Alex Paullin ('14) is teaming up with fellow musicians to spread the word about climate change in the developing world.
Monumental makeover

A crew led by Richmond-based conservator Andrew Baxter spent nine days this summer painstakingly restoring both Jimmy statues on campus as well as the Duke Dog statue outside the Plecker Athletic Performance Center. Baxter’s firm, Bronze et al, specializes in refurbishing bronze sculpture, which, over time, is susceptible to wear and tear and the elements. “One of the most gratifying parts of this project was to interact with the students, visitors, faculty and staff as they stopped by to ask questions, learn about the process and marvel at the transformations,” says Baxter. “Many were so gracious as to thank us for the work, and tell us how much the restorations meant to the campus and their everyday experience.” Kathryn Stevens, director of the Madison Art Collection, says as popular photo ops and gameday attractions, JMU’s outdoor monuments pose a dilemma for the institution: how to keep them approachable while at the same time preserving them for posterity. “We want them to be there for generations of future Dukes,” she says.

Andrew Baxter cleans the cravat of the “Little Jimmy” statue near Varner Hall.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE MIRIELLO (’09M)

For more, read The Breeze article: jmu/statues.
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Published by JMU Scholarly Commons, 2017
Upon further review: the Spring/Summer 2017 issue

The spirit of the university?

I graduated from JMU in 2010 and am always happy to see a Madison mag in the mail. This issue, though, I was a little upset to see was all about sports. While I realize that JMU had a successful year athletically and that there is much to celebrate on that front, I didn’t feel like it fully captured the spirit of the university. I was never much into collegiate athletics, and instead graduated with a major in biology. I would appreciate seeing more of a well-rounded year in review with a few stories focusing on something other than sports. I just think it isolates a faction of the alumni population when the entire issue seems so one-track-minded. Just some food for thought and congrats on finishing another successful year!

- Christina Bence (’10)

Sports magazine?

Hi – just curious: Is this now a solely sports magazine? It sends a pretty one-dimensional message of what we all do here at JMU, to me.

- Jeffrey E. Bush, Ph.D., director, School of Music, James Madison University

Remarkable recovery

You should do a video segment detailing the remarkable recovery of JMU quarterback Bryan Schor’s return to the playoffs 18 days after surgery for his broken collarbone! Happy to help!

- Dr. Mark D. Miller, head, Division of Sports Medicine, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Virginia; team physician, James Madison University

Special effort

Congrats on an excellent edition. It was a very special effort, and I will put it with my other JMU memories. Thank you and Go Dukes!

- Adam Burket (’86)

Spot on

Your mentality is spot on. Beautiful balance.

- Bob Schaefer (’07P)

The 1973 team, not 1972

To whom it might concern: The picture of Coach Mac on Page 33 of the latest issue is incorrectly dated. It is from the second season, 1973. You can tell by the Bridgeforth Stadium stands present in the picture. They were not constructed in 1972. Chip Deringer (#21 in picture) was a freshman in 1973 and not on the ‘72 team.

- Daniel Ward (’76) (#24 in picture)
JMU supports the whole student. Help support the whole university.

Madison Vision Fund
The true power of education

As one of the world's youngest democratic republics, Kosovo is working to strengthen its public institutions and habits of governing required to support an open, civil society. A Muslim-majority nation, Kosovo has developed a constitution (modeled in part after our own) and seeks to embrace and celebrate its multicultural and multireligious population. Vlora Citaku, Kosovo's ambassador to the United States, refers to her country as a "secular republic on an irreversible path towards being embraced as an equal member of the free nations of the world."

Making progress down that path requires creating greater economic opportunity for young Kosovars. As this fledgling democracy with an optimistic spirit and clear sense of purpose seeks to build a stronger economy and to reduce unemployment, it faces the daunting challenge of overcoming targeted radicalization and recruitment efforts by foreign-funded extremist networks. Kosovars most susceptible to these efforts are those who see no hope for a self-determined future enabled by employment opportunities. And because of the critical and direct link between employment and education, leaders in Kosovo believe that elevating the robustness of their higher education system is among their most urgent challenges.

In June, I traveled to Kosovo with several JMU faculty members and administrators, building on earlier visits from higher-education leaders from Kosovo to JMU over the past year. These exchanges are part of a formal agreement between JMU and Kosovo that covers areas essential to excellence in higher education—including developing faculty expertise and sharing JMU's experience in academic program review, student assessment and accreditation. The collaboration has grown out of the relationship JMU established initially through our dear friend and colleague Ahmet Shala: the first finance minister of Kosovo, a former Kosovar ambassador to Japan and a doctoral student in JMU's School of Strategic Leadership Studies.

While in Kosovo, we met with leaders from their Ministry of Education, Science and Technology as well as from their public and private universities. They had just experienced a national election that produced some uncertainty about how the nation will be governed in the future, but they were nevertheless determined to move forward with their hopes and dreams for higher education. I was immediately struck by their respect and appreciation for the United States and for its role in protecting Kosovo at its darkest hour of war and genocide during the late 1990s. The people we met do not take freedom and democracy for granted—they embrace their rights and responsibilities with gusto. They combine this zeal for building for the future with a powerful sense of history. As I interact with them, I am constantly reminded that we have much to learn from and with each other.

I was also struck by the enterprising spirit of the people of Kosovo, who are dealing with the transition from a formerly communist regime (as part of the former Yugoslavia) to a market-oriented economy. They see the development of entrepreneurial thinking as a key to their future success. They also see the value of interdisciplinary teaching and learning to address the most significant and complex issues of our time. These are strengths they see in JMU's educational approach, and why they are so invested in our relationship.

Our interactions here and in Kosovo have served as a powerful reminder that the issues of higher education are at once local and global. They also illustrate the enduring power of relationships that provide inspiration and hope in higher education, and that undergird the entire Madison Experience. Repeatedly, our friends in Kosovo have said that they are impressed with JMU's emphasis on developing both the head and the heart of our students. That is why they see us as an important strategic partner and a leader in the world of higher education.

The real promise of this relationship is perfectly depicted by an interaction Herb Amato, JMU's associate vice provost for academic development and part of the team working with Kosovo, had with a U.S. Army officer on an airplane returning to the states from Kosovo. The officer struck up a conversation with Herb because he was curious, since few American civilians travel to and from Kosovo. After learning about the goal of JMU's relationship with Kosovo, the officer said, "Your approach could make far more progress in Kosovo than we can militarily." What a wonderful perspective! The idea that developing education rather than using force to help a new republic expressed by an Army officer ought to give us all great hope and inspire pride in Madison.

Jonathan R. Alger
president, James Madison University
Unraveling the mysteries of the brain

It's much too early to say whether their research will someday lead to better treatments for people who suffer from sensory processing disorders, but biology majors Sean Gay ('17) and Isabel Lamb-Echegaray are excited to be getting in on the ground floor of research that has the potential to help people.

The National Institutes of Health is excited as well, to the tune of $427,773.

The grant, awarded to biology professor Mark Gabriele ('95) and Lincoln Gray, professor of communication sciences and disorders, will fund the research through March 2020, and comes on the heels of a $320,000 NIH grant they received in 2012 to do research in a related part of the brain.

Gabriele said the 2012 grant involved study of a midbrain structure, the inferior colliculus, and a subregion that processes sound. The new grant is funding research in an adjacent area of the inferior colliculus that processes touch and visual cues in addition to auditory information. And unlike the focus of the earlier research, where much is already known, very little is known about this neighboring multisensory center.

“This is what was most exciting to me in writing the grant,” Gabriele said. “I was learning as I was going. This was the first grant where I got interested in an area that I knew little about and had to really school myself.”

Gray and a team of undergraduate and graduate students in communication sciences and disorders will perform physiological and behavioral testing of the neural circuits of interest and their specific roles in processing multisensory information. Their work will be concentrated in year three of the grant.

The NIH is interested because the research could help understand some underlying causes for sensory processing disorders such as tinnitus, commonly called ringing in the ears, and eventually lead to better interventions that are noninvasive and available to a larger segment of the population.

New accelerator lab energizes research

The Madison Accelerator Laboratory, located on the first floor of the newly renovated Madison Hall, will be fully operational this fall. More than 10 years in the making, the laboratory will be capable of performing low-energy experiments in nuclear physics, nuclear astrophysics, nuclear engineering, nuclear forensics and homeland security. Physics and astronomy professor Adriana Banu said being able to do beam research at JMU is significant. Such research previously required making reservations at places like Jefferson National Laboratory in Newport News, Virginia, or the Triangle Universities Nuclear Laboratory in Durham, North Carolina.

Students also will benefit from working with the equipment, which will prepare them for a wide range of careers.
JMU Debate brings home Madison Cup

JMU Debate captured the 17th annual Madison Cup on April 17 at James Madison University. It was the host team’s first cup win since 2003. Students Nick Lepp (17) and Cecilia Cerja represented the university, debating passionately the topic of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

The Madison Cup annually draws many of the top collegiate debate programs, including Yale, Harvard, Cornell, Johns Hopkins and William and Mary. It is funded by the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation, which provides cash prizes for teams and individual competitors.

Also known as the James Madison Commemorative Debate and Citizens Forum, the event began in 2001 on the commemoration of James Madison’s birth to honor his belief that public debate is necessary for a healthy democracy.

“Our goal for this debate, and really all of the debates, is to provide a model to our community for what civic discourse can look like,” said director Mike Davis. “Too often in society today, what passes for debate includes name calling or yelling and lacks the research necessary to make an informed decision. We hope to show through our model of public debate that just because you disagree about the world you live in you don’t have to hate the other person.”

Ranked as one of the top collegiate debate teams in the country in eight of the past 11 years, JMU Debate hosts public events throughout the year. To learn more, visit jmu.edu/debate.

Giving to JMU tops $18 million for the third year in a row

Private donors gave more than $18 million to JMU during fiscal year 2017, which ended June 30. The total marks the third consecutive year that private support to JMU eclipsed the $18 million level, after averaging $10.1 million per year during the previous three fiscal years (2012-14).

For the second consecutive year, the university set single-year records for number of alumni donors (9,163) and total donors (21,137).

“The JMU community has really stepped up and is supporting this wonderful institution philanthropically at a consistently heightened level,” says Nick Langridge (’00, ’07M, ’14Ph.D.), vice president for university advancement. “Alumni, students, parents, friends, foundations and corporations feel the momentum Madison has gathered over the recent years, and they see a gift to the university as a wise investment in a rising stock. That’s exciting, and it ought to make everyone connected to James Madison University proud.”

The $18 million total included increases over the previous year in several categories. Annual giving totals increased from $5.9 million to a record $6.2 million; organizational major gifts grew to $5.5 million from last year’s $3.8 million total; and planned gifts jumped from $617,000 to nearly $2.2 million in fiscal year 2017.

JMU’s second annual Giving Day was among the highlights of the year. During a 24-hour campaign on March 15, the university raised more than $600,000 from more than 4,000 donors.

‘Alumni, students, parents, friends, foundations and corporations feel the momentum Madison has gathered over the recent years, and they see a gift to the university as a wise investment in a rising stock.’

NICK LANGRIDGE, vice president for university advancement
The Madison Experience takes center stage at the 2017 Women for Madison Summit

Connecting with a purpose

BY STEPHANIE BOWLIN ('01)

I was so delighted to attend the Women for Madison Summit in May. After being at JMU every weekend in the fall for football games, I must admit that I’d been going through a bit of Harrisonburg withdrawal over the winter.

This was the perfect opportunity to get back to the 'Burg, and I encouraged several of my girlfriends to join me. It was my birthday weekend, so we made a girls weekend out of it.

From the moment we stepped on campus, we started reminiscing about the many wonderful experiences we’d had there over the years. The Madison En Blanc dinner was superb, from the food to the beautiful sunset, but my favorite part of the evening was the chance to meet and connect with so many other women.

