A purple and gold family

Libby and Craig Fritsche chair the JMU Parents Council

By Colleen Callery ('11)

From day one, Craig and Libby Fritsche have demonstrated their excitement about being a part of the Madison family. This excitement and enthusiasm for JMU have carried over into their interaction with parents-at-large, as well as JMU Parents Council members,” says Sherry King, director of JMU Parent Relations.

The JMU Parents Council works through the JMU Office of Parent Relations to foster better relationships between the university and parents of JMU students. As co-chairs of the JMU Parents Council, Craig ('11P) and Libby Fritsche ('11P) take this opportunity to heart.

“Afetr we became Parents Council members, we found the positive attitudes throughout the university community to be almost infectious,” says Libby. “The university community also benefits from the work of the Parents Council.”

Although not JMU alumni, the Fritsches are active in campus life, participating in First-Year Send Off events, CHOICES admissions days, Family Weekend and many football games.

“Families can feel out of the loop about services or procedures at the university,” explains Craig. “The Parent Relations office provides information to parents and hears from parents who may have concerns about the university or services for their student.”

This academic year is the Fritsches’ fourth year as members of the council and their second year as co-chairs. They joined the council when their daughter Olivia ('11) was a freshman. She is now a senior public administration major headed to law school this fall.

“They are true leaders at heart,” says King. “They are humble, dedicated to serving the mission of the university and the council, creative and open minded, and they both display an energizing sense of humor that always fosters good camaraderie.”

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Endowments
Supporting students and faculty

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 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.

A legacy of philanthropy
Parents of JMU students can initially establish an endowment. After their student graduates from JMU and begins a career, the student 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 faculty support, please contact Karen Ahrens Wheatley ('80) to explore the possibilities: Call (540) 568-6605 or e-mail gunthaka@jmu.edu.

Office of Development
Leeolou Alumni Center
(540) 568-6605
e-mail: gunthaka@jmu.edu

Thank you

In my family, educational opportunities are very precious to every member. As the first of my generation to have the fortune to be able to attend college, I am truly blessed and am thankful for being a musician at James Madison University. Because of your donation to the Parents Council Endowed Scholarship, I am now able to further expand my understanding and practice of the bassoon while relieving the financial burden on my father. For this, we deeply thank you for your help and your investment in my future. Though I am from Chesapeake, Virginia, this scholarship makes me feel more a part of the JMU community. Again, thank you very much for this donation.

Sincerely,
Spencer C. Wilson ’13
Advanced registration for Fall 2011 is coming in April, does your son/daughter need any help? Is your son/daughter feeling lost in the world of academic advising? Are they struggling with decisions about what classes they have to take to graduate on time? Not sure whom to ask? Let the JMU MAPs point you in the right direction!

The Madison Advising Peer program, sponsored by University Advising, is composed of eight peer advisors that work in conjunction with faculty advisors by providing supplemental academic advising information. The MAPs care about their fellow students and are committed to helping them achieve their college goals. The peer advisors help students better understand general advising issues that arise at JMU, such as General Education and degree requirements; utilizing e-campus to register for classes; making a four year academic plan; interpreting the degree progress report, and answering a myriad of general advising questions from “how do I change my major” to “what graduation requirements do I need to complete.

The program’s mission is to provide the most accurate advising information to students and to be a source of support and encouragement. In some cases, this means referring students to another resource on campus or encouraging students to meet with their academic advisor. MAPs often sit down with students to draft a list of questions and issues students can then take to their academic advisor for clarification. Regardless if we can help the student, we encourage students to see their academic advisors as the ultimate resource.

Students are encouraged to come to the office located in 102 Wilson Hall to meet with a peer advisor. No appointment is necessary; walk-ins are welcome. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm and on Friday from 10:00 am – 3:30 pm. For more information visit the MAP website at www.jmu.edu/advising/peers.shtml.

Spotlight
Madison Advising Peers
Helping fellow students achieve their college goals

Assisting fellow students...

MAP assists fellow students with many topics including:

- Process for declaring/changing majors, minors and pre-professional program
- Using e-campus to register for and/or make course adjustments
- Clarifying BA and BS degree requirements
- General Education requirements
- Transferring summer course credit to JMU
- Interpreting the degree progress report
- Mapping out an academic plan
- Process for requesting a course override
- Understanding the repeat/credit and repeat/forgive course options
- Preparing to meet with the advisor
- Available campus resources
- Information on studying abroad

Madison Advising Peers
Wilson Hall, Room 102
Mon. – Thur. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Fri. 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
A purple and gold family (cont. from page 1)

Following a suggestion from a friend who was already on the Parents Council, the Fritsches decided to commit to the organization after being won over by the university’s spirit. “We had friends who approached us about joining the JMU Parents Council after they found out that Olivia had been accepted,” recalls Libby. “We met Sherry King, director of the Office of Parent Relations, at Orientation and we were impressed. Everything about James Madison University was welcoming, and it made us want to be a part of such a wonderful and exciting community.”

