Family Weekend
Join the Madison family fun Sept. 28-30

Entertainment, adventure, dining and camaraderie are the universal themes of Family Weekend at JMU. Highlights this year include entertainment by Smokey Joe’s Café, the Pops Concert, Contemporary Gospel Singers, Godwin Field Festival and the Dukes vs. Villanova. The weekend offers both action and academics with activities like canoeing, climbing and hiking as well as college and department receptions and presentations. Dining options include Godwin Lunch Alfresco, Picnic on the Commons, Fantastic Feast, and a Lunch with a View.

Most importantly, the weekend allows plenty of opportunity for parents to spend time with their students.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>>

Family Weekend fun from last year shows the atmosphere parents will enjoy again Sept. 28-30.

...personal safety and crime prevention efforts are the responsibility of the entire JMU community.’

— Linwood H. Rose
President

Read more about campus safety on page 6.
Dear Parents:

As a new academic year begins, we at JMU, welcome your student back to campus, and send greetings to each of you, the extended members of the JMU family.

However, this is no ordinary year for James Madison University. First founded in 1908, Madison is celebrating its Centennial Anniversary. It is a year of reflection on our rich history, a year of looking forward, and most of all, a year of celebration. I hope you will join us from time to time as we commemorate this Madison Century.

Throughout our 100-year evolution, the university has remained student-centered, first and foremost. While your student is our focus, parents, you are also a valuable part of our community, having entrusted your son or daughter to us. Therefore, I want to bring your attention to the tremendous resource and team of parent advocates present in our Office of Parent Relations at JMU. Sherry King, director of parent relations, and her staff are eager to serve you should you have any questions or needs regarding your son or daughter’s Madison experience. The Office of Parent Relations is your source of information for topics ranging from student housing to ordering athletic tickets, and much more.

Being a parent, I know you are interested in your student’s safety. Let me assure you that we are serious about safety at JMU. While we cannot predict the nature and timing of a crisis, we can control our response to the emergency through advanced planning and training. I encourage you to read about our Emergency Response Plan described within the article on safety featured in this newsletter.

While James Madison University continues its commitment to the safety and well-being of its students, faculty and staff members, personal safety and crime prevention efforts are the responsibility of the entire JMU community. Please take a minute to talk with your son or daughter about personal safety and encourage them to observe all campus safety policies and urge friends to do likewise.

For those of you who are first-time JMU parents, I hope that you enjoyed your Summer Spring Board Orientation visit to campus and that you returned to JMU armed with confidence to deliver your daughters and sons for their first semester. For those of you who are seasoned JMU parents, the adventure in academic, social and experiential learning for your student continues on in a fresh new semester. We welcome you all back at JMU this fall.

Linwood H. Rose
President, James Madison University

College Parents of America

As a parent of a JMU student, you are invited to join College Parents of America free of charge through James Madison University’s institutional membership.

As a member, you will receive a quarterly e-mail newsletter geared to your student’s specific year in college, the organization’s column by its president, access to information on the members-only part of the Web site and other expert resources. For more information, go to https://www.collegeparents.org/JMUParent.

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‘Time of transition

When a student leaves for college, the entire family faces a tremendous time of transition. Most students go through an adjustment period and experience ups and downs while living away from home.

There are many resources available on campus for students to successfully manage this transition. Support and encouragement from home is important; yet, students mature through their own experiences. By all means, parents, be a sounding board, but encourage your student to handle problems on his or her own as much as possible. Student success is dependent upon this ability to function independently.

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Sherry King
Director
(540) 568-8064
kingsf@jmu.edu

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Deborah Centers
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Unique service opportunities have students waiting in line

By Lorelei Esbenshade

To make a difference. To put classroom knowledge to the test. To make friends for a lifetime. These are just a few of the many reasons that more and more JMU students are choosing to spend their time off on an Alternative Break trip.

The Alternative Break Program provides a group-traveling, community-living, alcohol/drug-free service-learning experience. While most trips occur during the week-long spring break period, trips can occur during any of JMU’s academic breaks.

Working with national and international communities, the program trains and immerses students in a purposeful service experience designed to connect students and community members while enhancing personal growth, mutual awareness and lifelong learning.