While listening to Mary Ann Alger talk about Dolley Madison, I could look around the table and see everyone’s eyes light up. The reason Women for Madison was formed was evident right there—the connections, the discussions, the impact that only women can make when they work together.

(Clockwise, from top left): April Armstrong ('82) headlined a weekend of fun, friendships and commitment; women jumpstarted the summit by writing three words that sum up why they love JMU; alumni shared the varied ways they have drawn meaning by giving back their time, talent and treasure; dressed en blanc for dinner: Stephanie Bowlin ('01), JMU Alumni Association President Heather Hedrick ('00), First Lady Mary Ann Alger.
The whole weekend was an ongoing reminder of why we give back and stay connected to the university. Hearing about new programs and initiatives, changes to campus and new student life—I learned so much and felt so proud to call JMU my alma mater.

There were tears—both of joy and of sorrow—throughout the summit. But the tears were always followed by hugs, smiles and deeper connections with each other.

My friends and I left the weekend better informed of how we can impact students and engage with the university. We made new friends, learned about volunteer opportunities and were genuinely excited about moving forward as Women for Madison.

I enjoyed making new connections and finding out how I can get even more friends involved in this wonderful organization. But most of all, I left the weekend with a renewed sense of JMU’s purpose and direction. It made me prouder than ever to be a Duke and to see how my gifts of time, talent and treasure can benefit all those students who come after me.

I look forward to being a part of Women for Madison and watching the impact that this group of amazing women can make on our beloved JMU.

Kathy Sarver ('03, '09M) with Stephanie Bowlin ('01).

'Spirit of Philanthropy Award honors Leslie Flanary Gilliam ('82)'

At the summit, JMU President Jonathan Alger and Board of Visitors Rector Vanessa Evans-Grevious ('93, '97M) introduced JMU's new Spirit of Philanthropy Award.

The late pioneering JMU philanthropist Leslie Flanary Gilliam ('82) was both the first recipient of the award and its inspiration. The Leslie Gilliam Spirit of Philanthropy Award will be given annually to someone who “inspires the next generation of philanthropy at the university. The recipient will be a woman who models beneficence and leadership in relation to JMU.”

Photo credit: Leslie Flanary Gilliam ('82)

'This was a weekend filled with leadership and, most importantly, a commitment to James Madison University.'

This was a weekend filled with leadership and, most importantly, a commitment to James Madison University. We are strong women who came together to affirm our dedication to moving JMU forward. I want the event to continue because as Women for Madison we’re just getting started.

I'm so glad that Leslie received our first Spirit of Philanthropy award [posthumously],” says Women for Madison Executive Advisory Council member Susan Brown ('84). “She represents everything we are aspiring to be.”

Gilliam, who died last year, was a founding member of Women for Madison. She “believed in the power of women rallying around a common purpose to effect positive change,” according to the award committee.

For more on the summit, go to jmu/womenformadison, where you'll find fun and insights from the weekend, some of the words chosen to express why participants love JMU and a video tribute to Leslie Gilliam ('82).
BY THE NUMBERS

CLASS OF 2016
Bachelor degree career outcomes

Post-Graduation Pursuits

- Full-Time Employment
- Graduate/Professional School
- Internship
- Part-Time/Experiential Learning
- Unemployed (Seeking)

91% of JMU’s 2016 graduates are employed, in graduate school or engaged in other career-related endeavors six months out.

Employer Distribution

1,585 unique employers

42 states

Washington D.C.

31 countries

Hiring organizations represent a wide range of industries and professions from across the U.S. and around the world.

Top 10 Full-Time Employers
- Accenture
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Deloitte
- James Madison University
- Sentara Healthcare
- AmeriCorps
- Capital One
- INOVA Health System
- Insight Global
- KPMG

Top 5 Graduate Schools
- James Madison University
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- George Mason University
- University of Virginia
- George Washington University

Top 5 Internship Placements
- Consumer Electronics Association
- Disney College Program
- FedBid
- Greensboro Fellows Program
- Virginia Department of Health

40% of JMU’s Class of 2016 graduates are employed outside of Virginia.
David Vaughn ('17) remembers the first time he set foot in Zane Showker Hall, in the spring of his sophomore year. "I went in to get a change-of-major form signed. I walked in the front door, and I saw the stock ticker on the wall. There was marble everywhere, and people were dressed in suits. The lobby was packed because it was between classes. ... I was so overwhelmed that I walked right out the back door and came back the next day during nonpeak hours."

Vaughn had grown accustomed to the university's more modern, spacious facilities. The Lynchburg, Virginia, native entered JMU in Fall 2012 as a musical theatre major, and as a freshman he lived in the new Visual and Performing Arts Community in Wayland Hall and performed on stage at the distinguished Forbes Center for the Performing Arts.

After discovering that theater wasn't really his scene, he switched majors to chemistry, with the goal of following in his father's footsteps as a physician. But after a year of classes and labs in JMU's state-of-the-art science buildings on East Campus, a career in medicine didn't seem to be the right prescription either.

Vaughn would eventually find a home in JMU's nationally ranked College of Business, where he earned a degree in finance with minors in business analytics and computer information systems. He credits his professors with taking an interest in him and his education and COB's strong alumni network for opening doors, including a summer internship with Capital Automotive Real Estate Services. In July, he joined The Carlyle Group in Washington, D.C., in the firm's junior fund analyst program.

"My experience in the College of Business made me a competitive applicant and prepared me well for my career," Vaughn says.
Having met students from other top business schools around the country, he feels that COB graduates are on par in terms of their knowledge and technical expertise, and are ahead of the pack in “soft” skills such as communication, teamwork, creativity and critical thinking.

**OVERCAPACITY**

If there’s a chink in the college’s armor, Vaughn says, it’s Showker Hall, which is at more than twice its original capacity of 2,400 students. To engage COB’s more than 5,000 students today, faculty members must find ways to make the building function by repurposing hallways as study spaces, transforming closets into sales practice studios and creating offices in lobby nooks. “They’ve simply outgrown the building,” Vaughn says. “You sometimes literally have to step over people.”

COB majors routinely arrive at 7 a.m. on weekdays to reserve one of Showker’s seven study rooms or to access its labs, and group work—a hallmark of COB curricula—is hampered by a lack of collaborative space. “Most of the time you meet at a group member’s house or go to a room in Carrier or [Rose] Library, but you’re limited there,” Vaughn says. “You need to be able to use Showker equipment.”

**Having met students from other top business schools, Vaughn feels that COB graduates are ahead of the pack in “soft” skills such as communication, teamwork, creativity and critical thinking.**

As the hub of JMU’s business school—which ranks 18th in the country among public institutions, wins more Google Online Marketing Challenges than any other university in the world and boasts the highest pass rate on the CPA exam among accounting programs with more than 20 students—Showker Hall simply doesn’t match the caliber of its classes and students, Vaughn says.

**PAYING IT FORWARD**

Vaughn first learned of plans for the new COB Learning Complex at a Dean’s Club event in Richmond. “It was the first time that I was able to see mock-ups of the new building. I got super excited about it. It’s a great opportunity. Even though I won’t be here to take advantage of it, it’s something that will make my degree more valuable and help us reach that next echelon of business schools.”

In a letter to COB alumni asking for support for the new Learning Complex, Vaughn states that what makes JMU a special place is its people. “We care about and help each other—past, present and future. That’s why there’s such an incredible bond among us all.”

Vaughn also spoke with prospective business majors this past spring at Choices, JMU’s open house for admitted students. His Madison Experience included leadership positions outside the COB as well. He was executive treasurer of the Student Government Association in 2016–17 and vice president of his fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha. He also was a tutor with Student-Athlete Services. Vaughn capped off his career at JMU as the student speaker during May commencement.

As a new alumus, Vaughn fully intends to give back to the College of Business and the university in meaningful ways. “I love JMU. Coming here was the best decision I’ve ever made.”

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David Vaughn talks about his experience as a student in the College of Business and why he plans to become a “2020 Visionary” for the new COB Learning Complex. Visit jmu/vaughn.
Faculty Voices
Perspectives on topics of the day

I think that if parents use sound education programs on iPads or cellphones or computers and they’re interacting with the child, I think that can be very positive. It really depends on whether or not the parent or teacher is interacting... In a perfect world, a parent could sit with a child while they’re watching the show and interact. Most parents don’t have the time or wherewithal to do that.

Julie Strunk, nursing professor
On children, technology and screen time – The News & Advance

‘In some ways, the trading of our data in online interactions occurs as unconsciously as breathing. We do not see packets of data leaving our machines and going into a large bucket of other data, where some process occurs and money falls from the bottom, into a corporate wallet. Yet that is essentially what is happening.’

Yasmeen Shorish, data services coordinator librarian and professor
On teaching data information literacy – Educause Review

‘In the post-Cold War years—1989, 1999—the largest refugee population in the world were Afghans and Pakistanis. They were being blown up by the thousands. What we’re talking about is a weapon of mass destruction that moves in slow motion.’

Ken Rutherford, political science professor and director of the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery
In “The Historic Innovation of Land Mines—And Why We’ve Struggled to Get Rid of Them” – Smithsonian.com

‘The people who are designing these new features become so familiar with their novel technology that they don’t always take into account human behavior. But that’s part of their job, to figure out human behavior before introducing a new feature.’

Kevin Borg, history professor, automotive history expert
On “technological opacity,” the tendency of automakers to put a layer of electronics between the driver and the vehicle’s mechanical components – Salon.com

‘Other research shows that, when time truly is coming to an end, emotionally rewarding and meaningful people and places naturally rise to the top of our priority lists. Our new study demonstrates that this mindset can be created far in advance of an actual ending to help us see our priorities a little more clearly.’

Jaime Kurtz, psychology professor
On her research on strategies for well-being – Khaleej Times

‘When we pave over the natural ground, we cut it off from the air and water that the life in the ground needs to stay alive. We essentially kill that ground.’

Paul Bogard, English professor
Talking on his book The Ground Beneath Us – National Geographic

Published by JMU Scholarly Commons, 2017
When Mike Houston arrived as James Madison's new football head coach in January 2016, he had one quarterback on the roster. Inconsistent and inexperienced, Bryan Schor had been thrust into action with the 2015 season-ending injury to star Vad Lee. A few flashes of promise ended with a sour playoff loss at home against Colgate.

That loss sparked Schor's offseason drive. Houston's arrival and the signing of Football Bowl Subdivision transfer quarterback Connor Mitch truly put the ball in Schor's court to decide his destiny.

"Bryan was very mature and knew it was his job to lose," Houston says of Mitch's signing. "From that day forward, he was a different player. Connor wasn't even here yet. It was 5:30 p.m. on a Friday and there was one person on the Bridgeforth field. Bryan Schor was dripping sweat. By the time fall camp started, it was never a competition. He seized the reins of the offense."

With Schor under center, the season got off to a noteworthy start. Schor and the Dukes put up gaudy numbers on offense, competed with a quality FBS opponent in the University of North Carolina and began to rack up a few significant conference wins.

As the Dukes dispatched their opponents, Schor's confidence soared. "I started making passes that I knew were risky, but I was confident that our wide receivers would make a play on them, that they could correct it."

Victories over traditional rivals Delaware and William and Mary and a clutch win at Richmond continued to raise the stakes. "I always say, I learned the big-stage performance mentality from Vad [Lee]," Schor says. "I watched him play in big moments and that's something I said I wanted to be able to do. Never let a stage change who you are or what you do."
The Dukes were 8-1 and in first place heading into a Nov. 12 top-10 showdown at Villanova. A win and JMU would earn back-to-back league championships for the first time in program history.

JMU took the early lead against, statistically, the nation’s best defense. Schor, playing in front of friends, family and his high-school coaches in his home state of Pennsylvania, had the team poised for another score with an 11-yard scamper to the 16-yard line. Then it happened.

