Welcome to James Madison University

Congratulations! Your student has chosen to become a member of the JMU community, and we are extremely excited to welcome them to our campus community. You’re probably a little excited, and a little anxious, about sending your student to college. To help prepare you for this new experience, we have an excellent opportunity for you this summer!

In the One Book (www.jmu.edu/onebook/index.shtml), you probably read about our award-winning orientation program here at JMU. All new students attend a one-day orientation, called Summer Springboard and we welcome parents to experience Summer Springboard alongside their students. During this day-long event, you’ll have a chance to learn more about what your student will experience here at JMU, as well as attend programs specifically designed for parents. We’ll also have plenty of opportunities for you to talk to campus representatives and get answers to your questions.

When your student moves to campus in the fall, we have a five-day welcome week, called 1787 August Orientation, to acclimate students to their new lives at JMU. These five days are filled with activities designed to help students understand what it means to be a member of the JMU community, explore the academic expectations and opportunities, and meet other new students.

Encourage your student to go online to make their Summer Springboard Orientation reservation. Visit the Orientation website at www.jmu.edu/orientation/ and click on “First Year” for a list of dates, more information on what you’ll experience during the day, a sample schedule, what to bring and a list of FAQs. We look forward to meeting you this summer!

Orientation Office:
Wilson Hall, Room 215
orientation@jmu.edu
(540) 568-1787
Fax: (540) 568-6719
Office hours: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

QuadFest is one of the many activities during Orientation at James Madison University designed to help students discover why Madison is such a unique and welcoming learning community.

When your student moves to campus in the fall, we have a five-day welcome week, called 1787 August Orientation, to acclimate students to their new lives at JMU. These five days are filled with activities designed to help students understand what it means to be a member of the JMU community, explore the academic expectations and opportunities, and meet other new students.
Welcome to the JMU family

On behalf of the Parents Council, we extend a warm welcome to all of you who are joining the JMU family as parents of freshmen and transfer students. We know this is an exciting time for you and your students. Settling into the college experience can present challenges. JMU offers extensive opportunities and resources to ease the transition; we encourage you and your students to take full advantage of them. Campus clubs, organizations, services, and assistance are outlined on the JMU web site. You can obtain more specifics by attending the parent information session during orientation this summer.

Two more key events for your calendar are your local Freshman send-off picnic in July or August and Family weekend on sept. 28-30, 2007. The picnic is a great setting for you and your student to speak with current students, parents, and administrators and to meet other new JMU family members in your area. The picnic schedule is published on the JMU Parents Council web site and more details will be mailed to you. The Family Weekend schedule of activities will be mailed in July, but now is the time for you to make hotel reservations. A listing of local accommodations can be found on the JMU Parents Web site. Thousands of families take advantage of this opportunity to get a taste of JMU campus life with their students and to further enhance their JMU family experience.

As spokespersons and advocates representing JMU in our communities, Parents Council members serve as a liaison between parents and the university. This is a great way to get involved in JMU and to learn first hand about its many diverse academic and extracurricular programs. In addition, the Parents Council has enriched our JMU experience because of the special friendships we have formed.

Current Parents Council members and the classes we represent are listed on the JMU Web site at www.jmu.edu/parents/parentsCouncil.shtml. All of us are willing and anxious to answer your specific questions about the Parents Council and any general questions about JMU and its programs. Please feel free to call on us.

We encourage your involvement with your student in the JMU experience. Whether you serve on the Parents Council or participate in other activities supporting your student and JMU, your contributions are very welcome. Working together, we can assure the success of our students and further the advancement of this outstanding university. Welcome to the JMU family! Go Dukes!

