

July/August

www.jmu.edu/onebook

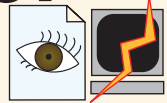
It's like a whole-year sleepover!

30 Sunday



**Pennsylvania/Northern Maryland
Send-off Picnic, www.jmu.edu/parents**

31 Monday



Check your JMU e-mail for notification of your fall semester student account bill. Make sure your parents are set up on the QuikBill system as Authorized Payers. See Pages 24–25.

Richmond Send-off Picnic, www.jmu.edu/parents

1 Tuesday



Your room assignment and roommate notification is ready today!

www.jmu.edu/onebook

Prince William County Send-off Picnic

www.jmu.edu/parents

2 Wednesday



Fairfax County Send-off Picnic

www.jmu.edu/parents

3 Thursday



Maryland Send-off Picnic, www.jmu.edu/parents

4 Friday

5 Saturday

This week is huge

This is when you find out about your roommate — something we know you've been waiting all summer to hear. You can get a lot more of the details about your new life at JMU this week, too. It's easy, and you're only two clicks or so away from all of it.

Just go to *The One Book* Web site, enter your JMU user name and password, and you will see your:

- Hall assignment and room number
- Driving directions to your hall
- Campus phone number
- Campus mailbox and combination
- JMU mailing address
- Telecom PIN information
- Your roommate's name and contact info

Your roommate(s)

That's right, you'll get the mailing address, e-mail address and home phone number for your 1, 2 or 3 roommates (capacity varies by room).

Here's a suggestion for how to meet your new roommate: Before you get your roommate's name, write a short profile of yourself. That way you'll have something to send right away when you learn your roommate's identity.

What should you write? That's entirely up to you, but some ideas might include:

- What you did in high school
- Your favorite tunes
- What you like to eat

Good luck with your roommate. Now is the time to think about all of the possibilities: good times to share, a new circle of acquaintances and maybe even a true friend for life.

Life with roommates can provide some of the most rewarding times you'll have at college. Many people

develop lifelong relationships that begin with roommates and hall mates. With a little effort, you can create a roommate experience that you will remember fondly for years to come.

Rest assured that you'll have at least one thing in common with every other JMU first-year student: You are all worried about what life as a roommate will be like!

It makes sense that this sudden change in lifestyle may be a challenging transition. Ninety-two percent of JMU first-year students report they are compatible with their assigned roommate, so chances are great that your experience will be positive! Check out student/parent information at www.reslife.net for great resources designed to help you make decisions and prepare for the transition to college.

Roommates and Facebook

As a JMU student, you'll have access to Facebook. You may have already created your profile. Many students will check out a Facebook profile before contacting a new roommate.

We recommend that you contact your new roommate(s) before you check their profiles. These profiles don't always provide the most accurate information about students. You know the old saying: "You can't judge a book by its cover." Well, the same goes for roommates. Don't judge a roommate by the Facebook profile!

What are you waiting for?

Touch base with your roommate so you can go shopping for your room. Find out who is bringing:

- Fridge
- Carpet
- TV
- Stereo
- VCR/DVD player
- Message board

Think of it: You'll have a better idea of what to buy. You won't waste your money, and you'll have more room without two of everything. You'll also make a new friend in the process.



What's race got to do with it?

In the woods one night in New Hampshire, Samantha says to Birdie/Jesse: "I'm black. Like you" (Page 242). How did Samantha know Birdie/Jesse was African-American?



What does it mean to be simultaneously African-American and white?

Later in the novel, Birdie's father, Deck, suggests that mulattos in the United States function as canaries in the coal mine. The term "mulatto" originated in the late 1500s when European colonizers determined an individual's rights and freedoms based on her or his ancestry. In the founding of the United States the "one-drop rule" was applied where an individual was considered black even if they only had "one drop" of African or black blood in their ancestry.

What makes Birdie a canary in the coal mine? Does the one-drop rule still apply today? How much are racial differences based on biology and how much are they based on societal definitions?

Check out *The One Book* Web page for links, discussion boards and more information on *Caucasia*.

JMU Fast Fact

What percentage of U.S. college freshmen room with a sibling or high school friend?

Less than 3 percent, so get ready to make new friends!