

My Madison

SPRING/SUMMER 2010

THE MAGAZINE OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

PROFESSORS YOU LOVE

Madison's longest-running column celebrates
10 years on teaching excellence, engaged professors,
hands-on learning and connections that go far
beyond classroom walls **PAGE 32**

INSIDE: Students wow in NYC opera performance * Phi Beta Kappa inaugural members inducted

FULLFRAME





CAA CHAMPS!

Senior guard Sarah Williams of Wilmington, Del., hoists the trophy as her teammates and Dukes' fans fill the court to celebrate the 2009-10 Colonial Athletic Association Tournament championship in March. Read more about the team's storied season on Page 19.

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Planting roots at JMU

Acclaimed Israeli-American sculptor Dalya Luttwak visited JMU as the College of Visual and Performing Arts' Diversity Artist-in-Residence. (Above): Luttwak's public artwork, *Red Bamboo-Grass*, is on display at the Smith House Sculpture Garden at the Arts Council of the Valley in downtown Harrisonburg. **PAGE 27**

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M@adison

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Alternative Spring Break

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CAA Champs!

Coach Kenny Brooks ('91) helps cut down the net to celebrate the 2010 CAA Championship. **PAGE 19**



Semester in London, part 30

Harry Atwood ('87) writes about the first JMU Study Abroad program. **PAGE 57**

America's strongest

Mike Jenkins ('04, '05M) won the 2010 Arnold Amateur World Strongman Championship and a chance to compete with the world's strongest men.

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Viva L'Italia

Katharine Corgan ('06, '10M) owns and operates Harrisonburg restaurant staple L'Italia.

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Get connected: www.jmu.edu

TELL US ABOUT YOUR MADISON EXPERIENCE: What's happening at JMU? What's on your mind? Tell prospective students and alumni about your Madison Experience or share other JMU-related thoughts: www.facebook.com/jamesmadisonuniversity

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

ALSO: Follow @JMUNews on Twitter

PHI BETA KAPPA PHOTOGRAPH BY DIANE ELLIOTT ('00);
ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK COURTESY OF COMMUNITY
SERVICE-LEARNING; BROOKS BY CATHY KUSHNER ('87);
JENKINS BY MATTHEW WORDEN; CORGAN BY HOLLY
MARCUS ('03); ATWOOD BY MIKE MIRIELLO ('09M);

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Your letters, stories and photos

QUITE A COVER STORY

I love the cover of the last *Madison* magazine! Our son, Sterling, is the person kicking the football. I earned my B.S. and two master's degrees from JMU, and my husband, Jim, earned his B.S. at JMU. I teach in Loudoun County, and Jim is the athletics director at Warren County High School. What a wonderful surprise to see Sterling on the cover of *Madison*. He had a great time during the Day with the Dukes event, and we really appreciate the things that he was allowed to participate in with the team. Sterling has Down syndrome, but that is the least of who he is. Nearly every-

one involved with Virginia Special Olympics knows Sterling. He is an Eagle Scout and represented Virginia as the sole powerlifter at the Special Olympics World Games in China in 2007. He won three gold medals (squat, dead-lift and over-all) and a silver medal in the bench press. He has been the subject of many newspaper articles, TV and radio shows. He has served on the local Special Education Board, and he served two years as a global messenger for Special Olympics Virginia, giving speeches all over the state. He is regularly asked to speak as a guest to families of handicapped children — sometimes helping to raise money for Area 13 Special Olympics.

The town of Winchester, Va., declared Dec. 11, 2007, as Sterling Grooms Day. He has had three proclamations awarded to him in two cities. He was a dignitary in the 2007 and 2008 Apple Blossom Parades, and guest speaker for the Apple Blossom Sports Breakfast in 2008. There were not many dry eyes when Sterling finished his speech. Sterling also was recognized with proclamations by both Houses of the Virginia General Assembly in March 2008. Sterling is a cashier at Martin's Food Store and has been a past Employee of the Year. He regularly drives his car to Staunton to visit his friend, Chris, both of whom love WWE wrestling. There

is more, but I will stop here. I just want to thank JMU, and its student-athletes, for the hospitality to these special young



Sterling Grooms delivers the key-note at the Torch Run ceremony at the Virginia Special Olympics in Richmond.



people. Day with the Dukes makes them feel special in a way that they rarely get to experience.

JOANN MOORE GROOMS ('73, '88M, '03M)
AND JIM GROOMS ('73)
Winchester, Va.

GOING TO THE BIRDS

We couldn't duplicate Eagle Hall, but we still wanted to show the birds of Fairfax our JMU colors. We are sharing a photo of our daughter, Emma Sisk, standing next to the JMU birdhouse that we built in our backyard. From two proud alumni: Go Dukes!

KEVIN ('92) AND
COLLEEN SISK ('91)
Fairfax, Va.



Future Duke Emma Sisk shows off her JMU pride.

PROUD PARENTS

We are the proud parents of two JMU students. We're sharing a photo of them taken on August 2009 Freshman Move-in Day in front of the big willow tree by the JMU arboretum pond. This photo was given to their dad as a Christmas present. Our JMU Dukes are Emily Shinn ('10), a



JMU siblings Emily ('10) and James Shinn ('12).

musical theater major, and James Shinn ('12), a kinesiology major.

CATHLEEN AND RICK
SHINN ('10P, '12P)
Midlothian, Va.

ANOTHER PROUD PARENT

I was so excited to see the birth of my twins in the Class Notes section of the latest version of *Madison* online. My name is Jessica Harding Scheible ('99), and the birth of my girls, Lucy Anne and Brianna Kate, made it in this issue. I would really love to have a copy of this to save for my girls. Thank you!

JESSICA HARDING SCHEIBLE ('99)
Virginia Beach, Va.

MADISON ONLINE

Thank you for speaking with me on the phone regarding my concerns with reading the online version of *Madison*. Let

me begin by stating how much I enjoy the magazine. I read it cover to cover! It is a great publication that keeps alumni informed and proud to have graduated from JMU. I have a DSL connection, which I know is not known for very high speeds, but it is much faster to browse through the print version than to wait for pages to download. I believe that the print version is still much more user-friendly. I certainly understand the need to conserve both paper and money. Please do not take these concerns as a reflection on the publication. It is fantastic, and I look forward to receiving my copy.

F. JOHNSON SCOTT III ('87)
Bedford, Va.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Check out the new www.jmu.edu and read even more *Madison* magazine-style profiles and features on the revamped JMU homepage. And keep your address up-to-date with JMU or sign up for the *Madison* mailing list at www.jmu.edu/madisononline.

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

{Editor's Note}

Professors You Love

Who can believe it has been 10 years since David Hillgrove ('79) sent me an article he wrote about an inspiring psychology professor and JMU personality with the arresting lede: "I am personally responsible for Eileen Nelson's retirement, and I feel terrible."

Writers and editors will understand the joy I felt at reading such a wonderful sentence. I knew we had one of the best magazine stories in hand — ever. I had no idea that this submission, which sparked a contest for more contributions among our readers, would become the most popular, longest-running and award-winning column in *Madison*. That's because it hits the core value of the Madison Experience — the meaningful exchange between professor and student that is legend here at JMU.

Two on the magazine staff especially, Michelle Hite ('88) and Elaine Stroupe, have delighted in honoring those special relationships with editing assistance and by helping our contributors express themselves.

Since those early days, Professors You Love also became a catalyst for transforming *Madison* into the kind of magazine it is today — a venue for members of the Madison community to talk to one another about their college days and their present lives.

Today you'll notice that much of *Madison* — whether the personal experiences or scholarly insights — comprises stories written or photos taken by alumni, professors, students and donors. These individuals have been motivated by their Madison Experience enough to take the time to compose their thoughts and sentiments and share them with the rest of the Madison community.

Today social media has given this kind of sharing and self-expression a broader reach and more immediacy. At JMU, you can participate by visiting the JMU home page (www.jmu.edu), Facebook, flickr and more. In addition, Professors You Love now has its own Web page, where you can find all the past columns and read the newest submissions without having to wait for the next issue of *Madison*. Don't see your favorite professor? Send us your story. (We can help you with editing or writing.) See Page 32.

And don't miss the new Students Who Rock column beginning with the fall issue.

To all of our columnists and contributors and the professors who inspire it all: Thank you; you keep *Madison* alive and thriving.

— PAM BROCK, executive editor

Award winners

CASE loves Professors You Love

Alumni and student writers, and the magazine staff, earned a sixth writing/editing award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (District III) for the 10-year Professors You Love series. The 2009 honor is a Special Merit Award for feature series writing. Read more on Page 33.

Madison also earned an Award of Excellence from CASE in the 2009–10 Alumni Magazines category. Congratulations — and thank you — to all the student, alumni and faculty writers, designers and photographers who contribute to *Madison*!



JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

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Chuck Taylor ('84) has covered entertainment for more than 20 years, including 14 years as a writer and editor for *Billboard* magazine in New York. He is a voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences Inc. (which votes on the Grammy Awards) and has been interviewed on an array of music and pop culture topics for television networks and print publications. Originally from Lynchburg, Va., Taylor is a communication arts graduate. At JMU, he was a member of the forensics team and served as features editor of *The Breeze* and as editor of the student magazine, *Curio*.



Professor of art history **Laura Katzman** writes about JMU's diversity artist-in-residence Dalya Luttwak in the Essay department on Page 27. Katzman teaches courses in 20th-Century American and European art, the history of photography, public art and museum studies. She earned her Ph.D. at Yale University and has published essays on modern and contemporary art in *American Art*, *Art Papers*, *Museum* and *Yale Journal of Criticism*. The co-author of two award-winning books on American artist Ben Shahn, Katzman is currently writing a monograph titled *Re-viewing Documentary: The Photographic Life of Louise Rosskam*, which will accom-

pany a retrospective exhibition she is organizing for the American University Museum in Washington, D.C., for 2011–12.

Madison intern **Kerry Shannon ('10)** is an English major and Spanish minor. In her years at JMU, she has been a member of the club volleyball team, the Spanish Honor Society and the JMU Student Association of English Teachers. During the past few summers, she worked as a counselor and coach at a volleyball camp. Shannon plans to enter graduate school this fall to earn a master's degree in education and hopes to teach English as a Second Language.



Lisa Maurer ('09) of Warminster, Pa., is a legal assistant at Fisher & Zucker LLC. The political science major and political communications minor participated in the JMU Washington Semester in 2007, and she writes about the experience in the Transformations department on Page 30. She also studied abroad in the JMU program in Florence, Italy, and volunteered for Relay for Life in 2007 and 2009.

Frequent *Madison* contributor **Dan Gorin ('11)** is a School of Media Arts and Design major with a concentration in converged media and a minor in music industry. He is a staff photographer for JMU Photography Services and *The Breeze*. This summer, he will intern at the TV network, Fuse. He also serves as a host and DJ for JMU's student-run radio station WXJM. View more of Gorin's photography on his Web site dangorin.com and on the JMU group flickr Web page at www.flickr.com/groups/1132487@N22/pool/.



Public issues deserve public funding

JMU determined to uphold students despite disinvestment

As I prepare this letter for *Madison*, the Virginia General Assembly has determined the Commonwealth of Virginia's appropriations for the next biennium and awaits action by the governor. Higher education has not fared well in the last few state budgets. We are experiencing a significant shift in the distribution of costs for higher education from the state to students and their families as universities are forced to rely upon tuition to maintain sufficient levels of funding.

James Madison University will endure a net reduction of \$24 million — nearly 30 percent — in state funding when in 2011–12 our General Fund appropriation falls to \$54 million. For just last year, our General Fund appropriation was \$78 million. On an individual student basis, this equates to a decrease in support from \$6,180 per in-state, full-time-enrolled student to \$3,960 per in-state FTE student.

While the current economic turbulence is partly to blame, this slide in funding goes deeper. To illustrate what I mean, consider that Virginia ranks 40th in state support for higher education and rock bottom in the Southeast. And yet, Virginia is the seventh-wealthiest state in the nation.

The irony does not end there. This downward spiral in support for higher education is happening in the home of Madison, Jefferson and Washington, themselves educated and enlightened citizens who believed that sustaining the republic hinges on education.

I doubt these native sons would appreciate what appears to be a change in attitude toward education in Virginia. I fear that our state government no longer views higher education as a public good, but rather as a commodity that should be borne by the individuals who pursue it.

During the first two years of these budget cuts, we were able to reduce the impact on tuition by increasing it by less than any of our peer public institutions in the state. However, JMU can no longer afford to handle

such reversions in funding adequacy. Earlier this month, the JMU Board of Visitors approved making up the bulk of our loss through a 6.4 percent increase in tuition, comprehensive fees, and room and board amounting to \$930 per in-state student.

We are determined not to sacrifice quality and have elected to keep our incoming freshman class frozen at 3,960 students for the second year in a row. Paradoxically, however, the demand on JMU to expand enrollment and ultimately produce more graduates has never



JMU President Linwood H. Rose is congratulated by Phi Beta Kappa Society National Secretary John Churchill. JMU joined fewer than 300 U.S. Phi Beta Kappa chapters.

been greater; yet we cannot afford to grow and still preserve our quality.

Nor will we lower our standards of performance. Our professors and students continue to show that at James Madison University we remain committed to excellence. This semester, for example, counseling psychology professor Lennis G. Echterling and justice studies professor J. Peter Pham received the 2010 Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and Dominion Resources. David Brakke, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, was named a fellow of the National Association for the Advancement of Science.

I found it especially meaningful to watch our first 136 students inducted

into Xi Virginia Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa this semester.

While I encourage you to read about these and other stellar achievements on the JMU Web site and in this and future issues of *Madison*, I tell you about them to underscore just how high our students, professors and alumni aim and what the stakes are when it comes to higher education.

Academic achievement, we know, leads to further benefits. I have often said that JMU's approach to education entails our professors and students addressing societal issues through teaching, research, service and strategic partnerships, both on and off campus. We produce graduates who tackle these issues in their careers and through community service. Public issues deserve public funding.

Furthermore, our society must embrace a publicly funded system for higher learning as a catalyst for growth and economic development. We must take responsibility for our future by imparting knowledge to our youth.

Education is not just an intangible good. Public investment in higher education yields measurable improvements and sparks economic activity. In fact, the Weldon Cooper Center of the University of Virginia recently published an economic impact study of higher education on the commonwealth. The study found that for every dollar invested in higher education, there is a return on investment of \$1.39 in state tax revenue. It is difficult to imagine another investment of public dollars that produces an annual rate of return of close to 40 percent. In addition, college and university expenditures were shown to add another \$13.31 to Virginia's gross domestic product for every dollar expended.

I urge Madison alumni, parents and students to be ambassadors for public higher education in Virginia. Please talk about the benefits and the stakes to your neighbors and legislators.

LINWOOD H. ROSE
President
James Madison University

'I fear that our state government no longer views higher education as a public good, but rather as a commodity that should be borne by individuals who pursue it.'

M@disson

Keep current and connected



Phi Beta Kappa

Phi Beta Kappa taps inaugural class

Engaged citizenship gains deeper meaning on campus BY MICHELLE HITE ('88)

The term “honor society” does not adequately summarize the essential nature and purpose of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, according to Charles H. Blake, Phi Beta Kappan and president of the newly installed Xi of Virginia chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

“Phi Beta Kappa exists to inspire people to pursue the goal of living in a reflective and considerate manner. To prepare citizens to achieve this goal, the society recommends a dedication to lifelong learning in the traditional arts and sciences. Placing importance on engaged citizenship is not a new concept at JMU. It’s part of the Be the Change atmosphere on campus and part of the JMU mission statement: ‘We are a community committed to preparing students to be educated and enlightened citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives,’” adds Blake, chair of the JMU Department of Political Science.

‘While the chief beneficiaries are our students, having a chapter is also a wonderful validation of the quality of our faculty and academic programs.’

— LINDA CABE HALPERN, dean of university studies and a JMU Phi Beta Kappa officer

Blake was elected president of JMU’s chapter of Phi Beta Kappa on March 17 during the chapter installation ceremony featuring John Churchill, national secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

JMU joins fewer than 300 Phi Beta Kappa chapters nationwide. The oldest, and widely held as the most prestigious, academic honor society in the United States, Phi Beta Kappa has invited fewer than 10 percent of American institutions into the society. JMU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Douglas Brown, also a Phi Beta Kappan, says, “If you look at landmark events in the university’s history, this is one of them.”

Dean of JMU University Studies and Phi Beta Kappa officer Linda Cabe Halpern agrees. “While the chief beneficiaries are our students, having a chapter is also a wonderful validation of the quality of our faculty and academic programs.”

The first class of members inducted into JMU’s chapter include 136 students, who join 74 charter faculty members.

* See video highlights of the Phi Beta Kappa installation ceremony at www.jmu.edu/bethechange/stories/PBKprofessors.shtml.

JMU Phi Beta Kappa Chapter President Charles Blake (below, right) welcomes student inductees. “While your undergraduate careers may be drawing to a close, I hope and trust that we have convinced you that the Phi Beta Kappa Society thrives when all of us apply its principles of friendship, morality and lifelong learning in our everyday lives. Please know that you are always welcome in our chapter and at JMU.”



JMU Provost and Phi Beta Kappan Douglas Brown, (center with JMU President Linwood H. Rose) watches what might be his most prestigious achievement, the installation the Xi of Virginia Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

[Alumni Honors]

2010 Milken Educator

Student success is key for Sharon Dravvorn

BY HALI CHIET ('07)

Sharon Dravvorn ('90) is not your average math teacher. Woodbridge Senior High School has named the 19-year veteran its Educator of the Year twice, and now the

Milken Family Foundation has honored her with a prestigious 2010 Milken Educator Award.

"I was overwhelmed, pleased and surprised," says Dravvorn, who

found out the good news during a schoolwide assembly. "It was a great moment not just for me but for the entire school."

The Milken Educator Awards honor exceptional elementary and secondary teachers, principals and specialists who promote excellence in education. There is



Sharon Dravvorn

'JMU's education program is a great experience for those who want to become educators. I felt like I was given a lot of opportunities to observe real classes, student-teach and figure out if teaching was really what I wanted to do.'

— SHARON DRAVVORN ('90),
2010 National Milken
Educator Award recipient



Wade Whitehead (right) from the Milken Family Foundation presents Sharon Dravvorn ('90) with the National Milken Educator Award during the 2010 Virginia Teachers of Promise Institute.

no formal application process; each state's department of education has a special panel that recommends outstanding educators. Award recipients get a \$25,000 reward and are honored at the Milken Education Forum in Los Angeles.

"There is no one more deserving of this award," says David Huckestein, Woodbridge Senior High School principal. "Sharon is the ultimate professional who cares so much about helping her students succeed."

All of Dravvorn's classes comprise students who did

not pass their eighth-grade Standards of Learning. "Most of my students are kinesthetic learners, which means they need to *do* math — it must be a hands-on or full-body experience for them to grasp a concept," she says.

Dravvorn is known for her innovative teaching methods, which include using algebraic tiles so students can physically see an equation being solved; having students use their bodies to graph an equation on a 9-by-5-foot coordinate plane rug; and using sound effects to represent mathe-

matical concepts. "I believe my success is measured by the success of my students," says Dravvorn. Her creative teaching methods certainly pay off. The SOL passing rate of her students is consistently in the 90th percentile.

In addition to the Milken award, Dravvorn has been a finalist for the *Washington Post's* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. She visited campus March 19–21 for the Seventh-Annual Virginia Teacher of Promise Institute and mentored a group of future teachers.

"JMU's education program is a great experience for those who want to become educators," Dravvorn says. "I felt like I was given a lot of opportunities to observe real classes, student-teach and figure out if teaching was really what I wanted to do."

Dravvorn is the third JMU graduate to receive the Milken Educator Award. Amy Macaleer ('01) was a recipient in 2007, and Alex Carter ('94) was a 2003 award winner. **M**

*** Read more about the Virginia Teacher of Promise Institute at www.jmu.edu/milken and learn more about the national Milken Educator Awards program at www.mff.org/mea.**



2010 National Milken Educator Award recipient Sharon Dravvorn ('90) pins a student with a "Teacher of Promise" award during the Virginia Teacher of Promise Institute held at JMU in March.

[Perfect Investment]

Helping them stay Madison for Keeps

More than 3,000 alumni, student donors and JMU friends supported the Madison for Keeps initiative and helped 107 students stay in college. The university awarded \$406,945 to students in jeopardy of putting their college careers on hold due to economic hardship. JMU student

MADISON FOR KEEPS

groups have been a big part of the success of the initiative. The health honor society Eta Sigma Gamma sponsored a 5K run/walk and Student Occupational Therapy Association members hosted a bake sale to support Madison for Keeps. Students in Mert Tokman's Principles of Marketing class are creating four fundraising events as part of their course work.

Madison for Keeps scholarship recipient Courtney Smith ('11) says, "To everyone involved with Madison for Keeps, thank you so much. I was awarded a scholarship, and it lifted a huge weight off my shoulders. This has kept me at JMU, and I am forever grateful!"

* Learn more at www.jmu.edu/madison4keeps and support the JMU annual fund at www.jmu.edu/give/.

'To everyone involved with Madison for Keeps, thank you so much. This has kept me at JMU, and I am forever grateful.'

— COURTNEY SMITH ('11)

[Intelligence Partnership]

DEA and JMU partner in education and training



The U.S. intelligence community has joined JMU in a partnership with the information analysis major in the College of Integrated Science and Technology.

Anthony Placido, assistant administrator and chief of intelligence at the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and Sharon Lovell, interim dean of the College of Integrated Science and Technology, signed a cooperative agreement that is twofold. This agreement establishes an intelligence analyst intern program at the DEA specifically for students enrolled in the JMU information analysis program. The agreement also provides mutual support for analytic education and training between the two

organizations. The information analysis major is designed for students seeking critical thinking, geo-political and technological skills to further the capability of the U.S. intelligence community. Madison students chosen to participate in the intern program will spend two consecutive summer semesters at the DEA, which will receive the first cohort of students in summer 2010.

Between the first and second summers, interns will be processed for top-secret clearances and will be well positioned to gain full-time DEA employment after graduation.

DEA representative Anthony Placido and Sharon Lovell, interim CISAT dean, sign an education partnership agreement.

[Entrepreneurs]

James Madison Innovations licenses JMU inventions

By ERIC GORTON ('86, '09M)

A series of computer-based assessment tests developed by JMU professors has been licensed to a startup company in Washington, D.C., that is now marketing the tests to colleges and universities in the United States and the world.

Mary Lou Bourne, director of technology transfer at JMU, feels many more ideas being

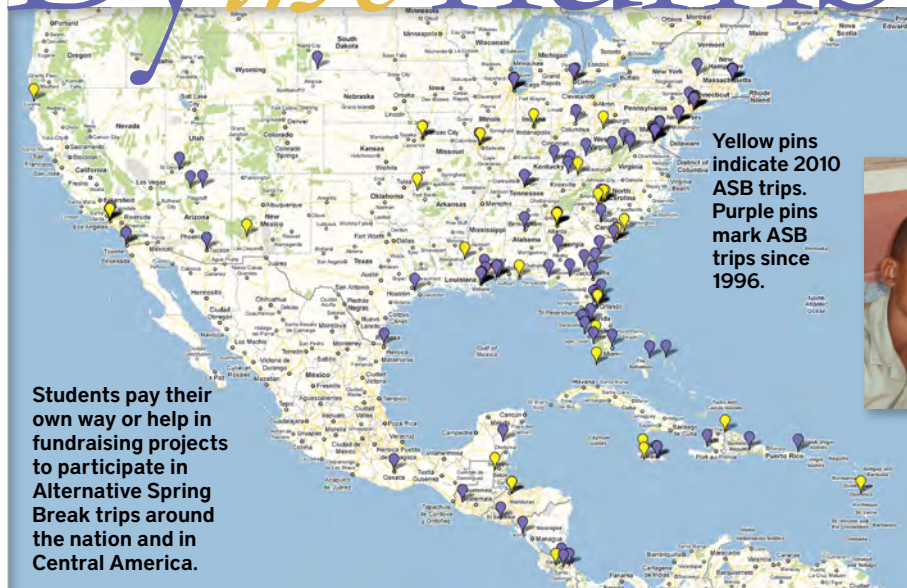
tossed around JMU classrooms and laboratories could make the same transition to marketable products — with the right kind of guidance. "You can have the greatest technology, but it would never make it to the marketplace if you don't have entrepreneurs who are experienced about how to make it go," says Bourne, also director of James Madison Innovations, a nonprofit corporation that licenses intellectual property developed at JMU. In her dual roles with JMU and JMI, Bourne has resources to vet ideas for marketability as well as access to a network of entrepreneurs who can help bring JMU inventions to market. Bourne works with Innovate TechVentures

LLC to match commercializable technologies with interested and qualified entrepreneurs looking to start their next business.

JMI's role includes determining if there is a need for the invention and what the competition is like. Some keys to marketability are uniqueness and value to others, Bourne says. The inventions can come from the JMU faculty, staff or students, she adds. JMI also helps with the costly process of securing patents on inventions for which it shares ownership with the university, meaning JMU has invested at least \$10,000 in university resources.

* www.jmu.edu/news/madison_scholar/featureArchive.shtml

By *the* numbers



39 About 400 students, professors and staff members traveled across the United States and to seven countries to spend Spring

Break volunteering as tutors, shelter and maintenance workers, builders, and nutrition and health advisers. JMU Alternative Spring Break volunteers formed 39 teams, each led by two student leaders and either a faculty or staff

learning partner. JMU's Community Service-Learning office oversees the Alternative Spring Break program and offers students many other opportunities to serve the community and learn about societal issues.

* Learn more at www.jmu.edu/service.



200 During James Madison's first presidential term, the United States conducts its third census in 1810. The population

totals 7.2 million, including 1.4 million African Americans, of whom 1.2 million are enslaved. The population west of the Appalachian

Mountains is 1 million. Find out how things have changed after 200 years:

* <http://2010census.gov/>.

**United States
Census
2010**

5 The JMU College of Business remains in the top 5 percent of undergraduate business schools ranked by *BusinessWeek*, earning exceptionally high marks from students and straight A's for teaching quality, services and job placement. The business school ranks No. 14 among public institutions.



20 JMU's student-run radio station WXJM is 20 years old and still airs music from a variety of genres as well as



talk shows and live music. WXJM reaches an audience of students and community members at 88.7 FM and via an online radio broadcast. Tune in when you roll into the 'Burg. * www.wxjm.org.

130 More than 130 former professors and administrative staff members are active in the JMU

Faculty Emeriti Association, a professional and social organization.

Nancy O'Hare, professor emerita of speech pathology, serves as president.

* Learn more at www.jmu.edu/emeriti.



Nancy O'Hare, president of the Faculty Emeriti Association.

