“Students who get involved in some type of organization or activity during college report greater retention, better grades and an overall better college experience.”
— Kristin Muncy

To learn more about student involvement, see Page 3.

Picture it JMU!
Today’s Madison Experience through 14 students’ eyes

James Madison University is a very special institution. Although JMU has grown significantly in the past 20 years, the quality of the Madison Experience remains very positive. The number of new students has doubled since 1986, yet the graduation rate remains at 80 percent. Few institutions of JMU’s size have graduation rates this high – 98 percent of graduates would recommend JMU to a colleague or friend.

A primary mission of the Office of Institutional Research is to report official data about JMU to state, regional and governments as well as publications like U.S. News. More than 60 percent of OIR’s resources are devoted to mandated reporting. Since 2004 OIR has conducted the annual graduate employment surveys, the freshmen survey and the continuing student survey. Data from mandated reporting and surveys tell us about the quality of students as well as their successes as students and alumni. But there is more to be learned about the JMU experience that can help the institution meet its mission of “...preparing students to be educated and enlightened citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6
Family Weekend Highlights

Friday, Oct. 9
Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood: Whose Line Is It Anyway?, 8 p.m.
With the enormous success of ABC’s Whose Line Is It Anyway? Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood are bringing their show to JMU. They have teamed up to present an evening of extraordinary improvisational comedy.
For tickets and information call (540) 568-7000 or toll free (877) 201-7543.

Back-to-School for Parents!
Various times and locations
Join your student in his or her Friday class and get a taste of the university’s classroom experience.

Saturday, Oct. 10
Football: Dukes vs. Richmond Spiders, noon.
Family Weekend football opponent Richmond Spiders will be meeting JMU for the 13th, and playing for the 27th time overall.
Sorry, tickets are sold out for this event.

Godwin Field Festival
9 a.m. until noon.
Take a bit of JMU home by purchasing JMU sweaters, T-shirts, hats and other items from the JMU Bookstore, student groups and commercial vendors.

Pops Concert, 8:30 p.m.
An Evening of Musical Delights: There is no better way to complete the day than to attend the Family Weekend Pops Concert with a smorgasbord of musical delights.

Sunday, Oct. 11
Great Deal Brunch
10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
If Sunday lunch time finds you on campus and hungry, visit the new East Campus Dining Hall or Gibbons Hall, for an all you can eat buffet for only $8 plus tax per person.

View the brochure online at www.jmu.edu/parents/Family_Weekend.shtml.

Family Weekend Information
Brochures were mailed on July 18 to student-reported “home” addresses.
View the brochure online www.jmu.edu/parents/Family_Weekend.shtml.

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. 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.
Student Involvement Opportunities
From the Office of Student Activities & Involvement

By Kristin Muncy

Students who get involved in some type of organization or activity during college report greater retention, better grades, and an overall better college experience. But where does a new student begin to get connected?

The Office of Student Activities and Involvement acts as a central hub for your student to find involvement opportunities on campus. The office staff strongly believes that being involved on campus enhances your students’ experience, and they are ready to help students find ways to get connected.

With more than 300 student organizations and countless leadership development opportunities, students sometimes don’t know where to start. That’s where Student Organization Night, Make Your Mark On Madison (MYMOM) and the University Program Board (UPB) can help.

Student Organization Night
Each semester the Student Activities office holds Student Organization Night, which showcases hundreds of organizations and allows students to sign up for activities. This fall the event is on Tuesday, Sept. 1, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. With so many clubs, sports and organizations to choose from, there’s something for everyone.

Make Your Mark On Madison
For students unsure about finding their place at JMU, the MYMOM program provides a special opportunity. MYMOM is a semester–long leadership program focused on helping first–semester freshman and sophomore students find their place for authentic involvement at JMU. The program is offered only in the fall semester.

Participants enjoy close interaction with junior and senior small group facilitators and peers. Regardless of past leadership experiences, students learn more about themselves, build new relationships, and discover all that JMU has to offer. For more detailed information, please visit the Web site www.jmu.edu/mymom/index.shtml.

