

### INTRODUCTION

Since the first issue in 1973, the Statistical Summary has been updated annually to incorporate the latest information concerning the students, faculty, programs, finances, and facilities of James Madison University. Data were gleaned from numerous sources to provide a valuable reference to the university community and beyond. These sources include datasets and reports prepared for state and federal government agencies, reports submitted to private organizations, internal reports produced by university offices, and summaries that were prepared especially for the Statistical Summary.

The Statistical Summary is also published on the World Wide Web for the ninth year. All tables are posted for Internet access as soon as the information is available. This keeps printing expenses down. The Web version is located at: [http://www.jmu.edu/instrsrch/statsum/2003\\_04/2003-04toc.htm](http://www.jmu.edu/instrsrch/statsum/2003_04/2003-04toc.htm).

We really appreciate suggestions to improve the information in the Statistical Summary. This year Tables 2-4 and 2-5 have been expanded to include off-campus census data by sex and by full-time/part-time status. In an effort to be consistent with the College of Graduate and Professional Programs, we also changed from using the term "Special" to using "Non-degree Seeking" for students who were not matriculated into a degree seeking program. This change in terms also brings us closer to terminology used by the federal government where these students are also often referred to as "Unclassified."

Some other items of interest are:

- The one-year return rate for the Fall 2002 freshman class increased to 92.0%, the highest level since the freshman class of 1991. The six-year graduation rate has also returned to 80% from 78% last year. The higher one-year return rates bode well for maintaining a graduation rate of 80% or greater.
- The percentage of undergraduate males continued to decline (Tables 2-2, 2-4 and Figure 2-1). In fact, the raw number of undergraduate males declined while the total population increased.
- Asian/Pacific Islanders continued to be the largest student minority group while African-Americans continue to decline (Table 2-7).
- New additions this year are Figure 2-11, "Non-Resident Aliens by Country, Fall 2003" and Figure 5-1, "Institutional Space, Fall 2003."

The Statistical Summary is an example of teamwork at its best. The Institutional Research staff contributed in the following general ways, but everyone pitched in to see the work completed. Dr. Frank Doherty consulted with the Editor and created the maps. Chuck DeHart edited the document and, with Rosemary Brenner, compiled and verified the data. Rosemary and Tina Grace coordinated the efforts of Sveta Bolkvadze and Daniel Paulson (graduate assistants) who helped update and format the tables for the Web and publication. We all hope that the Statistical Summary will be useful in your work.

Chuck DeHart  
Editor