Rt. 20 Montpelier is the lifelong home of James Madison,

fourth U.S. president and Father of the

Constitution. Montpelier's \$25 million architectural restoration is complete, and visitors can see the progress via daily guided tour presentations, *A Presi-*

dential Detective

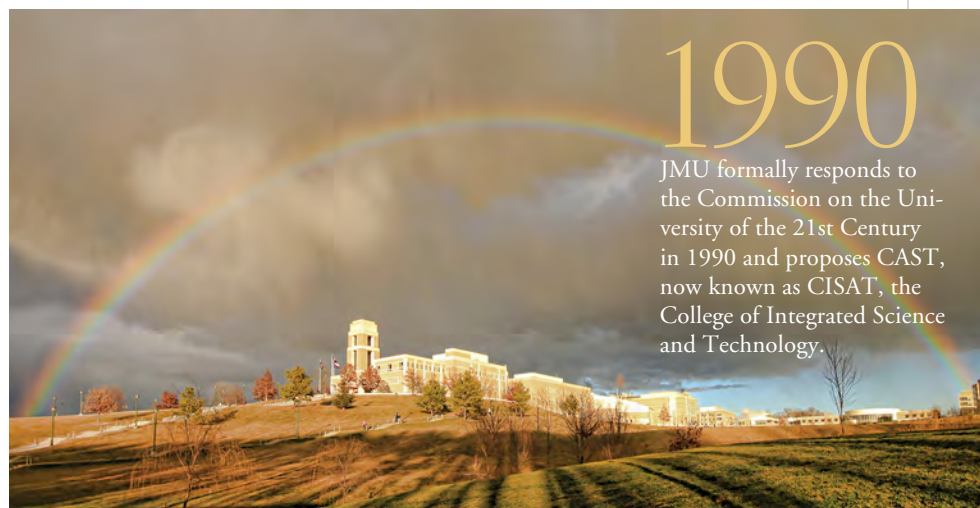
Story: Rediscovering the Furnishings and Décor of James and Dolley Madison. The 2,650-acre site offers many hands-on activities and garden and forest walking paths. Planning a trip to the 'Burg? Leave time for a day-trip to Montpelier on Route 20, four miles south of Orange, Va. * www.montpelier.org.



Madison

1990

JMU formally responds to the Commission on the University of the 21st Century in 1990 and proposes CAST, now known as CISAT, the College of Integrated Science and Technology.



[Be the Change]

Video game medicine

Alumnus gives hospitalized kids some 'play time' BY JAMIE MARSH

Justin Minnion was in second grade when he suffered a blow to the head from a baseball bat. Brain surgeons saved his life, but he had to spend several weeks in the hospital recovering, confined to a bed with little to do except watch TV or sleep. Now, 11 years later, he actually smiles a little recalling those long days, not remembering medical tests and IV drips, but instead focusing on an anonymous gift of a Nintendo.

"He still talks about what a big difference it made to be able to play Mario Brothers," says his brother-in-law Mike Miriello ('09M), an alumnus of the JMU College Student Personnel Administration Graduate Program.

Minnion's experience inspired Miriello and his wife, Megan, to start the nonprofit organization PlayTime, which "helps kids just be kids when they're in a very adult situation" through the fun of video games. "At first, we just wanted to donate a little money," Miriello says, "but we realized the major gaming companies have long waiting lists and can be very expensive." By purchasing the equipment — flat-screen TV, Nintendo Wii with "E" rated games, wireless controllers, lockbox — and assembling it on an industrial rolling cart in their garage, the Miriellos produced four carts for the price of one from a larger operation.

They found an eager partner at the Rockingham Memorial Hospital Foundation where vice president Merv Webb had been searching for exactly what the nascent philanthropists

Mike Miriello ('09M) founded PlayTime to 'help kids be kids' when they are in the hospital.

'If we can divert or reduce their stress by engaging them with video games, that's great. It's therapeutic and calming.'

— LORI ROBERTSON,
perioperative director of RMH Surgical Services

were offering. "Prior to Mike Miriello contacting the hospital, the perioperative director of RMH Surgical Services, Lori Robertson, had learned of a study that indicated children facing surgery had better outcomes when they were occupied with video games prior to surgery and had requested just such a unit," Webb explains.

The study Robertson read was from Australian researchers who recommend several nondrug alternatives to "pre-meds," including clown doctors, hypnosis, acupuncture and hand-held video games. Other studies concurred that people-based games like Mario or Zelda may help kids feel less isolated, and the excitement of a race-car game can substitute for some of the fun of being on a playground.

For children dreading a looming procedure — like the discomfort of a CAT scan or

the pain of a burn dressing — the game can serve as a much-needed distraction. Take surgery, for example, a procedure where the child and parents usually have hours or days to prepare. Robertson says this is "often a time of mounting angst and anxiety" which leads to greater reliance on sedatives. "If we can divert or reduce their stress by engaging them with video games, that's great. It's therapeutic and calming."

RMH had not found a retail store willing to donate the \$920 worth of equipment, but Webb was able to spot a possible partnership between the Miriellos and the Kiwanis Club of Harrisonburg. After a short phone conversation, club president Debra Frank said she was "touched by Mike's story about his brother-in-law Justin and inspired that he took that as a call to help children dealing with similar experiences.

That's what Kiwanis is all about: serving children."

She invited Miriello to present his idea at a club meeting, where the membership voted to donate funds and one member cut a personal check on the spot. With this one pitch, Miriello received \$1,840 — enough for two video game carts — and a lot of encouragement. "Many people have ideas, few act on them, and even fewer have the support to make it a reality," Miriello says. "The Kiwanis gave me the support I needed to move forward."

The carts were donated Jan. 28 to RMH, one for children undergoing surgery and another for the emergency room. The Miriellos say these two carts are just the beginning. They intend to keep raising money and constructing units for pediatric areas, and they envision making different versions for seniors, perhaps with more social games like Wii bowling. "We don't want these to be cookie cutter. We want to keep PlayTime small and local so each unit is exactly what the hospitals need."

They'll be running the nonprofit in their spare time. "Giving my time is very fulfilling," Miriello says. "I'm more than happy to do so daily." **M**

*** Learn more at www.playtimenonprofit.org/.**



Connections

Get connected

JMU has more than 11,000 Facebook fans, 1,700 Twitter followers, 6,000 LinkedIn members and more than 17,500 YouTube channel views.

Are you plugged in?

VISIT JMU VIA

- * www.facebook.com/jamesmadisonuniversity
- * www.twitter.com/JMUnews
- * www.youtube.com/DukeDogTV
- * www.linkedin.com (search James Madison University Alumni Association)

James Madison University flickr pool

Haven't been back to campus in a while? Check out JMU's flickr pool — it's just like being in the 'Burg! Comment on JMU photos or upload your own. * www.flickr.com/groups/1132487@N22/pool/

PictureIt! JMU flickr photostream

PictureIt! JMU is in its fourth year. Twenty students are chronicling their Madison Experience through photography and in-person discussions during a study conducted by JMU's Office of Institutional Research. * www.flickr.com/photos/pictureitjmu/



Dan Gorin ('11) captured this image of the James Madison statue at sunset. See more photos at the JMU flickr pool.



twitter.com/JMUnews



More than 1,700 Dukes are tweeting about their favorite JMU topics. JMU lands a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, updates on stadium renovations. What's on your mind? * Follow at twitter.com/JMUnews

Facebook.com/jamesmadisonuniversity



Tell us about your Madison Experience and plug into other conversations. The latest topics have focused on Alternative Spring Breaks and high-school seniors choosing JMU for their final college choice. * facebook.com/jamesmadisonuniversity
Alumni, share your chapter news and learn more about the alumni association. * facebook.com/jamesmadisonuniversity#/JMUAlumni

Professors You Love

Madison's longest-running column is now an interactive Web site. The award-winning Professors You Love series celebrates the best of relationships among students and professors, then and now. Tell us about your favorite professor, contribute to the series or connect with your favorite professor. * www.jmu.edu/ProfessorsYouLove

Alumni Online

Join the JMU Alumni Online Community and create a Purple Pages listing to promote your product or service to fellow alumni, submit a Class Note, register for alumni events, follow JMU chapters, create your own social network and more. * www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/JMD/yp.html

ONLINE

- * JMU's front door: www.jmu.edu
- * Everything alumni: www.jmu.edu/alumni/
- * The Be the Change blog: <http://jmubethechange.wordpress.com/>
- * The Newsroom and JMU Public Affairs: www.jmu.edu/news/
- * Madison Channel: Live and archived video and audio coverage of JMU activities and events: <http://media.jmu.edu/>

HEADLINES + HIGHLIGHTS

- * *Brightening the Lights of Madison* and the JMU Online Community: www.jmu.edu/alumni/publications/
- * *The Family Connection* insights for JMU parents: www.jmu.edu/parents/Update_Form.shtml

TELEVISION

- * WVPT: Students intern at the PBS affiliate for central Virginia, Shenandoah Valley and northeastern West Virginia, (540) 434-5391: www.wvpt.net

RADIO

- * WXJM: Student programming, news, talk and music on FM 88.7 www.wxjm.org
- * AM 1610: Tune in when you roll into the 'Burg
- * WMRA: <http://wmra.org/> NPR, local news and programming. WMRA, WMRY, WMRL, WMLU at 90.7, 103.5, 89.9 and 91.3 on your FM dial

PRINT

- * *Madison*, the JMU magazine, and MadisonOnline: www.jmu.edu/MadisonOnline/. Story ideas or subscriptions: (540) 568-2664 or e-mail madisonmag@jmu.edu

SPORTS

- * www.JMUSports.com Catch all the exciting JMU sports action and get live and on-demand video and audio in the *MadiZONE*
- * *Pauprint*: the Duke Club Newsletter, (540) 568-6164

[Student Leadership]

Cali-blue and CARPOOL

SafeRides celebrates three years of campus leadership

By CAITLIN HARRISON ('10)

In 2002, Lyndsey Walther-Thomas ('03) returned to campus from a student government conference at Texas A&M with a dream of starting an organization based on Texas A&M's CARPOOL (Caring Aggies R Protecting Over Our Lives), a designated driving program that serves the College Station area.

"I wanted SafeRides to be the kind of organization that attracted, developed and cultivated student leaders on campus," says Walther-Thomas. "Drinking is a huge issue on most college campuses, so the idea of having the premier leaders at JMU helping their peers make better choices was incredibly exciting."

Although Walther-Thomas began researching the program in 2001, it was not recognized as an organization by JMU until spring 2003. The executive members applied for 501(c)(3) status in 2006, and on Feb. 16, 2007, SafeRides began offering safe rides home. Since 2007, SafeRides has been serving the JMU community during academic semesters, driving students home on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.

"After becoming a nonprofit corporation with total liability



Caitlin Harrison ('10), far right, with JMU SafeRides members at the 2010 national conference at Texas A&M.

[Her Campus]

Student journalist selected by national online magazine

By SARA RIDDLE ('10)

As a journalism major, Cassie Potler ('10) is always looking for new and innovative opportunities to help her grow and expand her portfolio. When she saw a job posting for the online magazine *Her Campus* at Ed2010.com, a Web site that lists jobs and internships in the magazine industry, Potler didn't let the opportunity pass her by.

"I loved the idea and the approach the founders were taking, and I immediately applied," says Potler.

HerCampus.com is an online magazine founded by three female Harvard University students. The e-magazine informs college women on everything they need to know about style, health, love, dorm life, careers and world events. College journalists from 25 schools across the country contribute to the site.

Potler applied to the *Her Campus* staff last summer. "The two-part application process lasted a few weeks, and I found out that I officially had the position in August 2009," says Potler, who not only writes for the national *Her Campus* magazine, but she also launched a JMU edition: www.hercampus.com/school/jmu.

On Feb. 2, Potler launched the JMU edition. Articles featured on the JMU site are similar to those of HerCampus.com but have an added "local flair and campus relevance," she explains. "I'm open to have anyone write for me as long as their stories are written in the *Her Campus* 'voice' and are relevant to the JMU campus and community."

JMU InDesign professor Lynda Ramsey says, "I'm not surprised that Cassie was chosen for the national magazine. What is exceptional is that she was chosen among the elites of Harvard and 1,000 other U.S. colleges and universities."

Potler draws inspiration for her stories from everyday conversations. "I try to create stories



After working for the national *Her Campus* online magazine for six months, Cassie Potler ('10) launched a JMU edition.

that focus on what college students talk about, think about, dream about, worry about," she says. "When I hear my friends discussing something, the first thing I do is think about how that could be turned into a story."

One of Potler's favorite *Her Campus* stories is "The Hunger Project" about a nonprofit organization that aims to solve world hunger through the empowerment of women. "Writing the article was enlightening," says Potler, who enjoys writing stories that allow her to learn. "I saw how important it is not to give charity to those in need, but to give them their own means to become self-sustainable."

In addition to writing for *Her Campus*, Potler is a review editor for the *James Madison Undergraduate Research Journal* and a photographer for "PictureIt! JMU." When asked about the difficulty of balancing schoolwork with her other responsibilities, she says, "Life as a college student is always hectic, but I function better with a lot going on in my life." ■

* Learn more about Potler and read one of her *Her Campus* essays on Page 26 and read all her articles at <http://hercampus.com/search/node/potler>.

and damage insurance coverage through Enterprise, and raising enough funds for a \$700-a-weekend operation, SafeRides was finally able to run," says Parks Watson ('10), SafeRides executive. "Since then we have given over 17,000 rides."

The SafeRides executive director oversees the directors and team leaders. The group's gen-

eral body members are divided into eight teams that are guided by student team leaders. The official color of SafeRides is Cali-blue, and members wear Cali-blue T-shirts.

"My favorite thing about SafeRides is the members," said Jessica Lake ('12). "All the members are so friendly and nice; so you always feel wel-

come. All the members are so passionate about SafeRides."

In February, six members of SafeRides attended the national SafeRides Programs Unite conference at Texas A&M with students from 11 other universities. CARPOOL facilitated discussions about fundraising, operating driving programs and risk management. JMU's SafeRides members

SafeRides F A C T S :

- SafeRides rents its cars from Enterprise. They usually rent four cars per weekend and purchase insurance through Enterprise, which is why it costs \$700 to operate each weekend.
- SafeRides is a safe ride home, meaning you can use it to get home from the library or from a friend's house, even if you haven't been drinking. All you need is your JAC card.
- SafeRides members are nonjudgmental. Their main goal is get students home safely on the weekends.
- SafeRides is not funded by JMU. The nonprofit gets funds through donations and sponsors.

presented on member relations, and JMU was voted to host the 2012 national SRPU conference.

At JMU, SafeRides members educate the campus community about the dangers of drunk driving. During fall semester, SafeRides presents the program "One Night, One Ride, One Life," and members invite a guest speaker to discuss how drunk driving affected their lives.

"[I love] being able to work with such a passionate group of students," said Kristin Gardner ('04M), the organization's staff adviser. "The group is amazing and so dedicated to serving the JMU community and volunteer their own time to educate and ensure their peers are safe." **M**

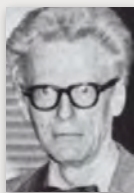
* Learn more at <http://orgs.jmu.edu/saferides/>.

[In Memoriam]

Remembering Rinehart Kyler and H. Kent Moore

Professor emeritus of German Rinehart E. Kyler of Harrisonburg died on Feb.

14. He earned his master's and doctorate degrees at Yale University. He taught German at JMU in the department of foreign languages from 1970 until his retirement in 2008. He was an accomplished chess player and earned a rank of more than 2,000 with the United States Chess Federation.

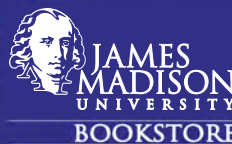


Former physics department head H. Kent Moore of North Port, Fla., died on Nov. 21, 2009. He taught physics and education at JMU from 1959 to 1994. Many faculty members and students from the 1960s and '70s recall Moore's prowess on the basketball court during pickup games between students and professors. **M**



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071288S103009A

Create

a lasting legacy at Madison

Inez Roop ('35) is no less than a Madison legend. She has been involved in almost every milestone in JMU history, and all five JMU presidents have counted her among their friends. In 1981, Roop worked with Madison's fourth president Ronald E. Carrier to create the **Madison Founders Society**.

Join Roop and the 500-plus members of the Madison Founders Society by providing for JMU in your financial or estate plans.

Contact the JMU Office of Gift Planning about creating a lasting legacy at Madison.



For more information about gift planning options, please fill out, clip and mail in this response card.

- ☐ Please send me information about gift planning options
☐ I have already included JMU in my will or estate plans

Name _____

Maiden Name _____

Class Year _____

Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Best times to reach me _____

Mail form to: Office of Development, JMU, 2002 Alumni Drive, MSC 4401, Harrisonburg, VA 22807

SC 4894

'This is a wake-up call'

The importance of balancing liberal arts and professional programs

BY ANDY PERRINE ('86)

Despite persistently dismal unemployment rates the American economy technically is improving as real GDP has been in positive territory for a few quarters in a row. After so much bad economic news this glimmer is welcome.

But can the American economy simply recover and restore conditions to its former state? Will we return to an economy fueled mainly by consumer spending? Or have the underlying fundamentals changed so utterly that recovery will look nothing like anything we've seen before? If so, do we as a nation have what it takes to thrive in this new reality?

Don Peck's article in the March 2010 *Atlantic Magazine*, "How a New Jobless Era Will Transform America," quotes Heidi Shierholz, an economist at the Economic Policy Institute who said, "We haven't seen anything like this before: a really deep recession combined with a really extended period, maybe as much as eight years, all told, of highly elevated unemployment. We're about to see a big national experiment on stress."

James Madison University Provost Douglas T. Brown believes that the change to our economy and society is fundamental. "I believe this is a wake-up call," he said to me in a recent conversation in his office overlooking the Quad. "Unfortunately there is a prevailing mentality in America where people want to get to work as quickly as possible and be very successful as soon as possible. It was the mentality operating on Wall Street before the recent crash.

'Will we return to an economy fueled mainly by consumer spending? Or have the underlying fundamentals changed so utterly that recovery will look nothing like anything we've seen before?'

— ANDY PERRINE ('86)

Realistically most things of any significance are built over time and they require a lot of planning and a lot of effort. The production of value is really a much longer-term enterprise than most people believe. And we're now learning that, unfortunately. We're learning it big time."

The provost recently announced his retirement from his post as top academic administrator at JMU. During our extended conversation, he reflected on his 36-year career at Madison and offered his perspective on how the basic realities of education are involved in answering the question,



"Do we as a nation have what it takes to thrive in this new reality?"

Brown's thoughts on the current state of education and how it fits into America's recovery are clear. "I think higher education simply reflects society. That's the shame of all this. The K-12 and higher education systems have really been beaten around by this concept of quick wealth. But no wealth is quick. It can, however, go away quickly, as we've recently seen."

Fortunately, Madison has avoided this trap. Guided by Brown's academic leadership for the last 14 years, an institutional ethos of purpose has pervaded every area of the curriculum. "We've very consciously interlinked our growing set of professional programs (Page 18) with a highly developed liberal arts core. This allows our students to graduate with very marketable skills and a sense of greater purpose."

One does not need to look deeply to see JMU's balanced approach to developing curriculum. During Brown's time as provost, the arts have been significantly enhanced and made a more integral part of JMU's curriculum. Meanwhile, the College of Business shot up the *BusinessWeek* rankings to 14th best in the nation among public undergraduate business schools. "More and more we know that society needs graduates with excellent technical skills and the ability to think broadly and communicate effectively," says Brown. "Our business students complete nearly half their curriculum in the liberal arts."

Dr. A. Jerry Benson, JMU vice provost and Dr. Brown's interim successor believes that the university's general education program — the portion of the curriculum delivering the liberal arts core — will stand among Brown's greatest accomplishments. "When I think about how the JMU curriculum has changed over the years, particularly in the context of Doug's leadership, the major overhaul of our general education program stands out. What's reflected in this overhaul is his commitment to the core value that we all need a sound liberal arts educational base. Whether we ultimately specialize in one of the liberal arts programs or we go into one of the professional programs, the liberal arts grounds you in terms of your social responsibility and ethical behavior, and also presents new worlds to you so that you're informed from different perspectives."

While JMU's general education program, known as The Human Community, has won numerous national awards for excellence, the most important audience is students. And even they yield a grudging

admiration for the general education program. The Princeton Review's upcoming 2011 edition of *The Best 373 Colleges* says this about JMU's general education program: "Students grumble about the 'Gen Eds,' which require classes in the arts, humanities and sciences and consume about one-third of all undergraduate credits. But students also admire the school's commitment to 'educating students in all areas, not just a major concentration' and concede that the classes provide 'foundation knowledge every graduating student should have.'"

Clear affirmation of the university's focus on maintaining a strong liberal arts core came on March 17, when JMU acquired the distinction of becoming home to a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, the oldest and most revered honor society. Phi Beta Kappa celebrates and advocates excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. And fewer than 10 percent of the nation's institutions of higher learning have PBK chapters.

Dr. Meredith Gunter, rector of the JMU Board of Visitors, said in her remarks at the Phi Beta Kappa ceremony, "On the board, we talk about the JMU experience and how much students love it here. We have extraordinary levels of student satisfaction. And when people ask what that is, many assume it has to do with successful sports programs or a great social life or even good food in the dining halls. And while all those things definitely are a factor,



JMU board member Meredith Gunter and provost Doug Brown at the Phi Beta Kappa installation. Brown says, "In a time when society is focused on the intermediate benefits of education rather than its long-term consequences, JMU instead integrated the liberal arts with carefully selected professional programs to meet societal needs."

I believe that when you listen more closely to students, when you dig just a little bit more deeply, and maybe even when you speak to them in private when they're out of the bounds of some of their social conformity, we find in them a love of the life of the mind."

Possessing a broad perspective is really what matters over the long term according to Brown. "Our mission statement describes the outcome we're after. We want students to live productive and meaningful lives. That's why the liberal arts core is every bit as important as the professional programs. Especially when you consider that in the current economy, and whatever is next, specializations will change often. As a matter of fact our graduates likely won't be doing the same thing five years after leaving; and over their lifetimes, they may specialize in five different areas."

Peck writes in *Atlantic Magazine*, "The great recession may be over, but an era of high joblessness is probably just beginning. Before it ends, it will likely change the life course and character of a generation of young adults. Ultimately, it is likely to warp our politics, our culture and the character of our society for years to come."

If Madison alumni negotiate through this warp better than their peers, they may have Doug Brown to thank. He doesn't see it that way, of course, reflecting with his usual humility on his very successful career at Madison: "It's the faculty and staff at JMU. Without a doubt," he says. "Really it's been an honor and a privilege to work with so many very bright people who honestly do care about what will happen to students." ■

JMU professional programs: "A Very Nice Dance"

JMU has successfully balanced growth of its professional programs and the liberal arts core in a response to societal needs. "It's been a very nice dance between JMU and the external world," says provost Douglas T. Brown. "We're probably one of the institutions most responsive to meeting public needs." Society has changed a lot in the last 30 years and look at how much JMU has changed.

Recently added bachelor's programs:

- Biotechnology
- Engineering
- Geographic Sciences
- Health Services Administration
- Information Analysis
- Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies
- Justice Studies
- Statistics

Recently added master's programs:

- Community Counseling
- Political Science: European Union Policy Concentration
- Mathematics
- Occupational Therapy
- Physician Assistant Studies
- Integrated Science and Technology
- Nursing

Recently added doctoral programs:

- Assessment and Measurement
- Clinical Audiology
- Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Clinical and School Psychology
- Performance, Pedagogy and Literature

CAA Champions!

By MICHELLE HITE ('88)



CAA Champions! It rolls like honey off the tongues of Dukes in the JMU Nation, and it's been 20 years in the making.

The 2009–10 JMU women's basketball team overcame more than longtime CAA rival Old Dominion University to win the 2010 CAA Championship — they overcame personal illness; having sole senior, Sarah Williams; and more than a decade of “oh-so-close” moments and second places. The last time the women took the CAA title was 1989 under coach Sheila Moorman.

Junior guard Dawn Evans, who won the 2010 CAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player trophy, has also been selected as a finalist for the Women's Basketball Coaches Association State Farm All-America Team. Evans averaged 24.6 points and 4.6 assists a game while helping lead the Dukes to the CAA Championship and an NCAA Tournament berth.

Women's basketball athletics trainer Sherry Summers ('76, '78M), far left, and coach Kenny Brooks ('91) celebrate the 2010 Colonial Athletic Association Tournament Championship with the 2009–10 women's basketball team. (Inset): Junior guard Dawn Evans won the CAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player trophy. Brooks was a sophomore student at JMU the last time the women captured the CAA title.




Though the team's NCAA dance was short-lived, thanks to Temple University, the JMU Nation's excitement remains. And Evans' accolades continue to roll in: She is among the candidates for the three major national player-of-the-year awards — the Wade Trophy, the Wooden Award and the Naismith Trophy. Read more about the team's storied 2009–10 season at JMUSports.com. **M**

DUKES' FANS: ARE YOU PART OF THE JMU NATION?

Read more about the women's basketball season at JMUSports.com and check for updates on all JMU teams, including baseball and softball. Listen to *Dukes Sports Center* with Curt Dudley on demand and free of charge in the **MadiZONE**.

Bright

*The professors,
students and
alumni who shine
in Madison's
constellation*



Former No. 1 U.S. amateur strongman, and now a pro card holder, Mike Jenkins ('04, '05M) prefers "old school" Chuck Taylor sneakers because they "don't give" when he's powerlifting 1,000 pounds of weight or pulling an F150 pickup.



[Mike Jenkins ('04)]

America's strongest man

By JEFFREY CRETZ ('03)

As Mike Jenkins ('04, '05M) gets ready to step into the spotlight of his next North American Strongman competition, a quick glance at a small photograph of his late uncle or reading a text message from a family member, especially his little brother, is all he needs to get his adrenaline going. The constant reminder of all the people who have been important in shaping his life keeps him grounded as he continues to showcase his extraordinary physical strength at both state- and national-level competitions. Jenkins, who lives in Baltimore, Md., wears old-school Chuck Taylor basketball shoes because, he says, "They are flat and don't give when I have 1,000 pounds loaded on my back." He listens to Lil' Wayne and Linkin Park songs to get pumped up before meets. In between events, country music keeps him calm.

Ranked as the No. 1 U.S. amateur, Jenkins outlasted a field of 57 amateur strongmen from 20 nations to win the inaugural Arnold Amateur World Strongman Championships on March 5-7. The event, held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, was part of the 2010 Arnold Sports Festival.

With the victory, Jenkins earned his strongman pro card and the first spot in the 2011 Arnold Strongman Classic, the prestigious professional strongman contest that annually attracts 10 of the world's strongest men.

Jenkins is athletics director for Silver Oak Academy, a high school for youth offenders in Keymar, Md. He and his younger brother, who currently plays Division-I football at the University of Virginia, grew up together in Westminster, Md.

As a child Jenkins was just too big to play Pee Wee Football, and today, at 6-feet 6-inches, he weighs in at 350 pounds. Clearly he has a good

work ethic. He consistently goes above and beyond specifically prescribed workouts which, back in the day, caused a JMU football coach to "ban" him from UREC.

A member of the 2004 JMU National Championship football team, Jenkins says, "My favorite memory was being on the field that night in Chattanooga looking up at the clock as time expired and we were up 31-21. It was amazing to be able to share that moment with all the fans who came to see us, my whole team that has been through 2-9 seasons, and most importantly, my family."

Jenkins didn't begin his collegiate football career at JMU. After attending a university in Ohio for a year, he decided to transfer to a Division I-AA school to fight for playing time right away. After making a trip to Harrisonburg, meeting football coach Mickey Matthews and seeing campus, he fell in love with Madison.

