

Madison

THE MAGAZINE OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

*The Forbes Center for the
Performing Arts educates future
artists, welcomes audiences
and builds community*



THE CURTAIN IS RAISED



INSIDE:
Seeing Differently: The Institute for Visual Studies asks, what if Da Vinci had a Flip video? **PAGE 24**
JMU Alumni Board member Scott Rogers ('00, '02M) smoothes the way for meal helpers to really help. **PAGE 22**

PLUS:
A *Breeze* keepsake poster to savor the brightest spot of the Dukes' 2010 football season. Get 2011 season tickets now!

2010 HOME COMING PHOTO



TUBA PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHY LAM; WILSON BY SARAH DAVIS ('13); DUKE DOG AND FOOTBALL BY DAN GORIN ('11)



Homecoming reflections

The Marching Royal Dukes, Purple Out on the Quad, Mr. and Ms. Madison, CMSS 25th anniversary, reunions, tailgates and tours of the Forbes Center. If you missed Homecoming 2010 – where were you? This year's Homecoming included a couple of firsts: the faculty/staff/community door decorating contest and a tailgate wedding! Congratulations Sarah Headley ('96) and Fred Boyd, who got married. Stay tuned to next issue for a story about the pair.



Though the University of New Hampshire Wildcats topped the Dukes 28-14, the JMU Nation's spirit was not defeated. Dukes packed Bridgeforth Stadium and tailgate spots all over campus. The Marching Royal Dukes wowed the fans.

* Read the official 2010 Homecoming blog by Jacquelyn Walsh ('09) at www.jmu.edu/homecoming/blog.shtml

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BY CHRIS EDWARDS AND JAMIE MARSH

Showtime! The \$90.5 million Forbes Center for the Performing Arts is the premier destination for cultural arts in the Shenandoah Valley. The College of Visual and Performing Arts now has a magnificent home to match Madison professors' and students' 100-year dedication to the arts. On Page 24, Chris Edwards shows how the college's Institute for Visual Studies is helping students "see differently" and be innovative and creative. Edwards also shares several theater alumni's "Adieu to Theatre II" on Page 28. Jamie Marsh captures the excitement of the Forbes Center grand opening on Page 31.

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BY MARTHA BELL GRAHAM

With the help of numerous volunteers, JMU connections and community organizations, Lisa Shull ('85, '91M) has created the perfect environment for children to "learn by doing and develop by creative play." The former elementary school teacher created the Explore More Discovery Museum, an innovative learning and play space serving thousands of area children.

▶▶ 25K / Football Program Insert

Dukes in the JMU Nation never want to be bad sports, but the football team's Sept. 11 win over Virginia Tech was special cause for celebration. Check out the enclosed poster featuring *The Breeze* Sept. 13 front page and more details on the team. Have you purchased your 2011 season tickets? Help make the JMU Nation 25K strong.



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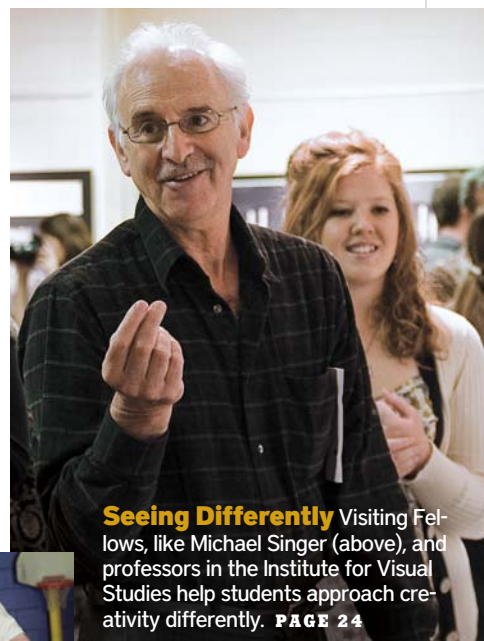
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Seeing Differently Visiting Fellows, like Michael Singer (above), and professors in the Institute for Visual Studies help students approach creativity differently. **PAGE 24**



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Adieu Theatre II

No Frost 17 players return to campus to say farewell to Theatre II/Wampler and to see the new home for JMU arts.

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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:

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ALSO:

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Madison is an official publication of James Madison University and is produced quarterly for alumni, parents of JMU students, faculty and staff members, and friends of the university. It is produced by the Division of University Advancement. Editorial and advertising offices: JMU, 220 University Blvd., MSC 3610, Harrisonburg, VA 22807.

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Your letters and magazine feedback

TALOFA FROM AMERICAN SAMOA!

"Talofa!" Greetings from the beautiful island of American Samoa. My name is Katherine Smith, and I graduated in May 2010 with a B.A. in history and a minor in international humanities. After graduation, I decided I wanted to try and "Be the Change" by becoming a high-school English teacher in American Samoa — a U.S. territory that goes largely forgotten. Today in my rural village, I was reading the latest *Madison* magazine online. I decided to e-mail and see if you had any interest in a story from a recent grad about her first-year teaching experience in American Samoa? Thanks so much and Go Dukes!

KATHERINE SMITH ('10)
Online from American Samoa

EDITOR'S NOTE: Readers, stay tuned to a future issue to read more about Katherine's first-year teaching experience.

SHARING THE MADISON EXPERIENCE

I've been receiving *Madison* for years but never felt compelled to comment on it until now. The fall 2010 issue is exceptional. Reading from the back, as I typically do, I scanned the marriage and birth announcements for familiar names; and then things got more interesting: profiles of students and professors; eye-catching design and typography; content that manages to be engaging, honest and diverse without being overwhelming or busy. I don't know if you intended this, but part of what this magazine does is reveal the community of students, professors and alums; and then nurtures it. This continues online, where you invite engagement and stories of shared experiences. I work in marketing in Charlottesville, Va., and my team works with very similar goals: community, engagement, interest. As a professional I can say, this is very well done. As an alumnus (1995 history), I'm proud to be associated with both JMU and this publication.

SETH WOOD ('95)
Charlottesville, Va.

PURPLE AND GOLD PARENT

I'm a parent of a 2007 JMU alumna, Ashley Eden Schaefer. I received my copy of *Madison* and read it cover to cover. Absolutely wonderful. So uplifting! Go Dukes.

BOB SCHAEFER ('07P)
Virginia Beach, Va.



Read any issue of *Madison* online at www.jmu.edu/MadisonOnline.

QUALITY TIME

Let me thank you again for sending me a print version of *Madison*. If a paid subscription ever becomes the only way to get a hard copy, I'll gladly sign up. I enjoyed a lovely 90 minutes of quality time with the magazine this evening, sitting on a blanket outside while my daughter was at soccer practice. I plan to visit old college pals in

Harrisonburg this weekend, so the timing was perfect to catch up with JMU news. Thanks for your continued efforts in creating a stellar publication.

IRENE GAMMON ('90)
Charlotte, N.C.

PROUD ALUMNA AND JMU GRANDMA

I just spent two hours reading *Madison* magazine. So far, I'm only halfway through, and it's wonderful! Each issue gets better and better. I'm also proud to have my granddaughter, Katie Lee Ryder ('14), at JMU as a freshman. Always proud of JMU even though I graduated 56 years ago.

JACKIE KING RYDER ('54)
Saint Simons Island, Ga.

DIGITAL DISPLEASURE

Please allow me to voice my displeasure with the online format of *Madison* magazine. It is uncomfortable to read, the pages are slow to turn and it is never handy. For the most part, the online format means the magazine goes unread in our house. I am sure the staff works hard on the university publication, but unless you send it out as a print magazine, it will be a waste of your efforts. Proud JMU parent of Gwendolyn Ross Garrett ('12).

JENNIFER E. STILLE ('12P)
Lynchburg, Va.

MORE ONLINE FORMAT FEEDBACK

Is it possible to get a print edition of the *Madison*? It is difficult to read online. As big a fan as I am of JMU (where my son Lucas is a senior), I am not willing to take the time to tackle this online. Nor do I want to print out 91 pages. I am the vice president of communications for a foundation, so I identify with a desire to “be green.” However, you may be jeopardizing your readership if this is strictly offered online.

SALLY HARTMAN ('10P)
Norfolk, Va.

✦ **EDITOR'S NOTE:** Mrs. Hartman, your copy is on the way. Readers: request a print copy at madisonmag@jmu.edu and stay tuned for more e-*Madison* updates.

THANK YOU ADMISSIONS

Dear Sarah Nilsen and the JMU Admissions team: I received the copy of the fall 2009 *Madison* that you sent me. Thank you for mailing me this wonder-

ful edition. The university magazine is a reflection of the greatness I sense about JMU. The magazine was so informative and interesting on many levels. My whole family read it, and it increased our excitement over the prospect of my attending JMU. My first choice for college is James Madison, and my parents are 100 percent behind my decision. We have neighbors and family friends who have graduated from JMU. They are intelligent, social and active people, and they embody the passion of the school. These alumni truly loved their experience and are always eager to talk about it. JMU offers everything I am looking for in both education and an equally important college experience. I would love the opportunity to be a Student Ambassador and know JMU will be a place for me to grow.

TOM CAMPBELL ('14)
freshman

✦ **EDITOR'S NOTE:** Tom: Congratulations on becoming a Duke!

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.

MADISON FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

You've never seen the arts like this!



Come see the arts soar at JMU

Put a trip to the Forbes Center on your “must see” list next time you are back in the 'Burg. Plan your visit, get your tickets, read about JMU arts in the news and check out the events calendar at:

www.jmu.edu/JMUarts

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

{Guest Editor's Note}

A lifelong Madison love affair

As *Madison* was ready to go to press, JMU learned of the death of an exceptional alumna, Inez Graybeal Roop ('35). This former English and history major died peacefully last month at age 97. It is as though an era has passed at Madison, as Inez's life has been so inextricably interwoven with that of JMU's.

“During a long life spanning most of the 20th century, Inez Roop lived through enormous changes,” said her *Richmond Times-Dispatch* obituary. “Most important to her personally was the expansion of tiny Harrisonburg State Teachers College into the not-so-tiny James Madison University.”

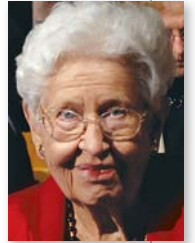
She was the JMU Board of Visitors member who made the motion to change the name of Madison College to James Madison University in 1977. She stood beside Gov. Mills Godwin and JMU President Ronald E. Carrier in Richmond when the governor signed the declaration changing the name.

All five JMU presidents have counted Inez among their friends. She served on the JMU Alumni Association Board of Directors, as Alumni Fund Drive chair, Richmond Alumni Chapter creator and president, and as a Blue-stone Society officer. She, and her husband, Ralph ('05H), who died in 2006, gave numerous gifts and scholarships to JMU. She was a charter member of (and suggested) the Madison Founders Society — the group of individuals who have included JMU in their estate plans. In 1994, Roop Hall was named in her honor. In 1977, Inez received JMU's Distinguished Alumni Service Award, which was renamed in her honor in 2003.

I first met Inez as a high-school senior, when she and Ralph hosted a “Meet the Prospective Student” reception in their Richmond home. Inez loved and believed in JMU. She enjoyed JMU basketball and celebrated our 2004 football national championship and the recent victory over Virginia Tech (Ralph's alma mater). I remember how proudly she represented her class in JMU's 2008 Centennial Celebration procession. I last saw Inez in April, when she was at JMU celebrating her 75th class reunion with style.

We all will miss her Be the Change spirit. She made JMU part of her entire life. Who will take up the torch?

— STEVE SMITH ('71, '75M), *associate vice president, JMU Constituent Relations*



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George Sparks is dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, which includes the JMU School of Art and Art History, School of Music, School of Theatre and Dance, the Institute for Visual Studies, and the Madison Art Collection. While his artistic roots are in the realm of music — as a professional conductor and clarinet player — Sparks considers himself an enthusiastic advocate for all the arts at JMU and beyond. In this issue he writes a Special Report about setting a stage for the arts to soar at JMU. (See Page 17)



Paula Polglase ('92, '96M) is a writer in the JMU Office of Public Affairs covering the JMU Graduate School, student affairs and the College of Business. She joined the staff this year but has previously worked in the JMU Offices of Residence Life, Student Activities and Involvement, and Annual Giving. She has volunteered for 15 years as adviser of Sigma Kappa sorority and has served four years on the board of the Explore More Discovery Museum. She is married to Geoff Polglase ('85), JMU's deputy director of athletics. Her news stories in this issue begin on Page 8.

Mike Carpenter ('97) and **Alyssa Gerlando** ('07M)

helped create this issue's *25K Strong / JMU Football Insert* (Page 48). Carpenter has served JMU athletics for 10 years. He is assistant athletics director for ticketing and customer service. He spends his spare time in the mountains playing and working on trails and other advocacy projects with the Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition. Gerlando is director of athletics marketing and has been at JMU since 2004. She is responsible for the department's advertising and promotional efforts, including football and men's and women's basketball. She is also an adjunct professor of sport and recreation management and the faculty adviser for Phi Epsilon Kappa, a professional coed fraternity. Under Gerlando's leadership, the JMU Department of Athletics Marketing has won several National Association of Collegiate Marketing awards including the 2009–10 bronze award for "single day attendance promotion."



Tyler McAvoy ('12) is an intern in the JMU Communication Office and writes for the Be the Change program and *Madison*. The English major is a *Breeze* staff writer and wants to pursue a career in print or Web journalism with a focus on editing. He plans to attend graduate school and hopes to one day write and review internationally, and maybe even write a book or two. In this issue he writes about history professor Howard Gelfand (Page 20) and the Legacy Picnic (Page 51).

Pat Jarrett is a photographer based in Staunton, Va. For this issue, he photographed the Explore More Discovery Museum (Page 36) and history professor Howard Gelfand (Page 20). Jarrett is currently working on his first gallery show in addition to his daily work at the Staunton *News Leader*. His work has also been published by the National Public Radio website, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Nation* and *The Christian Science Monitor*. He has appeared on *The Daily Show With Jon Stewart*. Jarrett is president and founder of the Beard and Moustache Society of the Blue Ridge.



☛ The *Madison* staff offers a special "thank you" to **The Breeze** staff for the poster side of the *25K Strong / JMU Football Insert*. (See Page 48)

SPARKS PHOTOGRAPH BY DIANE ELLIOTT ('00); CARPENTER ('97) AND GERLANDO ('07M) BY CATHY KUSHNER ('87); POLGLASE ('92, '96M) BY KATHY LAM; McAVOY ('12) BY DAN GORIN ('11)

The chemistry of student success

Self-examination, proactive support and professors who challenge

At JMU, we are always looking in the mirror. A continuous process of self-examination informs our desire to become ever better at what we do — educate students. We owe this kind of ongoing attentiveness to our mission, to our students, our employees, our donors, the taxpayers of Virginia and, quite frankly, to intellectual integrity. We don't take a step without it.

When we broke ground this fall on our future bioscience building, for instance, we had already asked soul-searching questions to get us to this stage. What is the future of biology? Where will the pioneering activity in the life sciences be centered? What will our future biology majors need to know when they graduate? How do professors need to array themselves in a biosciences headquarters in order to teach them, mentor their research and conduct their own research? What equipment will they need? How will they collaborate? On what scientific topics of investigation? The level of examination led by College of Science and Mathematics Dean David Brakke, and professors Judy Dilts and Mark Gabriele and involving the entire biosciences faculty, prepares Madison to educate the students who will occupy the building when it opens in 2012.

It is in the nature of our JMU faculty to investigate deeply. Our professors continuously challenge themselves, and their students, and our undergraduates rise to the occasion with an impressive student retention rate. Freshmen who entered JMU in 2004, the most recent student cohort for whom we have complete data, took an average 4.12 years to graduate, while 82.4 percent of students who were freshmen in 2004 graduated in six years. A similar 82 percent graduation rate among freshmen who entered JMU in 2002 ranks JMU 11th nationally along with three other institutions, putting us in the 94th percentile among the other 193 universities of similar size and scope.

The reason JMU maintains such a remarkable retention and graduation rate is twofold. First, the same formidable faculty minds that continuously challenge and raise our academic standards are just as dedicated to student success. Our professors tell us they enjoy teaching undergraduates and guiding their development into mature adults and scholars. Our students have compassionate Ph.D. mentors who deliver intellectual challenge.

Augmenting the work of our faculty is JMU's proven program of Student Success, resources increasingly sought out early by students in their academic careers to hone efficient intellectual habits and seek new skills that will serve them as the demands of their



JMU President Linwood H. Rose says the university's Student Success program is lauded among higher education administrators as a "national model."

'A continuous process of self examination informs our desire to become even better at what we do — educate students.'

programs of study progress and evolve. Our Student Success program is the best of the best. The work that Associate Vice President Randy Mitchell is leading, which begins with freshman Orientation, is regarded across higher education as a national model.

The program establishes a tone of support and sends a message that success — rather than a weeding out of those who can't cut it — defines the Madison Experience. Our students *can* cut it. Our admissions data prove that we have bright and capable students.

Even so, some students do leave for a variety of reasons. Our mutual investment is not lost, however, as those who earn four-year degrees elsewhere increase the graduation rate of the JMU freshman Class of 2004 to 92 percent.

The academy was once regarded as an aristocracy only the most intellectually elite were welcome to join and from which they were then vigorously culled. Today, however, Madison is at the forefront of grasping that it takes a successfully educated citizenry to make informed decisions and address the world's problems.

Those twin, some might say contradictory, pillars of student success and academic rigor highlight the complexity of a developing mind. Both success and high standards together — and decidedly not one without the other — will enable society to create a bright future.

To further ensure that we serve our students well, JMU undertakes a six-year reaccreditation process through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools every 10 years. An in-depth self-study, to be followed by a SACS review, is under way. It involves every unit on campus and measures us against our very reason for being — student learning. A new component has been added to this all-consuming process. After thorough vetting, we will select a theme for a Quality Enhancement Program capable of galvanizing the entire JMU community and directly benefiting student learning. The process of input and selection has begun, under the leadership of Associate Provost Lee Sternberger, to determine what topic will further transform us in our ongoing quest to educate students. You will hear more about this QEP in the spring, as our process of self-examination continues.

LINWOOD H. ROSE
President
James Madison University

Keep current and connected



[Renovating Wayland]

Transformed by the arts

Renovated Wayland Hall will be a unique learning community

By PAULA POLGLASE ('92, '96M) AND LISL MAGBOO ('12)

Imagine entering your residence hall and being greeted by a gallery of art-studded walls. Visualize yourself watching a practice dance rehearsal or catching the faint murmur of a saxophone streaming through the air. Beginning in fall 2011, the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts will not be the only place to witness and hear such talent. Next year, students can expect this and more in Wayland Hall.

The residence hall will house JMU's newest learning community, which features a unique collaboration between the Office of Residence Life and the College of Visual and Performing Arts. The redesign is focused on creating a living and learning center for students interested in the arts.

The project also exemplifies JMU's commitment to strive for sustainability. Wayland Hall is undergoing a redesign with an environmentally conscious approach. Construction is focused on achieving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design platinum certification, the highest LEED certification status. The renovation is the first building on campus to attempt LEED platinum status.

According to Maggie Evans, director of the Office of Residence Life, the renovation includes plans for new performance, exhibition, practice and classroom spaces. The multipurpose space on the ground floor will offer impeccable acoustics, retractable stadium seating and traces of bluestone interior walls. "Instead of parking, there will be a series of gardens, seating and bike paths that will provide a relaxing

outdoor space for students to sit and read or talk," adds Evans.

Wayland Hall will offer a very arts-active community, allowing students to gather for group rehearsals, meet for class, or view and critique hallmates' performances all in the comforts of "home."

"It is comforting for students to begin their college experience in a community where they can express their passion for the arts right off the bat," says George Sparks, dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Wayland's new learning community will be the first of its kind at JMU. The community will cater to the multiple CVPA disciplines, including theater, dance, music, art and art history.

Facilitating the development of a broader, holistic appreciation of art, the learning community will expose students to a wider range of skills and talents separate from their fields of concentration.

"I am excited that all the arts will be interconnected in one living community," says Sparks. Students choosing this learning community will

take one common class together taught in their hall. Sparks is excited about the potential of teaching a cross-theory class to this diverse group of students that will include excursions and lectures from visiting faculty.

Although future composers, performers, art educators and artists will be naturally drawn to this learning community, Wayland Hall is envisioned to be a "melting pot" of students. The learning community will welcome freshmen from any major with an interest and passion for the arts.

While the learning community will consist of roughly 15 to 60 freshmen during the first year, Evans said the option of incorporating upperclass students will be considered as the program grows. ■

* Read more about the project at www.jmu.edu/jmuweb/general/news/general11283.shtml.

Artists renderings show a LEED-platinum-status renovated Wayland Hall with arts performance, exhibition, classroom and living spaces.



Students will be able to critique each others' performances and practice in the renovated Wayland Hall.

[Greater Madison]

Greater Madison scholarships

Community organization helps local students

Greater Madison awarded six local high-school seniors with \$2,000 scholarships for the 2010–11 academic year. The community organization chose one winner from each area high school in addition to two at-large recipients.

Scholarships were offered to Drake Cary (Harrisonburg High School), Shvan Kareem (Harrisonburg High School), Amy Leeth (Turner Ashby High School), Elizabeth Reut (Spotswood High School), Shana Sherman (Broadway High School) and Rachel Smith (Broadway High School). The Greater Madison scholarship committee selected the recipients based on academic achievement and commitment to community involvement. “We saw so many terrific applicants who were actively involved in the community. We’re thrilled to help out local kids who are committed to their communities,” says Greater Madison president James R. Sipe Jr.

Greater Madison was established in 1971 to advance a mutually beneficial relationship between JMU and the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County community.



JMU officials honored Greater Madison Scholarship winners like Drake Cary and Rachel Smith at their high schools.



[Engaging Education]

Fuzzy friends and Emmy nods

Alumna leads cast of characters to make children’s education engaging

BY SARA RIDDLE ('10)

Christina Delfico ('87) had two dreams growing up: to live in New York City and to work in television or film. During a trip to New York as a child, she remembers looking out from the back seat of the car at the thousands of people on the sidewalks of 42nd Street. “I literally looked at each person and made a secret promise that I would see them later when I grew up and moved to New York,” she says.

Following graduation, Delfico packed her belongings, said her farewells to Northern Virginia, and headed toward the Big Apple. “I figured if the TV thing didn’t work out I would at least be in one of the greatest cities in the world,” she says.

Fortunately for her, both dreams came true.

Now at work in the city of her dreams, Delfico doesn’t spend her days in a conference room or behind a desk. Instead, she takes part in music recording sessions with Elmo and friends.

Delfico is vice president and producer for Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind *Sesame Street*. She is responsible for producing television specials, live concerts and community outreach initiatives with both domestic and international reach. She “conducts an orchestra of people who come together to create a show from the story concept to final delivery,” she says. Delfico is the driving force behind several primetime family specials including, Emmy-nominated *When Families Grieve*, and *Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change* and *Families Stand Together: Feeling Secure in Tough Times*.

Delfico credits her double major in communication arts and psychology as a “tremendous asset” for her career. Her communication arts skills help her find story angles, write scripts, and learn the basics of camera work, editing and music. Psychology knowledge helps her lead a multitude of personalities, including artists, musicians, accountants and network executives.



Christina Delfico ('87) spends her days as vice president of Sesame Workshop surrounded by fuzzy friends who help her educate children on a variety of topics.

Delfico has worked with many media stars like Katie Couric, Queen Latifah, John Mayer, Al Roker, Cuba Gooding Jr. and Vanessa Williams.

Originally, Delfico came to JMU to study biology.

Her love for watching shows featuring the late oceanographer Jacques Cousteau aided her decision. However, a class on testing the behavior of rats as they learned to navigate through a maze for food soon changed her

mind. “I thought to myself, ‘I don’t actually have to be a scientist to learn about the world,’” she says. “When I was deciding what to be, my main fascination with Jacques Cousteau was that he was always exploring. Now, every day, I am exploring.”

Delfico returned to campus to give the keynote address at the School of Media Arts and Design’s spring conference. She shared her experiences working with Cuba Gooding Jr. on the set of *When Parents Are Deployed*, a show on the importance of communication when parents who serve in the military are away for long periods of time. “He really understood what we were trying to do and mentioned that even though he is not getting shot at when he is doing a movie, he really feels the distance from his family,” she says.

This primetime special and Delfico’s work with Katie Couric on *When Families Grieve* both earned Emmy nominations. “It is a real honor when your industry peers vote for your work,” she says. **MI**
* Learn more at www.sesameworkshop.org/newsandevent.

‘When I was deciding what to be, my main fascination with Jacques Cousteau was that he was always exploring. Now, every day, I am exploring.’

— CHRISTINA DELFICO ('87)

[Hall of Fame]

Virginia Sports Hall of Fame honors Ronald Carrier

President emeritus named "Star of Commonwealth"

By MICHELLE HITE ('88)



Friends of the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, JMU administrators and educators across the commonwealth gathered at the Hall of Fame in April to honor JMU President Emeritus Ronald E. Carrier at the dedication of the "Stars of the Commonwealth." Athletes born, bred and educated in Virginia, and who have gone on to some of the most memorable and storied careers in American sports are represented on the second floor of the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame recognized Carrier for his dedication to academics and athletics while serving as president of JMU (1971–1998) and for his leadership in education.

David Tynch, hall of fame chair, said, "Ron Carrier has

The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame honored JMU President Emeritus Ronald E. Carrier for his dedication to student-athletes and university athletics during his tenure as president of JMU.



been a mainstay in Virginia education for many years. He provided quality leadership for 31 years and was dedicated to building JMU into one of the top universities both in Virginia and the nation."

Under Carrier's administration, the JMU athletics program grew and added a football team and Bridgforth Stadium. The university itself changed from a 4,000-student, predominantly female teachers college to a major comprehensive university with 14,000 students. The school changed its name from Madison College to James Madison University in 1977. The size of the campus was enlarged by more than 100 acres and the campus spread to the east side of Interstate 81. ¶

* Read more about Ronald Carrier at www.jmu.edu/madisononline/Carrier.shtml.

'He provided quality leadership for 31 years and was dedicated to building JMU into one of the top universities both in Virginia and the nation.'