University Program Board
UPB is a student–run, student–funded organization. UPB strives to offer a variety of educational and entertaining programs to complement students’ academic experiences while promoting programs to educate and enlighten the JMU student body.

Events offered include concerts, movies, speakers, novelty acts and much more. Each program is open to all students, typically for free.

Additionally, a variety of monthly events are planned to keep students entertained, including Funny Freakin’ Fridays, Crazy Commons and Late Night Breakfast. UPB also shows blockbuster movies prior to their release on DVD. Shows are Wednesdays through Saturdays in Grafton–Stovall Theatre, and tickets are $2.50 at the door. For a more comprehensive listing of events, please visit the UPB Web site at http://upbjmu.edu.

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

Dates for Parents:
Fall Semester
2009
- Aug. 20-24 Orientation
- Aug. 24 First day of classes
- Oct. 9-11 Family Weekend
- Oct. 17 Homecoming
- Oct. 26 Registration for 2010 spring semester
- Nov. 21-29 Thanksgiving break
- Dec. 4 Last day of classes
- Dec. 7-11 Final examinations
- Dec. 12 Commencement
- Dec. 24-31 University holidays

Spring Semester
2010
- Jan.11 First day of classes
- Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
- Feb. 16 Student assessment/faculty assistance
- March 8-12 Spring break
- March 17 James Madison Day
- March 22 Advance registration for 2009 summer semester begins
- April 6 Registration begins for 2010 fall semester
- April 30 Last day of classes
- April 30 Last day of
- May 3-7 Final examinations
- May 8 Commencement
Judicial Affairs Policies

Alcohol:
The majority of Judicial Affairs cases are violations of the JMU alcohol policy.

Once students who are arrested off campus, and found guilty in court, for underage possession and drunk in public they receive penalties from the court system, and then they come to the Office of Judicial Affairs to address the JMU policy violation. This is a separate process from the criminal system and could result in additional educational programs and disciplinary probation at the university. This is part of JMU’s off-campus adjudication policy, which includes all convictions that affect the educational mission of the university.

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 may be suspended.

Be aware that this is a minimum sanctioning strategy, meaning suspension for alcohol and drugs can occur after just one violation. In addition, students may also be suspended after two violations of the “Supplying Alcohol to Minors” policy.

Block Parties:
The first two weeks of the school year can be particularly dangerous because of the block parties that occur off campus. JMU and Harrisonburg police increase patrols during these times to maintain order and keep students safe. Students should be aware that they could be arrested for underage possession of alcohol, drunk in public, and/or open container violations, as well as drug violations.

Civic responsibility includes being a good neighbor in one’s community, and Judicial Affairs members care about the community in which students live.

Spotlight
Judicial Affairs

Should you worry if your son or daughter calls and mentions they are involved with the Office of Judicial Affairs? Not necessarily.

WHAT IS JUDICIAL AFFAIRS?

The Office of Judicial Affairs, a department within the Division of Student Affairs and University Planning, is committed to promoting student learning and civic responsibility. Judicial Affairs handles JMU community standards violations, which do not include Honor Code violations. The JMU Honor Council hears those academic dishonesty cases.

Judicial Affairs has developed partnerships with the community to enable the university to achieve its mission. Its members are not lawyers or in any way associated with the criminal legal system.

PARENTS AND PARTNERS:
There are times when the Office of Judicial Affairs intentionally notifies parents about their student’s judicial violations. Parents of all students under age 21 will be notified after any first major violation (Driving under the influence, drug distribution, alcohol or drug-related hospitalization) or two minor violations (underage possession, marijuana possession, drunk in public).

Whether you are notified by Judicial Affairs or through their students, parents should discuss the incident with their student. To better prepare for such a discussion, parents can check out the Judicial Affairs Web site at www.jmu.edu/judicial. There is a special section just for parents.

STUDENT LEARNING:
Judicial Affairs does not “punish” students. Primarily its sanctions include an educational program and probation.

