The bridge that Community Service-Learning built

The experiences that link service to learning also link JMU to the community
By Jan Gillis ('07)

Twenty years ago two visionary educators seized a chance to launch a program at James Madison University that would entwine the institution with its community, transform its students into enlightened citizens and put world-changing opportunities within the grasp of scores of young people. Since its inception, Community Service-Learning has become a special part of the Madison Experience, an avenue of learning with dynamic impact.

A commitment to involvement
In 1985 as the university reviewed its general education program, “there was an emphasis on innovation, doing new things,” says Ann Myers, head of JMU’s Department of Social Work. While Madison students had long had a history of volunteer service in the local community, Myers, a social work professor at the time, and sociology professor Cecil Bradfield saw an opportunity to develop a program that had at its core a value near and dear to their hearts. “Both of us had a very strong commitment to the idea that a university needed to have involvement in the community,” she says.

In the spring of 1988, JMU’s pilot service-learning program began. “There were about six agencies and 75 students in the program, and we just continued to grow,” says Myers.

Service with learning objectives
The early growth was a reflection of hard work on the part of Bradfield and Myers. Although each professor had worked with community agencies in volunteer efforts, they now faced a new challenge -- introducing a formal program that established and integrated course and learning objectives into community service. “The difference with service learning is the connection that is made with very specific courses and concepts. While volunteer and community service are highly valued, there is little benefit to students in terms of their academic application of concepts to courses unless someone is helping them make that connection,” says Myers.

JMU students visit Generations Crossing as part of the 2009 Alternative Spring Break Program.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >>>

“In the final analysis, it is not what you do for children but what you have taught them to do for themselves that make them successful human beings.”
— Ann Landers
Community Service Learning (cont. from page 1)

Over the ensuing years, service learning became increasingly engrained in the Madison culture. There is no doubt of its critical value in the education of students according to current Community Service-Learning Director Rich Harris ('77). “Community service-learning can be key to the metamorphosis of a student into a community member who will make life in his or her neighborhood and, maybe on a larger scale, better for everybody.”

A bridge to a better world

Today, scores of community programs reflect the power of JMU’s service-learning equation. Madison students assist the elderly in retirement homes and engage them in meaningful activities at community centers. Other students work with children and adults with disabilities in a variety of settings and activities. Public health and environmental efforts are fueled by JMU students who provide support in widely varied arenas, from technological assistance to help with small-scale sustainable farming operations. Madison students work at homeless shelters, thrift stores and food banks. They tutor neighborhood children. They mentor immigrant workers with the difficult task of assimilating into a new culture.

Last year, Community Service-Learning helped nearly 1,900 students participate in service experiences, facilitated 32 Alternative Break Program trips and partnered with 117 organizations directly and many more in auxiliary capacities. Extrapolating the total numbers from its 20-year history, however, is not what is important. In many ways, numbers are inadequate when measuring the impact of service learning. What is important is that the bridge that Community Service-Learning built is certain to carry many more Madison students into lives where they will be the change, making their communities and the world better for everyone.
The Performing Arts Center

A gift for your graduate

The Performing Arts Center will combine two major facilities: the Dorothy Thomasson Estes Center for Theatre and Dance and a Center for Music Performance. Standing on the west side of Main Street, directly across from Wilson Hall, the Performing Arts Center will at once boldly affirm the university’s commitment to the arts—an essential component completing a liberal arts curriculum—and symbolically complete Madison’s cherished Quadrangle.

With the Performing Arts Center, Madison’s cultural life will focus on a primary space and be more available to students, faculty and the community. With its prominence on Main Street and planned access for events of all kinds, the Performing Arts Center will undoubtedly take its place as an important intersection of ideas and people.

When the Performing Arts Center opens in 2010, it will transform the performing arts at JMU. Classrooms, rehearsal and performance spaces for JMU’s award-winning theater, dance and music programs will enrich learning opportunities and offer the highest production values for world-class performances.

For more information visit www.jmu.edu/performingartscenter.

Office of Annual Giving
Leeolou Alumni Center,
MSC 4401
(800) 296-6162
e-mail giving@jmu.edu

In May the third and last of the Schoelwer sisters will become a JMU alumna. Kathleen (’04), Deborah (’07) and Julia (’10) will never forget their Madison Experience. And now, JMU will always remember them. Their parents, Ron Bass and Linda Allen, have named two seats in the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts — one for their talented children and one for themselves as proud Madison parents.

What will your seat say?

Name a seat in honor of your graduate in the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts. Name one seat for $1,000 or two seats for $1,500. Dollars raised will directly support student scholarships.

For more information visit www.jmu.edu/performingartscenter or contact the Office of Annual Giving at 800.296.6162 or giving@jmu.edu.
Health Center
Patient Advocate

At the University Health Center (UHC), student wellness takes top priority. To better serve students, the health center introduces Becky Schaeffer as the patient advocate, phone triage nurse and back-up urgent care nurse. Her primary responsibility as advocate is to address any concerns, questions or needs of students. She also serves as the first line of communication with students, parents and faculty concerning patient satisfaction and provision. In this unique position, she facilitates resolution of complaints and grievances for patients and also supports healthy choices for students as a part of the total learning environment.