— DAVID TYNCH, *hall of fame chair*

[Graduate Programs]

First M.P.A.s conferred in Roanoke program

JMU's Master of Public Administration Program at the Roanoke Higher Education Center graduated its first cohort in August. The inaugural class began studies in 2008. The M.P.A. program at the Roanoke Higher Education Center operates as a sequenced group, with students taking two courses per semester and finishing in slightly less than two years. The schedule allows students to form professional relationships that will benefit their careers.

"Going through the entire program with a core group of individuals really helps you develop an appreciation for varied backgrounds and skill sets. I now have a group of friends whom I can call on for professional advice on policy issues," says James Lyon ('10), a budget analyst for Roanoke County.

RHEC Director Gary Kirk says, "Roanoke is underserved in terms of higher education opportunities. There are no master's-level public institutions there, and JMU saw this as an opportunity. The program really fits with the M.P.A.'s focus on serving local communities and the region." ¶

* Learn more at www.jmu.edu/mpa/roanoke.shtml.

'The program really fits with the M.P.A.'s focus on serving local communities and the region.'

— GARY KIRK, *RHEC director*

By *the* numbers

No.1

JMU remains among the best. *U.S. News & World Report's 2011 Best Colleges* guidebook ranks JMU the No. 1 public regional university in the South. JMU has held the top spot for 17 years. JMU is also listed in the top universities in the 2011 Princeton Review's *The Best 373 Colleges* edition.

* Learn more at www.jmu.edu/jmuweb/aboutJMU/rankings.shtml.

15 Richmond and D.C.-Metro Dukes know how to get their grub on — 6,378 hotdogs, 4,198 ears of corn, 3,948

pounds of shrimp and 320 bushels of crabs equals 15 years of Crabfest fun. More than 6,000 alumni and family members have attended the annual Crabfest chapter events to



It all adds up to fun! 410 alumni celebrated Richmond Crabfest and 950 chowed down in D.C.

have a good time and raise scholarship money. "We want to thank our many volunteers for these successful events," says Ashley Privott, director of JMU alumni relations.

260 March 16, 2011, marks James Madison's 260th birthday. Two

U.S. Navy ships were named *USS James Madison* in honor of the fourth president. The first was a revenue cutter launched in 1807, and the second was a nuclear-powered submarine commissioned in 1964.



\$838,613

The Class of 1960 made a gift of \$838,613 to JMU during its 50th reunion in April, and classmates are still raising funds through December. This is the largest class gift ever made during a Bluestone Reunion Weekend. President Linwood H. Rose accepted the check on behalf of JMU.

JMU Board of Visitors member Judy Strickler ('60) says, "I was so excited for the Class of 1960 to present such a significant class gift to President Rose and JMU."

No.2

Hair-raising statistics? The makers of Schick Hydro razors are closely checking college guys' faces. JMU ranks No. 2 on the "cleanest shaven schools" list in Schick's

first Hydro Hairiest Colleges Study. Rutgers University ranks as the "hairiest" school. Smooth, Dukes.



2011 JMU seniors, the Class of 2011, hail from 46 states and 90 countries. Virginia cities represented the most by seniors are Virginia Beach and Richmond with 147 students each.

Current and former administrators and directors gathered for the 25th anniversary of the Center for Multicultural Student Services during Homecoming Weekend in October.



25 The JMU Center for Multicultural Student Services is 25 years old. Past directors, students and current staff members celebrated the anniversary in October.



Students and staff members join in the 25th CMSS anniversary celebration.

7,000

Ralph Cohen, the JMU Provost Distinguished Professor in the School of Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication, donated nearly 7,000 books to JMU. His collection includes several extremely rare books like a 1613 copy of *Workes of Lucius Annaeus Seneca Both Morall and Naturall*. Cohen also donated a 1734 copy of *Roman History*, one of only three known copies.



Watch a video of Ralph Cohen (inset), JMU Provost Distinguished Professor, talking about his JMU donation with Interim Provost Jerry Benson (above) at www.jmu.edu/jmuweb/general/news/general11314.shtml.

M@disson

[International Focus]**The price of life***Intervarsity members educate students on human trafficking*

BY MARISSA DENNEHY ('11)

Do you think slavery still exists in the world today? If so, how many slaves do you think there are? Intervarsity Christian Fellowship's Justice Team asked these questions and more of JMU students during their "Price of Life" three-day series of events in October.

Now called "human trafficking" by human justice groups, the term is defined as "the use of force, fraud or coercion to detain a human being for the purpose of profit." International human justice organizations estimate that there are between 12.7 and 27 million people in bondage today. Out of that total sum, nearly 20,000 are imported into the United States annually.

Kendra Miller ('12) a social work major and co-leader of Intervarsity's Justice Team,

'We realize many people haven't heard about human/sex trafficking and have misconceptions as to why it exists.'

— KENDRA MILLER ('12)

says, "We realize many people haven't heard about human/sex trafficking and have misconceptions as to why it exists. As Christians we are called to restore peace by not only meeting the physical needs of humans but also the emotional and spiritual needs of people."

Price of Life events included a guest speaker and two outreach projects. Intervarsity Justice Team members hosted a table on The Commons to raise awareness and ask for donations. For each \$10 gift to World Vision students were given a Price of Life T-shirt and information about human trafficking and World Vision outreach. Students could also

pick up a pair of bolt cutters and snap a metal chain link for \$1. The action symbolized the significance of their gift and gave a visual example of their personal involvement in breaking the chains of slavery. Students were encouraged to drop off pocket money into a "Loose change to loosen chains" bucket. When pooled together, the pennies and dimes of a few hundred passing students made a signifi-

cant difference; the organization raised more than \$2,700.

On the third day of Price of Life events, the Intervarsity Justice Team hosted World Vision guest speaker Jesse Eaves, who urged students to take action through advocacy. He told students to ask policymakers to pass laws to bring about change and end human trafficking. "How do you fix a problem this big?" he asked. "By taking action and bring-



JMU Intervarsity members educate fellow students about human trafficking in the Price of Life event in October. (Left): Guest speaker Jesse Eaves of World Vision urged students to take action.

ing issues to the attention of policymakers."

Ryan Dennehy ('12), a kinesiology major and co-leader of the Intervarsity Justice Team, says, "We hope that this event sparks enough interest that people begin to own the issue for themselves. That is how we can start to make some real change."

* Learn more at about human trafficking prevention at www.worldvision.org and JMU's Intervarsity chapter at www.jmuiv.com.

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Information Security M.B.A.

A nationally ranked part-time online program. Class meets virtually online weekly and once per eight weeks in Reston, Va. AACSB accredited, NSA certified



Connections

Get connected

JMU has more than 19,200 Facebook fans, 2,500 Twitter followers, 6,700 LinkedIn members and more than 29,611 YouTube channel views.

JMU Flickr pool

Been back in the 'Burg lately? Check out JMU's Flickr pool. Comment on JMU photos or upload your own. * www.flickr.com/groups/1132487@N22/pool/

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)
- * <http://jmubethechange.wordpress.com/>



4,000 freshmen connect art and science in the Orientation Week *DNA Dance*, choreographed by the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange.

BE *the* CHANGE

Be the Change blog

How are new grads making the change into the real world? How is the JMU Office of Disability Services changing the perception on campus for students with disabilities? How is JMU changing Afghanistan? And the lives of hundreds of people caught in war zones? How is JMU influencing politics? Bringing back the American chestnut tree? What is changing on campus? Keep up with these changes and hundreds more on the Be the Change blogspot and see how Madison's extraordinary brand of change is shaping a bright new future all over the world. Log on and chime in at * <http://jmubethechange.wordpress.com/>

JMU breaks ground for bioscience building

Mark Gabriele, biology professor, explains the benefits of the new bioscience building, which is now under construction and scheduled to open in fall 2012. Check out his video at * www.youtube.com/user/DukeDogTV



Biology professor Mark Gabriele shows off the construction site of the bioscience building.



A world of opportunity

Alumni know there is nothing like seeing the campus in person. Prospective students: Plan your campus visit today. Schedule a trip to coincide with a concert, lecture or athletics match-up by viewing the events calendar online, and sign up for a student-led tour (like Hoffman Hall, left) at * www.jmu.edu/admissions/visit/

Facebook.com/jamesmadisonuniversity



Tell us about your Madison Experience and plug into other JMU conversations. Recent topics have focused on JMU ROTC cadets training on Black Hawk helicopters and Homecoming Purple Out. * facebook.com/jamesmadisonuniversity

Alumni, share your chapter news and learn more about the alumni association. * facebook.com/JMUAlumni

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: Video of JMU 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* for JMU parents: www.jmu.edu/parents/Parent_Communication.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

- * www.wxjm.org: FM 88.7 Student programming, news, talk and music
- * AM 1610: Tune in when you roll in
- * 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: e-mail madisonmag@jmu.edu

SPORTS

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

Madison

[USA Science Festival]

Lego robotics, hydrogen cars, geospatial tech on the D.C. Mall

Students and professors offer hands-on demos

Students and professors from multiple disciplines and programs represented JMU at the first USA Science and Engineering Festival on Oct. 23–24 at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The JMU Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education and Outreach hosted a booth featuring First Lego League robotics. The hands-on exhibit also focused on hydrogen-fueled cars and a display of geospatial technologies. Lt. Col. Nick Swayne (College of Education) and Bob Kolvoord (co-director of the Center for STEM Education and Outreach) staffed the booth along with a number of students: Danielle Tamulis (human resource development), and integrated science and technology students Daniel Attard, Ellis Gore, Daniel Knox, Taylor Moellers, Andrew Spurr and Vincent Zampelli.

“We had the opportunity to interact with many people interested in science and engineering and shared many activities happening at JMU,” says



Students and professors from many disciplines represent JMU at the first USA Science and Engineering Festival on the National Mall. Education professor Nick Swayne (above) and JMU National Science Teacher Student members offer hands-on learning booths.



ISAT professor Bob Kolvoord. JMU science and engineering professors and students also represented a variety of national organizations. Eric Pyle (geology and environmental science) and three students from the JMU National Science Teachers Association

Student Chapter with their adviser David Slykhuis (middle, secondary and math education) led hands-on demos at the National Science Teachers Association exhibit. The students representing the NSTA Student Chapter were Meghan Flynn (earth science

and secondary education), Kaitlyn Gordon (biology and secondary education), and Casey Marshall (earth science and secondary education).

Steven Whitmeyer (geology and environmental science professor) and students Natalie Caro and Sharon Porter demonstrated plate tectonics educational materials at the NSF Earth-Scope booth.

Kristen St. John (geology and environmental science professor) worked with the Consortium for Ocean Leadership Deep Earth Academy, where she guided visitors through activities on the marine geologic record of the end Cretaceous mass extinction.

Costel Constantin (physics and astronomy professor) volunteered with both Nanoscale Informal Science Education Networked/Material Research Society and PBS WG BH/NOVA Making Stuff booths, with the help of JMU physics students Anita Vincent-Johnson, Anthony Chieco, Jimmy Hauver, Chyenne Shafte, Denise McKaig, Alexandra Iuga, Christina Hanks and nursing student Emily Schofield. The students explained properties of carbon nanotubes, nano sands and strengths of nanofabrics to festival visitors. **M**

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The 2010 Madison Association of Clarinetists named a seat in the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts, right next to a seat named by their director and professor, Janice Minor.

Join them in becoming a permanent part of the arts at Madison. Name a seat and help support scholarships for JMU students in the performing arts.

Name a seat today!

LEARN MORE AT:
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JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

[In Memoriam]

Remembering Joan Pierson and John Stewart

Joan K. Pierson, professor emerita of information and decision sciences, died Sept. 16 in Salina, Kan. She served on the JMU faculty for 16 years and returned home to Kansas after retiring. Pierson represented the College of Business on the JMU General Education Committee, which made recommendations regarding the structure and implementation of the general education curriculum. She wrote several books including *Introduction to Business Information Systems* (1989) and *Managing with Computers* (1997). Pierson specialized in information systems curricula development and evaluation and was active nationally and internationally in curriculum development. She received a Fulbright Scholarship to study in the West Indies in 1985–86.



John Gideon Stewart, associate professor emeritus of German, Latin and education, died on Aug. 27. Born in Vienna, Austria, Stewart came to the United States in 1939. He served in the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1945. His and his wife Nancy Branner Stewart ('67, '73M), were members of Greater Madison. Stewart served the faculty in the JMU Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures from 1957 to 1984, teaching mostly German and Latin. After retirement, he continued to teach classes in American Folk Culture in the sociology department. He was one of the founding members and served as president of the Shenandoah Valley Folklore Society. 



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[Fast-track career]

A 'circular' career path

This charged-up Duke takes life one circuit at a time

BY KATIE HUDSON ('10)

While most college students spend their weekends relaxing or studying, Jenna Wagner ('10) pushes herself as fast as she can — literally. Wagner has raced cars professionally for five years. Her passion for motorsports sparked after watching her dad and uncle race. The weekend warrior's passion was certainly nurtured by her family's hometown — Bristol, Va. — with NASCAR short track Bristol Motor Speedway in its backyard.

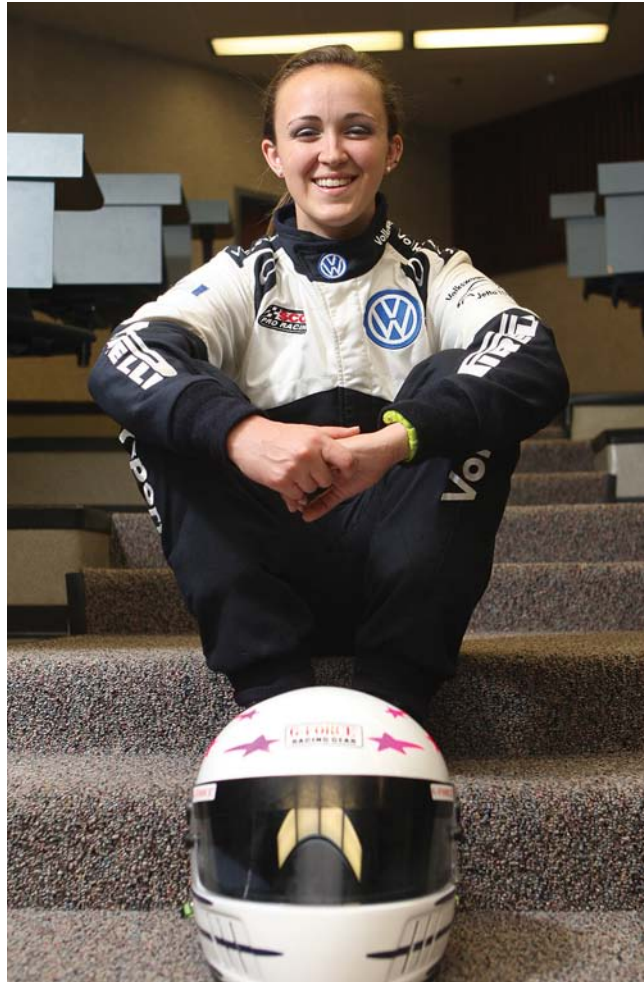
Wagner's father built her first racecar by the time she was 16. At the beginning of her senior year at JMU, she already had more than 40 races under her belt.

"Racing is definitely a family thing," says Wagner. "My family loves to watch me race. My dad takes on the public relations role for my race team, and he's my mechanic and spotter every Saturday. It's nice to have a father and a fan!"

Wagner first competed in a beginners' series — the Lone-some Pine Racing 101 program — in 2005. She began her pro career strapping in for races in the Charger Division — driving a 4-cylinder Pon-

'Respect is a common quality among my opponents, no matter the gender. It's nice to beat the boys, though, especially when you're the only female at the track.'

— JENNA WAGNER ('10)



NASCAR hopeful Jenna Wagner ('10) currently has more than 60 professional races under her belt. She has taken Rookie of the Year honors in two regional racing series and won a coveted spot on the 2010 U.S. team to compete in the Volkswagen Jetta TDI Cup series.

tiac. "I've raced all different types of cars since I started," says Wagner, who is often the only female at any given race-track. "Respect is a common quality among my opponents," she says, "no matter the gender. It's nice to beat the boys, though, especially when you're the only female at the track."

While racing in the MOD-4 Division in 2007 and 2008, Wagner drove Thunderbirds. She's proven her love and mastery of the Charger and MOD-4 divisions by winning the Rookie of the Year title in both series. She took rookie honors in 2008 in the MOD-4 Division and ended up sixth in the point standings. In 2009, she moved into the Charger Division, which features heavier cars with

more powerful engines. She again took rookie honors and ranked third in points. "It's always nice to be honored for hard work," she says.

Hard work also plays a role off the track. It's often up to Wagner to find sponsors for her racecars. "It's all about making contacts," she explains. "I've found so many JMU alums who are willing to support my team." Wagner's JMU friends and classmates often make trips to the track to cheer her on.

During her senior year, Wagner traveled to Las Vegas to try out for the SCCA Pro Racing Volkswagen Jetta TDI Cup. She nabbed a coveted spot to compete in 2010 and spent the summer after graduation competing in races all over the United

States and Mexico. One of her first races in this fairly new division fell on the same day as JMU's 2010 May Commencement. After walking across the stage and tossing her graduation cap in the air, Wagner raced to New Jersey in time for the start of the race. "Racing is kind of a way of life," she laughs and admits she does have one "off track" speeding ticket.

In her first season in the Volkswagen Jetta TDI Cup, which launched in 2008, Wagner finished 24th in points. The series features cars with turbo-charged direct-injection engines. The series was launched as a way to introduce clean diesel technology to the U.S. motorsports market and to develop up-and-coming talent. Drivers between the ages of 16 and 26 compete on road courses around North America in identical factory-prepared clean diesel powered Jetta TDIs. Fans can follow the action at www.vwmotorsportusa.com.

Wagner also competed in the 2010 Charger Division. Her fans can follow her on a website she designed, www.jennawagner.com/. The site features her racing biography, photos and weekly team updates from both racing series.

As an undergraduate, Wagner never let her academics take a backseat. She double majored in media arts and design with a concentration in converged media; and in writing, rhetoric and technical communication with a concentration in online publications. She minored in computer information systems. She also completed internships with the JMU Office of Athletics Photography Services and Immerge Technologies in downtown Harrisonburg. Her future career dreams include freelance Web design and, of course, competing in NASCAR. But, for now, she's taking it "one circuit at a time." **M**

*** Learn more about Jenna Wagner ('10) at www.jennawagner.com.**

Cultivating and nurturing creativity

The Forbes Center sets the stage for the arts to soar at JMU

BY GEORGE SPARKS

Each spring, hundreds of Madison College alumni who graduated from the 1930s to the 1960s travel back to campus to celebrate Bluestone Reunion Weekend. In their formal invitation, these alums are asked to bring back Madison memorabilia to share for a display in the Leeolou Alumni Center.

Their Madison treasures tell a significant story.

The “Bluestone” era women and men bring back ticket stubs from favorite concerts, programs from the best theatrical performances, dried corsages from senior dances, song sheets from Glee Club shows, photos of themselves dressed up for their favorite musical performances and lyric sheets from their senior class song.

The performing arts have always been at the center of the Madison Experience.

For decades, Spring Commencement ceremonies featured the student Glee Club. Music and theatrical performances were a part of Founders Day, May Day, campus celebrations and special events welcoming campus guests.

Now, the performing arts at JMU have a magnificent home that matches the commitment shown by students and professors for 100 years.

Now is the time for the arts to soar at JMU

In 2005, President Linwood H. Rose announced JMU’s “Decade of the Arts.” Five years later, we have built a \$90.5 million Forbes Center for the Performing Arts. His powerful statement was followed by a true commitment.

The Forbes Center opened its doors on June 4, 2010, to dedicate the center and to recognize major donors. The two buildings that comprise the Forbes Center are the first part of a strategic initiative to build a world-class stage for the arts at JMU. The center includes the Dorothy Thomasson Estes Center for Theatre and Dance and the Shirley Hanson Roberts Center for Music Performance. The next infrastructure investment in the arts is a planned renovation to double the space in Duke Hall. This will provide more space for the School of Art and Art History. When Duke Hall is completed, JMU will be among the elite universities in the United States with state-of-the-art arts facilities.

As the premier destination for arts in the Shenandoah Valley, the Forbes Center gives the university a unique opportunity to



(Left): Donors, patrons and alumni tour the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts prior to its opening on June 4. (Below, l-r): Patrice Jegou (soprano), Cristina Pato (piano) and Phil Vassar ('85) (songwriter) teach masterclasses in the new classroom spaces in the Forbes Center.



strengthen its relationships with local businesses, enhance the cultural life of the community, and support economic growth and social interaction in the region. Located near Harrisonburg’s Arts and Cultural District, the Forbes Center is in a prime position to transform how university and community members engage in the arts.

When conceptualizing and planning the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts, university administrators and faculty members focused on four key concepts: curriculum, creativity, community and commerce.

The arts curriculum

The Forbes Center boldly affirms JMU's longstanding commitment to the arts as an essential component of a liberal arts curriculum. During the institution's first year, faculty members embraced the arts. Lida P. Cleveland established the Glee Club in 1909–10, and students presented their first major concert on Arbor Day 1910.

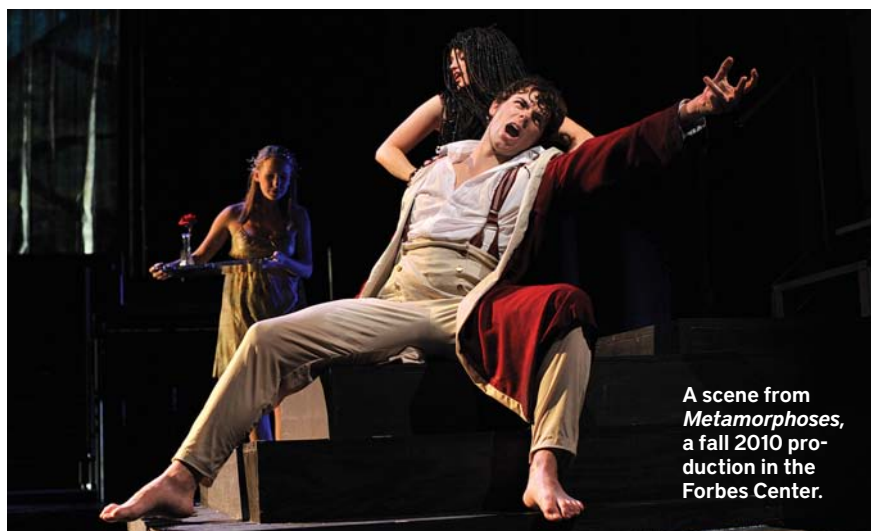
During the last several decades, JMU's theater, dance and music students have pushed the envelope of possibility in less-than-ideal performance venues. Performance is an integral part of the arts curriculum. In fact, performances serve as capstone events in an artist's academic life. Their performances represent and reflect hundreds of hours of research, planning, critical analysis and practice. They are one of the most important tests during performing artists' academic careers.

And now we have state-of-the-art facilities for both practice and performance that allow artists to push the envelope even further in both quality and complexity in their art. Our professors, directors and choreographers have the latest lighting and sound technology, and our conductors and musicians work in almost perfect acoustical conditions.

Sparking and nurturing creativity

"Human creativity is the ultimate economic resource," and "the industries of the 21st century will depend increasingly on the generation of knowledge through creativity and innovation," says Richard Florida in his 2003 book *The Rise of the Creative Class*. Many other current prognosticators, who look at long-term economic trends, say that the coin of the realm for the 21st century will be creativity.

While creative thinking is not the exclusive provenance of the arts, there is probably no place on a university campus where it is more prominent and important than the visual and performing arts. Those of us in the arts have a responsibility to nurture and facilitate creativity throughout campus. We also need to engage every student on campus in the arts to strengthen JMU's identity as a top liberal arts institution. That identity has won JMU many accolades in national reviews of higher education. It is this identity, along with an attendant core mission, that allows institutions like JMU to provide holistic educational opportunities. This kind of education tran-



A scene from *Metamorphoses*, a fall 2010 production in the Forbes Center.

sends changes in economies and job markets, prepares students for a lifetime of intellectual flexibility and includes the arts as an integral part of a well-rounded curriculum.

The arts and community

Community is especially important to performing arts. What is a performance without an audience? It's really more like a dress rehearsal. The audience actually helps complete the young artist's educational process by providing feedback, applause, attendance and ticket purchases. Performers' educational experiences are enhanced by vigorous audience participation. Seasoned professionals and artists in training would agree that there's nothing like playing to a sold-out house!

Professors and administrators in the Forbes Center also focus on community by inviting guest artists to perform on campus. We built an "Encore Series" of performances that serves a wide demographic, covers a broad range of tastes and crosses multiple curricula. Guest artists performing this year have included: Phil Vassar ('85) of songwriting and country music fame; Denyce Graves, the international-operatic star soprano; and the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, famous for cutting-edge artistic productions that illustrate and explain science.

All Forbes Center guest artists will connect with students at JMU through lectures and master classes. They will also connect with our community through pre- and post-performance talks, meet-and-greets and amazing performances. Audiences will see and hear artists under stellar acoustical conditions — with great technical capabilities — in a place where every seat is a great one.

Another community that the Forbes Center has embraced is donors and patrons. The center established the largest community of donors for a single project in the history of JMU. The center as a whole, as well as the buildings that comprise it, are named after JMU graduates and donors: Bruce and Lois Cardarella Forbes ('64), Shirley Hanson Roberts ('56), and Dorothy Thomasson Estes ('45). Donors have also named numerous rooms, lobbies and practice rooms. Now that the building is paid for, all of the new funds will go to scholarships in the performing arts. We are also in the process of naming seats in the major venues, where again, the funds benefit scholarships. The real, long-term importance of donors' contributions is the significance of their connections with the university. Forbes Center donors have helped build a culture of giving among the JMU community.

The arts and commerce

Patron and donor outreach is just one kind of outreach supporting the Forbes Center. We are also developing relationships with hotels, restaurants and other arts organizations to establish Harrisonburg as a destination for the arts. This benefits both JMU and the local community. The Forbes Center has the potential to be a powerful economic driver in the Shenandoah Valley. It can help to strengthen the overall economy of the valley while helping attract high-paying industries to the region.

