

## Good eye


*JMU senior is College  
Photographer of the Year*

**C**asey Templeton, a senior majoring in media arts and design, is the 2005 national College Photographer of the Year.

In addition to the overall award, Templeton won the gold award for his outstanding submission in the national contest's Portfolio category and an award of excellence in the Personal Vision category. He also won two bronze awards in the Domestic Picture Story and the Sports Feature categories.

As the winner of the 60th annual award, Templeton earns a 14-week internship at *National Geographic* magazine, a contributing sponsor of the national competition. Templeton also won a Nikon Digital SLR System and a National Press Photographers Foundation \$1,000 scholarship, which honors the memory of Col. William J. Lookadoo.

As the College Photographer of the Year, Templeton is invited to present work at the annual Pictures of the Year International/College Photographer of the Year awards ceremony April 20-21, when he will formally accept his award.

Throughout his college career Templeton's work has been published in *Madison*, and he has worked for both JMU's Photography Services and the *Staunton Daily News Leader*. He is also a photographer for *The Breeze*, JMU's award-winning student newspaper, and he's completed an internship with *The Roanoke Times*. 

\* Check out Casey's work at [www.caseytempleton.com](http://www.caseytempleton.com)



# Alumni

News

## Dukettes!

School of Media Arts and Design major Mindi Westhoff ('07) captured the Dukettes soaring across the field at halftime. More Homecoming 2005 coverage on Page 63.



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{ **Boston Dukes** }

## Bean Town Dukes unite

*Alumna's Madison spirit is contagious in Boston*

BY ERIN PETTIT ('05)

New to Boston after her graduation, **Blu Nordgren ('04)** wanted to meet new people, particularly those with ties to JMU. So when she found out that there wasn't an active JMU alumni chapter in her area, she took matters into her own hands and started one.

Nordgren's determination to build an active JMU alumni organization in Boston strengthened after she realized that her roommate at the time had an active alumni chapter from her university. Rumor had it that a JMU alumni chapter once existed in the Boston area, Nordgren says, but it had faded out and no activities had really been planned for about five years. Last summer Nordgren set out to change that fact by forming the Boston Area JMU Alumni Chapter.

"It was a little slow at first," Nordgren admits, "but more and more people keep showing up to events and more are showing an interest in helping out and organizing events."

With no official officers yet, Nordgren is the main organizer, along with a couple other "very active members," she says. Her aim is to allow members to organize activities in which they are particularly interested. "For instance, Allison Miracco ('02) came up with the great idea of a scavenger hunt, and she was very interested in organizing that, so she and I worked together."

The pair created 75 missions that ranged from collecting take-out menus from restaurants on Newbury Street to taking a



**Blu Nordgren (center) celebrates a little bit of Purple Pride with fellow Dukes in Boston.**

picture of a team member pouring a Guinness beer at an Irish pub, Nordgren says. Teams even took pictures of all the members forming the letters J, M and U with their bodies.

"The scavenger hunt was a huge success," Miracco says. "I thought it would be a great way to get to know other alumni — by having to run around the city with them. Nordgren collected prizes, and we decorated lunch bags and stuffed them with prizes including a lot of purple and gold Mardi Gras beads."

The Boston alumni have also gotten together for a few happy hours at the Cactus Club and the Sports Depot. Together, they cheer on the JMU football team from the sidelines or via televised games. And these former Dukes also carry on the Madison tradition of valuing community service. Miracco and Nordgren have started compiling a list of volunteer opportunities for the group "because we feel that people would like to help out their community," Miracco says.

Boston area alumni volunteered at the St. Francis House Day Shelter on Jan. 28 and 29, helping the shelter volunteers feed the homeless. The group hopes to continue with one volunteer activity per month, says Nordgren. ❧

\* For more information on the chapter, contact Blu Nordgren at [JMUinBoston@yahoo.com](mailto:JMUinBoston@yahoo.com).

## MadisonEvents

**MARCH 14**

**Baltimore/Annapolis Chapter Happy Hour**

at Claddagh Pub (Canton), 6 p.m.