Each service trip consists of 10 to 15 team members. Two students develop and co-lead each trip. They are prepared for these leadership responsibilities through a 15-week leadership-training program. Each trip team includes a faculty/staff Learning Partner who helps make connections between the service experience and his or her academic discipline.

For 2006-2007 the Alternative Break Program offered more than 25 different trips in the United States, Dominica, Jamaica, Bahamas, Dominican Republic and Guatemala. These 25 trips demonstrate the phenomenal growth the program has experienced since it began in 1992 with a single trip.

Many factors contribute to the program’s popularity. First, it offers students a positive alcohol- and drug-free alternative to spring break trips that are centered on alcohol consumption. It immerses and connects students with issues and experiences they cannot find on the university campus. It provides students with concrete and meaningful ways to serve others. It provides real-life applications for what students are learning in their academic field of study. Finally, it helps make connections between students and community members while enhancing personal growth, mutual awareness and lifelong learning.

For more information visit Alternative Break’s Web site at www.jmu.edu/csl/asb.

Rebuilding in the wake of Hurricane Katrina: 25 trips, 300 students and 100 more waiting in line.

UPB educates and entertains

By Sarah Sunde

The University Program Board is a student-run, student-funded organization receiving more funding from the Student Government Association than any other student group. UPB strives to offer a plethora of educational and entertaining programs to complement the students’ academic experience. Events offered include concerts, movies, speakers, novelty acts and many more — open to ALL students.

A variety of events are planned to keep students entertained while on campus this fall. UPB works closely with the orientation office to coordinate activities during 1787. Highlights of 1787 events sponsored by UPB are fantasy casino, comedians, hypnotists and so much more. Encourage your students to attend these events!

The fun continues well beyond 1787. UPB operates a movie theater Wednesdays through Saturdays in Graffon-Stovall Theatre, where blockbuster movies are shown prior to release on DVD. All tickets are $2.50 at the door, or a movie pass can be purchased for $20 to see any 10 movies throughout the semester.

In addition to the fall movie lineup, UPB is proud to sponsor the Verizon Wireless Music Unleashed Tour featuring Gym Class Heroes on Wednesday, Oct. 3, in the JMU Convocation Center. Student tickets will be available at a special pre-sale price of $15 for reserved seating and $20 for floor tickets (limit two tickets) on Monday, Sept. 10, only. On this day, tickets can only be purchased at the University Business Office. After this special pre-sale, all student tickets will be $20 (limit two). For more information about purchasing tickets, please contact Sarah Sunde, UPB coordinator, at (540) 568-7892 or sundesa@jmu.edu.

UPB strives to create memorable experiences by seeking to offer activities that educate, enlighten and entertain the JMU community. If you or your student have suggestions on activities, please do not hesitate to contact UPB (540) 568-6217 or upb@jmu.edu. For a more comprehensive listing of events or to purchase tickets for your son or daughter please visit the UPB Web site at http://upb.jmu.edu.

Spring Semester 2008

Jan. 7 First day of classes
Jan. 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
Feb. 12 Student assessment/faculty assistance
March 3-7 Spring break
March 14 James Madison Day
March 24 Advance registration for 2008 summer semester begins
April 1 Registration begins for 2008 fall semester
April 25 Last day of classes
April 28 - May 2 Final examinations
May 3 Commencement

Information Resources for Parents:
(866) 399-8432
(540) 568-3190
parent@jmu.edu
www.jmu.edu/parents

Dates for Parents:

Fall Semester 2007

Aug. 22-26 Orientation
Aug. 27 First day of classes
Sept. 28-30 Family Weekend
Oct. 19 Fall break
Oct. 26-27 Homecoming
Oct. 29 Registration for 2008 spring semester
Nov. 21-25 Thanksgiving break
Dec. 7 Last day of classes
Dec. 10-14 Final examinations
Dec. 15 Commencement
Dec. 21 University closes at noon
Dec. 24-31 University holidays
Are you an authorized QuikBILL payer?