The Forbes Center is patron friendly and offers educational and entertainment opportunities for all who visit. Grab a friend or family member and make your way to the center for concerts, plays, musicals and dance performances. Be part of the curriculum, creativity and community, and watch the arts soar at JMU.

* Read more about the Forbes Center on Page 31 and at www.jmu.edu/JMUarts.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD FINKELSTEIN

About the Author *George Sparks is dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, which includes the School of Art and Art History, School of Music, School of Theatre and Dance, the Institute for Visual Studies, and the Madison Art Collection. A professional conductor and clarinet player, his artistic roots are musical, but Sparks considers himself an advocate for all arts. "I also enjoy the professionalism and collegiality of the JMU faculty," he says.*

Reading *Madison* is a slam dunk

Readers can get discounted tickets to select basketball games this season

BY MICHELLE HITE ('88)

Sometimes, it's all in who you know! *Madison* readers who are JMU hoops fans can get discounted tickets to select men's and women's basketball games during the remainder of the 2010–11 season. (See the schedules below). To redeem your *Madison* discount, visit JMUSports.com and follow the "Tickets" link to "Order Tickets." Enter the promotions code — **MADMAG** — at

the checkout process. This promotions code gets you discounts on select men's and women's basketball tickets.

Let *Madison* help take you courtside for all the hoops action. Remember to type in the promotions code, **MADMAG**. For more information, please call the JMU Athletics Marketing Office at (540) 568-3853. **ml**

* Keep up with all the JMU sports action at www.JMUSports.com.

2010-11 JMU BASKETBALL

WOMEN'S



DEC. 12	at Middle Tennessee
DEC. 18	at Monmouth
DEC. 20	vs. Virginia
DEC. 30	vs. Western Carolina
JAN. 2	vs. Northeastern *
JAN. 6	at William and Mary *
JAN. 9	at Old Dominion *
JAN. 13	vs. Drexel *
JAN. 16	at George Mason *
JAN. 20	vs. William and Mary *
JAN. 23	vs. Virginia Commonwealth *
JAN. 27	at Drexel *
JAN. 30	at Towson *
FEB. 3	vs. Georgia State *
FEB. 6	vs. Old Dominion *
FEB. 10	at Virginia Commonwealth *
FEB. 13	vs. George Mason *
FEB. 17	vs. Towson *
FEB. 20	at Delaware *
FEB. 24	at Georgia State *
FEB. 27	at Hofstra *
MARCH 2	vs. Univ. of North Carolina-Wilmington * (CAA Tournament March 10–13)

MEN'S



DEC. 11	at Radford
DEC. 18	at South Florida (Tampa)
DEC. 22	vs. Marshall
DEC. 31	at Kent State
JAN. 3	vs. Northeastern *
JAN. 5	vs. Towson *
JAN. 8	at William and Mary *
JAN. 12	vs. Georgia State *
JAN. 15	vs. Univ. of North Carolina-Wilmington *
JAN. 19	at Old Dominion *
JAN. 22	vs. George Mason *
JAN. 24	at Hofstra *
JAN. 26	vs. Drexel *
JAN. 29	at Delaware *
FEB. 2	vs. William and Mary *
FEB. 5	vs. Virginia Commonwealth *
FEB. 9	at Drexel*
FEB. 12	at George Mason *
FEB. 15	at Towson *
FEB. 18-20	ESPN BracketBusters (JMU hosts)
FEB. 24	vs. Old Dominion *
FEB. 25	vs. Virginia Commonwealth * (CAA Tournament March 4–7)

Check **JMUSports.com** for the most up-to-date game times, Duke Club information and TV times. *CAA Games

Score!
Let *Madison* help take you courtside

Order select men's and women's basketball tickets online and receive a discount. Order your basketball tickets at www.JMUSports.com and use promotion code **MADMAG** at the checkout. Come cheer on the Dukes!

Bright

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

Skateboard aficionado and history professor Howard Gelfand is researching the culture and history of board sports. He has also published *Sea Change At Annapolis: The United States Naval Academy 1949-2000*. The book explores the social development of the U.S. Naval Academy and how it reflects the social development of American culture.

Lights

[Howard "H" Gelfand]

Concrete shredder

History professor surfs the sidewalk to save the environment BY TYLER McAVOY ('12)

Road rash" is not a term generally used by anyone beyond the concrete shredders who regularly coast around on skateboards. Most students and professors choose to get around campus on a bike or by just plain old walking; but for those few brave skaters, skateboarding is a die-hard passion that even the worst of asphalt injuries can't diminish.

JMU history professor Howard "H" Gelfand is a concrete shredder from way back.

A skater since his days as a doctoral student at the University of Arizona, Gelfand has chosen a skateboard as his vehicle of choice. Carving the hills of JMU's campus to get to and from his history classes, Gelfand's style is unique. He is perfectly relaxed on his board, slowly gliding down JMU's sidewalks and roadways.

He knows all too well the difficulties of dedicated skaters. "I've been beeped at, given the middle finger, sworn at, and told once I should 'grow up and get a car,'" Gelfand says. But he has seen improvement. "As the number of skaters has increased on campus, I've seen more welcoming behavior."

Skateboarding has piqued some interest from JMU police as well. Officers have stopped Gelfand several times while skating around campus. "JMU and Harrisonburg have been tough places to be a skateboarder," Gelfand says. "JMU police, Harrisonburg police and even a state trooper have stopped me for riding my board."

The professor applauds the officers for looking out for everyone's safety but still touts skateboarding as the best mode of campus transportation. When he travels to other parts of the country, Gelfand takes his board with him. "I see things that everyone else misses," he says. Gelfand has logged miles on his board in places like Honolulu, Portland and San Francisco.

As any good thrasher will admit, you can't skate without earning a few scars. Unlike hit-

ting water on a surfboard, the tarmac likes to remind you just how powerful gravity can be. "I have great respect for asphalt, which almost always leaves a mark and, in my case, a variety of broken bones," admits Gelfand.

His worst accident resulted in a broken chin, jaw and wrist. "I had to write a lecture at the University of Arizona after that accident. That was not fun," he says. "But the surgeon who repaired my jaw said, 'Hey, you've been riding your board for years without an accident, why stop now? Have fun.' So I've followed his advice."


The practicality of skateboarding can't be denied. Cheaper and more portable than a bike, skateboarding is beginning to gain a strong following at JMU and in Harrisonburg.

It's also better for the environment, says Gelfand, who has fitted his boards with soy and bamboo wheels, making them more environmentally friendly than the traditional plastic-based wheels. He also owns boards made from materials like bamboo and koa wood, which are grown on tree farms and not cut from hillsides.

"I remind my students that each of us can make a small difference in reducing our carbon footprint," Gelfand says. "We can take small steps to improve our personal health and the health of our environment."

The crux of Gelfand's academic research in JMU's history and interdisciplinary studies programs is examining the culture around board sports. He is interested in how skating and surfing culture intersects with other disciplines like business, engineering and oceanography. His research has included visits to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and the University of California to pursue the history of boarding culture.

The largest part of Gelfand's study is his ongoing research with the Surfrider Foundation in Southern California. The foundation includes large groups of academics, lawyers and physicians who work to protect the coastal environment from business and governmental abuses. Surfrider representatives have partnered with music groups like Incubus and professional athletes like champion surfer Kelly Slater.

From academic research to health benefits, skateboarding is a part of Gelfand's daily life. "Instead of stressing out about traffic, worrying about the price of gas or finding a parking spot, I get some fresh air, a little exercise and a chance to enjoy myself." 

* Learn more about Howard Gelfand at <http://webjmu.edu/history/faculty/gelfand.html>.



'Each of us can make a small difference in reducing our carbon footprint, and we can take small steps to improve our personal health and the health of our environment.'

— HOWARD GELFAND,
skateboarder and history professor



JMU Alumni Association Board member Scott Rogers ('00, '02M) is co-founder of TakeThemA Meal.com, which helps families coordinate meal deliveries to those in need.

[Scott Rogers ('00, '02M)]

Feel-good food helps families in need

BY JAMIE MARSH

Morgan Stone Langley delivered her second child in January, with a 2-year-old waiting at home. Naturally, her best friend Heather's first thought was, "What can I cook?"

Rather than whipping up a favorite casserole and dropping it off, Heather opted to throw technology into the mix by using TakeThemAMEal.com, a website created by Scott Rogers ('00, '02M) and Adina Bailey ('99M). In just a few minutes, she customized a sophisticated meal coordination spreadsheet that all of Langley's family and friends could access online.

Langley was so impressed by TakeThemAMEal.com that she wrote about the website on her blog, telling followers it was "an incredible gift." She recommends the site

for families with members who have had surgery, those with a death in the family or the elderly.

Testimonials like Langley's are the best kind of advertising for the website.

'We're helping people in times of grief and joy. We've made something that was once a burden into something easily organized, so people can focus on making meals and helping loved ones.'

— SCOTT ROGERS ('00, '02M)

More than 25,000 people visit TakeThemAMEal.com each week, and almost all of them find out about the free service via blogs, Facebook and other social media. "One friend telling another is how we've grown," says Rogers. "Word of mouth has been the best advertising."

Since the site's 2007 launch more than 250,000 meals have been coordinated, and people living in every state have used the site. Part of the appeal is the site's simplicity: Participants log on using the recipient's name and a password. Then, they sign up for a specific day and list what they're bringing. Meal duplication is no problem, and food allergy information and driving directions are at volunteers' fingertips.

Rogers never anticipated the site would be so helpful to so many people. "TakeThemAMEal.com was created in response to one particular family's need," he says. When a Harrisonburg-area mother of four was faced with a six-month medical issue, her large network of family and friends were eager to help. Adina Bailey ('99M), the mother's close friend, was quickly over-

whelmed by hundreds of people needing to know what the kids liked to eat and what day food was needed. “I asked Scott if we could put the needs online,” recalls Bailey. “I wanted more of my time to be spent with her kids and at the hospital, not on the phone.” Rogers responded with the first version of TakeThemAMeal.com.

Rogers is no stranger to the volunteer spirit. The media arts and design major served as president of the JMU Student Ambassadors and as a student member of the alumni board. He is active in the Harrisonburg Alumni Chapter and currently serves on the JMU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

The momentum of TakeThemAMeal.com has continued to grow since its initial use in Harrisonburg. “Several people from our first group of users wanted to keep using the site,” Rogers says. A church secretary organized a regular meals ministry, and small groups coordinated snack sign-ups. An 80-year-old fan posted, “Great delight in helping take care of lifelong friends.”

“It must have saved hours in phone calls for my friend,” Leah in Florida wrote on her blog after having surgery. “And they didn’t just bring some spaghetti and bread. We’re talking meat, bread, salad, drinks, dessert ... the works.” TakeThemAMeal.com has been very useful for Jacqueline Dost of Atlanta, who used the free service after her husband’s cancer diagnosis. She posted on Facebook saying, “It’s a great way to coordinate meals from our friends with a little input from us.”

With the help of user feedback and testimonials, Rogers and Bailey continue to tweak the site for usability. Both founders say they will do whatever it takes to never charge for the service. “We’re helping people in times of grief and joy,” Rogers says. “We’ve made something that was once a burden into something easily organized, so people can focus on making meals and helping loved ones.” ❧



Scott Rogers ('00, '02M) and Adina Bailey ('99M) work on enhancements to their TakeThemAMeal.com website.

[Carrie Owen Plietz ('97)]

Perfecting patient care

BY SARA RIDDLE ('10)

Since graduating, Carrie Owen Plietz ('97) has been bettering the lives of patients. From developing skilled nursing facilities to supervising the development of a full electronic health record system, Plietz has helped raise patient satisfaction for thousands.

Plietz’s hard work and care for others was honored this year as the American College of Healthcare Executives named her the 2010 Young Healthcare Executive of the Year and presented her with the Robert S. Hudgens Memorial Award. The annual award is presented to an exceptional healthcare executive who is under 40 years old and who is the chief executive officer of a health services organization.

“It’s amazing and very humbling,” says Plietz, who received the award at the annual ACHE conference in Chicago. “Our profession is blessed with many talented individuals. To be acknowledged in such a way by my national organization, one that I respect tremendously, is just thrilling.”

As chief operating officer of the Mills-Peninsula Health Services/Sutter Health System in Burlingame, Calif., Plietz has been responsible for several major initiatives, including implementation of Sutter Health’s first acute care electronic health record system. She was the driving force behind a major “patient affordability” initiative that helped lower costs and improve patient satisfaction. Plietz brought in a team of caregivers to listen to the “voice of patients” through satisfaction survey results, letters and family comments.

Prior to her current position, Plietz served as chief administrative officer and vice president of operations for specialty services at Sutter Health’s California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. There, she developed new centers for cancer, cardiac and endoscopy treatment, achieved a 96th percentile patient satisfaction score, and developed a regional referral network for transplant services, including a Vietnam collaborative for liver transplantation.

Plietz credits much of her success to JMU’s health science faculty. “My professors taught real-life scenarios, which is extremely important in healthcare’s ever changing environment. JMU was

where I first learned about and joined the student chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives.”

Plietz serves as president of the ACHE chapter for the California Association of Healthcare Leaders and serves on the ACHE Early Careerist Committee, and the Northern and Central California Regents Advisory Council. “I’m a volunteer board member for the Women’s Community Clinic, which provides free primary and reproductive care to uninsured or underinsured women,” she says.

As one of the most promising young healthcare executives in the country, Plietz dedicates herself to “guiding aspiring executives, improving the care of patients and providing healthcare services to those who need it most.”

Plietz is married to Jasen Plietz ('97), who graduated with a business degree with a concentration in computer science. He works on software development in the Bay Area, having worked in Silicon Valley on major projects such as the entire infrastructure for the California Paid Family Leave Act. The two welcomed their first child in April. ❧

Health sciences major Carrie Owen Plietz ('97) is the American College of Healthcare Executives 2010 Robert S. Hudgens Memorial Young Healthcare Executive of the Year.



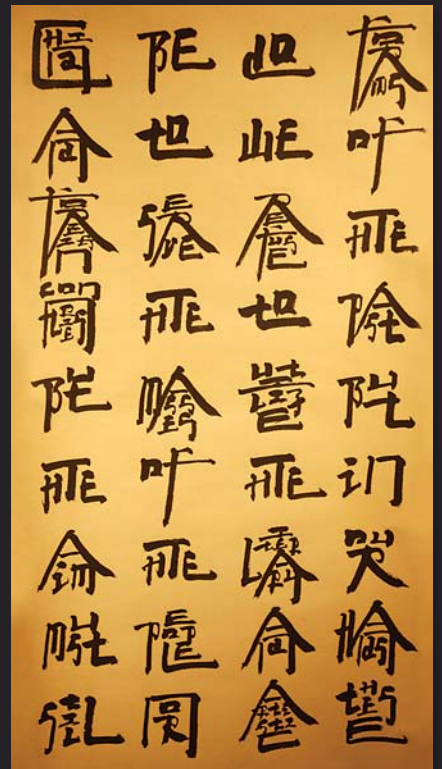


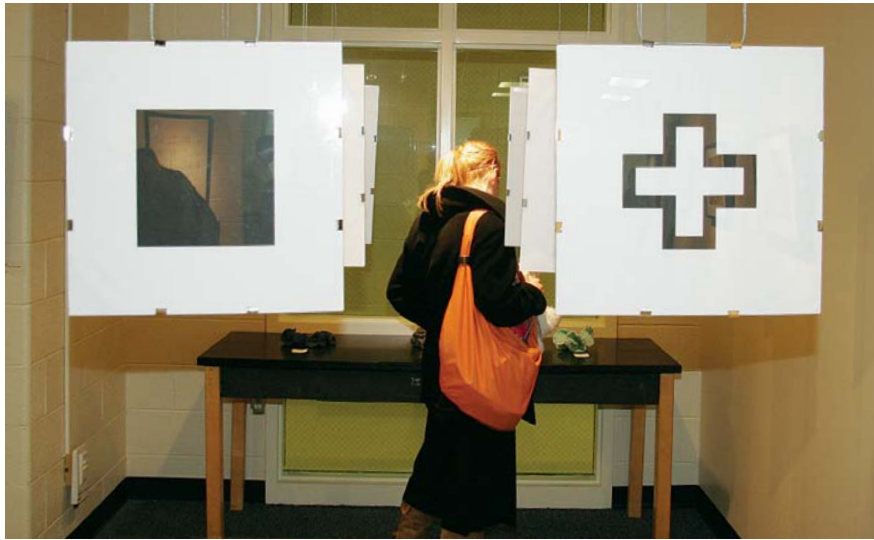
SEE ING DIF FER ENTLY



Spring 2011 IVS seminar students will help redesign the sculpture garden near Duke Hall with IVS Fellow and noted architect Michael Singer (above). 2008 IVS guest artist and lecturer Xu Bing (left) shared his artwork and philosophy with students and the campus and local communities via lectures and an exhibit.

Multimedia, multidisciplinary center is a catalyst for re-envisioning environments and creating change BY CHRIS EDWARDS





Students studying in the Institute for Visual Studies share their final projects in campus exhibits like this one (left) in the Carrier Library.

Mona Lisa, The Last Supper, Vitruvian Man. Even if you're not an art major or an art enthusiast, you are probably familiar with these famous images and cultural icons created by Leonardo da Vinci. Now, imagine what Da Vinci could have done with a Flip video and a computer! That's how professors and students in the JMU Institute for Visual Studies think, work and create.

The institute was created as a center for scholarly, scientific and creative inquiry into the nature and workings of images and our visual environment. "I give professors opportunities to share what they absolutely love — their passions — with students. And the outcomes have been extraordinary," says David Ehrenpreis, institute director and art history professor.

An incubator for new ideas, the Institute for Visual Studies also upholds a longstanding JMU tradition — projects are collabor-

'I give professors opportunities to share what they absolutely love — their passions — with students. And the outcomes have been extraordinary.'

— **DAVID EHRENPREIS**
institute director and art history professor

ative and bring together students and professors from multiple academic disciplines. Students from diverse majors and academic programs collaborate in IVS Studio Seminars to create landscapes, graphic novels, and scientific and mathematical illustrations. Faculty members representing multiple disciplines help guide and shape the students' multimedia, multi-dimensional projects. "IVS is a catalyst for creating change," explains Ehrenpreis, "from theory to lab work to implementing real-world changes. The institute and its studio seminars are the nexus where this creativity comes together."

The seed for IVS took root after Ehrenpreis began noticing "people all over campus and in different disciplines investigating the visual realm."

In 2005, Ehrenpreis found JMU psychologist Sheena Rogers researching the way timing of video images alters viewer perceptions. Around the same time, mathematician/statistician Jim Sochacki spearheaded the JMU "video wall" project, in which students create images includ-

ing planets, fractal geometry and a mouse genome on a wall of 75 TV screens. Sochacki and the High-Resolution Visualization and Animation Group are interested in visualization and animation systems with a resolution that is an order of magnitude greater than that provided by traditional graphics workstations. The group consists of students and professors from computer information systems, mathematics, physics and psychology programs. (Learn more at www.jmu.edu/hyper/visualization/index.html).

AN INCREASINGLY VISUAL WORLD

"Digital technology has changed the way I think, work and teach," says Ehrenpreis. "It also made me think about the democratization of the image, and wonder about how other academic disciplines use this kind of technology. ... The 'vision' or visual part of the Institute for Visual Studies refers to one, the eye; and two, re-envisioning our world."

Ehrenpreis' observations have grown from his own evolution as an art historian. When JMU introduced the Madison Digital Image Database, Ehrenpreis, like many professors, took a dim view of "replacing slides with online files." He soon found MDID not only eliminated waiting his turn to check out that *Mona Lisa* slide, but MDID allowed him to zoom in and study its detail.

Ehrenpreis began to wonder, "How can education best use today's much-discussed visual turn?"

THE BIRTH OF THE IVS CENTER

"We got faculty and students together and investigated visual transformations happening everywhere," Ehrenpreis says. "I organized a group from many academic disciplines — now an advisory board including Sochacki and Rogers — that envisioned a kind of crucible, an experimental site. We tried to create the conditions for creation."

Paradoxically, while technology sparks the changes, IVS's vision is Renaissance-inspired: Can creativity transcend the rigid specialty boundaries that we may accept unquestioningly but Leonardo da Vinci did not?



An IVS studio seminar team project – “Alluvial Garden” – became part of an environmental stewardship presentation to university officials. (Left): President Linwood H. Rose and IVS Director David Ehrenpreis listen to students Brittany Lyn Boveri ('10) and Phillip Gockel ('10). (Below): A student checks out an exhibit on *The Gilgamesh Machine*, a graphic novel by two students.

IVS planners refused to limit the institute to technology. “We agreed that the important thing for students was actually using their hands and creating,” Ehrenpreis explains.

Hence, the IVS Studio Seminar was born. These multidisciplinary, collaborative studio seminars most clearly exemplify the IVS philosophy. Each course begins, conceptually, in “the seminar” with ideas, then moves from implementation to “the studio;” or in scientific parlance, lab and field work.

Consensus emerged among the planners to keep seminar classes small. IVS Studio Seminars are team-taught by professors from two disciplines, while students (also from diverse disciplines) team up to work on projects. Ehrenpreis says, “We don’t want the artist to become a mathematician, or vice versa, but for each to learn from the other.”

These are the courses where professors can be completely innovative. The spark for most IVS Studio Seminars comes from one of those moments, explains Ehrenpreis, “where a professor says, ‘You know, I have always wanted to teach ...’”

“Fill in the blank,” Ehrenpreis says. “And we’ve made those class ideas and connections among disciplines happen in the studio seminars.”

With a JMU General Education grant, and support from then-Provost Doug Brown, IVS launched in spring 2005 in a computer room in Burruss Hall with the studio seminar World of Maps.

The institute has become a centerpiece of the new College of Visual and Performing Arts, and the center is located on the second floor of Roop Hall. The center includes a learning space, a social space and a workroom that all intersect with an exhibit space. The institute’s flexible learning and work space layout was designed by JMU interior and industrial design professor and IVS board member Ronn Daniel. “We wanted the physical space to mirror this new educational learning experi-

ence,” says Ehrenpreis. “The layout of the institute demonstrates the way we think and put into the world what we create. The IVS space itself expresses the idea of moving from theory to creation to practice.”

WORKING WITH IVS FELLOWS OF DISTINCTION

Ehrenpreis intends two things to happen for IVS seminar students: studying with and receiving critiques from a visiting IVS Fellow of distinction, and creating things that extend out into the world. Books are created to be published; landscapes are designed to be implemented.

In the spring 2008 IVS Studio Seminar Image & Text: The Art of Persuasion, Ehrenpreis and writing and rhetoric professor Kurt Schick brought together students from creative writing, art and art history.

“As director of JMU Learning Centers, Kurt was interested in the intersection of image and text,” says Ehrenpreis. “Who better to ask to come to campus than internationally renowned artist Xu Bing, whose art reflects communication styles. Bing, the first-ever IVS Fellow, has investigated the relationship between image and text since his arrival in America in 1990. He strives to create art that communicates across cultures.”

Xu Bing’s visit to campus included a Sawhill Gallery exhibit (including pieces never before exhibited), class visits, critiques of M.F.A. students’ art, and a public lecture that drew more than 900 participants.

As a program assistant for IVS, Christine Bednarz ('08) helped prepare for the visit. “I was privileged to help Dr. Ehrenpreis research, design and organize an exhibition for noted artist Xu Bing,” she says. “I learned how to organize art exhibitions from start to finish and explored new technologies. I always felt



like my voice was heard in IVS. My time as a student and employee of IVS was the most memorable part of my years at JMU.”

IVS is not a typical academic program that offers a major or minor. Having no catalog prefix, IVS seminars have attracted students majoring in at least 25 fields. The spring 2010 seminar, Writing and Illustrating Literature, included literature and graphic arts majors who formed eight author/illustrator teams to create children’s books, graphic novels, a Flash-animation video and other multimedia projects.

A professional editor has expressed interest in publishing one of the student collaborations, *The Gilgamesh Machine*, by writer Chris Parthemos ('10) and graphic artist Julia Lichtblau ('10). Parthemos describes the graphic novel as “an attempted fusion of science fiction with a blend of world mythology.” (www.jmu.edu/bethechange/stories/telling-showing.shtml.)

The idea for the course began three years ago when graphic design professor Rich Hilliard spoke to Ehrenpreis about his dream to “link student artists with writers.” When writing professor Jared Featherstone expressed a similar idea, Ehrenpreis (who calls himself “the glue”) suggested they talk.

Hilliard says, “In the 12 years that I have been teaching at JMU, my IVS class was the most rewarding and inspiring classroom experience by far. The support of the IVS staff, combined with the enthusiasm and drive of the students and my partner instructor, made this the highlight of my career in higher ed.”

COLLABORATIVE, REAL-WORLD APPLICATIONS

Each IVS studio seminar culminates with a public exhibit by students. Creative solutions are offered to answer real-world challenges.

When planning the fall 2009 IVS seminar, Environmental Design, Ehrenpreis invited JMU facilities management staff members to talk about areas of campus that needed “creative solutions to challenging problems.” The seminar was team-taught by graphic design professor Dawn Hachenski McCusker and interior design professor and architect Ronn Daniel.

Phillip Gockel, Brittany Lyn Boveri and Emilia Randler — 2010 grads in graphic design and interior design — chose an irregular area near Black’s Run that Ehrenpreis calls “a marshy mess.” The students came up with a plan for Alluvial Garden, a walkway, garden and layout directing water away from flood-plagued Mr. Chips. After presenting the plan to JMU President Linwood H. Rose, the students followed up with an independent study and created a budget.

“This is about as real as it gets,” says Ronn Daniel. Though the concept did not fit JMU’s long-range plans (the 10-year master plan calls for an extension of Grace Street that will go where the garden would be installed), Ehrenpreis feels it went beyond mere exercise. “You can demonstrate new possibilities, whether they happen immediately or in the future.”

IVS Fellow and noted architect Michael Singer, who advised the fall 2009 IVS seminar groups, found that team interaction was the “most challenging and rewarding aspect for students.” That is much like the case in real-world working environments, he adds. “Autonomy is usually an earned position, and collaborative skills are a helpful asset. The JMU students’ work was beyond my experience of what undergraduates usually produce.”

