Germany

BY CHRISTIAN DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS, 2012

History professor Christian Davis’s new book examines the relationship between the colonial and anti-Semitic movements of modern Germany from 1871 to 1918. Davis examines the complicated ways in which German anti-Semitism and colonialism fed off of and into each other in the decades before the First World War. She also discusses the significant involvement with and investment in German colonialism by the major anti-Semitic political parties and extra-parliamentary organizations of the day, while also investigating the prominent participation in the colonial movement of Jews and Germans of Jewish descent and their tense relationship with procolonial anti-Semites.

* Learn more about the professor at web.jmu.edu/history/faculty/davis.html

Blood Scourge

BY G. DEDRICK ROBINSON
MOONSHINE COVE PUBLISHING, 2011, ASIN: B005HXRPQ2

G. Dedrick Robinson, professor emeritus of geology and environmental science, has published Blood Scourge. The biothriller is set at the end of World War II when Japan’s new super bug sinks to the bottom of the sea. Seventy years later, it kills people in the Philippines. The CDC’s Dr. Kristin St. John discovers the new virus is a seemingly impossible combination of two deadly strains. Russian educated virologist turned terrorist Rishad Zharmakhan is also studying the virus but his goal is to unleash it in American cities.

* Learn more at www.gdedrickrobinson.com

Fingerprints of You

BY KRISTEN-PAIGE MADONIA (‘01)
SIMON & SCHUSTER 2012
ISBN: 978-1442429208
EBOOK 978-1442429222

The first book by Kristen-Paige Madonia (‘01) is a young adult novel. Madonia is recipient of the Sewanee Writers’ Conference Tennessee Williams Scholarship. Her heroine, Lemon, grew up with Stella, a single mom who isn’t exactly maternal. Stella always has a drink in her hand and a new boyfriend every few months. When things get out of hand, she whisks Lemon off to a new town for a fresh beginning, but Lemon discovers she is pregnant. On the verge of revisiting her mother’s mistakes, Lemon struggles with being an unmarried mother, who has never met her father. She sets off on a cross-country road trip to both meet her father and figure out who she wants to be.

* Learn more at http://kristenpaigemadonia.com or contact her via Twitter: @KPMadonia

First Generation College Students

BY LEE WARD
HOSSEY-BASS, 2012

Director of the JMU Office of Career and Academic Planning Lee Ward co-wrote First Generation College Students. As more of the college-age population comprises students who are the first in their families to attend college, institutions need to find ways to help these students succeed. Ward’s resource book explores the challenges and barriers to first-generation students and offers recommendations for helping them succeed in their academic careers. Ward also serves on the faculty as a professor of integrated science and technology.

The Reason and Wonder: A Copernican Revolution in Science and Spirit

BY PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF MATHEMATICS C. DAVID PRUETT
PRAEGER, 2012


Choice Reviews Online gave Pruett’s book the Outstanding Academic Title award, stating “Pruett presents every topic that he touches, whether black holes and the big bang or evolution and entropy, with deep understanding and insights.”

* Read Pruett’s blog at www.reasonandwonder.org/blog.html

Colonialism, Antisemitism, and Germans of Jewish Descent in Imperial Germany

BY CHRISTIAN DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS, 2012

History professor Christian Davis’s new book examines the relationship between the colonial and anti-Semitic movements of modern Germany from 1871 to 1918. Davis examines the complicated ways in which German anti-Semitism and colonialism fed off of and into each other in the decades before the First World War. She also discusses the significant involvement with and investment in German colonialism by the major anti-Semitic political parties and extra-parliamentary organizations of the day, while also investigating the prominent participation in the colonial movement of Jews and Germans of Jewish descent and their tense relationship with procolonial anti-Semites.

* Learn more about the professor at web.jmu.edu/history/faculty/davis.html
Road Dawg parties like a rock star at 100-plus JMU weddings!

_Madison_ magazine’s lovable mascot, Road Dawg, has celebrated with more than 100 JMU couples tying the knot over the past five years. On Sept. 1, 2012, Road Dawg donned tux and tail to celebrate at the wedding reception of Leah Cutler Tomlin (’07) and Jonathan Tomlin (’07, ’10M). The couple met as sophomores at JMU and wed at Keswick Vineyards in Keswick, Va. Leah wrote, “Thank you again for allowing the Road Dawg to be a part of our special day. We are indeed happy newlyweds.”

Two Dukes take on Dukes Run

Cyndy Gal Scholz (’83) and Dave Lewis (’78) take a photo op before heading down Dukes Run at Colorado's 2,358-acre Breckenridge Ski Resort. Scholz is an IT systems analyst with CenturyLink and a ski instructor for Copper Mountain Resort. She lives in Centennial, Colo., with her husband, Steve. Dave Lewis is a senior mortgage loan officer with Credit Union Mortgage Association Inc. He lives in Fairfax Station, Va., with his wife, Debra.
Imagine a new model for higher education: An “Engaged University” that leverages JMU’s commitment to lifelong learning with a steadfast conviction that all humans are interconnected. Imagine a university that creates public intellectuals who ask the right questions and uncover the right answers.

During the “Why Madison?” Presidential Listening Tour, JMU President Jonathan R. Alger spent many hours touring the country, engaging in a dialogue with those who have done so much to shape James Madison University.

Out of those “Why Madison?” conversations has come a collective vision for Madison’s future. And the JMU Alumni Association is ready to help President Alger chart a course for JMU to become that new model for higher education — an Engaged University built on citizenship. “The members of the JMU Alumni Association believe JMU is uniquely positioned to be such a model as President Alger has envisioned,” says Jamie Jones Miller (’99), president of the alumni association.

“Involvement, after all, is in our DNA,” she adds. “It’s a constant thread woven throughout the fabric of our 105-year history — The Normal School, The State Teachers College, Madison College, James Madison University. Our name has changed; our character has not. We believe in community. We believe in service. And we believe in solving problems.”

That’s why the JMU Alumni Association has made a matching gift commitment to JMU. On March 10, the beginning of Madison Week 2013, Miller told the JMU community that the JMU Alumni Association will invest up to $100,000 into the Madison Forever Vision Fund.

“This gift will allow the alumni association to match every two dollars given to the fund with one dollar from the alumni association — up to a maximum of $100,000,” she explained. “The alumni association challenges each and every alum to join us in this commitment, as we chart a course for JMU to become the model for the Engaged University, and build a brighter future for us all.”

