Did you Know?
The Office for Off Campus Life have the answers

by Alex Adjei
Coordinator of the Office of Off Campus Life

As parents, you’ve answered a lot of questions over the years: Why’s the sky blue? Where does milk come from? How do fish breathe under water? You’re in the business of knowing answers. In that spirit, the Office of Off Campus Life has put together the following answers to help guide you this fall.

Did you know...

- Your student will likely talk to you about next year’s housing during the first week and/or month of school.
- Your student may be helped by the office for Off Campus Life (OCL) and/or the Office of Residence Life (ORL).
- OCL offers a housing list that is often helpful to students.
- OCL has a program that can help waive the charge (ranging from $375 - $600) for utility deposits for students.
- Students must find housing on campus as a freshman.
- Students may opt to stay on campus for their second year.
- Students may feel perfectly happy at school making new strides and changes or they may feel a little homesick.
- Experienced faculty and staff are on hand to help address homesick feelings.
- An increase in stress associated with college life may lead students to seek parental support.
- With physical separation, some parents experience less conflict with their students.
- The office for Off Campus Life offers free conflict resolution/mediation for students.
- Adjusting to more independent living may act as a “development marker” – a place where students enter the adult world.
- We — the institution, staff and faculty — are grateful that your students are here at James Madison University.

For more information visit www.jmu.edu/ocl or call (540) 568-6071.

“Having attended five college presentations within a weeks time during the past year, JMU stood out as being by far the most impressive and I have yet to meet anyone who doesn’t seem sincerely happy to be there, as a student or employee....”

— Luanne Kollada (’07, ’08, ’12, ’14P)

To read more about parents favorite things about JMU, see sidebar on Page 4.
Family Weekend Highlights

Friday, Oct. 1
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.
Tickets go on sale Aug. 16, to order tickets or for more information call (540) 568-7000 or toll free (877) 201-7543.

Back-to-School for Parents!
Various times and locations, check the Family Weekend Web site for a list of approved classes.
Join your student in his or her Friday class and get a taste of the university’s classroom experience.

Saturday, Oct. 2
Football: Dukes vs. Delaware Blue Hens, noon.
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. Also, visit the Parent Relations tent for free JMU goodies.
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. 3
Great Deal Brunch
10 a.m. until 3 pm.
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.

Entertainment, adventure, dining and camaraderie are the universal themes of Family Weekend at JMU. Highlights this year include entertainment by Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, the Pops Concert, Contemporary Gospel Singers, Godwin Field Festival and the Dukes vs. Blue Hens.
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, Blue Hen Brunch on the Commons, Harvest Fest, and a Great Deal Brunch.
Most importantly, the weekend allows plenty of opportunity for parents to spend time with their students.

Family Weekend Information
Postcards were mailed, and brochures were e-mailed, on July 18. If you did not receive these communications, please contact the Office of Parent Relations to verify your e-mail and mailing address on file.
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 on September 20. For more information please contact the JMU Athletics Ticket office at (540) 568-3853 or visit www.jmusports.com/Tickets.

Parking
Plenty of parking spaces will be available at the Convocation Center (1-81 Exit 245), which is only a short walk to all activities.
Shuttle buses will run every half–hour from 8 a.m. until two hours after the football game on Saturday. Shuttles will run pick up/drop off at Warsaw Deck on campus and the following Harrisonburg hotels: Hampton Inn downtown, Jameson Inn, Courtyard by Marriott and Sleep Inn.
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.
Spotlight

Career & Academic Planning

What do you wish you had known about your career field while you were still in college? You have the opportunity to share that knowledge by allowing a JMU student to shadow you during spring break, March 7-11, 2011, through the Career & Academic Planning Department’s Externship Program for undeclared students.

The Role of Career & Academic Planning

Career & Academic Planning at JMU assists students with making informed decisions about their majors and careers, helps students seeking career-related experience, and assists students with their post-graduation plans. We have the privilege of working with students when they come into the university, while they are here, and when they head out to the “real” world.

We offer a wide variety of decision-making programs for students seeking information as they choose a major. Through the Externship Program, we hope to complement our programs with hands-on experience. The program will allow students to get a “day-in-the-life” experience by shadowing someone in a career field in which they are interested.

Be a Host

As parents, you understand the confusion and frustration college students face while trying to narrow down their career options.

We hope you will participate in our job shadow experience by being a host for a student.

While shadowing you or your colleagues, students will gain an inside perspective and learn what it takes to be successful in your career field. Students have the opportunity to observe everyday activities and possibly conduct informational interviews with individuals in your organization.

