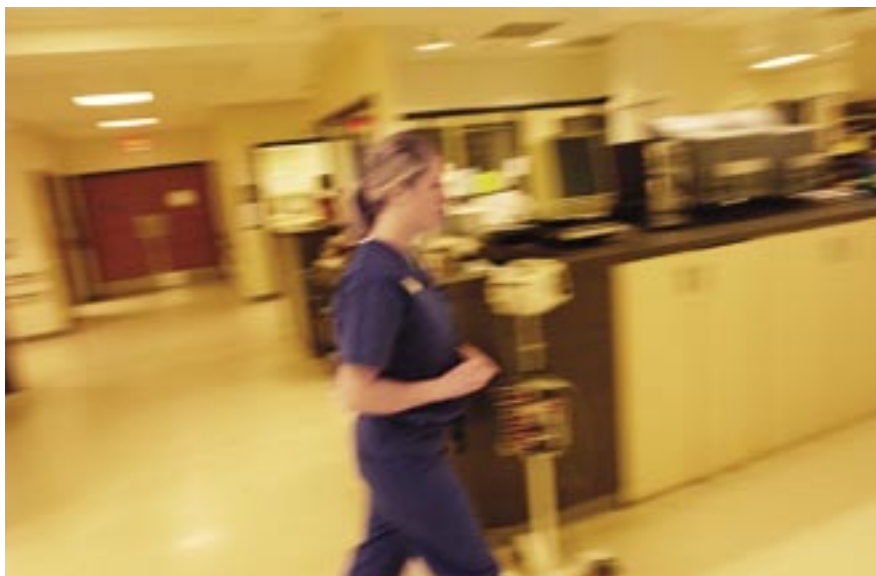




“Volunteerism has always been a part of my life since I was young,” says Fischetti, who swaps EMT stories with her uncle — even the mundane ones about writing reports. Fischetti’s cousin, stepmother and uncle are Dukes: Catherine Sisk ('06), Karen Daniel Fischetti ('73) and Tom Fischetti ('81), a former volunteer rescue squad chief in Northern Virginia. Fischetti, who has been accepted to several graduate and post-baccalaureate programs, says, “Further academic study will give me the best background to pursue medical school or other public health interests, a decision I’ll make in the future.”



**April 16:** Fischetti retrieves an ID badge and stethoscope from her locker at the Augusta Medical Center Emergency Department to start a 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift. During her shifts, she takes blood pressures and other vital signs, draws blood, splints and helps cast broken bones, transports patients, stocks rooms and helps with all types of emergencies. A “given” in the medical field is grabbing some grub when you can — usually solo.



“Rick Larson is my favorite person on campus. I met him in the first month of being a JMU student. He’s associate vice president in student affairs, and he’s helped me greatly with SGA issues. He’s the first person I go to when I need help with a project, and he’s gone far beyond his role as an administrator to become a counselor and mentor,” says Fischetti.



**April 21:** While classmates and fellow Dukes rock out, Fischetti takes in a Maroon 5 concert by serving on the ambulance standby crew. Fischetti has staffed other events, like arboretum festivals and football games, with her fellow volunteers. Lest you think a standby is a free pass to head bang or watch a game: “JMU often requests the squad to be at large events, so we’re there to treat any type of emergency,” explains Fischetti.

*Story by Michelle Hite ('88)  
Photos by Casey Templeton ('06)*