☆ Watch a video about the JMU Vision Fund and donate today at www.jmu.edu/alumni/about/visionfund.shtml.
Why Madison?
Alumni help provide stability during times of transition
BY JAMIE JONES MILLER (‘99), president, JMU Alumni Association

Why Madison? That is the question President Jonathan R. Alger has been asking alumni, students, faculty and staff members, parents, and friends of JMU across the United States throughout his “Why Madison?” Presidential Listening Tour.

It’s a short, yet complicated, question aimed not only at discussing why we love JMU, but at how we can support JMU today and in the future. The answers I’ve heard from alumni who respond to the question of “Why Madison?” usually center on the people, events and activities, and places that are part of each person’s unique Madison Experience. This isn’t surprising to me; however, the challenge lies in how to ensure that our alumni are informed, involved and invested in JMU.

We must remember that we are part of the JMU family not only as students, but for a lifetime. This is critical, because our alumni, by giving of their time, talent and treasure, will play an instrumental role in helping President Alger make JMU a new national model of the “Engaged University.”

There is certainly a lot going on at JMU. And because there’s a lot going on, there are a host of opportunities for every alumnus and alumna to play a role in shaping Madison’s future.

Be informed: Make sure you keep JMU updated with your contact information, so you can keep receiving Madison magazine and information about how you can keep JMU moving forward. Make sure you subscribe to Madison Update, for monthly email news. Follow JMU and the JMU Alumni Association on social media.

Be involved: Attend alumni events in the area you live. The JMU Alumni Association and JMU Office of Alumni Relations staff bring the Madison Experience to your own backyard in numerous events throughout the year. Share your talents through JMU LOVE, a program that connects alumni with volunteer opportunities in the JMU community. Mentor a student, participate in career networking events, or join a college advisory council. Have a JMU reunion or milestone coming up? Help plan a class or affinity group reunion for Homecoming. Are you already involved in the Madison community? Be sure to tell us how at www.jmu.edu/alumni.

Be invested: JMU’s alumni population is at 110,000 yet only 7,700 alumni gave back to JMU last year! Gifts to the university directly support members of the JMU family. Consider making a gift to JMU. It is easy to set up a recurring gift online at www.jmu.edu/give.

If you choose to give to the Madison Forever Vision Fund, which provides unrestricted money to create and sustain opportunities for JMU students and enhances the value of the Madison Experience, the JMU Alumni Association will match your gift (for every two dollars you give, the association will contribute one dollar).

Finally, don’t forget to be inspired, and be an inspiration: Take advantage of opportunities to continue to craft your own Madison Experience. Tell your friends what you are doing back at Madison and encourage them to join you.

Alumni have been the driving force behind institutions across America for generations. At James Madison University informed, involved and invested graduates are helping lead Madison into its second century. If we are to succeed; if we are to take JMU to the national level; if we are to make Madison a national model of the Engaged University, we will do it together.

* Follow Jamie Jones Miller (‘99) @JMUJamie.
Classes of 2013 and 1963 share candlelighting ceremony

One of Madison’s oldest traditions is the candlelighting ceremony inducting graduating seniors into the alumni family. JMU candlelighting ceremonies began on campus in 1912, when, during the second commencement exercises at the State Normal & Industrial School for Women, graduating students participated in a small ceremony inducting them into the alumnas association. More than 100 years later, this simple, meaningful event celebrates the induction of nearly 4,000 students into an organization nearly as old as Madison itself.

This year — on April 6 — the JMU Alumni Association will combine the graduating senior candlelighting ceremony with the Bluestone Reunions candlelighting ceremony, which annually celebrates the 50th reunion class. Alumni office staff members worked with senior class president Meredith Wood (‘13) and Bluestone Reunions co-chairs JoAnn Bogan Smith (‘63) and Betty Reid Coghill Somloi (‘63), to combine the senior candlelighting with the Class of 1963 dinner. “Having the Class of 2013 join with the Class of 1963 is a symbolic gesture that binds us together through JMU,” says Smith.

Wood adds, “Being a Duke is a lifelong commitment. Sharing this special night with the Class of 1963 reminds us that no matter how far away we may travel and no matter how much time passes, we will always have both a home and a family to come back to at Madison.”

*Learn more about JMU alumni events at www.jmu.edu/alumni

BE A PART OF THE 2013 ALUMNI DIRECTORY

The JMU Alumni Association is working with Harris Connect Publishing Co. of Chesapeake, Va., to publish a new James Madison University 2013 Alumni Directory. Harris Connect Publishing will begin its mailing and phone call campaign to contact as many alumni as possible for verification of information. Alumni should expect postcards from Harris requesting verification of information such as graduation and class year, college achievements and current career information. Alumni may submit photo and bios, and all alumni will be offered the option of purchasing the directory. Purchase is not necessary to be included in the directory.

HARRIS CONNECT PUBLISHING will begin its mailing and phone call campaign to contact as many alumni as possible for verification of information. Alumni should expect postcards from Harris requesting verification of information such as graduation and class year, college achievements and current career information. Alumni may submit photo and bios, and all alumni will be offered the option of purchasing the directory. Purchase is not necessary to be included in the directory.
Homecoming 2013 is set for Oct. 28 – Nov. 3. Join the JMU Alumni Association and your fellow Dukes and help turn campus into a tidal wave of purple. The popular events are back! Get your roar on at the Pep Rally, Alumni Tailgate and JMU football vs. Villanova. Also: Alumni Golf Tournament (hosted by the Harrisonburg Alumni Chapter)

If you have questions regarding your reunion event, contact Stephanie Whitson in the alumni relations office at whitson@jmu.edu or (540) 568-8821.

www.jmu.edu/homecoming
www.facebook.com/JMUHomecoming
Alumna brings bioscience building to ‘Life’

The bioscience building mural, Life, was created by biology alumna and New York City artist Alison Stephen ('99) in collaboration with Jon Monroe, professor of biology.

The mural is based on Stephen’s sketches of 16 species of organisms around a surface bioscience mural view of about 60 base pairs of DNA. The first floor features organisms from the Earth’s surface or under water. The second floor includes organisms found in a forest canopy, and the third floor includes organisms that fly.

The DNA sequence is from the model plant Arabidopsis thaliana, and is a portion of the AGLU-1 gene that encodes an enzyme called alpha-gluco- sidedase. Monroe and a group of his undergraduate students, including Stephen, cloned and sequenced this gene in the JMU labs. The sequence illustrated in the mural was converted to a 3D model using 3D-DART and visualized using the program Chimera. Stephen used a surface view of the model as a starting point to draw an artistic image of the DNA depicting nitrogen atoms blue, oxygen red, phosphorous yellow and carbon gray.

See Page 24 to learn more about Alison Stephen ('99) and how she created the mural with Monroe’s assistance.