Just the Facts

Some facts about the Externship Program:

Students are responsible for all costs (transportation, lodging, meals, etc.). For this reason, most students will want to extern in their hometown.

Students are not paid during the externship experience.

Students will attend an information session and apply to participate.

We will match students and hosts based on career interest and geographic location.

The externship program is a win-win situation! Students learn more about a career field they are interested in, and hosts have the opportunity to offer a great service to a JMU student.

We always encourage students to get out there and “get their feet wet” to determine if a career field is right for them, and the Externship Program allows students to do just that.

If you are interested in being an externship host or have any questions, please contact Laura Hickerson, Career & Academic Advisor, at hickery@jmu.edu, (540) 568-2801. Click here to get involved now!

Career & Academic Planning

Wilson Hall, Room 301, MSC 1016
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
(540) 568-6555
www.jmu.edu/cap

Information Resources for Parents:

(866) 399-8432
(540) 568-3190
parent@jmu.edu
www.jmu.edu/parents
The world of banking is changing at a feverish pace. Legislation like the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure Act (CARD Act) of 2009, the mortgage crisis, and the general downturn in the economy have led to many changes. One of these changes, overdraft fees, requires you to make a decision about how you want your bank to handle a situation in which you try to spend more money than you have in your account.

According to Bankrate.com:
“Beginning July 1 for new accounts and August 15 for existing accounts, banks will no longer automatically provide ATM and debit card overdraft protection. Instead, customers will have to opt in, or sign up specifically saying that they want the service. Overdrafts triggered by checks and ACH transfers, for instance payments to bills, will still be automatically covered.
That means when making a debit card purchase or withdrawing money from the ATM, your transaction will be declined if it will put your bank account balance into the negative.”

The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships has surveyed many student groups on campus, and we consistently find that 50 to 60 percent of students in each group say they have overdrawn a checking or savings account. That’s a telling statistic about the money management habits of some students.

Generally speaking, if you are properly budgeting your funds, which includes tracking what you spend, then you should not overdraw a bank account. The consequences of overdrawing a bank account often involve paying fees to the banking institution.

Of course, we all make mistakes from time to time. You can be the best money manager in the world and still run into an occasional snafu because you neglected to record an expense, transposed a number, or forgot about your bank’s processing hours during a holiday period.

The question you have to ask yourself is, “Would you rather the bank decline your transaction if you don’t have the money to afford it, or would you rather pay a fee to spend more than you actually have?” Answering this question will help you — and your student — plan ahead to avoid unnecessary fees.
Judicial Affairs Developing Partnerships

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

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 assessments. The intention 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/handbook.

Unfortunately, there are times when Judicial Affairs must separate students from the JMU community. Some examples of violations that could result in suspension are drug felonies, 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 their options. Judicial Affairs has an open-door policy for any student wishing to consult about the judicial process.

If they cannot be reached or given a citation off campus and found guilty (including deferred disposition) in court for an alcohol or drug violation, they first receive sanctions from the court system and then are referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The JMU judicial system is a separate process from the criminal system and could result in educational programs and disciplinary probation at 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 and/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 or two violations. For example, students may be suspended after two violations of “Supplying Alcohol to Minors.”

Open-door Parties:
When students hold parties and allow anyone to attend, a dangerous situation can be created. While parties can get out of control all year long, this is particularly the case at the beginning and end of each school year. During these times, JMU and Harrisonburg police increase patrols to maintain order and keep students safe. Students should be aware that they can be arrested or given a citation for breaking laws including underage possession of alcohol, drunk in public, open container violations, and/or supplying alcohol to minors, as well as drug violations.

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

Move-in day at JMU is quickly approaching! The following tips will help you make the most of a busy and emotional day.

In addition to the information below, you can also receive updates from the JMU Housing Office via Twitter at [http://twitter.com/ORLatJMUParents](http://twitter.com/ORLatJMUParents). You may also contact the Office of Residence Life at [res-life@jmu.edu](mailto:res-life@jmu.edu) or at (540) 568-4663 if you have any questions about move-in.

Top three things to know

1. The correct day. Some first-year students will move in on Tuesday, Aug. 24, and the rest on the following day. Your student’s room assignment notification also tells him or her what day the hall is open for move-in.

2. Driving directions. Forget what you know about how to get to JMU. In order to accommodate all of the traffic we expect at move-in, there is a specific arrival plan for each residence hall. We have provided these directions through the online room assignment notification. If you haven’t seen these directions, visit [http://www.jmu.edu/orl](http://www.jmu.edu/orl) and click on the Moving In link. There, you should see a choice for Driving Directions.