Jenkins vividly remembers watching strongman competitions on ESPN when he was younger. "I thought it was cool how strong these guys were, and that I would love to try it," he remembers. On Mother's Day 2007, Jenkins located a nearby competition and convinced his mother to attend with him, telling her he wanted to see what he was getting himself into. Months later, Jenkins won Maryland's Strongest Man title, which qualified him for a national tournament in Las Vegas. In just his second competition, Jenkins placed sixth and has been hooked ever since.

After Vegas, he dreamed of earning a pro card. He had an opportunity in New Orleans in October 2009 at the North American Strongman National Championships. Jenkins finished second overall. "I was a few inches from turning pro," he says. He took top honors in two of the five events: The Yoke/Farmer's Medley and the Carry/Load/Drag Medley.

The Farmer's Walk and the Yoke Walk, usually two separate events, are his favorites. "I am good at both of those because they're moving events, and I am fast for my size," Jenkins jokes. The grueling events and training haven't come without a price. He estimates that he has missed between six and eight competitive months due to various injuries, including sciatica, a torn meniscus, and multiple muscle strains and tears. **MI**

'My favorite memory was being on the field that night in Chattanooga looking up at the clock as the time expired and we were up 31-21.'

*** Learn more about American Strongman competitions at www.americanstrongman.org/, and watch video of Jenkins training at www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwFo7fbGVOM.**

[Kendra Johnson ('91)]

A fervor for theater

BY SARA RIDDLE ('10)

Even at a young age Kendra Johnson ('91) knew that no matter what she pursued in the future it would be something in a creative field. This past fall, that creativity, time, energy and passion paid off when Clemson University announced her promotion to associate professor of theater in its performing arts department.

"I always loved to read, draw and sew," says Johnson. "I thought costume design was a great fit for a career."

A member of the Clemson faculty since 2003, Johnson is no stranger to college theater and costume design. She designed many shows during her four years studying theater at JMU. "Theater took up most of my time, but it paid off," says Johnson. "My design experiences at Madison helped me get accepted to several graduate school costume design programs."

While accepted by numerous graduate schools, Johnson decided on the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where she won several design awards as a Master of Fine Arts candidate. After earning her degree in 1994, she taught general theater courses in public schools in Charlotte, N.C., and later became an assistant professor in the theater department at the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

As a tenured professor, Johnson teaches courses in theater appreciation, stage makeup, costume design, costume technology and African-American theater history. She also designs costumes

for many Clemson productions and manages the costume shop. She has served as the costume designer for nearly 50 shows, 20 of which were university productions.

Marat/Sade, Johnson's first production at Clemson, is her most memorable to date: "I loved my first production. I think all the production elements really came together."

In addition to specializing in costume design, costume technology and stage makeup, Johnson presents and exhibits research on 19th-century slave dress in South Carolina and is currently studying indigo dyeing. "As a costume designer, you have to know a lot of history as well as art history," Johnson says. "As both an undergrad and grad student, I noticed the lack of information on how African-Americans styled their clothing during the antebellum period. I wanted to research the link between Africa and their new 'home' in America."

Johnson's research focuses on the depictions of slave clothing on stage and screen as well as at historical sites. Her dolls, which illustrate slave clothing, have been displayed at the Blackbridge Hall Gallery at Georgia College and State University, and the Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, Ohio.

Beyond her faculty responsibilities, Johnson designs professionally for various Greenville theaters. Between doing her own research, teaching theater classes and designing costumes, she enjoys the creative aspect of working with other theater artists. "Theater is collaborative," she explains. "I like getting ideas from my colleagues and incorporating them into my designs." **M**

Clemson theater professor Kendra Johnson ('91) researches African-American slave clothing on stage and screen and at historical sites.



[Reshma Shetty ('99)]

Music major plays *Royal Pains* doctor

BY CAITLIN HARRISON ('10)

Students arriving at JMU with a preconceived idea about a major field of study sometimes change their minds after discovering firsthand all that the Madison Experience has to offer. Reshma Shetty ('99) not only changed her major, she also changed academic disciplines.

"My freshman year I came to JMU to study biology," says Shetty, who grew up in England and Richmond, Va. "After a few months, the creative side of me started to rebel and counter the very stark science classes I was enrolled in."

Shetty left the biology lab for music recital halls and earned an undergrad degree in music performance *magna cum laude*.

Her cross-disciplinary experiences are coming in handy, though. She's not a doctor, but she plays one on TV as Divya Katdare on USA Network's hit show *Royal Pains*. Well, more specifically, she plays a physician's assistant to the lead character Dr. Hank Lawson. Shetty also earned a graduate degree from the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre and studied at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

While *Royal Pains* is Shetty's first major television role, she did make an appearance on NBC's *30 Rock* in 2007. She also portrayed Priya in the 2006 Broadway play *Bombay Dreams* and starred in the off-Broadway play *Rafta Rafta*, both of which were well-received by reviewers and theater critics.

'At JMU, I had teachers who believed in me and here I am on national TV!'

— RESHMA SHETTY ('99)

Shetty has many fond memories of her Madison Experience. "I remember D-Hall on a Sunday and the open buffet, which made me fat! I also remember finals week when I would live in the library and try to sneak in food from Dukes. And I remember how beautiful the Quad is during the fall semester."

The university community has fond memories of Shetty as well. "She was one student that impressed me from the start with her potential to succeed as a performer," says John Little, JMU professor of voice (tenor). "Reshma was always completely self-possessed and very forthright. Combined with her good looks and beautiful singing voice, I always figured that she couldn't miss as a performer."

Brenda Witmer, professor of voice (soprano), agrees. "We quickly discovered that Reshma had quite a beautiful voice and a real passion for acting. By her senior year, she was one of the top operatic voices on campus, performing a very difficult repertoire," recalls Witmer.

Although Shetty began her career at Madison studying biology, she always knew she wanted to become a performer and go into acting. "I actually wanted to be a drama student," she says. "But it was not the most accepted choice for an Indian girl to try to become an actress. Finding color-blind casting was a definite problem at the time, as well, so I never thought I could do it. ...

"At JMU, I had teachers who believed in me and here I am on national television!"

Shetty lives in New York City and still has close ties to Madison. "When I was a student, JMU's arts community was fairly small, and we are all united, so I studied and performed with my friends," says Shetty. "It was a safe environment. We felt free to try new things. My closest friends in New York City today are the people I met at Madison."

Witmer says, "I am thrilled for Reshma's success in such varied artistic endeavors. Her elegance, comedic timing and generous spirit are the genuine article. I do hope that she continues to sing — perhaps the writers of *Royal Pains* could develop that into her role?"



(Above): Reshma Shetty ('99) walks a runway in New York City. Shetty's cross-disciplinary academic experiences at JMU help her adeptly play a doctor on USA Network. (Far right): Shetty with her fellow *Royal Pains* cast members.

The viewers and JMU arts fans can only hope.

* Learn more about Reshma Shetty and her role on *Royal Pains* at www.usanetwork.com/series/royalpains/.

■

Matters of the heart

BY JACQUELYN WALSH ('09)

When Sam Hunter had a heart attack in 2008 at age 46, her art and her inspiration turned in a new direction. An intermedia arts Master of Fine Arts student, Hunter claims fabric as her first love and has created pieces based on the forms of hospital gowns and hearts since her heart attack.

The M.F.A. in intermedia arts is a three-year program where students utilize an endless variety of materials and media to create their work. Hunter focuses on fabric, hand stitching, sculpture and unexpected items such as metronomes for her art. "These works are about trying to understand and assimilate the new identity that my health has insisted I create," she explains.

Last summer Hunter ('10M) studied with Mark Rooker, JMU art professor and director of the metals program. "Where other artists rely on obfuscation and abstraction to mask a lack of resolved conceptual development, Sam designs her work to communicate clearly, broadly and with depth," says Rooker.

Hunter earned a B.A. from California State University–Channel Islands, *summa cum laude*. She enjoys the diversity in her bicoastal education. Last year she was eligible for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts fellowship, and her application of eight slides and a resumé landed her one of the \$6,000 graduate-level prizes. "Contests like this are a function of the right juror seeing you in the right moment. It's a statistical crap shoot," says a modest Hunter.

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts has awarded 1,940 fellowships worth \$4 million since 1940. In 2009, the museum awarded 33 fellowships to professionals and students to help pay for education or advance a career in the visual arts.



'These works are about trying to understand and assimilate the new identity that my health has insisted I create.'

— SAM HUNTER ('10M)

"The VMFA is dedicated to making sure art doesn't dry up in Virginia," says Hunter. She is using her fellowship to cover supply expenses and to maintain materials. She also visited Europe last summer to see *La Biennale di Venezia* in Venice. The major contemporary art exhibition, which began in 1895, showcases international works and serves as inspiration to artists and patrons.

"This affirmation from the VMFA and financial support has given a significant boost to Hunter's production as restrictions on material costs were transcended," says Hunter's mentor Corinne Diop, coordinator of the School of Art and Art History graduate program.

Hunter goes to great lengths to challenge her audiences. One of her hospital gown-inspired pieces resembles leather armor and is decorated with 1,400 scalpel blades hand sewn onto the piece. She describes the project as taking "40 hours and 20 years," referring to her 20 years of sewing experience. Typically for Hunter, the "construction isn't nearly so long as the sit-and-thinks."

Rooker thinks his student has a promising future. "Sam's current work is a courageous and powerful exploration of her experiences as a cardiac patient. The exploration shows her great promise. She is developing a clear, powerful and poetic voice, and has a great deal to say."

"I've got a couple more hospital gowns in me," Hunter says. "I'm still walking, still talking, still accomplishing my dream."



Intermedia arts M.F.A. program student Sam Hunter ('10M) creates fabric art in the form of hospital gowns (far left). She draws inspiration from surviving a heart attack. She exhibited her mixed media works with the Arts Council of the Valley at Smith House last fall. Her final thesis exhibit will be April 14–21 in Duke Fine Arts Center's Sawhill Gallery with an opening reception on April 15 from 5 to 7 p.m.



Girl power

How to assert yourself as a young woman

BY CASSIE POTLER ('10), JMU HerCampus.com editor

For her birthday last year, JMU junior Liz LaHayne's mom got her a ring featuring a freshwater pearl. Just days later, the pearl fell out. Despite the fact that the ring had a warranty, Liz ('09) was turned down at the jeweler when she asked that they replace the pearl. The next day, her mother spoke with the same saleswoman and had the ring repaired, at no extra cost, no questions asked.

We've all been there. Maybe your landlord treats you differently than your adult neighbors, or waiters at a local restaurant think the table of professors downstairs deserves much more attention than you and your buddies on the deck. But just because you're a girl and/or student doesn't mean you don't deserve respect.

"Nobody can walk all over you unless you give them permission to do that," says Gail Evans, author of *Play Like a Man, Win Like a Woman*. "It's cultural, and the system isn't going to change itself," she says. "You have to control it yourselves."

We all want to be treated like adults, and we shouldn't have to have our parents step in to make it happen. Here are a few common scenarios and how to avoid being taken advantage of in each:

Rude retail

Let's face it; it's true that you probably aren't going to spend as much at Macy's as the woman in the suit and stilettos looking at \$700 purses. However, the salespeople don't know that for sure, and they certainly shouldn't assume it.

When walking into a store, you set the tone. Have a mature attitude and be assertive (but not rude), and kind (but not timid) to the salespeople, and you'll be taken seriously. Also, present yourself as the type of shopper you would want to cooperate with if you worked in the store. "Learn how to speak up nicely, not flip," says Evans. "Be pleasant."

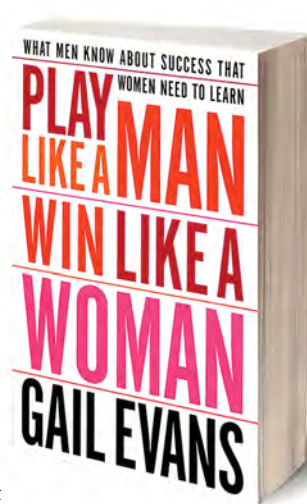
Don't be afraid to make requests, like asking the salesperson to check the back when there are no more boots your size on the floor.

If you're still having problems, find the manager. Somewhere in the store there's someone who (hopefully) understands good customer service and will help you to meet your needs. But beware: Never, never get into a childish argument with anyone. This will not get you anywhere.

'Learn how to speak up nicely, not flip. Be pleasant.'

— GAIL EVANS, author, *Play Like a Man, Win Like a Woman*

However, if a store's employees are consistently not nice, stop shopping there — and let everyone know why. "That's how things change. Blog about it, tell your friends, and make it public," Evans says.



Lackluster landlords

"From the landlord's perspective, college students are temporary residents," says Evans. "So set the precedent from the start that you are good tenants and you want to be treated the same way any permanent residents would."

Earlier this year, my roommates and I were dissatisfied with the management at our brand new, super-expensive apartment building. We wrote a lengthy, levelheaded e-mail to the building's owners describing each issue and how we felt it violated our lease. Within a couple of weeks, all problems were fixed and we have been treated with the utmost respect ever since.

Girls, no one — not even the sandy-haired boy from Calculus you've been subconsciously urging to ask you out — can read your mind. So communicate your needs in an appropriate way, and the person

you're working with will have a much easier time serving you.

Take yourself seriously

These situations, although common, are by no means the only times you will face unequal treatment as a young woman. Poor and unfair customer service in society has been around forever, but it's up to us to change that. If you want things to change, then voice your issues. "You can't just walk out unsatisfied," Evans says. "Let the manager know why you're leaving. That's how they'll learn." We are capable of being strong and powerful; we must be treated with respect to be taken seriously as young women, and in order to be treated with respect we must treat ourselves with respect.

General tips for asserting yourself

- Approach the situation with the expectation that you will be listened to and treated with respect.
- Understand that no one can read your mind and that you need to communicate your needs confidently and maturely.
- Hold your head high and try not to slouch or look intimidated.
- Take 10 deep breaths before any confrontational situations so you are calm and have collected your thoughts in an organized way.
- Connect with the people who serve you. Be friendly.
- Be respectful, but persistent.
- Stop frequenting businesses that exhibit poor customer service. ❌

*** Read Cassie Potler's entire article at <http://hercampus.com/dormlife/girl-power-how-assert-yourself-young-woman>. Learn more about Potler on Page 14.**

About the Author Cassie Potler ('10) is a School of Media Arts and Design major with a concentration in print journalism and a minor in art. After graduation, she will join Teach for America and work in Washington, D.C. In addition to writing for HerCampus.com, she is an editor for JMU's journal of first-year writing, eVision, and is a photographer for "PictureIt! JMU." Potler grew up in Glenwood, Md., where she was raised to be a devoted Ravens football fan. Read more about Potler on Page 14 and see her work at <http://hercampus.com/search/node/potler>.

Planting roots at JMU

Artist-in-residence explores invisible aspects of the natural world BY LAURA KATZMAN

Aclaimed Israeli-American sculptor Dalya Luttwak visited campus as the College of Visual and Performing Arts' Diversity Artist-in-Residence for spring 2010. Luttwak's sculptures reveal invisible dimensions of the natural world and call attention to that which is hidden from our view. By investigating a subterranean universe beyond our ordinary perception, Luttwak's work encourages critical thinking. She asks us not to accept the world at face value, but to dig deeper below its surface in search of greater insight or deeper understanding of its mysteries — its roots.

When the Sawhill Gallery and the School of Art and Art History featured Luttwak's work this semester, I served as curator of her site-responsive exhibition, *Roots: The Hidden Half in Black and White*. The installation included seven large-scale constructions along with an additional work that she placed outside of Duke Hall that will stay up for two years. In a JMU/community arts partnership, Luttwak also installed a work in the Smith House Sculpture Garden at the Arts Council of the Valley in downtown Harrisonburg.

Luttwak was born to European refugees in Israel's Northern Galilee, studied at the prestigious Hebrew University of Jerusalem and moved to the United States in 1972. A world traveler, she made an international reputation in metal jewelry, Judaica, hollowware and small sculpture before embarking on the production of big, welded steel sculptures that recreate the natural color and configuration of plant roots. This new work set the artist on a more philosophical path of exploration.

Her linear structures are based on actual roots that she digs out of the earth — some collected from her world travels and others from in and around her lush garden in Chevy Chase, Md. For her Sawhill exhibition, Luttwak painted the roots stark black and white in response to the industrial character of the space. She painted the outdoor works bright red: *Red Bamboo-Grass* at the Arts Council of the Valley interacts with the spirals of JMU art professor Sukjin Choi's ground installation. And *Mangrove* graces



Dalya Luttwak (inset, far left) bases her linear structures (like *Bamboo-Grass*, above) on the roots of plants that she digs out of the earth — some collected from her world travels and others from her lush garden. The School of Art and Art History hosted *Roots: The Hidden Half in Black and White*, an exhibition by the Israeli-American sculptor from Feb. 15 to April 2.

Duke Hall's front porch, contrasting and enlivening the imposing concrete space of the art building. Luttwak's root sculptures thus respond not only to the natural world but also to the more synthetic, constructed settings in which her art is displayed.



‘She asks us not to accept the world at face value, but to dig deeper below its surface in search for greater insight or deeper understanding of its mysteries – its roots.’ — LAURA KATZMAN

JMU students look at *Parsnip-Vegetable*, one of the works in Dalya Luttwak’s exhibition in Sawhill Gallery. Luttwak’s opening reception and gallery talk drew many from JMU’s arts community.

The artist’s aim is to unearth that which is hidden — psychologically and physically — from our ordinary field of vision and daily experiences. With this series, she seeks “to uncover the hidden structures and shapes of the roots of different plants, exploring differences and relationships between the parts above ground and the parts below.” Her motive, she says, “is to uncover and discover roots even when they are hidden, indeed especially when they are hidden.”

Luttwak draws inspiration from the hidden stories of her own family, persecuted Jews who fled Czechoslovakia for Palestine on the eve of World War II, and from the hidden dimensions of our natural/physical environment. She is interested in what lies beneath the ground or below the surface — metaphors for the unconscious/subconscious, or hidden thoughts, intentions and meanings. Her works compel us to contemplate all that we cannot see in the world and, by extension, all that we cannot know.

Luttwak’s campus visit thus transformed not just exhibition space but also the minds

and perceptions of professors, students and all who viewed her art. Her exhibition and public art project for JMU and Harrisonburg exemplify how a visiting artist-in-residence can contribute to the university and its environs. A visiting artist’s classes and critiques, which expand upon what the art curriculum and art faculty already offer, make an impact on many facets of campus life.

Inspiring and involving students

The Luttwak project began in late fall 2008, after I was delighted to “discover” her work in a solo exhibition at the American University Museum and presented an exhibition proposal to JMU School of Art and Art History Director Leslie Bellavance and Sawhill Gallery Director Gary Freeburg. In multiple visits to Luttwak’s studio, I conducted interviews with the artist. In other visits, undergraduate interns and graduate assistants filmed her at work — forging and welding steel, forcefully manipulating it into her winding, wiry structures. One graphic design major edited this footage into a short film

about the artist, while a photography major designed a 360-degree virtual tour of the exhibition for Sawhill’s Web site. Media arts and design students sought local press, radio and television coverage for the project. Others helped to deconstruct, pack, transport, reassemble and secure sculptures in indoor and outdoor locations — learning the fine art of installation design from Gary Freeburg, a master photographer, installer and lighting expert. The students’ projects extended and enhanced Luttwak’s presence on campus — and gave her work even deeper roots in the JMU arts community.

In a cross-disciplinary collaborative effort, students and professors assisted the artist in transforming the look of the gallery into that of an underground environment, in which “roots” hang from the ceiling, spill onto the floor and crawl up the walls in a shadow-filled space that is at once haunting, whimsical and mysteriously beautiful.

Over the course of the past year, Luttwak made several trips to JMU to measure and assess the Sawhill, Duke and valley arts council spaces to design her site-specific works. She sketched her ideas

About the Author *Laura Katzman, curator of Dalya Luttwak’s exhibition Roots: The Hidden Half in Black and White, is a professor of art history. A scholar of modern American art, she is the co-author of: Ben Shahn’s New York: The Photography of Modern Times (Yale, 2000), Ben Shahn and the Passion of Sacco and Vanzetti (Rutgers, 2001) and Re-viewing Documentary: The Photographic Life of Louise Rosskam (American University Museum, forthcoming 2011).*

on gallery floor plans and made small graphite drawings to figure out how to transform tiny, delicate root segments into her large steel sculptures. She spoke with JMU faculty, administrators and arts council staff to familiarize herself with the needs and culture of the community, and became intensely involved in every stage of the process. Luttwak conducted a test drive in November 2009, installing in Sawhill a few sculptures-in-progress to see how best to attach works to the ceiling and existing walls and how to suspend an additional floating wall. She worked with photographers to document this practice installation and to create images that would facilitate her own construction process and Sawhill Gallery publicity.

Luttwak was in residence at JMU the week of March 15. In addition to giving an artist's talk, she made presentations to the classes of several JMU professors — Mark Rooker's Metal class, Greg Stewart's Sculpture class and Bill Wightman's Art Criticism class. She spoke to Corinne Diop's Graduate Studio class and conducted nine critiques for the M.F.A./M.A. candidates in sculpture, painting, photography, ceramics and mixed media. Students in Tommy Thompson's Photojournalism class interviewed Luttwak, who later returned to JMU on March 27 and contributed to my curator's gallery talk.

Off campus, Luttwak attended a March 17 reception in her honor hosted by the Arts Council of the Valley, where she installed *Red Bamboo-Grass*. This was the result of a fruitful collaboration between the JMU School of Art and Art History and the arts council, which is directed by public art expert Cecilia Carter Brown. This collaboration will foster future art exchanges between JMU and the city and will contribute to an ongoing discussion by JMU's Public Art Taskforce — an ad-hoc committee of faculty members and administrators that brainstorms about developing a public art program at JMU.

Art's significance in a well-rounded education

Art enthusiasts and viewers of varying backgrounds are drawn to Luttwak's scul-



(Above): Detail of *Silver Maple-Tree*, an artwork by College of Visual and Performing Arts' Diversity Artist-in-Residence Dalya Luttwak.

tures since everyone has roots and can relate to their literal and symbolic associations to home, land, past, family, ancestry and genealogy. Her work appeals to people with biological and botanical interests as she is attentive to the intricacies and structures of real root systems. Those more aesthetically inclined find delight in the distortions and manipulations she makes from root source to final sculpture, for it is in the transformations in size, scale, color, material, texture and context where the meaning and metaphoric significance of her works lie.

Luttwak's dynamic structures encompass dualities (or dichotomies) of abstraction and

representation, science and art, the hidden and the visible, and the personal and the universal. She offers a model for young artists who want to experiment with abstraction and nonliteral modes of representation but who also want their work to engage autobiographical content, cultural identity and family history.

It has been a rewarding experience to work with Dalya Luttwak. The College of Visual and Performing Arts and the JMU Office of Diversity generously funded her project. Such support indicates the JMU administration's recognition of the importance of the visual arts to ensure a well-rounded education. In a time of budget cuts, such support also speaks to the university's recognition of the visual arts' significance to the cultural welfare of the campus and community. It is heartening when university leaders acknowledge how in lean times artists (through their works and words) can boost morale, offer hope and envision new worlds and new possibilities that nonartists cannot always see or imagine. ■

* Watch an interview with JMU's diversity artist-in-residence at www.jmu.edu/news/FlashFeature-Luttwak.shtml or visit Luttwak's Web site at www.dalyaluttwak.com.



Luttwak's sculpture *Red Bamboo-Grass* for the Arts Council of the Valley is displayed on Main Street. (Inset): Luttwak bends rebar in her Chevy Chase, Md., studio. Her root sculptures respond not only to the natural world but also to their constructed exhibit settings.



A passion for politics

Washington Semester experience balances learning and friendship

BY LISA MAURER ('09)

From the second I began unloading my van on busy Connecticut Avenue, I knew my semester in Washington, D.C., would be unlike any other. Away from my friends and my comfortable niche at JMU, I excitedly settled into my new apartment, hungry for the hustle and bustle of the city and all that Washington Semester could offer. This program lets students intern while taking classes, and my Washington Semester provided me with some of the best job experience, friendships and career preparation that I will carry with me in all my future endeavors.

Participants in the Washington Semester are required to find their own internship at the start of the semester. My peers in the fall 2007 program participated in a multitude of internships ranging from placements in the White House to the Fed-

About the Author *Lisa Maurer ('09) of Warminster, Pa., is a legal assistant at Fisher & Zucker LLC. The political science major and political communications minor participated in the JMU Washington Semester in 2007. She also studied abroad in the JMU program in Florence, Italy, and volunteered for Relay for Life in 2007 and 2009.*

eral Communications Commission. I landed my favorite job to date working as an intern at the Department of State. I worked in the senior coordinator's Office of Global Women's Issues. I offered help on various projects in exchange for insight on the inner operations of the department. The Department of State staff arranged for interns to meet high-ranking public officials. A dream come true for any political guru, my internship allowed me to brush shoulders with officials like Sandra Day O'Connor, Karen Hughes, Condoleezza Rice and the Dalai Llama. I still feel starstruck, honored and grateful for my Washington Semester experience.

In addition to the full-time internship, students are required to take two classes. One covers the media's role in politics, and the other details Washington, D.C., culture and political opportunities. The classes were conveniently located in the basement of the Boston University Center, where students lived. After a long day of interning, I would muster up the energy to slink

Hanging out after a program reception at the Capitol are Shruti Chaganti ('10), Robbie Kirk ('08), Jamie Lockhart ('08), Julia Fisher ('08), Lisa Maurer ('09), Michael Gruccio ('09) and Justin Purser ('10).

down the stairs. Thankfully, I discovered that classes were quite enjoyable. Political science professor David Jones, the Washington Semester director, taught student participants about the background of our nation's capital. Dr. Jones showed us the Library of Congress, the Capitol and the State Department. As a supplement to the program, Dr. Jones also offered optional outings to enrich our experience, including baseball games, theatrical shows, an opera, hiking in Rock Creek Park and frequent dinners to local restaurants.

Thanks to Dr. Jones, I quickly became acclimated. No longer viewing myself as a tourist, I felt completely at home in our nation's capital.

Washington Semester also provided me with some of my best JMU friendships. The program's housing, located in scenic Woodley Park, allows JMU students to live together. The diversity of students, combined with unique internships, created an opportunity to learn from the experiences of our peers.

Students in the program possessed different interests because any major can participate in the program. One thing we all had in common was our passion for politics. Most of the students were pursuing a degree in political science and that created an interesting social environment. We spent many nights huddled around the TV watching presidential debates or sneaking away to visit memorials. Many nights ended by viewing the *Colbert Report*.

Shruti Chaganti ('10) shared my enjoyment of this adventure in Washington. Chaganti says, "Applying to the Washington Semester program was one of the best decisions I made. Academically, it

'The diversity of students, combined with unique internships, created an opportunity to learn from the experiences of our peers.'

— LISA MAURER ('09)



Visiting the Lincoln Memorial are Shannon Abbott ('09), Julia Fisher ('08), Lisa Maurer ('09), Michael Gruccio ('09) and Shruti Chaganti ('09). (Below): Julia Fisher ('08) and Lisa Maurer ('09) visit the U.S. Department of State.



helped guide me on my career path and gave me the opportunities to work closely with high-level individuals on a daily basis. More importantly, I made friendships that will last forever. If there is anyone I will keep in touch with, even as we grow further apart physically, it is the individuals with whom I shared my life with for a semester."