The goal of the UHC is to provide friendly, professional services to all students and to address questions and concerns. The UHC partners with students to empower them to make informed choices by providing a holistic approach to health, education, wellness and outreach services in a confidential, inclusive and respectful environment.

UHC staff are interested and concerned about your student’s health. We are aware of all the many roles your student has as he or she learns, works and socializes with others on campus. We also know that good health keeps students in classes, maintains their energy and contributes to their overall educational success.

The UHC encourages each student to ask questions about his or her health and safety and to be actively engaged in health care and treatment. We wish your student a healthy and successful year at JMU!

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Becky Schaeffer, RN by phone (540) 568-7777 or e-mail patientadvocate@jmu.edu. Also, please visit the Web site www.jmu.edu/healthctr.

Summer Enrollment
Don’t let summer enrollment cost you money

Taking a class or two in the summer may sound like a great idea for your student — getting a particularly difficult class out of the way, repeating a class to improve a grade, or avoiding becoming a couch potato. Good intentions in March, when summer class enrollment opens, may turn into a financial mistake if your child doesn’t pay attention to the enrollment drop deadlines. These important dates are always posted on the Web site for the Office of the Registrar — www.jmu.edu/registrar.

Consider this scenario: Your son, an English major, is dating a chemistry major and thinks it might be fun to take a chemistry class with her this summer. He enrolls in March for the summer four-week session, starting in May. Unfortunately, the romance dissolves, and he decides to join his buddies in Williamsburg working at Busch Gardens. He finishes the spring semester and heads out of town.

Since he doesn’t drop his summer enrollment, he receives two e-mail notifications that summer bills are processed and ready to be paid. When he doesn’t pay the charges by the due date, he receives a hold on his student account and an e-mail from the University Business Office about his delinquent charges. Soon afterwards, he is assessed a late payment fee. During this time, he is enjoying his summer and never thinks about looking at his JMU e-mail.

About two weeks before the start of fall semester, he is back home, getting ready for the return trip to Harrisonburg, when he finally checks JMU e-mail. He sees the notices about the summer class charges and another e-mail advising him that since he has not paid his summer charges, his fall enrollment will be dropped.

Panic ensues and emergency phone calls to the University Business Office are made. “He never, ever attended the summer class — wasn’t even in Harrisonburg. How could he be charged for something he didn’t take?”

When he enrolled in that chemistry class, he reserved a seat and agreed to pay the tuition. Summer classes are important to many of our students and are scheduled based on student interest and faculty availability. Some classes are held based on a minimum number of students enrolling, making the class viable to hire a professor. Some classes have a maximum number of students enrolled, creating a waiting list. In either case, if the student does not attend the class and fails to drop it by the deadline listed by the Office of the Registrar, he is responsible for paying for the class. Non-attendance does not negate the charge.

So if your student is interested in summer classes, take a few minutes to check the Office of the Registrar’s Web site, make note of the drop deadlines for the specific session of enrollment and make sure the class is dropped accordingly, if necessary. If you have questions about the deadlines or your student has a problem dropping a class, don’t delay in making a phone call to the University Business Office at 540.568.6505 or The Office of the Registrar at 540.568.6281. If you don’t, it could cost you money.
Encouraging students to be good citizens

Off-campus adjudication

As the end of the semester approaches and students prepare for summer break, it is important to remember that regardless of whether your student is enrolled in summer classes or not, she or he remains a member of the JMU community.

If your student will be spending any time in the Harrisonburg or Rockingham County area during the break, it is important to know that the off-campus adjudication policy will still be in effect. This policy covers alcohol, drug and felony convictions that occur in Rockingham County or the City of Harrisonburg, and any other behaviors that negatively affects the educational mission of the university. This is a separate process from the criminal system and could result in additional educational programs and probation at the university.

If a student is charged with a violation of university policy during the summer, an e-mail will be sent to the student’s JMU e-mail address with information about how to schedule a judicial hearing.

In addition, parents of students under the age of 21 will be notified by letter after the first major violation (DUI, drug distribution, keg registration violation, hospitalization, supplying alcohol to minors, under the influence of drugs, felony possession of drugs or alcohol and drugs in the same incident) or a second minor violation (open container violation, underage possession of alcohol, marijuana possession or drunk in public) on or off campus.

JMU encourages all students to be good citizens and to obey all local and state laws wherever they reside this summer. Remember, all community standards and judicial processes can be found in JMU’s student handbook available at [www.jmu.edu/judicial/handbook.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/judicial/handbook.shtml). If you need more information, call (540) 568-6218.

QuikBILL updates

Installment plan changes for 2010

It’s never too early to start financial planning for the next school year. The 2010-2011 tuition and room and board charges will be approved by the JMU Board of Visitors during its meeting in April 2010. Starting in June 2010, parents will be able to enroll in the 2010-2011 installment payment plans and set up five equal monthly payments by credit card or electronic bank draft for the fall semester and five payments for the spring semester.