Schor suffered a broken collarbone on the Dukes’ first drive of the second quarter. “I said, ‘Here we go, second year in a row, JMU has a good thing going and the starting quarterback gets hurt late in the year. I immediately thought I was done for the season.’”

Houston was concerned too. “The season has a chance to be special and now there’s a freak injury. For Bryan, you think, ‘Why does it have to happen like this?’”

Not one to feel sorry for himself, Schor was back on the sideline in a sling to support true freshman quarterback Cole Johnson. With a lift from JMU’s defense, the Johnson-led Dukes held on to defeat Villanova 20-7 and claim the league crown.

With the door of opportunity still open for the Dukes, Schor was encouraged by a conversation with Dr. Kent Diduch, medical director for JMU’s athletic training programs. “He told me of cases where people came back [from a broken collarbone] and played in three weeks. When I heard that, I was ready to do whatever I had to do to come back in three weeks.”

In what Houston dubbed “one of the most remarkable performances of his life,” Schor did indeed do what it took to return in three weeks. In Schor’s absence, JMU dispatched Elon in the regular-season finale, earning a first-round bye in the FCS playoffs.

“I learned the big-stage performance mentality from Vad [Lee]. I watched him play in big moments and that’s something I said I wanted to be able to do. Never let a stage change who you are or what you do.”

Any uncertainty of Schor’s condition was silenced in round two against New Hampshire. In a career performance, Schor went 30-for-37 passing while tying a JMU record with five touchdown passes and racking up the fifth-most passing yards in program history with 371. “It was nice to come back and feel that I could still perform at the same level as when I left.”

When the fourth-seeded Dukes trounced No. 5 Sam Houston State, then ranked first in media polls, Houston felt JMU and its confident quarterback had a chance to go all the way.

His adversity and steady approach all season long set the stage for Schor to continue excelling in the toughest of environments.

“That’s the only reason he played the way he did in those games,” Houston says. “It’s a credit to the way he handles everything. He didn’t get too high after Richmond or other
wins and never too low after a Villanova or North Carolina. He was always even-keeled.”

Schor reveled at the chance to perform on the big stage against defending national champion North Dakota State in a raucous Fargodome. “I remember in the summer [right end Jonathan Kloosterman] and I were imagining being able to play there before we graduate. The very first play of the game, I called a play in the huddle and he was right next to me. He looked at me saying he had no idea what I had just called. It was a fun experience.”

The Dukes became the first team ever to defeat the Bison in the FargoDome in the FCS playoffs. Three weeks later, the scene was all purple as Schor and the Dukes captured the national championship, 28-14, over Youngstown State in a frigid Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas.

“When we went to Frisco, we felt like everyone came with us,” Schor says. “The support at JMU has been incredible.”

Equally incredible was the season compiled by Schor. He was named an All-American, CAA Offensive Player of the Year and the Player of the Year in Virginia, among numerous accolades. He led the nation with a completion percentage of 73.1 while passing for 3,002 yards and 29 touchdowns to go along with 10 scores and 569 yards on the ground.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Schor’s commitment to improvement has extended into this season. “I expect him to be himself and be the leader of our team,” Houston says. “He was the only returning player voted by his teammates as a permanent team captain. I thought he was better this spring than last fall. That’s his commitment to improving every day.”

Motivation has never been an issue for Schor. “My upbringing is what drives me and what motivates me. I watched my dad get up every morning at 4:30 and never miss a day of work. That taught me that no matter what happens, you go out and do your thing. My mom always taught me to look at everything in life as a positive.”

It’s been a long and trying road that has catapulted Schor into hero status in JMU history. In many ways, that road has defined the person he is today.

“He dealt with a lot of uncertainties and challenges early in his career. You have to think that those challenging times built the fabric around him and made him the person and leader that he is today,” says JMU Director of Athletics Jeff Bourne. “I think sometimes you learn, you grow and you’re better prepared. Bryan’s a great example of that.”

His journey has ensured that Schor will never look too far ahead. With the NFL potentially looming at the end of his final campaign, it would be easy to lose focus.

Not for Schor.

“If we go out and we’re successful as a team, if the NFL’s meant to be, it will happen. But I’m not going to think about it until the end of the season. That’s what I owe to my teammates and to the season that’s in front of us. I’ll wait to put my mental efforts into that at the end of the season.”

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Schor hoists the national championship trophy as JMU Nation celebrates the Dukes’ 28-14 win over Youngstown State on Jan. 7 in Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas.
JMU added two more CAA championships to its 2016-17 total, as lacrosse and softball each captured both the league championship and the regular-season title. Lacrosse earned a first-round victory to advance in the NCAA tournament while softball reached the final of the Waco NCAA Regional.

For the second straight year, JMU posted the best winning percentage among all 14 Division I schools in Virginia. The Dukes’ 63.3 percent mark easily outdistanced the University of Virginia in second at 59.8 percent. JMU has now won back-to-back awards from the Virginia Sports Information Directors after previously not having won since 1994-95.

JMU finished 87th in the Learfield Director’s Cup standings, which measures NCAA postseason success among all Division I programs. It was the best finish for the Dukes since 2000-01. JMU also finished first in the Colonial Athletic Association for the first time since 2008-09. The university’s ranking reflected postseason runs in football, lacrosse, softball and volleyball.

In addition to lacrosse and softball, JMU sent individuals to NCAA postseason competition in men’s golf and track and field. Ryan Cole (’17) advanced to the NCAA golf regionals in Texas for the second straight year to wrap up his JMU career. Tessa Mundell (’17) culminated her track-and-field career with her first appearance in the NCAA East Preliminary Round in Kentucky.
JMU's opening trio of Engagement Fellows has completed a rewarding year of public service.

Xavia Gary ('15), Madeleine Ross ('16) and Claudia Salvador ('15M) say the postgraduate fellowship program, an extension of the university's commitment to engaged learning, community engagement and civic engagement, has helped them grow both personally and professionally.

**Nation builder**

"I came into this experience with a specific set of goals for myself and I accomplished those, but I got so much more," says Salvador, who recently completed her fellowship at the Robert H. Smith Center for the Constitution at Montpelier, the home of James and Dolley Madison in Orange County. "I feel like I'm more prepared for the world. It has helped me figure out how I'm going to tie in all of my experiences and really reinforced what it is that I want to do."

A Chicago native, Salvador came to JMU for the European Union Policy Studies master's program. Her interest in politics and international affairs proved a perfect fit with the center at Montpelier, where her responsibilities included not only coordinating residential programming for teachers and Washington, D.C., politicos, but also visits from current and emerging foreign leaders through the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program. These groups come to Montpelier to study the U.S. Constitution in the hopes of sowing the seeds of democracy in their home countries.

"My dream career path is to work in international development in the context of post-conflict countries," Salvador says. "I want to be able to draw on my graduate studies and apply what I've learned at the center about what you need to have a strong democratic government."

**Change agent**

Ross, who worked with JMU's Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services, says being an Engagement Fellow has helped her discover her strengths as a professional.

A health sciences major at JMU, Ross gained experience in a variety of roles within IIHHS, including needs assessment, community relations and program planning. Working behind the scenes of the Office on Children and Youth and in the community with organizations like Healthy Families "made me realize how it's possible to make large-scale change happen," she says.

But it was another component of the fellowship—Ross' contact with community nurses and her one-on-one consultations with area children and families—that cemented her decision to apply to nursing school. "I was able to see the role nurses play in health education on micro and macro scales," she says. "I saw firsthand that nurses are not only trusted by individuals, but they are trusted by communities. They have the potential to be change agents for the bigger picture in health care and access.'

— **MADELEINE ROSS ('16),**

**Engagement Fellow**

**Youth mentor**

After graduating from JMU with a degree in sport and recreation management, Gary went home to Richmond, where he worked at a community center for individuals with mental disabilities. His passion for youth coaching and mentoring was put on hold until one day he received an email from JMU about a fellowship opportunity with the Valley Scholars Program, which provides outreach activities to underprivileged middle- and high-school students in the Shenandoah Valley to increase their awareness of, and access to, college. "I figured, why not [apply]?"
As a community service coordinator and recruiter with Valley Scholars, Gary served as a liaison between the scholars and staff. He traveled to Waynesboro High School and Stonewall Jackson High School weekly to encourage and assist participants in their academic progress, and also helped with Valley Scholars program days at JMU.

Gary feels his own experience growing up in inner-city Richmond helped him connect with other potential first-generation college students. “The most rewarding part has been the impact, not just on the students, but on myself,” he says. “When you serve as a mentor, sometimes you feel like what you’re doing isn’t really reaching anybody. But a mentorship is a marathon, not a sprint.

“This program really increased my passion to help youth, especially with the transition to adulthood,” says Gary, who plans to go on to graduate school, with the goal of becoming a high-school athletic director. “I’ve enjoyed seeing them grow, and it’s helped me grow in the process.”

“I feel like I’m more prepared for the world. It has helped me figure out how I’m going to tie in all of my experiences and really reinforced what it is that I want to do.”

— CLAUDIA SALVADOR (‘15M), Engagement Fellow

Trailblazers

The Engagement Fellows Program is aligned with JMU’s participation in the Service Year Alliance, a compact among colleges and universities to provide opportunities for young people to engage in public service and to connect with something bigger than themselves.

Recruitment and selection of a new crop of Engagement Fellows is underway. Fellows commit to a full-time, 10-month position with IIHHS, Montpelier or Valley Scholars, for which they receive a stipend and university housing.

The outgoing class offered some advice to those who will follow in their footsteps.

“Set goals for yourself, but also be flexible,” Salvador says. Ross emphasized the importance of being confident and pushing hard for change. “Yes, this is a service year, but you also have a voice,” she says.

“Be open, work hard and take advantage of the opportunity,” Gary says. “As trailblazers, we want you to build on what we’ve been able to do and take it to the next level.”
JMU Engagement Fellows Program

Each year, three outstanding graduates have the opportunity to experience a transformational year of public service. Each fellow is committed to a full-time, 10-month position for which he or she receives a stipend and housing on university property. Fellows are placed with agencies where they work on projects designed to advance their capacity for engaged learning, community engagement or civic engagement. Fellows also participate in self and group reflections intended to promote their personal and professional development.

Fellowship with IIHHS
The Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services engages students in career preparation by promoting scholarship, providing interprofessional learning experiences and connecting campus with communities through innovative programs that advance quality of life. With over two dozen programs established in response to community needs and in collaboration with community organizations, IIHHS offers a dynamic and versatile environment for a year of service. Notable strengths include services for children and youth, rural families and foreign-born populations as well as intergenerational services and training and development for community health work. A focus for the year will be determined by assessment of current needs but also influenced by strengths and interests of the selected fellow. This position reports primarily to the director of IIHHS, who is also associate dean of the College of Health and Behavioral Studies.

Fellowship with Montpelier
Montpelier is the historic home of James and Dolley Madison, as well as multiple generations of slaves and workers who toiled on the Orange, Virginia, plantation. Montpelier was where James Madison shaped the ideas that would become the U.S. Constitution as he meticulously studied past forms of governments and organized his thoughts into what he believed were the ideal principles for a representative democracy. Madison’s ideas would become the “Virginia Plan,” and later the framework for the Constitution. The Montpelier estate, which is open to the public, features the restored Madison home, gardens and cemeteries, archaeological sites and more than three miles of forest trails.

Montpelier is also home to the Robert H. Smith Center for the Constitution, which offers world-class on-site and web-enabled educational programming. The center’s goal is to inspire participation in civic dialogue, improve the public’s understanding of the founding principles of the United States and enable citizens to deepen their informed participation in democracy.