Overall, Washington Semester created the perfect balance between career advancement, learning and friendship. The program helped me fall in love with the city and fostered my desire to return one day as a professional. **M**

*** If you are interested in the JMU Washington Semester, learn more at www.jmu.edu/polisci/washington.html.**

D.C. and Richmond area alumni interested in politics ... why not join the JMU Politicos

The JMU Politicos and the Richmond Politicos alumni organizations are for graduates living in the Washington, D.C., and Richmond areas who work in — or are simply interested in — politics, policy and related fields.

The Richmond Politicos have met in the Virginia Capitol building. Both alumni groups host career programs for current students and recent graduates, and offer networking opportunities for alumni. If you are interested in getting involved in either the D.C. or Richmond group, please e-mail political science professor David Jones at jones3da@jmu.edu.

*** Learn more at www.jmu.edu/polisci/alumni.html or join the groups at <http://groups.google.com/group/jmu-politicos>.**



Award-winning, inspiring, personal

tributes honor memorable teachers

PROFESSORS YOU LOVE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

BY BILL GOODYKOONTZ ('85)

Most of us show up as freshmen filled with big plans and little idea of how to harness them.

Particularly for new students, a college campus can be a disorienting place, even James Madison University's. It's a closed universe, one that seems to have existed forever when you're dropped down into it, and it's almost impossible to navigate without a guide.

For many, a favorite professor is that guide. For a luckier few, a professor is someone to help direct a student, not just in the classroom, but in life, someone to put dreams in reach. That may sound trite, but in the best cases it's true.

Yet how do we thank them? Grow up, get a good job, do our best to put together a successful career, that kind of thing. Certainly there is satisfaction in that. But isn't there more?

There is. Professors You Love, the longest-running column in *Madison* magazine's history, offers students a way to publicly say thanks — and to say so much more. It began 10 years ago, when David Hillgrove ('79) wrote a tribute to Eileen Nelson, a psychology professor.

"I am personally responsible for Eileen Nelson's retirement, and I feel terrible," Hillgrove began. That set the proper tone for the feature moving forward — light but intimate, fueled by inspiration.

In the 10 years since the first Professors You Love column appeared, it's won six writing and editing awards from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. It's proved so popular that it's inspired a spin-off, Students Who Rock. And it is still going strong.

Why?

"It is the culture of the JMU faculty — very approachable, placing importance on one-on-one attention with students, placing enormous importance on teaching and including undergraduates in academic research — that makes a column like this so successful and popular," says Michelle Hite ('88), managing editor of *Madison*.

Perhaps more than anyone else, she would know.

Hite and her team edit the Professors You Love submissions — the magazine has received 55 since the feature started. And Hite also has the happy task of breaking the news to the lucky professor who is to be featured in the next issue.

"I get to read all of the submissions, and as soon as we get

My freshman year I walked into Principles of Sociology, where I met a professor who disproved all I had been told. College was much more than books, papers and grades. Dr. Elmer Smith taught me that college was about life.

— JANE GARRETT MARSHALL ('61)
From *Montpelier*, Summer 2004,
on Elmer Smith

one, I share it with the professor or track down the retired professor," Hite says. "The professors are full of joy, pride, humility, shock. They can't believe someone would write about them and honor them in this special way."

Hite doesn't just edit the submissions. She also wrote one, a delightful tribute to Paul Cline, professor emeritus of political science, detailing how he slyly inspired her to not blow off a test to attend an Aerosmith concert.

"I wish I had met Dr. Cline as a freshman instead of a junior," Hite says. "I would have been a different kind of student. He is more than just a great teacher. He is a mentor, a father figure, a gentleman. He taught the type of things that you remember forever, through the way that he lived."

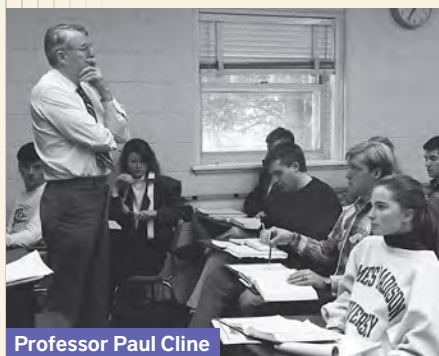
That echoes a theme common to the columns. If you read enough of them — they are available online at [www.jmu.edu/](http://www.jmu.edu/ProfessorsYouLove/)

— you'll quickly pick up on inspiration that goes far beyond JMU's classroom walls or the boundaries of campus.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

The take-home test had only one question — an essay — in Professor Cline's handwriting it read, "Tuition fees notwithstanding — write 1,000 words on what choosing a \$20 music show over a scheduled class says about my teaching ability."

— MICHELLE HITE ('88)
From *Montpelier*, Spring 2002,
on Paul Cline



Professor Paul Cline

I am personally responsible for Eileen Nelson's retirement, and I feel terrible.

— DAVID HILLGROVE ('79)
From *Montpelier*, Fall 2000,
on Eileen Nelson

.....

He was tough and famous for sarcastic comments. He was also an amazing musician and director of the highly acclaimed JMU Jazz Ensemble. I was scared to death, and to make things worse, I was a voice major. Rumor was he didn't care for those.

— LISA LUTHER SHAW ('87)
From *Montpelier*, Fall 2001,
on George West



Professor Eileen Nelson

I owe it all to Dr. Taalman for planting that seed in me. She is an integral part of my Madison Experience and my life. ... She has played an extremely important role in shaping my education as well as guiding many of the important decisions I have made.

— KRISTIN McNAMARA ('09)
From *Madison*, Winter 2010,
on Laura Taalman

The one who started it all

EILEEN NELSON, THE FIRST PROFESSORS YOU LOVE SUBJECT, IS STILL INVOLVED IN JMU BY JAMIE MARSH

A decade after retiring, psychology professor Eileen Nelson doesn't really miss JMU. "No, I don't," she says with a chuckle. "Because all of the people who were close to me, still are."

Sitting in her favorite chair, Nelson is literally surrounded with love from Madison admirers. There is a scrapbook on the coffee table, three more at the fireplace and dozens more on bookshelves — all filled with letters and greeting cards from past students. In 1996, a group of students gave her a "risky but beloved" gift: a Persian cat that is still a constant companion.

"I hear from former students constantly," she says. "A day does not go by that I don't have e-mail and phone calls from students. One of my former students called yesterday: Her daughter is getting married, and I'll go to the wedding." Nelson calls this her "JMU family," and it includes former colleagues. "One of the psychology professors brings me dinner on a regular basis because I don't enjoy cooking. Isn't that lovely? Pretty familial, wouldn't you say?"

Even amidst this outpouring of affection, Nelson is still "awed" by each call or letter, including David Hillgrove's ('79) words in *Madison* magazine's first "Professors You Love" column in fall 2000.

Here are some of Nelson's thoughts:

MADISON: What did you think when you first read David Hillgrove's article?


NELSON: It's so exciting anytime someone shares with you that they have these thoughts. I'm awed each time someone has taken the time to tell me this and expressed it so beautifully and, sincerely, I am just so humbled by the words that they write. I remember my students, I never forget them, and I remembered the first time I met David. This is when I first started teaching Human Growth and Development, and David had a student job with audiovisuals where he would bring the projector for the movie. This was an important thing, and he would be so kind to set them up for me, but then he would stay and listen to the class. He did this for two or three semesters, and then he finally took the class. He decided he wanted to hear all the lectures!

MADISON: What was the best part of being on the JMU faculty?

NELSON: The ability to create new programs, to fill voids that existed, and to be creative. It wasn't just doing the same thing every day. There were new courses; Psychology of the Young Adult was a favorite because

Professors You Love

'I AM HUMAN. EILEEN NELSON TAUGHT ME THAT.'



Eileen Nelson leads a discussion during one of her final classes.
Story by David Hillgrove ('79)

I am personally responsible for Eileen Nelson's retirement, and I feel terrible. No one should be expected to run as hard or do as much as I have asked of her, and yet she continues to give. And I suppose I have sucked all the energy out of her heaven-sent life. Let me explain. I am a public school teacher. Much to the dismay and confusion of children who've encountered me in public, I shop for groceries on my own, am married with children, and I even go to the bathroom when given the opportunity. I am human. Eileen Nelson taught me that. Because of an unusually good stroke of luck, I have taught at all three levels of education. In high schools, I've felt complete joy when the proverbial light bulb comes on in that stubborn learner's head. I've seen success stories, and I've been a part of fantastic comebacks. Conversely, I've endured bad plays, poor song contests, notoriously skill-less athletic contests and other nameless gatherings. I've pushed constitutional amendments, governmental concepts and philosophical differences harder than any insurance salesman I've met. I've been thunderstruck by the emotional roller coasters of teen pregnancies, broken romances, failed college admissions and alcoholic parents. And I've hugged entire families, tear-filled with joy that their son was the first family graduate. Eileen (which I never dared to call her as an undergrad) made it into the high school hallways with me. She was role model, confidante, friend and mentor. She was hero, she was star. She showed me why; she told me why, and she made me want to. I took every class she offered (five I believe), so I knew her

EILEEN NELSON STOOD PROUDLY IN THE CORNER OF MY HEART AS I EXTENDED HER LEGACY ACROSS THE COMMON-WEALTH.

I created it, and I loved to teach Counseling Psychology. And I've enjoyed seeing so many of my students become tremendously successful. So many of them are in business, clinical psychology and counseling, of course. There are the Charles Haleys, who have achieved such fame. They are all such beautiful people.

MADISON: How are you still involved with JMU?

NELSON: I helped found the JMU Emeriti group, and it's a big part of my life. We have various activities, take trips, hear speakers. It's a lot of fun, and we help the university. We just donated a Monet print to the new performing arts center. *✿*

* View the entire Q&A with Eileen Nelson at www.jmu.edu/ProfessorsYouLove/

"When I saw that there was a chance to write about my favorite JMU professor, it was a no-brainer," says Lisa Luther Shaw ('87), who wrote about George West, professor emeritus of music. "He was a huge presence in the halls of Duke Fine Arts back in my day. He was both respected and admired, and at the same time feared, at least by voice majors like me. ... He's an extremely talented person and was a huge influence to not just me, but many Madison music majors."

For Scott Suter ('85), writing about Cameron Nickels, a retired English professor, was a way to thank his mentor, who helped get him started in his career. Suter is now an associate professor of English at Bridgewater College.

"For me it was a way to actually give something back to Cameron at the end of his career that acknowledged his career," Suter says. "It wasn't like I was a recent student at that point. I felt that he needed to get some recognition beyond just the academic things he had been acknowledged for."

For Nickels' part, he was, he says, "truly at a loss for words. The ones that one might say seemed inadequate for the occasion — trite, conventional. And yet I was so surprised that I couldn't formulate something more appropriate, what I really felt."

Dr. Bruce taught me the most important thing I can do for any child is just be there when they need you, be attentive to what they are saying and do it all with a sincere smile.

— JOYCE PLAUGHER FAIRBANKS ('69)

*From Madison, Winter 2007,
on Pat Bruce*



Professor Pat Bruce

Clearly, Nickels was moved. So, too, was David Wendelken, a communication

professor. Pat Butters ('83), a former student, wrote about Wendelken and fellow journalism advisers Alan Neckowitz and the late Flip DeLuca. Yet just before the column was published — a hilariously detailed story that perfectly captures the harrowing experience of trying to learn how to write feature stories, among other things — Butters died unexpectedly.

"His having so openly shared his love of JMU and our work helped us deal with that tragedy in some ways," Wendelken recalls. Wendelken then wrote an essay about Butters.

Like all the best Professors You Love columns, this was a

personal tribute — almost a letter to an old friend — yet something more, a capturing of the essence of what the professor-student relationship should be.

"It was," as Suter says of his story about Nickels, "kind of a personal thing between him and me."

One wonders, then, if publishing something so personal for anyone who picks up a copy of *Madison* to read isn't putting it in too public a forum. Happily, most people don't seem to think so. It wasn't for Ginjer Clarke ('94), who wrote about theater professor Pamela Johnson.

"I think my main motivation for writing the article about Pam was to thank her publicly, so I didn't have any hesitation about the forum," says Clarke. "I have maintained a close relationship with her since graduating and thanked her in small ways, but she is pretty humble and keeps a low profile, so I thought more people should know what an important influence she has been and continues to be on many students' educations."

That sums up the Professors You Love feature pretty well — a personal thank you to someone who helped you navigate the choppy waters of college and life beyond it, that also serves as an illustration of inspiration for the rest of us, as well. **M**

Turnabout *is fair play*

STUDENTS WHO ROCK TO LAUNCH IN FALL

Kristen McNamara ('09) wrote about Laura Taalman, an associate professor of mathematics, in the Winter 2010 issue's Professors You Love feature. Taalman, naturally, was flattered; the story was titled "The smartest person I ever met," after all.

But rather than just blush or send flowers, Taalman got an idea.

"A colleague of mine often says that there should be a RateMyStudents.com Web site as an antidote to the outrageous comments that some students leave on RateMyProfessors.com," Taalman says. "In a more positive vein, when Kristin wrote that [story] about me for Professors You Love, my first thought was that she was such a wonderful student that, really, I should be writing ... about *her*."

Done. *Madison* is introducing a new feature, Students Who Rock, giving Taalman and others their chance to recognize exceptional students.

"There are some students who work so hard, and have such good attitudes about learning, that they really deserve to be held up as examples," Taalman says.

This doesn't mean paying tribute to the "best" students — at least not best in the traditional sense.

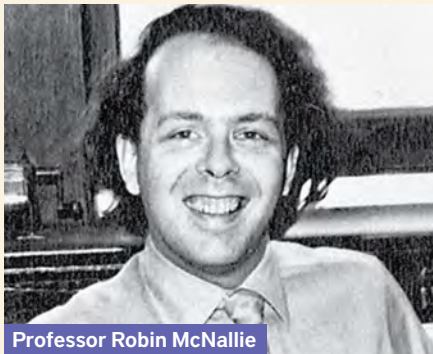
"I'd say definitely not the 'A' crowd," Taalman says of the type of students who deserve notice in the feature. "In fact, that kind of points out one possible reason for Students Who Rock. The 'A' students already get recognition with their GPAs and transcripts. But more impressive is the student who comes in at a D or F level and leaves with a solid 'B' in the course."

Now *that* rocks.

"I'd say rocking is more about work ethic, attitude and curiosity about learning," Taalman explains, "and that can happen at a lot of different grade levels."

Was this teacher demanding I hand over the contra-band? Instead he shook my hand and sputtered, "Let me congratulate you. The only other woman I know who smoked a cigar was my wife on our wedding night. And I'm her biggest fan."

— DONNA PLEASANTS ISAAC ('76)
From *Montpelier*, Winter 2001,
on Robin McNallie



Professor Robin McNallie

"Come in my office, Clary!" My heart sank through my toenails as I wondered what I had done to warrant a summons into the office of "J.J."

— GAIL CLARY ('81)
From *Madison*, Spring 2009,
on James "J.J." Leary

.....

When he arrived, he immediately began lecturing – even as he removed his black buckle-up rubber boots, scarf, knit hat and gloves – and picking up where he had left off from the previous class.

— ANITA HILL SPAIN ('76)
From *Madison*, Summer 2008,
on Raymond Dingleline Jr.



Professor David Wendelken

One day after the feature writing class started, Wendelken called me into his office. "You know, Butters, you should set aside those pens and pencils and think about becoming a writer," he said. I couldn't believe it. Direction. Nirvana!

— PATRICK BUTTERS ('83)
From *Madison*, Summer 2006,
on David Wendelken

* Find out who is this issue's Professor You Love on Page 48.

C

>>> THERE IS EVEN MORE ONLINE!
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www.jmu.edu/ProfessorsYouLove

In 2009, professor Debra Sutton, former JMU Board of Visitors member Renny Humphrey ('84), and a host of American women and JMU students reached out to women in South Africa. For Sutton, it was yet another connection in the continuing global outreach through which she has taught and involved JMU students.

WOMEN S U P P O R T I N G WOMEN

There are truly no boundaries to 'being the change'

BY JAN GILLIS ('07, '11P)

On a flight from Tampa, Fla., to Charlotte, N.C., JMU health sciences professor Debra Sutton sparked a conversation with fellow traveler Carolyn Bush. When Sutton mentioned her connection to JMU, Bush responded with a connection of her own — her daughter, Renny Bush Humphrey ('84), was not only a Madison alumna but also a former member of the JMU Board of Visitors (1996–2000). The pair felt an immediate camaraderie and soon Sutton, Bush and Humphrey were friends.

That meeting and subsequent friendship was another thread in the fabric of connection, inspiration and goodwill that Sutton has woven in her JMU career. Beyond teaching students the fundamentals of health and disease prevention, the professor has worked to give students a global perspective flavored with a strong dose of humanity.



A South African woman chooses a bra from donations from JMU health sciences professor Debra Sutton, her students and many other U.S. women.

Sutton has conducted a number of Study Abroad programs including trips to South Africa focusing on HIV/AIDS prevention and the specific and sobering challenges confronting the world community in the face of this virulent epidemic. Along the way, Sutton says, "I've seen evidence that everything is connected."

As she got to know the Bush-Humphrey clan, Sutton shared her Study Abroad experiences and a specific ambition for her next trip to South Africa. In the wake of the AIDS devastation in the country, a generation of children has lost parents, and now grandmothers are the primary caregivers. "We had brought things for the kids and

spent a lot of time with the children; but I thought it would be nice to bring something for women," Sutton says.

She asked Eunice Mangwane, who works at the Umtha Welanga Health Care Center in Hamburg,





After bringing JMU students to South Africa several times to get hands-on learning in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatments, health science professor Debra Sutton said she noticed a whole generation of children had lost parents. "More grandmothers are now primary caregivers, and it was time to do something nice for these women," says Sutton.

South Africa, and who, along with other members of the Keiskamma Gospel Choir, visited JMU in December 2008, what she could do to show appreciation to these women.

The answer? Bras.

The fundamental garment of Western women's wardrobes is a luxury in a country where many struggle against poverty and disease to simply survive.

Sutton went right to work. "I called the effort 'women supporting women,'" she says. "Every woman knows how important this element is in her wardrobe, and I set out to collect some bras to take to South Africa on my next trip." Word of her collection drive soon spread.

Humphrey says, "It started with my mother going to her Sunday school class of older ladies at the Second Branch Baptist Church here in Chesterfield, Va., and telling them about Dr. Sutton. The project was something they could offer; something that was not expensive. Gently used bras could be recycled and given to women in another country who would really appreciate them." Soon, other neighborhood women heard about the project. Contributions abounded.

"The program is not just about undergarments," Humphrey explains. Sutton and her students teach basic health skills to South African children. "I saw in our church 5-, 6- and 7-year-olds saying to their moms 'we've got to buy extra toothpaste.' I'd go to church, and there would be a grocery bag of toothpaste for people in South Africa."

At every turn there were more contributors. "Dentists Reed Prugh and Albert Sasala donated toothpaste and toothbrushes," says Bush, "Renny and I were only the helping hands to Dr. Sutton."

The involvement with an initiative by a JMU professor was especially compelling for Humphrey. "It had been a few years since I had engaged old friends on campus when I attended the Centennial Celebration in 2008," she says. "Every memory came back. President Rose told us to 'Be the Change, be what JMU does for the next 100 years.' Not six months later my mom is on a plane with a Madison professor who is being the change. I knew I had to have a part in this."

Others at JMU and beyond felt the same way. By the time Sutton was ready to embark on her summer 2009 Study Abroad program in South Africa, 650 bras had been collected. A significant portion were contributions taken by Katy

Janousek ('07), a former graduate assistant of Sutton's who traveled to South Africa to work with Sutton and her students. Janousek, the sexual health coordinator for the University of Georgia's health center, was excited to be going abroad for the first time and eager to share in Sutton's "women supporting women" effort.

People responded generously to Janousek's drive. In fact, she even received new garments. "I wanted to leave the tags



(Above): Health science professor Debra Sutton and her Study Abroad students with donations to the "women supporting women" effort. Front row (l-r): Hunter Bedard, Elly Hart, Cristen Cravath, Jillian DiCicco and Erika Cober. Back row (l-r): Elise Stephenson, Emma Biron, Whitney Hodgen, Debra Sutton, Katelin Mikuta and Melissa Mehning. (Left): Emma Biron ('10) says the Study Abroad experience taught her the value of teaching skills to empower people.



on the bras because I thought it would be nice for the women in South Africa to know that they were getting something brand new."

No good deed goes unpunished. Janousek's suitcase of 257 bras was detained by customs in South Africa. "They thought I was going to be selling them," she says. Explanations and appeals seemed to fall on deaf ears, so Janousek left her piece of confiscated luggage behind and went out to do field work with Sutton and the JMU students.

The group focused on child health and wellness. "We had a tremendous amount of dental supplies donated, so we were able to go to different preschools and work with the children, teaching them [to brush]," says Janousek. A simple skill, yet one that would yield a lifetime of benefit for the children.

JMU students received their own benefit — two weeks of experience that will translate into a lifetime of change. "Students are at a particularly impressionable age," Janousek says. "Perceptions gained from seeing a different culture during that Study Abroad program will stay with them as they begin to navigate their careers."

As we arrived in a village, we were greeted by a group of grandmothers who sang and danced to express their joy at having visitors. That was before we even gave them any donations.'

— KATY JANOUSEK ('07), *Study Abroad volunteer*



Emma Biron ('10), a JMU dietetics major, says that the Study Abroad opportunity allowed her to see the value of teaching people skills to help them solve problems. "In that way you empower people to continue to work to find solutions," she says. For Biron the trip was a confidence booster. "I've been thinking about joining the Peace Corps after graduation. Now I know I can do it."

Janousek credits the experience with deepening her own cultural perception. After being in the field for several weeks, she returned to the international customs office at the airport to engage in some strategic cross-cultural communication.

"I stayed calm and polite, which was fresh on my mind after being in rural Africa," says Janousek.

"A cultural difference between Africa and America is that Africans see rushing people along, trying to get them to hurry, as insulting. I stayed back in customs about an hour and a half waiting and being polite," she says. Janousek brought copies of flyers she had distributed. "I showed the officials that I had asked for new or slightly used items. The words 'HIV relief' and 'donation to women' did the trick." Janousek got her luggage back, and all 257 bras.

The reception the group received in its visits in rural South Africa made the hard work of collection, transport and negotiation for the "women supporting women" effort worthwhile. Sutton, Janousek and Biron all remember a poignant moment in South Africa. "As we arrived in a village, we

(Above): South African grandmothers greet their visitors with a dance. (Right): Katy Janousek ('07) works with South African friends and children.

were greeted by a group of grandmothers who sang and danced to express their joy at having visitors. That was before we even gave them any donations," says Janousek.

"The idea that they were special enough that women would come all the way from America to their village was really meaningful to them," Sutton explains. In fact, more than garments, the bras signified a meaningful human connection. "I told the women that when they are feeling low, the bras would lift their spirits," Sutton says. "Those women in South Africa were amazed that women in America would care enough about them to give them something that was just for them personally."

In the end, more than garments passed hands. The affirmation to South African women that their hard work on behalf of their extended families is seen and appreciated by women half a world away is the real gift. As Humphrey says, "When it comes to being the change, there truly are no boundaries." ■



BALANCING
LIFE



East meets West to improve clients' health BY COLLEEN DIXON

In the field of dietetics, some consider Anu Kaur ('99M) a pioneer because of the unique blend of Eastern and Western philosophies that she uses to improve clients' health and wellness. The trail she is blazing is certainly part of the reason the American Dietetic Association named Kaur the 2009 Emerging Dietetic Leader for Virginia. The award honors members who show great promise early in their careers for moving the dietetics profession, and the association, forward.

In 2004 Kaur started a nutrition consulting company, A Nu Healthy You. Beyond her desire for a flexible schedule, Kaur wanted to "work on projects I was passionate about, which would allow for a variety of experiences," she says.

Clients from all over the United States have benefited from Kaur's expertise. E-mail, phone and face-to-face consultations are tools she uses to educate clients and the public about wellness and nutrition. Speaking engagements in the greater Washington, D.C., area are another avenue of sharing information.

A variety of reasons prompt clients to seek Kaur's assistance: "Some of my clients just want to lose weight. Some want to eat healthier and want the guidance and support of a registered dietitian and certified wellness coach. Many of them have been diagnosed with a health issue or medical condition, like heart disease, diabetes, Polycystic Ovary Syndrome or cancer."

Changing lifelong habits, even in the face of disease or illness, is not something most people willingly tackle. Kaur makes breaking habits fun. She has clients create a "vision board," a visual collage that represents what wellness and vitality mean to them individually. "Many clients have expressed that it has opened them up to new ways of doing things and creating new habits at a deeper level because they have tapped into their own personal motivation."

Another innovative take on dietetics is Kaur's "Tea Time with the Dietician" events, which she conducts at clients' homes. "This is a very enjoyable personal means for clients to hear about the latest in nutrition science and tips to apply in their own lives."

Kaur's "whole-person" concept of health and wellness merges Western science and Eastern holistic philosophy. "I make sure to take the whole person into account — mind, body and spirit," she says. "I share nutrition information and provide appropriate guidance in diet as needed, and I help people set realistic goals that they can achieve. If someone is interested, we discuss complementary Eastern modalities such as yoga or mindful breathing and other options to help individuals manage stress and, in many cases, enhance their nutrition counseling experience."

Kaur is careful to ensure that complementary therapies that clients are practicing or interested in will not inadvertently sabotage their goal of being healthy. "For example, if someone wants to take herbal supplements, I look at the quantity they are taking and also assess if there are any herbal-medication interactions, to make sure no harm occurs. My goal is to help people be successful in achieving an overall wellness that changes their lives based on evidence-based therapies, including modalities from the East."

The most successful clients are "the ones who commit to a minimum of three months of weekly or biweekly coaching. These are the clients who really think out what their wellness vision is and what they want to achieve." Using that information, Kaur helps clients set weekly goals.

Kaur's interest in nutrition and wellness began at George Mason University, where she studied psychology and biology. "I took a special biology class where you went out into the community and volunteered your time and then kept a journal about your experience," Kaur explains. "I chose to work with the HIV-positive population back in the early 1990s. As I worked with this clientele it became apparent that nutrition would be an important component of early intervention with HIV-positive patients. I also took an excellent social work class and completed my field work at the Whitman Walker Clinic, an HIV clinic in Washington, D.C. That experience reinforced how much I enjoyed working directly with people and eventually led me to do my thesis on HIV and nutrition."

"I was honored to receive the Emerging Dietetic Leader award for the state of Virginia," says Kaur. "It means a lot to me because I hope to share more about integrative medical nutrition therapy and evidence-based complementary care options like yoga with my colleagues." This goal includes yoga teacher certification, which Kaur is working to obtain. She was also selected for the ADA's Diversity Leader Program, which was created to encourage diversity throughout the leadership of ADA. "I am excited about the exposure to other leaders who influence the nutrition world," she says.

For students considering dietetics as a field of study, Kaur notes that "dietetics really does give you a strong nutrition science background. Not only is it useful on a personal level, but it can also be a great asset when working in the medical field. My bit of advice to students is to know that the field of dietetics is very diverse. You can always find or create a niche once you figure out what you are truly passionate about. Looking to personal experiences can give you an important clue in figuring out what your own special contribution will be to the world." ■

* Learn more about Kaur at <http://anuhealthyyou.com/>.