The Fritsches say they were initially impressed by their campus tour and the “commitment to student learning and achievement evident at every level of the university.”

Their position on the Parents Council also gives the couple a unique opportunity to relate to their daughter Olivia on another level, staying involved in her life without being “helicopter parents,” hovering over her every move. One of their favorite things to do is to go to JMU football games. “There is nothing more fun than a day that starts with a tailgate and ends with a win,” says Libby. “All JMU parents, mark your calendars and start making your plans now for Family Weekend 2011 on Oct. 14-16. You don’t want to miss all the family fun.”

The Fritsches embody every aspect of the Madison Experience. As King notes, “I have never seen two people enjoy themselves as much as Craig and Libby do when they are on campus assisting or attending JMU events. They find every excuse to come back to campus. Although both are graduates of George Mason University, they bleed purple and gold.”

Learn more about the JMU Parents Council and 2011 Family Weekend at www.jmu.edu/parents.

Spring Commencement

Commencement is a momentous event in the lives of graduates, their families and friends. In preparing for this significant milestone, it is imperative that you be kept up to date with any new development. With that in mind, and with commencement 2011 approaching, we hope this special section will answer any questions you may have.

When and where will commencement ceremonies take place?
The senior convocation for students only will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, at the Convocation Center.

The Graduate School ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 6, at the Convocation Center.

The following ceremonies will take place at 9 a.m. (undergraduates must be at their respective ceremony sites no later than 8:30 a.m.) on Saturday, May 7 at specified locations:
- College of Arts and Letters – The Quad
- College of Business – Convocation Center
- College of Education & University Studies – Godwin Hall
- College of Integrated Science & Technology – Soccer/Lacrosse Complex
- College of Science and Mathematics – East Campus Library Lawn
- College of Visual & Performing Arts – Duke Lawn

Are tickets needed to attend?
JMU’s philosophy of inclusiveness – known as “all together one” – extends throughout the student’s college years and beyond. In keeping with that philosophy, there are no restrictions to the number of invitations graduates can extend to attend commencement and tickets are not required.

Where can I purchase photos of my student graduating?
Chappell Studio will photograph each graduate crossing the stage and receiving his or her congratulations.

In an effort to inform parents of graduates about the photos, Chappell Studio’s is offering pre-registration, which allows parents and/or graduates to provide their e-mail and mailing address information to Chappell prior to the ceremony. A free color proof and ordering information will mail to graduate’s permanent address approximately two weeks after graduation.

For more information, please contact Chappell Studio at (800) 424–3686 or visit www.chappell.com. How long do the ceremonies last? College ceremonies last about one hour.

In the event of inclement weather, will the outdoor ceremonies take place?
Occasionally extreme weather conditions occur and when that happens, the inclement weather policy goes into effect. All ceremonies will take place, but at various times and locations. For details, please visit www.jmu.edu/commencement/inclement_plan_may.html.

Announcements initiating the inclement weather plan will be made no later than 7:30 a.m. on the day of commencement. The announcement will be posted on the main JMU homepage (www.jmu.edu), phone-in message line (540) 433-5300 and Radio 1610AM.

For more information please call (540) 568-1644 or visit www.jmu.edu/commencement.

Dates for Parents:

Spring Semester 2011
- April 5 Registration begins for fall semester
- April 29 Last day of classes
- May 2-6 Final examinations
- May 6 Residence halls close at 5 p.m. for undergraduate students. Dining Services close at 7 p.m. and Spring meal plans end.
- May 6 Graduate Commencement Ceremony
- May 7 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony

Fall Semester 2011
- August 27 Residence halls open for returning students
- August 29 Classes meet as scheduled
- October 1-2 Homecoming
- October 14-16 Family Weekend
- October 31 Registration begins for 2012 spring semester
- November 18 Dining Services close at 7:30 p.m.
- November 19 Thanksgiving vacation begins and residence halls close
- November 26 Residence halls open. Dining Services opens at 4:30 p.m.
- December 9 Last day of classes
- December 12-16 Final examinations
- December 16 Residence halls close
- December 17 Commencement

4 FAMILY CONNECTION
2011–12 Financial Aid Grants
By Brad Barnett, Accredited Financial Counselor and Senior Associate Director of Financial Aid & Scholarships

Over the past couple of years there has been a national trend in higher education resulting in more students qualifying for grant dollars. This is due in large part to changes Congress made in the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) formula that is used to calculate a student’s EFC based on the results of his/her Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The EFC is how much the federal government believes the student and his/her family can pay towards that student’s education for the upcoming school year. A low EFC indicates that a student may be eligible for more financial aid. Additionally, the recent economic recession has led to a reduction of income for many families, and the reduced income on the FAFSA has created grant eligibility for some who normally would not qualify for these dollars.