Fellowship with Valley Scholars
The Valley Scholars program at JMU partners with school districts in the Shenandoah Valley to identify and provide access and opportunity for students who have the desire and potential to attend college but face barriers in pursuit of their goal. Valley Scholars provides academic and social supports to students and families beginning in eighth grade with the goal of preparing scholars to be admitted to a competitive college or university. The program is comprehensive, with weekly mentor meetings and programs, each designed to expose students to a culture of lifelong learning. The Engagement Fellow works with program staff to enhance existing programs through the expansion of service to new students while also working to identify critical needs leading to greater success and positive outcomes for students progressing to high-school graduation.

For more information on the JMU Engagement Fellows Program, visit jmu/fellows.
Alex Paullin ('14) combines his love for music and conservation to create a better world.
PASSIONS MEET
Alex Paullin ('14) describes his Madison Experience as atypical. He majored in geographic science and minored in geology, environmental science and environmental studies, all the while pursuing jazz studies. "I wanted to be a generalist," says Paullin. "I didn't know how I was going to incorporate all of these, but I knew I wanted to."

Though Paullin says he was "caught in the middle of two divergent passions," he found a way to accomplish his dream. "I don't think it would have been possible without my time at JMU," he says.

As a student, Paullin had worked with University Recreation's Adventure Programs, and shortly after graduation Guy deBrun, the assistant director, told Paullin about an opportunity to work in Lesotho with deBrun's father. Paullin also received an email from JMU's geographic science department about opportunities with National Geographic in the same region of Africa.

As a result, the new graduate found himself traversing the Okavango River Basin. With the trip came an epiphany—Paullin realized that he didn't have to choose between conservation and music.

"I was in a developing part of the world that had a need for sustainable living," he says. "I saw people who bear the least of the blame for climate change bearing the brunt of the results of climate change."

"It's not that hard to find musicians when you're one yourself," says Paullin. "You show up with your guitar and start to play. ... Music leaves imprints on the mind that stay with you forever."
"I was in a developing part of the world that had a need for sustainable living."
'Music is universal and the need to get back in touch with the world we live on is universal.'
Paullin started Conservation Music, a nonprofit organization devoted to environmental outreach in the developing world. “We want to get the message out in a way that is relatable, understandable and actionable to the audience we’re speaking to.”

Music is the key to sharing the message. “We collaborate with local musicians and integrate the message of environmental sustainability with local traditional and modern sounds that our target audience can identify with,” he says. “Music is universal, and the need to get back in touch with the world we live on is universal.”

Conservation Music continues to grow. “This year we’re making a documentary film,” he says. “Half of the members of my team are Dukes. There’s a feeling of support and shared purpose with Dukes. JMU turns out students who have a drive to change the world.”

Many of the places where Conservation Music is working are arid countries, places where severe drought is followed by storms and floods.

“One of my favorite projects was done in a village in Lesotho, where I have a close relationship with the traditional musicians,” says Paullin. The song tells the story of a local man whose land was ravaged by a flood. With hard work, persistence and the help of family and neighbors, the man was able to repair the damage and create an oasis of beauty. “Today he has a forest of trees for firewood, peach trees for food, a well for water for his family and a reed bed for thatching his roof. All of this came out of a disaster,” says Paullin.

The opening line of the song—“If you want to see beautiful things you can take a look in the mirror and look within”—is significant. For Paullin, it encompasses all that he hopes Conservation Music can accomplish. “No matter our situation, rich or poor, we can look within ourselves to find the special aspect of who we are and apply that to becoming part of the solution to the problems we’re facing.”

“My vision is a world where every language and every musical style encourage all to stay accountable to the world we live on.”

“If we can empower movements everywhere we go,” says Paullin, “then others can pick up the torch and continue the work [for] the greater good, not only for their own country and their own people, but for the whole world.”
n 2005, Jennifer Killi Marshall ('01) was enjoying a seemingly perfect life. In four short years, the JMU marketing major had gone from rookie to the top-grossing recruiter at a Washington, D.C., recruitment agency for creative professionals. She was recently married, and she and her husband were building their first home.

"Then my illness emerged," she says.

"When my husband returned from a business trip, he immediately knew something was wrong," Marshall says. Her symptoms—racing thoughts, talking fast, outrageous energy, delusions—were signs of a full-blown manic episode.

At the time, Marshall, who had no previous history of mental illness, was advised that the episode was most likely a singular event, the result of stress and a week without sleep. Unfortunately, two weeks later, on Christmas Day, she was back in the hospital.
Jennifer Marshall ('01) transformed her battle with mental illness into triumph and galvanized a movement.
FINDING HER BRAVE

She began a new enterprise: learning to deal with a bipolar disorder. Despite the challenges of balancing psychiatrist and therapist appointments, finding the right medications, understanding the triggers that could lead to further episodes, and, in total, experiencing four hospitalizations in five years, Marshall counts herself lucky.

Truthfully, though, Marshall made her own luck, and it was not without struggle.

Like many people with mental illness, Marshall had to accept the fact of a lifelong health condition that "historically had been kept in the shadows." She felt burdened by the stigma of the disease and spent years hiding her mental illness.

While her parents and husband did everything they could to help Marshall get well, ultimately, and surprisingly, it was strangers who had a large impact on her recovery. "I found stories on the internet written by people who had made successful lives despite mental illness. They inspired me," she says. The inspiration moved her to pen her own story. Marshall began writing anonymously, creating the BipolarMomLife blog.

Family, friends, even psychiatrists recommended she remain anonymous to avoid the discrimination that comes with a mental illness label.

That changed when she was approached to contribute her experience to the What to Expect book series. "It brought me out of hiding," she says. "I wanted to stand up to stigma," she says, "... and an incredible thing happened." Marshall's courage to write using her real name was met with a huge outpouring of support. People sent her letters to thank her for being brave, and they shared their personal stories of struggling with mental illness. It proved to be a catalyst for Marshall. "I wanted to give others the same opportunity I had—a platform to share their story."

"I had an idea to do a show in a theater where people would stand up on stage and share their stories of dealing with mental illness through essays, poetry and music," she says. She met Anne Marie Ames, who shared her passion for mental health awareness. Together they launched This Is My Brave on Kickstarter and were successfully funded in 31 days, raising over $10,000.

"We publicized auditions and cast the show with 13 brave storytellers," she says. The first show in Arlington, Virginia, sold out, received rave reviews and prompted the team to expand their reach. In 2015, the show was performed in six cities; in 2016, nine cities; and this year shows are scheduled in 20 cities, including a performance in Australia.

The organization has experienced a groundswell of support and plenty of attention. "We were featured in a front-page article in The Washington Post and a four-page article in O, The Oprah Magazine," says Marshall. "Using artistic expression to heal from mental health issues is something we've found to be empowering for our storytellers and eye-opening to our audiences," she says. "I've seen a shift; more and more people are coming forward to talk openly. That's how we'll move the needle in terms of attitudes in our culture toward mental illness." The change is needed. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, one in five adults in the U.S. will experience mental illness in a given year.

Marshall says education is key in dealing with mental illness, for the patient and for family and friends. "Mental illnesses deserve to be treated just like any physical illness," she says. "Our brains get sick the same way other parts of our bodies get sick."

As so often happens in the Madison community, Dukes connect in their efforts to make a difference in the world. "One of our board members is a fellow Duke—Ryan Eppehimer. He and I have been friends ever since COB 300 brought us together as colleagues. He has been helping us with strategic planning and growth initiatives."

Marshall says stories changed the course of her life. Thanks to This Is My Brave, many others are benefiting from that same transformative experience.
'Using artistic expression to heal from mental health issues is something we’ve found to be empowering for our storytellers and eye-opening to our audiences.'
NOT JUST A BETTER MOUSETRAP

Engineering major's 3-D printer will do more than print.

BY ERIC GORTON ('86, '09M)
Engineering major Richard Xu is happy to discuss his little side project—designing and building a 3-D printer from scratch.

Just be prepared, if you're not fluent in electronics or mechanical terms, to look some things up. Within seconds he'll talk about wanting a "pick-and-place." And in order to make a PCB, he needs a CNC machine. The 6-foot-5, 275-pound Chinese-American—an offensive lineman on JMU's national championship football team last fall—goes on to explain, "I have motor controls that go into gantries, and then I have a 12-volt rail with a live rail that does all the other power management.

I have a signal cable that goes in there and at the end of the day, all I do is swap stuff out."

You see, this won't be just any 3-D printer. It will be bigger than most, more accurate than most and do more than just print. "I could probably print a smart car if I really wanted to," says Xu (pronounced "shuh").

Don't put it past him. Moments after meeting Xu, it's clear this guy probably succeeds at just about anything he puts his mind to. During the Fall 2016 semester, with football in full swing, Xu took 22 credit hours. "My mom told me I couldn't take 22 credit hours and pass all my classes. I passed them all. ... A lot of all-nighters and stuff like that."

Xu, a rising senior, won't have to manage that kind of schedule moving forward. He decided to "retire" from football this summer due to nagging injuries.

The 3-D printer is not even part of a class project. It's just something he decided he wanted to do. "I'm a big-circuits guy," he says (no pun intended). "I like making little gizmos and stuff." But the parts needed for making little gizmos and stuff can cost big money. Plus, a regular 3-D printer could do some of the things he wanted to do, but there were other things that required different machines.

"I realized after looking at designs of pick-and-places and CNCs and everything else, they really just run on the same machine. It's just different methods. ... It just came to me, why hasn't anybody done this?"

Xu is financing most of the project with money his parents saved to send him to college. Since he received nearly a full scholarship to play football, the money is now going into his project. He fully intends to pay them back with the profits he earns once he starts selling the machine. A local company has already expressed interest in it.

Xu and his business partners, College of Business students Chris Ashley ('17) and Bryce Edmunds, received a $10,000 grant to participate in the eight-week Venture Creation Fellowship, a summer accelerator program hosted by the Center for Entrepreneurship.
“Richard has a great mind for envisioning how systems work and how to build out those visions,” says Ashley, an economics major who met Xu in the summer of 2016 at X-Labs, JMU’s maker space in Lakeview Hall. “I’m excited to work on a team with him.”

All eight Venture Creation teams worked on their projects in June and July in the JMU Technology Innovation offices in the Ice House. Participants spent some of their time meeting with and hearing from patent lawyers, venture capitalists and entrepreneurs, who shared advice and insight into launching a company.

“We also had some more structured workshops for topics such as market research techniques and building a pitch deck,” Ashley says.

While Xu is not earning academic credit for the 3-D printer project, he took 22 credit hours in Fall 2016 while also playing on JMU’s national championship football team.

Xu says it is helping him with his studies. “I hate doing problems and stuff. I’m more of a hands-on learner, so this project is kind of why I’m passing all my classes right now,” he says. “I need to apply it on something that is realistic.”

He also plans to use it to print a drone for his engineering capstone project, which involves attaching sensors to a drone to create elevation models needed to predict flooding in low-lying coastal areas.

In the long run, Xu hopes his printer—or “micro factory”—becomes a household item as common as a kitchen appliance. “If something breaks in the house, instead of going to find that part, companies can offer STLs (STereoLithography). Just print them out and then your part is right there, you don’t have to go anywhere. Some simpler things, like trashcans. Do you really need to drive to Home Depot, wait in line, find a trashcan? You just print one out.”

Future improvements, he says, will enable the machine to print glass filaments and medical items. “Plasma cutting is going in too. I don’t know anything we can’t do with this machine. The motto is, find something we can’t do with this machine, figure out how to do it, then find something else we can’t do.”
The circumstances surrounding the Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art spring exhibition *Drawing on the Left: Ben Shahn and the Art of Human Rights* could qualify as destiny at work—the perfect combination of the right people, the right place and the right time.
shah (1898-1969) stands among the most prominent of the socially engaged artists of his generation. As a progressive activist, he devoted his life’s work to fighting injustice and promoting the rights of marginalized and persecuted people. From the New Deal through the civil rights era, he created prints, drawings, photographs and paintings that focus on issues of poverty, unemployment, fascism, war, labor unions, the nuclear arms race, civil liberties, and racial, ethnic and class discrimination. His provocative art continues to resonate with modern audiences who see powerful connections between the artist’s work and current events.