‘Autonomy is usually an earned position, and collaborative skills are a helpful asset. The JMU students’ work was beyond my experience of what undergraduates usually produce.’

— MICHAEL SINGER
IVS Fellow and architect

Environmental Design Studio Seminar professors McCusker and Daniel and their students were ecstatic to work with IVS Fellow Michael Singer. Ehrenpreis says, “Michael is the exemplar of these two academic fields, graphic design and industrial design. He also models the importance of multidisciplinary approaches to projects. His architectural project team includes an engineer, draftsman and an environmental scientist. He shows that a designer doesn’t have to be a ‘master of all’ — he just needs to see everything and bring it together.”

Because of his work with the IVS studio seminar, Singer has returned to campus to serve as a fellow for the 2010–11 academic year. He is designing improvements to Newman Lake and the landscaping in the bowl area near the College of Integrated Science and Technology.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES

The IVS students’ Alluvial Garden project brought together students and professors from three academic areas. The student team that planned the garden also worked with Environmental Rhetoric students from the JMU Institute for Stewardship of the Natural World (their project’s “client”), explains Daniel. “The projects became part of an environmental stewardship PowerPoint presentation, which the IVS and ISNW students collaborated in presenting to officials and President Rose.”

The IVS Studio Seminar Environmental Design and the School of Media Arts and Design Environmental Rhetoric course were running concurrently in fall 2009. Faculty members from SMAD and the College of Integrated Science and Technology guided multidisciplinary student teams through the process of creating a campuswide environmental stewardship communication campaign. The team’s campaigns included target audiences, tactics, brands and slogans to address important focal points such as waste and energy consumption.

One team’s campaign — “Choose Stewardship” was adopted and refined by the Institute for Stewardship of the Natural World and marketers in the JMU Division of University Advancement as the official university stewardship campaign. The “Choose Stewardship” logo designed by Kevin Edwards (’05, ’10M) is a visual reminder to the campus community



The JMU Institute for Stewardship of the Natural World adopted this logo by Kevin Edwards (’05, ’10M).

about JMU’s commitment to environmental stewardship.

Although students often consult each other, says design professor Dawn Hachenski McCusker, “to actually have to rely on each other for the success of a whole project was difficult. These students met that challenge with pure professionalism.”

Ehrenpreis agrees. “We raised the bar, and they went right over it.”

A CATALYST FOR CREATING CHANGE

“IVS Studio Seminars take theory into practice” says Ehrenpreis. “This new educational experience is creating a multidisciplinary learning community of professors and students and is creating solutions for real-world problems. Faculty members from departments throughout the university are encouraged to develop new course proposals and submit them at the IVS website.” (www.jmu.edu/ivs)

Since 2005, IVS Studio Seminars have explored cross-disciplinary connections in art, advertising, animation, computer science, creative writing, mathematics, philosophy, psychology and science. Art history professor Corinne Diop and mathematics professor Elizabeth T. Brown have co-taught Math and Art: Beautiful Rigor several semesters.

This semester’s IVS Studio Seminar: Gender Issues and Visualization in Science poses the challenge of freeing scientific illustration from gender bias. JMU professors Louise Temple (biology) and Alysia Davis (women’s studies) are working with IVS Fellow and Brown University geneticist Kathy Takayama.

In addition to IVS Studio Seminars, IVS sponsors multidisciplinary colloquia such as inference mapping and illustration and creative writing (graphic novels). The IVS board hopes to conduct more community outreach projects like a photography workshop that part-time IVS assistant Daniel Robinson conducted with middle-school students in summer 2009.

Ehrenpreis says, “Our IVS seminars not only teach students to be critical consumers of visual culture, but we help students build collaborative skills and critical thinking. The IVS Studio Seminars have changed the way people on campus think about what a course can be.”

Perhaps they are seeing differently. **■**



**Theater grads say “Farewell Wampler,
hello Forbes Center”** BY CHRIS EDWARDS

ADIELI THEATRE II



THEATRE II. WAMPLER.

Both names were dropped in nostalgic reminiscence as alumni from 35 years of productions in a former turkey hatchery convened in May to take a last, fond look and reprise a fun play from their student days.

Theater professor Roger Hall, packing to move his office across Main Street into the new Forbes Center for the Performing Arts, called the get-together the “Wampler Farewell.”

Cast members — in improv mode — razz each other during rehearsals and catch up on each others’ careers.

“It’s funny to come back and everybody has the same personality,” muses alumnus Jay Zehr while running his lines as “Baking Soda,” one of the food-product characters in *No Frost 17*.

Some alumni recalled a rumor that the hatchery-come-theater’s concrete floor was designed to slope toward Main Street for draining (yuck!) turkey blood. In reality, it was a stage area for hatchlings, not slaughter. The slope facilitated mucking out litter. Yet the Gothic rumor may better match the building’s second act: drama.

Reunion planners Gina Giambattista Cesari (’88) and Joyce Peifer Forbes (’89) rounded up alums, friends and former professors for the “Wampler Farewell.” Animation producer Randy Parker (’88), a JMU swimmer and three-time CAA Athlete of the Year, was not present to see the final production of the award-winning farce he’d penned. The theater’s youngest alumna, however, served as *No Frost 17*’s stage manager: Bekah Wachenfeld (’10), winner of this year’s USITT Clearcom National Stage Management Award.

Altogether 23 alumni put on one last show in Wampler/Theatre II. “This was our way to pay respect to the building that fed our creativity and expanded our Madison Experiences,” says Cesari. “Alumni, spanning 30 years among their classes, came back. Some traveled from as far away as Texas. This was the only production to ever be simultaneously streamed live on the Web.”

EXIT, TURKEYS

In 1974, when the Stratford Players — JMU’s drama club founded in 1914 — needed space for an experimental theater, then-President Ronald E. Carrier offered now-emeritus professor Tom Arthur the hatchery, which Wampler Foods planned to vacate.

“I was the first to come into the building,” recalls emeritus professor Allen Lyndrup. “The smells and the sounds were incredible.”

Then-physical plant manager Lou Frye gave the space a “bare bones” renovation into a no-frills theater, with office space that theater faculty shared with Frye’s department. At the reunion, Lyndrup spotted Frye’s remaining light fixtures, still equipped with bare bulbs.

The facility became “Wampler” until the 1994 opening of nearby Wampler Residence Hall (named for donor, alumnus and poultry company founder Charles Wampler). The ex-hatchery then became known as “Theatre II.”

Arthur recalls more than a decade of annual returns by large, migratory “turkey flies.” Not to mention the mice.

Air conditioning became urgently needed during warm-weather rehearsals for *K-2*, a production that had climbers stranded on the world’s second-highest mountain. All were grateful to a student’s father who donated an old unit from his business, and for acquisition of a former garage to store costumes.

Theatre II/Wampler was razed in August to make way for more parking for arts patrons attending Forbes Center events.

EXPERIMENTAL THEATER

The term “experimental theater” is a bigger concept than any building. At JMU, however, it’s received a major site upgrade.

For several centuries the more formal, “proscenium” theater — where a frame separates a risen stage from its audience — prevailed throughout the Western world, says emeritus theater professor Tom King, who shepherded JMU’s experimental theater for 30 years. “All this began to change in the 1950s with theater-in-the-round and experiments with thrust staging” — allowing cost savings and flexibility,” he says.

King adds, “The experimental theater movement of the ’60s introduced the idea that the design for a theater production should include the whole space, including the space occupied by the audience and



Theater majors reprised *No Frost 17* in Theatre II/Wampler to say farewell to the place many called “home” during their Madison Experience. (Left) Gina Giambattista Cesari (’88) helped coordinate the reunion event. (Below): Theater professor Roger Hall.



the physical relationship between the audience and performance.” Campuses began opening black box theaters for such innovation.

Enter, ex-hatchery.

JMU’s experimental and mainstage theaters have never been considered two tiers. Aspiring student actors do not start with the first and move up to the latter, alums say.

The two experiences are “parallel, and they’re different,” says Gina Giambattista Cesari (’88), director of *No Frost 17* and now employed by Cornell University. While faculty members direct most mainstage productions, students choose and direct experimental offerings, while also handling budgets, casting, sets and costumes, and often writing scripts.

“The shows typically done in here were a little edgier, more experimental” — providing chances to learn from mistakes, says John Michael Schott (’04).

“As I used to say,” King recalls, “We give them some rope and then stand back to see whether they escape or hang themselves.”

Getting that “rope” entailed compromise. In 1975, the theater’s debut production, *Hair*, followed intensive negotiations. Eventually, the administration agreed the script could stand unaltered, while the cast agreed to avoid nudity (an omission that would continue for more than a decade), says King.

He recalls the theater was “absolutely packed,” with audiences joining *Hair*’s cast to dance. Denise Cooper (’75), having first proposed staging the musical, later managed New York theater productions and currently teaches at NYU.

FINALE

No Frost 17, produced several times by undergraduate casts, competed by invitation in the 1989 KCACTF regional playwriting festival.

The edible personas bear larger-than-life hats, product labels and hand-held foods. Stage lighting simulates the refrigerator door opened and shut by unseen humans. The characters struggle to escape being eaten by backsliding dieter Kathleen Hannon (’85), a children’s novelist and veteran of Hollywood films, now living near Charlotte, N.C.

Fellow-alums, professors, friends and families heard “Russian Dressing” and “Ranch Dressing” — Annette Fama Jarred (’85) and Will Jarred Jr. (’87) — trade deftly-accented Cold-War barbs. This year the Jarreds of Trenton, N.J., veterans of mid-1980s productions including lead roles in *Candida*, celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary.

“Lettuce,” aka, Tee Morris (’92), a fantasy/science fiction book author, gets dropped on the floor and eaten by a gerbil, but comes back as “Cottage Cheese” — a transformation groaningly dubbed “re-in-CARTON-ation.”

For the finale, the 22-member cast spells out the old theater’s names, singing in *Mickey Mouse Club* style.

Kevin Hasser (’07), “Salami,” is a professional actor based in Washington, D.C. Theater has shaped other thespian alums’ careers in varied ways. The audience included Steve Vitalos (’90), who manages event bookings at “a Hollywood mansion,” and Reed Hoofnagle (’92), who taps his stage-tech skills as a remodeler. Tracy Camp (’89) — “Tomato” in *No Frost 17* and remembered for playing Wampler’s first nude scene — says teaching in a Fairfax County elementary school now fulfills her yen for performance.

Jay Zehr, one of several alums who have remained in town, attended JMU from 1987 to 1989. He works in a group home, and acts and directs for Harrisonburg’s Playhouse productions. Randy Jones (’79), “Handi-



A breathtaking Forbes Center sets the stage for the arts to soar at JMU. (Right): The former Theatre II building was razed to offer more parking for the new center.



“The experimental theater movement of the ’60s introduced the idea that the design for a theater production should include the whole space.”

— TOM KING,
emeritus theater professor

wrap,” and one-time *Marat-Sade* inmate, conducts public relations for Virginia Historic Resources. John Schott (’04), “Asparagus,” who performed a leading role in HBO’s *Angels in America*, is a financial aid administrator at JMU. Andi Arndt (’91), reprising her role as “Milk,” teaches theater and dance at JMU.

Arndt recalls the time Hasser sought advice while rehearsing to portray the lead in *Hamlet*. Hasser confessed, “I’m confused. I really have a problem with this character.” Arndt just shrugged, “So, what else is new about *Hamlet*?”

STUDIO THEATER: HELLO FORBES CENTER

Poignant as the “Wampler Farewell” event felt, theater alums recalled Theatre II/Wampler hardships. Stage tech Hoofnagle says the site “was a very flexible space” but contained “limited height and access coming and going.”

Problem solved. Studio Theatre — the venue in the new Forbes Center for the Performing Arts designed to house experimental productions and the Children’s Playshop — “provides greatly enhanced safety and technical capabilities,” says William J. Buck, director of the School of Theatre and Dance. Safety issues ranked high in the design of the catwalk. Buck adds, “The seating units will provide for an almost infinite level of stag-

ing configurations. The ability to platform down into the stage floor, and also use a second-level balcony for either audience members or performers, is a distinct advancement in creative possibilities. The space will challenge students and faculty to use their imaginations to think three dimensionally while

training with state-of-the-art lighting and sound equipment. On the other hand, simple productions can also be presented with better acoustics and lighting than has been available in the past.”

Hall is pleased with the temperature and noise control, scene shop access, and seating for up to 200 — versus 140 maximum in Theatre II.

JMU’s 15-year-old Children’s Playshop, founded by Buck, also moved across the street along with the experimental theater. The Children’s Playshop musical production, *Miss Nelson is Missing*, was the first-ever public performance in the Forbes Center. Waiting outside to line up for tickets and cramped hallways are no longer issues for JMU audiences. Attendees for *Miss Nelson* enjoyed a light show projected beneath the foyer’s high ceiling, and student actors had plenty room to mingle with the audience after the show and sign children’s programs.

The moveable stage, an innovative feature of the Studio Theater, thrilled the *Miss Nelson* audience. Forbes Center Director Regan Byrne explains. “The stage can move up or down, or even contain audience seats while performances happen in the normal seating areas.”

The cast and crew of *Miss Nelson* took advantage of the stage’s changeable structure as the announcer (a cat) surprised the young audience by peering out from a porthole in the moveable stage’s colorful frame.

Attention was soon redirected to the main stage as the curtain opened to a classroom scene of lively, miscreant children. The main-stage is not without its own state-of-the-art tricks, as exhibited by the teacher “Miss Nelson,” played by Elizabeth Chidester, (’10), who disappears and reappears during the course of the play.

More than 90 years after the founding of JMU’s drama club, 36 years of Theatre II performances and 20 years of planning, the Forbes Center ushers in a new era of outstanding performing arts at JMU.

* Get a taste of the Forbes Center’s future successes and save your seat at www.jmu.edu/JMUarts.



The curtain is raised

Forbes Center for the Performing Art sets the stage for JMU arts to soar

BY JAMIE MARSH

Mary Sue Nelson ('56) always imagines campus just as she left it in the 1950s. "I remember the beautiful Quad and rows of big old homes that were sorority houses," she recalls. It's no wonder she got "a bit turned around" when she returned this summer for the opening of the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts.

Facing Wilson Hall, the new bluestone and glass building is anything but hidden, but Nelson didn't think about crossing Main Street — especially through an underground pedestrian viaduct.

"I knew I was close, and then I saw a sign that said, *Miss Nelson is Missing* with an arrow pointing into a tunnel. I stared at it and just cackled to myself. Well, I thought, that's my name so I'd better go that way." There was no search party seeking this "Miss Nelson," but the signs for a JMU Children's Playshop production did lead her to the Tea and Tour Open House for Forbes Center donors and seat namers.

'Seeing this building, I know that Harrisonburg, the valley, and the world will finally get to see how truly remarkable the programs are at JMU. I'm glad I could be a part of that.'

— MARY SUE NELSON ('56)

Nelson joined hundreds of JMU alumni and friends who visited the Forbes Center over the course of two days in mid-August. Donors were invited to tour the spaces and seats now bearing their names, and JMU administrators thanked them face-to-face for making this dream a reality. “Obviously, buildings are important,” says Sheila Smith, director of annual giving. “For the arts, buildings are even more important. These students need special spaces to perfect their craft.”

This building will also help students display their skills — another big change from Nelson’s days at Madison. “The music department here was well-known for training, but we lacked a space like this to show off our abilities. Seeing this building, I know that Harrisonburg, the valley, and the world will finally get to see how truly remarkable the programs are at JMU. I’m glad I could be a part of that.”

A Sept. 8 performance by alumnus and country music superstar Phil Vassar (’85) was a sellout in the Shirley Hanson Roberts Center for Music Performance, which seats 600 in the Concert Hall and 196 in the Recital Hall.

Across the building, the cast and crew of *Metamorphoses*, based on the myths of Roman poet Ovid, were in rehearsal. The play opened Oct. 5 in the Dorothy Thomason Estes Center for Theatre and Dance. This wing features three performance venues: 450 seats in the Mainstage Theatre, 200 seats in the Studio Theatre, and 200 seats in the Earlynn J. Miller Dance Theatre.

Behind-the-scenes tours and open houses, led by volunteer guides, were offered for community members and employees throughout the fall. “Visit here anytime you want,” College of Visual and Performing Arts Dean George Sparks told one group of visitors. “You’re always welcome. Your attendance at our performances makes you part of our family. Your visits benefit our art students, all students, Harrisonburg, the valley and beyond.”

MUSIC AND SMOOCHES

Longtime Tri-Sigma and Glee Club friends **Shirley McKinley (’58)** and **Mary Sue Nelson (’56)** call themselves “huggers and kissers.” Their target — George Sparks, dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. The scene — Forbes Center Tea and Tours for donors and seat namers. “Dean Sparks, and this building, are both big, big assets to Harrisonburg,” says McKinley. “I’ve traveled through much of the world, and there’s no better location on Earth than the Shenandoah Valley with its beautiful countryside and genuine people. Now the valley has a real home for music and cultural events.”



Former Glee Club friends Shirley McKinley (’58) and Mary Sue Nelson (’56) enjoyed their tour of the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts. “Now the valley has a real home for music and cultural events,” says Nelson.



Between snapping photos of the view toward Wilson Hall and exploring the new Shirley McKinley Piano Practice Room and Nelson Orchestral Library, the Madison duo indeed planted a few kisses on Sparks’ cheeks. “I’m at a time in my life when I’m happy to be able to pass on what I can,” Nelson says. “With my gift to the Forbes Center, I’m passing on my great love for music.”



College of Visual and Performing Arts Associate Dean Marilou Johnson (’80) and CVPA Dean George Sparks lead a tour of the new Forbes Center for alumni, donors and arts patrons.



COMING HOME FOR THE ARTS

For **Bev Harris ('68)**, there's nothing better than catching a show in New York or Chicago, except perhaps seeing the Boston Pops. "They are divine," she says. Harris seeks out the arts wherever she travels for "the uplifting experience I get when I see the talent other people can exhibit." Outside the Black Box, the new Harris Studio Theatre Lobby is a space that "celebrates experimental theater," she says, while bringing quality shows a bit closer to her home in Roanoke. "My husband and I travel to see a variety of theater, sometimes long distances, and now I can also come home to JMU."

'You're always welcome. Your attendance at our performances makes you part of our family. Your visits benefit our art students, all students, Harrisonburg, the valley and beyond.'

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



Forbes Center Executive Director Regan Byrne talks about areas of the Costume Shop, which offers state-of-the-art creative and storage spaces.

BLEEDING PURPLE FOR SEASON TICKETS



Joe ('77) and **Jo Ann Converse ('78)** never lost touch with JMU, but their love affair with the campus was reignited when their daughter, Jennifer Burke ('04), enrolled as a music education major. "Now we're diehard JMU fans," the former Parents Council members say. "We bleed purple," adds Jo Ann. In

addition to purchasing football season tickets, the Converses made the trip from Williamsburg to Harrisonburg for Jennifer's many musical performances. "My daughter has performed in a chicken hatchery, the old Theatre II," Joe says. "She



(Above): Former Parents Council Co-Chairs **Joe ('77)** and **Jo Ann Converse ('78)**. Jennifer Burke ('04), inset, says the new center matches student talent.

did her senior recital in Anthony-Seeger Hall. We have seen the need for upgraded performance space." Now, the space matches the talent, Burke adds. "They knew how much JMU music meant to me. JMU is part of our family."



College of Visual and Performing Arts Associate Dean **Marilou Johnson ('80)** shows university arts donors some of the academic areas in the Forbes Center.



Dana Casendino ('06) says her Madison Experience as a whole encouraged her to be a more well-rounded person. "I felt encouraged to get involved in various organizations and in the community, and that has definitely stuck with me in my career."

THE FIVE E'S OF HEALTH

Pediatric dietitian Dana Casendino ('06) combines nutrition and education to help parents improve kids' health BY HALI CHIET ('07)

For Dana Casendino ('06), being a pediatric dietitian isn't just about caring for patients — it's also about educating patients and their families. "I often see patients who just aren't aware of proper nutrition and that can lead to various health problems," she says. "By simply educating people, many of these problems can be avoided."

After graduating from JMU with a B.S. in dietetics, Casendino completed a clinical internship at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pa. The internship consisted of inpatient and outpatient work as well as a variety of assignments and presentations. "This experience gave me exposure to all the different areas of the hospital, which helped me decide what I wanted to specialize in," she says. "I knew right away that I wanted to work in pediatrics."

Casendino completed the internship in June 2007 and then took a job at Westchester Medical Center in New York. During the year she spent at Westchester, Casendino worked in various areas of the hospital including the maternity floor, a high-risk infectious disease clinic and the internal medicine floor, where she put together meal plans and educated patients on proper nutrition. When she saw an opening for a pediatric dietitian at Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey, she was eager to apply. "I have always wanted to work with kids, so I applied immediately."

The staff noticed Casendino's knowledge, skills and enthusiasm and offered her the position in June 2008. As a pediatric dietitian, Casendino works with a team of doctors, nurses and specialists to incorporate a proper diet plan for each patient's diagnosis. She covers the general pediatrics floor, epilepsy monitoring unit and pediatric intensive care unit, and also does a weight management clinic for obese children and a clinic for children with renal disease. "The best part of my job is seeing that something I did for a patient actually made a difference," she says. "The fact that I am able to have a positive impact on the health of my patients is really rewarding."

In addition to her full-time job, Casendino teaches a nutrition class at a local gym, and also works with children with epilepsy and other seizure disorders, implementing diets that help control seizures, as well as special diets for those with weight issues caused by medication. In June, Casendino spoke to an epilepsy support group about proper nutrition for children who suffer from seizures.

"My job is the best of both worlds," explains Casendino, who combines her love of working with kids with her passion for nutrition and education. Casendino says JMU's dietetics program was great preparation for her career: "The program exposes you to all the career areas you can focus on and gives you a strong foundation in each of them."

Casendino says that she would like to get even more involved in her community and in school programs to get kids participating in their own nutrition education. "By teaching proper nutrition when kids are young, we can help slow down today's childhood obesity epidemic and make positive change in today's youth."

To lead children on a path to being healthy adults, Casendino tells parents to focus on the "Five E's" of health:

1 ENVIRONMENT

Set children up for success, not failure! Make sure the house is filled with fresh foods to provide kids with the energy they need to get through their busy days. We cannot expect children to make good decisions if they are only surrounded by quick fixes. I always encourage parents to invite their children to join them on the next trip to the grocery store so they can help pick out some new and exciting healthy foods.

2 EDUCATION

Don't preach to children, teach them. Unfortunately many elementary and middle schools are lacking nutrition education so parents have to play a bigger role in teaching their children the right things to eat. Pick a new color of fresh food to focus on every week, read food labels or whip up a new recipe together. This will not only provide you with some quality time with your kids, but it will also provide them with the tools to make the right decisions in the future.

3 EXAMPLE

As much as they may deny it, sometimes kids are their parents' No. 1 fans. It's unfair to expect certain behavior from our children that we do not expect from ourselves. Lead by example and you will get the best followers.

4 EXERCISE

Emphasize that eating healthfully is only half the battle. Exercise and eating right go hand in hand for good health. Make physical activity fun for both you and your children by participating in a variety of family-oriented activities such as bicycling, soccer, swimming or relay races.

5 ESTEEM

Emphasize that staying active and eating for health is not about looking good; it is about feeling good and appreciating our bodies and minds. Feeling good comes from treating ourselves well — and being happy with the outside will start by how we treat the inside.

'The best part of my job is seeing that something I did for a patient actually made a difference. The fact that I am able to have a positive impact on the health of my patients is really rewarding.'

— **DANA CASENDINO ('06),**
pediatric dietitian

Big Dreams Build Leaders

A confederacy of

Explore More Discovery Museum volunteers, who help thousands of area children learn through play activities, include (above, l-r) Jessica Strawn, Gail Grusler, Adrienna Rinella and Cathy Biller.

Giving back to the area's children **BY MARTHA BELL GRAHAM**

A volunteer at the Explore More Discovery Museum corrals children asking, "Who wants to make snow?" Together, the group measures, pours and stirs. Voila! Cold, feathery snow. The children are enthralled. "Can you eat it?" one asks. "Is it cold?" "Yes, feel it," the volunteer says. She lifts the bowl in the child's direction. Elsewhere on a stage replete with curtains, costumes and a row of padded seats for an audience, two young girls ply their theatrical skills while a boy in a sound booth produces sound effects ranging from howling winds to waves crashing. Somewhere in between, two boys make their way up the loft of the big red barn. Nearby, two siblings build a gigantic structure and then delight in knocking it down. ¶ It feels like chaos. It sounds like a playground. But it's the purest kind of learning children can do. And it goes on daily at Explore More Discovery Museum, a place that provides an innovative learning space for thousands of children throughout the Shenandoah Valley.



Lisa Shull ('85, '91M) has coordinated a confederacy of dream builders to create the Explore More Discovery Museum in downtown Harrisonburg. JMU connections – College of Education professors and students, volunteers, student teachers and parents – have deep roots in the children's museum. And, yes, the museum features a two-story constructed tree inside the learning space.

“Children learn by doing, and play is essential to healthy development. A children’s museum is the perfect environment,” says Lisa Shull (’85, ’91M), the museum’s executive director and a driving force behind its institution. “It’s a place where children can follow their own interests, set their own pace, interact positively with parents and caregivers and discover new opportunities and talents. They get the chance to try things out without the risk of failure. Every child succeeds.”

Shull, formerly an elementary school teacher and supervisor of student teachers for JMU’s College of Education, and her husband, Brian, economic development director for Harrisonburg, discovered children’s museums with their own two children.

Then, they wondered about Harrisonburg. “My husband and I decided that we were going to gauge interest in starting a children’s museum. It just wouldn’t go away. The passion was so strong,” says Shull. “We invited people we knew with varied interests and skill sets.”

Together they formed a confederacy of dream builders.

Out of an initial meeting in January 2002 at Massanutten Regional Library, the Explore More Discovery Museum was

‘I did know that it would be essential to pull others with varied talents together to make it happen and that our museum should be a reflection of our community.’