[BaltimoreChpt@alumni.jmu.edu](mailto:BaltimoreChpt@alumni.jmu.edu)

**MARCH 15**

**James Madison Day, Scholarship Luncheon and Capital Campaign Announcement**

[www.jmu.edu/birthday](http://www.jmu.edu/birthday)

**MARCH 15**

**JMU Kennedy Center Series**

*Terrace Theatre, School of Music event featuring Montpelier Winds, Wind Quintet*

(540) 568-6863

[www.jmu.edu/music/concert\\_calendar/kennedycenterseries.html](http://www.jmu.edu/music/concert_calendar/kennedycenterseries.html)

**APRIL 7-9**

**Spring Reunion Weekend and Bluestone Society Induction**

[www.jmu.edu/alumni](http://www.jmu.edu/alumni)

**MAY 6**

**Commencement**

9 a.m., Bridgeforth Stadium

**MAY 7**

**Baltimore/Annapolis Chapter lunch and JMU vs. Towson baseball outing**

*Towson University Union*  
[BaltimoreChpr@alumni.jmu.edu](mailto:BaltimoreChpr@alumni.jmu.edu)

**JUNE 2-3**

**Alumni board of directors meeting**

For information about any of the listed events, please call the JMU alumni relations office at (888) 568-ALUM or visit [www.jmu.edu/alumni/calendar/](http://www.jmu.edu/alumni/calendar/).

Stay in touch, get involved and be Mad cool

Online

[www.jmu.edu/MadisonOnline/](http://www.jmu.edu/MadisonOnline/)



## Watch Us Play

*Alum's music video pumps up football team and fans during the championship run* BY TRIP PAYNE ('78)

**M**om, Dad! Watch this!" This inextinguishable call of youth is common to us all. As professionals, we revel at the thought of our associates, loved ones and rivals seeing us at our calling. During the record-breaking season that was the Dukes' National Division 1-AA Championship, I lived that dream.

The vehicle was *Watch Us Play*, and the event was the start of the 2004 football season against a hapless Lock Haven squad. On Bridgeforth Stadium's sparkling new Jumbotron played my music video *Watch Us Play*. This raucous call to action for the JMU faithful signaled the emotional charge to scream and dance for the Dukes. The video is part rock-and-roll stage show, part smorgasbord of JMU activity at game time, all played out to a Karaoke version of Aerosmith's *Walk this Way* with (hopefully) witty lyrics thought up on the way to a pitch meeting with Brad Edmondson, head of JMU sports marketing. However, for a '78 graduate like me, it was like coming home again. The words on

the screen may have sung out *Watch Us Play*, but I was really saying "watch me play" to all those who may have recalled I was a lost and wandering communication arts student without direction in the late-'70s.

Not that anyone in the stands would know I had done the work on the screen. But I knew. And, more importantly, the two people most closely associated with me during college and my early career development, Dwight Phillips ('75) and John Hodges ('78), were working alongside me. Though we had not worked together in 25 years, I knew I wanted them on this production for all the quality they would bring. And so there we sat in the broadcast booth above the field watching the surreal become real as our combined skills in production brought the first moments of the championship season to the viewers in the stands.

The three of us could never have imagined this situation as students. Back in January 1978, I was a senior in the communica-

**Former classmates Dwight Phillips ('75), Trip Payne ('78) and John Hodges ('78) energize Dukes' fans from the broadcast booth, high above the stands.**

MYMADISON

tion arts department majoring in film/TV production. I was also working toward a minor in theater (something I never achieved). A chance interview in Los Angeles with a Universal Studio executive in the summer of '77 fired me up to do all I could with the remaining year at Madison. Not only was I taking 18 credit hours, I was acting in the theater department and working on a special film project. It was at that very time that Dwight (then a producer/director at WVPT) asked me to take an opening at the station as a cameraman. I thought the job should go to John, who I always thought much more capable than myself. But John had dedicated himself to music in such a way that he was betting on success as a drummer. Once John turned down the opening, Dwight came back to me. We danced the circle one more time; and once again I deferred to John, and John again deferred to me. I can still hear Dwight's frustration as he lamented, "Won't one of you just take the damn job?" I did and within the year, John would join us on staff. We went through our own rite of passage at the station as we sweated through long hours, tight deadlines and a learning curve that seemed to get ever longer.

Twenty-seven years later, Dwight, John and I were back on campus, plying our trade and reveling in a moment of incredible human bonding and pride. As John, now a faculty member in JMU's School of Media Arts and Design, put it, "We picked up on the old rhythm, each of us complementing the other to create a smooth workflow and to (gasp) have fun. That is the key. We have always had fun doing what we love to do — making television. ... Trip kept us focused with his consummate professionalism, and we had fun. We were all more grey, heavier and hopefully wiser after so many years."

Dwight, who now works for Maryland Public Broadcasting, waxed sentimental

**About the Author:** *Trip Payne ('78) is the senior producer/director at Metro Productions of Richmond and Hampton, a multifaceted company providing film and television production services. In his 27 years of professional work, Payne has garnered more than 50 production awards, most notably the Best Director Award at the New York Film Festival and the International Monitor awards. He and his wife, Roberta, and their children, Tori, 15, and Chad, 9, live in Williamsburg, where he writes what he hopes will one day become his feature film project.*



**John Hodges ('78), Dwight Phillips ('75) and Trip Payne ('78) were proud to sport their own JMU jerseys with their class year numbers and names on the back at the debut of their crowd pumping video *Watch Us Play*.**

as well: "It was the premiere of something new and exciting for the school, for us; and it was the beginning of an unforgettable season for the football team. That made it especially memorable for me because I was there in September 1972 for the debut of Madison's football team. I was a member of the newly formed marching band, established to complement the school's growing men's athletics program. That first season wasn't terribly impressive (the team didn't score a single point), but it was a start. It was also in November of that year that I got my first taste of broadcasting."