JMU art history professor Laura Katzman served as guest curator for the Shahn exhibition. A leading scholar of Shahn’s art, Katzman worked for years to secure for the university significant gifts of the artist’s work from the Ben Shahn Estate in Roosevelt, New Jersey, and from Fairfax-based lawyer and art collector Michael Berg. “The coincidence of these [gifts] coming together at the same time meant that the Madison Art Collection was going to have a critical mass of work around which I could build a show,” says Katzman.

Katzman rounded out the exhibition with works from Randolph College’s Maier Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Institution’s Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. It took a year of negotiations with the Smithsonian for JMU’s Duke Gallery to meet the exacting standards of the institution. “Proper humidity, temperature and lighting controls are important, as are security and insurance,” says Katzman. “Shahn’s works tend to be on paper, which make them particularly susceptible to humidity and light.” The Smithsonian lent four works to the exhibition, the first time that the institution has loaned artwork to JMU’s art galleries.

The gifts of Shahn’s work are an acknowledgment of Madison’s focus on undergraduate research and represent a considerable boon for JMU students. Katzman explains that Berg was interested in donating to a Virginia institution that was committed to teaching and that would use the work for various kinds of student-faculty collaborations. In addition, the original drawings in pencil and ink included in the estate’s gift are “rare and precious and often the first stages of thinking for another work of art,” says Katzman. “Incomplete works are useful for a teaching collection because students get to see the working process. While museums often seek signed works of art, teaching institutions consider all the pedagogical possibilities and therefore approach collecting and acquiring art with a different mindset.”

“I structured the show to be a laboratory for my museum studies students, so they could understand the making of a major exhibition from behind the scenes and use it as a foundation for their course work,” says Katzman. Students were asked to brainstorm ways to incorporate technology into the exhibition and to come up with their own public programs to coincide with the exhibition. In addition, Duke Hall Gallery undergraduate interns had a chance to participate in the installation and to learn from the Hirshhorn’s conservator about the installation process, the role of a conservator and internship possibilities at the Smithsonian.

Katzman offered Meagan Stuck (’17), an art history major with a museum studies concentration, the opportunity to be her curatorial research assistant for the exhibition. “This experience has cemented my interest in museum work,” says Stuck, who will begin a graduate program in museums, galleries and contemporary culture studies at the University of Westminster in London this fall.

Thanks to Katzman’s efforts and generous donations from Michael Berg and the Ben Shahn Estate, both the JMU and Harrisonburg communities can appreciate Shahn’s culturally relevant yet timeless artwork for many years to come.

Adapted from Jen Kulju’s ('04M) article “Ben Shahn exhibition benefits JMU students, Madison Art Collection.” Read the entire article online at jmu/shahn.
When Mildred Dickerson, beloved teacher of young children as well as early childhood education students at Madison, died in 2009, Phillip Wishon, dean of the College of Education, started thinking about an appropriate way to honor her life.

"JMU already had a scholarship in her name and her husband’s name—The Dr. and Mrs. Z.S. Dickerson Endowed Scholarship," Wishon recalls. "I was thinking of her contributions to who we are as a college and realized that we’re standing on the shoulders of these giants who came before us."

After several years of discussions, Wishon decided the time was right to develop guidelines and procedures for establishing the JMU College of Education Hall of Distinction. And on May 21, five of the university’s educational giants were inducted into the hall to honor their contributions to JMU and the education profession.

Informational banners and a display case of photographs and memorabilia spotlighting the contributions of Dickerson, Phil Bigler, Cornelius Heatwole and Esther and Jerry Minskoff are displayed on the hall’s website at www.jmu.edu/coe/hod/.

More educators will be added to the hall, but not necessarily annually, Wishon says. "We want the hall to expand as we become aware of others worthy of recognition."
PHIL BIGLER

National Teacher of the Year, historian, professor, book author, publisher, voracious reader and lifelong student.

Phil Bigler ('74, '76M) has filled all of these roles in a career spanning 40 years in public-school classrooms and beyond, including serving as director of JMU’s James Madison Center for nine years and Arlington National Cemetery’s historian during the 40th anniversary of World War II.

Bigler transferred to Madison College as a junior in 1972 after attending Virginia Tech and George Mason University. His first inkling of how student-centered his new school was came in the form of a welcoming phone call from Raymond Dingledine, who was head of the history department. Classes with history’s Lee Congdon and Clive Hallman and education’s Norman Lyon and Harold Lehman helped develop Bigler’s already keen interest in history to prepare him for his own classroom.

“I came out with a great education,” says Bigler, who left JMU with a master’s in education and a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. “I had a solid history background and I enjoyed wonderful interactions with my JMU professors in history and education.”

He joined Fairfax County Public Schools, where he taught 22 different courses in his 23-year public high-school teaching career, including classes in American history—his favorites—Russian history, economics and Middle Eastern history. “Every time I taught a new class, it was a new sense of discovery,” Bigler says.

That suited him fine. “My job was reading and learning,” Bigler says. “I loved history so much I wanted to share it. I wanted to show young people how important history is to their lives.”

He initially tried to mimic his own instructors by lecturing, but found he needed new, more active methods to bring history alive for his high-school students.

He turned to using simulations to immerse his students in specific historical periods. A perennial favorite simulation was of the 1960 Kennedy-Nixon presidential election campaign. Using technology available at the time—a commercially produced computer game—Bigler developed lesson plans and guided his students as they learned about the election and the Electoral College. Students held mock presidential debates, wrote position papers and campaign literature, created posters and made speeches to demonstrate their understanding of the campaign’s issues.

Writing about the simulation’s mythical...

‘I have always seen my role as a teacher to facilitate student learning in what will be their lifelong quest for knowledge, to help ignite in students the spark of enlightenment, to motivate their interest, and to cultivate their minds.’
The election-night atmosphere in his 2012 book *Teaching History in an Uncivilized World*, Bigler says: “The tension in the classroom was palpable as everyone anxiously awaited the returns. As each state finally projected, often late into the simulated evening, the students would either shout with delight or cry in anguish. Other teachers on our hallway would often look out of their classroom doors, perplexed by the commotion, but what they were actually witnessing was authentic, content-rich learning.”

Such engagement earned Bigler honors as Most Influential Teacher at McLean High School as voted by the senior classes of 1995 and 1996 and later Teacher of the Year for MHS, Fairfax County, Virginia, and ultimately National Teacher of the Year in 1998. From a White House Rose Garden ceremony with President Bill Clinton to a whirlwind year of speaking engagements as the nation’s top teacher, Bigler used his position to spotlight the need for support of public education and the importance of studying history.

“Every age goes through its own unique challenges,” Bigler says. “But looking at the turmoil throughout history, we can gain a better perspective on our own time.”

He also views teachers as people with great responsibility beyond their content areas. “Quite frankly, for six and a half or seven hours [per day], you may be the only positive influence on a student’s life,” he says. “You need to be an exemplary person for students to look up to.”

Now retired from the classroom, Bigler remains committed to education. He is editor and president of Apple Ridge Publishers, a company that focuses on education and history-related materials. He remains involved with the Virginia Teacher of the Year network and the Virginia Teachers of Promise Institute, and he likes what he sees in the next generation of educators.

“The students and young teachers are every bit as good as we were,” he says.

“This is one of the most exciting times to be an educator because of the technology and the ability to do things that were unheard of 30, 40 years ago,” Bigler says. “One of my emphases has been that teachers need to change and always have. I was a much better teacher later in my career.”

She also served the education profession as president of the Southern Early Childhood Association from 1984 to 1985 and earlier as president of the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education.

Dickerson led the effort to establish what is now the Harrisonburg-Rock- ingham Child Day Care Center. For her dedication to teaching thousands of young pupils and college students, Dickerson received the VAECE Award for Outstanding Service to Young Children. She retired from JMU in 1986.

Mildred Dickerson and her husband, Z.S., who also taught at JMU and retired as associate dean of the School of Business, share a happy moment. Dickerson in her favorite environment—with young children in the Anthony-Seeger Campus School.
CORNELIUS HEATWOLE

"D
r. Heatwole was the first head of teacher education here," Wishon says. "He established an organizational structure, an administrative structure, a conceptual framework that launched us as a normal school."

As president of the newly established State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Harrisonburg, Julian Burruss recommended to the Board of Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 to look for a place for both

ESTHER AND J. GERALD MINSKOFF

Esther and Jerry are nationally renowned as specialists in their discipline," Wishon says. "They’re honored as a couple because they did so much together. Their writing, a lot of their teaching, their professional scholarship and service to the profession—they did jointly."

The Minskoffs’ early career path paralleled the growth of the field of special education because of national policy advances mandated by the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975. They met on their first day of doctoral training at Yeshiva University and eventually received their doctoral degrees as well as their wedding license.

While studying for her master’s degree at the University of Illinois, Esther fondly recalls working with Sam Kirk, who is considered the Father of Special Education and who coined the term learning disabilities. He was instrumental in the passage of the first federal laws providing public education for students with disabilities.

"Special education was just starting when we finished our doctoral programs," Esther says. "Jerry worked for the U.S. Office of Education and was instrumental in assisting universities around the country to establish teacher training programs."

His frequent travel, while Esther was at home raising their young children, led the couple in 1975 to look for "a place for both

(L-R): William Smith, JMU President Julian Burruss and Cornelius Heatwole dressed to march in the Shakespearean pageant, an elaborate campus event held May 25 and 26, 1916, to mark the 300th anniversary of the Bard of Avon’s death.
ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

of us.” That place was Madison College, where Jerry was charged with drawing from his nationwide experience “to set up what many considered the best special education teacher training program in the country,” Esther says.

They plunged into their teaching, writing and service to the university and their profession. Jerry and Esther were contributing editors to *Learning Disabilities: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, a publication of the Learning Disabilities Association of America, as well as other professional journals involving special education.

Jerry also served the organization as chair of the Professional Advisory Committee, program chair of national conventions and a director of its foundation. He also authored a number of successful federal grant applications for teacher preparation in special education that provided graduate assistantships for a number of JMU students for over 20 years.

Esther was a prolific writer in the field of special education and reading education. Among her books are *Teaching Reading to Struggling Readers* and Academic Success Strategies for Adolescents with Learning Disabilities and ADHD, which she wrote with former JMU faculty colleague David Allsopp. With Sam Kirk, she revised the *Phonic Remedial Reading Lessons*, one of the first phonic remedial programs written by Kirk in 1933. This program is still used today to help dyslexic individuals learn to read.

She served as president of the Council for Exceptional Children’s Division for Learning Disabilities and in 1995 traveled with the professional organization to China to co-host that nation’s first special education conference.

Through a number of federally funded research projects with high school, college and adult learners with learning disabilities, Esther confirmed that strides could be made in educational achievement and vocational success no matter the age of the student, so long as the treatment was customized to the individual’s needs.

“When Jerry and I started out, kids were in self-contained classes in special education,” Esther says. “Many people felt that such segregation was not educationally beneficial. So along with the trend toward deinstitutionalization came mainstreaming children with disabilities into regular classes. Today, mainstreaming is an accepted practice for almost all children with disabilities. We just need to remember that every child is unique. Every child has abilities and disabilities. And all children are entitled to an appropriate education to maximize their potential.”

Jerry, who died July 4 after a long battle with Alzheimer’s disease, retired in 2002 and Esther in 2004. “I believe I speak for both of us when I say it was never a job when you worked in special education and teaching training. It was a passion and a commitment,” Esther says. “Both Jerry and I always felt that. And we were proud to work at JMU, an institution that has always supported the highest quality teaching education programs and has always supported its faculty to do their best.”