— LISA SHULL (’85, ’91M),
executive director, Explore More Discovery Museum

born. “When we started reaching out to others, it started to snowball,” Shull says. “In a whirlwind fashion, we started drafting a mission statement, completing nonprofit paperwork, and developing an official name and logo.”

Three months later, the museum began as a traveling show. “Our first week, we hosted an exhibit called *Sheep to Sweater* at the library,” Shull says. “Kids could spin and dye wool and there was even a sheep shearing demonstration. I recall our uncertainty on opening day. We had no idea how many participants might show. Much to our delight, there was a line winding down the street before the doors were open,” she remembers.

During seven weeks of that first summer, thousands of children participated in a series of traveling museum opportunities appropriately named *Where in the world is the Harrisonburg Children’s Museum?* “We traveled from location to location,” Shull says, “showcasing the many aspects a museum would incorporate, including the performing arts, science, communication, and health and wellness. At the end of the summer, we were overwhelmed with requests asking us to consider opening year round.”

So, they found a building. Once again volunteers sprang into action. As Shull looks back, she is amazed at how much work volunteers did and how timely their help was. Shortly before opening the downtown museum (first known as the Harrisonburg Children’s Museum), she recalls, the bathrooms desperately needed cleaning. “A man came in off the street. ‘I’m a professional cleaner,’ he said.” The man, whom Shull had never seen before, got right to work. “I’ve never seen anything sparkle so.”

On Oct. 15, 2003, the museum opened on Court Square. Seven years later, the Explore More Discovery Museum hosts more than 35,000 annual visitors, including curriculum-driven field trips in conjunction with area schools.

At the beginning no one — not even the Shulls — knew if the dream would grow wings or how much work it would entail. “I *did* know that it would be essential to pull others with varied talents together to make it happen and that our museum should be a reflection of our community,” Shull says.

Fortunately, the Shulls were surrounded by a cadre of volunteers quickly committed to the vision for a museum designed just for children. Among those volunteers were Tammy (’94) and Ted Brown (’93). Tammy served as volunteer coordinator for the museum until stepping down this year to open a new downtown restaurant called Pennybackers. Brown is unequivocal in her praise for the museum’s volunteers. “Without them we couldn’t operate.”

Shull agrees, adding that volunteer support from JMU has been critical to the museum’s success. In fact, the list of JMU supporters is long. In addition to hundreds of students who volunteer, support comes from all quarters of the university including President Emeritus Ronald E. Carrier and Edith J. Carrier, who serve as honorary

(Clockwise from left):
Lisa Shull (’85, ’91M) leads
museum goers through a
Farmers Market, while
future teacher and
JMU sophomore Gail
Grusler (’12) helps a
friend have some fun
with JMU head gear.





chairs of the museum's current capital campaign; Harrisonburg Mayor Kai Degner ('03, '05M); board of visitors member Judy Strickler ('60); Glenda (former JMU staffer) and Pat Rooney, former Marching Royal Dukes director; JMU professor Martha Ross; and dozens of local alumni like Laura Conklin ('86,

'93M), Paula Polglase ('92, '96M) and Scott Rogers ('02, '00M).

Every academic year, JMU's Community Service-Learning Center contacts the museum to organize volunteers, Brown says. Circle K, a JMU service organization, is another significant source of student volunteers, as are academic departments.

"I volunteer because I want to get involved in the community," says Jessica Strawn ('12). "I missed working with kids. The museum offers a great outlet for this experience." The history major from Roanoke hopes to work in a museum. "I have learned a lot about educational tools and techniques from my work here."

Sophomore Gail Grusler ('12) earned valuable academic enrichment. "The museum has definitely given me more experience working with children. It has further enforced my desire to be a teacher." Grusler, from Cinnaminson, N.J., is studying exceptional education in the Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies program.

The museum's impact on children is not its only positive impact. Consistently cited as one of the most positive draws to downtown, the Explore More Discovery Museum is part of Harrisonburg's successful downtown revitalization. Volunteers are often asked to share the story of their grassroots efforts with other organizations. Area businesses, including realtors, regularly arrange visits to the museum for families of prospective employees and potential retirees.

"The children's museum has served as a key attraction to downtown," says Eddie Bumbaugh ('73), director of Harrisonburg's Downtown Renaissance. "Increasingly local citizens and

visitors are discovering that downtown offers outstanding attractions such as this museum, plus awesome restaurants and specialty retail shops."

Last year Shull embarked on another adventure almost as daunting as creating the museum. In November, the museum moved into a renovated Main Street building through a lease/purchase agreement in partnership with the city. Phase one of a three-phase renovation to transform the building into a Mecca for children is complete.

Of course, accomplishing the renovation all at once would be nice, Shull says, but phasing makes sense. The new 36,000-square-foot location will increase the usable space six-fold when all phases are complete. Phase one doubled the museum's space and, for the first time, provided sufficient storage and administrative areas, as well as generous space for innovative displays.

The new museum contains a two-story Discovery Tree complete with seasonal lighting and a tree house facade to capture the imagination of visitors young and old. While the new museum reprises some of its most popular attractions, it has added a science lab, television studio, super service center, early childhood area and a full-sized ambulance to anchor the health exhibit. It features party rooms, an expanded Creation Station, a new facade and signage for the building's exterior that will further enhance the community's impact and involvement.

It's a big dream, but Shull has learned: "Dream big and follow your vision. Don't let every detail sideline your ability to move forward. Surround yourself with great people and encourage them to add their gifts to make the project the best it can be."

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm," reads a plaque over Shull's desk. Undoubtedly, she would add: "and enthusiastic volunteers."

Harrisonburg Mayor Kai Degner ('03, '05M) shows off the Explore More Discovery Museum's new sign with Lisa Shull ('85) at the November opening in the museum's new space. Future voters, museum board members and JMU volunteers shared in the moment. (Left): JMU volunteer Pat Buennemeyer.

III

Virginia Republican Dave Rexrode ('01) and Democrat David Mills ('02) — who graduated from JMU within a year of each other — hold mirror positions as executive directors of the two primary Virginia political parties. Madison recently caught up with the alums to get their take on the pulse of their respective parties, as well as issues facing the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Red, Blue and JMU:

VIRGINIA REPUBLICANS VS. VIRGINIA DEMOCRATS

JMU alums and party executive directors face off BY SANDE SNEADE ('82)

Madison: What are the top three challenges facing Virginia today?

Virginia Democrats Executive Director David Mills ('02): The economic recession affects everything in the state and the country. It's global and has slowed growth everywhere. The challenges this creates for the commonwealth are: No. 1 transportation, No. 2 education and No. 3 our economic identity. In other words, we must figure out how to establish ourselves as a 21st-century business destination.

Madison: What is the top challenge facing Virginia Republicans?

Virginia Republican Party Executive Director Dave Rexrode ('01): At the state level, achieving a balanced budget is always a challenge, but it's a good one to have. The governor started with a \$1.6 billion deficit and has just announced a \$400 million surplus. He did that without raising taxes and by working with Democrats and Republicans to balance the budget. It's a good message of how he

turned around the budget challenge without picking the pockets of hardworking Virginians.

Madison: What is your primary job as executive director of the Virginia Republican Party?

Rexrode: My job is to help elect Republicans at all levels, from school boards to president of the United States. I also advocate our core principles and build grassroots efforts to help candidates get elected.

Madison: You didn't mention fundraising.

Rexrode: Fundraising is a big part of it. You have to have funds to get your message out. You need volunteers to take the message out and to make that personal door-to-door contact and make those phone calls. By June of last year, we made more personal contacts than John McCain did in all of 2008.

Madison: How did you get this position?

Mills: I was involved in Gov. Tim Kaine's election in 2005 and gained a lot of experience from 2006 to 2008. In 2008, I left the state to work on other governors' races. Our staff was divided into three races, but 2009 didn't go well for us. I was done for a time and was looking forward to the time off, but then was told that my leadership was needed at the state level. I started as the financial director first; and then after a long interview process I became executive director.

Madison: What are the best and worst parts of this job?

Mills: The worst part is also the best. Managing people is both rewarding and difficult. When you work on a campaign, you feel like you have a lot of control. You are part of a team, and if you work hard enough good things will happen. But the truth is that there are some things you can't control. The most challenging thing is figuring out what you can control and focusing on it.

Madison: You're both married and have young children. How do you make it all work?

Mills: My wife, Jennifer McClellan [Virginia House of Delegates, 71st District], and I had our first child, Jack, in August 2010, so it's going to be interesting. Most people live a kind of moat lifestyle. When you leave work, you cross the bridge to your home life and leave that other world separated. But when both spouses are involved in politics, there is little or no separation between work and home. It's great to have a spouse who understands the sacrifices that politics and public service demand. I have an aggressive schedule. But, when Jenn is on the ballot for re-election, I come home after a week of traveling, and we spend our weekends out shaking hands.

Rexrode: My wife, Kathryn Scott Rexrode ('00), is the communications director for Congressman Bob Goodlatte. It really helps that she's in politics, too, and she gets it. She commutes to D.C. every day while I commute to Richmond. She takes our daughters to the House of Representatives Day Care Center, which is a phenomenal facility. That helps tremendously.

Madison: You drive your own car every day? No Amtrak?



'JMU's political science department is phenomenal. We have a great group of professors. The unique thing about JMU is that professors encourage people to find opportunities to lead and to do things outside the classroom.'

— DAVE REXRODE ('01)

Rexrode: My schedule is too unpredictable to take the train. I drink a Red Bull in the morning and I'm dressed and out the door. Plus, my car has multiple JMU stickers, so I give the Dukes free advertising up and down the interstate. I like getting thumbs up for that.

Madison: How unlikely do you think it is that Virginia has two Daves in mirror positions as executive directors of Virginia's two primary political parties?

Mills: If you had told me in 2000 during Dr. David A. Jones' political science course on Elections that 10 years later I would be in this position — and married to someone in the Virginia legislature and

have kids — I would not have believed it. Crazy things happen in politics.

Madison: What's been the biggest triumph for you in the job?

Rexrode: President George W. Bush's re-election in 2004. I was working in his national headquarters but was sent to Ohio for the last eight weeks of the campaign. On Election Day 2004, the president flew in and spent about 15 minutes in our office. That's the best campaign I've ever worked on at the national level.

Madison: What's been the biggest thrill so far?

Mills: Jack being born was pretty awesome. But the biggest thrill on the job has been meeting other states' Democratic Party executive directors. It's a little bit like a club. They are going through the same things you are experiencing, so it's nice knowing you are not alone.

That and JMU beating Virginia Tech!

Rexrode: Election night for Gov. Bob McDonnell. I was in a suite in the Marriott in Richmond watching the election results with people I have worked with for a decade. All of us grew up in politics together. It was just thrilling when they called the race and he won Virginia — especially in such a spectacular fashion.

Madison: How did JMU prepare you for your present position?

Rexrode: JMU's political science department is phenomenal. We have a great group of professors. The unique thing about JMU is that professors encourage people to find opportunities to lead and to do things outside the classroom.

Madison: How well do you know David Rexrode?

Mills: Dave and I have a good relationship and a healthy respect for each other. When issues come up on the trail, or when a staff person or volunteer is out of line, we tend to pick up the phone and talk to each other. We get it resolved because of our relationship as opposed to some anonymous adversary.

Virginia Republican Party Executive Director Dave Rexrode ('01) and Virginia Democrats Executive Director David Mills ('02) both say the faculty in the JMU Department of Political Science prepared them well to serve Virginians and lead their respective political parties.



Madison: What challenge would you like to issue to David Mills?

Rexrode: Come up with as strong a pro-JMU family ticket as we have for your next gubernatorial race. Gov. McDonnell's daughter was a cheerleader at JMU and she graduated in May. Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling's son was a Marching Royal Duke and he graduated in May. Attorney Gen. Ken Cuccinelli's wife is a JMU grad, and Sen. George Allen's daughter also graduated from JMU in May. We had the most pro-JMU ticket in Virginia history.

Mills: I accept that challenge.

About the political leaders Virginia Republican Party Executive Director Dave Rexrode ('01) serves on the JMU Alumni Association Board of Directors and is a member of the Duke Club. The public policy and administration major is a JMU legacy (grandmother was Class of 1941), and he was involved in University Unions and Theta Chi as an undergraduate. He lives in Stafford with his wife, Kathryn Scott Rexrode ('00), and their children. She is communications director for Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R).

Virginia Democrat Party Director David Mills ('02) was involved in the Student Government Association and the Senior Class Challenge as an undergraduate. The political science major lives in Richmond with his wife, Jennifer McClellan, who serves in the Virginia House of Delegates representing the 71st district. They have one son, Jack.

Madison: What do you do in your spare time other than sharing with family?

Rexrode: I love golf and being outside, and I'm a diehard Dukes fan. My favorite color is purple. My grandmother was Class of 1941 and I met my wife at JMU. I chair the JMU Alumni Association Marketing Committee, and I'm a member of the Duke Club.

Mills: Before Jack, it was golf. Jenn and I like to travel a lot as well. Now, because the job has me traveling so much, we just find something fun to do wherever we are. At home, we like to see old movies at

the Byrd Theatre, walk our two big dogs around Maymont Park or go to museums.

Madison: What's one thing most people don't know about you?

Rexrode: I was president of Theta Chi fraternity for two years. One of the things I'm most proud of is that I started the "12 Days Project," where our fraternity would sleep on The Commons and collect money and toys for Harrisonburg children. The first time we did it, it felt like it was 20 degrees below zero, and all we had was a tiny camper. It snowed halfway through the event, so I wasn't real popular. But we raised \$5,000 and collected 3,000 toys. My fraternity brothers are still doing this project today.

Mills: I'm allergic to salmon. It's my kryptonite. Next time Dave and I have dinner, watch it be salmon. 🐟

* Learn more about the JMU Department of Political Science at www.jmu.edu/polisci.

Embracing and empowering difference

Professor inspires community children, parents and tomorrow's teachers

BY COLLEEN DIXON



Godwin Hall Gymnasium is alive with colors, motion and children's gleeful squeals. Delight is evident on each face — children, their parents and JMU students. Is this a pickup game of dodge ball, or a party? Actually, it is part of an adapted physical education class for JMU students who want to become teachers.

Welcome to Project CLIMB — Children Learning to Improve Movement Behaviors — a 10-week program giving children with disabilities the opportunity to learn through play and physical activity. Tom Moran, professor of kinesiology, had the vision for Project CLIMB before he arrived at JMU in 2008. "I really wanted to create an outreach program associated with my adapted physical education class," he says. "I came up with the CLIMB acronym once I got here."

His experience in an undergrad teacher prep program showed Moran that hands-on experience is essential to gaining confidence to work with children with disabilities. Moran is also part of JMU's physical and health education teacher education faculty. He says that creating an interest in and passion for working with children with disabilities are key elements in truly preparing

Kinesiology professor Tom Moran has created several community outreach programs that inspire children with different learning abilities and their parents, all the while showing JMU students how to be incredible, well-prepared future teachers. (Above): Children learn through play and physical activity in Project CLIMB, offered in Godwin Gym. (Right): Mark Casstevens ('09, '10M) gets valuable student-teaching experience.



tomorrow's teachers. Without interaction with children with disabilities teacher training is not meaningful.

Back in Godwin, the noise and excitement echo off the walls. Five-year-old Brody is playing swords using foam noodles. Emma is reluctant to join the group and pulls away from her mother. Kinesiology major Mark Casstevens ('09, '10M) plops down in front of Emma and signs "play with me" repeatedly. Emma eventually relents and joins Casstevens to play.

HANDS-ON TEACHER TRAINING

Each child is paired with a JMU student for individual attention. The main activity begins with the children and students huddling around Moran as he gives instruction about the day's activities. They do each activity as quickly as possible, and after each is complete, children run back to Moran to receive a small foam figure as a reward. Impatient to begin, the kids explode with noise and motion once Moran signals the start.

Super-energetic Donnie loves the "wrestling" pit. Brody likes to chase and catch people. Brandy is working on smooth movement in a specific direction. Emma is crawling through a small tunnel toward Casstevens.

The quick pace and fun games make this seem like a play session

rather than serious work, but serious work is what is happening. Each child concentrates on activities suited to his or her learning or physical challenges. Moran's kinesiology students have developed individualized programs of learning for their child that focus on developing motor skills.

The individual interaction not only benefits the children by giving them a chance for socialization, physical activity and skill development, but it also benefits the kinesiology students. Moran says, "It's nice when I'm lecturing on autism and a student says, 'Oh, is that what my student has, is that why he starts getting overwhelmed when we're in a certain situation?' It makes the content that much richer for my teacher education students. Not to mention that we're now able to provide a service in the community. Children who unfortunately didn't have a program when everyone else was joining Little League or Youth Soccer now have their own program, at least for 10 weeks, that they can call their own."

BREAKING DOWN TEACHING BARRIERS

Moran developed Project CLIMB by putting together parts of other adapted learning programs he observed. "The year prior to my coming to JMU, I was able to observe similar programs and blend my ideas to develop Project CLIMB. Some programs offer just one-on-one interactions the whole 10 weeks. Other universities don't assign teachers to a specific child; they work with somebody different throughout the hour they're there. I liked the idea of one on one, because stu-



Children who have been through Project CLIMB go from thinking, 'I can't do these things,' to asking, 'What can I do next?'

— TOM MORAN,
*professor of kinesiology and
Project CLIMB founder*

dents get to see the growth of a child across the program. At the same time, I don't want them to only gain experience with a child with Down syndrome, or a child with cerebral palsy. I want to create an environment where they get multiple experiences. That's where I came up with the progression of one-on-one interactions, then pairs, then small groups. By the end of the 10 weeks the students have opportunities across different settings, and also work with different students. It's really the best of both worlds."

John Parks ('09) enjoyed working in Project CLIMB for the instant feedback, which helped improve his teaching abilities. "Dr. Moran impressed me with the way he was able to get us comfortable with working with kids with disabilities, something a lot of us had never done before," he explains. "It can be intimidating, but he gave us the tools to break down barriers. We're able to give these kids a quality experience."

Parents are equally excited about the opportunities opening for their children

in Project CLIMB. "I get a lot of good feedback from parents not only about improving the skill levels of their kids, but also about how it improves their self-confidence and self-esteem," says Moran. "Some of the kids have gone on to join other community programs. Parents return and say, 'I didn't even think they would join Project CLIMB,' and now my child is saying, 'Can I join a baseball team? Can I get involved in a different program?' We're starting to see some self-actualization and some improved self-image. Children who have been through Project CLIMB go from thinking, 'I can't do these things,' to asking, 'What can I do next?'"

Parents have told Moran that they want their children to learn how to ride a bike or how to swim,

or continue to work on their motor skills so they can throw and catch in the backyard. "The spinoff of this program we created is a community-based adapted physical education program that, hopefully, we'll be able to bring under the JMU academic umbrella," says Moran. "We're able to provide either one-on-one or small group instruction for children with disabilities through the academic year, and some during the summer."

On a donation basis, parents can sign up for various programs. "We have a mechanism where we can continue to provide services year-round," adds Moran. "In 2009 we created, as an offshoot to Project CLIMB, the Helping Hands program, where instructors assist community children and adults with disabilities." Helping Hands can assist an adult who wants to go to a local gym and work out or a child who wants to sign up for a self-defense class at Boys and Girls Club.

"Now parents can sign up for those community programs, and we'll provide an instructor who can accompany them and provide one-on-one support within the larger group setting. This is a great mechanism to get the kids out into other community programs," says Moran.

Beyond Project CLIMB and Helping Hands, Moran desires to provide even more outreach programming. He's always asking, "What can we do, within our resources, to continue to provide services? We just need financial support to keep it going," he adds.

Shannon Dougherty ('10, '11M), a kinesiology major in physical and health education teacher education, has been involved in

BETHECHANGE



Kinesiology major Shannon Dougherty ('10, '11M) says Tom Moran's outreach programs offer valuable community services, as well as learning opportunities for JMU students interested in becoming teachers.

several programs Moran coordinates. "Dr. Moran has really helped me get into working with children with disabilities. ... All the kids are so loving and appreciative, and their parents are the same way," says the future teacher. "They are grateful that there is something the kids can do other than just going to school and coming home."

Because there have been limited programs in the Shenandoah Valley for children with disabilities to participate in physical activities, parents are excited by Moran's outreach and the students' mentoring.

"Our JMU students embrace these opportunities. They really want to work with the kids and take them to the next level," says Moran. "I think even the parents realize that

it's more than 'I just bring my kid here and they have some fun for an hour.' They realize there are some real goals behind our programs. Each of my students takes that mission personally." The students want to make sure they are improving upon something, whether it's a child's skill levels, self-confidence or self-esteem.

GROWING COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

This year, Moran received funding to implement an Overcoming Barriers Project through the I Can Do It You Can Do It Program Grant. JMU was selected as one of eight sites nationally to receive the grant of \$15,000 to conduct a physical activity and nutrition mentoring program for individuals with disabilities.

In addition to Project CLIMB, JMU now offers a Physical Activity and Nutrition Mentoring Program, and local parents are able to enroll their children in an aquatics class or an individual sports/recreational activities program. The pool at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community is the venue for the aquatics activities. The sports/recreational activities program allows individuals to choose from several outdoor activities: golf, personal training, bike riding, hiking and tennis.

To sustain the impact of the Overcoming Barriers Project, Moran has offered special-

ized training and support to six community organizations to train their staff members to better meet the needs of all participants.

Moran says these programs are a good part of reaching out to the community. "We are always serving two purposes," he says. "I'm meeting the needs of my students by giving them hands-on experience in education, but we're also filling a need for these programs in the community."

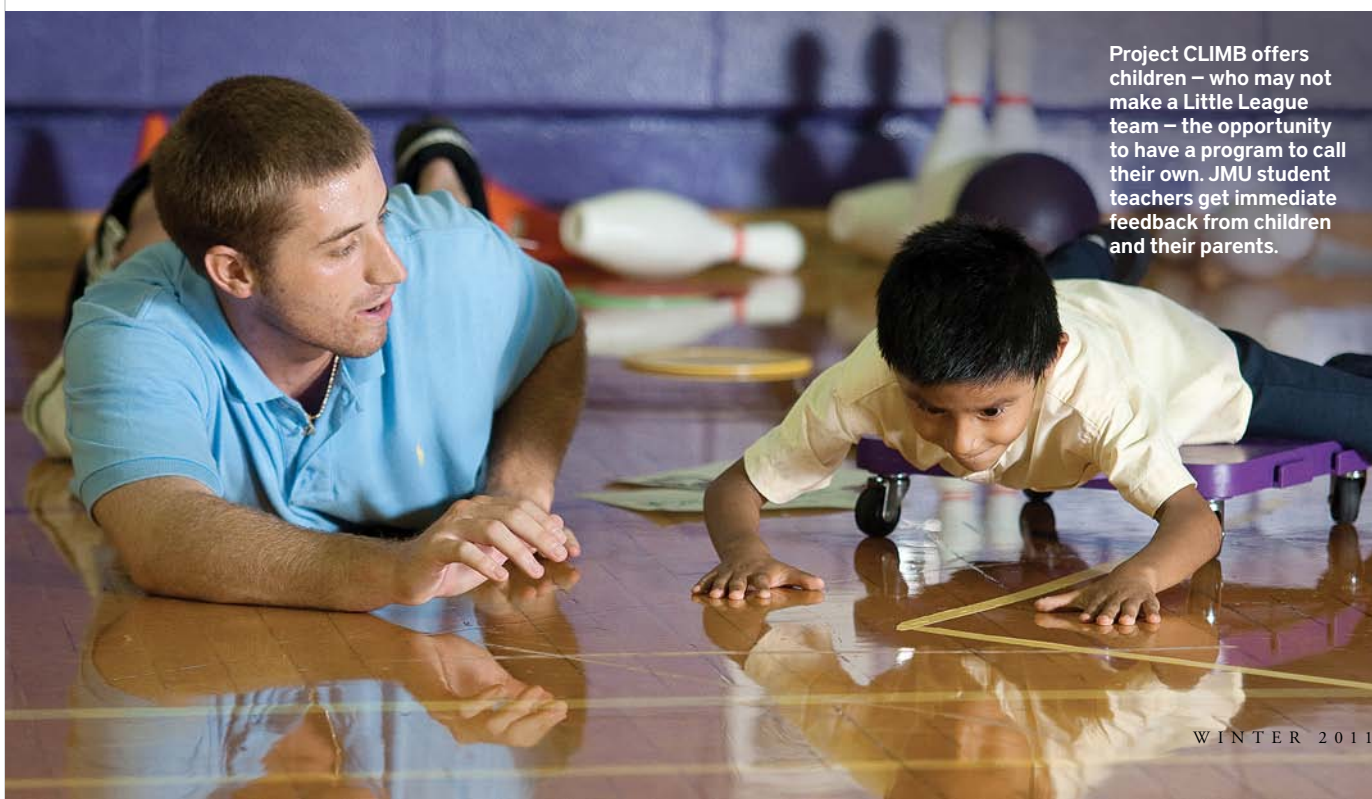
Once the noise has died down at Godwin, it's time for Moran's students to discuss how things went during that session — the good and bad. Struggling for composure, one student relates that things did not go well with her child. She is immediately surrounded by classmates offering encouraging words and hugs. Another asks her peers, "How do I get through to Faith? How do I get her to participate?"

Another student says, "The reward system worked; he wasn't screaming." Another: "I was amazed at the energy and smiles."

The students' comments will join other information about the children and form the basis of new methods in succeeding weeks of the program, according to Moran.

The young children were not the only ones learning and growing on this day. **M**

*** Learn more about Tom Moran and his outreach at www.jmu.edu/bethechange/stories/projectClimb.shtml. Also read how Moran is training Shannon Dougherty ('10, '11M) to help get kids healthy at www.jmu.edu/bethechange/stories/dougherty-healthy-kids.shtml.**



Project CLIMB offers children — who may not make a Little League team — the opportunity to have a program to call their own. JMU student teachers get immediate feedback from children and their parents.