It is very important to remember that each semester must be set up separately. Although fall bills will not be posted until late July, parents can still set their budget and start the payment plan in early July.

Remember that the plan must be set up by the deadline to get the full five payments. Delays will result in fewer monthly payments available for the upcoming semester.

Important items to remember about the QuikBILL installment payment plan:

1. You must be an Authorized Payer to access the student bill and the installment payment plan, QuikBILL. The student is the only person who has the ability to set up the parent in QuikBILL as an Authorized Payer. If you, or your student, have questions about the Authorized Payer set up, please contact the University Business Office (UBO) by phone (540)568-6505 or e-mail (ubo@jmu.edu) or stop in our office (Warren Hall) during business hours, which are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
2. April 2010 – The JMU Board of Visitors sets 2010-2011 student account charges, which will be posted on the UBO Web site.
4. June 22, 2010 – Must be enrolled by this date to make five payments for fall semester.
5. August 6, 2010 – Estimated date that fall student account bills will be generated. All students and authorized payers will receive an e-mail notification.
6. September 3, 2010 – Payment deadline for student account balances not covered by financial aid or the QuikBILL installment payment plan.
7. By setting up the fall and spring semester at the same time, you don’t have to worry about it again until the next school year. Payments are automatically deducted from your bank account or charged to your credit card.
8. Please contact UBO if you have questions or need assistance with the new QuikBILL Installment Payment Plan.

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

Veterans Benefits

Are you military? If so, you or your student may be eligible for one or more of the benefits listed below:

**Federal Benefits**
- Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)
- MGIB Active Duty (Chapter 30)
- MGIB Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)
- MGIB REAP (Chapter 1607)
- MGIB Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educated Assistance Program (Chapter 35)
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Chapter 31)
- Federal Tuition Assistance

**State Benefits**
- Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Educational Program
- State Tuition Assistance

If you are eligible or have questions about any of the benefits listed above, please contact our office:

Office of the Registrar
Veterans Benefits
Warren Hall 504,
MSC 3528
(540) 568-6569 or (540) 568-4769
Fax: (540) 568-7954
www.jmu.edu/registrar/veterans

S P R I N G  2 0 1 0
**Endowments**

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.

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, please contact Karen Ahrens Wheatley (’80) to explore the possibilities: call (540) 568-6605 or e-mail gunthaka@jmu.edu.

**Academic and Events Calendar 2010 – 2015**

(2012 – 2015 Tentative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>F A L L</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halls Open 9 a.m. Transfer and International</td>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>8/24</td>
<td>8/23</td>
<td>8/22</td>
<td>8/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halls Open 9 a.m. Returning Students</td>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>8/24</td>
<td>8/23</td>
<td>8/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>8/30</td>
<td>8/29</td>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>8/24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Weekend</td>
<td>10/1–10/3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homecoming</td>
<td>10/15–11/17</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration for Spring Semester Begins</td>
<td>11/01</td>
<td>10/24</td>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>10/24</td>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>10/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation Begins</td>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>11/26</td>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>12/01</td>
<td>12/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halls close at 10 a.m.</td>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>12/09</td>
<td>12/07</td>
<td>12/06</td>
<td>12/05</td>
<td>12/05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
<td>12/13–12/17</td>
<td>12/12–12/16</td>
<td>12/10–12/14</td>
<td>12/9–12/13</td>
<td>12/8–12/12</td>
<td>12/7–12/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>12/17</td>
<td>12/16</td>
<td>12/14</td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>12/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halls close at 5 p.m.</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>12/17</td>
<td>12/15</td>
<td>12/14</td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>12/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement</td>
<td>12/19</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>12/16</td>
<td>12/15</td>
<td>12/14</td>
<td>12/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halls close at 3 p.m. for graduates</td>
<td>12/19</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>12/16</td>
<td>12/15</td>
<td>12/14</td>
<td>12/13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>S P R I N G</strong></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>1/09</td>
<td>1/14</td>
<td>1/13</td>
<td>1/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No Classes)</td>
<td>1/17</td>
<td>1/16</td>
<td>1/17</td>
<td>1/16</td>
<td>1/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Day No classes 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
<td>2/15</td>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>2/08</td>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>2/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halls close at 5 p.m.</td>
<td>3/04</td>
<td>3/02</td>
<td>3/08</td>
<td>3/07</td>
<td>3/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes Resume</td>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>3/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration for Fall Semester Begins</td>
<td>4/05</td>
<td>4/03</td>
<td>4/09</td>
<td>4/08</td>
<td>4/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
<td>4/29</td>
<td>4/27</td>
<td>5/03</td>
<td>5/02</td>
<td>5/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halls close at 5 p.m. Undergraduates</td>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>5/04</td>
<td>5/10</td>
<td>5/09</td>
<td>5/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement Halls close at 3 p.m. for graduates</td>
<td>5/07</td>
<td>5/05</td>
<td>5/11</td>
<td>5/10</td>
<td>5/09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>