These many years later, the words rang out *Watch Us Play*, and I longed for my two colleagues to like what I had done. After 25 years I still needed to say to them "Hey, watch me!" and have them look back fondly and say, "Good job." Oddly, until I penned these words to join theirs, I had never told them how much their opinion meant to me and that I sorely needed them to approve of my efforts to become a good director. This industry does that to you.

*Watch Us Play*. That's how I felt in the booth on Sept. 4, 2004, when JMU stepped onto the field to face off against Lock Haven. I wanted all the friends who encouraged us in college to be there to see what we had accomplished. I wanted all

my professors who must have thought I was going to sleepwalk through the rest of my life to be there to see that I had woken up. I wanted to be able to open up my '78 yearbook and sing out loud *Watch Us Play* to everyone who wondered what we would do with our communication degrees. I was home. I was back where I had discovered what I could do. And I was back with the two people whose opinion of my work mattered most.

Along the way, as John notes, we accomplished our professional mission — "pumping the crowd with this award-winning music video before each game, firing up the coach with replays of questionable calls and making the team feel that they were part of something truly special when they walked into the home stadium environment."

At that game, none of us knew that a championship loomed on the horizon. So much had to be done, and so much had to be accomplished before that trophy would be in Coach Mickey's hands. And there the three of us sat, doing what we knew how to do. It was as though we had never left Madison — as we fell into a rhythm and pace that we knew all too well. The old jokes came out and the same laughter and smiles appeared that used to keep us sane when pressure threatened to drown us. To me, it was already a championship season. **MI**

# HOMECOMING 2005

*Festivities draw recent grad and 25th reunion group back to the 'Burg*



A late rally by the Dukes, a sea of purple thundersticks and 120 yards rushing by tailback Alvin Banks couldn't beat the Richmond Spiders at Homecoming, Oct. 29. But, the weekend was still packed with purple fun. Read two alum's stories on the next page.

## Best spot in the '540'

By KHALIL GARRIOTT ('04)

Homecoming is really the only time of the year when seemingly everyone with ties to the JMU community comes back to the area for a few days. Although I've spent my share of Homecomings in Harrisonburg, nothing compares to this year.

For me, it was a no-brainer to go back to the 'Burg, but others weren't so sure. Most of us are still not far removed from the JMU scene — geographically or socially. But, I knew Homecoming would be a great time. I took off work a couple days to drive down from Northern Virginia a little earlier than most. My amazing Homecoming weekend started with a Thursday night jaunt to, well, the place everyone goes that night — Highlawn Pavilion. I couldn't have asked for a better start to the long weekend; I was back in my element and around some great people who I hadn't seen in too long. Pictures were taken, drinks were downed and all-new memories were made. I just couldn't help but wonder if it could get any better.

Then, like JMU has done so many times, it outdid itself. Friday marked the beginning of Halloween and the festivities continued when even more people got into town. But it wasn't exactly easy to meet up with everyone (good thing we live in the age of cell phones). I was able to get in some time on the tennis courts before the plummeting temperatures brought everyone inside for a little reunion. It was a time to catch up with old friends, meet new people and reminisce about college years.

Saturday was undoubtedly the highlight. Whether you joined the crowds in Forest Hills or tailgated on campus, it was the perfect day. Mother Nature shined down on us with quintessential fall weather, and there wasn't an unhappy face in sight.

It was tough to convince people to make the trek from Hillside Parking Lot to the impressively revamped Bridgeforth Stadium for the football game. But a sports freak like me had to watch our defending champs. A questionable final play call and poor timeout management ultimately led

to a heartbreaking loss to the University of Richmond. But not even a crushing defeat could ruin this weekend in the 'Burg.

Running into so many people throughout the day was the best part of the weekend — from class acquaintances and former flings to sports teammates and campus co-workers. After fighting the crowds at local restaurants, Saturday night quickly turned into the wee hours of Sunday morning. Friends complained of tiredness and wanting to just relax. But, in my opinion, there were still good times to be had.

Sunday reminded me of so many Sundays on campus — sleeping in, recounting the previous night's events and watching football. Born and raised in the Washington, D.C., area, I couldn't miss a Redskins game and neither could many other die-hard fans, even though we had to watch the Giants shut them out.