During "Tea Time with the Dietician" events in her clients' homes, certified wellness coach Anu Kaur ('99M) shares nutrition and wellness information in a relaxed, fun setting.

Performing the premiere of Jeremy Beck's comic mini-opera *Review* at a benefit for the Center for Contemporary Opera in New York was no doubt electrifying for the students of JMU's opera and music theater program, but the promise of that same electricity awaits the JMU arts community with the opening of the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts this fall.



If you can make you can make it

JMU STUDENTS WOW NEW YORK AUDIENCE WITH MINI-OPERA PREMIERE



The cast of the comic opera *Review*, (seated, l-r) are Dorothy Smith, Sarah Davis and Amber McKinney. Standing (l-r) are Andrew Austin, Randall Ball, Megan Steigerwald, Frank Mavilia, Leah Hill, Megan Sill and Mattia D'Affuso. (Not pictured): Sarah Heisler and David Hill.

it there, anywhere

BY CHUCK TAYLOR ('84)

WHILE IT MAY NOT BE an expression typically applied to the realm of opera, 12 James Madison University School of Music students who recently performed in New York found themselves preaching to the choir.

Under the tutelage of JMU Director of Opera and Music Theater Don Rierson, the troupe of five undergraduates and seven graduate students ventured north this semester to stage the contemporary comic opera *Review* at a gala for more than 200 Manhattan intelligentsia. It was sponsored by the prestigious Center for Contemporary Opera.

The setting for Jeremy Beck's satiric mini-opera is a booze-soaked dinner party, where haughty guests delight in dishing about those not present to defend themselves. Based on a short story written by *Saturday Night Live* scribe Patricia Marx that appeared in *The New Yorker*, it dotes on a theme voiced in the lyric: "The only reason to do anything is to talk about it afterward."

Ironically, the JMU cast's audience at Gramercy Park's posh, historic National Arts Club — oozing regal oak woodwork, splendid crystal chandeliers and Victorian-era charm — could be regarded as the very blue-blooded crowd that *Review* pokes fun of.

Nothing doing. Attendees of the benefit, part of a new Center for Contemporary Opera program designed to introduce opera to a more diverse audience, were high-spirited, filled with judicious laughter and captivated by the youthful vigor and skill that the vocal performance students brought to the big city.

(Inset): Jeremy Beck, opera composer; Patricia Marx, libretto; and Don Rierson, director of JMU opera.



'Our goals were met'

Jim Schaeffer, general director for CCO, said at a reception after the performance, "This was a great experience for all of us. New York audiences can be critical, and they were delighted with the students. I watched as the cast wiped any trace of cynicism off of these New Yorkers' faces. Certainly our goals were met: We had the opportunity to reach out to universities with strong music programs and provide a first-class venue for a very talented cast to perform in New York."

For his part, composer Beck notes, "I couldn't have been happier. This is as professional a group of students as I've seen. The piece was down pat and they had a great time with it." Among his numerous awards, grants and honors, Beck's opera *The Highway* was showcased by the New York City Opera for its Showcasing American Composers series; while the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* cited *The Biddle Boys* and *Mrs. Soffel* among 2001's "Top Ten Cultural Events."

The invitation to perform for CCO was an honor for JMU, according to Rierson, exposing the professionalism that Madison's arts programs typically generate to a city renowned for the arts. "It couldn't be more significant for our program to stage this piece in New York — and we have a fine stable of talent that I'm proud of," he says. "I think the cast recognized how important it was. They worked hard and had a great time."

The cast's spirits no doubt were buoyed by a respectable contingent of NYC alumni in the audience. *Review* music director Andrew Austin ('09), who recently returned to JMU for a master's in music, reveled in performing for an audience that possessed more than a hint of the characters' aristocratic air: "Here we are in this beautiful building with everyone in their designer clothes; it's a little different from performing in Wilson Hall. When we walked onstage, we were so prepared, [we felt] united with the audience."

World class in Harrisonburg

Soon enough, the promise of world-class performances in a first-class venue awaits performers and audiences alike on the Madison cam-

(Right): Peter Wojcicki ('81) talks with cast members Mattia D'Affuso, Frank Mavilia and Sarah Heisler after the show. (Below): The Center for Contemporary Opera in New York crowd awaits the JMU premiere of *Review*.



'This is as professional a group of students as I've seen. We were all just able to relax and enjoy the audience reaction.'

— JEREMY BECK,
composer

pus, with the opening of the new \$68 million Forbes Center for the Performing Arts. Classes, rehearsals and performances will begin this fall, with a grand opening celebration in February 2011.

It's no secret that JMU has succeeded in assembling a first-class academic program in what are admittedly second-rate facilities. The university's main stage, Latimer-Schaeffer Theatre, which seats just 300, was built in 1967 when the Madison College student body totaled 2,000, while its experimental black box theater was originally a chicken hatchery, constructed in the 1920s.

Located across Main Street from the Quad, the new high-tech Forbes Center comprises two major structures: the Dorothy Thomasson Estes ('45) Center for Theatre and Dance and the Shirley Hanson Roberts ('56) Center for Music Performance, uniting faculty offices, rehearsal rooms, smaller performance areas, the black box theater, scene shops, studios, labs and classrooms, along with a main stage theater, a concert hall that seats 600 and a recital hall with a capacity of 200. A plaza between the two structures provides a gateway to the main campus, affirming that creative and liberal arts are a prominent part of JMU's curriculum. The 784-space Warsaw Avenue parking deck also makes it easier for the community to take part in performances.

For JMU's award-winning music, theater, dance, art and art history schools — and the College of Visual and Performing Arts' 1,000 students pursuing B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. degrees — the Forbes Center will "allow us to render production values of equal quality to our performances," says George Sparks, dean of the college. "We have always set a high standard with the breadth and distinction of opportunities offered to students, and now we can create an entire social experience from the arts. When someone walks in the door, we want to craft an experience where they have a place to talk, eat or drink, and to enjoy the atmosphere of the center after the performance."

"We intend for the Forbes Center to become part of the social fabric of the Shenandoah Valley," Sparks adds. "Sociologists have found that when people in smaller communities are surrounded by the arts, they feel better about where they live — even if they don't necessarily attend. We hope to make life better for everyone."

Building a reputation

Rierson notes that the center will also bring more exposure to JMU than previously possible: "With the arts community's first state-of-the-art facility, we can invite important figures and academics in modern music and theater. It will do wonders for our reputation on a national scale. I can't underestimate its value."

JMU's Masterpiece Season has already packed houses during spring semester 2010, with its guest Encore Series, which featured the River North Chicago Dance Co., in January; *Cirque D'or*, presented by the Golden Dragon Acrobats, in February; and the Grammy-nominated Imani Winds Quintet in March. Madison's theater department staged *Oklahoma!* in February, which sold out all six shows; while in March, the Contemporary Dance Ensemble showcased JMU students, professors and guest



Beginning this fall, the Forbes Center will enable sophisticated production values on par with the performances for which the College of Visual and Performing Arts has long been known.

artist Faye Driscoll from New York. Music offerings included the Jazz Ensemble's big band concert and the Honors Symphony Orchestra featuring JMU School of Music Concerto Competition winners. Meanwhile, Madison's Experimental Theatre staged *Nine* and *Red Light Winter*.

Mattia D'Affuso, a freshman from Torino, Italy, pursuing a double degree in vocal performance and Italian — one of the cast members in *Review* at New York's Center for Contemporary Opera event — says that the promise of the Forbes Center was a major draw when he decided to study at JMU. "My father took an embassy job in Washington in 2003, and as we were looking for schools in the area, JMU was definitely the best choice," he says. "The people are so nice and the city is gorgeous. I've found it to be a very welcoming environment. While our facilities are modest now, we're all looking forward to the opportunities a major venue will provide to express ourselves."

Renowned international set designer Richard Finkelstein, a professor in JMU's School of Theatre and Dance, believes the center "will have a massive and multidimensional impact on the experience for our theater students. For the first time, we will all be together — students and faculty, dance, music and theater — so there should be an amazing expansion of collaborative work and projects. This will be very exciting and a big deal for us."

Finkelstein points to specific advantages of the new facilities, like sloped seating, which previously had to be temporarily constructed. This will simplify issues of safety, as will extensive catwalk systems, better ventilation and dust collection systems, while adding economy of scale, thanks to dedicated, permanent spaces. "The new main theater can be configured into different audience-stage relationships, expanding the repertoire of experiences by both performers and designers," he explains. "And greatly enhanced storage space for props and costumes will allow us to better reuse our creations."

Currently, for example, a single stage might be utilized for scenery construction, rehearsals, lighting, choreography and performance. "In the new building, construction and painting have their own spaces and are sound-isolated from the stage. This means we can greatly expand the scope and quality of our stage design work — and students trained in scenic art are much more in demand than those with more limited training. There are also better rehearsal spaces so it will be possible to do more shows on the stage of a higher caliber," Finkelstein says.

On the technology side, he adds, "So much of design is now computer-based, and our current labs could not accommodate even basic software. The new design lab will be fitted with current hardware and software for imaging. The new spaces will also be better equipped to deal with live video components of production."



(Clockwise from left): JMU Symphony Orchestra, Cirque D'or, Contemporary Dance Ensemble and the Jazz Ensemble.



Masterpiece Season and Encore Series performances will move into the Forbes Center this fall, where audiences and visiting artists will complete the educational experience for JMU performing artists.



'We intend for the Forbes Center to become part of the social fabric of the Shenandoah Valley.'

— GEORGE SPARKS,
dean of the College
of Visual and
Performing Arts

Kate Arecchi, musical theater professor, notes, "We are lucky to attract very high quality talent to JMU. This has been true even with our current facilities. Both the dance and musical theater concentrations have seen huge growth this year in the number of students auditioning for the programs — and I think the new performing arts center had a huge hand in that increase."

For the dance program, she says the Forbes Center's new performance space and additional studios will allow professors to increase class offerings. "This will serve all of the majors in the School of Theatre and Dance and the School of Music. More classes will ensure that more students will be accommodated. Dance is a huge part of musical theater performance, so the additional curriculum will prepare them for the professional world, where musical theater performers are expected to be a 'triple threat.'"

In addition, Arecchi notes, the enhanced space "will attract more guest artists to work with dance students, setting pieces with them and helping them make real-world connections."

Leah Hill, a graduate student seeking her master's in music, sees the best of both worlds at Madison: a smaller environment that offers more advantages for learning and experience. "Because of the size of JMU's program, we have so many opportunities to perform, which at a large conservatory wouldn't be possible." The Forbes Center, she agrees, will up the ante. "We have some obstacles now with acoustics and a single space where we can focus on all of our needs. I know this big, beautiful new complex will provide pride for the school, while attracting people from all over the region to our arts events."

■

Dr. Ghiaciuc inspires creativity

Helping students reach their potential

BY CHARLOTTE CLAFLIN ('08)

I have many people to thank for their support and encouragement during my Madison Experience. I graduated in May 2008, and one professor really stood out during my undergraduate career.

One of the first courses I took at JMU was Critical Reading and Writing with Dr. Susan Ghiaciuc. This course and the professor really left an impression on me. Dr. Ghiaciuc presented material in creative and challenging ways that allowed students to easily express themselves through writing. I was able to analyze material from several perspectives, and by the end of that course I enjoyed doing so because Dr. Ghiaciuc allowed me to think freely. I couldn't have asked for a better first-year experience at Madison.

The following semester I decided to take Dr. Ghiaciuc's justice studies course. Again, I was able to learn the material thoroughly because of Dr. Ghiaciuc's method of interacting with her students. She allows students to put themselves into their work as well as the atmosphere in her classroom — both of which inspire imagination. Instead of dictating what she wanted for our assignments, she gave us guidance but encouraged us to write about our own interests. That freedom made me a better writer; it made me be more creative. Not only did Dr. Ghiaciuc help me in the classroom, she also offered amazing guidance when I began applying to



About the Professor Susan R. Ghiaciuc, a writing professor in the School of Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication, joined the JMU faculty in 2003. Her scholarly work continues to focus on the ways rhetoric, law and literacy shape individual and collective identity. In 2009 she participated in the National Endowment for the Humanities' five-week institute "The Rule of Law: Legal Studies and the Liberal Arts." Ghiaciuc earned a Ph.D. from the University of Louisville and an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Texas at El Paso.

About the Author A psychology major and biology minor, Charlotte Claflin ('08) is currently a student in the master's program in child development at the University of Stirling (Scotland). Before entering the graduate program, she worked at a Florida school for children with autism. "After I earn my master's degree, I want to work and serve children with autism," says Claflin. "Next year, I plan on staying either in the United Kingdom or somewhere else in Europe with my boyfriend, also a JMU graduate."

graduate schools. She was more than willing to help me throughout the process by offering advice and at times just listening.

Dr. Ghiaciuc's support and encouragement during my senior year was invaluable.

Like many seniors, I experienced anxiety and worried about my next step after Madison. Dr. Ghiaciuc was always available when I needed advice or someone to talk to. My hesitations about life after graduation were soon put to rest as she helped me realize my opportunities and potential. I am forever grateful for her support. Because of her innovative courses and her willingness to help, I continually recommended Dr. Ghiaciuc to my fellow students.

She truly made a difference during my time at JMU. While I have moved on, I know that she is someone I will always keep in touch with, and I am confident that our relationship will remain strong. Like many other students, I believe Dr. Ghiaciuc is an irreplaceable part of the Madison Experience.

Charlotte Claflin ('08) says that writing professor Susan Ghiaciuc inspires creativity and "made a difference in my time at JMU."

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'Calling in sick'

My adventure in health care abroad

BY TRACI COX ('08)



(Above): Fulbright Award teacher Traci Cox ('08) near Stranik Mountain in the village of Zastranie in northwest Slovakia. "Slovaks are fond of the outdoors, and I spent many weekends hiking to castle ruins, churches and villages with friends," she says. (Inset): Cox has some fun with one of her third-year literature classes at the Sukromne Gymnasium in Zilina, Slovakia.

When I awoke one frigid November morning with an all-too-familiar tingling feeling in my lungs, I knew I was getting a cold. I didn't have time to be sick because it was the day I was to travel to Čičmany, a historic village in western Slovakia. I refused to let a little cough get in the way, because there were just too many things to do and see. The next day when I awoke trembling with a fever, I realized what a bad decision I had made the day before. I had pushed too hard and now I had no choice; I had to go to the doctor.

Never having been to a doctor outside the United States, I had no idea how the Slovakian health care system worked. So I called my Slovak friend and coworker, Janka, to find out where to go and how much it would cost. She assured me that since Slovakia has socialized health care and I had a limited medical plan under the Fulbright program, I would eventually be reimbursed for the health care services no matter what the costs were.

To be honest, I was a little reluctant to go to a Slovak doctor because I had questions about their qualifications. During the three months I had spent in Slovakia, if I felt ill my friends always

said to drink tea with rum ... headache, drink tea with rum, ... stomachache, drink tea with rum. I wondered if the doctor would also prescribe tea with rum.

The school custodian drove Janka and me to the clinic and on the way he told me, in Slovak, how he never gets sick. He said he had not been sick since he was a boy. "What makes you so healthy?" I asked him. "Slivovica," he replied. Slivovica is the national alcoholic drink of Slovakia and while the natives call it "plum brandy," I think it tastes more like gasoline. "Drink Slivovica every day, and it will burn all the germs out of you. You will live healthy forever; you will be strong like the Slovak peasants!" I was skeptical then, and I'm still not convinced. He told me that every day before he goes to work he takes a shot of Slivovica for breakfast.

When you visit a doctor in the states, you sign in with a friendly, smiling receptionist and wait in a comfortable lobby for a nurse to call your name and escort you to a private room. Well, it is not quite like that in Slovakia.

The clinic in my neighborhood was a labyrinth of dark hallways, closed doors and dead ends. Each doctor has his or her own office, so you just knock on a door and hope someone answers. If not, you move on. It was quite a process and it took more than 40 minutes.

About the Author Traci Cox ('08) earned a 2009 Fulbright Award to teach Slovakian teens to speak English and to help prepare them for college. Cox is an Honors Program graduate who majored in English and minored in anthropology. Following her 10-month Fulbright appointment she plans to attend graduate school and study creative writing.

Janka would knock on a door and a frazzled-looking nurse would answer. My friend-turned-translator explained that I was an American living and working in Slovakia and that I needed to see a doctor. Intrigued by my nationality, the nurse would then open the door a bit further and poke her head out to see me. “Ohhh, an American.” Once she got a good look at me, she’d shake her head and reply, “*Nie, nie pomoc*,” which means “No, I can’t help you,” and then close the door. This happened three times. Exasperated and dizzy, I shuffled from office to office begging for someone to take me in. I felt like Joseph and Mary wandering around looking for a room at the inn, because, for reasons unfathomable to us, no one would examine me or treat me.

We were relieved when the fourth door opened and a nurse told us to wait while she consulted with the doctor about the *Američanka*. When my name was finally called, Janka accompanied me into the cluttered office where a nurse briskly pulled down my shirt and shoved a thermometer into my armpit. The nurse, who actually seemed disappointed when I didn’t have a temperature, then pushed me out of my chair and behind a tattered shower curtain where the doctor was waiting.

His office was a mess with empty boxes, eyedrops, files, lab coats and bits of loose paper covering his desk, cabinets and floor. I sat down in a ratty, brown ’70s-era chair while Janka explained my symptoms. They talked for about 10 minutes; however, they did not talk about how I was feeling. Instead they talked about Obama, Clinton, something about “fasts foods.” Then the doctor pulled a digital thermometer from under a pile of junk on his desk and said, “Look, American make.” I acknowledged the fancy thermometer with a nod and pretended to be impressed as he pulled down my shirt-sleeve and stuck it under my armpit.

After seeing that I still did not have a fever, he stopped all the political banter and resumed the examination. Now, this is where the real fun began. He pulled a tongue depressor from a jar, thought of something else to say to Janka, got distracted and put the tongue depressor in his briefcase. After realizing what he had done, he chuckled and grabbed another tongue depressor, got distracted again and put it on top of his computer. I watched with horror as tongue depressors began to accumulate around his desk.

‘The clinic in my neighborhood was a labyrinth of dark hallways, closed doors and dead ends. Each doctor has his or her own office, so you just knock on a door and hope someone answers. If not, you move on.’

— TRACI COX (’08)

Finally he focused and asked me to open my mouth. I learned to open my mouth and say “ahh” at an early age, so that’s exactly what I did. I closed my eyes and stuck out my tongue as far as I could so he could get a good clear look at my swollen throat.

“What the hell is she doing?” he asked Janka in Slovak. “Tell her to put her tongue back in her mouth and stop making that noise.” Embarrassed, I did as I was told. As he shoved his ungloved hand into my mouth I thought, “This would never happen in America.” On my second attempt, the doctor began uttering a series of oohs and ahhs. He seemed surprised. I panicked; maybe my illness was worse than I thought.

Then when I heard Janka hysterically laughing behind me, I asked her what was wrong with me and what was wrong with the doctor. “He wants to examine your teeth. Is that OK?” What? My teeth? My teeth are fine; my teeth aren’t causing me chest pain. Defenseless and ailing, I gave him permission to tap my molars and poke my gums. “Wow, wow, you have the most beautiful teeth I’ve ever seen!” he said. “Perfectly straight and so white. You have great genes.” I thanked him and told him I’d tell my parents the good news.

In the states, medical personnel use those little handheld sanitized and partially disposable flashlights to examine a patient’s nose, ears and throat. In Slovakia, medical personnel use what I call a modified skylight to examine your sinuses. It is actually a lamp with a bulb about the size of a basketball placed about a foot away from your face; so, of course, you are immediately blinded for about 10 minutes. He didn’t examine my nose or ears, but he did listen to my lungs

for about 20 seconds. His diagnosis: bronchitis and sinus infection.

“Do you have a man here?” the doctor asked. I told him my boyfriend was in the United States. “But you need to be taken care of, and I can’t do it because I’m too old and I’m fat. Look at my belly! Look!” He wasn’t so fat, but he did remind me a little of Santa with his white beard and jolly demeanor. When he stood up to turn off the blinding light, I noticed his pants gathering around his ankles. “Hoopsies, hup, hup,” he said as he chuckled and leaned over his potbelly to pick up his trousers. “It was just lunchtime,” he said, and then explained his need to undo his belt every time he ate. Thankfully, Janka and I were spared because his lab coat covered up most of his legs, and when he bent down to adjust his buckle, a tongue depressor fell to the floor from somewhere inside his pants.

The “exam” took more than an hour, and when we came out, the school custodian-turned-chauffeur asked me if I had just had surgery or something. While he had been in practice for more than 40 years, my doctor had never examined a foreigner. I was something of a surprise to him, like a guinea pig or an experiment. He spoke no English, but then again, my Slovak isn’t that great either. I understood he had done me a favor by seeing me, and I shook his hand and thanked him for his hospitality. “All right! Good, good!” he said, chuckling again.

Janka took me to the pharmacy to fill my seven — yes, seven — prescriptions, which were not written on formal stationary but rather on a miniature neon blue Post-it note. I saved the note for my journal.

I feel that this was a unique cultural experience that I am now grateful to have had, albeit one that I hope not to repeat. I made a full recovery after two dull weeks of bed rest and no school, and I earnestly hope I never ever get sick in Slovakia again. *M*

MADISON MAGAZINE READERS:

What is your adventure in health care?

The magazine staff is planning the November issue of *Madison*, which will include articles about JMU programs that solve real-world health care issues. What is your health care adventure? Health-related job? Nightmare, fun or lifesaving health story? Tell us at madisonmag@jmu.edu.

{Books}

American Civil War Railroad Tactics

BY **ROBERT HODGES** ('93)

OSPREY PUBLISHING, 2009
ISBN-13: 978-1846034527

The American Civil War was the world's first full-blown "railroad war." The well-developed network

in the North was of great importance in serving Union Army long-distance logistical needs, and the sparser resources of the South were proportionately

even more important. Both sides invested great efforts in raiding and wrecking enemy railroads and defending and repairing their own. Robert Hodges ('93) reveals the thrilling chases and pitched battles that made the railroad so dangerous. He details the equipment and tactics used by both sides and the vital supporting elements — maintenance works, telegraph lines, and fuel and water supplies.

* www.ospreypublishing.com/store/American-Civil-War-Railroad-Tactics_9781846034527

Battling Nell: The Life of Southern Journalist Corneila Battle Lewis, 1895-1956

BY **ALEX LEIDHOLDT**

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2009
ISBN-13: 978-0807134559

In his detailed retelling of Corneila Lewis' life, JMU telecommunications professor Alex Leidholdt

chronicles the turbulent history of North Carolina from the 1920s through the 1950s, as industrialization and racial integration began to tear at the region's conservative fabric.

Leidholdt explains the background and ramifications of Lewis'

'Leidholdt also reveals how the complex issues of gender, labor and race intertwined to influence the events that shaped the course of early 20th century southern history.'

many controversial stances and explores the possible reasons for her ideological about-face. Leidholdt also reveals how the complex issues of gender, labor and race intertwined to influence the events that shaped the course of early 20th-century southern history.

* www.lsu.edu/lisupress/bookPages/9780807134559.html

Fallibility

BY **ELIZABETH ONESS** ('82)

NEW RIVER PRESS, 2009
ISBN: 978-089823-244-8

Elizabeth McGrath Oness ('82) is an English professor at Winona State University, where she teaches composition, literature and fiction writing. Her first book of poetry is about a girl's Irish-Catholic childhood and her growth into motherhood. Oness is a Many Voices Project Award winner.

* www.newriverpress.com

Lipstick Apology

BY **JENNIFER JABALEY** ('95)

RAZORBILL, 2009
ISBN-13: 978-1595142313

Jennifer Lovelidge Jabaley ('95), a part-time optometrist and mother of two, began writing her first novel after a phone call from her sister sparked an idea for a story. Four little words writ-

ten in lipstick mean Emily must say goodbye to everything she knows. Emily Carson has always been a good girl. So when she throws a party the night her parents leave for vacation, she's sure she'll get busted. What Emily doesn't know is that her parents will never return.

* www.jenniferjabaley.com

PETA's Vegan College Cookbook

BY **STARZA KOLMAN** ('03)
AND **MARTA HOLMBERG**

SOURCEBOOKS INC., 2009
ISBN-10: 1402218850

Starza Kolman ('03) shares 250 recipes collected from members of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. These inexpensive, simple recipes are for vegan students on a budget. Tips include vegan alternatives, how to stock a kitchen or minifridge and how to make meatless sandwiches. The most complicated kitchenware needed? A microwave.

* www.peta2.com/cookbook

Shaping Memories

EDITED BY **JOANNE V. GABBIN**
UNIVERSITY PRESS OF MISSISSIPPI, 2009
ISBN-13: 9781604732740

Shaping Memories includes short essays by 25 notable black women writers on pivotal moments that strongly influenced their careers. Editor Joanne V. Gabbin offers an introduction that places these writers in the context of American literature in general and African-

American literature in particular. Gabbin is executive director of the Furious Flower Poetry Center and professor of English at JMU.

The anthology provides a thorough overview of the formal concerns and thematic issues facing contemporary black women writers. In their pieces, these women negotiate educational institutions and societal restrictions and find their voices despite racism, sexism and religious chauvinism.

* www.upress.state.ms.us/books/1230

Songs of Ice and Darkness

BY **JON KILNER** ('03)

SELF-PUBLISHED,
CREATE SPACE, 2009
ISBN: 1449598013

Early in the 22nd century, six explorers venture into the ocean that lies beneath the icy surface of Jupiter's moon, Europa. Their mission: to study the ecosystem powered by Europa's countless hydrothermal vents. There, in the darkness beneath the ice, the team encounters something it never expected to find — sentient life. This character-driven novel details first contact through the eyes of humans and Europeans.

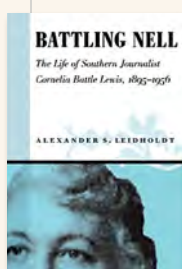
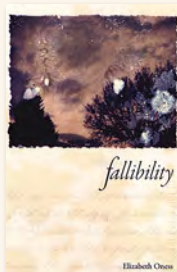
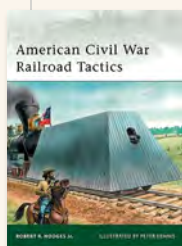
* www.kilnerwriter.net/books/page.htm

The Criminal Justice System: an Introduction, 5th edition

BY **MICHELLE WALDRON** ('00), et al

K & M PUBLISHERS, 2009
ISBN 978-0-9823658-0-9

The fifth edition of *The Criminal Justice System: an Introduction* views



{Books} Cont.

the criminal justice system as a whole composed of many subsystems — police, prosecutors, courts and corrections, including probation and parole. It describes the subsystems of the criminal justice system as the authors know them to be — not as they should be.