(L-R): The Minskoffs with friends and family; with future exceptional education students in the early 1980s; Esther and special education pioneer Sam Kirk collaborated as teachers and advocates for appropriate education.
THE ‘VALLEY SCHOLARS EFFECT’

Paloma Rodriguez, a rising sophomore at Harrisonburg High School, remembers being overjoyed when she learned she had been accepted into JMU’s Valley Scholars program.

“I actually cried,” she says. “I was so happy that I got accepted because then I knew I was going to college, when before I didn’t think I could afford college. It was life changing.”

Kristen Rhodenizer of Fort Defiance High School in nearby Augusta County credits Valley Scholars with providing her with security and confidence in her future.

“As long as I meet the requirements and commitments,” she says, “I know that I can go to college and earn a college degree and be more stable in life. Having that stable future really motivates you to go through high school and do your work.”

Students like Kristen and Paloma, who have potential but need support, benefit from the mentorship and academic enrichment that Valley Scholars provides, and can earn scholarships covering all tuition and fees if they persist with the program and qualify for admission to JMU.

Principals and guidance counselors from partner schools throughout the Shenandoah Valley are praising the program and talking about the “Valley Scholars Effect,” in which students create excitement and curiosity at their schools because of their JMU connection.

“At Broadway High School, we have enjoyed seeing our students truly flourish in becoming confident, resilient and leaders among their peers,” says principal Donna Abernathy (’91). “The unwavering support JMU provides to our students and families is exceptional. This program is life changing for our students who are blessed to be a part of the Madison Experience.”

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime kind of opportunity for many of our students,” adds David Baker (’06M), principal at J. Frank Hillyard Middle School in Rockingham County. “The level of support, activities and enrichment that these students get is priceless, and it’s going to pay off for generations to come.”

Valley Scholars has laid the foundation for success for more than 100 students in the region and enters its fourth year poised for growth. Plans are to increase the number of students entering the program and also to increase the number of schools that JMU partners with across the Valley.

To date, 104 of the 105 students who earned their way into the program remain engaged. The next cohort includes 44 students, a jump from three previous groups of 35 students. The overall GPA has risen with each incoming cohort.

Ninety-six percent of Valley Scholars students take honors, Advanced Placement or dual-enrollment classes. Three will start the highly competitive Governor’s School this fall.

The success of Valley Scholars has captured the attention of Virginia Business magazine, which profiled the program in its May issue; the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, which awarded a

“I don’t think anything is more important than getting to be what you know in your heart you want to be. And I think that’s what this program does . . . ”

LOIS FORBES (’64), Valley Scholars supporter

Believers join forces to create a bright future for area youth

BY ROB TUCKER

Paloma Rodriguez now knows college is within her reach.
prestigious Rural Talent Initiative grant in June; and Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

"James Madison University's Valley Scholars program creates opportunities for high-achieving, low-income students to realize the dream of a college education," says McAuliffe, in response to the grant from the Cooke Foundation. "This new funding will help JMU welcome even more young scholars who are ready to learn and lead the way forward in the new Virginia economy."

Private support, like the Cooke Foundation's grant, is critical to the success and sustainability of the program.

"This investment represents a significant endorsement of the work we are doing," says JMU President Jonathan Alger, "to create a model for other regions facing the challenges of creating pathways of access and success for first-generation students."

Individual benefactors talk enthusiastically about creating opportunities for young people and stimulating return on investment.

Lois Forbes ('64) and her husband, Bruce, are longtime supporters of JMU, and have taken a keen interest in Valley Scholars. What piqued their interest?

"Bruce grew up in an orphanage," Lois Forbes explains, "and really the only way he could get out of the little town where he lived was to get a scholarship to a junior college playing basketball. So after we got established and had a little money, we thought about how we could help kids go to college who didn't really have the means."

"When we heard about Valley Scholars, it just seemed to be what we'd been looking for, for a long time."

"When you talk to the students," she says, "they want to be doctors, nurses, geologists, astronomers. I don't think anything is more important than getting to be what you know in your heart you want to be. And I think that's what this program does for them."

Christine and Greg Parseghian, who have two sons who attend JMU, also believe in and support the Valley Scholars mission.

"When my grandparents came to this country, they didn't even know English, and they couldn't even think of an education at first," says Christine Parseghian. "It wasn't that they weren't intelligent; it was just that they had no resources, no money, not even the English language. They worked very hard in menial jobs and worked their way up to become productive members of society. So I feel like we need to give back."

"My background is in investment," says Greg Parseghian. "So I am always looking for low risk, high reward. We felt that Valley Scholars offered both because JMU is starting with the students early on in their high-school experience. They are preparing those students to have a very high probability of success, not just to get into college but also to be successful.

"I think that if you are blessed to have the opportunity to help people, the object is to change lives," he says. "And each of us has to find a way to do that. Valley Scholars spoke to us in that regard. It's a very cost-effective way to have a tremendous impact."

That impact will multiply with time as these young scholars progress along their journeys of learning and self discovery, and return to their communities as educated and engaged citizens, blazing trails, raising hope and paying forward.

The Parseghians talk about their investment in Valley Scholars in this issue's Be the Change profile (back cover).
Something BIG is happening

BY JESSICA SAVOIE ('14), alumni relations assistant director

On April 8, over 20 alumni chapters across the U.S. participated in the Big Event, JMU’s universitywide day of service. While student organizations on campus were busy serving the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, alumni were in solidarity, bringing the JMU spirit of service to their local communities as well.

Chapter service projects embodied JMU’s commitment to citizenship and helped local communities in a variety of ways. Projects ranged from cleaning river banks and spending time with individuals with disabilities, to volunteering at food pantries and donating dry goods to pet shelters.

Zachary Lane ('11) helped to clean up the banks of the James River with fellow Richmond, Virginia, Dukes. Service is a desire that was instilled in Lane while a student at JMU. “I participated in the JMU Big Event because I am a huge advocate for community service and giving back,” he says. “This passion was ignited while I was a freshman at JMU and participated in the Alternative Spring Break program. This week of community service truly sparked my passion for serving others. From that point on, I decided to perform community service on a regular basis. When I was made aware of the JMU Richmond Big Event opportunity, I knew that I wanted to participate.”

Lane isn’t alone in his desire to give back. Bobby Baughan ('81), a graduate and dad to a current JMU student, participated because “I enjoy giving back to the university that gave a lot to me.” Baughan also enjoys meeting fellow Dukes who have similar passions, while improving the Richmond community.

In Durham, North Carolina, the Triangle Dukes volunteered at the Goodwill Community Foundation Farm. Taylor Gustafson ('14) looks forward to the event every year. This event not only has a direct impact on his community, but also brings together alumni of all ages and backgrounds to show a little Purple Pride. “I find great value in being part of such a positive movement,” Gustafson says. “It makes a lasting impression on my community about my alma mater’s reputation, pride and influence in the community. We gather together—alumni of all graduation years, majors and accomplishments—to help the communities we now call home.”

Alumni know that JMU is a unique place, where we hold doors for one another, but by participating in chapter service projects like the Big Event, Dukes can show others what “Be the Change” really means.

(Above): JMU alumni put their “Be the Change” commitment to work in their respective communities by cleaning, farming and packing—all to benefit their neighbors.
he spring at JMU is always an exciting time for alumni. I was fortunate to be a part of many special events, from our Alumni Awards Ceremony in March, to Bluestone Reunions in April, to commencement in May. While these were all great opportunities to award and recognize our alumni and celebrate with Madison's newest alums, the events that inspired me the most were the Women for Madison Summit and the Madison Alumni Conference. Both of these events left me energized for JMU and reminded me of the impact our alumni can have, especially when we join together.

The first Women for Madison Summit was held May 19–21. Building on JMU’s history as a women's institution and recognizing today's 6-to-4 female-to-male student enrollment, the organization seeks new ways to engage women of varied interests and accomplishments in the life of the university. Women for Madison encourages women to connect with one another, with university leaders, and directly with JMU’s exceptional professors and students as they invest their time, talents and resources. We kicked off the weekend with a beautiful en blanc dinner on the Festival lawn and spent the weekend exploring how women can influence the future of James Madison University, considering how to live your best life, and, of course, celebrating Dolley Madison’s birthday!

Since seeing the pictures from this wonderful weekend, many of my fellow alumni have said, “I want to be a woman for Madison.” The great news is that Women for Madison is not an exclu-

sive club—any woman who makes an annual gift in any amount to James Madison University is considered a woman for Madison! I hope you will learn more about this innovative organization at jmu.edu/womenformadison.

In June, the Madison Alumni Conference, known as “MAC,” continued the annual tradition of bringing together our Alumni Association chapter leaders, Duke Club volunteers, alumni recruitment volunteers and the Alumni Association Board of Directors. We spent time networking with university leaders, sharing ideas and recognizing our exceptional chapters. With all this passion for JMU in one place, we left with some great ideas for ways to engage you, our alumni, in the coming year!

Rarely a week goes by without a Madison alumnus asking me how they can get more involved with JMU and with their local alumni chapter. The leaders of local chapters and the staff in the Office of Alumni Relations work tirelessly to organize events and opportunities for you to do just that. The most important way to ensure you’re able to connect with JMU and your local chapter is to update your contact information so we are able to share news about exciting events. You can easily update your contact information anytime at jmu.edu/alumni. While you’re visiting the alumni website, take a look at the events coming up in your area, find other ways to get involved with your alma mater and connect with JMU in the way that is most meaningful to you.

I hope to see you at one of these great events soon! Go Dukes!
The Alumni Association honors the achievements of notable alumni at the annual Alumni Awards Banquet. Take a closer look at some of the 2017 Distinguished Award winners.

Patrick Murphy ('81)
Distinguished Alumni, College of Education
Patrick Murphy has served as superintendent of Arlington Public Schools since July 1, 2009. An educator since 1988, Murphy has served Fairfax County Public Schools for 19 years in a variety of instructional leadership positions, including assistant superintendent for accountability, in which he was responsible for testing, research and evaluation, and division- and school-based strategic planning. The Virginia Association of School Superintendents selected Murphy as its 2015 Virginia Superintendent of the Year, and he was a finalist for the 2015 National Superintendent of the Year award from the American Association of School Administrators. Under his leadership, Arlington Public Schools earned the Medallion of Excellence in June 2014 from Virginia’s U.S. Senate Productivity and Quality Award program based on the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence and Arlington’s priority for continuous improvement.

Chiquita King ('09, '11M)
GOLD (Grads of the Last Decade) Network Award
As a JMU student, Chiquita King was deeply involved in various campus organizations, including the Centennial Scholars Program, Office of Orientation, Student Government Association and the Lambda Chi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. In addition, she received the 2007 Diversity Enhancement Award; won three JMU NAACP Image Awards, including 2010 Graduate Student of the Year; and was voted Miss Madison by her peers during her senior year. King resides in Northern Virginia and works as an instructional systems designer for Booz Allen Hamilton. In this role, she oversees, creates and maintains training materials and learning solutions for defense clients. King gives back to JMU as a member of the President’s Council, Women for Madison Executive Advisory Council and the Black Alumni Chapter. In addition, she attends events with the MetroDukes Alumni Chapter in the Washington, D.C., area and serves as a chapter officer with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

George Sparks (left), dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, congratulates James Moye at the 2017 Alumni Awards Banquet.