Some left the "540" earlier than others. I postponed the inevitable for as long as possible. But as the sun began to set on

Homecoming 2005, the reality of it being almost over started to hit home. Making the drive from Harrisonburg to Northern Virginia, like I had made so many times before, didn't faze me. What did start to bother me, though, was the temporality of it all. For one weekend, we had it all again. Everything just felt right, and it was better than anyone could have hoped.

We often get too caught up in the mundane world of working and forget about everything this university gave us. There's truly no place like JMU, and I know anyone associated with Madison agrees.

I was very active during my student years at JMU, which were the best four years of my life. Maybe that's why I had such lofty expectations for this year's Homecoming. But if there's one thing I learned, it's that I may not live in the 'Burg anymore — but it's still my home. Here's to many more Homecomings and alumni weekends where we can all rediscover, like I did, that our blood still runs a true shade of purple and gold. **ML**

Alumni News



**CAN YOU SPOT KHALIL?**  
If you didn't get your picture taken with Khalil Garriott ('04) at Homecoming, where were you? (Counterclockwise from top right): Khalil catches up at Saturday's Hillside Tailgate with Krista Russo ('04) and Whitney Chesbro ('06). Khalil and Russo share a laugh Friday night. With former roomie Jon Teichmann ('04). With tennis club teammate Josh Krause ('06). And, the ever elusive Khalil at the Hillside Tailgate with Kelley Boom ('04) and Krista Russo ('04).



**About the Author:** *Khalil Garriott ('04) is a sports editor/producer for America Online.*



## London: A Play in Two Acts

25 years later the cast reunites BY JULIE SUMMERS WALKER ('80)

If "all the world's a stage," as Shakespeare wrote, this was ours.

The setting: London, January 1980. The Arran House B&B. The players: nine female leads, 11 male leads. The story: James Madison University Semester in London. Directed by Dr. Roger Hall; assistant director Lynn Hall.

"An honest tale speeds best, being plainly told." *Richard III (Act IV, Scene IV)*

Twenty-five years ago we were the second JMU class to attend a semester in London and the first chaperoned by Roger Hall. Today, Semesters Abroad are commonplace with established curriculums. But in January 1980, only one class had gone before us and our chaperones and mentors. Professor Roger Hall and his

wife, Lynn, had never been to London, let alone taken care of a group of 20 students set loose in one of the grandest cities in the world. They handled it one day at a time, but we didn't know that then. We found all that out at the 25th reunion of this troupe of players, when we came back from our grown-up lives — lawyers, mothers and fathers, bankers, teachers, writers and actors — to Homecoming and memories of one of the greatest acts of our lives.

"I like this place and could willingly waste my time in it." *As You Like It (Act II, Scene IV)*

London in 1980 was a playground for us; none of us remember anything but pure freedom. Every night we attended a theater production somewhere in London. From *The Merry Widow* to Tom Stoppard's first efforts, Dr. Hall introduced us to a world we'd never seen before. We had classes in rooms at Birkbeck College during the day but often we left the classroom to traipse

*Semester in London Act I and II Players include: Mike Augsburger of Blacksburg, The Elder; Charles Leo Cook of Marietta, Ga., The Musketeer; Paul Weber of Arnold, Md., The Diplomat; Kevin Dunbar of Hunt Valley, Md., The Lord of the Manor; Melissa Shaw O'Connor of Round Hill, Va., The Chanteuse; Laura Haga Rice of Farmville, The Stage Mother; Jim Watkins of Alpharetta, Ga., The Quiet Man; Beth Hamilton Ghodsi of Fairfax Station, The Hitchhiker; Kendra Straight Clark of Charles Town, W.Va., The Teacher; John "Mick" Thomasson of Chicago, The Teddy Bear; Julie Summers Walker of Frederick, Md., The Scribe; Suzanne Cale-Young of Clifton, Va., The Ingénue; Amy McClung of Orange, Va., The Poet; Charles "Drew" Nickell of Virginia Beach, The Court Jester; Steve Mawyer of Broad Run, Ernie; Marit Anderson Gay of Charlottesville, The Lady Bountiful; Sal Aparo of Hoboken, N.J., Romeo; Clelia Amari Fry of Holly Springs, N.C., The Lady of the Lake; Delos "Jack" Willmore of Fairfax, The Intellectual; and Dan Myers of Churchville, The Playboy.*

around the city, learning architecture, art and history by seeing it up close. At night, we lived in the Arran House Bed and Breakfast, owned by an upright and proper British colonel and his wife. We were cared for by a band of Portuguese maids who always wore high heels and fancy dress.