This edition incorporates the latest developments while retaining the basic organization of previous editions. Co-author Michelle Waldron ('00) is a criminalist with the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

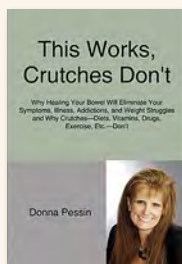
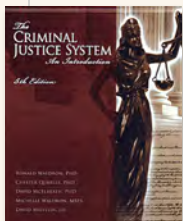
* www.kmpublishers.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=45

This Works, Crutches Don't

BY **DONNA U. PESSIN ('85)**

SELF-PUBLISHED, AUTHOR-HOUSE, 2009
ISBN: 978-1-4389-4281-0

Certified nutritional consultant Donna Urbaitis Pessin ('85) developed the unique program presented in *This Works, Crutches Don't: Why*



Healing Your Bowel Will Eliminate Your Symptoms, Illness, Addictions and Weight Struggles and Why Crutches — Diets, Vitamins, Drugs, Exercise, Etc. — Don't. Many years ago the program cured her of an "incurable" autoimmune disease, alcoholism and severe food allergies, after all other approaches failed. For 16 years, Pessin has helped clients from all over the United States and other parts of the world.

* www.ThisWorksCrutchesDont.com

Tommy

BY **DONNA ISAAC ('76)**
RED DRAGONFLY PRESS, 2009
ISBN: 978-1-890193-13-3

Tommy, an elegiac, print-on-demand chapbook, celebrates and mourns a younger brother who died young. Using varied poetic forms, landscape and memory, Donna Pleasants Isaac ('76) takes readers through a personal and yet universal journey of grief and acceptance. Using imagery of the natural world, Isaac connects the beauty of the beach, mountains and flowers with the beauty of her brother.

* www.reddragonflypress.org/music/2766



{Music}

Jealous Type

BY **NICKIA PALMER ('00)**

Akshan, aka Nickia Palmer ('00), released his newest single in January. The record is a precursor to Akshan Island Rocker EP, which will be released this summer.



Akshan, aka Nickia Palmer ('00), and his band The DubCity Renegades perform frequently at the Jammin' Java in Washington, D.C.

Akshan and his band, The Dub-City Renegades, are frequent performers at Jammin' Java in Washington, D.C. Listen to the group's new single at www.reverbnation.com/akshanmusic.

* www.Akshanmusic.com

Nothing To Lose

BY **JOSEPH KING MCMINN ('00)**

Joseph King McMinn ('00), aka Joe Tann, says that he has been influenced by Frank Sinatra, Stevie Wonder, Alicia Keys and the Neptunes.

He released his debut single, *One Way Or Another*, in 2008. *Nothing To Lose* is filled with original songs that feature Tann playing a jazz piano and guitar.

* www.cdbaby.com/Artist/JoeTann



JMU Fight Song

You know you have sung it at the top of your lungs at a football game accompanied by the Marching Royal Dukes. Now you can download the *JMU Fight Song* at MadisonOnline.

Here are the lyrics:

*Madison, James Madison
We are the Dukes of J-M-U
Madison, James Madison
The fighting Dukes of J-M-U
Fight for glory, honors won
Brighten the lights of Madison
Madison, James Madison
Show your colors, proud and true
We are the Dukes of J-M-U.*

* www.jmu.edu/MadisonOnline or www.jmu.edu/music/mrd/audio.html

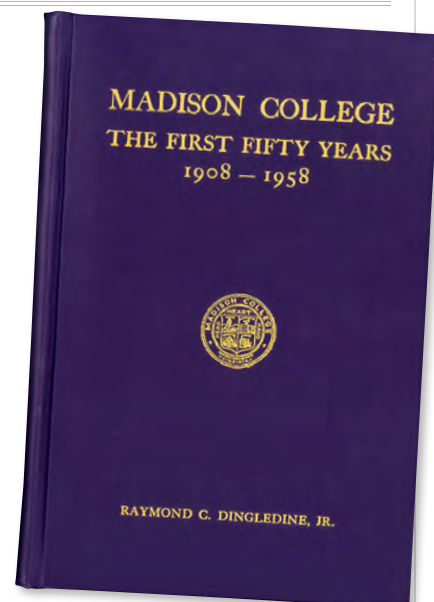
What are you reading?

Alumni, students, JMU parents and friends: What book are you reading?

Tell the magazine staff what book you are reading — and why — in 75 words or less. The best response will be published in the fall issue of *Madison*, and you will win a copy of the hard to find *Madison College: The First Fifty Years (1908–1958)*, written by Raymond Dingledine Jr.

Send your response to madisonmag@jmu.edu by May 1, 2010.

* All submissions must include your class year or other JMU affiliation, academic major, home address, book title and genre, and why you chose to read it. Happy reading!



Alumni News

Sharing a special day

Jonathan Liles ('04) and Lauren Seplow ('04) met during their senior year through mutual friends. They wed on Sept. 5, 2009, in Bristow, Va., with Road Dawg and several alumni in attendance. Five members of the 12-person wedding party were Dukes as well as several alumni guests who spanned several generations. The stepgrandmother of the groom graduated from Madison College in 1950, and the sister of the groom is a current student. Always the center of the party, Road Dawg posed for pictures with his new friends and howled approval while the wedding party sang the *JMU Fight Song*. "From the moment we started planning our wedding we knew that Road Dawg had to be part of the party," says the bride Lauren Seplow Liles.

— Khalil Garriott ('04), groomsman



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{Reunions}

It's time to plan to be back in the 'Burg

Bluestone Reunions, Madison Alumni Conference and Homecoming upcoming

Bluestone Reunions are April 29–May 1

This month, the JMU Alumni Association celebrates with the Classes of 1960, 1955, 1950, 1945, 1940 and 1935 during Bluestone Reunions weekend. Don't miss the Class of 1960 as members get inducted into the Bluestone Society.

To participate in Bluestone Reunions, call the JMU Office of Alumni Relations at (888) 568–2586 for more information and to register.



visit www.jmu.edu/alumni or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (888) 568–2586.

Homecoming Reunions are Oct. 15–17

If you are a member of the Classes of 1965, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005, or are interested in hosting a special reunion for a student organization during Homecoming Weekend, please contact the JMU Office of Alumni Relations to start planning.

Madison Alumni Conference is June 4–6

Formerly known as Alumni Volunteer Weekend, the alumni association will host the Madison Alumni Conference June 4–6 on campus. Join fellow JMU volunteers for this three-day leadership conference and enhance your Madison Experience. This year, participants will have an opportunity

to stay in a JMU residence hall for the weekend, which culminates with the 2010 Madison Alumni Conference Awards at Court Square Theater. The alumni association will recognize the accomplishments of alumni, including the Alumni Volunteer of the Year, the Alumni Group of the Year, the Chapter Leader of the Year and much more. Both current and future alumni volunteers are encouraged to attend. To participate, please

The alumni association has already planned a number of activities for Homecoming Weekend, so don't let your group miss the fun. Remember, if the alumni office does not hear from your class or organization a reunion will not be planned. If you are interested in chairing or being a member of a planning committee for your group, call (888) 568–2586 or e-mail alumni_link@jmu.edu. **m**

{Alumni Association News}



JMU Politicos network at the Capitol

Nearly 140 alumni gathered on Capitol Hill in March for the Eighth-Annual JMU On the Hill Reception, hosted by the JMU Politicos Chapter. Alumni networked and celebrated. Jamie Jones Miller ('99), president-elect of the JMU Alumni Board of Directors, presented the Alumni Association's Distinguished Faculty Award to political science professor David Jones. The JMU Politicos also honored political science professors Kay Knickrehm and B. Douglas Skelley and congratulated them on their retirements.

FEELING A LITTLE CRABBY?

Mark your calendars for this year's D.C. and Richmond Crabfests, two of the alumni association's largest annual events. The Richmond Chapter Crabfest will be Aug. 14, and the Metro Dukes D.C. Crabfest will be Sept. 18. Register early as these events sell out every year. If you are interested in volunteering for either Crabfest contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (888) 568–2586 or alumni_link@jmu.edu.



Fifteen and counting

The Comer family's Madison tradition BY MARTHA BELL GRAHAM

December commencement was a very special event for Brownie Comer Cave ('39) as she watched her granddaughter Juliana Comer ('09) receive her bachelor's degree. For Brownie and Juliana, Madison is a family tradition. Brownie is one of eight sisters from Shenandoah, Va., who graduated from Madison in the 1920s, '30s and '40s. While attending Madison, Brownie taught swimming and worked as a lifeguard at the Keezell Hall pool — which surprised Juliana, who didn't know that the classroom with the slanted floor in the basement of Keezell Hall was once a pool. To help pay tuition, Brownie lived with her sister, Mary, in Harrisonburg and worked at a downtown restaurant. Together, Brownie and her seven sisters earned seven teaching degrees and one nursing degree. Brownie returned to school in 1966 and earned a master's degree from the University of Virginia.

With Juliana's graduation, the Comer's Madison tradition continues. Although Juliana was a finalist for a Jefferson Scholarship at U.Va., she chose JMU for the hands-on approach of faculty members in the JMU School of Media Arts and Design. Fol-



(Above): "SMADuate" Juliana Comer ('09) shows off her mortarboard following 2009 Winter Commencement ceremonies. (Right): The graduate joins grandmother Brownie Comer Cave ('39) and mother Rosemary Cave Comer ('71) and her brother Jonathan Comer.



lowing graduation, she worked in Sen. Mark Obenshain's office during the 2010 Virginia General Assembly session and hopes to pursue a career in television journalism.

Brownie's parents Fannie and Frank Comer's belief in the value of education has influenced several generations. "In our family, education was always assumed," Brownie says of the philosophy she passed on to her daughter Rosemary Cave Comer ('71), Juliana's mother. Rosemary was one of the first Madison graduates to receive a degree in elementary education, and like her mother and most of her aunts, she went on to teach. Brownie wasn't surprised. "My children saw me grad-

ing papers until midnight." It was a demonstration of how the Comers succeeded. "Work at it ... that's the only thing that works. You've got to work at it," she says.

All in all, Rosemary counts 15 family members as Madison graduates. But the tradition doesn't end with Juliana. Two of her cousins are currently enrolled at JMU.

Stay tuned. **M**

'Brownie's parents Fannie and Frank Comer's belief in the value of education has influenced several generations. In our family, education was always assumed.'

— BROWNIE COMER CAVE ('39)

Madison

Stay in the know, get *Madison*

Want to read Madison online?

To receive *Madison* electronically, keep your e-mail address up to date with JMU.

Log on and share your e-mail at www.jmu.edu/madisononline/emailme.shtml

{Purple Pride}

Olympic Purple and Gold

1977 Duke carries the Olympic torch BY MICHELLE HITE ('88)

Jim Pivarnik ('77M) of East Lansing, Mich., carried the 2010 Olympic torch for 400 meters in Strathmore, Alberta, Canada, on Jan. 19. Pivarnik is a professor of kinesiology and epidemiology at Michigan State University and president of the American College of Sports Medicine. He earned his master's in physical education from JMU in 1977.

Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. chose Pivarnik as one of 20 individuals to sponsor as torchbearers in the 2010 Winter Olympics torch relay. Coca-Cola's torchbearers were chosen because of the positive impact they have made in their communities.

"I was chosen by Coca-Cola because they are one of the corporate sponsors of the American College of Sports Medicine," says Pivarnik. "I carried the torch in the small town of Strathmore. It is just east of Calgary. It's a very charming community, and I am convinced



Watch a YouTube video of Jim Pavarnik ('77) carrying the Olympic torch on its way to Vancouver at www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlnshs9rWF4. And read more about his experience in the American College of Sports Medicine's e-newsletter *Sports Medicine Bulletin* at www.multibriefs.com/briefs/acsm/torchbearer.htm.

that everyone in the town came out to cheer us on — even all the schoolchildren who were let out of school to watch the torch relay. ... I was lucky to carry the torch an extra 100 meters. The standard torch run is 300 meters, but we had an extra 100 meters to fill on this part of the relay."

Pivarnik says that the experience was an emotional one. "It is hard to put into words, but I think I will loosely quote the person who gave us our pre-torch run instructions," he says. "Everyone in the world knows about the Olympics and what they mean. And everyone knows that before each Olympic Games the flame is transferred from Greece to the host country by thousands of torches. This year, that included 12,000 torches! For those 400 meters, I was the only person in the world responsible for doing this because the Olympic flame was on my torch. Just talking about this makes me emotional. It was such an honor." ❧

JMU alumni Twitter followers and Facebook fans were asked to share their craziest JMU connections, and the responses were incredible — reaching around the globe. Are you connected? Get involved in Madison conversations by following the JMU Alumni Association on Twitter at www.twitter.com/JMUAlumni or become a fan on Facebook at www.facebook.com/JMUAlumni.

JMU TWEETS INCLUDE:

@Kjmass1: I ran into some JMU alums at the lunch table at the mountaintop lodge at Vail, Colo., some 1,600 miles from home (D.C.).

@Gazerella: A parent of one of my students freaked out because I'm a JMU alum — her entire family went there and she was thrilled!

@dukelon07: In Fort Walton Beach, Fla., four other JMU alums live in the same apartment complex as me. GO DUKES!

JMU FACEBOOK FANS SAY:

Caitlin Slaughter: I was wearing a JMU sweatshirt while traveling home from Japan in the middle of Tokyo-Narita Airport. I heard someone yell "J-M-U DUUUUUUUUKES," and I ran into a fellow undergrad.

Shannon Kennan: When I voted in the 2008 presidential election here in Pennsylvania last November, one of the retirees volunteering at the check-in table started talking to me about JMU (I had on a sweatshirt). Turns out something like three of their four children went to JMU,

and now they have a granddaughter who goes there. Small world!

Heather Lee Duhart: I was backpacking in Bruges, Belgium, and ran into a fellow JMU alum.

Barbara Seaholm Antonetti: I was at Canyonlands National Park in Moab, Utah, saw some young guy with a truck with Virginia plates at one of the lookout points. We got to talking and we are both alums almost 20 years apart.

Cathy Walters: I was in San Francisco visiting some tourist sites with some Canadian friends when we were approached on Lombard Street by a couple to take their picture. Turned out that I knew him through friends in high school, and she went to JMU, two years behind me. What are the odds? My Canadian friends were amazed.

Justin Constantine: I joined the Marine Corps during law school and five years after JMU graduation. The guy in the bunk above me at Officer Candidate School had also attended JMU, and we had some mutual friends. ❧



Semester in London's 30 years of exploration

By HARRY ATWOOD ('87)

In 1979 there was no such thing as a Study Abroad program at JMU. And then Semester in London happened. Today JMU's Office of International Programs, under Lee Sternberger's direction, boasts a veritable fleet of international programs, sending nearly a thousand students all across the globe each year to some 95 nations — from England to Vietnam; from Ghana to Peru; from Qatar to Malta.

These many programs grew directly out of the groundwork laid 30 years ago by certain JMU pioneers (Semester in London founder and former JMU English professor Ralph Cohen, and then-President Ronald E. Carrier, chief amongst them). Launching a Study Abroad program from scratch was no small feat back when such programs were rarities. Even Cohen had his doubts. "I was actually scared that winter before I led that first group," he admits. That uncertainty is important to remember because it took some guts to forge ahead. Doing something new is often risky. But taking risks can pay great dividends. Semester in London is proof that the adventurous are often rewarded greatly.

Some of those adventurers (directors, professors, alumni, administrators, friends and benefactors) were in attendance at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton this past November to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the London program.

The reunion kicked off with a reception in a handsome dining hall with silver trays of hors d'oeuvres being ferried about by waiters. Students, from as far back as the pioneering '79 group, greeted old travel companions, swapped stories, reconnected with former teachers and flipped through photo albums (some more yellowed than others). The crowd attended a performance of *Henry the IV Part I* at the Blackfriars Theater. After the performance, Sternberger offered thank yous to Ralph and Judy Cohen, and presented gifts to all four Semester in London directors (Cohen, Doug Kehlenbrink, Charlie Turner and Rusty Greene) who have so ably guided the program for a momentous 30 years.

During the celebration, I asked a number of former participants what made Semester in London the experience they so cherished.

About the Author *Perhaps of all people associated with the Semester in London Program, Harry Atwood ('87) can lay claim to having experienced and witnessed more than anyone else the magic of JMU's Study Abroad experience. He first took part in a May session in 1985 and later as a member of the spring 1986 group. Three years later, he and his wife, Robin, took the job of running Madison House (JMU's second London home). They stayed for 10 years.*



(Above): Lee Sternberger, on stage at the Blackfriars Theater, toasts Semester in London alumni and reunion revelers at the 30th anniversary of the inaugural JMU Study Abroad program. (Right): Harry Atwood ('87) ran JMU's London home, Madison House, with his wife Robin ('87, '89M). For 10 years they witnessed the transformative magic of Study Abroad.



JMU international programs staff members Lee Sternberger and Judy Cohen with Semester in London directors Rusty Greene, Ralph Cohen, Charlie Turner and Doug Kehlenbrink.

The answers varied, but it all seemed to come down to the simple idea of "relocating" oneself. By leaving the comforts of the JMU campus and choosing to live in the heart of one of the world's great cities, students found they had opened a door to a banquet of experiences.

As any serious traveler will tell you, "relocating" yourself brings you into frequent contact with the unknown and unfamiliar. That's practically the definition of education — to seek, engage and learn from things new to us. The unknown and unfamiliar are offered copiously in cities like London, Florence, Salamanca or Antwerp (to name the four jewels in the JMU Study Abroad crown).

The difference between being a tourist and being a student abroad is an important distinction, too. Kehlenbrink insists that London is a perfect laboratory for learning. "There's an aspect of co-discovery," he says. "The joy for me was to watch students turn corners that I didn't turn down. It's a delight as a teacher when a new experience is in front of you all the time."

As longtime observers of this magic, my wife, Robin ('87, '89M), and I witnessed hundreds of students undergo fundamental changes in how they viewed and carried themselves and how they squared their new experiences with previously held beliefs. The kids who lugged their suitcases into Madison House at the beginning of each term were not the same kids who lugged them back out the door three months later. "I loved watching students transform from American citizens to citizens of the world over the course of a semester," Robin says.

In the end, the value of Study Abroad cannot be quantified. The closest I can come to defining its magic is embodied in the notion that the unexpected things in life are often the most meaningful.

* Learn more about JMU Study Abroad at www.jmu.edu/international/abroad/.

[Back in the 'Burg]



Viva L'Italia

Alumna returns for master's to help run local business

BY KATIE HUDSON ('10)

Katharine Corgan ('06) has only been to Italy once, but she knows good Italian food when she tastes it. So does the JMU and Harrisonburg community, and that's why they keep coming back to Corgan's restaurant, L'Italia Pizza & Pasta.

While completing her English degree, Corgan started bussing tables at Gervasio and Veronica Amato's restaurant, L'Italia, in 2003. Corgan, originally from West Hartford, Conn., eventually worked her way up to managing the restaurant several nights a week in 2007. During that time, Amato's Sicilian cousin, Vito Pellerito, was quickly working his way up to managing at L'Italia Pizza & Pasta.

Upon graduating, Corgan and Pellerito were dating and were about to take on the challenge of running L'Italia Pizza & Pasta. The Amatos were expecting a child and needed to lighten some of their workload. They put their faith in Corgan and Pellerito knowing they could uphold the L'Italia reputation.

"L'Italia was my only management experience," says Corgan. "Managing our own restaurant definitely turned out to be a trial and error kind of process." One of those errors came only a few days after taking over L'Italia Pizza & Pasta. Since business had been a little slow after New Year's, Pellerito told his kitchen staff to take the day off. Not knowing this, Corgan told her waitress to take the day off too. To both of their bewilderment, Corgan and Pellerito found themselves running the entire restaurant during a rush of customers. "We've never done anything like that again," Corgan says, "But, that's the best way to learn."

After a year of working with the restaurant, the two decided to change the college atmosphere. They closed for 10 days to ensure a smooth transition. Using a limited budget, they painted and wallpapered the entire restaurant themselves. "We also began to focus more on the food and aimed more toward a family atmosphere."

That's not to say that families are the only ones coming through the restaurant's doors. JMU athletes and coaches are often seen dining. "I loved going to the JMU football games, so it's always exciting when football coaches come in," Corgan says. "It makes you feel like part of the athletics community."

Some of the recipes, including the homemade marinara sauce, come from Pellerito's mother, who owns a flower shop in Sicily. Pellerito's younger brother, Ugo, brings his Italian culinary education to the restaurant as well. With the family help, Corgan and Pellerito have begun to find the perfect mix of customers. "It's very important that we're in a college town, and we know the students are good business," Pellerito says. "That's why it's important our quality of food is good and our prices are reasonable."

The mix of customers has been the best part of the job for Corgan. "Our regular customers begin to feel like family," Corgan says.

Back at JMU to earn a master's

While she is completing an M.B.A. at JMU, Corgan says she considers herself to have an advantage when it comes to the Duke Dog community. "I remember how separated from Harrisonburg I felt as an undergrad," Corgan says, referring to the JMU bubble. "Since graduation, I've discovered the wonderful people who make up this community and how JMU has such an integral role."

The reward of completing her master's degree, Corgan says, will be

Katharine Corgan ('06) may be young, but this entrepreneur knows every side of running Harrisonburg restaurant staple L'Italia.

Join the *Be the Change* discussions

Inspiring JMU students, alumni, professors, staff members and friends are changing the world. Visit the **Be the Change Blog** site to learn more about them and to join in the discussion.

BE the CHANGE
Follow along as JMU changes the world!
<http://jmubethechange.wordpress.com/>

being able to apply her classes to the restaurant. Prior to starting M.B.A. classes, her lessons on management came through the restaurant. But now, Corgan says she is learning the technical side of the job and how she can use those lessons to her advantage.

Alex Lefebvre ('10) knows firsthand the trials and tribulations the restaurant has undergone. Lefebvre, much like Corgan, started as a waitress and has since moved her way up to managing L'Italia Pizza & Pasta a couple nights a week. "Katharine's dedication and genuine personality have shown me such a unique example of being a great boss," Lefebvre says. "She's extremely professional but approachable."

Corgan believes the approachability factor mostly stems from one thing — a smile.

She not only greets her customers with smiles, she also likes to hire employees

who have a natural smile. "While most people can master the menu and the whole process of serving, it's really impossible to teach someone to be gen-

uine and hospitable," she says.

Every year Corgan has to start a new search for those natural smiles because every year waitresses graduate and leave. "It's like Neverland," says Corgan. "Everyone stays the same age."

Beyond the change in staff over the years, the L'Italia menu has changed as well. Every Friday, Corgan comes up with specials for the weekend, which always includes an appetizer, entree, dessert and wine. Corgan has also let her creative side shine through by starting brunch on Sundays. All originally cooked and taste-tested by her, the menu features dishes from "Italian" French toast to a casserole named after her grandmother.

"She just loves what she does. She is always thinking of ways to improve our business," Pellerito says. The latest step has been adding the restaurant to the social networking world. By starting Twitter and Facebook pages for the restaurant, customers can know the specials before walking in the door.

"We have to keep working hard for our customers," Corgan says. "We want our customers to be taken care of and to be treated special." To Corgan and Pellerito, that's what hospitality is all about. *m*

'Our regular customers begin to feel like family.'

— KATHARINE
CORGAN ('06)

MadisonEvents

APRIL 9-11

**Black Alumni Chapter
Reunion Weekend**

APRIL 9 AND 12

CHOICES Legacy Receptions

APRIL 16

Charlotte Dukes Golf Outing

APRIL 17

**Richmond Friends
and Pins Bowling**

APRIL 24

**Boston Alumni Chapter:
Red Sox vs. Orioles Outing**

APRIL 29 - MAY 1

Bluestone Reunion Weekend

MAY 21

**Cheerleading Chapter
New Alumni Happy Hour**

JUNE 4-6

Madison Alumni Conference
www.jmu.edu/alumni/events

AUGUST 14

Richmond Crabfest

SEPTEMBER 18

Metro Dukes D.C. Crabfest

OCTOBER 15-17

Homecoming 2010

www.jmu.edu/alumni/events

www.jmu.edu/alumni/calendar

For more information on events,
please call the JMU alumni office toll free
1- (888) JMU-ALUM

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY



OCTOBER 15-17

SAVE THE DATE! For more information, visit www.jmu.edu/homecoming/

class

Stay in touch, get involved and be Mad cool

53 **Johanne Haberstro Trotter** moved to Plantation Village in Wilmington, N.C., to be closer to family. She enjoys photography, birding and traveling to upper Wisconsin to visit the rest of her family. Trotter writes, "Best to classmates and Tri Sigmas."

57 **Tresa F. Quarles** writes, "During Freshman Orientation days, my dog Happy and I walked in the evenings at JMU. It was fun talking to the new students and counselors and telling them what it was like for me during my years at JMU. I enjoyed seeing all the buildings that aren't visible from Main Street. Happy got to meet Duke Dog and struck a fearless pose. Unfortunately, I lost her to heart disease on Aug. 24, 2009."

61 **Jane Garrett Marshall** of Hendersonville, Tenn., had a very busy 2009. A Toastmasters member, she started a storytelling group at her church and attended a storytelling institute at East Tennessee State University. She writes, "Everything in my busy year was set aside when I discovered that the Roy Rogers Museum in Branson, Mo., would close forever on Dec. 12. Bob and I headed west. I carried my original Dec. 9, 1992, article from *The Front Royal News* in which I wrote about 'Happy Trails With Roy Rogers.' Though Dec. 12 was a sad day, Roy Rogers Jr. and his son, Dustin, loved my article on the

King of the Cowboys. They autographed a copy for me! The Rogers family never let the fans down. May you discover happy trails in 2010."

63 **Nancy L. Sykes** resigned as dean of students at Western New England School of Law in July 2008 to accept a teaching position at King's Academy near Amman, Jordan. The academy is the only coed boarding school in the Middle East. "It was a grand experience," she says. "I returned in March 2010 to teach introduction to law and to attend the academy's first graduation. I am also a newly elected member of the Massachusetts School Board."

64 **Macon Haskins Coleman III** and his wife, Joyce, have been married for 51 years. Coleman writes, "I retired in 1989 on disability and have had multiple surgeries. We have to sell our farm because we are no longer able to do the work which we have done for 51 years. God blessed us with a son. He and his wife live in Maryland, where he does archaeological work."



Roy Rogers Jr., Jane Garrett Marshall ('61) and Dustin Rogers at the Roy Rogers Museum in Branson, Mo.

72 **Phillip W. Updike** was elected to serve a three-year term as a director on the JMU Foundation Board.

73 **Joyce Ann Shull Broughman** retired in June 2008 after 35 years in public education, (23 of them as a middle-school counselor). She accepted a position at a community college.

74 **Steven A. Aldridge** is director of music at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, N.C. * **Terri Brewster Wiseman** retired from Prince William County Schools after 30 years of teaching in Virginia. She lives in Manassas with her husband, **Sandy** ('74). They have two granddaughters. Wiseman says, "Both of us play in a seven-octave handbell choir at our church. The choir has traveled to Germany twice. I sang in the Manassas Chorale and performed with them at Carnegie Hall in June 2009."

75 **William N. Yates** received an Ed.D. in human resource development/human and organizational learning from George Washington University on Aug. 31, 2009. His dissertation was successfully defended "with distinction," a recognition which is awarded about 5 percent of the time. The qualitative phenomenological research study examined the "lived experiences" of a group of young adults with disabilities during their transition from high school to the workplace.