Barry and Debbie Barnard
Parents Council Chairs

Parent Relations Meet the staff

Sherry King
Director
(540) 568-9064
kingsf@jmu.edu

Tracey Kite
Assistant Director
(540) 568-3193
kitetl@jmu.edu

Deborah Centers
Administrative Assistant
(540) 568-3190
centerdj@jmu.edu

Summer/Fall ’07 Event Calendar

FSOP—Freshman Send Off Picnic Schedule:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>New England</td>
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<td>July 22</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
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<td>July 23</td>
<td>Lynchburg, Va.</td>
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<td>July 24</td>
<td>Roanoke, Va.</td>
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<td>July 25</td>
<td>Greater Peninsula</td>
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<td>July 26</td>
<td>Tidewater, Va.</td>
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<td>July 28</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<td>July 29</td>
<td>PA/Northern Md.</td>
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<td>July 30</td>
<td>Richmond, Va.</td>
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<td>July 31</td>
<td>Prince William County, Va.</td>
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<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>Fairfax County, Va.</td>
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<td>Aug. 2</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
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<td>Aug. 4</td>
<td>New York</td>
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Other important dates:

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 22-26</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 27</td>
<td>First Day of Classes</td>
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<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>Constitution Day</td>
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<td>Sept. 24-28</td>
<td>International Week</td>
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<td>Sept. 28-30</td>
<td>Family Weekend</td>
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<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
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<td>Oct. 26-27</td>
<td>Homecoming</td>
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<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Take a Look</td>
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<td>Nov. 21-25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td>Dec. 10-14</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
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<td>Dec. 15</td>
<td>Graduation and Commencement</td>
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Freshman Check-in Information

This year, freshmen will check in according to their hall assignment on either Tuesday, Aug. 21st, or Wednesday, Aug. 22nd. Hall assignments will be available beginning on July 29 at www.jmu.edu/onebook. Freshmen must check in only on their appointed date. Parents, if you need a definite date now for planning purposes, plan for Wednesday, Aug. 22nd because a student can always come after his or her appointed date, but not before.
A new family connection

The new JMU Family Connection e-newsletter is informative ... it's helpful ... and it's FREE. Sign up today. You can register your e-mail address at www.jmu.edu/parents/. The newsletter will keep JMU parents and families informed of payment due dates, campus events, vacation and break schedules, deadline reminders and tips for student success.

The June and August JMU Family Connection Newsletters will be mailed to the home address. Thereafter, the newsletter will be e-mailed to the parent e-mail that JMU has on file. If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please go to www.jmu.edu/parents/ and register your e-mail address if you have not already done so. If you would prefer to have the newsletter mailed to you, please e-mail your address to kiteti@jmu.edu, or call at (540) 568-3193 or toll free at (866) 399-8432.

A TIME OF TRANSITION
We realize that sending students to college is a time of tremendous transition for your family. All students go through an adjustment period and experience many ups and downs while living away from home. There are many resources here on campus available for students to manage this transition successfully.

While we do welcome parent input and questions, our goal is to deal directly with the student. Parents, we share your goal, to help students be successful, and we want to connect you to the resources you need to support your student.

It is important that students have support and encouragement from home while being allowed to mature through their own experiences. By all means, be there for your students as a sounding board, but let them handle their own problems as much as possible. Student success is dependent upon their ability to function independently.

LAST-MINUTE ADVICE
All across the country, as bright July days fade into sweltering August nights, parents of college-bound freshmen lie awake perspiring with dread as much as with the heat: “Can he balance a checkbook?” “What will she do if she gets sick?” “I don't think she understands how much trouble she can get into for underage drinking.”

You only have a few more weeks to pass along all the advice your child needs to know. How will you cover it all, and what happens if you forget to mention something important?

There are things your student needs to know for the purely practical demands of coping with life in a new situation. There are things we want you to discuss with your child. There are even a few things your child would appreciate hearing from you. The trick is to figure out when you're offering useful information as opposed to unwanted advice or an index of admonishments.

All students should know how to:
- Do laundry. (When you explain about separating purple from whites, please add that purple sweatshirts and T-shirts will tint socks and underwear a very interesting lavender.)
- Balance a checkbook and manage a debit or credit card.
- Iron a shirt, replace a button, and repair a ripped seam.
- Trust their instincts when they feel uneasy or unsafe.
- Make responsible decisions regarding alcohol and drugs.