**About the Author:** Julie Summers Walker ('80) is a writer and editor for the national pilot's association publication *AOPA Pilot*, and lives in Frederick, Md.



Drew Nickell ('81), Kendra Straight Clark ('83), Julie Summers Walker ('80) and Paul Weber ('80) chat with theater professor

Roger Hall at the football game. Inset: Hall sporting his Semester in London hat.

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers." *King Henry V*

We ranged in age from 18 to 27 and came from as far south as Florida and as far north as New Jersey. Most of us were from the Maryland-Virginia area. Yet, we soon became bonded by the memories we shared. There was the night five of us happened onto the Tower of London and were lucky enough to get into the Ceremony of the Keys — an eerie replication of the nightly lockdown of the Tower — and then sang show tunes as we walked through London in the middle of the night. The "deck" the boys had outside their room on the roof overlooked the street. The police came to warn us about being out at night and the dangers of the Irish Republican Army. The parties at The Princess Louise, a pub; the afternoons in the Tate Museum; weekend road trips to Brighton, Scotland, Ireland, Paris and Spain; Easter in Hampstead with the Halls; Kew Gardens; High Tea at Harrods; and the Canterbury Cathedral.

"He wears the rose of youth upon him." *Antony and Cleopatra (Act III)*

From the vantage of 25 years later, I realize how young Roger and Lynn Hall were. And from raising two sons of my own, I realize what an experience taking two toddlers to London must have been — the Halls' children, Cassie and Bryce, were just 3 and 4 years old at the time.



Steve Mawyer ('80), Julie Summers Walker ('80) and Delos "Jack" Willmore ('85) catch up at the 1980 Semester in London Reunion.

**'It is said, "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life." London taught us how to live — and we plan never to tire of it.'**

JULIE SUMMERS WALKER ('80)



Roger Hall's first Semester in London students honored their professor with a framed print of London, signed by each participant of the 1980 trip.

If time does anything positive, it shrinks the age difference between friends. Today Roger Hall not only looks our contemporary, he is. Sadly we lost Lynn to breast cancer last year. As a group we're making a donation in her memory to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

"To mourn a mischief that is past and gone is the next way to draw new mischief on." *Othello (Act I, Scene III)*

Four months together and then it was over. Some stayed in Europe for an extended time, making use of inexpensive Eurail passes, some took quick trips to Paris or

Spain or Germany, but some needed to get home for graduation in early May. We must have said we'd keep in touch — and some did. But mostly we went our separate ways, to start lives and careers. It wasn't until later — when we paused to think about it — that we realized what a life-changing experience we'd shared. And when our chanteuse Melissa Shaw O'Connor ('80) and I started planning a get-together for Homecoming 2005, we were overwhelmed to discover that not only did nearly everyone plan to attend, but they were eager and excited. We gathered at Roger Hall's home, descending on him as if it had only been yesterday that we'd seen him. We hugged and laughed and shared memories — and photos of our own children. And sitting in Roger's living room reminiscing, we all said the same thing — London was the best experience of our lives.

"The true beginning of our end." *Macbeth (Act V, Scene 8)*

Twenty of us went to London; 18 came back for this reunion. We held a brunch at a local restaurant and presented Dr. Hall with a large print of London, on which we each wrote our memories and thanks. We celebrated our compatriot Drew Nickell's 47th birthday. He summed it all up best in a letter written later to us all: "Sharing the experience with you 25 years ago had such a profound impact on my life. Although our lives have separated all of us from one another, you have never been far away from me — and you will remain very close to me where it counts the most."

It is said, "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life." London taught us how to live — and we plan never to tire of it.

{Metro Dukes}

## VolunteerFest 2005

*Metro alumni continue tradition of service*

**M**etro-D.C. area alumni are making Fairfax County's VolunteerFest an annual time of service, fun and fellowship, thanks to Metro Duke Amy Leidheiser. The 2002 graduate is the Metro Dukes Chapter vice president for community service.

"Amy coordinated another great project this year," says Lauren Maguire ('05). "VolunteerFest was a great experience and a wonderful way to connect with alumni by working side by side with them. Many of us did volunteer work at Madison, and we enjoyed being able to do work in the community alongside Dukes again."

This marked the second year that Metro Dukes participated in VolunteerFest. Fairfax County officials coordinate the day, and numerous nonprofit organizations and businesses pull together to

complete service projects including a food drive, a mini golf tournament for children and area mentors, a winter clothes collection, a green roof tour and landscaping of Yorktowne Square Condominiums, playground repairs, a computer recycling program and a health fair.