Watch a video of the mural’s installation at www.jmu.edu/biology/playlist.shtml.
Agnes Price celebrated her 100th birthday in her hometown of Madison, Va. JMU Associate Vice President for Constituent Relations Steve Smith (’71, ’75M) and JMU Associate Vice President for Principal Relationship Development Weston Hatfield represented JMU at Price’s 100th birthday celebration.

Patricia Daniels Anderson of Newport, Minn., is the grandmother of North Dakota State University offensive guard Boen Daniel Anderson, who competed last winter against JMU in the second round of the playoffs. Anderson writes, “Boen wears the ring awarded to NDSU as national champions. We are so proud he got to meet the Dukes of his grandmother’s alma mater. The world is getting smaller. Go Dukes! Go Bison!”

Kay Daggy Neff writes, “Congratulations, fellow classmates! We have reached our scholarship fundraising goal. For the year 2012–13, the Class of 1956 gave three scholarships. Thanks to all who have contributed to the Madison Class of 1959 Endowed Scholarship. The more we add to the principal gift, the larger the scholarships our recipients receive. Way to go, Class of 1959!” Nancy Clements Swartz and her husband, the Rev. Fred Swartz, received the 2012 Humanitarian Service Award at Bridgewater Retirement Community’s annual Founders’ Day celebration. The two were recognized for their lifetime achievements and dedication to their church and community. They provided more than 50 years of philanthropic contributions to churches and communities in Illinois, Pennsylvania and Virginia. The couple moved to the Bridgewater Retirement Community in 2003 after Fred’s retirement, and they have continued their charitable efforts. Nancy serves as a volunteer host at the community center’s information desk, and she has a scarf ministry. She has knitted more than 150 scarves and given them as gifts to retirement home workers and as donations for the Bridgewater Home Auxiliary’s Fall Festival. She has also been a head teller for the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference for 29 years.

Eldon Jacob Layman and William Franklin Wright both served on a committee of nine fraternity brothers to plan a reunion for Sigma Delta Rho and Tau Kappa Epsilon in May 2012. A total of 59 fraternity brothers from the classes of 1951 through 2014 attended the reunion on campus. Sigma Delta Rho was the first fraternity organized at JMU.

Charlotte Puryear Tetterton writes, “My granddaughter, Lauren Nicole Tetterton, graduated May 5, 2012, with a B.S. degree from the JMU College of Integrated Science and Technology. Her concentration was health services and administration and public policy. She is a member of Phi Mu sorority. I am a very proud grandmother and alumna.”

Classmates held a mini-Class of 1967 weekend in Williamsburg at the home of Carolyn Tefft Lodzeski. Six of the seven classmates are Sigma Sigma Sigma sisters.

In 2012 The Rev. Sheary Darcus Johnson (’74M) celebrated 45 years of ministry in the Richmond area. The former professor at Virginia Commonwealth University is the first African-American female to graduate from Madison. A library sciences major, Johnson also earned her master’s degree from JMU in the School of Library Media Services. She earned a doctorate in education from the University of Virginia in 1988. As President and co-founder of the Faith Chapter Young Women’s Christian League, Johnson worked to expand the league to seven chapters across the nation. She also is founder of Better People Inc., a nonprofit organization that has provides financial support and other services to the less fortunate in the Richmond area. Her husband, The Rev. Russell Johnson, also graduated from JMU in 1974.
iRideHome.com founders say JMU teaches students to solve societal issues

BY KELSEY DILL ('13)

One of the first life milestones most look forward to in their youth is getting behind the wheel and claiming the independence that comes with a driver’s license. Most share memories of cruising the streets and a favorite song blaring through the speakers.

For these reasons, among others, 87 percent of those eligible do, in fact, hold a driver’s license. Although many of us take the homeliness of making smart, safe decisions behind the wheel to heart, even disregarding it one time can be costly. In 2010, there were 112 million instances when adult drivers got behind the wheel while intoxicated, with personal, social and life-threatening consequences at risk. A shocking number indeed but, nonetheless, the United States has seen a 20 percent decrease in alcohol-related fatalities since 2006.

Two people working hard to fight alcohol-impaired vehicle fatalities are brothers Seth ('95) and Aaron Lawlor ('99). The JMU alums teamed up with their three other brothers to create iRideHome, a smart phone application and mobile web service dedicated to getting individuals home safely after a night out. The service aggregates sober and safe driver information from around the country and, using GPS technology, provides users with services in their current area.

The Lawlor brothers also own StPatricksDay.com. While working with local pubs and venues for this site they began noticing a dangerous trend. “People never really thought about how to get home after a night of parties. We thought, ‘Why don’t we come up with a solution?’” says Seth. “And www.iRideHome.com was born.”

Seth graduated from the College of Business with a degree in finance, and eventually started his own consulting firm, Indigo Applications Inc., which focuses on the hand-held applications marketplace. He says working at UREC was one of the best experiences he had at JMU. “My experience as a UREC supervisor helped me learn how to build relationships with individuals of various backgrounds and interests. It helped me develop the ability to converse. Now I can better express myself and the products our company offers.”

Influenced by Seth and their older sister Jackie (’91), Aaron decided to apply to JMU. When debating between JMU and another Virginia school, Aaron says he received an unexpected phone call from a professor in the College of Integrated Science and Technology. After an hour-long, enthusiastic pitch, Aaron chose the Purple and Gold spirit. “It’s amazing that an administrator would take that kind of time and effort to recruit one potential student for ISAT,” he says. “That type of dedication to students seems to be hard-wired into the DNA of JMU’s faculty and administration.”

Aaron also graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law. He co-founded Aphelion Legal Solutions, a company that provides legal process and e-discovery consulting, document review, contracts management and legal staffing services. His company has offices in Washington, D.C., Houston, and Chennai, India. Aaron attributes his success to his ISAT experience. “I left JMU recognizing that I was capable of identifying needs in society and, more importantly, developing solutions to address them.”

The Lawlor brothers visited campus last fall to speak at the national 2012 Safe Ride Programs United Conference, hosted by JMU Saferides Program and attended by universities from across the country. The brothers consider it an honor to promote safe, sober driving.

The duo also consider it an honor to promote JMU. With Seth’s wife, Dana Nasdeo ('95), and sister, Ruth Lawlor ('03), there are five JMU graduates in the Lawlor clan.

* Learn more at www.iRideHome.com.
Sylvia Louise Ross Pitzer, a teacher in Virginia Beach, has published her first book, Broken Innocence. The book follows the character Olivia, and is a memoir based on true stories of child abuse.

