

## OIR Update

The Office of Institutional Research staff were very busy this past summer and would like to share news and updates. You are invited to read and comment.

### Changes in OIR

- Chuck DeHart, Assistant Director, will retire September 23<sup>rd</sup> after 16 years of service in OIR. Chuck received his Master of Public Administration here in 1989 and held a variety of part-time faculty positions before he began working for OIR. He has managed data collection, reporting and decision support on university-wide issues. He has been our expert for institutional peer analyses and reporting to the Commonwealth and the federal government. Many of you know his exceptional work. He is working hard to train the rest of the OIR staff on his duties. We wish Chuck all the best as he seeks consulting work with higher education and in his next career designing and building guitars.
- OIR is currently recruiting for an associate director who will assist the office in serving the university community.
- We are pleased to announce that Tina Grace recently earned her Master's in Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication. The skills she learned have already been extremely useful to OIR. Please congratulate her when you see her.
- In December, OIR will be moving from our current location on Driver Drive near UREC to the North Campus (old RMH for most of us). We will be housed on the second floor of the building that faces Cantrell Avenue. We plan to have an open house after we are settled.



---

### At A Glance

**Academic Success Research Note:** OIR recently completed a [Research Note](#) entitled, "Predicting Academic Success: Measures of Persistence." The study examines the relationships between pre-JMU attendance variables and three measures of collegiate success (graduated from JMU within six years; final cumulative GPA at JMU; and whether a student transferred and graduated at another institution within six years). If we can identify factors that are related to student outcomes, efforts might be taken by JMU faculty and staff to understand, identify, and aid students early in their collegiate experience.

**Degrees Conferred:** James Madison University has conferred undergraduate and graduate degrees on more than 4,000 students per year every year since 2005-2006 (4,027). This year (2010-2011), JMU conferred 4,608 graduate and undergraduate degrees which was an increase from the 4,411 degrees conferred last year (2009-2010). This is part of a larger, 30-year pattern of steady, linear increases in degrees conferred.

Of the 4,608 degrees conferred this year (2010-2011), 84% or 3,877 degrees were awarded to undergraduates. Seven hundred thirty-one degrees (731), 16 %, were post-graduate degrees. For more information please refer to the 2011 Statistical Summary [Table 3.2](#).

---

## Research Snippet

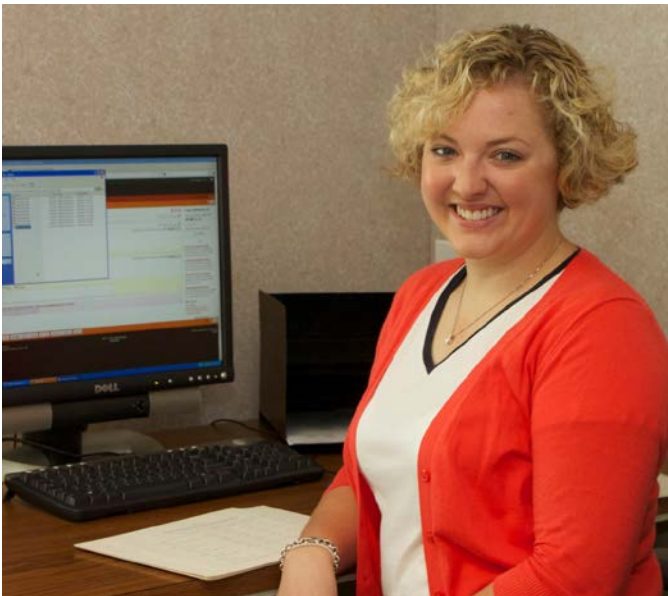
**First Year Student Survey:** In the recently completed 2011 [First Year Student Survey](#), a shift in educational philosophy was noted as 49% of this year's respondents said they hold a vocational philosophy of education, which is viewed as preparation for an occupation. In previous years, the most selected philosophy was a social philosophy of higher education, where social life and loyalty to college emphasized, but this year it fell to 29%.

---

## Annual AIR Forum

Several OIR staff are members of the Association for Institutional Research. AIR is a very important organization for us because they are the best source of information about higher education that relates to institutional research. They are the liaison between the IR community and the federal government's data collection unit (National Center for Educational Statistics and its Integrated Postsecondary Educational Data System, also known as NCES and IPEDS) as it relates to data reporting requirements.

Every year, OIR staff members attend the Annual Forum for AIR. This year Frank Doherty, Peter DeMichele and Lou Hedrick attended the forum in Toronto. We gained important information about changes in federal reporting, new research ideas, SACS accreditation, etc. Access further information about AIR at: <http://www.airweb.org/>



---

## Welcome New Graduate Assistant:

### Sarah Marrs

Sarah Marrs joins us this fall as a GA. A Virginia native, she received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Virginia Tech in May, 2011. She is a first year student in the Psychological Sciences Master's Program with the Cognitive Science concentration. After completing her Master's, she plans on continuing her education in a doctoral program studying Developmental Psychology with the goal of becoming a professor and overseeing a research lab at a university or conduct research for the federal government. Her research interests are in the area of cognitive development in infants and children. Outside of school, she enjoys running, playing tennis, cooking, football, and spending as much time as possible with friends and family.