“MY HEART IS IN TWO PLACES, serving JMU and serving the Harrisonburg community,” says Andrea Fischetti (’04), whose passion for helping others has drawn her into the ranks of the silent heroes who blast hurriedly into the night to help those in need. Her passions include chemistry, biology, SGA service, resident advising, Student Ambassadors, Breeze reporting and, oh yeah, saving lives.

An interdisciplinary social sciences major and public health minor, Fischetti is a certified emergency technician and senior member of the Harrisonburg Rescue Squad. The 2004 Ms. Madison finalist spends more than 20 hours a week volunteering as public relations officer, board of directors member, attendant-in-charge and crew leader (between a full course load and job as an emergency technician at Augusta Medical Center). As a crew leader and EMT, she is responsible for patients and crew, response times, keeping ambulances stocked and training new members.

“I have found a new love in helping others through the medical field,” she says. “Volunteering at HRS became a way of furthering my education. I’m an ambassador outside of the school. I have dual roles as an emergency care provider and a representative of JMU.”

March 29: While studying and preparing for a week including two classroom tests, Fischetti pulls a duty tour and joins her volunteer crew to answer a call for a fall. “As a precaution against any further neck or spinal damage, I made the decision to place [the patient] on a backboard for transport to Rockingham Memorial Hospital,” she says. As crew leader, Fischetti not only provides EMT services, she makes the tough decisions on the scene and sometimes helps fellow volunteers navigate through the city to those in distress.