After 34 years in public education, Albert Blaine DeWitt retired in July 2010. DeWitt worked at West Point High School from 1975 to 1978, Mathews High School from 1979 to 2007, and C.D. Hylton High School from 2007 to 2010. DeWitt lettered in baseball at JMU and coached at Mathews High School, winning the Group A State Baseball Championship in 2004. He was named VIAAA Athletic Director of the Year, Group A in the 1997–98 school year and again in the 2002–03 school year. DeWitt enjoys his retirement and lives in his hometown of Mathews, Va. Christina “Cricket” Martinson writes, “Cricket’s Crusaders gathered to walk in the Race for Hope in Washington, D.C., on May 6. I was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2002, and these Class of 1986 alumni gathered to celebrate my 10th year of living cancer-free. We walked to raise money to help find a cure for brain cancer.” Fran Cunningham Smith of Harrisonburg, Va., is the women’s swim coach at Bridgewater College and the 2012 Old Dominion Athletic Conference Swim Coach of the Year. Her team placed a school history best third out of nine teams in the ODAC Championships in Greensboro, N.C.

The Virginia Association of Community Services Boards elected Karen Wood Grizzard as chair at the May business meeting in Williamsburg, Va. The VACSB comprises Virginia’s 40 community services boards. It is the unified voice for board programs in federal and state public policy matters. Grizzard’s election was the result of her leadership on the Henrico Area Community Services Board, where she served as chair in 2010 and 2011. She has been a member since 2003.

Dave Lewis is a senior mortgage loan officer with Credit Union Mortgage Association Inc. He lives in Fairfax Station, Va., with his wife, Debra.

Peggy Houde Fridley visited with her Chapplear Hall suitemates last July. She writes, “We all came together for the first time in more than 30 years. Back then we had a dorm T-shirt that read ‘Chapplear - Champagne Edition.’ Now more than ever this seems very fitting!” Bluemont Fair in Bluemont, Va., selected an oil painting by Jennifer Alexander MacDonald for its fall 2012 fair. MacDonald’s design was featured on the fair’s poster, as well as on T-shirts, mugs and other fair memorabilia.

Christopher Boyer plays the part of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee in the Stephen Spielberg feature film, Lincoln, starring Daniel Day Lewis. Boyer, a Hagerstown, Md., native, has appeared on TV programs including Desperate Housewives, Grey’s Anatomy, Las Vegas and Monk. He has also served as an artist-in-residence in the JMU College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Maggie Rhodes served as a senior agricultural adviser in Afghanistan from 2009 to 2012. In June 2012 U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recognized the efforts of Rhodes and 61 other U.S. Department of Agriculture advisers who have helped revitalize the agricultural sectors in Afghanistan and Iraq. Rhodes used her expertise in land and water assessment and conservation to provide specialized skills to farmers and villagers, as well as guidance to national and provincial government leaders to help rebuild the agricultural sectors. Rhodes is a team leader in incentives and financial assistance programs with U.S.D.A.’s Natural Resources Conservation Service in Washington, D.C.

Rick Eisenman is founder and owner of Eisenman & Associates Inc., based in Richmond, Va. The full-service association management, site selection and meeting planning company celebrated 19 years of business on Sept. 2,
Music education major Matt Fraker ('03) always has food on his mind. “I come from a family whose primary means for nurturing is through food. In my family, we’re already dreaming about and planning dinner while we’re eating breakfast,” says Fraker.

Whether thinking about dinner preparations, remembering a meal he experienced at a restaurant or creating something in his own kitchen, food is Fraker’s passion.

The owner of Frostings Bake Shop in Glen Allen, Va., Fraker gained national fame when he competed on the Food Network’s Cupcake Wars in January 2012.

At JMU, Fraker thought his passion for music would become a career. One of the founding members of the all-male a cappella group Exit 245, Fraker graduated with a degree in music education and taught chorus at the middle school and high school levels for five years. Although he found the job rewarding, after awhile he was ready for a change. “I enjoy working with people and following my passion,” says Fraker.

During a 2008 weekend with friends in New York City, Fraker was introduced to gourmet cupcakes “It was intriguing to see long lines of customers waiting outside a bakery to buy cupcakes. After seeing more and more cupcake-focused bakeries in the city, my partner and I joked about opening up one of our own in Richmond.”

In 2009 the joke became serious and Fraker chose a completely different career path. “There were many challenges embedded in this decision,” says Fraker, “including stepping outside my comfort zone, managing and leading adult peers now, instead of children in a music classroom.”

The sweet part was Fraker had help — a business partner, Jason Ferrell. “Jason has a knack for marketing and a keen eye for detail,” says Fraker. While Ferrell searched for the perfect location and polished up a business plan, Fraker was free to develop recipes and do lots of taste-testing.

Fraker’s mother also helped and was a source of inspiration for what would become the shop’s best-selling cupcake. “Through opening the bakery, I discovered that red velvet cake was my mom’s childhood favorite,” says Fraker.

Wendy Fraker ('03P) passed away unexpectedly while her son was in the process of opening the bakery. Fraker named the “Wendy’s Red Velvet” cupcake in memory of his mother. It is the shop’s top-seller, and Frostings annually donates proceeds from its sales to the Wendy G. Fraker Memorial Scholarship Fund, which supports students pursing a culinary arts education.

Fraker says his JMU experience taught him life lessons he has applied to his cupcake business. “How to manage time, effective interpersonal communication, leadership, learning from mistakes and turning those experiences into success … these are all things that help me daily in running a thriving business.”

Fraker’s thriving small business turned into a nationally-recognized one when he competed on Cupcake Wars, a reality competition where bakers face off to see who can create the best cupcakes. Fraker and his teammate, Frostings cupcake artist Jessica Jones, made 1,000 cupcakes in two hours to try and win the grand prize – $10,000 and the opportunity to showcase their creations at the Los Angeles premiere of the musical Wicked.

“Cupcake Wars is intense! It’s fast-paced, stressful and requires an incredible amount of teamwork and natural choreography in the kitchen” says Fraker. “The clock adds a ton of pressure to an already intense environment and it’s pretty intimidating watching the judges pick apart your creation, bite by bite!”

The Frostings pair took second place, but the work that went into baking 1,000 cupcakes for the show was worth the effort.

“The day after the show aired, things went crazy — in a good way,” says Fraker. “We had a line out the door with people curious about our cupcakes. We’ve had people from all over the state and even from across the county make a point to check us out for the first time.”