James Moye ('96)
Distinguished Alumni, College of Visual and Performing Arts
James Moye is an actor based in New York City. His resume includes seven Broadway shows, films, TV shows, commercials, world premiere musicals and plays at many of America’s finest regional theaters. He has worked with some of the most prominent directors in America today, including Tony Award winners Walter Bobbie, Joe Mantello, Kathleen Marshall, Jerry Mitchell, Casey Nicholaw, Jack O’Brien, John Rando, Susan Stroman and Jerry Zaks. Moye is a council member of the Actors’ Equity Association, the governing body of the theater actors’ union, and a member of the Screen Actors Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. Currently, Moye is in the hit Broadway musical Aladdin.
John Rothenberger ('88)
Distinguished Alumni, College of Business and Ronald E. Carrier Alumni Achievement Award Winner

Selected from the pool of Distinguished College Alumni, John Rothenberger was presented with the Ronald E. Carrier Alumni Achievement Award, JMU’s highest award presented to an alumnus. A successful repeat entrepreneur with over 18 years of startup, executive leadership, strategic business planning, technology and management experience, Rothenberger started his first business in 1993 at age 26. In 2003 Rothenberger started his current business, SE Solutions, serving the federal government with solutions that help improve the nation’s homeland security and defense. Rothenberger identified a need at JMU for an advanced undergraduate focus on entrepreneurship and business creation within the COB and throughout the university. With the support of the dean and another professor, Rothenberger co-created and co-taught a senior-level class called Venture Creation. Rothenberger serves on the JMU Board of Visitors and chairs the Center for Entrepreneurship advisory board. He was the university’s first Entrepreneur-in-Residence. He is very active in the entrepreneurial community, is involved in many businesses and continues to work closely with many JMU alumni and faculty.

Swen Johnson ('91)
Distinguished Alumni, College of Arts and Letters

Swen Johnson is a decorated military veteran, having served as a special agent with U.S. Army Counterintelligence in Europe. After his military service, he was selected by the Defense Intelligence Agency to be a civilian counterintelligence special agent at the Pentagon. Johnson founded and served as CEO/president of his own company, Socio-Cultural Intelligence Analysis Inc., which pioneered sociological methods to map, capture and eliminate the threat of some of America’s most wanted terrorists. SCIA deployed its analysts to combat zones in support of U.S. Central Command and Special Operations Command and was selected as one of Washington, D.C.’s “Best Companies to Work For” by the Washington Business Journal before Johnson sold the company and retired in 2010. Johnson has worked in or traveled to more than 130 countries, and he counts his time at JMU as highly significant in preparing him for what he has accomplished.

Pamela Kempton ('77)
Distinguished Alumni, College of Science and Mathematics

Pamela Kempton is the head of the geology department at Kansas State University. She came to Kansas State from the U.K. Natural Environment Research Council, the U.K. equivalent of the U.S. National Science Foundation, where she served as head of research and director of science.

Her personal research interests have focused on the petrology and geochemistry of oceanic basalts and gabbros, lower crustal granulites, ultramafic peridotites and continental volcanism, with a specific focus on problems of mantle geodynamics, petrogenesis of basaltic magmas and the evolution of the lower crust and upper mantle. Kempton is also interested in pursuing new research problems in Earth’s critical zone, such as quantifying processes that control bedrock breakdown and rates of soil formation, how these processes vary with landscape type, tectonic setting and/or climate.
Bluestone Reunion Weekend 2017

Members of the Classes of 1967, 1962, 1957, 1952, 1947 and 1942 returned to campus this spring to celebrate milestone reunion years. The weekend was filled with reminiscing and rekindling friendships. Attendees were amazed to see how the Madison College of their memories has transformed into the James Madison University that we know today. The weekend culminated on Saturday evening with the Bluestone Society Induction dinner. The Bluestone Society recognizes alumni of the university who graduated 50 or more years ago. Forty-one members of the Class of 1967 were inducted during the ceremony.

(Clockwise, from top left): Bluestone Reunion alums visit well-known areas like the Quad and explore unfamiliar newer venues like Greek Row and the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts during a campus tour. (Below): Class of 1967 alumni gather in front of Wilson Hall.
RVA Crabfest

Almost 400 alumni and friends gathered on June 10 for the 2017 Richmond Crabfest. The afternoon had something for everyone – live music, a children’s petting zoo, a cornhole tournament, tailgating and all-you-could-eat crab and shrimp. Missed out on the fun in Richmond? On Oct. 7, the JMU MetroDukes will be hosting a crabfest in the D.C. area. Hope to see you there!
Alumni News

Madison Events

SEPT. 20
Alumni Webinar:
Rachel Nusbaum ('01)

SEPT. 22-24
Family Weekend

OCT. 7
D.C. Crabfest

OCT. 27-29
Homecoming 2017

NOV. 10-12
AXP Reunion Weekend

DEC. 15-16
Winter Commencement

For more information and to register
for all Alumni events, please visit
alumni.jmu.edu/events
jmu.edu/JMUArts
JMUSports.com

Oct. 27-29

Homecoming 2017
#JMUHomecoming

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY
alumni.jmu.edu/homecoming

Family Weekend
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

SEPT. 22-24
JMU.EDU/PARENTS

JMUSports.com

For more information and to register
for all Alumni events, please visit
alumni.jmu.edu/events

THREE GREAT THINGS ALL ALUMNI DO:

1. UPDATE YOUR INFO
2. MAIL A GIFT
3. ATTEND ALUMNI EVENTS

HOMECOMING PHOTOGRAPHS BY TIFFANY SHOWALTER; FAMILY WEEKEND BY SWARTZ PHOTOGRAPHY
Class Notes

In 2009, the Madison Singers and Virginia Repertory Dance Company rehearse The Unicorn, the Gorgon and the Manticore, a JMU School of Music spring semester production.
most fortunate to give the keynote address at JMU’s Spring Research Symposium, May 16, 1982, and that honor, to be recognized by my university, was one I never expected and meant more to me than my other achievements. So, many thanks to all my instructors at JMU for what you did for me. Go Dukes.”

67 Carolyn Larkins Abitbol was honored by the American Medical Women’s Association with the 2017 Exceptional Membership Award at its 102nd annual awards luncheon.

70 Ronald Glen Watkins retired after a career of serving as director of global marketing communications for ETS-Lindgren, in Austin, Texas. He now resides with his wife, Linda, in Georgetown, Texas.

84 Theresa Early was chosen as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2017. Early, a fourth-grade special education teacher at Laurel Ridge Elementary School in Fairfax, Virginia, was recognized for her

SEA on campus: Volunteering and connecting

Spring 2017 was a busy season for the Staff Emeriti Association. Members volunteered to welcome prospective students during CHOICES in April, provided education about the emeriti designation to JMU employees during May’s Employee Appreciation Day and reacquainted themselves with campus with a luncheon and tour of the new Health and Behavioral Studies Building with Paula Maxwell, associate dean of the College of Health and Behavioral Studies. For more information on upcoming events, please visit jmu.edu/staffemeriti.
involvement in her school’s Military Kids Club, establishing a student color guard and encouraging students to draft classroom rules during Constitution Day.

After a nationwide search, Gene C. Fant Jr. was named the eighth president of North Greenville University in Tigerville, South Carolina. Mary Beth Harrison-Cunningham is the manager of the Parent Resource Center of Fairfax County (Virginia) Public Schools. G.J. Hart, executive chairman and CEO of California Pizza Kitchen, received a 2017 Silver Plate Award from the International Foodservice Manufacturers Association. The IFMA awards recognize the nation’s top food service operator talent.

Dave Verhaagen is a clinical psychologist and co-founder of Southeast Psych. He and his wife, Ellen, have four adopted children ranging in ages from 19 to 22. They recently moved to Nashville, Tennessee. He says JMU graduate psychology professor Lennis Echterling has remained one of his favorite professors and one of his biggest influences.

Melvin J. Brown has been named superintendent of Reynoldsburg City Schools in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, effective Aug. 1. He had served as deputy superintendent of Cuyahoga Falls (Ohio) City Schools since 2015.

Alumna turns 108 years old

One of JMU’s oldest living alumni, Pearl Scott Almond (’30), celebrated her 108th birthday in May.

Born May 25, 1909, in nearby Port Republic, Virginia, she graduated from the State Teachers College at Harrisonburg — the school’s name at the time — on June 10, 1930, with a two-year teaching diploma, three years after finishing her studies at Port Republic High School.

"Since she was living in Port Republic, she obviously knew about Madison, and since she wanted to be a teacher and the cost of attendance was affordable for her family, she chose Madison over the other colleges that were much farther away," writes her son, Henry H. "Hank" Almond Jr. of Harrisonburg, Virginia.

While a student at the college, Almond’s expertise as a woman raised on a farm led to a trip to the Big Apple.

“As a member of the local 4-H Club in 1929, she was selected to represent the club in a poultry-judging contest in New York City, where she became the first female to win the New England Poultryman Trophy for first place in poultry judging,” her son writes. She traveled to Madison Square Garden, the arena so named for its original location, Madison Square, which was named for James Madison.

Henry Almond relays that his mother was close to two other students in the teaching training program, women she mentioned as Margie and Martha. The women stayed in contact and visited each other many times at their respective homes here, in Northern Virginia and in Florida until Margie and Martha passed away many years ago.

Almond has lived in Rockingham County, Virginia, all her life. As she planned, she taught children for a total of 29 years, first in the two-room Mt. Pleasant School east of Elkton for three years and at Grottoes Elementary School for another three years.

After marrying H. Hilton Almond in 1938, she left the classroom to raise their son and daughter, Libby Atkinson, and help run the family dairy farm. In 1951, she resumed teaching, this time at McGaheysville Elementary School, where she remained on the faculty until retiring in 1974.

Her teaching expertise extended to McGaheysville United Methodist Church, where she taught Sunday school classes for many years, among other volunteer responsibilities. She also remains a member of the Shenandoah Valley Chapter No. 76 of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Almond resides at an area assisted living home, where she visits with family and friends.
Parents Council’s gift to JMU sets a record

The announcement of a record-setting financial gift highlighted the Parents Council annual spring meeting in April. At the large group breakfast, the current council chairs, Chris and Kim Biggers Hayes (’14P, ’17P), presented President Jonathan Alger with a check in the amount of $473,422.51 – the largest gift by the council ever presented to the university.

More than 100 members attended the festive and informative weekend that included tours of the University Recreation Center, student panel discussions, presentations on university updates and a visit to the Madison Connection call center in Wilson Hall, where members called parent donors to thank them for their financial support of the university.

The JMU Parents Council is comprised of 173 members representing each of the four classes. Members are eligible to serve for the duration of their students’ enrollment at JMU. The purpose of the council is to provide advice and guidance to university administration, serve as a liaison between the university and parents and families, serve as effective spokespersons and work together with the Office of Parent Relations to develop programs that promote parent and family involvement in the life of the university and create opportunities for participation in their students’ experiences. For more information, visit jmu.edu/parents/council/.
Steve Starke ('83) helps a child in the village of Yako as part of the Sheltering Wings organization. (Inset): Felicia Starke works with widows in the Women’s Crisis Center.

From Florida to West Africa

Steve Starke ('83), senior project manager, with AECOM’s office in Miami, Florida, and his wife, Felicia, have sponsored children and widows in the West African country of Burkina Faso for many years and recently made a goodwill trip to the village of Yako to provide hands-on help as part of the Sheltering Wings organization, based in St. Louis, Missouri. The organization’s projects include an orphanage, school and clinic in Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso, formerly known as Upper Volta, is one of the poorest countries in the world and has one of the world’s lowest life expectancy rates.

Their two-week trip was busy!

While in Burkina Faso, Steve’s geology expertise came in handy when a well was drilled. “It was humbling to be able to help provide a source of life-saving clean water to the people of the village.”

Steve and his wife met Gnouga, a widow they sponsor through the Women’s Crisis Center, which provides shelter to widows, trains them to bake bread and to make clothing and soap — trades that they can use to support themselves. In some areas in Burkina Faso, widows often become beggars as a result of cultural norms. “Gnouga lives in a 10-by-10 clay hut with no furniture or electricity and sleeps on a mat on a concrete floor,” says Steve. “We had the pleasure to give her the first mattress she has ever had, a solar lantern and food items. Getting to meet and hug Gnouga after sponsoring her for more than two years was an incredible experience.”

The couple also met their sponsored child, Justine. Although Burkina Faso has public schools, they are not free. Justine could not afford to go to school without the sponsorship. Steve and Felicia gave her school supplies, candy and her first backpack.

