

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY.

Campaign kickoff video



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Faces of Giving

The university's donors have found numerous ways to make a difference for Madison.

Follow the links to read their inspiring stories of giving.

Library love

When Susan Geiser Phillips ('77) heard that JMU was building a new science-centered East Campus library, she knew she wanted to support it. Phillips was inspired to create the Phillips Family Endowment for the University Libraries.

Read [the story](#).

Perfect harmony

When Elizabeth Swallow called professor Eric Ruple and asked for piano lessons, what happened next could only be described as perfect harmony--which comes about when a donor sees a need at the university and has the desire and vision to make a difference.

Read [the story](#).

20/20 is all about loyalty

A growing list of donors have given to JMU for more than 20 years. Through big gifts and small, these loyal donors have helped to sustain JMU's growth.

Read [their stories](#).

J. Craig Williams ('79) donates \$25,000 for justice studies scholarship

Williams credits experiences at JMU for influencing him to adopt a "pay-it-forward" philosophy.

Read [his story](#).

The Tickle Family Endowment for Science and Mathematics

Jeff Tickle ('90) recently pledged \$1 million to establish the Tickle Family Endowment for Science and Mathematics at JMU.

Read about [his decision](#) to follow his passion for education and his love for math and science.

Jarl and Beth McConnell Bliss ('84) give back to Madison

Their gift established the R. Jarl Bliss Endowment for Faculty Fellowships in the College of Business and the Elizabeth McConnell Bliss Endowment for Undergraduate Research in the College of Science and Mathematics.

Read about [their decision](#) to give back to Madison and encourage others

The Riley Family Centennial Scholarship

James and Julie Riley's \$250,000 gift to Madison created the Riley Family Centennial Scholarship

Read the story of JMU's first privately funded [Centennial Scholarship](#)

Comfort in Numbers

Longtime benefactor Alvin Baird explores his math learning disability by joining JMU in a national education cause

From Summer 2004 *Montpelier* <http://www.jmu.edu/montpelier/2004Summer/ComfortNumbers.shtml>

Changing the face of Harrisonburg and JMU

Donor-developer Bill Neff and his vision for the city meet JMU's expanding campus

From Spring 2004 *Montpelier* <http://www.jmu.edu/montpelier/2004Spring/ChangingTheFace.shtml>

Most loyal fans

Robert and Frances Plecker attend every basketball game -- men's and women's, Frances emphasizes. They have given \$2 million for the Plecker Center for JMU's athletes.

From Fall 2003 *Montpelier* <http://www.jmu.edu/montpelier/2003Fall/MostLoyalFans.shtml>

Over the long haul

Ed Estes' gift of \$2.5 million, the largest in university history, sustains a JMU family heritage and will help build the future Dorothy Thomasson Estes Center for Theatre and Dance

From Spring 2003 *Montpelier* <http://www.jmu.edu/montpelier/2003Spring/OverTheLongHaul.shtml>

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JMU's spirit of entrepreneurship

Since the mid-1970s when he made the first gift of an endowed athletics scholarship, outgoing JMU rector and one-time traveling lettuce salesman Zane Showker ('79) has come to personify JMU's business programs and has made yet another gift to athletics.

From Summer 2002 *Montpelier* <http://www.jmu.edu/montpelier/issues/summer02/main/ENTRE.HTM>

Great Expectations

Terri Wingo lives up to great expectations

From Winter 2002 *Montpelier* <http://www.jmu.edu/montpelier/issues/winter02/main/great.html>

24 Karat Purple

Inez Roop tops her steadfast JMU life with a \$500,000 gift

From Winter 2001 *Montpelier* <http://www.jmu.edu/montpelier/2001Winter/HeartOfPurpleAndGold.shtml>

Life's for Giving

Alvin V. Baird Jr. and his wife, Nancy Chappelle Baird ('40) give \$1.5 million to JMU Attention and Learning Disabilities Center

From Fall 2000 *Montpelier* <http://www.jmu.edu/montpelier/issues/fall00/bairds.htm>

Cell phone phenoms

After riding the entrepreneurial ups and downs of the fledgling cellular telephone industry, Steve and Dee Dee Leolou ('78) feel like a million -- and share their success with JMU.

From Winter 2000 *Montpelier* <http://www.jmu.edu/montpelier/issues/winter00/leolou.htm>

Class acts, a campus mosaic of gifts

As each class graduates from JMU they leave behind a collective heartfelt gift.

From Spring 1997 *Montpelier* <http://www.jmu.edu/montpelier/issues/spring97/class.html>