76 **Donna Pleasants Isaac** has published a chapbook of poetry, *Tommy*. The collection centers on her brother, who died

at a young age, and is grounded in natural world imagery. For information contact Red Dragonfly Press at redragonflypres@hotmail.com. * **Linda Tiller** is executive director of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Richmond affiliate. The communications arts major was very active in JMU theater.

77 **Catherine Ford Hullett** retired after 30 years of teaching elementary school in Augusta County, Va. She and her husband, **Arthur** ('67), are looking forward to spending more time at their beach house in North Carolina. * **Diane Ostergren Miller** ('80M) coaches high-school field hockey and has the most wins of any Triple-A coach in Virginia. During 29 years of coaching she posted an overall record of 420-72-13. Miller will retire in October 2010 after 30 years of teaching at Lake Braddock Secondary School in Burke, Va. * **Jim Pivarnik** ('77M) of East Lansing, Mich.,

SCHOLARSHIP THANKS

Dear Dr. Ronald E. and Mrs. Edith J. Carrier:

I am honored to be selected to receive your generous scholarship. I am working toward a master's degree in elementary education. Your scholarship will greatly help me in my goals. JMU has become my second home, and my Madison Experience will help me have an impact on the lives of children. I am involved in the campus intervarsity ministry, and I participate in intramural volleyball. Thank you again for your generosity.

Kathy Brittingham ('10)

Notes

Stay in touch

To submit a class note or emeriti note to appear in *Madison*, read the instructions and fill out the form on the inside back cover or e-mail madisonmag@jmu.edu



1979 classmates gather on the Quad in front of Wilson Hall during a reunion tour, (l-r) are Sandi Jones Garrison, Sue Meador Haley, Corinne Waugh Cummings, Valerie Frank Corace, Elizabeth Prest Albee, Carol Haddon Scribner and Lillian Kirkland Kann. Not pictured: Barbara Lumpkin Shaunnassy.

carried the Olympic torch for 400 meters in Strathmore, Alberta, Canada, on Jan. 19. Pivarnik is a professor of kinesiology and epidemiology at Michigan State University and president of the American College of Sports Medicine. Read more about Pivarnik in the alumni section on Page 56.

78 In December, **John W. Mitchell** was named president and CEO of St. Anthony North Hospital, a Centura Health facility in Westminster, Colo. Mitchell most recently served as president and CEO of Grays Harbor Community Hospital in Aberdeen, Wash. Under his leadership, the hospital was named a 2008 Health Grades Top 15 percent hospital for Patient Experience. Prior to these responsibilities, Mitchell served as chief operating officer for St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center in Pueblo, Colo., from 2000 to 2005. At SMC,

he achieved a "World-Class Leader" rank in two consecutive associate surveys. A communication major, Mitchell once served as an on-air radio host and television news reporter, and served as a broadcast journalist for the U.S. Navy. He and his wife, Paula, have three adult children. *** Deborah L. Richardt**, senior director of meeting services at the American Thoracic Society, was honored at the 54th Professional Convention Management Association annual meeting, Jan. 10–13 in Dallas. Richardt received the 2009 Distinguished Member of the Year Award. The PCMA annually honors top members for contributions to the hospitality industry. Richardt is one of the founding members of PCMA's New York Area Chapter and has contributed to the meetings industry through 31 years of local and national involvement, including her 23 years of service to the American Lung Association and the

American Thoracic Society. Richardt lives in Oradell, N.J., with her husband, Bob, and their son, Tim.

79 **Daniel Joseph Nardi** accepted a position as executive director for Merck global procurement for the Asia Pacific and Japan region. He is responsible for strategic sourcing across all Merck operations in the region. Nardi and his wife, **Alyce** ('79), relocated to Singapore in January 2010. *** Kathy "Diane" Ropp Naff** earned a master's in educational leadership from Radford University in 2009. She has served in gifted education for 15 years. In 2009 she was promoted to supervisor of gifted education for Montgomery County Schools. *** Rae Marie Smith** is the executive vice president of Guilford Technical Community College in Greensboro, N.C. She was previously vice president of administrative services.

Smith has worked at GTCC for 22 years. *** Eight 1979 graduates** celebrated their 30th anniversary by visiting the JMU campus in May, 2009. The former Gifford and Hoffman Hall roommates began lifelong friendships at JMU. The group has met every single year since graduation, traveling to different spots in Virginia, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York for a weekend of laughter, conversation and Madison memories. The group has kept a written journal of their "JMU Girls' Weekends." JMU Associate Vice President of Constituent Relations **Steve Smith** ('71, '75M) gave the group a tour of campus in May.

80 **Kevin B. Rack**, principal of The Rack Law Firm PC in Virginia Beach, was recognized in the 2010 edition of *Virginia Super Lawyers*, which features the top 5 percent of attorneys

North Carolina Teacher of the Year

Of stuffed animals and dream jobs

By CAITLIN HARRISON ('10)

I played teacher to a 'classroom' full of stuffed animals when I was a child," says **Jessica Cantor Garner ('98)**. "The only dream I have ever had was to be a teacher."

Not only did Garner's dream become a reality, but it also turns out she is a top-notch instructor. She was named the 2009-10 North Carolina Teacher of the Year. Garner teaches Spanish to grades nine through 12 at Porter Ridge High School in North Carolina, but she has also taught every grade from four to 12 in urban, rural and suburban settings.

"I did a short stint as a regular fourth-grade teacher right after I got married, and I think that elementary school teaching is the toughest," says Garner. "As the sole classroom teacher, you are required to plan for every subject with minimal planning time. High school is my favorite, but it has its own challenges. You have to work hard at motivating high-school students."

Garner declared education as a major early in her Madison Experience, enabling her to take education classes right away. As a sophomore, she studied abroad in Salamanca, Spain. "I had the opportunity to live with a host family and experience the culture in an authentic way," she says. "I also attended classes at the University of Salamanca, experiencing college life in another country and culture. It was an educational opportunity that has shaped who I am today as a person and as a teacher."

'I played teacher to a 'classroom' full of stuffed animals when I was a child.'

— JESSICA CANTOR GARNER ('98)
North Carolina Teacher of the Year

After graduation, Garner taught in a variety of settings. She taught in Shenandoah County for nearly two years, until she married her college sweetheart, **Nelson Garner ('98)**. Garner then moved to Charlotte, N.C., and taught for about two years. Then, she moved again, this time for her husband's new job as a kicker in the Arena Football League in Indianapolis, Ind.



North Carolina Teacher of the Year Jessica C. Garner ('98) says she is living her dream.

Nelson Garner, was a placekicker on the JMU football team from the 1994 through the 1998 seasons. He earned All-Conference and All-American honors. After graduating, he trained with the Baltimore Ravens at their camp and also played with the Canadian Football League for a short time. He then played in the Arena Football League for seven years, playing in Albany, N.Y.; Indianapolis, Ind.;

Phoenix, Ariz.; and Atlanta, Ga.

He currently teaches middle-school physical education and coaches men's and women's high-school soccer. Last spring, he was named Conference Coach of the Year and won Regional Coach of the Year for the women's soccer season.

After three and a half years in Indianapolis, Jessica, Nelson and their Future Duke moved back to North Carolina to be closer to family.

JMU's College of Education has a long history of producing top-notch teachers. Garner credits the faculty and hands-on learning. She says that students in JMU's education program student-teach before they actually begin their first teaching job. Yet, Garner was hired as a Spanish teacher even before serving as a student teacher. "My educational experience at JMU was absolutely integral in my preparation for the classroom," she says. "My studies were the springboard for my love of research and willingness to try new ideas. I am very grateful to all of my professors at JMU for the lessons that I learned." *ml*

in Virginia and West Virginia. The selection process included peer nominations from more than 19,000 Virginia lawyers and a blue-ribbon panel review. Rack focuses his practice in estate planning, probate and trust administration, elder law, fiduciary and tax litigation, and representation of tax-exempt entities and small business owners.

81 In December, *Computer Reseller News* / Channel-Web recognized **Michael Haley** as one of 25 "mavericks" in the IT industry for 2009. The magazine reported, "Only a maverick would start an IT solution provider business when more than a few are closing their doors. That's just what Michael Haley did when he launched Edge Solutions one



Michael Haley ('81)

year ago. ... One of the secrets to the company's success is Haley's 20 years of experience in selling technology solutions. Before starting Edge, he was vice president and general manager of the HP selling division at Arrow Electronics, where he led the team to more than 200 percent sales growth." Haley is No. 19 on the CRN "top 25 mavericks." * **Deborah Diehl Hawkins** has a son, **Rick ('13)**, who is a freshman at JMU. He is majoring in history and plans to earn a master's in education. He hopes to teach high-school history/government classes and coach football after he graduates. Deborah writes, "Our family tradition of teachers graduating from JMU continues!"

82 **T. Michael Clayton** earned a Ph.D. in management with a concentration in organizational leadership from the University of Phoenix on July 31, 2009. His dissertation, presented in partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree, was titled "Leadership Perceptions of Information Technology Employee Career Development: A Phenomenological Study." * **Michael Damiano**, an 11-year veteran Edward Jones financial adviser from Selinsgrove, Pa., was named a principal with the firm's holding company, the Jones Financial Com-

Keeping Northern Virginia safe

Three career interests spark assistant fire chief service

BY HALI CHIET ('07)

Brett Bowman, Tim Butters and John Caussin have two things in common – they are all graduates of the Class of 1980, and they are all second-in-command at major fire and rescue departments in Northern Virginia. Although these former Dukes are all assistant chiefs, each followed a rather different ladder to top careers.

For Bowman, becoming a firefighter was a childhood dream. “I was always interested in a career in public safety,” he says. “My father was a volunteer firefighter, and sometimes he’d bring me to the fire station. This made me more interested in a fire service career.”

Bowman, who was active in the Manassas Volunteer Fire Co. during high school, joined Harrisonburg’s Volunteer Fire Co. while he was a JMU student. He was named captain his senior year. After graduating, he worked in fire service for a few years and then left to become a training and safety instructor for the Virginia, Maryland and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives. He returned to fire service three years later and progressed to his current position as assistant chief of operations for the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. He helps run the day-to-day operations of the county’s 19 fire stations.

In addition to his busy career, Bowman earned an associate’s degree in Fire Science Administration, and a master’s degree in public administration and completed a program at the National Fire Academy. “JMU made me appreciate lifelong learning and encouraged me to continue my education,” he says.

Tim Butters, like Bowman, began as a volunteer firefighter in high school and then joined the Harrisonburg Volunteer Fire Co. He also worked his way up to captain during his time at JMU. He and Bowman met at JMU and became friends and roommates their junior year.

Butters’ career path to fire chief has not been typical. He says, “I wanted a job that was connected to the fire service,

but I [also] wanted to work in public policy.” After graduating, he accepted a position with the Federal Emergency Management Agency helping to develop fire safety programs. Later, he became director of government relations for the International Association of Fire Chiefs working on legislative and regulatory issues. His next job was as managing director of CHEMTREC, a 24-hour hazardous materials emergency center.

Even while working in public policy, Butters continued his fire-service involvement as a volunteer. After nearly 10 years with CHEMTREC, a position as assistant chief of operations for the Fairfax City Fire Department opened up and he applied for and got the job.

“What I like most about my job is the fact that every day is different and there are always new challenges,” he says. “My education at JMU certainly helped prepare me to think strategically.”

When Butters and Bowman met **John Caussin** at a local fire chief meeting, they quickly discovered their JMU connection. Unlike Butters and Bowman, Caussin never considered a public safety career until after working on a JMU class project that involved interviewing the captain of the Harrisonburg Fire Department.

After graduation, Caussin worked in retail, managing several part-time employees whose full-time careers had been in fire service. “It was the combination of the two – working on that project and hearing stories from the employees I managed – that sparked my interest.” Caussin worked his way up through the ranks and is now assistant fire chief for Fairfax County’s Fire and Rescue Department.

Caussin says his Madison Experience helped prepare him for his career. “Through my classes and daily interaction with others, I learned how important effective communication and effective working relationships are in achieving team goals in your professional life. These core values help me on a daily basis.” **M**



1980 classmates and assistant fire chiefs in the Northern Virginia area Brett Bowman, Tim Butters and John Caussin at the Sept. 11, 2001, memorial outside of the Pentagon.



Michael Damiano ('82) remains in Selinsgrove and continue to serve investors throughout the area. "I joined Edward Jones because I believe in the firm's commitment to individual investors, and I respect its partnership management structure," he says. * **Michelle Lorenz-Driscoll** is an elementary school teacher in Houston. Last summer, she won a travel grant to work with a school community in Tanzania. Check out her blog at www.michelleandjenny.blogspot.com.

84 Betsy Blose ('91M) is the women's basketball coach for the University of North Carolina-Asheville. She played hoops for JMU from 1980 to 1984 and began her coaching career at JMU in 1987. Her Bulldogs faced the Dukes during the JMU Invitational in December.

85 Charles Haley was a finalist for the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2010. Haley

panies LLP. He is one of only 34 individuals chosen from more than 40,000 associates across the globe to join the firm's 316 principals. Damiano will remain in Selinsgrove and continue to serve investors throughout the area. "I joined Edward Jones because I believe in the firm's commitment to individual investors, and I respect its partnership management structure," he says. * **Michelle Lorenz-Driscoll** is an elementary school teacher in Houston. Last summer, she won a travel grant to work with a school community in Tanzania. Check out her blog at www.michelleandjenny.blogspot.com.

remains the only player in NFL history to win five Super Bowl championships, winning two with San Francisco and three with Dallas. This was his sixth year of eligibility for the Pro Football Hall of Fame, but his first as a finalist. Haley played with the Dukes in the 1982 to 1985 seasons and still holds the school record for career tackles (506). Haley spent 12 seasons in the NFL.

86 Chris Hickey served as a War College fellow at the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth in 2006. The Army colonel is the base commander for the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach in Ansbach, Germany. * **Will Croxton** and fellow 1986 alumni are coordinating a 25-year reunion of several JMU bands. **DT and the Shakes, The Rational Herdsmen and The Undecided** all released records 25 years ago. This summer, the original members will join other JMU bands for a 25th-anniversary concert at the Cardinal Point Vineyard in Afton, Va., on Saturday, June 26. The vineyard is owned by **Tim Gorman**.

87 John M. Trumbo accepted a position as senior writer at RADIUS. The corporate travel management company is a network of 90 member agencies in more than 80 countries and provides multinational travel solutions for corporations around the world. Trumbo has worked as a marketing, communication and advertising copywriter and creative director since graduating from JMU.

88 Scott Patchan of Haymarket, Va., has written dozens of articles for *Civil War Magazine* and other periodicals. He is a contributing writer and historical consultant for the *Time Life Series Voices of the Civil War* and for the Kernstown Battlefield Association. He is a frequent lecturer on many aspects of Civil War history and is often requested as a battlefield tour guide. He is the author of *Shenandoah Summer: The 1864 Valley Campaign* and has a forthcoming book on the *Battle of Third Winchester*. * **Patricia O'Such Sheehan** was promoted to director of forensic auditing at General Services Administration,

Office of Inspector General in Washington, D.C. The office spearheads the OIG's anti-fraud efforts through proactive prevention, early detection and timely investigation of fraud related to GAS operations. Sheehan works with fellow alums **Megan Wallace ('04)** and **Sara Capalbo ('04)** as well as summer intern and current Duke **Natalie Granito ('13)**.

91 Eric Baylor ('07Ed.S.) is principal of East Rockingham High School. The new school, just west of Elkton, Va., opens this year. Baylor previously taught social studies and served as the football coach at Spotswood High School from 1991 to 2007. * **Kendra Johnson** was promoted to associate professor of theater in Clemson University's performing arts department. She teaches a variety of theater classes, designs costumes and researches African-American hair techniques. Read more on Page 22. * **Heidi Story** owns a designer clothing store in Richmond's Carytown neighborhood. She sells other designers' clothing but has also created original pieces to sell. Story also holds fashion shows in Richmond and teaches sewing classes at her store. Read more on Page 65.

92 John C. Cornell accepted a position at College of Coastal Georgia in Brunswick, Ga., as director of marketing and public relations. Cornell was previously employed at the State of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources as creative services manager. * **Joy Satterfield Deevy** is the No. 1 real estate agent in the Old Town office of Coldwell Banker Residential in Alexandria for homes sold during the last three years. Her husband, **Tom ('91)**, has worked as an analyst for 11 years at Airline Reporting Corp. They met at a JMU football Duke Club event.

93 Amanda Brown is a dentist and owner of the Herbert Dental Group in Leesburg. She has been practicing for 10 years and is an advisory board member of the Center for Ethical Solutions, a group dedicated to innovative solutions to health-care policy. The center is based in Lovettesville, Va. * **Robert R. Hodges Jr.** writes, "I published

American Civil War Railroad Tactics with Osprey Publishing in August 2009. I have written several other books but have yet to find publishers. I am currently working on a novel while continuing to do further historical research." * **Michael O'Mara** was selected as a 2009 Pennsylvania "Lawyer on the Fast Track" by *The Legal Intelligencer*, a Philadelphia-based daily legal newspaper published by Incisive Media. O'Mara is an attorney with Stradley Ronon. The *magna cum laude* JMU alum was one of 30 Pennsylvania attorneys recognized as future leaders of the state's legal community based on their development of the law, commitment to the community and service to the bar.



Michael O'Mara ('98)

94 Nathan Lyon is in the third season of *A Lyon in the Kitchen*, broadcast on Discovery Health and FitTV. Beginning in May, Lyon will be featured in four-minute cooking segments on Master Gardener Joe Lamp'l's new PBS gardening show *Growing a Greener World*. Lyon's four-minute segments will instruct viewers on how to grow a specific food and then how to prepare it in the kitchen. A nationally recognized garden expert, Lamp'l says he wants to "empower Americans to get back to basics, to grow their own food." A JMU health science major, Lyon earned his Culinary Arts degree from Le Cordon Bleu. Learn more about the chef at www.chefnathanlyon.com.

95 Shauna R. Miller Brown wrote *Power for Purpose: Your Guide to Getting Grants* for novice grant seekers who want more information about creating nonprofit organizations, identifying grants and managing grants. Her book is available at Amazon.com.

96 Denise Henry Orndorff writes, "I am a part-time instructional technology resource teacher in the morning, and then I teach technology in the afternoon

MADISON FOR KEEPS THANKS

Dear JMU alumni and donors to the Madison for Keeps program:

To everyone at James Madison University involved with Madison For Keeps — I learned that you awarded me a scholarship, and I want to thank you so much! It just lifted a huge weight off my shoulders. This has kept me at JMU, and I will forever be grateful. I hear that more than 3,000 alumni gave to Madison for Keeps. Thank you all.

Courtney Smith ('11)

* Watch a video thank you from Courtney Smith ('11) at www.jmu.edu/madison4keeps/

Quite a 'Story' of reinvention

From Barbie doll couture to the top of the fashion world

BY SANDE SNEAD ('82)

If you are doing business the same way you were last year, you will not still be in business this year." Such simple, but sage advice comes from small business owner **Heidi Story ('91)**, who took a page out of Madonna's playbook and reinvented herself in the last year.

With high-dollar rents in the trendy Carytown shopping district in Richmond and a recession bearing down, Story revamped the business plan for her namesake store. First, she scaled back the size of her designer boutique, moving from a 2,800-square-foot space to a 1,000-square-foot space. Next, she let all of her employees go except one intern. Then, she branched out from the two components of her store — retail and sewing classes — and added custom design work and alterations. The result: A business model that is working and flourishing in tough economic times.

"I am so glad I got a business degree at JMU," says the business and marketing major, who graduated with honors and paid her own way through college. "I would probably not still be in business today if I did not have that background."

Story (and yes, Heidi Story is her given name) is an "artiste" at heart. She began sewing when she was 10 or 11 with her mother and grandmother's guidance. As a "Molly Ringwaldesque dorky kind of girl," she was the most popular babysitter in town, making Barbie doll clothes for the children in her charge.

After college, Story faced her first recession and couldn't find work. She used the down time to get her portfolio together and got herself into the prestigious Parsons School of Design.

"I didn't know a soul in New York, so I slept on the floor of a completely empty apartment of a friend of a friend's," Story says. "I didn't have one stick of furniture. It was so New York and everything you think of when you think of a starving artist in New York."

And yet, she stayed — for 11 years.

"All kinds of crazy things happen in New York," Story remembers. "I volunteered once at the Council of Fashion Designer Awards, and my job was to greet all the famous people. I met Sigourney Weaver, Fran Drescher, Hugh Grant, John Stamos, Matt

LeBlanc and numerous models. Well, PETA members snuck in, and they were throwing red paint on all these celebrities' fur coats. Everyone was screaming and down on the floor thinking there was a bomb threat or something. That was my glamorous night in New York, and then I had to go back to my ghetto apartment."

While living in New York, Story designed a line of bridesmaid dresses which outfitted a number of her JMU friends' weddings, including **Kathrine Lawrence Calderazzi ('92)**.

"I was looking for something simple and classic for my bridesmaids, which when I got married in 1997, didn't exist," Calderazzi says. "But Heidi had a variety of styles for me to choose from, and I ended up with a floor-length sleeveless sheath with empire waists in midnight blue. She had everyone take many, many measurements, but they were just what I was looking for. They were amazing, and they fit everybody so well."

But the glamour of New York began to wear thin.

"I had my own little 350-square-foot space out of my apartment in Brooklyn and was doing design and production of a line of bridal gowns, but yet I was still poor," Story says. "And being poor in New York is not like being poor anywhere else. I was so poor I couldn't even afford the 'or.' I was po'."

So she "sold out."

Story became a pharmaceutical rep for Merck & Co. and started making and saving money for the first time in her life. But after six years in sales, her aunt died of ovarian cancer and it served as a wake-up call.

"I thought, 'I need to get back to what I love.'"

And four and a half years later, Story is still doing what she loves. Her spring sewing classes are sold out. She has a custom-made charmeuse and silk chiffon dress in the works for an opera singer, and she has a basket of alteration work waiting. Her loyal retail customers know she carries hard-to-find designers — like Ella Moss, Susana Monaco and ellembée. Story is adamant about getting the right fit for her clients, so she alters the clothes she sells for free. Oh, and she's writing a sewing book for kids. Quite a Story. **■**

* Learn more at www.heidistory.com/



Heidi Story ('91) sells designer fashions and teaches sewing techniques in her boutique in the trendy Carytown shopping district in Richmond.

Honec makes the call

JMU grad takes the plate as pro baseball umpire BY DAVID DRIVER

The High Desert Mavericks and San Jose Giants, two minor league baseball teams that had already played a 140-game regular season, earned a spot in the Class A California League championship series in 2009. **Tom Honec ('05, '07M)** also was rewarded with a berth in the title series, though the JMU grad was not a player, coach or athletics trainer.

Honec, from Manassas, Va., was an umpire last season in the California League and was one of four umps selected to work the finals. By total coincidence San Jose won the title with a shortstop named Brian Bockock, a Harrisonburg native and the son of former JMU infielder **Tom Bockock ('82)**.

"It is a good reward," Honec says. "The thing about the finals — you have worked 140 games, and at the end they select umpires to work it. It's an honor to work those championship games. It is much cooler to see the development of the players and your colleagues from that first series, back in April, to game 140.

"It is really more of a treat," adds Honec, who was joined on the finals crew by Spencer Flynn, Nathan Thompson and Tim Eastman. "You get to spend time with co-workers. I would say each of them is a close friend of mine."

Honec, who earned his M.B.A. from JMU in 2007, has made a rapid rise as a professional baseball umpire. He started umpiring baseball games around the age of 12 in Brentsville Youth Baseball, a league that his mother helped to run in Northern Virginia. He eventually umpired in the Rockingham County Baseball League and the Shenandoah Valley League while attending JMU.

He attended the Jim Evans Baseball Academy of Professional Umpiring in 2007 and did his first season of pro ball that year in the rookie Gulf Coast and Appalachian leagues. He moved up to the full-season low Class A Midwest League in 2008 and was promoted to the high Class A California League last season. Honec begins the 2010 season in the Class AA Eastern League, which includes teams in Richmond and Bowie, Md.

Flynn says Honec has a strong field presence as an umpire. "You can't walk all over him, that is for sure," says Flynn, who has

been a pro ump since 2006. "He knows why he is out there. He is out there to get better. He is working on something every day. After the game we talk for at least half an hour on how we could have done things better."

Eastman adds, "Tom works hard and wants to get everything right." Eastman worked with Honec in the Gulf Coast League in 2007. "Tom strives for excellence. He never takes a play off. He has a dry sense of humor. He is cool, calm and collected" as a home plate umpire.

During the 2009 season Honec worked a 21-inning game that lasted more than seven hours and called games that featured Major League veterans Manny Ramirez and Vladimir Guerrero, who were working themselves back into shape in the minors. Honec and Flynn drove about 23,000 miles to and from games. During regular-season games at the Class A level there are two umpires for each game, while the Cal League uses four for the championship series. That is the same number used for every regular-season game in the Major Leagues.

"There are two or three [other umps] out there and 50 to 55 team personnel on the field," Honec says. "They ride in packs. They don't travel individually like we do. There is a lot of emotion out on the field, and you have to look beyond that and guide the game and have control of the game. When people are in slumps, reactions can be overdone. You have to be on your toes and think calmly and quickly and act decisively. That is a tough aspect of the game. You

have to be that consistent model out there for the entire game."

Does Honec have a goal for himself as an umpire? "I don't think you can set a goal at a certain level," he says. "You have to set the goal of development. Once that development slows, is that the level? Is that goal the Major Leagues? I don't know. I have never worked in the Major Leagues. It is not a job where you can say I want to be the CEO of the company. You want to practice excellence at every level you are at. Wherever that takes me will help me develop as a person." ■



"You're out!" Tom Honec ('05, '07M) works home plate during a game in the Class A California League during the 2009 season. Honec was one of four umpires chosen to work the California League championship series last season.

to students in kindergarten through second grade at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Strasburg, Va. I just earned my master's in curriculum and instruction in computer education from the University of Phoenix." * **R. Bernie Pritchard** was selected to participate in Leadership South Carolina for 2009–10. Leadership South Carolina selects 50 leaders throughout the state to participate in a yearlong statewide development program. Pritchard is vice president-South Carolina for Lee Hecht Harrison, a global talent management solutions company with more than 240 offices worldwide providing expertise in career transition, leadership consulting and workforce solutions.

98 **Lisa A. Kilday** owns an intellectual property law and consulting firm in Washington, D.C., that specializes in the preparation of patent applications and registration of trademarks and copyrights. The firm's Web site is www.PatentProtocol.com. In her free time she is active in multisport and triathlon events. In 2009, she went the distance at Quelle Challenge Roth, her Ironman debut in Bavaria, Germany. * **Gary L. Riddle** writes, "I greatly enjoyed another season of JMU football, and I'm pleased that my wife, **Alonsa** ('99), and son, Grant, had the opportunity to join me this season. Go Dukes!" * **Steve Trout** is producer of the HBO series *Hard Knocks*. The show chronicles an NFL team during its training camp.



Future Duke Grant Riddle, 6, meets Duke Dog at the JMU vs. Towson game on Nov. 21.

99 **Laura Doudera Dobbs** began a professional portrait photography business in Virginia Beach. * **Amy McMillan Sharpe** was promoted to vice president at Weber Shandwick. She leads an advocacy and community influencer program for the U.S. Army account.