They also visited a local school and provided 800 pairs of shoes to needy children.

Steve and Felicia celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary while in Burkina Faso. “This trip impressed upon me that even though most of us don’t even realize how much we are blessed, it is in blessing others who are less fortunate that we truly receive the greatest blessing,” says Steve.
08 Natalie Seamans Swartz ('09M) was awarded back-to-back Power of One awards by the Children’s National Medical Center for her work as a pediatric occupational therapist during the months of March and April. The Power of One award is given on a monthly basis to a single employee or team whose work exemplifies the core values of Children’s National Medical Center. Swartz also received the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department’s Occupational Therapist of the Month award during March.

13 Summer Sayers earned her Doctorate in Optometry in May from Nova Southeastern University and will be practicing in her hometown of Virginia Beach, Virginia.

FACULTY EMERITI NOTES AND FORMER FACULTY NEWS

The JMU Faculty Emeriti Association is a multifaceted organization open to all faculty and administrative personnel who have been granted emerita or emeritus status by the JMU Board of Visitors. The organization provides an opportunity for retired faculty to continue association with colleagues and to maintain ties to the university community. More than 200 retired faculty and administrative professional staff members are actively involved with the JMU Faculty Emeriti Association through meetings, special interest groups and cultural-themed trips. For more information, please contact Faculty Emeriti President Violet Allain at allainvl@jmu.edu or Sherry King, director of parent and faculty emeriti relations, at kingsf@jmu.edu or by phone at 540-568-8064.

Professor Emeritus Lee Congdon has written Legendary Sports Writers of the Golden Age: Grantland Rice, Red Smith, Shirley Povich, and W.C. Heinz about the lives and careers of the writers who reported on such sports greats as Jesse Owens, Joe Louis, Sandy Koufax, Arnold Palmer and many other stars from the 1920s and beyond. In this, his sixth book, Congdon also examines the distinctive writing styles that each sports writer developed. Rowman & Littlefield is the book publisher.

Emeritus Athletics Director Dean Ehlers of Harrisonburg, Virginia, died Feb. 19, 2017. He joined JMU in 1971 as the university’s first full-time athletics director and retired after 22 years of service.

Faculty Emeriti Association member Bill Voige places his artistic mark on a vase within “The Obliteration Room” during a visit to the Yoyoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors exhibition at the Hirshhorn Museum on March 23.

With Sarah Carrington Rose ('17), the Irby-Rose-Duvall family is eight for eight in graduating Dukes. (L-R): John Rose Jr. ('86), Meredith Rose ('13, '14M), Karen Irby Rose ('84), Sarah ('17), Duke Dog, Perrin Duvall ('14), Morgan Duvall ('16), Donna Irby Duvall ('83), Greg Duvall ('83).

Students (L-R) Sarah O’Connor, Michelle Lisco and Alex Grant, with their JMU rain ponchos, fresh off the Kali River Rapids in Disney World’s Animal Kingdom over spring break.

is an attorney at Rich, Rosenthal, Brincefield, Manitta, Drubin & Kroeger LLP.

Judson G. Foster has joined Carter Bank & Trust and been elected senior vice president-regional commercial banking manager. Foster will be based in Charlottesville, Virginia, and focused on building a commercial banking team and presence in the Central Virginia and Shenandoah Valley regions. He and his wife, Jenny, reside in the Charlottesville area with their three children.
Celebrations & weddings

(Above): Anna Owens ('12) and James Boley ('13) were married in the Shenandoah Valley on Aug. 14, 2016. Six out of eight members of the wedding party, the officiant, photographer and wedding planners were all fellow Dukes! (Right): Brandy Groome ('12) and Michael Hang ('12) celebrated their nuptials at King Family Vineyards in Crozet, Virginia, on Nov. 12, 2016, with a group of JMU Dukes and Road Dawg. (Below): A belated wedding announcement for Casey ('12) and Wesley ('12) Hamrick – JMU alumni and Road Dawg helped celebrate their 2012 wedding in Winchester, Virginia.

(Above): On Aug. 12, 2016, Tekeya Kearney ('13) married Nathaniel Kearney ('13) in Richmond, Virginia. The couple met as members of the JMU Contemporary Gospel Singers.

(Above): Mary McGhan ('15) and Joseph Evans ('16) waved the JMU flag at their wedding on June 18, 2016, with many JMU friends and family, including stepmother of the groom, Maggie Burkhart Evans, executive assistant to JMU President Jonathan R. Alger.
Connecting the arts and STEM

During his senior year, Cameron Ritcher ('17), a studio art major, was commissioned to produce artwork on each floor of the ISAT/CS Building as part of the College of Integrated Science and Engineering's ongoing efforts to connect the arts to science, engineering and technology and reinforce the need for creativity across all disciplines. Consulting with Bob Kolvoord, CISE dean, Ritcher aligned the content of each work with the corresponding program areas of each floor. "The purpose of my work is to spark a curiosity in the viewer about the incredibly fascinating world around us," Ritcher says.

Learn more at jmu/mural.
The Forbes Center for the Performing Arts boldly affirms JMU's commitment to the arts as an essential component of the liberal arts curriculum. As the premier destination for arts in the Shenandoah Valley, the center gives the university an opportunity to strengthen its relationships with local businesses, to enhance the cultural life of the community and to support economic growth and social interaction in the region.

The 2017-18 Masterpiece Season features Tony Award-winning and world-renowned guest artists, ensembles and choreographers, and award-winning JMU theater, dance and music students and faculty.

Headlining the season are appearances by 21-time Tony Award-winning Broadway director and producer Harold Prince; the world's most beloved vocal group, the Vienna Boys Choir; and Grammy-nominated Cameron Carpenter on his International Touring Organ.

Other Encore performances include violin virtuoso Ray Chen; Cleveland's baroque orchestra, Apollo's Fire, in A Night at Bach's Coffeehouse; a cappella vocal ensemble Cantus; electrifying “stepping” by dance phenomenon Step Afrika!; Aquila Theatre’s visionary touring production of Jane Austen’s Sense & Sensibility; So Percussion, cutting-edge classical repertoire by the Catalyst Quartet; and the Valley's own American band, The Steel Wheels.

Rounding out shows are the Moscow Festival Ballet, bringing Cinderella to life in one of the world's most beloved ballets; Irish Dance in Step-Afrika!; a dance and music extravaganza; a popular Irish folk band, The High Kings, in a St. Patrick's Day celebration; the Montreal Guitar Trio; Nobuntu, a female a cappella group from Zimbabwe; The 13-Story Treehouse, a humorous production featuring live action, music and animation by Australia's CDP Theatre Producers; and How I Became a Pirate, by the Dallas Children's Theater.

To learn more, visit www.jmuforbescenter.com.

2017-18 MASTERPIECE EVENTS AND SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER
Christopher K. Morgan and Artists
headlining the New Dance Festival
Sept. 8 and 9, 8 p.m. – Mainstage Theatre

Frank Kimbrough, jazz piano
Sept. 10, 7 p.m. – Recital Hall

Step Afrika!
rhythmic step dancing brimming
with joy and humor
Sept. 22, 8 p.m. – Wilson Hall

JMU Pops! Stories in Song
featuring the Marching Royal Dukes
and other JMU ensembles
Sept. 23, 8 p.m. – Convocation Center

Equus by Peter Shaffer
1975 Tony Award winner for best play
Sept. 26–30, 8 p.m.; Oct. 1, 2 p.m.
- Mainstage Theatre

OCTOBER
Musica Harmonia
chamber music dedicated to peace
and cultural understanding
Oct. 1, 2 p.m. – Recital Hall

Jazz 4 Justice
hits from the Big Band Swing Era
Oct. 7, 8 p.m. – Concert Hall

Charles Ullery, bassoon virtuoso
Oct. 10, 8 p.m. – Recital Hall

Vienna Boys Choir
world’s most beloved choir
Oct. 15, 2 p.m.
- Concert Hall

Out of Line
musical that picks up where A Chorus Line left off
Oct. 17-20, 8 p.m.; Oct. 21, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- Studio Theatre

The School for Scandal
by Richard Brinsley Sheridan
featuring JMU students from the School of Theatre and Dance
Oct. 31 – Nov. 3, 8 p.m.; Nov. 4, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- Mainstage Theatre
Concert Hall

Nobuntu female a cappella quintet from Zimbabwe
Nov. 16, 8 p.m.
- Concert Hall

Catalyst Quartet classical music with a cutting-edge repertoire
Nov. 28, 8 p.m. - Concert Hall

December

Holidayfest: Believe featuring five of JMU’s vocal ensembles and the JMU Symphony Orchestra
Dec. 2, 8 p.m.; Dec. 3, 2 p.m. - Concert Hall

Dancescapes featuring JMU’s Virginia Repertory Dance Company
Dec. 7-9, 8 p.m., Dec. 10, 2 p.m.
- Mainstage Theatre

January 2018

Dublin Irish Dance - Stepping Out Irish dance and music extravaganza
Jan. 2, 8 p.m. - Mainstage Theatre

The 13-Story Treehouse CDP Theatre Producers from Australia
Jan. 12, 7 p.m. - Mainstage Theatre

Parade Tony Award-winning musical featuring JMU talent
Feb. 20-23, 8 p.m; Feb. 24, 3 p.m.; Feb. 25, 2 p.m.
- Mainstage Theatre

March

Montreal Guitar Trio original arrangements, infectious good humor
March 3, 8 p.m. - Concert Hall

Moscow Festival Ballet Cinderella one of the world’s most beloved ballets
March 12-13, 8 p.m. - Mainstage Theatre

JMU Symphony Honors Concert featuring School of Music Concerto Competition winners
March 25, 2 p.m. - Concert Hall

April

Harold Prince Ruling the Great White Way rare opportunity to engage with the Broadway legend
April 6, 8 p.m. - Concert Hall

Gilbert and Sullivan’s H.M.S. Pinafore featuring the JMU Opera Theatre
April 11-12, 8 p.m. - Concert Hall

Mahler’s Resurrection Symphony featuring the JMU Opera Symphony Orchestra and Chorale with the Governor’s School of the Arts from Norfolk
April 22, 4 p.m. - Concert Hall

Stained Glass a new play by JMU faculty member
Ingrid De Sanctis
April 24-25, 8 p.m.; April 27-28, 8 p.m.; April 29, 2 p.m. - Mainstage Theatre

Cameron Carpenter, featuring the International Touring Organ organ repertoire ranges from film scores to original compositions
April 25, 8 p.m. - Concert Hall

May

Community Collage Concert vocalists, chamber groups, classical, bluegrass and jazz ensembles from the Shenandoah Valley
May 12, 7 p.m. - Concert Hall
Join the Alumni Online Community, an exclusive benefit for JMU alumni. Sign up to gain access to the alumni directory, make registering for events even easier, keep your contact information current and share your news and accomplishments with Class Notes.

It’s easy to sign up. Go to alumni.jmu.edu/howtosignup to learn more.

You’ll need your alumni identification code to register. The code is the 10-digit number located above your name on the mailing label. Or, check your email inbox for an email invitation from JMU to join the online community that includes the code. You can also email alumni@jmu.edu or call 540-568-6234 for more information.

Read while you’re on the go. Download the app at j.mu/madisonapp
Investing in the future

When Greg and Christine Parseghian enrolled their sons at JMU, the couple discovered a place that Greg Jr. and Alex love—and a program worthy of their investment: Valley Scholars. Greg, an entrepreneur and former CEO of Freddie Mac, knows that every good investor looks for low risk and high reward. Valley Scholars offered both. “Because the program begins in eighth grade, students are well prepared and likely to succeed at JMU and beyond,” Greg says. “Valley Scholars will have a high impact on the lives of local students and a ripple effect within families and throughout the community. A great outcome would be that 20 years from now, a much higher proportion of students from this area will go to college.”