Fraker says his experiences have been very positive and humbling. “Frostings came out of nowhere. It started as a joke between two guys and has developed into a thriving business that has left a mark on the Richmond community and is now a nationally-recognized bakery! Seeing customers return to our store and become ‘regulars,’ being chosen by a couple to cater their wedding day, seeing a child with severe food allergies enjoy his or her first dessert, watching our talented and devoted employees thrive and grow while pursuing their talents … these are the things that make me the most proud.”

*Learn more at www.frostingsva.com.
2012, Eisenman began his business in 1993 as a one-man operation with just two clients. The company now has nearly 30 clients and five staff members.

**Julia Ann Frailey** represented President Jon R. Alger and James Madison University at the installation ceremony for the 26th president of the University of Vermont in Burlington. Frailey says, “I was truly thrilled to be able to participate in this grand event and proudly represent JMU in the procession of other university representatives. It was wonderful to revisit and share my enthusiasm and passion for JMU with other university delegates here in the beautiful state of Vermont.”

**Mark Ragland** is head volleyball coach at Albemarle High School. In October he led his team to its 500th win, becoming the only volleyball coach in Virginia to reach that milestone. Ragland lives in Charlottesville, and JMU is a family affair for he and his wife, **Jacquelyn LaFever Ragland** (’80). Their daughter, **Jessica Evers Marcan-tonio** (’03) played volleyball for JMU, and son, **Benjamin Evers** (’11), played on the JMU men’s club volleyball team. The couple’s youngest son, Josiah, plans to attend JMU.

**Mike Hoss** (’84) was named 2012 Woman of the Year by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Virginia for raising the most money for LLS during the 10-week campaign period. She is director of public relations and marketing for the Virginia Automobile Dealers Association.

**Thomas Grella** received the Samuel S. Smith Award from the American Bar Association’s Law Practice Management Section. The annual award is presented to an individual who demonstrates excellence in law practice management. Grella is managing partner at the law firm of McGuire, Wood & Bissette in Asheville, N.C. He has served as chair of LPM and currently serves on the LPM executive committee for his role in the ABA House of Delegates.

On Sept. 14, 2012, **Elena Munero Kleifges** (’84) represented JMU President Jon R. Alger and JMU at the inauguration of the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. Kleifges says, “I was fortunate enough to sit next to the president of another university who enlightened me on the history of inauguration ceremonies. I met wonderful people from all over the country and was honored to represent President Alger and JMU.”

On Oct. 26, 2012, **Paul W. Parmele** represented JMU President Jon R. Alger and JMU at the inauguration of Northern Kentucky University President Geoffrey S. Mearns. Parmele writes, “It was gratifying to represent my undergrad-uate alma mater and also to witness the elevation of one of my law school classmates to such a prestigious position. I spoke with several of my fellow representatives before and after the inauguration, and I was pleased to share with them JMU’s story of growth and achievement. My wife and I attended the inaugural dinner, where we enjoyed meeting members of the NKU faculty as well as prominent NKU benefactors. What an honor to represent JMU at such an important event, not just for NKU, but also for the Northern Kentucky community where my family and I have lived for almost two decades.”

**Mike Hoss** (’84) congratulates new University of New Orleans President Peter Fos (left).

**Paul Parmele** (’84) represents JMU at the inauguration celebration at Northern Kentucky University.

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**SCHOLARSHIP THANKS:**

**Heath-Mullin Scholarship**

**Dear William and Holly Mullin:**

Thank you so much for your generous Heath-Mullin Scholarship! Your support greatly assisted with the expense of my participation in the College of Business 300 Study Abroad course in Antwerp, Belgium, in fall 2012. My parents and I live in Waterford, Va. During high school I became passionate about an array of environmental issues, including Colony Collapse Disorder. CCD, the worldwide phenomenon of honey bee colonies inexplicably disappearing, prompted me to become a beekeeper. I also established the nonprofit business Bee Blessed Honey. Managing Bee Blessed Honey solidified my decision to major in business at JMU. I had never been to Europe, but during my CoB 300 trip to Belgium, we also traveled to and studied in Turkey and Greece. We examined several trades and observed European business practices. I am extremely interested in European commerce’s eco-friendly attitudes and their efforts to reduce packaging and plastics usage. My goal is to pursue and promote environmentally responsible businesses in the future. Thank you for your generosity and helping me study abroad.

**Stephanie Skaggs** (’14)

Waterford, Va.
DO YOU REMEMBER?

Do you remember the Quad tunnels? May Queen? Call downs for ‘cutting campus?’ Trips to the University Farm? The Stratford Players? Sitting on the hill watching the Marching Royal Dukes? Decorating the Jemmy statue?

Get your copy of Madison Century, which shows 100 years of the Madison Experience. Buy yours now at www.jmu.edu/centennialcelebration.
Melanie Hooyenga has published her first novel, *Flicker*. The novel follows the story of a girl who uses sunlight to flicker back in time.

Jennifer Thompson McCaffery earned her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She works as a family nurse practitioner at the Jackson VAMC in the Division of Cardiology. She lives in the Division of the Jackson VAMC as a family nurse practitioner at the Mississippi Medical Center. She works out of 2,400 faculty and staff, Va. How lucky did I feel that, years ago.”

Kelly R. Stefanko dons the purple and gold academic regalia to represent President Jon Alger at the inauguration celebration at Thomas Nelson Community College.

Kelly R. Stefanko (’94), seated left, and eight Class of 1994 friends celebrate their 40th birthdays in Playa del Carmen in January.

Drew Pascarella was appointed to the faculty of the Johnson School at Cornell University. As senior lecturer of finance, Pascarella leads the Investment Banking Immersion program, a practitioner-led practicum for students preparing for a career in banking. Pascarella formerly served as a director in the investment banking division of CitiBank in New York.

In 2011 Jenny Biondi Anderson ran the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage trail in a world-record time of nine days, five hours, 29 minutes. The trail stretches for 500 miles from France across northern Spain. Anderson started the trail Feb. 27, 2011, and finished on March 8. She endured snow, sleet, high winds and ice. She blogged about her experience at jennyjourney.wordpress.com/about.

Howard Jordan Jr. received a 2012 Independent Publisher Book Award for his e-book *101 Reasons to Leave New York*. The 16-year-old IPPY awards honor the year’s best independently published books and recognize a broad range of authors and publishers who take chances to break new ground. Jordan won the silver IPPY award for Best Adult Non-Fiction e-Book.

Blair William Brown was appointed as Virginia Commonwealth University’s director of graduate and international admissions and recruitment. His responsibilities include all admissions and recruitment functions for VCU’s international population and prospective graduate students.