The federal and state grant dollars that JMU receives has not kept pace with the rising level of need we anticipate. This trend is not specific to JMU and is impacting colleges and universities all across the country. As a result, in 2011–12 JMU will change the amount of grant dollars awarded to students. This does not mean that JMU will stop awarding grant dollars, but may be in a position where normal awards are reduced in an attempt to give as many eligible students a grant. However, the possibility also exists that JMU could run out of money before all eligible students are awarded, so completing the 2011–12 FAFSA before the priority filing date (March 1) is advisable in order to be considered for a grant.

These potential changes would impact awards such as SEOG, VGAP, Commonwealth Award and University Grants. If your student has been a recipient of one of these awards and anticipate receiving an award in 2011–12, we suggest you begin looking at additional financial assistance to help pay for the 2011–12 educational costs in case the grant in 2011–12 is less than it has been in previous years. This potential change in the funding formula for grants does not impact merit-based scholarships.

Additionally, as of July 1, 2011, the Department of Education will discontinue the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and the National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant). At this time, there are no grant funds designated to replace these programs. What does this mean for your student? Beginning with the summer term, current ACG or SMART Grant recipients will not receive funding from either program. We want to make you aware of this now so you may appropriately budget to cover your 2011–2012 academic year expenses.

Financial Aid & Scholarships
Warren Hall
(540) 568-7820
e-mail: fin_aid@jmu.edu

Spring activities
Sponsored by JMU Alumni Relations

The Office of Alumni Relations along with the Senior Class Council is hosting a variety of events throughout the spring semester for graduating seniors. The events serve as a means to celebrate students’ graduation and to introduce them to the Alumni Association. Encourage your student to attend these events, and remind them of the many ways to stay involved with JMU after graduation like; joining their local alumni chapter, reading the Madison Magazine, coming back to campus for homecoming and reunions, or other opportunities listed online at www.jmu.edu/alumni.

Legacy Picnic
The JMU Alumni Association hosts an annual picnic for all incoming freshman legacy students and their families the Wednesday before fall classes begin, August 24, 2011. The purpose of the picnic is to congratulate and welcome students into the Madison family. In addition, an alum parent and legacy student are selected to share their “Madison Experiences,” and life as an alum and parent of a JMU student. Therefore, we are seeking your assistance to fulfill these roles. If you are interested in sharing your story as a parent alum, and/or your legacy student is interested in sharing his or hers, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 888–568–2586 or alumni_link@jmu.edu.

Office of Alumni Relations
Leeolou Alumni Center
(888) 568-2586
e-mail: alumni_link@jmu.edu

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 1607)
- MGIB Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational 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

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

Spring 2011

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JMU ATHLETICS – GO DUKES!

STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE
JMU sponsors an 18-sport intercollegiate athletics program in the Division I level of the NCAA. We are committed to the academic needs of our student-athletes and provide top level athletic facilities and academic support.

STUDENT TICKETS FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS
Full-time JMU students are eligible for free admission to all regular season home athletic events. For football, students must reserve their ticket in advance online at JMUSports.com/tickets. For all other events, JMU students present their JACard on game day to gain entry. Student guest tickets are available for all sports and allow friends and family to sit with their student during the game.

JMUSports.com
Visit our website for schedules, tickets, rosters, and everything else that is happening with JMU Athletics.

2010: A YEAR TO REMEMBER

2010 Baseball
Regular Season Champions

2010 Cross Country
CAA Champions

2010 Lacrosse
CAA Champions

2009-10 Women’s Basketball
CAA Champions

2010 Women’s Soccer
CAA Champions

JMU student tickets must be reserved in advance for football. Reserve online at JMUSports.com/tickets starting 2 weeks before each home game.

2011 FOOTBALL HOME SCHEDULE

9/10 vs. Central Connecticut State
10/1 vs. Richmond (Homecoming)
10/8 vs. Maine
10/15 vs. Villanova (Family Weekend)
11/12 vs. Rhode Island

JOIN THE MOVEMENT
RESERVE YOUR 2011 SEASON TICKETS TODAY
SEASON TICKETS AS LOW AS $100

25KSTRONG.COM  •  540-568-DUKE (3853)