Judicial Affairs programs are based on student learning theory and reliable assessments. That means the intention for students’ cases is to teach them about the community standards at JMU, and then to encourage them to make choices that fall within the agreed upon standards.

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY:
Civic responsibility fits directly with the mission of James Madison University to create “educated and enlightened citizens.” Judicial Affairs supports the university’s mission. In today’s global society, civically responsible individuals who are engaged with their communities are desperately needed. All of JMU’s educational sanctions include a component that examines what it means to be civically responsible.

All the JMU community standards and judicial processes are in the JMU student handbook. The handbook can be viewed online at www.jmu.edu/judicial/handbook.

Unfortunately, there are times when Judicial Affairs must separate students from the JMU community. Some examples of violations that would result in suspension are drug dealing, violence to persons, sexual assault and continued violations of policies. Every case is heard on an individual basis and sanctions may vary based on circumstances and past judicial history.

A STUDENT RESOURCE:
If a student is victimized, harassed or abused by another student, this could be a violation of university policy. The student should 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, students are encouraged to call the police.

Thank you for partnering with Judicial Affairs. For more information visit the Web site at www.jmu.edu/judicial or call (540) 568-6218.
FEDERAL PARENT PLUS LOAN

Repayment Options

By Brad Barnett, senior associate director financial aid and scholarships

In these tough economic times it is helpful to know that under certain circumstances parents now have the option to defer repayment of their Federal Parent PLUS Loan.

The standard repayment plan for the Parent PLUS Loan begins 60 days after the full loan is disbursed. For example, if you have a loan for the 2009-10 school year, then 60 days after the spring portion of that loan is disbursed you would enter the repayment period.

Under the new rules, parents can request a deferment of the Parent PLUS Loan as long as the student for which they took the loan is enrolled on at least a half–time basis.

While the government calls this a “deferment,” it is not a deferment in the truest sense of the word, as interest will accrue on the loan while payments are not being made. Parents have the choice of making interest–only payments on the deferred loan, which will keep the principal balance from growing before they enter into repayment. Or parents can have the interest capitalized into the loan when they begin repayment, which will increase the principal of the loan.

This new Parent PLUS Loan deferment option is available only for loans disbursed after July 1, 2008. Parents must contact the Direct Loan Servicing Center at (800) 848-0979 to request a deferment.

Remember, this deferment is based on the student’s enrollment status. Therefore, parents are encouraged to wait until the first disbursement of their Parent PLUS Loan has been made to make this request. This will ensure that the Direct Loan Servicing Center has up-to-date information on the loan.

Learn more about this repayment option, as well as more information about any direct loan at https://www.dl.ed.gov/borrower/BorrowerWelcomePage.jsp, or by contacting the Direct Loan Servicing Center at (800) 848-0979.

ENDOWMENTS — the GIFT OF A LIFETIME

JMU’s top endowment needs are scholarships and faculty support, according to Karen Ahrens Wheatley (’80), director of development for parent giving at JMU. “Throughout the university, there is a tremendous need for endowments for scholarships and faculty support,” says Wheatley. “JMU’s endowment value is well below its peer national and state institutions.

Endowed gifts are important because they “give” in perpetuity. The JMU Foundation invests the gift of principal with approximately four percent of the endowment’s market value being the anticipated amount for use each year. Any additional return on the endowment is invested to increase its value. The original principal always remains invested.

JMU alumni and parents donors can establish an endowment at levels beginning at $25,000. The gift can be structured over a period of five years so donors can give, for example, $5,000 per year until the endowment level is reached. A donor’s gift can also be enhanced significantly with employee match programs where applicable.

Parents of JMU students can initially establish an endowment. After their student graduates from JMU and begins a career, the parent can establish his or her own habits of philanthropy by supporting the parent’s initial endowment. This scenario creates a family legacy that supports Madison students for generations to come.