00 **Lynn Hobeck Bates** of Sarasota, Fla., was selected as a team member for the 2009 Rotary International Group Study Exchange Program to Madhya Pradesh, India. She represented Southwest Florida during the exchange, and for four weeks she studied public relations and tourism in India. Her group stayed with host families, honed their public speaking skills, visited museums and cultural heritage sites, and vaccinated underprivileged children against polio. * **Doug Eldridge** completed his pledge to race in 10 marathons this year to raise money and awareness for the Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit charity helping severely wounded American soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Eldridge selected 10 race locations across the country, including two races in the nation's capital. Eldridge is returning to Washington, D.C., to focus on the financial goal of \$100,000 to help wounded warriors — most of whom spend time recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Eldridge says, "The ultimate objective is to raise awareness, funding and reform." Learn more at www.woundedwarriorproject.org/. * **Michael Meadows** is a member of Taylor Swift's tour band. In addition to the group's regular 2009 tour schedule, he appeared on stage at *The Tonight Show* and at the Academy of Country Music Awards show with Swift. A music industry major, Meadows plays guitar, mandolin, cello, banjo, dobro and harmonica.

* **Courtney Long Prince** earned a Ph.D. in curriculum instruction at the University of Virginia Curry School of Education in May 2009. * **Michelle E. Waldron**, a latent print examiner with the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Laboratory Division in Springfield, Mo., was promoted to criminalist II in May 2009. She earned a master's in forensic science from the University of New Haven in 2005.

Waldron was certified as a fellow in comprehensive criminalistics through the American Board of Criminalistics in October 2008. She co-authored the fifth edition of *The Criminal Justice System: An Introduction* in 2009.

01 **George Fox** was listed in the Hampton Roads business journal *Inside Business* in the October 2009 issue's "Top 40 Under 40." Fox is director of leasing for Wheeler Interests in Virginia Beach.

02 **Carly Hassinger** and **Mark P. Zook** ('99) are both Fairfax County special education teachers. The couple met while Hassinger was student-teaching at Zook's school in 2002. They began to spend more time together, including many dates to JMU football games. While many things have changed, they still talk about their favorite Madison memories: Roop Hall, Dr. Alsop, Dr. Herr, Dr. Lynn, Dr. Stantos and the Minskoffs. Hassinger and Zook will marry on July 24. * **Evonne Johnson** received a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award for Individual Predoctoral Fellows via the National Cancer Institute. Johnson, who majored in biology at JMU, is a microbiology Ph.D. student at the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

03 **Meghan Baillargeon** Ely's company OFD Consulting, a marketing/PR firm for wedding professionals, recently undertook management of the Richmond Bridal Association. Ely is also a regular contributor of *Virginia Bride Magazine* and has been published in *Premier Bride Magazine*.



Meghan Baillargeon Ely ('03)

04 **Cory Weathers** was promoted to senior systems engineer LDP at Lockheed Martin in Orlando, Fla.



Sgt. Randy Dovel ('05) served in Anbar Province in Iraq as part of a troop surge in 2007.

05 **Andrew Boryan** earned an M.D. from Jefferson Medical College in June 2009. After a one-year medical internship at Reading Hospital, Reading, Pa., he will do a three-year anesthesiology residency at the University of Virginia. * **Army Staff Sgt. Linsey W. Clarke** was one of two Special Forces soldiers awarded the Silver Star — the third-highest combat medal — for repeatedly risking their lives to help their unit after it was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns and roadside bombs in Khordi, a village in southern Afghanistan, in February 2009. The Special Forces junior medic accepted the medal in a ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C., on Dec. 16. Read more about Clarke at www.jmu.edu/bethechange/operation-purple-pride.shtml. * **Randy S. Dovel** volunteered and deployed to Iraq as part of a surge in 2007. He served as an infantry sergeant in Anbar Province. * **Lauren Kopcha** began running marathons with JMU friends in the D.C.-Metro area after graduation. "JMU 26.2" is their motto, and they have completed several marathons including, 2006 Miami, 2007 Marine Corps, 2008 San Diego, 2008 Austin and 2009 Chicago. * **Jonathan Matthews**, a third-year student at Pepperdine University School of Law, was named International Champion at the Foreign Direct Investment Moot Competition in Frankfurt, Germany on Oct. 24, 2009. He and teammate Aaron Echols competed



Staff Sgt. Linsey Clarke ('05) was awarded the Silver Star.



Go Dukes! JMU friends and marathoners after the Chicago Marathon on Oct. 11, 2009, are (l-r) Jamie Hill ('05), Erin Powers ('04, '05M), Kathleen Landy ('05), Rob Ranieri ('06), Lauren Kopcha ('05) and Tricia Giaccone ('06).

against 19 international teams, including five American schools: Georgetown University, Hamline University, Florida International University and NYU Law School.

06 Cailin Carlton and Travis Miller met in Sports Psychology class during the last semester of their senior year. They began dating just before Carlton left for Kazakhstan to serve in the Peace Corps. The couple will marry on May 8. *** Kari Deputy King** earned the Certified Wedding Specialist certification for wedding planning. She is currently working at the National Defense Industrial Association as an event

planner. She will also manage wedding planning for Brian King Productions, which serves the Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., areas. Learn more about King at www.bkthetdj.com.

07 Kinesiology alumnus David Gesualdi says that he hates "missing countless JMU football games." He works as a physical education and health teacher at the American School of Asunción in the capital city of Asunción, Paraguay. He established and directed the school's first soccer camp featuring professional soccer players, and he created a Habitat for Humanity of Asunción partnership

with his students. *** George Riggs** is a financial industry regulatory authority registered securities representative. In January he was named manager of The McLean Group's new Miami office. The new office focuses on providing business owners and stakeholders with merger and acquisition services. Riggs earned his degree in political science. *** Lola Sizemore** is assistant art director at Garrand Marketing and Advertising in Portland, Maine. She writes, "A fellow JMU alum helped me decide to go into the creative advertising industry while I was at JMU. I try as much as I can to pay it forward. I love talking with alumni about getting into the advertising industry. JMU provided a good foundation for me, and I hope that students take advantage of available opportunities while they are there."

08 Rebecca Dixon had a two-day winning streak on *Jeopardy!* She won more than \$50,000 on the game show. The *summa cum laude* oboe performance major earned the Myra Doherty Scholarship at JMU. She played English horn, studied Russian, tutored music history, was a



Jeopardy! champ Rebecca Dixon ('08).

chorister and won first place in the 2008 academic writing competition.

09 Mary Elizabeth Baskerville of McLean is serving in the Peace Corps. She teaches

English to students ages 7 to 16 in Azerbaijan and works with native English language teachers and local community members. Baskerville earned her bachelor's degree in political science and speech communication with a focus in public communication. During the first three months of her two-year Peace Corps service she lived with a host family. More than 256 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in Azerbaijan since the program was established in 2003. *** Thomas Martin Bluestein** is pursuing a Juris Doctor at Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, N.H. *** Brian Hurst**, a media arts and design major from Springfield, Va., met President Barack Obama at a town hall meet-

EMERITINOTES

Professor emeritus of political science and law **Paul Cline** lives in Venice, Fla., and enjoys making JMU connections there. He writes, "I have coffee every morning with the father of a JMU alumna who has had a career in the foreign aid field in Haiti and Africa." Cline also shares with JMU magazine staff members when he finds Florida newspaper clippings featuring career and award news about JMU alumni.

Jim Crable, professor emeritus of art and art history, was selected to participate in an exhibit by the Center for Fine Art Photography in Fort Collins, Colo. The exhibit, *Motion*, was juried by the chief photography editor for *National Geographic*.

Jim Crable with his Census Series, which explored American artistic expression.



Retired English professor **Karen Evans** received the 2009 Provost's Award for Excellence in Honors Teaching. Although she officially retired in 2005, the dedicated English professor has never left the classroom. She continues to teach honors seminars, courses in the JMU Department of English and women's studies courses in the Department of Cross Disciplinary Studies. Evans, who also received the Distinguished Faculty Service Award from the Honors program in 2008, first joined the JMU faculty in 1983 and began teaching in the honors program in 1987. In addition to her current teaching responsibilities, Evans is completing a book of poetry and developing a novel based on her Cherokee heritage.

Dave Hanson, professor emeritus of psychology, and his wife, Helen Hanson, moved closer to their extended families in 1997 after retiring from JMU. Dave writes, "We wanted to be nearer a large city and an airport, and we settled in Chadds Ford, near Philadelphia, for 11 years. We thoroughly enjoyed all the cultural features of a megalopolis. In 2008 we moved to State College, Pa., to be nearer one of our daughters, who works at Penn State University. Now we are engaged in all sorts of activities here in State College. The town was selected last year as the No. 1 environment to live in (No. 2 this year behind Ithaca). We both sing in a local choir, enjoy gardening, play bridge and do lots of reading. It is great living in a university town again. It's also good getting news about JMU." For 19 years, Dave was managing editor of the *School Psychology Review*, a professional journal produced in Harrisonburg using a local typesetter and Banta. Helen was the supervising teacher of the nursery class at Anthony Seeger School. The couple moved to Harrisonburg in 1971, and Dave served as department head of psychology for five years. "I'm the one who recruited and hired Douglas T. Brown, your provost and a Phi Beta Kappan, in 1973."

ing at Northern Virginia Community College on July 1, 2009. Hurst is a former intern with the JMU Marketing Office. * **Nicholas Kale** was accepted as a resident athlete for archery at the U.S. Olympic training center in Chula Vista, Calif. The former president of the JMU archery club will train

for the 2012 Olympic games in London. * **Rodney Landers**, former JMU quarterback, is playing for the Richmond Revolution in the Indoor Football League's 2010 season. Richmond, an expansion team, joined the 22-member league this year and played its first game in March.



Brian Hurst ('09) meets U.S. President Barack Obama.



Cameron Nickels is writing a new book: *Civil War Humor*.

Cameron Nickels, professor emeritus of English and American studies, is delving into new projects since his retirement in 2005. Last August he delivered a paper and led discussion during the International Mark Twain Conference. The conference held every four years in Elmira, N.Y. Nickels' paper explored the connection among Mark Twain; Polk Miller, a Richmond, Va., druggist; and a white minstrel performer. In 2005, Nickels published an essay in *A Companion to Mark Twain*. Later this year, the University Press of Mississippi will publish Nickels' new book *Civil War Humor*.

The JMU Emeriti Association officers include Nancy O'Hare (president) and Rex Fuller (vice president). Phil Riley is secretary, and Joe Hollis is treasurer. Committee chairs include, Mary Lou Wylie (activities), Margaret Horn (programs) and Elizabeth Ihle (special events). To get involved in the association, visit www.jmu.edu/emeriti.

* All former JMU professors are encouraged to contribute a magazine "Emeriti Note" at madisonmag@jmu.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weddings

1960s Judith Traynham

('63) to Dale Ramey, 6/27/09

1980s Debbie Murray ('84)

to Brad Young, 5/16/09 * Rick C. Taplin ('88) to Nan Flanagan, 10/2/09

1990s Kimberly Mawyer

Goldbert ('90) to George Robert Kelly, 7/4/09 * William

Greenhalgh ('93) to Carrie

Loding, 11/7/09 * David R.

Villarreal ('94) to Gina Garcia, 7/18/09 * Kristine Hinck

('96) to Jeremy Mills, 9/19/09

* James F. Scancell Jr. ('97)

to Jennifer Wixted, 8/15/09 * Christy L. Stone ('98) to Sterrett Townsend Bell, 5/23/09

* Adrienne M. Hannan ('99)

to Adon Ko, 11/7/09 * Kevin

Morley ('99) to Katie Kanara, 7/10/09

2000s Michael A. Kahl

('00) to Devon Noonan, 8/1/09

* Sundari K. Parekh ('00) to Nick Antinarella, 3/21/09 * Kate Spencer ('00) to John De Pitman III, 10/24/09

* Cathrin Shepley ('01) to Matt Walls, 4/25/09 * Katie Berkon ('02) to Brian Losurdo, 9/18/09 * Kelly Grennan ('02) to Rip Smith, 7/2/09

* Kimberly Johnson ('02)

to Cuadua P. Terry ('99), 7/11/09 * Meghan Baillargeon ('03) to Travis Ely, 11/7/09 * Melissa Farrell ('03) to Jeffrey Null, 10/17/09 * Scott Zabelski ('03) to Dana Spancake, 10/2/09 * Christopher Melanson ('04) to Nancy O'Brien ('03) on 10/31/09 * Erin Pitts ('04) to Jonathan Joyce ('05), 5/17/09 * Katharine Russo ('04) to Jason Burkert, 10/23/09 * Lauren Seplow

('04) to Jonathan Liles ('04), 9/5/09 * Erin Ward ('04)

to Christopher Hall ('03), 10/25/09 * Sarah Barnes ('05) to Chris Orem, 6/27/09

* Peder Brakke ('05) to Macy Ann Zwanzig, 12/31/09 * Alexis Coppa ('05) to Keith Francis, 8/23/09 * Danielle Cuteri ('05) to J.L. Avery ('00), 10/25/08 * Leigh Karpinski ('05) to Taylor Merten, 6/27/09 * Summer Marilise ('05) to Stephen Hockman ('05), 7/11/09 * Beth D. Peterman ('05) to Mario Palarca ('05), 4/17/10 * Allison Roderrick ('05) to Jason Gordon, 9/20/09 * Jessica Conroy ('06) to Jacob Waagner ('06), 7/25/09 * Heather Stewart ('06) to Michael Walsh, 11/21/09 * Kendall Szafarski ('06) to Jeffrey Wills, 9/19/09 * Adrienne Williams ('06) to Troy Harwell ('06), 8/15/09 * Dan Zarchin ('06) to Amanda King ('06), 7/3/09 * Kasey Hicks ('07) to David Brent Collier ('07), 9/20/08 * Mariana Kershteyn ('07) to Christopher J. Shelley ('07), 8/22/09 * Lauren Leopold ('07) to Andy Osborn ('07), 7/11/09 * Kaitlin McPherson ('07) to Thomas Roten ('08), 12/14/08 * Christine M. Mui ('07) to David A. Perry ('07), 11/21/09 * Amberly Bowling ('08) to Jason Cooper ('06), 8/30/09 * Lauren Brice ('08) to Matt Gilkeson ('07), 10/16/09 * Allie Decker ('08) to Keith Speers ('08), 7/18/09 * Joanna Michelle Segura ('08) to Ryan Morris Baird, 11/20/09 * Brett Batten ('09) to Nathaniel Baker ('07), 1/9/10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FutureDukes

1980s Kara Ramsey Sensenig ('89, '91M) and David ('89), a daughter, Isabel Grace, 9/5/09

1990s Mary Booth Ratana-ruka ('90) and Jan, twin sons, Mason and Jason, 12/25/08 * Joy Satterfield Deevy ('92) and Thomas ('91), a son, John Thomas, 5/21/09 * Jean Maddrea Cusmano ('93) and Vinnie, a son, Nicholas Paul, 8/24/09 * Ali R. Kutner Holmes ('93) and Trey, a son, Samuel Albion, 9/29/09 * Kimberly Balsbaugh Ritter ('94) and Billy, a daughter, Brooke Elizabeth, 6/30/09 * Kerri Cash White ('94) and Irvin, a son, Stuart Gregory, 10/8/09 * Tara Broce Borchers ('95) and Todd ('94), a son, Owen Reid, 6/25/09 * Holly Ciocco Jeffreys ('95) and Michael, a son, Matthew Fletcher, 7/8/09 * Jamie Johnson ('95) and Louise, a son, James Avery, 11/9/09 * Eric J. Longo ('95) and Katie, a daughter, Anna Katherine, 7/7/09 * Brian McEntire ('95) and Vanessa, a son, Declan Thomas, 8/6/09 * Marcy Glick Palm ('95) and David, a son, Jacob Wallace, 12/7/09 * Chris Wilkes ('95) and Kristen, a daughter, Jenna Catherine, 1/23/09 * Stacy Bergert ('96) and David ('96), a son, Corbin Gaius, 10/28/09 * Doug W. Davis Jr. ('96) and Jill, a son, Connor David, 7/16/08 * Kristina Corzine Martinez ('96) and Arturo, a daughter, Alexa Katherine, 5/23/09 * Alexandra Henderson Erickson ('97) and Paul ('97), a daugh-

ter, Katalina Lee, 10/7/09 * Jacqueline Cook Hedblom ('97) and Troy, a son, Burke Boswell, 7/10/09 * Kimberly Copeland Mislock ('97) and Steve, a daughter, Charlotte Kathryn, 5/23/09 * Stacy L Nielsen ('97) and Jaro Turek, a daughter, Lynn Turek, 11/6/09 * Janelle Mudge Petti ('97) and Stephen ('98), a son, Stephen Ryan, 3/12/09 * Amy Edwards Cox ('98, '00M) and Keith ('98), a daughter, Maren Elaine, 3/19/09 * Abbigale Bricker Fredrick ('98) and Jason ('97), a daughter, Olivia Jane, 7/2/09 * Kathryn McCauley Garing ('98) and Matt ('98), a daughter, Emma Kathryn, 9/8/09 * Laura Revak Gonzalez ('98) and William ('97), a daughter, Grace Victoria, 8/21/09 * Alicia Bryan Motyka ('98) and Shawn ('98), a daughter, Madelyn Paige, 12/31/08 * Julie Greer Sleight ('98) and Ryan, a daughter, Madelyn Grace, 12/1/08 * Lauren Risolo Del Giorno ('99) and Robert, a son, Ryan Alexander, 3/30/09 * Meghan Brannning Frye ('99) and Mark, a daughter, Harper, 8/27/09 * Andrea Weinberg Hayken ('99) and Greg, a daughter, Gianna Katherine, 7/27/09 * Sean M. McCarthy ('99) and Kelly, a son, Brendan Patrick, 9/6/09 * Amy McMillan Sharpe ('99) and Jeremy, a daughter, Addison Elizabeth, 5/27/09 * Christine Dahlquist Schwarz ('99) and J.R. ('99), a daughter, Amelia Grace, 8/20/09 * Umesh Vemuri ('99) and Amanda, a daughter, Jasmine Kamoji, 8/6/09

2000s Chrysalinn LeDoux Archie ('00) and Ulysses, a son, Ennis Nehemiah, 12/20/09 * Jennifer Sacra Blackwell ('00) and Scott, a daughter, Rosalyn Grace, 10/15/09 * Erica M. Bukva ('00) and Taz Ahmed, a son, Cullen Maddox, 9/2/09 * Kasey Savage Farris ('00) and John, a son, Ryan Walter, 7/27/09 * Sara Perilla Garvey ('00) and Chris ('00), a daughter, Campbell Alexa, 7/28/09 * Jennifer L. Bishop Gorrie ('00) and David ('00), a daughter, Adalyn Rose, 3/31/09 * Alison P. McCrary Koontz ('00) and Joe, twins, Virginia Eileen and John McCrary, 7/11/09 * Jacklyn Terletsky Luber ('00) and Marc ('98), a son, Zachary Benjamin, 4/29/09 * Korinne Graeb Panchura ('00) and Kurtis, a son, Chase Kurtis, 7/30/09 * Kathryn Scott Rexrode ('00) and David ('01), a daughter, Abigail Margaret, 10/26/09 * Kelly Ryan Richardson ('00) and Patrick ('99), a daughter, Wendy Laurel, 7/6/09 * Jennifer Hall Roberts ('00) and Rodney ('99), a daughter, Reese Elizabeth, 9/28/09 * Stacey Vogel Barry ('01) and Kevin ('01), a son, Patrick Joseph, 4/9/09 * Meredith McRoberts Cooper ('01) and Christopher, a son, Jackson Thomas, 7/3/09 * Carla Schmidt Davenport ('01) and Robert ('02), a son, Mark Edwin, 4/29/09 * Michelle Kady Gay ('01) and Chip ('01), a daughter, Sarah Huntley, 11/20/09 * Anne Shelburne Maust ('01) and Jason ('01), a son, Nathaniel

Alexander * Virginia Swearingen Paspalas ('01) and Philip ('01), a son, Philip George III, 6/3/09 * Laura Hunt Trull ('01) and Dan, a son, Dylan James, 7/3/09 * Catherine Aday ('02) and Scott, a daughter, Elizabeth Ruth, 6/2/09 * Lisa Clark Citro ('02) and Michael ('02, '06M), a daughter, Campbell Elizabeth, 8/14/09 * Amy Ziegenfuss Kowalsky ('02) and Jeffrey ('01), a daughter, Katie Marie, 6/25/09 * Jennifer Sikorski Sharma ('02) and Dan, a son, Colin Joseph, 8/13/09 * Rebecca Snaider Timm ('02) and Ryan ('02), a son, Alexander Ryan, 10/1/09 * Scott Moffett ('03) and Sheila, a daughter, Elisabeth Thérèse, 12/2/09 * Adrienne Lawrence Oliveros ('03) and Paul ('02), twin daughters, Camilla Margaret and Caroline Elizabeth, 5/27/09 * Hilary Smith ('03) and Alan ('03), a daughter, Morgan Lee, 9/16/09 * Ann Pratt Walters ('03) and Daniel, a daughter, Emmaline Grace, 10/8/09 * Kathryn Chaffin Hendricksen ('04) and Michael ('03), a daughter, Meredith Anne, 6/15/09 * Jennifer Zorn ('04) and Timothy Polley, a son, Matthew Jay, 9/2/09 * Jennifer Fields Cox ('05, '06M) and James ('05), a daughter, Madison Paige, 9/5/09 * Jaime Marion ('05) and Joshua West, a daughter, Kaylee Jean, 6/29/09 * Rachel Zauner Bishop ('06) and Steven, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, 6/29/09 * Samantha McQuaig Siffring ('07) and Stuart, a son, Reid Carsten, 9/22/09

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Memoriam

DOROTHY MOORE BROYLES ('40) of Culpeper, 9/6/09
 LOIS OLIVER CRABTREE ('42) of Ceres, Va., 8/1/09
 RUTH BARNES STANLEY ('48) of Winter Park, Fla., 5/26/09
 JANE L. RASH ('49) of LaCrosse, Va., 9/1/09
 JEAN ANN WALTON HARMAN ('51) of Richmond, 8/20/09
 JULIAN BELL ('56) of White Stone, Va., 1/29/10
 FERN JENNINGS FRUTCHEY ('56) of Reston, Va., 12/29/09
 MARTHA CHILDRESS QUINN HILLMAN ('59) of Dungannon, Va., 2/19/10
 NORA FOUKE DURHAM ('61) of Winston Salem, N.C., 8/22/09
 MARCIA SLACUM GREENE ('74) of Washington, D.C., 1/4/10
 KATHERINE E. OUTTEN ('75) of Norfolk, 5/20/09
 GARY EMANUELE FONTANA ('77) of Manassas, 11/11/09
 ELEANOR F. PARSLow, ('78M) of Parnassus, Va., 1/23/10
 JOHNNY C. WHEELER, ('78) of Buena Vista, Va., 6/17/07
 TREVOR DERE TURNER, ('84M) of Front Royal, Va., 2/24/10
 JENNIFER BEHM BROCK, ('90) of Baltimore, Md., 3/14/10
 BRIAN HAMRICK ('99) of Clewiston, Fla., 4/24/09
 JABARI H. OUTTZ ('00) of Upper Marlboro, Md., 10/31/09
 TERIKA D. GROOMS, ('04) of Henrico, Va., 11/25/09

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Graduation dilemma: How to be in two places at once

BY KATIE HUDSON ('10)

During last spring's commencement ceremonies, Pam Eddy ('73) and her family had to be in two places at once. The Eddy's twin daughters graduated from JMU and Radford University on the same day.

Pam Eddy's initial reaction was shock and disbelief. Knowing neither school would change a graduation day, the Eddys had to decide which family members would attend which graduation ceremonies. Raechel Eddy ('09) was graduating from JMU with a degree in psychology, and Laura Eddy was graduating from Radford University with a degree in education.

The twins' father, Allan, and brother, James, decided to travel to Radford, while Pam chose to come back to her alma mater to watch Raechel graduate. Eddy says her daughters were extremely upset that they would miss sharing each other's graduation day. "They made us promise to take lots of pictures and video," says Pam.

"Laura and I are extremely close. She's my best friend," adds Raechel. "Even though we went to different schools, we still talked every day."

When May 9, 2009, rolled around, the weather changed the Eddys' luck. JMU moved its departmental ceremonies up an hour because of the threat of afternoon storms. Radford's main ceremony was canceled because it stormed earlier that morning. "It had to be some sort of fate for the weather to make things work the way they did," says Raechel.

Immediately following the JMU ceremony, Pam and Raechel got onto I-81 and attempted to make Laura's three o'clock ceremony. They stopped at Laura's apartment to pick up James and made it to the ceremony at four o'clock. Luckily, Laura's group was among the last to get their diplomas. Everyone watched Laura graduate, and a feeling of relief poured over the family. "I was afraid that I would regret missing out on things that went on in Harrisonburg, but Laura is my twin," Raechel says. "I knew she'd be there for me, too. I'm glad that I was able to make it there for her."

After two graduations in different parts of state, the Eddys' day concluded with a dinner with the entire family in attendance. Thanks to the weather, Pam says, "There were two proud parents and two happy college graduates seated at the table."



Raechel ('09) and Laura Eddy got to share same-day JMU and Radford graduation moments, thanks to the weather. (Inset): The Eddy family (l-r) are Curtis, Raechel ('09), James, Laura, Allan and Pam Eddy ('73).

Submit your **Madison** class note

The magazine staff welcomes news for class notes and notes from former faculty members. Please submit news of personal and career achievements online at www.jmu.edu/alumni/classnote or use this form and mail news to:
Class Notes, *Madison*, James Madison University, 220 University Blvd., MSC 3610, JMU, Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Full Name (include maiden) _____
Class Year _____ College/Major _____
Home Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
E-mail Address _____ Home Phone _____
Employer _____ Job Title _____
Spouse Name (include maiden) _____ JMU Class Year _____
News _____

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

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'I have devoted my professional life helping to empower students to fulfill their dreams and to attain the goal of a college degree. It is my passion!'

– DIANE STRAWBRIDGE ('80, '02M)
director of student retention for the JMU Centennial Scholars Program

A passion for students

Diane Strawbridge ('80, '02M) began her Madison Experience as an undergraduate. Today she is director of student retention for the JMU Centennial Scholars Program and has been a part of the Harrisonburg community for 35 years. During those years, she has dedicated herself to mentoring JMU students from underrepresented backgrounds. A special challenge came her way when she became the director of the university's Centennial Scholars Program. The program offers financial help, academic encouragement and campus involvement for promising freshmen and transfer students from underrepresented populations. In addition, graduate students in the program provide mentorship, leadership and encouragement. She attributes her interest in helping students to lessons learned during her undergraduate studies in psychology. And she says the master's degree she earned at Madison prepared her for leadership, problem solving and critical thinking, which are vital components in her current position. Strawbridge's caring assistance has made a difference in the lives of students and prepared them for the opportunity to Be the Change in their own lives.

Diane Strawbridge ('80, '02M) has a passion for helping students attain their dream of a college degree. She enjoys serving more than 200 students in JMU's Centennial Scholars Program, which was founded in 2004 to add diversity to the campus and to change the world one student at a time.

BE *the* CHANGE