Howard Jordan Jr.
Diamond Duke leads University of Cincinnati athletics

Whit Babcock ('92) leads Big East Conference athletics office  BY DAVID DRIVER

Whit Babcock ('92) got an early introduction to the world of college athletics and much of it came as a youngster at the side of his father, Brad, the successful longtime coach of the JMU baseball Diamond Dukes.

A kinesiology major, Babcock’s entry into Division I athletics was not the luxurious duties of a top coach or administrator. “My job was to go chase foul balls and return them for my dad and the JMU Dukes. I remember running through JMU parking lots with my friend, Alan Moyers, as a child,” says Babcock, who played baseball at Harrisonburg High School before coming to JMU.

In the summer months his father would put him to work with buildings and grounds staff members. He also helped out Dave Reedy in the JMU equipment room. “I am sure it was unpaid. I would help line the fields for soccer games with Tom Martin and Dave Lombardo,” Babcock recalls. “I was learning without knowing I was learning.”

Those quasi-apprenticeships have served Babcock well. He was named the athletics director of the University of Cincinnati, a Division I member of the Big East Conference, in 2011 after he spent five years as the executive associate athletics director at the University of Missouri.

Babcock has seven assistants in his office at the University of Cincinnati. They help run day-to-day operations for 547 student-athletes in 18 sports. Babcock oversees 143 staff members and a budget of $42 million.

He previously worked in the athletics offices at West Virginia, Auburn and JMU and got his start in sports management with the minor league baseball team in Nashville. Babcock was a baseball captain for the Dukes and in 1996 he earned a master’s degree in sports management.

The former first baseman and pitcher says his days as a high-school student doing the “dirty work” for his father paid off. “Growing up in the household of a successful coach really helped with my career – even though I have never coached. All the experiences helping my father and the JMU baseball team have helped me in relating to coaches.”

Brad Babcock, who won 558 games as the JMU baseball coach from 1971 to 1989 says of his son, “He also did a lot of umpiring for Little League and rec leagues.”

Son of longtime JMU baseball coach Brad Babcock and a former JMU first baseman, Whit Babcock ('92) is the athletics director for the University of Cincinnati. He and his wife, Kelly, have three sons (l-r) Andrew, Brett and Eli.
marketing team,” says Karen Tyson, NAFCU senior vice president of marketing and communications. “She is a phenomenal leader who brings out the best in everyone and everything she touches.” Hosmer began her career at NAFCU in 2000 as a graphic designer and has held successively responsible positions within its marketing division. She was promoted to marketing director in 2007. Hosmer has played an integral role in guiding key marketing initiatives. In addition, she oversees the art direction on numerous award-winning campaigns. ♦ Wall, Einhorn & Chernitzer P.C. announced Angela Kerns, CPA, as the firm’s newest shareholder. According to Martin Einhorn, WEC’s managing shareholder, “Angela contributes a range of skills that reflect our commitment to providing our clients with personalized service and specialized attention. She is truly an asset to WEC.”

Jennifer Pollock Barnes was featured on the cover of San Diego Magazine’s “Top 50 to Watch” issue. The cover story featured her new company, a travel advice site, Travelbox. ♦ The Roseview Group, a private real estate and advisory firm, promoted Meghan Hargraves from office manager to analyst. In her new role, Hargraves will assist in the management of commercial real estate transactions from initial marketing through closing, asset management operations, compiling research on clients and analyzing data gathered with financial models.

Shane Engel was promoted to senior associate at Dewberry, a Fairfax, Va., company providing planning, engineering, architecture, program management, consulting, surveying and mapping services. Engel has had a wide range of experience in the geospatial industry, including database design, web mapping development, transportation routing, geographic information services needs assessments and application engineering. He has managed more than $12 million of geospatial-related projects for local, state and federal agencies. Engel’s JMU bachelor’s degree is in GIS and remote sensing. He earned a master’s in geography from the University of Maryland.

Michelle A. Kitt competed with several JMU alumni in the Monticello Man Half Triathlon in May 2012. Alumni included Whitney Stratton (‘05), Ashby Pollard Smith (‘06), Gina Spencer Shand (‘97) and Dave Shand (‘97). All train with TriGirls/TriQuest Training in Richmond, Va. ♦ Brad Sanders earned his C.F.A. charter, a globally recognized, graduate-level investment credential awarded by CFA Institute. To earn the CFA charter one must complete the institute’s three rigorous levels and have 48 months of full-time work experience related to the investment decision-making process. ♦ Adam C. Terminella is part of the newly formed law firm Golightly Mulligan PLC, practicing in the fields of wills and trusts, civil litigation, professional liability defense, corporate law and insurance coverage. Terminella earned his law degree from Western State University College of Law in 2009 and his M.B.A. from Virginia Tech in 2011.

Bill Williams (’05) shows off his JMU Purple Out shirt during his M.B.A. trip to Abu Simbel, Egypt.
Professor Emeritus of Communications Rex Fuller is the former chair of the School of Communications Studies. He serves as president of the JMU Faculty Emeriti Association. The association hosted a bus trip to Richmond to experience the Dale Chihuly exhibit (photos above) at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in January. More than 30 former faculty and friends participated in the event. Learn more about the JMU Faculty Emeriti Association at www.jmu.edu/emeriti, or contact Dr. Fuller at rfuller@northriver.coop.

Professor Emeritus of Art and Art History Jerry Coulter and Professor Emeritus of Anthropology Clarence Geier will present lectures in the JMU Faculty Emeriti Lecture Series on April 25. Jerry Coulter continues to educate the public offering an art appreciation course in the JMU Department of Social Work’s Lifelong Learning Institute. While serving on the JMU faculty Clarence Geier’s research focused on the prehistory and an initial historic settlement of the Shenandoah Valley, the Civil War and early 20th century archaeology in western Virginia. For more information on the Faculty Emeriti Lecture Series visit www.jmu.edu/emeriti.

Professor Emerita of Art Crystal Theodore died on Nov. 9, 2012. The World War II veteran and former chair of the JMU art department led a group that established OASIS, a cooperative art gallery in downtown Harrisonburg.

Professor Emeritus of History Robert J. “Bob” Sullivan died on Feb. 4, 2013. He was a former planner for the City of Harrisonburg and served on the Steering Committee for JMU’s Centennial Celebration in 2008. He was an active lecturer in JMU’s Lifelong Learning Institute.

The JMU Office of Alumni Relations invites all graduates from the 1930s to the 1960s to come back to campus April 25–28, 2013, for Bluestone Reunion Weekend. Start planning now at www.jmu.edu/alumni/events/reunions.shtml. Are you a professor emeritus/emerita who would like to share with alumni during Bluestone Reunions? Classes of 1938, 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958 and 1963 are special guests this year. To participate and reminisce with former students, contact Tracey Kite at kitetl@jmu.edu.