Endowments that fund scholarships can be merit or need based. Merit-based scholarships enable the university to recruit and retain students of the highest academic caliber. Deserving students who might otherwise be unable to attend college due to financial constraints are helped through need-based scholarships. Scholarships ease the debt burden upon graduation.

If you are interested in establishing an endowment for scholarships or a professorship, please contact Karen Ahrens Wheatley (’80) to explore the possibilities: Call (540) 568-6605 or e-mail gunthaka@jmu.edu.

H1N1 Influenza

Throughout the summer, cases of H1N1 influenza have appeared in all areas of Virginia and across the United States. The Shenandoah Valley has had fewer cases than most of Virginia. Still, JMU and the University Health Center have been preparing for this sort of widespread illness for several years and remain vigilant to this evolving situation.

Testing and treatment

In the coming school year, the JMU Health Center will be able to test for the usual types of influenza A and B, but not specifically for H1N1 influenza. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Clinical Advisory Group of the Virginia Commissioner of Health continue to advise the JMU Health Center staff on testing and treating students with suspicious symptoms. H1N1 is a novel virus, due to its swine origin and widespread occurrence, not because of its unusual symptoms.

This virus remains sensitive to antiviral treatment, which is known to be effective in minimizing the symptoms. The Health Center will prescribe one of these two antiviral medications, adhering to strict CDC guidelines. Health Center providers will follow the CDC’s conservative criteria because excessive use can lead to virus resistance.

If a vaccine becomes available, the Health Center will strive to obtain supplies for administration to students at minimal cost. This may be in conjunction with the usual “clinics” provided for several influenza vaccinations.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
DINNER ON US
The perfect place to talk about money, relationships and safety

By Alex Adjei,
Coordinator, JMU Office for Off Campus Life

When stress strikes, it rarely comes in a neat and tidy package. It’s not just money. Or relationships. Or security worries. Often, it’s a messy combination of all of these factors.

Because anxieties hit from many different angles, the office for Off Campus Life (OCL) is collaborating with the Financial Aid Office and the Center for Multicultural Students and Services (CMSS), to develop a more comprehensive approach to combat stress. Called Dinner on Us, because the meal is free to attendees, this new program proactively addresses important concerns of safety and security, communication, money and relationships.

Most students deal with some level of stress, because of the challenging economy, personal relationships and safety concerns. For example, The Wall Street Journal reports that 70 percent of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, and the American Psychological Association states money is a top stress factor. At the same time, safety and security can cause significant worries, and tangled relationships lead to conflict and confusion.

Dinner on Us prepares students to make reasonable and educated decisions as they become educated and enlightened citizens.

Please encourage your JMU student to participate in this important educational program, which is offered a number of times throughout the year. Program dates will be posted on the university gateway and in e-mails sent out to all students.

Facilitators of these workshops include Brad Barnett, senior associate director in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, Alex Adjei, coordinator of the JMU Office for Off Campus Life and others.

For additional information, contact the Office of Off Campus Life at (540) 568-6071.

Picture it JMU!
Continued from page 1

In graduate employment surveys, OIR asked new graduates to provide advice to incoming freshmen that they wished they had received. Graduates who finished JMU two years ago provided advice to juniors and seniors about preparing for work and life after JMU. Graduates told us the things faculty members did for them that enhanced their education. The results of these surveys are shared annually with new freshman, juniors, seniors and faculty members. (See results of various OIR surveys at www.jmu.edu/instresrch/).

Several years ago I attended a national conference at which a presenter discussed a project that was using student pictures and discussions as a means of telling the university’s story. Then in 2005-06, JMU student affairs and university planning first provided innovation grants to division departments.

Ultimately, in 2006-07 the division funded OIIR’s Picture It JMU! – based on the old adage that “a picture is worth a thousand words” – to learn about the Madison Experience through the eyes, images and comments of 16 freshmen. A sampling of freshmen were invited to participate.