- Authorized payers have 24/7 access to their student’s financial account through the JMU University Business Office Web site.
- Authorized payers receive e-mail notification each time a semester billing statement is processed and ready to be viewed.
- Authorized payers can print off a copy of the semester billing statement for their records.
- Authorized payers can make a quick online payment with a credit card (MasterCard, American Express or Discover) or an electronic check payment with a regular checking account.
- Authorized payers can view their student’s class schedule.
- Authorized payers can view their student’s financial aid.
- Authorized payers can view credits for Virginia Prepaid Education Plan.
- Authorized payers can view Tuition Management Systems installment payment budget and all payments as they post monthly.
- Authorized payers can view all account activity, i.e., new charges, payments and adjustments, after the initial semester billing statement is posted (through the “Account Status” link).

If you’re ready to become an authorized payer, follow these quick and easy steps.

1. You will need your student’s help – he or she is the only person who can add authorized payers to his or her QuikBILL account.
2. Student access to QuikBILL is through eCampus, and once in QuikBILL, the “Authorized Payer” link is just a click away.
3. Create a log-in name, create a temporary password, and enter a valid e-mail address. Then click the “Add” button and it’s done.
4. If you need help, call the UBO’s staff at (540) 568-6505, e-mail ubo@jmu.edu or stop by the UBO office on the main floor of Warren Hall. For additional information on QuikBILL, visit www.jmu.edu/ubo.

Attention sophomores

In an effort to help students make academic decisions so they can progress in their majors and reach graduation in a reasonable period of time, JMU requires students to declare their majors in the fall of their sophomore year.

This year’s sophomores must declare their majors by Friday, Sept. 14, 2007. After that date, sophomores without a major will have an information hold placed on their records to remind them to declare. If they have not declared before advanced registration starts for the spring semester, then an advising hold is placed on their records; and they cannot register for classes. If students must pass an audition or have a certain grade point average to declare a major, Career and Academic Planning will develop a contract with students that will allow them to work toward their declared majors and register for classes for the spring semester.

Career and Academic Planning also has numerous programs to help students with their academic and career decision-making.

These include:
- IS 202 Career and Life Planning class for freshmen and sophomores
- This one-credit block course uses several inventories and exercises, as well as reflection and discussion, to help students learn more about their values, personalities, interests, and abilities and how these relate to potential majors or careers. Check eCampus for course availability.

Major and Career Decisions Program
- This program provides small-group sessions to help students of all academic levels decide upon a major and/or career by exploring interests, skills, values and career options. Sessions are arranged to work with student schedules. Call or come by the office to sign up for the program.

FOCUS online career planning program
- FOCUS provides interactive self-assessment tools as well as information on career fields, including salaries and job outlook information. Students may access the program from the Career and Academic Planning Web site by using their e-IDs and passwords.

Resource Center
- The Resource Center provides more than 500 titles on a variety of career-related topics including information on majors and careers, descriptions of career fields, internship guides and employment trends.

Career Guide to JMU Majors
- This resource – available online at www.jmu.edu/cap – describes each academic program, lists career options, describes the typical student in that major, provides links to related Web sites and includes a link to the academic department.

Individual appointment with an academic and career adviser
- Career and Academic Planning advisers work with undeclared students but also advise students who are changing majors or want to explore other options. Call or stop by to make an appointment.

Virtual Adviser
- Use the Career and Academic Planning Web site to ask questions regarding academic and career issues via a chat format.

Majors Fair
- This event, usually held in late January, provides the opportunity for freshmen and major changers to talk with professors and students from various departments on campus and learn more about specific majors, concentrations and minors.

Tuesday Nights Rock!
- This program encompasses a variety of presentations and services, which are offered on Tuesday evenings, 5-7 p.m., in the fall and spring semesters.

JMU welcomes transfer students

By Tisha McCoy

Even before the first day of summer officially arrived, hundreds of new transfer students began transitioning to a new college learning experience at JMU. For some students, this transition was a part of their collegiate aspirations since they first enrolled at a other colleges.

The orientation office enthusiastically welcomed more than 600 new transfer students and their families to the university during Transfer Summer Springboard in the first week of June.