Your tendency might be to call your child into the kitchen as a topic pops into your mind while you’re fixing dinner or reading the newspaper. Your student, however, will not be in any mood to pull away from the computer to submit to what sounds to her like another lecture. Some parents have suggested they have more success when they set an appointment with their student and explain why the subject is important. For example, you might say, “I notice that you're getting a lot of credit card applications in the mail. I get those all the time, too. I’d like to talk to you about the fine print on some of those applications so that you can see what the actual costs are.”

'It is important that students have support and encouragement from home while being allowed to mature through their own experiences. ... Student success is dependent upon the ability to function independently.'

Suggested Reading
Many parents have found the following list of books helpful in preparing for and dealing with adjusting to their student’s new life in college.

1. Letting Go: A Parent's Guide to Understanding the College Years
   By Karen Levin Coburn and Madge Lawrence Treeger

2. Don’t Tell Me What to Do, Just Send Money: The Essential Parenting Guide to College
   By Helen E. Johnson and Christine Schelhas-Miller

3. Guide to the College Experience
   By Jacqueline Kierman Mackay and Wanda Johnson

   By Barbara Newman and Philip Newman

5. Millennials Rising: The Next Great Generation
   By N. Howe and W. Strauss

6. Millennials Go to College
   By N. Howe and W. Strauss

7. Generations
   By N. Howe and W. Strauss

Spring ’08 Event Calendar
Jan. 7  First Day of Classes
Feb. 12  Assessment Day
Feb. 18  Choices Day
March 3-7  Spring Break
March 10-17  James Madison Week
April 8  All Together One
April 11-13  Prospectives Weekend
April 11 & 15  Choices Day
April 18-19  Parents Council
April 28-May 2  Final Exams
May 3  Graduation and Commencement

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S U M M E R  2 0 0 7
Parent and Family Member

TOP 10

Mixed with the joy of seeing your student go off to college is the potential for frustration and fear because you may feel powerless to ensure your student makes good choices. Although your student still needs to be the one making choices, there are some things you can do. Here’s your Top 10 (from the home office in Harrisonburg, Va.) to help you prepare for this life-changing experience.

Drum roll please …

10. Get ready for move-in day. Expect a range of conflicting emotions for you and your student leading up to that day and on that day.

9. It helps to know when you’ll say goodbye. Parents and family members depart campus after the university welcome concludes.

8. How will you stay in touch and how often will you chat? Discuss expectations in advance.

7. The feelings generated from long-distance relationships often contribute to homesickness.

6. Encourage your son or daughter to set his or her own academic goals and use the variety of JMU resources to achieve a major adjustment. It takes time to make friends, learn how to study differently and discover how to do well here. Convey your confidence in your student’s ability to be successful.

5. Know what FERPA means. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act is a federal law that keeps your student’s records private. For more information, please visit www.jmu.edu/parents/

4. We know that college is a major adjustment. It takes time to make friends, learn how to study differently and discover how to do well here. Convey your confidence in your student’s ability to be successful.

3. Discuss with your student how he or she will make good choices about use of alcohol and other substances. Talk instead of lecture.

2. Avoid rushing in and solving the problem. Encourage your student to use the resources at JMU.

1. Draw out the many strengths of your student. Listen with an open mind and be supportive.

Summer Springboard

Getting started is an exciting time

When freshmen attend Summer Springboard, they will meet their freshman adviser in a small group of four to six students. The freshman adviser helps students make the transition from high school to college by guiding, answering questions, providing information and generally being a connection to the university. Within this session, the freshman adviser introduces students to the policies and procedures of the university, explains General Education, discusses the major (or possible majors), and assists students in selecting and registering for classes.

Although there are certain courses that students are required to take, this session provides the opportunity for students to begin the process of making their own educational decisions with guidance from the adviser. In fact, one of the main roles of the freshman adviser is to help students become more independent, resourceful and able to navigate the university system. Students begin this process when they work through the steps of the One Book Web site. Thoroughly reading the material, taking the math placement test (and possibly the foreign language placement test) and providing their priority order for Cluster One classes are ways in which the student takes control of his or her learning.