**Metro Dukes and community friends take a break from painting during Fairfax County's 2005 VolunteerFest. Volunteers include (l-r) Chris Weaver ('04), a community volunteer, Amy Leidheiser ('02), Farrah Khan ('05), Lauren Maguire ('05), Meredith Schantz ('05), Rachael Miles ('02), Paul Vutiprichar ('00) and another community volunteer.**

Metro Dukes worked with RPJ Housing Development to refurbish a local home. Alumni put their muscles into stripping a patio and repainting it. They also painted the home's living room, bathroom and a bedroom.

"I wasn't sure whether opportunities to do community service with Dukes would present themselves after graduation," says Maguire. "I was glad that I could get involved. I always feel a connection to people I work on a service project with, but being with people who share both a passion to help and a love for JMU was great."

{Homecoming}

## Photo Contest winners

*Homecoming 2005 memories*

**O**K, the magazine staff members know that more than two alumni came to Homecoming 2005 with their cameras. We assume the rest of your film canisters are lying on the dining room table. Or you don't have the cable needed to download images from your digital camera. But two brave Dukes took their best shots of Homecoming 2005 and submitted them to *Madison* magazine. **Bob Stacy ('74)** captured the Homecoming Parade action on Duke Drive, and **Leslie Smith ('85)** posed with fellow Wayland Hall roomies as they celebrated their 20th reunion at the Sixth Annual Homecoming Tailgate.



**Bob Stacy ('74) caught the beautiful fall colors and the Mr. and Mrs. Madison carriage traveling the Homecoming Parade route along Duke Drive.**



"Although we were shocked and delighted with the many changes on campus, it sure still felt like after 20 years we hadn't missed a beat," says Leslie Smith ('85). "We had a great reunion." Class of 1985 Wayland Hall suitemates (l-r) at the Sixth Annual Homecoming Tailgate: Patty Kosciuszko Collette, Linda Utz Ferdows, Kisa Korhonen Raye, Leslie Smith and Page Richardson Doane.

# MADISON REUNIONS

### It's not too late to sign up for Reunion Weekend: April 7-9, 2006

Don't miss your time to reminisce with classmates from 1956, 1961, 1966 and all Bluestone Society members. The Class of 1956 will be inducted into the Bluestone Society, and members of the Classes of 1957, 1958 and 1959 are also invited. For more information, please contact the alumni office at (540) 568-6234.

## Legacies

Last March, the Rogers sisters got together in Staunton to celebrate their mother's 106th birthday. Mollie W. Rogers (center, seated) is surrounded by her four living daughters (left, clockwise): Patricia Rogers Hammann ('49), Nancy Rogers Dorsey ('58), Mary Rogers Stout ('39) and Rebecca Rogers Rigger ('49). Inset: Emma Rogers Arnold ('44).



## A Madison sisterhood

*Madison Experience spawns teaching tradition for Rogers sisters* BY LISA FREEDMAN ('05)

**M**ary Rogers Stout ('39) entered Harrisonburg Teachers College and graduated from Madison College. It was the era of May Queens and Capping Days — a time when the entire campus consisted of the Quad. It was also a time when the earliest Madison traditions were beginning to shape the Madison Experience, an experience so memorable for Stout that her four sisters followed her to Harrisonburg and eventually into the field of teaching.

"My family wasn't very wealthy when I was growing up, but all seven of us kids knew that we were expected to go to college," recalls Stout. "My parents urged me to go to Madison and earn a degree in home economics. ... There was no library on campus

until my junior year, and everything behind Wilson Hall was wilderness," says Stout.

The residence halls were divided by class standing. Juniors lived in Cleveland Hall and seniors lived in Converse; but everyone on campus knew everyone else. "On the Quad-rangle going back and forth to class, you spoke to everyone," says Stout. "We'd make fun of who said 'hi, hey' or 'hello' based on where they were from."

Since her high school graduating class consisted of a mere 20 students, Stout didn't mind Madison's small community or the strict rules and time restrictions that burdened many of the other students. "I grew up rather protected," she explains. "I didn't have a car of my own and I wasn't dating, so I didn't think the rules were that restrictive."

While Stout's parents definitely encour-

aged her to go to Madison, her four sisters were given more freedom when it came time to pick a school. Yet, somehow, each chose Madison and built on the family legacy. And through their shared Madison Experience, the Rogers sisters began still another family tradition — educating students.

After graduating from Madison, Stout first taught English and home economics in Hanover County, Va. In 1944 she married and moved to Augusta County. She had five children and continued to teach for nearly 26 years. During her tenure, she worked with many student teachers from JMU as they completed their degree requirements. At least two Dukes asked specifically to teach with Stout after graduation.