Once students are in the swing of things, Madison Transfer will serve as their “home base” on campus. Madison Transfer is a resource area for JMU’s transfer student population. Madison Transfer Assistants are trained to answer questions ranging from credit appeals to meal plans. Students are also welcome to stop by just to hang out between classes or to grab a cup of coffee. Throughout the semester, Madison Transfer will sponsor several programs with other campus departments to help students get involved and connected to resources essential to their transition.

Madison Transfer was created to assist your student, so encourage them to visit!

Family members receive information about how to support their students in transition to JMU life.
Civic responsibility fits directly with the mission of James Madison University to create “educated and enlightened citizens.”

Three strikes
JMU has a three-strikes sanctioning strategy for alcohol and drug violations. This means if students are found responsible for three alcohol or drug violations, they will be suspended. Be aware that this is a minimum sanctioning strategy, meaning suspension for alcohol and drugs can occur after just one violation. As you can see, Judicial Affairs seriously considers the abuse of alcohol and underage drinking and the effects they have on the community.

Judicial Affairs is a student resource
If your son or daughter is victimized, harassed or abused by another student, this could be a violation of university policy. Please have your student call the Judicial Affairs office or come in and discuss the options. Judicial Affairs has an open-door policy for any victim wishing to consult about the judicial process. If it is an immediately dangerous situation, please encourage your son or daughter to call the police.

Thank you for partnering with Judicial Affairs. For more information go to www.jmu.edu/judicial or call (540) 568-6218.

On or off campus
The housing decision really matters
Living environments affect every aspect of your student’s college experience and academic success.

Off-campus apartment complexes will soon begin aggressive marketing campaigns to entice students to sign an apartment lease for next year. For many students, off-campus living is just the right choice.

The Offices of Residence Life and Off Campus Life encourage students to live on campus for at least two years, however. That’s because research shows that students who do so are more likely to graduate, are more satisfied with their college experience and are more involved with campus activities.

Talk openly with your student about the advantages and disadvantages of both on- and off-campus living. Consult Residence Life and Off Campus Life for assistance in this decision. Both offices can help provide students with information and guidance as they secure housing in Harrisonburg for next year.

What to think about
First and foremost, do not rush into making the housing decision.

- Start comparative shopping during fall term
- Talk to ORL staff, landlords and potential roommates
- Discuss roommate compatibility (living and study habits, attitudes toward parties and overnight guests, division of chores, whose name is on the utility bills, purchasing food and supplies)

Where to look
To find information about residence halls on campus, visit the ORL Web site at http://web.jmu.edu/reslife, call (540) 568-4663 or visit Huffman Hall, Room A101.

To find information about living off campus, call (540) 568-6071, visit the OCL Web site at http://web.jmu.edu/ocl/, use the AIM screen name “Ask OCL,” or visit Warren Hall, second floor, Transitions.
Promoting campus safety

At no other time in our nation’s history has safety on college campuses been such a topic of national conversation. Following the tragic events of April 16 at Virginia Tech, James Madison University continues its strong and ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of its students and faculty and staff members. Safety, emergency response and communication measures include:

- **Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan** has been used by more than 400 organizations nationally and internationally. This plan is consistently evaluated and updated. The Office of Public Safety, a professional force of state-trained police officers, is responsible for the direct oversight of the comprehensive emergency response plan.

- **Emergency Response and Recovery Team** of key university leaders serves as a task force and in an emergency would advise the president and senior vice presidents.

- **Multiple emergency communication methods** identified by the team include cell phone emergency alerts, which include text and voice messages; blast e-mail messages, which can be sent and received within two to five minutes; a campus siren system with a public address system; the university Web page; off-campus reverse 911 alerts; loudspeakers in each campus police patrol vehicle; and local television and radio stations and newspapers.

- **Annual emergency training** of hall directors, resident advisers and building coordinators on emergency procedures to benefit the students in residence halls, classrooms and dining and recreation facilities.

- **Residence hall safeguards**: Halls are locked 24 hours a day, entry requires card access, “prop door” alarms ensure that doors remain closed and locked.

### R E S O U R C E S:

**More Information**
- Office of Public Safety
  (540) 568-6913
- Office of Public Affairs
  (540) 568-3621

**Personal Responsibility**
- Talk to your student about personal safety.
- Encourage your student to observe all campus safety policies and local laws.