While parents are intimately involved in their children’s education from pre-school through 12th grade, as their child goes to college their role begins to change. According to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), advisers may answer parents’ general questions about curricula and rules, but are limited in the specific information that can be shared about students. The Registrar’s Web site contains excellent information about this at www.jmu.edu/registrar/ferpaoutline.shtml.

After Summer Springboard, most of the faculty freshman advisers leave the campus to take a break and to work on their research and class materials. When students return in August, they will meet with their freshman advisers and have the opportunity to make adjustments to their schedules, if needed.

Starting college is an exciting time for students and families alike, and the freshman advisers are instrumental in helping students begin this new chapter in their lives.

Healthful reminders from The University Health Center

The University Health Center partners with students to encourage personal responsibility for their well-being by providing primary care and education in a professional and collaborative manner.

Just a few reminders for your student: please encourage your student to pack a first aid kit for his or her room and include items like a thermometer, band-aids, antibiotic ointment, gauze bandages, adhesive tape, tweezers, reusable hot/cold pack, pain/fever reducer, anti-inflammatory, antihistamine, decongestant, antacid, throat spray/lozenges, cough medicine, any prescription medications. Also, please remind your student to complete the Health Record form, located online at www.jmu.edu/healthctr/healthrecord.shtml and send to:

James Madison University Health Center
MSC 7901
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
Attention: Health Information
The STUDENT ACCOUNT BILL 101

You’ve been dreaming, planning and saving for years, anticipating with pride the day your son or daughter arrives on campus to start their college career. While you may be the one funding this “major life event,” there are important things to know about how student financial accounts are handled at JMU.

Student bills are the legal responsibility and property of the student. Your child controls who has access to his or her financial account and they are personally liable if the account is not paid. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) assures the privacy of student records and therefore, because the account is listed in the student’s name, he or she becomes legally responsible for the account. Don’t worry—we have 3 quick tips to help both you and your child through this process.

TIP #1
Get to know QuikBILL
JMU student accounts operate through an electronic billing system called “QuikBILL.” Student account bills are not mailed. They are presented electronically each semester. Students access their bills through their eCampus account and it is their responsibility to monitor the account for outstanding balances and due dates. Don’t worry, JMU will send them an email when the bill is ready to view and place a reminder “hold” on their account if there is a past due balance.

TIP #2
Become an Authorized Payer in QuikBILL
Your child can set you up in the QuikBILL system as an “Authorized Payer” so that you have access to their student financial account through the University Business Office website. As an “AP,” you will also receive email notification each semester when a new bill is processed and will have 24/7 access to your child’s student account “real-time” activity. The JMU bill includes itemized charges, the semester class schedule, balance due, due date and, if applicable, any anticipated financial aid, installment payment plan budget and Virginia Prepaid Plan. There is a PDF format of the bill which can be easily printed for your records. Remember that only the student can set up an Authorized Payer in QuikBILL. JMU will walk you through the set up process by phone, email or at one of our computers if you send them to the University Business Office.

TIP #3
What to expect if you are not an Authorized Payer in QuikBILL
If you call the University Business Office to discuss your child’s financial account and you are not listed as an Authorized Payer in QuikBILL, you will be asked for the JMU ID# or social security number of the student. No information can be given to you without one of these numbers and you may be asked to verify additional information such as birth date or home address. With one of those two identifying numbers, we will be able to give you basic information on the account, however, we will not be able to discuss anything considered confidential or mail you account information or the 1098T tax form. Your child should be happy to take a few minutes and set you up in QuikBILL the first time registration is blocked because of an unpaid balance.

All kidding aside, you can get detailed information on QuikBILL, including payment methods and due dates, in the JMU One Book, on the University Business Office website – www.jmu.edu/ubo or at freshman orientation this summer.