✱ All former professors are encouraged to contribute an “Emeriti Note” at madisonmag@jmu.edu.
Scott Whitten and his wife, Valerie Smith ('01), opened an art center in downtown Harrisonburg. Larkin Arts offers an art supply store, two galleries, classes for children and adults, and studios for working artists. They opened in August and have provided supplies for several courses at JMU.

Brittany Stanzel ('09M) is the 2011–12 Teacher of the Year for McSwain Elementary School in Staunton, Va. Last year, Stanzel’s fourth-grade students wrote to the Wall Street Journal, commenting on a health blog. The Journal published the students’ comments. Read the article at www.twylah.com/WSJ/tweets/189380640247005185.

Richard D. Kelley joined firm Bean, Kinney & Korman as a shareholder.

Members of the Chicago Alumni Chapter attended a Major League Soccer match in May when the Chicago Fire hosted the Sporting Kansas City. Alumni cheered on C.J. Sapon ('10), the 2011 Rookie of the Year for the Kansas team. Chicago Alumni Chapter member Billy Smith writes, “After coming out of the tunnel and greeting us with an enthusiastic ‘You’re all Dukes? That’s great,’ C.J. spent a few minutes with us talking about his experience as a MLS player.”

Dara Zafran is working as a clinical psychologist with children ages birth to three years on a Native American reservation. She also teaches medical residents and psychological interns and conducts research in Latin America.

Hannah Dillenbeck writes, “I graduated from JMU in December 2011 with a B.A. in psychology. During my time at JMU I participated in a Semester Abroad program in London and loved it so much that I got involved with the Office of International Programs when I returned. That experience sparked a passion in me for international education and I became a global Duke my last semester at JMU. I am currently pursuing my dream in Ecuador working for a Study Abroad provider for six months.” Andrea Reich is a physician’s assistant at Geiseuger Hospital in Wilkes Barre, Pa.

Bryan Hanger of Roanoke, Va., is completing a Brethren Volunteer Service assignment with the Church of the Brethren and NCC Advocacy in Washington, D.C. While at JMU, Hanger worked for the student activities office and took part in Alternative Break trips. Hanger is a member of Oak Grove Church of the Brethren and has been actively involved in Young Life. He says he is “called to service with BVS. I feel that it is my duty to share the blessings I have been given with those who are less fortunate. Through this process I hope to learn as much as possible about the complexities of the world and how all of us fit into the big picture.” Charles William Smith is attending his first year of dental school at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Hannah Dillenbeck ('11) CHICAGO ALUMNI CHAPTER members meet with MLS Sporting Kansas City forward C.J. Sapong ('10). Left to right are Ben Shey ('09), Billy Smith ('08), C.J. Sapong ('10), Reid Frye ('06), and “honorary” Dukers Kelli Whall and Sarah Shoulvlin.

Weddings
1990s Robyn Julianne Williams ('92) to David Dezern, 3/17/12
2000s Kristin Werner ('04) to Timothy Pitkewicz ('04) • Lisa Adams ('05, '06M) to David Nida, 7/12/08 • Sara Cichocki ('05) to Brain James Hannon ('04, '05M), 1/21/12 • Anzie Lahham to Brian Lin-ger ('05), 10/27/12 • Katelyn Clarke ('06) to John Rowland ('06), 7/27/12 • Ailinn Ignacio ('07) to Josh Fournelle ('07), 9/22/12 • Jenna Paddol ('06) to Peter Israni, 5/26/12 • Lauren Kaye ('07) to David Carl Kaufmann ('07, 9/8/12 • Julie Podell ('07) to Josh Lena ('07), 9/15/12 • Lisa Talley ('08, '12M) to Brandon Eickel ('08), 6/30/12

ClassNotes

07

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09

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12

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**Future Dukes**

**1980s** Vanessa Quiroz Hotz and David ('88, '91M), a son, Logan Hotz, 11/5/11 * Rick C. Taplin ('88) and Nancy Flanagan, a son, John "Jack" Manley, 12/18/11

**1990s** Marni Penning Coleman ('92) and John, a son, Jesse Boddie, 8/8/12 * Jennifer Kristen Kelly ('92) and John Peter, two daughters, Theresa Marie, 6/24/11, and Gianna Kathryn Kelly, 7/6/12 * Julie Rowe and Clifton V. Rowe, Jr. ('92), a daughter, Violet Elizabeth, 9/12 * Dawn Covington Warren ('94) and Ralph, a son, Dustin Patrick, 8/22/11 * Kelli Crawford Edwards ('95) and Isaac, a daughter, Bridget Anne, 4/27/12 * Kristin Freret ('97) and Ian, a daughter, Collins Averie, 11/10/11 * Maggie Maslayak Whitehurst ('95) and Steve, two sons, Steven Michael, 8/2/10, and Grant Douglas, 8/25/11 * Bronwyn Schrecker Jamrok ('98) and Greg, a son, Theodore Walter, 6/19/12

**2000s** Evelyn Drewry Bailey ('00) and David, a daughter, Natalie Drewry Bailey, 2/6/12 * Lynn Hobec Bates ('00) and Ben, a daughter, Ellen Marie, 6/21/12 * Chuck Hriczak ('00) and Rose-Marie, a son, Luke Charles, 5/16/12 * Rachel Tyson Linden ('00, '02M, '08M) and Ian ('02, '03M), a daughter, Amelia Mau- reen, 6/15/12 * Laura Lindsey Coletrane ('01) and Alex, a son, Maxwell Alexander, 9/12/12