**On the Parents Web Site**
- Message from the Harrisonburg Police Department
- Crime prevention tips
- Harrisonburg City laws and ordinances
- Commonwealth of Virginia laws
- Avoiding unsafe organizations

**Cell phone alerts available**
Students can receive emergency text or voice message alerts through their cell phones by signing up through E-campus. Check the JMU Web Page Student Gateway or E-campus for instructions. Please guide your student to choose the best alert option depending on his or her cell service.

- Any student who has been previously diagnosed with a serious psychological issue (e.g., depression, substance abuse, etc.) should continue with their prescribed therapeutic regimens, whether it be counseling, medication or both. In particular, students taking medication should make arrangements to maintain the necessary supply while away at school.
- It may be a good idea for the student to obtain from established providers a summary of his/her previous treatment. If the student seeks services at JMU’s Counseling and Student Development Center (Varner House), such information will help the CSDC staff to determine whether available services will be sufficient to meet the student’s needs or whether some other therapeutic arrangement would be more beneficial.
- While important to all students, avoiding excesses in alcohol and other drug use is especially critical for those college students with a prior or existing mental health concern. Substance abuse negatively impacts the personal, social and academic functioning of the student and greatly reduces the chances of student success.
- Visit the CSDC’s Web site located at www.jmu.edu/counselingctr/. The sections designed for freshmen and parents may be especially useful.
- Most importantly, the CSDC has developed the “New Student Support Program” to assist students who have previous or existing emotional concerns to successfully adjust to their new college environment. Through this program, a student has the opportunity, prior to coming to campus, to review his/her specific situation with a counselor who will determine how to meet the student’s needs while in college.
- Possible recommendations include, but are not limited to: (1) seeking services at the CSDC, (2) making a referral to a local agency or private practitioner, or (3) continuing services from established treatment providers. Please note that attending this appointment does not establish the student as a client of the CSDC but merely assists him/her in making appropriate mental health decisions. For more information, please visit www.jmu.edu/counselingctr/counselingconnections.shtml.

**A new beginning**

CSPC offers assistance to students and parents in dealing with the transition to college  **By David Onestak**

Incoming students and parents often view college as a “new beginning” and hope that past issues and problems will disappear with the move to campus. Unfortunately, experience suggests that the opposite is more likely to be true. There are a number of important steps that students with past or existing personal problems can take to improve their adjustment to college and increase their chances for success.
Roommates, conflict, and resolutions

One of the biggest fears of coming to college for the first time is not getting along with a roommate. While the many different people who live together in college make the experience entirely unique, this community living experience can be one of the most difficult aspects of college.

The good news is that this challenge can help students to learn to understand each other, and may develop them into more effective colleagues or supervisors in the world after college. Through JMU’s Office of Residence Life, resources are available to help students navigate their new living situation.

Sometimes students go out of their way to find someone they already know to be their roommate to avoid the dreaded “random” roommate. This alleviates the initial fear, but it doesn’t guarantee a good roommate situation. Great friends, unfortunately, don’t always equal great roommates. Even at age 17 or 18, friends don’t always communicate their needs or wants as effectively as they could.

In an effort to be friendly or helpful, some students put aside their needs to accommodate their roommate buddy. Putting aside needs or wants can work in the short term, but eventually, students can start to feel frustrated. When such a conflict emerges, it is almost always both students who feel this way — they just haven’t discussed their needs and they haven’t come to any agreement.

Does it have to be so tough? No, it doesn’t. Many students get along well and they don’t have a serious conflict the whole academic year. However, some roommate pairings experience conflict because of differences. When this occurs, the following resources can help your student get through the conflicts that may arise.

The first of these is the resident advisor. The RA is a student who lives in the section or floor with your student. The RA will introduce him/herself to each resident on the floor and offer an ear and advice to any students who are having trouble adjusting to college life. This adjustment includes understanding and getting along with a roommate’s habits, lifestyle and personality.