Seek the answers that resonate within you

Professor David Dillard's life lessons have stayed with me BY KEVIN ELLIKER ('08, '09M)

On my first day of college classes in fall 2004, I walked into a humid classroom in Jackson Hall. I was there for an Honors Program section of GHIST 225, Survey of United States History. There were 16 students. This course stood in stark contrast to another GenEd-level history course I had attended that same morning, held in the Phillips Center (now Top Dog Café) with close to 200 students. I didn't have to participate in that class; there was no interaction.

Clearly, the same would not be true for this class. Dr. David Dillard engaged us in a semester-long dialogue that not only made me excited for class, but it also began a conversation that continued through my entire undergraduate and graduate experiences at JMU.

During my first semester, I came to appreciate the passion and conviction with which Dr. Dillard taught history (any student who has heard him tell the story of the Newburgh conspiracy in the American Revolution can attest to this). He goes out of his way to involve students in class. He asks for their thoughts and solicits comments on the topic of the day. I especially appreciate how Dr. Dillard reaches out to students in the education programs — sometimes meeting separately with them to discuss curriculum and content issues in relation to history courses.

'Dr. David Dillard engaged us in a semester-long dialogue that not only made me excited for class, but it also began a conversation that continued through my entire undergraduate and graduate experiences at JMU.'

Dr. Dillard gets to know students as individuals. He remembers our names, where we come from and what we did in his classes. He frequently asked me about my older brother, Mike

('06), who had also taken his classes. In addition to his duties as a history professor and director of the interdisciplinary social science minor, Dr. Dillard has spent significant time working with students in JMU's ROTC program. From 2002 to 2005, he taught ROTC classes. He can relate; the Gulf War vet served 11 years as an Army officer.



Kevin Elliker ('08, '09M), center, receives graduation congratulations from his older brother, Mike Elliker ('06), and history professor and mentor David Dillard.

More than just a professor, Dr. Dillard is a sounding board, an ally and mentor. When I decided to participate in Study Abroad, he quickly wrote a letter of recommendation. As a sophomore resident adviser, I asked him to speak with my residents about his experiences in the Gulf War. He stayed late into the night to share his story.

When I asked if he would be an adviser on my Senior Honors Thesis, he agreed without hesitation. When I sorrowfully trudged into his office a few months later to inform him that I was no longer interested in com-

pleting the project, I wasn't sure what to expect — disappointment, hesitation or regret. Instead, Dr. Dillard encouraged me to seek out only those endeavors that excited me. He told me he would support my decisions, including the one to abandon a stale paper. My experiences with Dr. Dillard outside of the classroom brought me back to his office time and again, even while I was a graduate student in the College of Education.

Dr. Dillard taught me some of the greatest lessons a student of history (or life) can learn. Don't oversimplify. Embrace complexity and seek out the answers that resonate with you. There can never be enough perspectives or knowledge or questions about history. Simple answers do not provide fulfillment or meaning. These lessons have stayed with me, especially as a social studies teacher, where, too often, the tendency is to give the simplest answer to complex questions.

I don't regret my decision to abandon my senior thesis. If I do have a regret, it is that I didn't take enough of Dr. Dillard's classes. He provided important opportunities for me to grapple with difficult questions. I will always be grateful. **■**

About the Professor *David Dillard, associate professor of history, is a Gulf War veteran who spent 11 years as an Army officer. He earned a B.A. and M.A. in American History from the University of Georgia and completed his doctorate at Rice University in Houston. Dillard teaches courses on the American Civil War, the History of the Old South and Caribbean History. He works extensively with the Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies Program and is completing a manuscript examining the Confederate debate over arming slaves.*

About the Author *Kevin Elliker ('08, '09M) majored in interdisciplinary social science and history and completed a minor in secondary education. He also earned his Master of Arts in Teaching degree from JMU in 2009. As an undergrad, he was actively involved in Student Ambassadors, served as a resident adviser in Logan Hall and spent a semester abroad at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He lives with his wife in Atlanta, where he teaches sixth grade social studies.*

{Books}

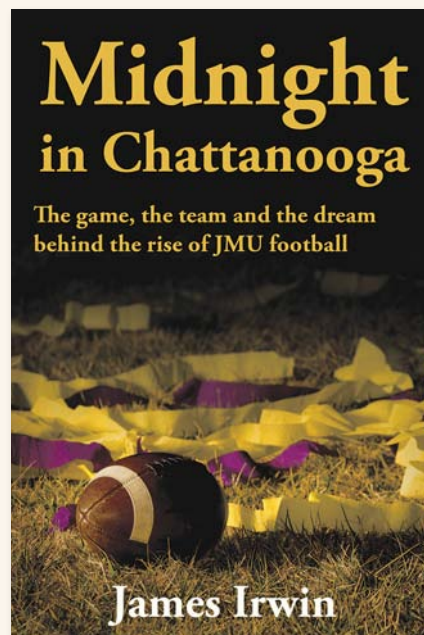
Midnight in Chattanooga: The game, the team and the dream behind the rise of JMU football

BY JAMES IRWIN ('06); (SELF-PUBLISHED),
AUTHOR HOUSE, 2010; ISBN: 9781449081898

During a five-year stretch in the mid-2000s, the JMU Dukes emerged as one of the elite programs in Football Championship Series football. Behind a confident coach and an established recruiting pipeline, the Dukes steamrolled their way to four playoff appearances, one national championship and a 49-15 record from 2004 to 2008. James Irwin ('06) examines the disparity between the pre- and post-championship JMU gridiron landscapes, giving fans an exclusive look at the pivotal season — and game — that catapulted the Dukes to the upper levels of the FCS. As sports editor of the *Washington Examiner*, Irwin covered the Dukes throughout the storied 2004 season. *Midnight in Chattanooga* shares the stories of a group of young men on the doorstep of JMU's first national championship, their friendships, the tragedies they overcame and the community that embraced them. * www.authorhouse.com/Bookstore/ItemDetail.aspx?bookid=69914



James Irwin ('06) gets a howling good review from Duke Dog for *Midnight in Chattanooga*, which details JMU's 2004 national championship. Read more about the Dukes' 2004 season at www.jmu.edu/montpelier/2005Winter/NationalChampions.shtml.



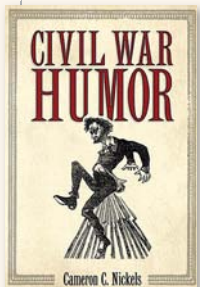
Civil War Humor

BY CAMERON C. NICKELS
UNIVERSITY PRESS OF
MISSISSIPPI, 2010
ISBN: 978-1604737479

Professor Emeritus of English
Cameron C. Nickels examines
the various forms of popular
comedic artifacts produced in

America from 1861 to 1865 and looks at how wartime humor was created, disseminated and received by both sides of the Civil War conflict. Broad­sides,

newspaper journalism, sheet music covers, lithographs, political cartoons, printed envelopes, comic valentines, humor magazines and inexpensive novels — from and for the Union and the Confederacy — are analyzed. More than 60 war-time illustrations and texts give context to wartime history, economy and



Cameron Nickels' comprehensive overview examines humor's role in shaping and reflecting the cultural imagination of the nation during its most tumultuous period.

military tactics. This comprehensive overview examines humor's role in shaping and reflecting the cultural imagination of the nation during its most tumultuous period. A former president of the JMU Faculty Emeriti Association, Nickels is author of *New England Humor: From the Revolutionary War to the Civil War*.

* www.upress.state.ms.us/books/1340

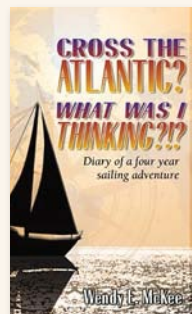
Cross the Atlantic? What was I Thinking?!

BY WENDY E. MCKEE ('63)
(SELF-PUBLISHED) INFINITY
PUBLISHING, 2010
ISBN: 0-7414-5750-4

Wendy E. McKee ('63) chronicles a four-year sailing cruise in personal diaries and correspondence. McKee and her sailing

partner cruised from Pensacola, Fla. across the Gulf of Mexico, through the Okeechobee Waterway to the east coast of Florida. The duo then sailed on to the Bahamas, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean Islands, Bermuda, and across the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean and back again. Her diary is a running account of the adventures and misadventures of the sailors and their cats.

* www.buybooksontheweb.com



Dancing in the Rain: Finding Joy in the Midst of the Storm

BY CYNTHIA PAYNE SHUFFLEBARGER ('94)
(SELF-PUBLISHED), WINEPRESS
PUBLISHING, 2010
ISBN: 1579219837

Cynthia Payne Shufflebarger ('94) chronicles a life-altering, heart-wrenching event — the loss of a child. She shares her thoughts, feelings and attitudes, and how her personal faith changed them throughout her journey of loss. Shufflebarger offers an online ministry with free resources, and says she hopes her book "offers hope, understanding, reassurance, and love to those who are hurting."

* <http://cindyshufflebarger.com>



IBM Lotus Sametime 8 Essentials: A User's Guide

BY **MARIE L. SCOTT ('81) AND THOMAS DUFF**

PACKT PUBLISHING LTD, 2010
ISBN-13: 978-1-84968-060-8

Using real-world scenarios and tasks, Marie L. Scott ('81) and co-author Thomas Duff show exactly how to use all the features



IBM Lotus Sametime 8 Essentials: A User's Guide

Marie L. Scott Thomas Duff

of IBM Lotus Sametime software, which allows you to collaborate and communicate with others

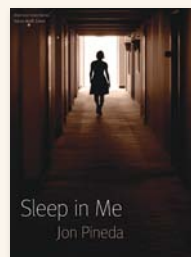
in real time. The practical guide enables users, no matter their skill level, to develop and increase knowledge of Sametime and how to use each feature from start to finish. Readers will learn everything from how to conduct a quick chat to conducting an online meeting.

* www.packtpub.com/ibm-lotus-sametime-8-essentials-a-users-guide/book#in_detail

Sleep in Me

BY **JON PINEDA ('94)**
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS, 2010
ISBN: 978-0-8032-2535-0

Against the backdrop of his teenage sister's car accident — in which a dump truck filled with sand slammed into her small car — Jon Pineda ('94) chronicles his sister Rica's sudden transformation from a vibrant high-school cheerleader to a wheelchair-bound girl who was unable to talk. For the next five years of her life, her only ability to communicate was through her rudimentary use of sign language. Barnes & Noble chose Pineda's book for its "Discover Great New Writers" series. Pineda teaches in the M.F.A. creative writing program at Queens University of Charlotte and is the author of two books of poetry, *The Translator's Diary* and *Birthmark*.



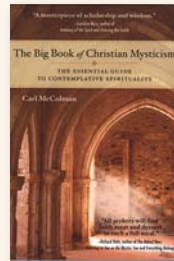
Sleep in Me
Jon Pineda

* www.jonpineda.com/

The Big Book of Christian Mysticism: The Essential Guide to Contemplative Spirituality

BY **CARL MCCOLMAN ('82)**
HAMPTON ROADS PUBLISHING, AUGUST 2010
ISBN-10: 1571746242

Carl McColman ('82) celebrates the tradition of experiential and conscious spirituality within the Christian faith. From the recognition of mystery in the New Testament, to the austere spirituality of the desert fathers and mothers, the insights of the visionaries and contemplatives of the Middle Ages, to the interreligious and interdisciplinary explorations of 20th-Century mystics like Thomas Merton and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, mysticism has had a role within the Christian life. McColman is the author of 10 books on a variety of spiritual topics. He is also a blogger, retreat leader and teacher. Read his blog, The Website of Unknowing, at www.anamchara.com.

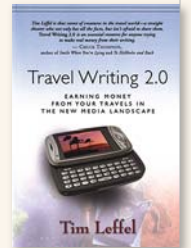


* christianmysticism.wordpress.com/

Travel Writing 2.0: Earning Money From Your Travels in the new Media Landscape

BY **TIM LEFFEL ('86)**
(SELF-PUBLISHED), SPLINTER PRESS, 2010
ISBN: 978-1-60910-108-4

Travel writer Tim Leffel ('86) advises readers to toss out their old travel writing books because the media landscape is changing fast. "Old paths are disappearing but new ones are opening up," says Leffel, the author of four books on travel. He describes opportunities tempered with realism and shares advice from dozens of other travel writers, bloggers, editors and book publishers. Read his travel blog at <http://travelwriting2.com/>.



* www.timeffell.com



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Learn more about the Bridgeforth Stadium renovation and the football team in the enclosed poster/insert at right.

Alumni News

More than braggin' rights When the football team beat the Virginia Tech Hokies on Sept. 11 in Blacksburg, the JMU Nation went wild. Read more about the historic win and updates to Bridgeforth Stadium on the attached insert (left). The insert includes a keepsake poster courtesy of *The Breeze* and information about purchasing season tickets. Don't miss any Dukes gridiron action: Get your 2011 season tickets now.

(Below): When Roland Pieterman ('95) decided to show off his Purple Pride, \$15 of his DMV license plate fee went to JMU Legacy Scholarships. Drive the Purple Pride home and learn how you can support JMU scholarships (Page 52).



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{Alumni Association}

100 years strong

Communicate, connect, cultivate and create alumni connections

By AJ FISCHER ('92), *president, JMU Alumni Association Board*

It's hard to believe that the JMU Alumni Association is nearly 100 years old. Yes, we are 100 years strong in 2011, but it was only a few years ago that the alumni board created its first-ever Strategic Plan. If the alumni association is going to provide the same top-notch experience to alumni as JMU currently provides its students, strategic planning is imperative.

We are all part of the alumni association for the rest of our lives. What could be better than extending our great Madison Experiences from the time of graduation forward? This ties seamlessly into the alumni board's mission: "The JMU Alumni Association connects alumni to extend the JMU experience. We create an environment that engages, enriches and celebrates our university and alumni — building lifelong relationships."

Have you connected to JMU lately? Have you supported a scholarship? Attended a chapter event, a game, or traveled back to the 'Burg to speak to a class?

There are countless ways that alumni can fulfill the association's mission, but the board's Strategic Plan helps us focus on the most meaningful and efficient priorities for alumni. We call them the "4 C's:" Communicate, Connect, Cultivate and Create. The association leadership will communicate both internally and externally with JMU alumni; connect with students and alumni; cultivate volunteerism and relationships; and create meaningful alumni engagement. Stay tuned to future issues of *Madison*, and we will explore what each of the "4 C's" means to you. **¶**

{Purple Pride}

Alums from day one

Alumni association shares Purple Pride with freshmen

By EMILY SABBATINI ('10)

As an incoming freshman, it seems as though all you are ever doing is learning new things and trying to keep up with everyone around you. Figuring out your meal plan, class schedule and the bus system are important, but learning the *JMU Fight Song* is a necessary step in becoming part of the JMU Nation! One of the best parts of the Madison Experience is jumping up and down at football games and chanting the fight song in the midst of a sea of screaming students.

The JMU Alumni Association has embraced this tradition. Since 2007, the association has given *JMU Fight Song* T-shirts to incoming freshmen at the start of each school year. Since their debut, these shirts have been a hot ticket. While the back of the shirt displays the class year, the message on the front is what gets JMU students excited. At first glance, it may look like gibberish, but a closer look reveals the lyrics to the *JMU Fight Song* — printed upside down, of course, so you can pull out the shirt and read the lyrics.



Freshmen show off their Class of 2014 T-shirts courtesy of the JMU Alumni Association.

The shirts also feature the slogan "JMU Alum From Day One" to help students embrace their connection to the alumni association. This year, prior to the annual freshman pep rally, new students gathered to pick up their Class of 2014 T-shirts. As professors, student leaders and Duke Dog welcomed freshmen, excitement and energy grew. JMU spirit was at a maximum as faces were painted and the fight song was practiced to perfection. **¶**

* Download the *JMU Fight Song* at www.jmu.edu/MadisonOnline.

{Volunteer Leadership}

WELCOME ALUMNI LEADERS

The JMU Alumni Association Board of Directors welcomes five new members in 2010-11. Dan Boxer, a 2008 graduate of the College of Business, lives in Charlotte, N.C., and works for Bank of America. He served as president of JMU Student Ambassadors and served as the student representative to the alumni board.

Stephanne S. Byrd ('92M) received her M.B.A. from JMU. She lives in Harrisonburg and serves as the presidential appointee to the alumni board.

Larry Caudle ('82) is a College of Business alumnus and Sigma Phi Epsilon brother. He lives in Oakton, Va., and is a partner with Kraftson Caudle.

Heather Easley Hedrick ('00) of Glen Allen, Va., earned a degree in accounting and is a senior manager with Ernst & Young in Richmond.



Dan Boxer
('08)



Stephanne S. Byrd
('92M)



Larry Caudle
('82)



Heather Easley Hedrick
('00)



Emily Govel
('11)

Emily K. Govel ('11) of Manasquan, N.J., is president of JMU Student Ambassadors and serves as the student representative to the alumni board. **¶**

{Legacy Picnic 2010}

Welcome Class of 2014

Legacy families welcome freshmen to the JMU Nation

BY TYLER MCAVOY ('12)

Nearly 300 students and their alumni parents gathered at the Leolou Alumni Center on Aug. 25 to celebrate at the annual Legacy Picnic. Sponsored by the JMU Alumni Association, the event honors the members of the incoming freshman class who are “legacies” — sons, daughters or grandchildren of JMU alumni.

President Linwood H. Rose and alumni relations staff members hosted the picnic-style lunch and welcomed the Class of 2014 legacy families.

Kerin Braudaway ('82), an office administration major, and her son, Jim Braudaway ('13), talked about their Madison Experiences. Braudaway shared her Phi Mu sorority memories and said parents could take solace in JMU's safe environment. “When I attended JMU I felt safe and secure. It was a haven; it still feels that way.”

While most legacy families include alumni from consecutive generations, some, like Juanita Mowles Milby ('56) and her granddaughter, Brooke Milby ('14), will graduate nearly 60 years apart. Juanita Mowles Milby, a nursing major, fondly recalls her Madison College days. “I paid my way through school by working in the dining hall,” she said. “I don't think it's quite that easy now.”

For the first time, the picnic-style lunch was offered on the Leolou Alumni Center lawn. In previous years, the Legacy Luncheon was held inside the center. “This day was picture perfect, and the food was delicious,” said Braudaway.

The 2010 legacy family with the largest number of alumni was the Lanier family. Five Laniers, spanning three generations, have attended JMU: Norma Lanier ('55) and her three children: Beth Lanier ('85), Todd Lanier ('92) and Chris Lanier ('92). Todd Lanier's daughter Carolyn Tran ('14) is a freshman. She says, “I get to share a one-of-a-kind bond with them that's only found at JMU. The psychology major hopes to be a school psychologist. “Being a JMU legacy is a really wonderful experience.”

The picnic concluded with a new tradition — a pinning ceremony, where parents attached a gold JMU lapel pin to their child's shirt. Hopefully, this will mark the first of many Madison memories.



Juanita Mowles Milby ('56) gives her granddaughter, Brooke Milby ('14), a JMU pin to mark the start of her Madison Experience. (Inset): The Lanier family, including freshman Carolyn Tan ('14), had the largest alumni contingency at the 2010 Legacy Picnic.



Vanessa Collins ('03M) was proud to show off JMU to her son Joel Mays III ('14), who plans to pursue a pre-med degree. “It was wonderful to see President Rose at the Legacy Picnic,” she says. “I truly remember him from my graduation ceremony.”

Collins family joins JMU legacies

BY TYLER MCAVOY ('12)

Getting a master's degree is no easy feat. Getting a master's degree while working full time and raising children, well, most would say that's a real challenge. Not for Vanessa Collins ('03M) of Fredericksburg, Va.

Collins completed her master's in communication sciences and disorders through the JMU Facilitating Licensure of Speech Pathologist program. Funded by a grant from the Virginia Department of Education, the program helps grad students achieve their licensure within a reasonable time-frame. Collins was able to complete her degree at her own pace and take advantage of the program's off-campus course offerings. “JMU's program was an answer to prayer and the open door I needed to complete a career goal I have desired since my teen years,” says Collins.

The flexibility of the program allowed Collins to balance her time between being a single parent with two young sons and having a full-time job. One of the biggest pay-offs for Collins was watching her oldest son Joel W. Mays III ('14) get accepted to JMU this year. “He watched me sacrifice and study hard to obtain my master's, so I hope I instilled in him strong positive values and a good study ethic.”

Collins was impressed with the 2010 Legacy Picnic honoring JMU freshman legacies. “It is good to know that JMU has had such a positive impact on the lives of so many people. I feel like our family is part of a movement.”

{Chapter News}

Alumni chapters network, recruit and chow down

Chicago Dukes rock 'n' roll

Seth Painter ('03), Laurie Lycksell Rubel ('01), Kate Girerd ('05), Michael Rubel ('00), Greg Blinstrub ('01) and Beth Bardeau Blinstrub ('03) represented D-U-K-E-S in the Chicago Rock 'n' Roll half marathon in August. Beth Blinstrub says, "It was awesome having the crowd cheer for us. Because of our very noticeable yellow shirts, the announcer called us out at the start of the race and said that he dated a JMU girl. It was fun having folks try to figure out what the backs of our shirts spelled when we weren't all together, or in the correct order."



Six alumni represented D-U-K-E-S in the Chicago Rock 'n' Roll half marathon in August. "It was awesome having the crowd cheer for us," says Beth Blinstrub ('01).

Charlotte Dukes

The Charlotte Dukes (N.C.) joined forces for a day of service in September at the Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Volunteer Cleanup Event. Dukes helped clean up a park struggling due to budget cuts. For more Charlotte events, e-mail charlotte.dukes@gmail.com

McClellan-Holt ('81) has been working hard to recruit an executive team for the Tidewater Alumni Chapter. She planned two exciting fall events, the "TGIF at Town Point Park" in September, and the cornhole tournament in October. To get involved in the chapter e-mail JMUtidewaterDukes@gmail.com. **MI**

Crabfests 2010

The annual Richmond and D.C. Crabfests brought together Dukes of all ages for fun, food and a crabby good time. Richmond alumni and MetroDukes — nearly 1,000 alumni, volunteers and friends — celebrated the 15th year of this yummy event.

Nashville Alumni

Nashville area Dukes enjoyed fine wine with fellow alumni at a September wine tasting at Arrington Vineyards. The Spirit City also hosts monthly alumni happy hours. E-mail nashvillespirit@alumni.jmu.edu for more information.

Tidewater Chapter

New chapter president Jean McClellan-Holt ('81) has been working hard to recruit an executive team for the Tidewater Alumni Chapter. She planned two exciting fall events, the "TGIF at Town Point Park" in September, and the cornhole tournament in October. To get involved in the chapter e-mail JMUtidewaterDukes@gmail.com. **MI**

Put your Purple Pride where it counts

Support Legacy Scholarships with your JMU license plate

BY EMILY SABBATINI ('10)

You've got the JMU sweat-shirt and the purple water bottle. You may even own the Purple Pride flip flops. Did you know there is another piece of JMU memorabilia you can purchase and support JMU scholarships? A



portion of the purchase price of your purple and gold JMU license plate from Virginia's Department of Motor Vehicles supports the JMU Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship fund. Purchase a plate, show your spirit and help fund education at JMU.

In 2009–10, the alumni association awarded \$49,000 in scholarships to 48 legacy students. Recipients applied by writing about what their JMU legacy status meant to them. Freshman Kaylie Weatherwax ('14) says, "My parents [Bob ('84) and Holly Kirby Weatherwax ('85)] went to JMU, and they've always wanted me to come. The Legacy Scholarship is a cool thing to help them send me. I actually have a picture in my dorm room of me on my dad's shoulders at JMU when I was 4 years old." **MI**

Drive home the Purple Pride!

When you buy a JMU license plate, \$15 of the \$25 annual fee is transferred to JMU for Legacy Scholarships. Choose from two designs: Duke Dog or the JMU seal.



Get your JMU plate today at www.jmu.edu/alumni/plate

JMU Nation goes Purple Out

JMU SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS

Following the historic 21-16 win over Virginia Tech on Sept. 11, JMU fans were asked to "Purple Out" in celebration. The response was incredible. Check out these creative photos from JMU alumni Twitter followers and Facebook fans. Are you connected? Get involved in alumni conversations at www.twitter.com/JMUAlumni and www.facebook.com/JMUAlumni.

JMU TWEETS INCLUDE



JMU FACEBOOK FANS SHARE

Brandon Hedrick ('00): Class of 2000 & Class of 2032 Showing off our purple!



Melissa Isaacs ('00): Dukes of greater Austin celebrating JMU's victory. Go Dukes!

LIVESTRONG



@BR_James: Me ('09) and my little sis (VT '10) post game. She's a good sport.



@BrooksChrissy: Purple Out at Skyline Middle School in the 'Burg!

@colleenlege: We are representing at work in Texas! Three of us alumni, and we are Purple'd Out. Go JMU!



Carmen Hicks Doherty ('01): We traveled all the way from Tampa for the game, and what an amazing game it was. We're both alumni and have two Future Dukes. Go JMU!

Carrie Hanayik Hawes ('04): From the JMU N.C. Triangle alumni chapter's game watching party with the Research Triangle Park Hokies Chapter.



Mary Macdonald Jones ('91): We ventured into Buffalo Wild Wings in Richmond – Virginia Tech territory – rubbing salt into their wounds. This photo was taken by a Virginia Tech fan!



Paige Thomas ('04): Richmond Dukes celebrating the victory over Virginia Tech at Big Al's Sports Bar.



Jon Covel ('99): I am teaching in Slovakia. This is my 3B3 American Literature class. I honestly never thought I had this much JMU gear!

It's a date!

DEC. 9, 2010
Faculty Emeriti Holiday Gala
www.jmu.edu/emeriti

MARCH 18, 2011
The Madison Project's
15th reunion concert

APRIL 28-30, 2011
Class of 1961's 50th Reunion,
Bluestone Reunion Weekend

FALL 2011
JMU Alumni Association's
Centennial

Check JMU calendars for updates on campus events: www.jmu.edu/alumni/calendar ■ www.jmu.edu/jmuweb/calendars

ClaSS

Stay in touch, get involved and be Mad cool

37 Katherine Beales Godwin lives in Williamsburg. The former Virginia First Lady, wife of the late Gov. Mills E. Godwin Jr., is a former third- and fourth-grade teacher at Chuckatuck Elementary School. Godwin Hall is named for the late Gov. and Mrs. Godwin. The Katherine Beales Godwin Scholarship in the JMU College of Education is also named for the former first lady.