The late Emma Jane Rogers Arnold ('44), Rebecca Rogers Rigger ('49), Patricia Rogers

**'We're lucky because even though we are all spread out geographically, we still get the chance to get together a couple times a year.'**

PATRICIA ROGERS HAMMANN ('49), on her three surviving sisters, who all attended Madison College

Hammann ('49) and Nancy Rogers Dorsey ('58) each followed their big sister's footsteps first to Madison and then on to the classroom. Arnold and Rigger both earned the title of editor-in-chief of *The Breeze*. Arnold taught in Amelia County Schools for 27 years and passed away in 1988. Hammann graduated with a degree in elementary education and went on to teach in Essex County, Md., for one year before spending the remainder of her teaching career in Pennsylvania schools. Dorsey earned a master's degree at Ohio State University and taught music in Columbus, Ohio, for 22 years.

The Rogers sisters are surprised that they all put their Madison degrees to work in the classroom. "I'm not sure if it's a coincidence that we all went into teaching," explains Hammann. "There was a great need for teachers, and we all had an incredible interest in children."

The family tradition, sparked at Madison, also continues in the next generation. Eight of the sisters' daughters are also teachers.

Stout believes Madison provided her not only with an educational foundation for her teaching career but also with notable mentors and a deep appreciation for learning. "Madison was such a wonderful experience for me," she says. "We had to take a lot of science back then, but my favorites were English and the home economics classes." The small class sizes allowed Stout to become close to her professors. "I'll never forget Mrs. Moody. She taught me everything there is to know about fabrics," says Stout. "Mrs. Varner was a real hard teacher when she taught advanced nutrition. I used to work for Mrs. Peraman as an assistant. I read students' papers and organized them, but I never graded them."

At 87 years young, Stout lives in Fort Defiance, about 20 minutes south of JMU, and still visits campus frequently. "I used to come to see old professors, but now there aren't a whole lot left anymore," she says. "But, it's still nice to see all the current professors and students, and to see all the new campus changes."

In April 2005, Lafayette Carr Richardson ('39) and Geneva Pool Lichliter ('39) joined Stout as the only three alumnae present at a 66th (Bluestone Society) Madison class reunion. "We were presented with lace table clothes embroidered with JMU seals," says Stout. "I keep it on my dining room table; I'm so proud of it. ... I remember the feeling I would get when my father would drive me back to Madison after breaks. There was a point on Route 11 where I could see the red roofs of the Quad buildings, and I would get a feeling that I will never forget." ❧

**{JMU Friends}**

## Christmas connection

*1993 alumnae group marks its 12th celebration*

**M**onyette Foreman Martin ('93) and eight of her JMU classmates celebrated the 12th year of their own special Christmas connection in December. Martin, the Richmond regional assistant director of JMU's Office of Admissions, says, "We all shared a very unique experience while at JMU as African-American students, and we grew together as a result. We all entered JMU in 1989 and all hail from the Richmond and Northern Virginia areas. While a few of us knew each other from our hometowns, it wasn't until we were at JMU that we all truly met and got to know each other. We have become lifelong friends and have made a pact to not lose contact with one another."

To begin their connection after graduation, the group got together in Christmas 1993 in Alexandria and had such a good time the Christmas tradition was born. "After 1993, we decided

to make this an annual gathering," adds Martin. "We also decided to rotate among each other's homes and between Richmond and NOVA. We started off using this time to catch up on each other's lives, and each of us brought a dish so we wouldn't overextend the hostess. Now in our 12th year, we play games, reflect on our JMU days and photos, and have a Chinese gift exchange. ... With families and careers it is often very difficult for us to keep up with each other throughout the year, but we all look forward to knowing that during the Christmas holiday season we will be together to reminisce and reflect on our many blessings. We are very happy for our bond and longstanding friendship and look forward to sharing many more years getting together."

The nine alumnae enjoy each other so much, they've already planned Christmas 2006. The group will meet at the Northern Virginia home of Erica "Angel" Jackson Gonzalez. ❧



**The Christmas Connection group gather at the Richmond home of Monyette and Brandon Martin. (Clockwise from left): Monyette Foreman Martin, Patrice Johnson, Alease Johnson, Vanessa Evans, Erica "Angel" Jackson Gonzalez, Vonya Alleyne, Janet Lee, Rhonda Jackson and Eleanor Ferguson Lewis.**

# Madison

Get involved in *Madison* magazine

## Congratulations!

For the third straight year, JMU alumni have taken a top award for feature writing in the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's District III awards program. Three alums, who submitted "Professors You Love" entries, won a 2005 Award of Excellence for the series, which is written by alumni and edited by magazine staff.

**Barbara Burton Powell ('97)** wrote about music professor Eric Ruple; **Ginjer Norris Clarke ('94)** honored theater professor Pam Johnson; and **Tiffany Gricher ('05)** wrote about business professor Steve Welpott.