Next, the RA gives each roommate (and suitemate) a Roommate Agreement Form (or Suitemate Agreement Form). This form asks 15 specific questions about sharing personal items, noise levels, sleep times, study times, message taking and other common roommate issues. These are the “biggies” that cause conflicts. The RA will try to avoid such conflicts by having the roommates discuss them the first week of school. If the students take the conversation seriously, they can figure out each other’s needs and wants before having an argument or a move out.

So, if all the students complete these forms, why are there still new one if they didn’t do it) and help the residents figure out what is causing the issue and how they can resolve it. RAs are trained to do this very early in the year, and it can help!

Here’s where you can help. This is a new situation for your student (usually). They are going away from home and are going to be living with a new person (even if it is their best friend, this is a new situation). Talk to your son or daughter about how they are going to communicate their room wants and needs and encourage them to be serious in completing the Roommate Agreement Form. Secondly, if your son or daughter finds himself or herself in a roommate conflict, encourage him/her to see the RA to ask for roommate conflict mediation. Learning how to deal with conflict is a valuable skill that they will use throughout the rest of their lives.

The residence life staff looks forward to partnering with you in helping your student make this transition smoothly.

Encourage your student to attend Information Night

Every fall and spring semester, Student Organization Services sponsors Student Organization Night or SON, a fun-filled fair for students to learn about the more than 300 clubs and organizations on campus. This fall, SON will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 4, from 5-8 p.m. SON is held both in the fall and spring semesters as an opportunity for students to find ways to get involved in co-curricular activities ranging from sport clubs to professional and social fraternities/sororities, and academically affiliated organizations to various groups focusing on a common bond or activity.

Student Organization Services maintains regular contact with all of the more than 300 student organizations recognized through its office. In order to be recognized, each organization must have a mission statement that is in line with the university’s mission. These organizations offer unique opportunities for all students and can be as valuable and educational as the classroom experience.

In case of an emergency...

The JMU Emergency Response and Recovery Team has identified multiple communication methods to be used by JMU during an emergency. They are:

- cell phone emergency alerts, which include text and voice messaging;
- blast e-mail messages, which can be sent and received within minutes;
- a campus siren system with voice direction;
- the university Web page;
- off-campus reverse 911 alerts;
- loudspeakers in each campus police patrol vehicle;
- local television, radio and newspapers.
A new Family Connection

The new Madison Family Connection e-newsletter is informative, helpful, and FREE

Sign up today by registering at www.jmu.edu/parents/. The newsletter provides JMU parents and families with information on campus events, vacation and break schedules, payment due dates, deadline reminders and tips for student success.

Future issues of The Madison Family Connection newsletter will be sent to the parent e-mail that JMU has on file. If you would prefer to have the newsletter mailed to you, please send your address to kitetl@jmu.edu, or parent@jmu.edu, or call (540) 568-3193 or (866) 399-8432.

Family Weekend Information

- Brochures were mailed on July 26 to student-reported “home” addresses.
- View the brochure online (www.jmu.edu/parents/Family_Weekend.shtml).
- To get a brochure after Sept. 1 or for more information, please contact the Office of Parent Relations at (540) 568-3190 or (866) 399-8432 or email parent@jmu.edu.

Ticket Information

- Tickets for all events sell quickly. Order early.
- See the order forms in the brochure or order tickets online at www.jmu.edu/parents/Family_Weekend.shtml.
- The football game on Family Weekend is sold out and tickets will not be available on game day. A limited number of student tickets will be available for pickup (one per student) starting the Monday prior to the game (9/24/07). For more information please contact the JMU Athletics Ticket Office at (540) 568-3853 or visit www.jmusports.com.

Parking

- Plenty of parking spaces will be available at the Convocation Center (I-81 Exit 245), which is only a short walk to all activities.
- Special parking is available for vehicles with DMV-issued handicapped license plates or permits. Please contact the JMU parking office at (540) 568-3300 for more information.

Accommodations

- Don’t give up if you find area hotels and motels already filled. As Family Weekend draws nearer, renew your efforts to make reservations as, invariably, plans change and room reservations are cancelled. Access the accommodations listing at www.jmu.edu/parents/accommodations.shtml.

Tune in when you roll in

- Tune your radio to AM 1610 for up-to-date parking information and any last-minute changes in the weekend’s itinerary.