40 Margaret Young Gifford Haley enjoys watching college sports on TV and is working on her life story.

44 Grace Pitts Shackelford celebrated her 90th birthday with friends.

50 Jean E. Pugh, Ph.D., of Hayes, Va., plants the Madison Centennial Celebration Purple Pride zinnias in her flower garden each spring. The seed packets were created to honor the JMU centennial in 2008. Pugh shared a photo of this year's blooms with the JMU Office of Development.



Purple Pride zinnias from Jean E. Pugh's 2010 garden.



Sheary Darcus Johnson ('70, '74M) congratulates Claude Grandford Perkins, 12th president of Virginia Union University.

70 Jean E. Geiser-Miller ('81M, '88EdS.) of Fishersville, Va., has been certified by the International Academy of Behavioral Medicine, Counseling and Psychotherapy Inc. as a diplomat in professional and chemical dependency counseling. The academy is a multidisciplinary professional association dedicated to the pursuit of excellence and advanced clinical competency throughout the world. Geiser-Miller earned an M.Ed. in secondary education and an educational specialist degree in counseling psychology from JMU. She is a psychotherapist with Augusta Health Associates in Fishersville. * Representing JMU and President Linwood H. Rose, Sheary Darcus Johnson ('74M), Ph.D., of Richmond attended the Sept. 10 presidential inauguration ceremony of Claude Grandford Perkins as the 12th president of Virginia Union University. Johnson marched in the academic procession and was accompanied to the event by her husband, The Rev. Russell T. Johnson ('74).

72 Frank D. Hughes and his wife, Gail, both retired from teaching for Allegheny County Schools. Their son Ryan, a JMU grad, works for Miller-Coors in Charlotte, N.C. Their daughter Laura, also a JMU grad, works for Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Harrisonburg.

74 Alice G. Anderson is dean and a tenured professor of education at Purdue University. Previously she served as dean of the University of Findlay College of Education. Anderson also served as interim associate dean at Radford University, where she was a founding director of the School of Teacher Education and Leadership.

75 Victoria Gambill Alexander retired from Virginia Beach Public Schools after teaching for 33 years. She is married to Casey Alexander, a U.S. Air Force veteran. The couple has three children and one grandchild. * Vickie L. Kimmons retired from Chesapeake Public Schools in July. She taught cross-categorical special education at Hickory High School in Chesapeake, Va. She also taught special education in other schools in Virginia and North Carolina. Kimmons has served as a mental retardation case manager at the Chesapeake Community Services Board for more than nine years, and she has worked as a rehabilitation counselor for the Department of Rehabilitative Services.

SCHOLARSHIP THANKS

Dear Mrs. Maria-Lorna Teves Alcantara and Mr. Thomas Knoblauch and Donors to the Victoria Alcantara ('10) Scholarship:

I cannot begin to express my sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks for your extreme generosity. When I heard from the director of the JMU Department of Nursing that I would be the first recipient of this honor, tears filled my eyes and I was speechless. I cannot say thank you enough. You have relieved a tremendous financial burden as I make my way though my final year as a nursing student. Your gift will enable me to be the best nurse I can be, and I am humbled each time I think of you and Victoria Alcantara's story. I know Victoria was a JMU nursing student, and she lives on at JMU through this memorial scholarship. I hold the entire Alcantara family in my prayers. So much goes into the making of a person, and I want you all to know that you and Victoria have helped form me through this generous gift. It is with a humble heart and sincere gratitude that I hold you in my thoughts. Thank you.

Clair Karaffa ('12)
STAUNTON, VA.

Class of 1961: Make plans now for your 50th reunion!
April 28-30, 2011. For more info, call (540) 568-6234

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

Beyond the classroom

Award-winning teacher prepares students for life BY HALI CHIET ('07)

Heather Schwarz of Dumfries, Va., has accomplished a great deal as a first-year teacher at Stafford High School. In addition to teaching students with autism, making a difference in the lives of her students and taking courses to complete a graduate certificate, Schwarz is the first-ever recipient of the Heather M. Empfield Scholarship in Autism.

The \$1,000 scholarship honors a former autism program coordinator for the Stafford County school system who passed away in May 2009. The award is a professional development scholarship to help pay for continued study in autism. "I was shocked, excited and honored when I found out the good news," says Schwarz, who is using the money for a graduate certificate in teaching students with autism. She is taking the course online through the University of Mary Washington.

"As a first-year teacher, I didn't have too much experience working with students with autism," she says. "I'm excited to complete this graduate certificate so I can learn new strategies and ideas and better myself as a teacher."

Schwarz is currently the only teacher of students with autism at Stafford High School, where she is in charge of a class of ninth- and 10th-graders. "Our classroom is very structured because my students like having a routine," she says. Schwarz begins each day by having her students work on social skills – making eye contact, practicing greetings and interacting with one another – in addition to writing in a journal. The journal maps out the day's schedule, so if something differs from their routine, Schwarz helps prepare her students for change. "Teaching flexibility is important because my students struggle with that concept."



Heather Schwarz ('08, '09M), an award-winning teacher of students with autism, says, "I absolutely love my job. I couldn't imagine doing anything else."

The remainder of the school day includes working on various life skills like laundry, cooking, grocery shopping, as well as job skills like working at a food bank once a week. "My main focus is on preparing students for life after school," says Schwarz, who takes her students into the community twice a week to expose them to everyday experiences.

Schwarz can see that she is making a difference in her students' lives. "After my first school year ended, I saw a lot of improvement in many areas that my students initially struggled with."

Schwarz says she chose JMU knowing that she wanted to teach, but she wasn't sure what grade level or subject area she wanted to specialize in. She discovered her passion for helping those with special needs through her many extracurricular and volunteer activities. She was a member of the service fraternity APO; Best Buddies, an organization in which JMU students develop friendships with adults with disabilities; and Big Brothers Big Sisters, an organization where students serve as mentors to local children.

"Big Brothers Big Sisters was one of the best parts of my Madison Experience," says Schwarz, who had three little buddies she devoted several hours to each week. "I really felt like I made a difference in the lives of these kids."

In addition to her experiences outside the classroom, Schwarz says JMU's education and graduate programs gave her a solid foundation for her career. "I had outstanding professors who made me realize what kind of teacher I wanted to be," she says. "Education professor Melinda Burchard is an excellent role model and mentor. She's a positive and compassionate person. She has such great ideas and always shares positive feedback." ❧

A leader, on and off the field

Former JMU All-American benefits from CAA connections BY DAVID DRIVER

As a senior for the Dukes soccer team in 2006, **Kurt Morsink** was an all-CAA player who led the team in goals (nine), assists (six) and points (24). One observer who was impressed was Kris Kelderman, then an assistant coach with Colonial Athletics Association rival George Mason.

"Kurt is a total player, not only a very well-rounded player but also a guy you know right away understands the game pretty well," Kelderman says. "[As a student player,] he came across as much more experienced than all of the other players."

By the start of the spring 2007 Major League Soccer SuperDraft, Kelderman was the assistant coach under Curt Onalfo for the Kansas City Wizards. Kelderman made sure to inform Onalfo, a long-time friend and colleague, about Morsink.

"I saw him play a good number of times to have a good feeling about him," Kelderman recalls. "I felt he was the type of player who could step in as a rookie and cope with the challenges of the MLS. I was very pro-Kurt Morsink."

Onalfo trusted his assistant coach, and Kansas City drafted the former JMU All-American midfielder in the fourth round.

Morsink played with Kansas City from 2007 to 2009. Onalfo and Kelderman were let go by the Wizards during the 2009 season, but that was not the end of their connections to Morsink. Onalfo was named head coach of D.C. United prior to the 2010 season, and in March the most successful team in MLS history signed Morsink. Shortly after, Kelderman was back in familiar territory as D.C. United's assistant coach.

"I was very happy," Morsink says. "Any chance I get to play for the biggest club in the league is a good thing. It was good for three years in Kansas City, but I am happy here. For me, it is better to be in D.C. since I have friends here." On Aug. 4, Onalfo was fired as the United coach, but Kelderman remains an assistant under new coach Ben Olsen.

JMU men's soccer coach Tom Martin, who coached Morsink as a student-athlete, was able to see Morsink play for D.C. United at RFK Stadium during the 2010 season. Morsink, a kinesiology

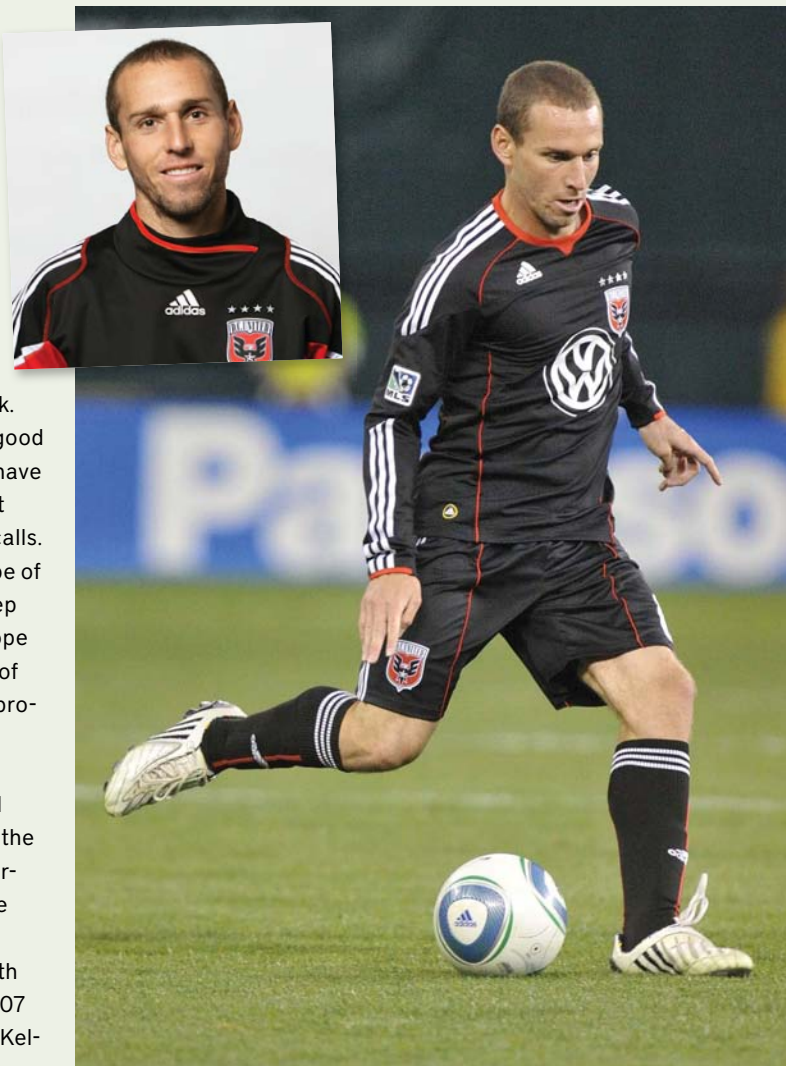
major, finished his JMU career ranked fourth on the school's all-time assist list (29), fifth on the points list (93) and seventh in goals (32). He was named to the CAA Silver Anniversary team (1985–2010).

"Coach Martin was not only a great coach but a great mentor," says Morsink. "He helped prepare me for this league. It was a big transition, and Tom Martin was extremely important in that."

During the 2010 season Morsink played in 10 of the first 17 games with nine starts for D.C. United. During a July game in San Jose, Calif., Onalfo was upset with the team's first-half performance: "I let them know it," he says.

Morsink also spoke up about the effort to his teammates. And, as a native of Costa Rica, Morsink speaks his mind in both English and Spanish. "On-field communication goes from English to Spanish real quick," he says.

"Kurt's best quality is that he is a guy that brings people together," Onalfo says. "He is a guy we value in the locker room. He is very charismatic. I like what he brings off the field as much as what he brings on the field. You need guys who are an extension of yourself as a coach. I view him as one of those guys." ❧



Kurt Morsink ('06), a midfielder for MLS D.C. United, receives high praise from coaches and teammates for his leadership on and off the soccer field.

BLUESTONE REUNIONS

APRIL 28-30, 2011

MADISON ALUMNI CONFERENCE

JUNE 3-5, 2011

Extend your Madison Experience



Learn more or register for events at www.jmu.edu/alumni

76 The New Jersey School Board Association Delegates Assembly elected **Donald Webster** vice president for finance of the association for a two-year term, 2010-12. The NJSBA is a statewide federation of local school district boards of education that advocates, trains and provides resources for the advancement of public education in New Jersey. Webster has been an elected member of the Manchester Township, Ocean County, Board of Education for 13 years.

78 **Peter Lazzaro** retired from Sagem Central School District. He taught social studies for 32 years and coached football for 30 years. He remains the head varsity track coach for Sagem East High School. His son, Kevin, attends State University of New York at Geneseo.

79 **Sue Bunch Jenkins** was promoted to instructional specialist for math and science in grades K-12 for Culpepper County Public Schools in Culpepper, Va.

81 **Susan Spradley** was named in *Best Lawyer* magazine's "Best Lawyers in America 2011" list. She is an attorney with GrayRobinson PA. * **Karl Stoll** and his blues band, The Danger Zone, appeared on National Public Radio's *A Prairie Home Companion* with Garrison Keillor at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Listen to the show at prairiehome.publicradio.org/programs/2010/04/17/ or visit www.karlstoll.com.

82 The Rev. Pam Driesell is senior pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church on Howell Mill Road in Atlanta. She started serving the 2,200-member congregation on Oct. 3. Driesell earned a master's of divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. She is the daughter of former JMU men's basketball coach Lefty Driesell. * Hampton Roads Publishers has released **Carl D. McColman's** book *The Big Book of Christian Mysticism*. Check out McColman's blogs about Christian spirituality at www.anamchara.com.

83 **John Speer** of Oak Hill, Va., won the 2010 Ernst and Young Software Entrepreneur of the Year Award for greater Washington, D.C. Speer is president and CEO of Datatel Inc.

84 **Robert ('10P) and Jill Wilhelm Williams ('10P)**, Class of 1984 sweethearts and JMU parents, write that they "are the proud parents of **Megan Elaine Williams ('10)**, who double majored in journalism and anthropology and graduated *cum laude* from JMU in May."

85 **Scott Kizner ('85Ed.S, '88Ed.S)** was appointed superintendent of Harrisonburg City Schools in 2010. He most recently served as superintendent of Martinsville (Va.) City Public Schools. He earned two Ed.S. degrees from JMU, the first in school psychology in 1985 and the second in community counseling in 1988. He is married to **Lori R. Kizner**, who earned an M.A. in counseling psychology from JMU in 1985 and an Ed.S. in community counseling in 1988. * **Patricia Toliver Shifflett** is the 2010 Assistant Principal of the Year for the state of Maryland. * **Linda Wankow** retired after 20 years service in the U.S. Navy. She spent 10 years on active duty and another 10 as a reservist during which time she held full-time contractor computer/IT related jobs. She currently works with Lockheed Martin in the Northern Virginia area.

86 **Jill Roulley Barber** founded River City Referrals LLC in 2004. City Referrals connects Richmond homeowners with quality contractors for any household task.

87 **Bradford R. Jones** was named chair of the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants Board of Directors for the 2010-11 fiscal year. VSCPA's 9,000 members work in public accounting, industry, government and education. An accounting major, Jones is principal/owner of PBGH in Fredericksburg and has a long history of leadership in the VSCPA and the CPA profession. As chair, Jones will continue to support the VSCPA's top five strategies and maintain an intense focus on increasing the VSCPA's membership. * **Christopher Kepley** shared the 2010 Phadia Allergy Research Forum Award with Nikolaos Papadopoulos. Kepley's research focuses on finding new ways of preventing allergic responses by inhibiting the IgE receptor on mast cells and basophils. * Representing JMU and President Linwood H. Rose, **Dean A. Leipsner** of Austin, Texas, attended the Aug. 23 presidential inauguration ceremony of Phil Schubert as 11th president of Abilene Christian University in Abilene. "The prayer breakfast was lovely, and I met many members of the ACU faculty who were impressed that JMU had sent somebody for this important event," says Leipsner.

89 **Melanie Alnwick** of Washington, D.C., is

the money reporter for WTTG-Fox 5 and currently co-anchors *Fox Morning News Sunday*.

In 2008, Alnwick received an Emmy Award for news writing, and an Emmy for specialty reports. She came to WTTG-TV from NBC-17 in Raleigh, N.C., where she was a general assignment reporter and weekend anchor. She specialized in covering U.S. Army and Air Force issues at Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. She also traveled with the Air Mobility Command to Bosnia and Albania to cover Operation Allied Force and Joint Task Force Shining Hope.



Melanie Alnwick

90 **Wendy A. Battleson** was promoted to senior vice president and senior counsel at Christie's, the fine art auction house in New York. She, her husband, John, and their daughter, Evelyn, live in Montclair, N.J.

91 **Dagney White Monson** celebrated five years of employment with Target as a lead process analysis for risk assessment for Target distribution centers nationwide.

SCHOLARSHIP THANKS

Dear Ms. Ashley Lusk ('06):

As the first recipient of the Write of Passage Scholarship, it was an honor to have you present me the scholarship at the School of Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication Program banquet this past spring. This scholarship is especially wonderful to receive, because although I landed a great summer internship, it was an unpaid position. The money that I make during summer jobs supports me during the school year. I cannot express how much this scholarship means to me — from books, chapter dues, gas, school supplies and furniture I needed to purchase this year.

The work that you are doing with the National 4H Council and the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital must be rewarding. I wish you all the best. I am glad that I got to meet you and hear about your Madison Experience and your time in the writing and rhetoric program. This is a wonderful major, and it is prospering because of the many wonderful alumni, professors and students. Your gift is an amazing gesture and greatly appreciated. I hope if you find yourself back in the halls of Harrison that we will have the opportunity to meet again! Thank you.

Kelly A. Morris ('12)
MORRISTOWN, N.J.

94 Jennifer DiOrio's original play, *Offsides*, opened Oct. 22 at the Watchung Arts Center in Watchung, N.J. She says, "The play has something for everyone — drama, humor, uplifting moments and romance." New York-based veteran writer/actor/director Alberto Bonilla directed the play. DiOrio, an English major, teaches British and European literature at a high school in Edison, N.J. * **Marion Haynes** joined Portland General Electric's government relations department, where she will focus on PGE's state government policy matters. Most recently, Haynes served as vice president for legislative affairs and general counsel for the Oregon Business Association. * *Savoy* magazine recognized **Raquel Oden** in its 2010 list of "100 Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America." The magazine states these leaders have "an exemplary record of accomplishments, inspire others and are influential in helping to better the community." Oden is managing director of banking services at USBS Financial Services * **Lori Pasternak** says that it is her "mission to see that no pet goes without the care it needs or deserves because of the financial hardship." She owns Helping Hands Affordable Veterinary Surgical and Dental Care in Richmond and has practiced as a veterinarian for 12 years. Pasternak donates \$5 from the cost of each procedure to the Good Citizen, Helping Hands Fund, which generates money for

those who cannot afford veterinary services. Pasternak is married to **Jacob Pasternak** ('92), and the couple lives in Richmond. Pasternak and her business have been featured in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, regional Clear Channel radio stations, Bark radio, the local CBS-TV news affiliate, *Pet Tails* magazine, *Family Dog* magazine and *Best Friends Animal League Magazine*. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts recognized Pasternak with its Muse Award for creativity in business. Learn more at www.helpinghands-vetva.com. * **Joe Tedesco**, a computer information systems major, and **Erik Linn** ('96), an accounting major, successfully launched the private equity firm Potomac Investment Partners.

96 R. Bernie Pritchard accepted the position of vice president for client solutions at BPI Group, a global management consultancy focusing in human capital, leadership development and career management.

97 C. Thomas Chapman, research coordinator at James Madison's Montpelier, discussed religious freedoms and President James Madison at a talk at Trinity United Methodist Church on Sept. 11. During his presentation, "All Men are Equally Entitled to the Free Exercise of Religion: James Madison and the Roots of Our Religious Freedom," Chapman discussed the influ-

ences that led President Madison to advocate for religious freedom and the separation of church and state. In addition to his role as researcher, Chapman also serves as Montpelier's associate curator and the archaeology field director. Prior to joining the Montpelier staff, he completed an internship with the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of American History. * **Nathan Hess** joined the Ithaca College School of Music piano faculty as assistant professor of piano. He previously served on the piano faculty at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa., and the State University of New York at Fredonia. * **Jeff Sant**, a finance major, and **Michael Therrien** ('96), an accounting major, are co-founders of Primatics Financial in McLean, Va. They sponsored the JMU College of Business Duke Club Golf Tournament in August.

98 Michael Sciallis has worked for or been affiliated with ESPN since graduation. After working for ESPN for six years, Sciallis started his own production company, Victory Pictures, with partner Rico Labbe, a director in sports entertainment and former NFL cornerback. Sciallis has worked on several ESPN Emmy Award-winning shows and has been personally nominated for his work on the NFL Draft, *Monday Night Football*, *Sports Center* and *X Games*. He has won two Edward R. Murrow Awards.

99 Amanda Bradley Gift was interviewed for the cover story of the September 2010 issue of *Financial Planning* magazine. Gift is a financial expert with Signature, a wealth management firm in Norfolk. Paul Menchaca's cover feature, "Who's Wealthy Now?" addressed financial experts' and wealth managers' advice to baby boomers — America's wealthiest generation. To read more, visit www.financial-planning.com/fp_issues/ and click on "September 2010" under the Past Issues link. * **Richard Scott Obenschain** performs early jazz in New Orleans with the New Orleans Racket Makers whose members are inspired by their love of the city and its traditions. He performs under the name Richard Scott.

00 JMU photographer **Diane Elliott** was one of 97 artists chosen from 272 for the 2010 multimedia juried art show at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community. The seventh-annual show featured artists from across the United States. Elliott also exhibited her photography at the Virginia Highlands art show in Abingdon, Va., in July. * **Michael Andrew Kahl** earned an M.B.A in project management from George Mason University in December 2009. * **Adam Justin Points** was promoted to a major in the U.S. Army in 2010. He is assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

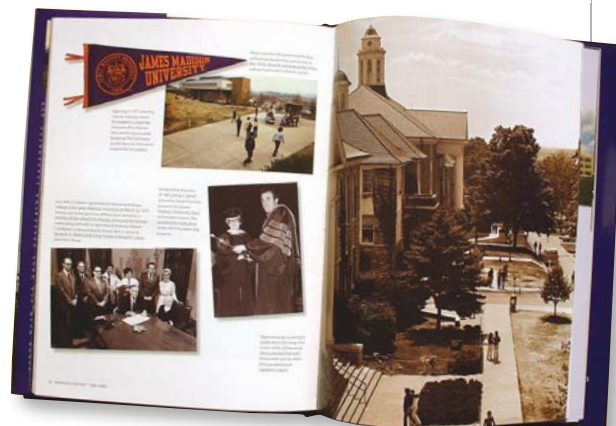
Do you remember the **Quad tunnels?** May Queen? Call

downs for **'cutting campus?'** Trips to the

University Farm? **The Stratford Players?**

Sitting **on the hill** watching the Marching

Royal Dukes? Decorating **the Jemmy statue?**



Get your copy of *Madison Century*, a great holiday present for your favorite JMU student or graduate. Buy yours now at www.jmu.edu/centennialcelebration.

Conducting his way to the top

Chorale and opera artistic director is a passionate advocate for the arts BY SARA RIDDLE ('10)



While most third-grade boys dream of lives as firefighters, policemen, and NFL or NBA stars, as an 8-year-old, **Scott Williamson ('93)** had a clear-cut grasp on his future.

"My first solo as a boy soprano in my church's childrens' choir started my lifelong love affair with singing," he says.

From that point on, all of the singing, musical arranging and conducting Williamson participated in have led to some major high notes in his career. On June 24, 2008, Williamson was named music director of the Norfolk-based Virginia Chorale – Virginia's only fully professional choral ensemble. His title was changed from music director to artistic director in the middle of last season following staff cutbacks.

A member of Madison Singers from 1990 to 1993, Williamson started conducting professionally while he was an undergraduate at JMU. After finishing studies at JMU and Westminster Choir College, he earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Maryland. Williamson then spent time in New York City performing regularly as a tenor in New York's premier choruses.

While in New York, he heard about the Virginia Chorale leadership position from a colleague, and he inquired about and applied for the job. Williamson thought he was a long shot. "I was elated to be a finalist and even more thrilled to get the job," he says.

Williamson has proved his leadership on Virginia's musical scene. In June of this year, he accepted a second job as artistic director of Opera Roanoke. A familiar face to Southwest Virginia audiences, Williamson has appeared in more than a dozen Opera Roanoke productions as a tenor. Opera Roanoke Board

of Trustees President Roger Dalton told the *The Roanoke Times*, "Scott was the ideal choice to maintain artistic continuity and provide dynamic leadership."

Rehearsing music and programming concerts are Williamson's favorite job duties. "As a conductor, the rehearsal process can be the most meaningful, as it mirrors life's trial and error processes, experimentation, discovery and growth," he explains. "Sharing the best *a cappella* choral music and Virginia's finest singers with our appreciative audiences is especially meaningful."

The behind-the-scenes administration of a major chorale or opera company is something "no college course can prepare one for," says Williamson. The Virginia Chorale is a small, independent nonprofit organization that depends entirely upon the contributions of individual supporters. "It is hard to run the program in an environment where corporate and government support is dwindling," he adds.

Undaunted by challenges, Williamson is a passionate advocate for the importance of the arts. "Art is vital in our communal lives, and I enjoy the challenges of enlisting support for what we do."

Williamson, who chose to attend JMU because of the reputation and quality of the School of Music, is proud that he followed his passion and can't imagine what his life would be like if he hadn't. "My other option was a pre-law track at the University of Virginia via a Navy ROTC scholarship," he says.

Quite a different tune; thank goodness for children's choirs and 8-year-olds' dreams. ❧

Music major Scott Williamson ('93) serves as artistic director of both the Virginia Chorale and Opera Roanoke.