Office of the Provost
University Business Office
Warren Hall, Room 302, MSC 3516
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
(540) 568-6505

‘Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which Knowledge gives.’
—James Madison
Don’t trust anyone over 30.”

This motto provided the psychological backdrop as the young adults of the late ’60s and early ’70s left the homes of their parents to enter the worlds of college and work — and some other experiences. Many of these children of the Greatest Generation had concluded that they did not want their lives to be governed by their parents’ styles and values, which they viewed as antiquated and overly rigid. They demanded the separation and independence they felt they needed to fashion their own lives, journeys and destinies.

Fast-forward a few decades. Those young adults have now become the parents of young adults. Surely these parents are prepared to extend to their own progeny the same opportunity to separate from their parents, autonomously make decisions and solve problems, and begin to shape their personal and professional futures. Well … not exactly. Instead, the unwillingness of many in the current generation of parents to provide their offspring the space and freedom required for a healthy transition from adolescence to adulthood has generated a new term on college campuses: helicopter parents. Newspapers like the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal have chronicled how these well-meaning but hyperinvolved parents hover above their students, searching for any sign of struggle. When their exquisitely sensitive emotional radar detects even a blip of struggle on the part of their students, they swoop to the rescue, providing answers and solutions, often nudging the students aside and assuming responsibility for resolving the issues. A few parents go as far as to fill out college applications for their students, dictate majors and class schedules, and demand that professors change grades they judge to be unfair. Some students, all too happy to avoid the demands of young adulthood, collude with their parents by freely relinquishing their responsibilities.

In the final analysis, it is not what you do for children but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings. — Ann Landers

Avoid rushing or pushing your student into a major or career. On average, students change their major twice before finally deciding upon an area of study. Confusion in this area is normal, especially during the freshman and sophomore years. Rushing the decision to select a major or pushing a student into a career in which he or she has no interest is an almost certain recipe for academic disaster.

Avoid the “empty nest syndrome.” When children leave for college, changes in the parent’s role can lead to a type of identity crisis. Parents can ease their transition by refocusing some attention from their student to their own personal interests and desires, many of which may have been ignored while fulfilling their parental responsibilities.

Convey your confidence in your student’s ability to be successful ... even if you aren’t sure that they can. Expressed parental support and encouragement are much more important than students will typically acknowledge. Students need to know that their parents believe in their ability to handle the new challenges college will bring.

Helicopter parents

Swooping to the rescue via new technology, even with the best intentions, may be harming rather than helping students By David Onestak, Ph.D.

As the director of the JMU Counseling and Student Development Center, I probably get to hear more helicopter-parent tales than just about anyone on campus. Faculty and staff members often call to consult with our center when they are experiencing a troubling situation that they do not know how to navigate, and an increasing number of these contacts concern challenging experiences with over-involved parents. My position provides me an excellent vantage point from which to consider both the factors that encourage this particular parenting style and its impact on student development.

Let me say that most parents do a good job balancing the somewhat paradoxical needs that students have for both continued support and increasing levels of independence. Effective parenting is not an easily achieved goal. As a parent of two children, I have firsthand experience with the daily ambiguities and struggles inherent to par-
enthood; and I thoroughly empathize with the parental desire to shield one’s children from life’s sharp edges.

That being said, over my 15 years of experience at four university counseling centers, I have noticed an increasing level of parental involvement in the academic, emotional and social lives of students. During most of this time, I welcomed — at times even solicited — the increased support parents were providing. However, as once noted by a sage who suggested that the four most important words in the English language might be “up to a point,” the new millennium has ushered in a wave of parental involvement that now often stunts the development of students. A growing minority of parents is so extreme that I think of them as Apache attack helicopter parents who are on heightened alert to launch parental Hellfire missiles at any problem that might stand in the way of their student’s immediate happiness and success.

Several emotional issues that can set the blades of helicopter parents whirling. Some parents live out their own dreams and ambitions through their offspring, often appearing to be more interested in the success or failure of their child than the child himself. (If you want to observe this in all its glory, visit your local Little League Baseball field sometime.)

Making the decision to have a child — it’s momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body.