Barbara Powell ('97), Tiffany Gricher ('05) and Ginjer Clark ('94). Who is your favorite professor? Write us at [madisonmag@jmu.edu](mailto:madisonmag@jmu.edu) or *Madison*, JMAC #6, Suite 21, MSC 5718, JMU, Harrisonburg, VA 22807.

## Spruce up Madison's centennial birthday bash with your memorabilia

*Do you have memorabilia from the State Teachers College, Madison College or James Madison University for the centennial celebration in 2007-08?*

JMU will turn 100 years old on March 14, 2008, and centennial observances – including historical exhibits – will last a year.

"We're planning exhibits on various aspects of the university's rich history to display throughout the year," says JMU Centennial Director Fred Hilton ('97M). "We're looking for old photos, uniforms, programs, diplomas, papers and other items."

If you're willing to share some of the materials that form your memories of Madison, the Centennial Office will include them in the display and return them to you safely after the celebration.

If you have items you think would be suitable for display, call, e-mail or write to Fred Hilton to make arrangements before you send any prized possessions. Contact him at (540) 568-3474, [hiltonfd@jmu.edu](mailto:hiltonfd@jmu.edu) or Centennial Office, MSC 5714, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA 22807.



[www.jmu.edu/centennialcelebration/](http://www.jmu.edu/centennialcelebration/)



Dana Gillis' career has spanned 9/11, Whitewater and a chance meeting with fellow alum Chris Lee ('98), left.

## A march against crime

*FBI agent's work reaches Oval Office* BY LIZ TAYLOR ('92)

Ask FBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge Dana Gillis ('83) about his most memorable day on the job and his answer might surprise you. "Beyond a doubt, it was Sept. 10, 2001. The weather was absolutely perfect, and it was the day before the world turned upside down," he says.

While much has changed since that day and the day that followed, one thing has not: Gillis' commitment to investigating crime and keeping America safe.

Gillis joined the FBI in 1987, following a four-year stint in the Army where he was based at Fort Campbell, Ky. His intense training included everything from learning how to conduct investigations to how to make an arrest.

Early in his career, Gillis gained experience as an agent in the FBI's field office in Washington, D.C. One of his first cases there was an investigation involving the White House travel office, which became known as "Travelgate."

Specializing in white-collar crime, Gillis had been with the FBI about seven years when he was assigned to work on the now infamous Whitewater case involving the Clinton administration. He was named as the investigative agent in Little Rock, Ark., responsible for the FBI's participation. "It was daunting to me from a personal perspective because I was such a young agent at the

time," Gillis says. "People senior to me were working under me. Being a junior agent with that much responsibility was more challenging than what you might find elsewhere."

Gillis continued to make his mark on the FBI and the federal government. As a member of the Presidential Council on Integrity and Efficiency, he worked with the inspectors general from agencies in the government's executive branch to stop fraud and helped to write implementation procedures for presidential executive orders that are still in effect today.

In 2002, while serving in his current role as special agent in charge at the FBI's Houston office, Gillis was selected as the only member of the FBI to attend the prestigious British Staff College. For six months in 2004, he studied with senior police leaders in the United Kingdom. "It was the highlight of my career," Gillis says.

The FBI has taken Gillis around the world, but he credits his days at JMU with shaping his leadership skills and giving him the foundation for his career. In particular, the communication major cites his experience as a member of JMU's ROTC program and as a drum major with the Marching Royal Dukes. "I draw on those experiences every day," he says. "It got me over a fear of being a really shy individual. Those 300 sets of Marching Royal Dukes' eyes expected me to lead, and that gave me

a sense of fearlessness that I carry in my current position."

Marching Royal Dukes Director Pat Rooney has nothing but admiration for Gillis: "Dana was the drum major my first year at JMU. He was one of the finest student leaders I have ever worked with in my 32 years of college teaching. Dana is one of those people that the minute you meet him, you know you have met someone special."

Gillis returns to JMU to see the Marching Royal Dukes whenever possible. Last year, a chance meeting with a new FBI agent, Chris Lee ('98), brought back memories of the MRDs. "I mentioned I went to JMU, and this guy's face lights up," Gillis says. "He was into music, and we talked about the marching band. Then he tells me he was in the Marching Royal Dukes."

Today Gillis lives in Houston with his wife, who is also an FBI special agent. A 19-year veteran of the FBI, Gillis has seen a lot of changes during his tenure with the agency but is confident of what is being done to make the country safe. "The FBI is a vastly different organization than it was on Sept. 10, 2001. Our focus is on stopping another terrorist attack on the scale of what we saw on 9/11," he says. "The FBI is absolutely doing everything it can to stop a terrorist threat, and I can go to sleep at night knowing we have done everything we can do." ■