3. Help for the move. Designate a driver who is NOT the student. Volunteers will help you unload your vehicle once you arrive at the hall, BUT once the vehicle is empty you will be required to move it to a satellite parking lot. The student needs to remain with his or her belongings, so someone else will need to be available to do this.

More important tips

- Encourage students to communicate with their roommate(s) ahead of time. This will prevent duplication of larger items such as refrigerators, rugs and TVs.

- Pack items in sturdy containers, and make sure that no one box is too heavy. Spread out the books!

- Keep winter items at home—ship or deliver them when the time comes. They’ll take up too much room right now when sweaters and mittens aren’t immediately needed.

- Help your student unpack and get somewhat settled in. But leave things for the student to do with his/her roommate, so they may make the space their own.

- Don’t linger too long in your student’s room on move-in day. Your student has activities to get to, people to meet and a college life to get started!

Finally, on the page sidebar you will find a list of some items we recommend your student bring in August and a second list with some prohibited items they should absolutely leave at home.
Parents Favorites (cont.)

“We love attending JMU football games. Tailgating is a great way to meet your child’s friends and their parents, and the students are so appreciative of the tailgate feast. The gold and purple streamers at the games thrill me every time.”
– Bob & Mary Bowling (P)

Send your Top 10 favorite things to do at JMU to kitetl@jmu.edu.

Resources for parents:

Career and Academic Planning
www.jmu.edu/cap/parents/

Counseling and Student Development Center
www.jmu.edu/counselingctr/ForParentsandFamilies.shtml

Judicial Affairs
www.jmu.edu/judicial/parent_faq.shtml

Office of Residence Life
web.jmu.edu/reslife/role_indexes/families_visitors_index.htm

Office of Parent Relations
www.jmu.edu/parents
(866) 399-8432 or
(540) 568-3190
parent@jmu.edu

The University Business Office
170 Bluestone Drive, MSC 3516
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
(540) 568-6505
ubo@jmu.edu
www.jmu.edu/ubo

10 Ways to ‘be’ a JMU Parent (FINANCIALLY SPEAKING):

1. Be in control of finances. As an Authorized Payer (AP) in QuikBILL, you will always have 24/7 access to your child’s JMU financial account. You will be e-mailed when bills are processed and can get all questions about the account answered when you call the University Business Office (UBO). If you are not an AP, then ask your child to set up your authorization in QuikBILL. If you or your student, have questions about the Authorized Payer set up, please contact the UBO for assistance.

2. Be in the know of procedures. QuikBILL provides a detailed billing statement 30 days before the payment due date, up-to-the minute account balances during the semester, and billing and online payment history.

3. Be ahead of the game. Set up the installment payment plan in June to get the full five monthly payments. You may also set up a plan in July to make a 20 percent down payment and set up four monthly payments, or in August to make a 40 percent down payment and set up three monthly payments.

4. Be prepared. VPEP/VEST payments. VPEP is billed after the university withdrawal date (Sept. 17); VEST payment must be requested through VEST by the account owner and will be sent directly to JMU.

5. Be personal. You can mail or bring us a personal check for payment, but make sure your child’s full name and JMU ID# are either on or with the check. Private scholarship checks should also be mailed to the University Business Office and include your child’s full name and JMU ID#.

6. Be on time. If your child has an unsecured balance after the payment due date (Sept. 3); a hold will be placed on the account to restrict registration. Additionally, a late payment fee will be assessed.

7. Be current. As an Authorized Payer, make it a habit to regularly check your child’s JMU student account for charges that may not have been on the initial semester billing statement, i.e. commuter meal plans, change in tuition from part time to full time, fines.

8. Be aware. Online payment by credit card is available if you have a MasterCard, American Express or Discover card, but there is a 2.7 percent convenience fee. If you have a VISA debit card, you can select the e-check option of payment instead, and avoid the 2.7 percent credit card fee. You may also save a stamp and envelope by using electronic check payments. Simply enter your bank routing number and bank account number.

9. Be in communication with your child. If you pay the bill, make your child responsible for telling you about any new charges, holds, e-mails from UBO or registration/payment deadlines.

10. Be in touch with UBO. Call or e-mail us whenever you have a question or need assistance with your child’s financial account. Take the time to look at our Web site for valuable information – www.jmu.edu/ubo.

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, by e-mailing ubo@jmu.edu or by calling (540) 568-6505, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.