During three two-week periods, these students took pictures of what was important to them. They uploaded the pictures to a picture-sharing Web site, and they joined OIR staff members as well as other JMU faculty and staff members in conversations about their images. Through their pictures and out discussions with them, we are learning what it is like to be a JMU freshman, how they are adjusting to college life and how they are changing. Images shown in this feature were drawn from hundreds and are intended to tell the story of these students’ freshman year at Madison. The project has been so well received by these students that 14 will participate this year as juniors. Our hope is that we can continue to follow their Madison Experience until they graduate.


CASSIE: ISAT
I took this picture of the ISAT building when I was taking my mom, my aunt, and my cousin around on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. It was a really fun weekend.
Keeping Up-to-Date with QuikBILL

Financing a child’s college education is one of the most important responsibilities of a parent. The key to being successful and eliminating any unnecessary stress lies in planning ahead and knowing registration and student account details.

**IMPORTANT CHANGES:**

On July 1, 2009, the Debt Collection Recovery Fund, passed by the General Assembly of Virginia, went into effect. This requires JMU to charge a late fee for all past-due accounts, and it increases the returned check fee from $25 to $50 per check.

In April 2009, this information was e-mailed to all enrolled students. It was also addressed during freshman and transfer orientation sessions, in the freshman parent newsletter and on the University Business Office’s Web site.

In order to avoid a late fee on a student’s account, the balance must be paid in full by the billing due date or there must be financial aid and/or a QuikBILL installment payment plan in place to cover the entire balance. For those using the installment payment plan or student and/or parent loans, please check the JMU bill to ensure loan fees do not create a small balance. If there is a balance, payers can easily increase their payment plan budgets by calling (800) 609-8056.

The due date for payment or financial arrangements for the upcoming fall semester is August 28, 2009. For those using the Virginia Prepaid Education Program (VPEP), it will be listed on the fall billing statement as a credit toward tuition.

**USING QUIKBILL:**

To help parents keep up with their children’s student account charges, the University Business Office strongly recommends students set up their parents in QuikBILL as Authorized Payers. This gives parents 24/7 access to their child’s financial account and notifies them when bills are processed at the beginning of the semester.

Remember that only the student can set up an Authorized Payer in QuikBILL. As an Authorized Payer, parents are able to enroll in the installment payment plan and it allows the University Business Office staff to discuss anything on a student’s account with the parent.

Information on student account deadlines, payments and installment plans, student bills and many more financial issues is available at the University Business Office Web site at [www.jmu.edu/UBO/pay](http://www.jmu.edu/UBO/pay), by e-mailing [ubo@jmu.edu](mailto:ubo@jmu.edu) or by calling (540) 568–6505, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Information on registration deadlines is available at the Office of the Registrar Web site at [www.jmu.edu/registrar](http://www.jmu.edu/registrar).

Information on financial aid is available at the Office of Financial Aid Web site at [www.jmu.edu/finaid](http://www.jmu.edu/finaid).

**Preventing illness**

- If you get sick, stay at home to prevent spreading illness to others.
- To help prevent illness, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or cough into your sleeve at the elbow.
- If you use a tissue, throw it away immediately and wash your hands with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based cleaner.

For continuing information, see the Centers for Disease Control Web site at [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu).

Students with suspected illness should contact the JMU Health Center at (540) 568–6178.

**University Health Center**
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
[www.jmu.edu/healthctr](http://www.jmu.edu/healthctr)
(540) 568–6178

**Resources for parents:**

Career and Academic Planning
[www.jmu.edu/cap/parents/](http://www.jmu.edu/cap/parents/)

Counseling and Student Development Center
[www.jmu.edu/counselingctr/ForParentsandFamilies.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/counselingctr/ForParentsandFamilies.shtml)

Judicial Affairs
[www.jmu.edu/judicial/parent_faq.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/judicial/parent_faq.shtml)

Office of Residence Life
[web.jmu.edu/reslife/role_indexes/families_visitors_index.htm](http://web.jmu.edu/reslife/role_indexes/families_visitors_index.htm)

Office of Parent Relations
[www.jmu.edu/parents](http://www.jmu.edu/parents)
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