**In Memoriam**

- Kathryn Anne Buchanan Faris ('27) of Charlottesville, Va., 6/21/09
- Janie Seay Caldwell ('35) of Scottsville, Va., 7/28/11
- Myrtle Little ('35) of Harrisonburg, Va., 7/11/12
- Vera F. Munden ('36) of Virginia Beach, Va., 6/21/12
- Isabelle Dunn Bing ('38) of Berryville, Va., 7/23/10
- Mary Edith Smith ('38) of Richmond, Va., 9/11/00
- Catherine D. Carls ('37) of Vienna, Va., 7/9/06
- Edna Marguerite Bristow ('38, '31M) of Hardyville, Va., 7/22/12
- Mary Kiser Wood ('40) of Frankford, W.Va., 7/19/12
- Inez Craig Hanbury ('41) of Henrico, Va., 7/30/12
- Elinor Turner Westbrook ('41) of Lebanon, N.J., 7/20/12
- Marguerite Hull Oakley ('42) of Clover, Va., 3/24/10
- Cornelia Riley Crosby ('43) of Charlottesville, Va., 7/30/11
- Glada Jarvis Dunnavar ('46) of Victoria, Va., 2/17/13
- Lois S. Workman ('49) of Elkton, Va., 6/21/12
- Marion Nuller Mason ('51) of Cranberry Township, Pa., 10/28/10
- Ann Garrett Yetter ('51) of Charleston, W. Va., 7/23/12
- Margaret Early Hall ('53) of Harrisonburg, Va., 11/10/09
- Josephine Derrick Austin ('54) of Williamsburg, Va., 2/9/13
- Bobbie Barnette Henry ('55) of Buena Vista, Va., 4/30/07
- Kavitha Rajaram Johnson ('01) and John, a daughter, Addison Sarah Emily, 4/17/12 * Jeanette Stanig Murphy ('01) and Asher, a daughter, Eliza Aven, 6/25/12 * Elisabeth Cooksey Stark ('01) and Jason, a daughter, Lauren Jane, 1/16/13 *
- Holly Miller Young ('01) and Jason, a son, Zachary, 3/5/08, and twin daughters, Natalie and Abigail, 4/22/12 * Pamela Doreen Barkley ('02) and Michael ('01), a daughter, Emily Doreen, 8/27/12 * Kathryn Holt Snyder ('02) and Jack, a son, Jack Owen, 5/3/12 * Megan Thornton Crain ('03) and J. David ('03), a son, Thomas Daniel, 8/24/12 * Lisa Cotton Hetherington ('03) and Kirk ('04), a son, Luke Ryan, 6/7/12 *
- Caroline Banks Sanders ('03) and Harold ('03), a son Thomas McRae, 7/25/12 * Hilary Hansen Smith ('03) and Alan ('03), a son, Brady Madison, 4/23/12 *
- Emily Bagby ('04) and Keith Ancowizir, a daughter, Callie Madison, 5/23/12 * Tameka Fitzgerald Burroughs ('04) and Derrick, a son, Isaiah Jefferson, 12/17/10 *
- Elizabeth Kerestes Gmelin ('04) and Steven Markus ('04), a daughter, Brianna Danielle, 8/26/12 *
- Julie Vogel Smir ('04) and Brandon, a son, Aidan Patrick, 4/4/12 *
- Lisa Adams Nida ('05, '06M) and David, a son, Daniel Alexander, 3/8/12 * Jade Dalton ('06) and Christopher ('05), a daughter, Kara Lynn, 8/15/12 *
- Cat Voogd Candela ('07) and Bobby ('01), a daughter, Norah Cecilia, 3/15/12

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Virginia Lutz Lang ('55) of Raleigh, N.C., 7/23/12
- Nancye Leona Bowman ('56) of Edinburg, Va., 8/10/12
- Carolynn Swadley Seaman ('57) of Seafield, Va., 11/7/11
- Virginia Strawderman Wood ('57) of Phenix City, Ala., 5/8/97
- Vivian Connelly ('58) of Fredericksburg, Va., 9/24/10
- Bertha Gibson Jones ('66) of Charlottesville, Va., 7/87
- Sally J. Thurston ('66) of Hyattsville, Md., 4/12/12
- Orlo Raymond Gilbert ('67) of Detroit Lakes, Mich., 5/28/10
- Mary Blackiston Dillard ('70) of Glendale, Calif., 6/27/00
- Randy L. Rine ('74) of Winter Springs Fla., 12/14/12
- Emmett D. Boaz III ('75) of Kent, Wash., 11/6/10
- Darryl Ray Keys ('76) of Fairfaxes, Va., 10/15/12
- Catherine Elizabeth Nash ('77) of Lexington, Va., 7/25/12
- Debra Wood ('79) of Horntown, Va., 7/30/12
- Mary S. Dalton Bland ('83) of Atlanta, Ga., 10/16/11
- Elaine D. Avadikian ('88) of Westminster, Md., 9/29/09
- Keith Douglass Carlile ('88) of Chesapeake, Va., 7/3/12
- Eugene Richard Criscione ('92) of Silver City, N.M., 6/25/12
- Kari R. Zehner ('92) of Fredericksburg, Va., 7/29/12
- Christine Kupper Messick ('96) of Bristow, Va., 7/3/12
- Ronald B. Casteel ('00) of Charlottesville, Va., 4/20/11
- Zachary Dennis Cruff ('10) of Newport News, Va., 7/21/12
- Lanie Marie Kruszewski ('11) of Chesterfield, Va., 7/28/12
- Trent Dylan Hanafee ('15) of Glen Cove, N.Y., 8/17/12

**ClassNotes**
Presidential walk

President Jonathan R. Alger, joined by his wife, Mary Ann, and daughter, Eleanor, led a ceremonial walk from campus to Harrisonburg’s Court Square during Madison Week activities. More than 200 students, professors, staff members and community friends joined in the ceremonial walk. President Alger received a welcome from Harrisonburg and Rockingham County representatives, and in a gesture symbolizing openness between campus and the local community, Alger presented Harrisonburg Mayor Ted Byrd and Rockingham County Board of Supervisors Chair Fred Eberly with the keys to the university.

* See more images at www.jmu.edu/inauguration/images

Insets: The Alger family lead a ceremonial walk from campus to Harrisonburg’s Court Square followed by more than 200 students, and faculty, staff and community members. The Marching Royal Dukes drum corps and several area high-school drumlines join in the walk downtown. President Alger presents Harrisonburg Mayor Ted Byrd with a key to JMU.
Submit your Madison class note

The magazine staff welcomes news for class notes and notes from alumni and former faculty members. Please submit news of personal and career achievements online at www.jmu.edu/myinfo or use this form and mail news to:

Class Notes, Madison, James Madison University, 235 Cantrell Ave., MSC 3610, JMU, Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Full Name (include maiden) ________________________________________________________________
Class Year ____________________________ College/Major _______________________
Home Address ________________________________________________________________
City ____________________________ State ____________ ZIP ____________
Email 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/myinfo
Lamar Walker Jr. ('12) and Justin Harris ('10) came to James Madison University through the university’s innovative Centennial Scholars program. Now the two graduate students are giving back in a way only they can — by mentoring current JMU Centennial Scholars. They are showing current undergraduates the ropes in hopes of helping them become as successful as they have been. Joining Walker and Harris in the mentoring program are fellow graduate program students Cassandra Jones ('12), Kala Doss ('11), Katie Blevins ('11, '12M) and Beverly Walker ('11). These alumni are turning their Madison Experience back to the future by sharing their wisdom and encouragement with the next generation of Madison Centennial Scholars.