— ELIZABETH STONE

At very selective schools, such as JMU, students often come from highly successful families in which parental expectations for academic and professional success are heightened, sometimes to the point that students’ journeys toward these goals are suffled by their parents’ demand that they be obtained at any cost. Other parents foster dependency in their students to maintain the parents’ identity as important, valuable contributors to the lives of their children. Still others, burdened by work demands and other responsibilities, solve students’ problems because it seems more efficient and safer than the alternative (i.e., examining the problem with the student, helping to identify relevant factors, deciding on a process, anticipating and overcoming setbacks, trusting the student will follow through, etc.).

But perhaps the most important reason for the accelerated involvement of parents in the lives of college students is the simplest: Because of technology, now they can be. A few decades ago, there was usually only one telephone for the entire floor of a residence hall, long-distance costs were prohibitively high, and the U.S. Postal Service delivered most communications between parent and student. Under such conditions, the intentions of even “Apache attack helicopter” parents would likely be frustrated.

The once-a-week phone call or letter that characterized parent-student communications a generation ago has been replaced by daily contact and the expectation of immediate replies from both parties (“Where were you? I left a message over an hour ago!”). On today’s college campus, the slinging of book bags onto students’ backs is accompanied by the flipping of cell phones to their ears. E-mail is checked religiously, and an instant message is never far from students’ fingertips. Parents have cell phones and computers, too, and a combination of wires, cell-phone towers and satellites all fuse into an extended electronic umbilical cord that continuously connects parents and students. Advances in technology have also spawned a 24/7 media cycle that highlights every possible individual and societal danger, further increasing the centripetal forces binding parents and students together.

Up to a point (remember that phrase?), increased parental involvement has caused students to feel cared about, supported and reassured that they will not face life’s challenges alone. However, more parents are now going well beyond this point, resulting in insufficient boundaries between students and their parents, and the inability of these students to cope with the normal problems of young adulthood.

Parents who swoop out of their hovering flight patterns to solve problems deprive their students of the practice and experience that we all need to learn to cope with the vicissitudes and struggles that characterize daily life. This is especially unfortunate, as college provides students with a wonderful training ground filled with challenges and decisions (e.g., a roommate who is not a good match, choosing a class schedule, the ending of a romantic relationship) that develop the mindset and skills required to navigate the truly significant issues they will face in the future (e.g., marital problems, choosing a career, the deaths of others close to them). Thus, the powerful parental motivation to protect their students from anxiety and harm ultimately denies their children the opportunity to work through difficult situations and emerge better, stronger individuals.

Don’t handicap your children by making their lives easy. — ROBERT A. HEINLEIN

Ultimately, the larger message helicopter parents send to their children is that without intense parental involvement their students are incapable of embodying the goal of the JMU mission statement: “...educated and enlightened citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives.” How distressing and ironic it would be if the central lesson that the present generation of parents bequeaths to their college students is, “Don’t trust anyone under 30... especially if they’re your son or daughter.”
See you back here at Family Weekend

Families are invited to JMU for Family Weekend. This annual event offers a taste of campus life, an opportunity to visit your son’s or daughter’s campus home, to meet other JMU families, as well as attend a variety of exciting events.

Family Weekend 2007 will be held Sept. 28-30. Remember, hotels and motels fill up quickly, so make your reservations early! Visit the accommodations website at [www.jmu.edu/parents/accommodations.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/parents/accommodations.shtml) for a comprehensive listing of hotels/motels in the local area.

Family Weekend brochures will be mailed out the first week in August at the bulk mail rate. They should arrive in your mailbox no later than Aug. 31, 2007. Family Weekend event tickets cannot be ordered prior to this time. You will be able to order your tickets online; however, this site will not go live until the brochures are mailed in August. That site address will be posted once it is accessible. Football tickets are available and can be ordered through the JMU Athletics Ticket office by phone (540) 568-3853 or online at [www.jmuspports.com/Ticketing/](http://www.jmuspports.com/Ticketing/).