01 Brooke Cashman of Essex Junction, Vt., was named a McGowan Fellow at Georgetown University School of Business where she is completing the M.B.A. program. McGowan Charitable Fund sponsors the fellowship program. An English major and JMU Honors Program graduate, Cashman is a former staff member of JMU's student literary magazine *Gardy Loo*. * **Lane Major** is senior vice president for global marketing and one of the founders of the K2M company. Major works with several alumni at K2M, including: **Eric Major** ('91), president and CEO; **Greg Cole** ('91), CFO; **Luke Miller** ('01), corporate counsel and compliance officer; **Dave MacDonald** ('79), senior vice president for operations and human resources; **Caroline Weirich** ('02), director of complex spine study group; and **Elizabeth Venafro** ('06), marketing communications manager. * **Matthew Brandon Peters** appeared in three episodes of last season's Showtime series *Weeds*. He also appeared in the 2010–11 season premiere. Peters lives in Los Angeles and performs stand-up comedy.

02 Brooke Anderson is serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Belize. * **Zack Mansell** of Virginia Beach founded Walkabouts in April. His company provides walking/food tours and historical tours in Hampton Roads. The health sciences major says, "During our food tours, our guests sample house specialties at five restaurants and also visit numer-

ous landmarks to learn about the history of Hampton Roads." Learn more at www.norfolkwalkabouts.com. * *Billboard* magazine named **Brian Nolan** to its list of "Top 30 Executives Under 30" in the music industry. The marketing major is an executive with Columbia Records and lives in New York. * **Michelle Quick** is a Peace Corps volunteer in Belize.



Billboard magazine named **Brian Nolan** ('02) one of its top 30 young power players in the music industry.

03 Robert M. Hendrickson is the campus director at the Minnesota School of Business, a private post-secondary school in Richfield, Minn., that provides career training through its master's degree to the Southern Minneapolis region. After three years of working in accreditation, Hendrickson accepted the position as the onsite administrator overseeing 800 students and more than 100 employees. He moved to the Twin

Cities area with his wife, **Christie LaPorta Hendrickson** ('03). They are interested in meeting any Dukes who live in the region. * **Samantha Lentz Watts** graduated *cum laude* with an M.A. in arts management from George Mason University. She won the prestigious Dean's Award for academic excellence and service to the university.

05 Kimberly Glenn is completing the doctoral epidemiology program at Vanderbilt University.

06 Tyler Cabell Dickinson graduated in May from George Washington University with a master's in elementary education and has accepted a teaching position with Fairfax County Schools. * **Jamie Overbey** graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine with a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree. She was honored as a military graduate and commissioned as an officer during the WVSOM Senior Awards Banquet on May 27, 2010. Overbey was accepted to the pediatrics program at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego, Calif. She is married to Adam Overbey. * **Matthew Shechtman** graduated from Roger Williams University of Law. * **Mary Catherine "Kate" Staab** is senior graphic designer at CB Richard Ellis Group Inc. She has worked with the company since 2007 and specializes in the development of high-end print, Web and multimedia projects to support the firm's professionals and clients. Prior to joining CBRE, Staab worked as a graphic assistant for the *Journal of Mine Action* and as an intern for The Push Group in Fairfax. She has received several awards for photography and graphic design and lives in Chicago's Gold Coast neighborhood.

07 Lon Hopkins, a JMU ROTC alumnus, is serving in the U.S. Air Force. He is also an assistant professor in the Air Force ROTC program at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. * **Lindsay N. Russell** of Woodbridge, Va., performed the lead role of "Laurie Moss" in the Glimmerglass Opera's summer 2010 production of Aaron Copland's *The Tender Land*. A soprano, Russell has

performed with the Virginia Opera and at the Aspen Music Festival. The JMU music major earned an M.M. in vocal performance from the Manhattan School of Music. View her performance bio at www.glimmerglass.org/yaap/youngamericanartists_bio.html.

08 Lindsay Breitenberg is an admissions recruiter for Regents University. She won the 2010 Rookie Recruiter of the Year Award from the North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals and received additional recognition for her work in undergraduate admissions in the South. * **1st Lt. Michael D. Parrish's** unit is mobilized at Fort Dix, N.J., in preparation for deployment to serve in support of military operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. A member of the 3rd Adjutant General Personnel Center in Jackson, Miss., Parrish is a postal officer and is married to Lillie Parish. * **Shannon Thacher** is a fourth-grade teacher at Arlington Traditional School in Arlington, Va. The former JMU orientation program assistant will marry **Robert Crawford** ('08), a former JMU 1787 Orientation coordinator, in Pasadena, Md., in August. Crawford is completing a doctorate in physical therapy at Virginia Commonwealth University.

09 Erin L. Beechel is pursuing an accelerated B.S.N. at Shenandoah University. * **Colin D. Bussert** graduated from Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, in Columbus, Ga., and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He is an air defense artillery officer with one year of military service. * **Chinah Helmandollar** served as the production coordinator for *Lake Effects*, a movie that was filmed at Smith Mountain Lake this fall. She and Bridgewater College graduate Brad Jewell are planning a 2011 wedding. * **Erica Howe** is serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Belize. * **Akeem Jordan** of Harrisonburg is in his fourth season with the Philadelphia Eagles. The linebacker was picked up in the 2007 season, but finished his degree in sociology in 2009. * School of Media Arts and Design major **James Loizou** is an editor and animator with Leading Authorities Inc. He was a finalist

Continued on Page 62

SCHOLARSHIP THANKS

Dear Drs. George R. and Andrea F. Pitts:

As a recipient of the Frances Hugh Pitts Memorial Scholarship, I would like to thank you for your generous donation to JMU. I am a senior at JMU and will graduate in May 2011 with a B.S. in geology. I plan to pursue a master's degree in geology and will use these scholarship funds to take my GRE and visit prospective graduate schools that I am applying to. Your scholarship will help alleviate some of the financial stress that comes with obtaining a higher education, and it will allow me to focus on my studies throughout my final year at JMU. Thank you again for your generosity. Your gift is much appreciated and will be put to good use.

Susan Hoffman ('11)
BROADWAY, VA.

JMU alumni duo flips houses, reaps rewards

HGTV show features partners' sweat equity and expertise BY JEFFREY CRETZ ('03)

If you looked up the word "entrepreneur" in the dictionary and photos were included, you might see the faces of **David Maier ('91)** and **Jeff Leighton ('09)**. Long before Bravo TV's *Flipping Out* series became a popular household name, Maier was finding homes, fixing them up and selling them at a profit.

Maier made a decent profit on the very first house he flipped. "I enjoyed putting my mark on it," he recalls. "I liked the work and put my own sweat equity into the house." Although it is more common to hear about houses "being flipped," Maier and Leighton also sometimes use the term "rehab" to describe their process.

Maier was featured on a July 17 episode of HGTV's *My First Place*. "The buyer for one of my properties was scheduled to be on HGTV and worked with several agents before choosing me," says Maier. "Now I have a relationship with the HGTV producers, and they regularly contact me for future episodes."

Leighton is not as experienced in the business, but according to his more experienced JMU alum partner, "His enthusiasm and passion are second-to-none." Maier began looking for a partner/right-hand assistant in February 2010. He placed a classified ad on Craigslist and began reviewing and interviewing candidates. The JMU link and similar career goals were principal reasons Maier hired Leighton. "Jeff is fascinated by architecture and running a business," says Maier. "When you flip a house, you can design your own vision while still making a profit. It's the best of both worlds."

Both alums agree that their particular line of work comes with some fantastic benefits. Maier loved building a business and a vision from the ground up. "Being able to set my own schedule and working in a team atmosphere is great," he says. Leighton says they each work around 50 hours a week,

but he stresses, "Each week is different. Sometimes we go to mega mansions and ultra-luxurious townhomes that have great panoramic views of the D.C. area. It gives me the inspiration to keep working hard and doing what I love."

Maier and Leighton have fond memories of their Madison

Experiences. Maier remembers the great friendships he formed, and he is still in contact with many of his JMU friends. Leighton, a political science major, remembers a particular evening after he first arrived at JMU as a transfer student. "My roommate and I climbed onto the roof of our townhouse and watched the sunset over the Blue Ridge Mountains. It was about 75 degrees with a nice breeze. I thought this place was a paradise." Leighton's younger brother, Matthew, is also a Duke and is currently "having a great time at Madison."

Maier's philosophy and psychology double majors have come in handy. "Knowledge of psychology is great for the real estate business. We're creating houses that people fall in love with," he explains. "Dealing with buyers, sellers, investors and contractors requires a lot of understanding about how people work."

Fortunately, the economic downturns that have affected much of the country have not slowed the work pace for Maier or Leighton. Maier explains, "I've been focused

on growing my business and working with bank-owned foreclosures." Both grads are excited for what the future has in store. They are established in the Northern Virginia area and are looking to increase their presence in the Maryland and District of Columbia markets. Leighton says, "We're also hoping to expand our operations into the realm of commercial real estate." ❏

* Learn more at www.Davidsellsproperties.com or www.hgtv.com/my-first-place/show/index.html.



Real estate entrepreneurs David Maier ('91) and Jeff Leighton ('09) buy, fix up and sell "rehab" real estate projects and have been featured on HGTV's *My First Place*.

in the Walt Disney ImagiNations design competition with fellow alumnus **Ryan Holman** ('09), a freelance video editor and designer. As part of a Virginia team with two Virginia Tech alumni, Loizou and Holman spent eight days in Glendale, Calif., and placed third in the international competition. Learn more about Loizou's work at www.jamesloizou.com/reel. * **Scotty McGee** of Virginia Beach is a kick returner/cornerback for the Jacksonville Jaguars. The rookie was picked up in the sixth round of the 2010 NFL Draft. * **Laura Pruner** is completing a juris doctorate at Liberty University School of Law. * **Damien F. Seelbach** graduated from Air Force basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. * Former JMU Student Ambassador **Kim Wheeler** is serving in AmeriCorps, a 10-month, team-based, traveling national community service program. The School of Media Arts and Design major has lived on a Native American reservation, trained as a wild land firefighter and traveled to the Gulf of Mexico to help clean up the oil spill.

10 **Meg Allin** ('11M) attended the JMU vs. Virginia Tech football game on Sept. 11 with JMU friends and captured an image of three alumni cheering on the Dukes with four seconds left on the game clock. * The Pittsburgh



Picture them, frankly beaming: Whitney Hanner ('10, '11M), Lindsay Spurlock ('05) and Brandon Spurlock ('06) cheer on the Dukes in their 21-16 victory over Virginia Tech on Sept. 11 in Blacksburg.

Steelers signed **Dorian Brooks** of Richmond as a rookie free agent on April 26. He worked on the Steelers' preseason practice squad but was cut as the team finalized the 53-man player roster. * **Arthur Moats** of Chesapeake, Va., is a rookie linebacker with the Buffalo Bills. He was a sixth-round choice in the 2010 NFL Draft. * **Alison Rosen** is a site coordinator for LIFT-Evanston and has been cited for her dedication, passion and experience in public service.

11 Diamond Duke closer **Kevin Munson** of Roanoke, Va., was selected in the fourth round, No. 121 overall, in the 2010 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft. The Arizona Diamondbacks picked up Munson, who is the ninth-highest MLB Draft selection in JMU history. He was the third player selected from the state of Virginia this year. Last season, Munson was the Colonial Athletic Association Pitcher of the Year and earned his second straight First Team All-CAA honor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weddings

- 1980s** Susan Dawson McVeigh ('81) to Thomas Edwin Whittington, 5/15/10 * David Corbett ('87) to Michelle Good, 11/07/09
- 1990s** Joanna P. Snyder ('93) to Matthew Stott, 6/25/09 * Nicole J. Klein ('98) to Taylor Ray ('02), 7/17/10 * Susan M. Stovall ('99) to Rick Faint, 7/24/10 * Melissa Rubin ('99) to Colin McGowan ('98), 10/03/09
- 2000s** Jessica F. Smith ('00) to Michael Phillips, 8/7/10 * Kerri Bianchet ('01) to Michael Duffy ('01), 5/21/10 * Claudia Saenz ('04) to Marcus Glover ('04), 5/01/10 * Meredith Weiss ('04) to Jacob Zeller, 5/23/10 * Jennifer Burnett ('05, '07M) to J.D. Beard, 5/30/10 * Amy Martha Johnson ('05) to Andrew Cuming ('04), 7/10/10 * Martina Williams ('05) to Cecil L. Wilson III, 7/31/10 * Laura Sutphin ('05) to Paul Riner, 5/29/10 * Elizabeth Knutsen ('06) to Andrew Johnson ('06), 8/28/10 * Christopher Koon ('06) to Kira McGroarty, 5/30/10 * Kristin Mimm ('06) to Steven Gaberdiel ('06), 9/04/10 * Amber Garrity ('07) to Stephen Filingeri ('05), 6/5/10 * Megan Kelly ('07) to Daniel Porter ('04), 6/12/10 * Elissa Winarski ('07) to David Peshler ('07), 7/2/10 * Lauren Hasky ('08) to Matt Harrison, 7/31/10

EMERITINOTES and former faculty news

Professor Emeritus of Education **Charles "Bill" Blair** presented an overview of Jed Hotchkiss' pre-Civil War life with specific attention to the Mossy Creek Academy and other aspects of his work relating to the local area. Blair spoke to members of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society in Dayton on Sept. 16. His lecture was part of the 2010 Strickler Lecture Series.

Professor Emeritus of History **Sidney Bland** spoke at the New Jersey Women's Equality Day observance in Mt. Laurel, N.J., on Aug. 22. The event was held at Paulsdale, home of Alice Paul, a noted women's suffrage leader and author of the Equal Rights Amendment. Bland reflected on his three interviews with Alice Paul in the late 1960s, which were part of his doctoral dissertation, "The Militant Suffrage Techniques of the National Woman's Party," completed at George Washington University in 1972. Bland has also been elected to the Alumni Association Board of Directors of his alma mater, Furman University in Greenville, S.C.

* All former professors are encouraged to contribute an "Emeriti Note" at madisonmag@jmu.edu.



Sidney Bland shares his personal knowledge of noted women's suffrage leader Alice Paul at the 2010 New Jersey Women's Equality Day observance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FutureDukes

1980s. Julia D. Trevey ('89) and Olen Crane, a daughter, Berkeley Maria, 1/20/10

1990s Amy Bender Walsh ('90) and Kevin, a daughter, Riley Savannah, 5/16/10 * Catherine Crews Kirkland ('92) and Jeff ('91), a son, Thomas Jefferson V, 1/15/10 * Stephen Andrew MacKinnon ('95, '98M) and Angela, a daughter, Caroline, 11/06/09 * Christy Callan Wood ('95) and James ('95), a daughter, Katherine James, 11/03/09 * Maria Alexis Georgeadis Muldner ('97) and Joshua, a daughter, Juliana Genevieve, 12/22/09 * Maggie Glenn Carter ('98) and Bryan, a daughter, Alex Elizabeth, 6/4/10 * Mara R. Gipstein Hicks ('98) and Isaac ('99), a daughter, Eva Rose, 8/4/10 * Kelly Austin Mitchell ('98) and Matthew ('98), a daughter, Molly Rose, 5/18/10 * Elizabeth Glasser Sibley ('98) and Ben, a daughter, Willa Callan, 5/27/09

* Amy Foutz Sfaelos ('98) and Jason ('96), a daughter, Georgia Lynn, 8/09/10 * Jennifer Malone Sulanke ('98) and Geoff ('98), a son, Randolph Robert, 10/3/09 * Beth Sharrocks Thanos ('98) and Theodore ('91), a son, John Theodore, 6/29/10 * Amy Hamilton Jackson ('99) and Colin, twin sons, Dylan Wood and Sean Christian, 4/10/10 * Melissa Schanz Koser ('99) and Andrew, a daughter, Caitlyn Elise, 3/18/08 * Kimberly Plamondon Moore ('99) and Terry ('99), a son, Ryan Harper, 8/16/09 * Tricia McGoldrick Sheehan ('99) and Matt, a daughter, Riley Patricia, 7/12/10 * Megan G. Vorthman Smith ('99) and Andrew ('98), a son, Grady James, 5/07 and a daughter, Jovianne Willamina, 3/09 * Dana Willie ('99) and Brandi, a daughter, Erin Olivia, 6/25/09

2000s Noelle Webb Castiglia ('00) and Kevin ('00), a son, Grady Alexander, 12/31/09 * Jenna Wills

Easton ('00) and Chris, a daughter, Mattingly Frances, 7/09/10 * Hugh Gee ('00) and Megan, a daughter, Madison Blythe, 7/1/10 * Molly S. Hansen ('00) and Jason Good ('92), a son, Evan Matthew, 8/04/09 * Ariana Lowenbach Harris ('00) and Chris ('00), a son, Anderson Henry, 6/16/10 * Patricia Kennelly Helsley ('00) and Neil, a daughter, Aislin Alexis, 5/14/10 * Lisa M. Stewart Leahy ('00) and Craig ('99), a daughter, Mary Cameron, 11/24/09 * Kimberly MacLeod Luke ('00) and Bill, a daughter, Kelsey Theresa, 3/13/10 * Jennifer Foss Rice ('00) and Phil, a son, Ethan Foss, 6/9/10 * Ashley Tabb Boyles ('01) and Andy ('99), twins, Porter Edward and Annabelle Mae, 5/07/10 * Tara L. Woodward Busby ('01) and Jason, a son, Jackson Parker, 12/27/09 * Laura Lindsey Coletrane ('01) and Alex, a daughter, Carter Elle, 6/3/10 * Alison Manser Ertl ('01) and Daniel, a daughter, Evelyn Alicia, 2/27/10

* Kate F. Ahearn Keefer ('01) and Ben ('00), a son, Samuel Benjamin, 11/23/09 * Melissa Anne Sweeney Bowman ('02) and Benjamin ('03), a son, Wyatt Allen, 4/07/09 * Meagan Boyd Grand ('02) and Frank, twin daughters, Lila Grace and Julia Hope, 5/14/10 * Bradley Polk ('02) and Amber, a daughter, Kali Nicole, 4/15/10 * Beth Woods Sakshaug ('02) and Richard ('02), a daughter, Guinevere Faith, 6/22/09 * Lynn Allgood ('03) and Jason Madden, a daughter, Sophia Grace, 3/2/10 * Summer Harrington ('03) and Diego Guevara, a daughter, Aura Maria, 6/13/09 * Lauren Gardner Troinbley ('04) and Alan, a daughter, Meredith Olivia, 6/2/10 * Amanda Sue Lindsay Alsbaugh ('06) and Brian, a daughter, Madeline Lindsay, 7/7/10 * Gina Maurone Nabours ('06, '07M) and Blake ('06, '07M), a son, Ethan William, 7/26/10 * Jenna Gordon Bocock ('07) and Joshua ('05, '06M), a son, Brody Daniel, 2/02/10

In Memoriam


LOUISE TATE GILLIAM ('34) of South Boston, Va., 8/18/10
INEZ GRAYBEAL ROOP ('35) of Richmond, 11/11/10
FRANCES COATES ('40) of Virginia Beach, 2/24/10
MARY STEVENS GREENE ('41) of Harrisonburg, 2010
MILDRED ALLEY HANCOCK ('42) of Aventura, Fla., 3/17/10
WILMA LARUE MAST ('42) of Rockbridge Baths, Va., 6/22/10
ANNA LONG WATSON ('42) of West Columbia, S.C., 8/15/10
IRIS "TITI" RUIZ WILLIAMS ('42) of Virginia Beach, 7/16/10
MARY DYER DALEN ('44) of Franklin, W.Va., 7/14/10
NANCY ROWE MADDOX ('44) of Grafton, Va., 7/10
BETTY CLOUGHERTY MILLER ('45) of Springfield, Va., 5/19/10
LILLIAN DEMODENA PUNARO ('48) of Bluefield, Va., 6/30/10
BETTY KABLER FORBES ('49) of Virginia Beach, 9/14/10
MARGUERITE WILSON GREGORY ('49) of Virginia Beach, 5/20/10

BARBARA BANISH RAYFIELD ('50, '66M) of Chesapeake, 7/28/10
BETTY HIPPENSTEELE McDUGAL ('51) of Spring, Texas, 1/1/10
JANE WILLIAMS EVANS ('52) of Richmond, 5/27/10
BETTY EVANS COYLE ('64) of Harrisonburg, 8/27/10
AMY MARJEAN WRIGHT JONES ('64) of Florence, S.C., 4/10
PAUL L. DiNICOLA ('70) of Fayetteville, N.Y., 6/22/10
MICHAEL MARSH ('71) of Jacksonville, Fla., 10/20/09
ALBERT BRUCKNER ('75) of Marshfield, Mass., 3/03/09
KENNETH M. SLOWICK ('76) of Richmond, 6/26/10
MARK W. TRACZ ('78) of Vienna, Va., 7/03/10
KELLEY LEA STEBURG ('81) of Chesterfield, Va., 6/26/10
MARK S. BODKIN ('84) of Verona, Va., 7/13/10
NANCY WELCH BARTON ('85) of Hopkinton, Mass., 6/30/10
CHRISTOPHER M. CARTER ('97) of Arlington, Va., 3/24/09
KATHLEEN WATKINSON IVINS ('10P) of Richmond, 7/23/10
EMILY F. SMALLMAN ('11) of Norfolk, 7/17/10

Party Dawg

Road Dawg puts on his best coat and tails for four alumni weddings

By MICHELLE HITE ('88)

You'd think Road Dawg would be dog tired from his many visits with alumni since being unleashed during the 2008 JMU Centennial Celebration; but Dukes' best friend is still kicking up his paws. Road Dawg has hit the road with 53 Dukes traveling 10,772 miles around the United States. He has welcomed Future Dukes, attended numerous weddings, hit the slopes in Breckenridge, howled for the Redskins at FedEx Field, toured a brewery, kicked up some sand at Ocean City, N.J., and survived a few unprintable excursions. (You Dukes know who you are!) Check out these images from Road Dawg's scrapbook, as he donned his best coat and tails at four Purple and Gold weddings. 



Megan Klas ('07) and Patrick McNeil ('05, '07M)

Nursing majors Megan Klas ('07) and Patrick McNeil ('05, '07M) married on Oct. 3, 2009, in Duck, N.C. "All alumni stood proudly as we hoisted Road Dawg and sang the *JMU Fight Song*," says Patrick. "We knew Road Dawg was a must-have for our wedding. All 15 alums were proud to see him." Megan is an R.N. in Atlanta Children's Healthcare in the AFLAC Cancer Center, and Patrick is a firefighter and emergency room R.N. in Atlanta.



Trish Tyler ('91) and Brooks Ferrett ('91)

Music industry majors Trish Tyler ('91) and Brooks Ferrett ('91) were married on the Quad on May 15, 2010. Road Dawg shared in the Purple-and Gold-theme nuptials. "Nearly everyone involved in our wedding was an alum – from our photographer Susan Sommerfeldt ('09) to our minister Cecil Conley ('95)," says Trish. "When we were introduced as husband and wife, we walked out to a recording of the Marching Royal Dukes performing the *JMU Fight Song*." Even though the classmates shared a major, the couple never dated at JMU. "I took a picture of Brooks at graduation and kept it in my photo album. But, that was the last time we saw each other, except once at Kings Dominion. Flash forward 15 years to the booming social media craze. I searched for classmates via MySpace and there was Brooks. The rest, as they say, is history."



Kira McGroarty ('06) and Chris Koon ('06)

Road Dawg celebrated the marriage of health sciences majors Kira McGroarty ('06) and Chris Koon ('06) on May 30, 2010, in Pasadena, Md. The Rev. Sandra C. Botoms ('83) officiated. "We were ecstatic to have Road Dawg and several alumni share our big day," says Kira. "Marissa R. Bonaiuto ('06, '07M) and Andy Runyan ('05, '07M) were the maid of honor and best man."



Rachel Schmid ('08) and Scott Lemn ('08)

Centennial Dukes Rachel Schmid ('08) and Scott Lemn ('08) began dating as sophomores. Lemn was a team captain and an All-American center for the football team, and Schmid was involved in the Club Ski Racing Team. They wed on July 10, 2010, at First Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg and had their reception at the Spotswood Country Club. Road Dawg and several alumni celebrated with the couple. Rachel says, "Road Dawg was a big hit. We all sang the *JMU Fight Song* as we took a JMU group picture."

Submit your **Madison** class note

The magazine staff welcomes news for class notes and notes from alumni and former faculty members. Please submit news of personal and career achievements online at www.jmu.edu/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

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www.jmu.edu/BeTheChange

'Change is noticing what's happening around us and taking positive action to change the bad things.'

— MAILIZAR ('11M)

graduate student and education advocate

Raising the bar for Indonesian students and teachers

After a devastating 2004 tsunami killed thousands in Indonesia and destroyed his hometown, JMU graduate student **Mailizar ('11M)** worked to rebuild the houses that were the homes of his friends and family. While working with U.S. aid workers, Mailizar realized that the rebuilding needed to be deeper; the foundations of the society needed to be reshaped. Receiving encouragement from his relief worker friends, he enrolled in a Syiah Kuala University in Indonesia and graduated in 2006 with a degree in mathematics education. He started teaching children right away. Making do with the limited funds and resources, Mailizar taught mathematics in an Indonesian school, contributing to a growing sense of importance of education in Indonesia. To the tsunami-stricken nation of Indonesia, education is a luxury. Yet teaching wasn't enough, he realized. Without proper materials or training, teachers couldn't meet his country's growing educational demands. Mailizar traveled around the world to James Madison University, to earn his master's of education with a specialization in educational technology. After he graduates, Mailizar plans to return to Indonesia to teach teachers — to help educators learn new methods for incorporating technology into the classroom and to change his country by raising the bar and the opportunities for Indonesian students.

For Mailizar ('11M), education is more than a personal quest for fulfillment. He plans to take his JMU graduate degree in educational technology and help teachers in Indonesia incorporate technology into their classrooms. Mailizar will use education to help rebuild a nation.

BE *the* CHANGE

PHOTOGRAPH BY DIANE ELLIOTT ('00)

Be the Change for a brighter future! www.jmu.edu/BetheChange/