CONGRATULATIONS! Your student has chosen to become a member of the James Madison University community. You’re probably a little excited, and a little anxious, about sending your student to college. Therefore, we offer an excellent opportunity to help prepare you both for this new experience – Summer Springboard!

All new students attend this one-day orientation 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 freshmen attend Summer Springboard, they will meet their freshman advisor in a small group of four to six students. The freshman advisor is trained to help students make the transition from high school to college by guiding, answering questions, providing information, listening, easing concerns, and generally being a connection to the university. Within this session, the freshman advisor introduces students to the policies and procedures of the university, explains General Education, and discusses the major (or possible majors). The freshman advisor then meets with each student individually for 25 minutes to assist students in selecting and registering for the remainder of their classes to reach a full schedule of 14-16 credit hours. This individual time enables the freshman advisor and the student to begin developing rapport and to address questions and concerns that the student has. Students will be registered in six to twelve credit hours prior to attending Summer Springboard based on their majors (including the choice to be undeclared) and preferences selected on the One Book Web site.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >>>
Dear Parents:

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. Setting 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 First-Year Send Off in July or August and Family Weekend on Oct. 14-16, 2011. The send off 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 send off schedule is published on the JMU Parents Web site and more details will be mailed to you. The Family Weekend brochure and registration will be posted online at www.jmu.edu/parents/Family_Weekend.shtml, on July 1, and a postcard reminder will be mailed to you in mid June, but NOW is the time for you to make your hotel reservations. A listing of local accommodations can be found on the JMU Parents Web site as well. 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 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 extra-curricular 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 our 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!

Greg ’75 & Linda ’77 Cross (’12P)
Parents Council Chairs

Welcome (cont.)

Although there are certain courses that students are required to take, this session provides the opportunity for students to utilize guidance from the advisor to continue the process of making their own educational decisions, which started with the One Book. In fact, one of the main roles of the freshman advisor 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 various classes are some ways in which the student takes control of his or her learning.

After Summer Springboard, most of the faculty freshman advisors 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 advisors to learn about academic identity, strategies to be a successful student, and technologies at JMU. They also will have the opportunity to try and make adjustments to their schedules, if needed. Starting college is an exciting time for students and families alike, and the freshman advisors are instrumental in helping students begin this new chapter in their lives.
Assisting fellow students...

MAP assists fellow students with 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

MAP helps students...
Endowments
the Gift of a Lifetime

JMU’s 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. 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 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.

A Family Connection
The Madison Family Connection e-newsletter is informative, helpful and FREE

The newsletter provides JMU parents and families with information on campus events, vacation and break schedules, payment due dates, deadline reminders and tips for student success.

To electronically receive the newsletter, please register at www.jmu.edu/parents.

If you would prefer to have the newsletter mailed to you, please send your address to kitetl@jmu.edu, or call (540) 568-3193 or (866) 399-8432.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your selection of me as the recipient candidate for the 2010–2011 Parents Scholarship. I am honored to have received such a generous gift and it is certainly appreciated to help ease the cost of attendance at James Madison University.

The selection of me to receive this scholarship was certainly an honor and a privilege. I hope to continue my education to the completion of my bachelor’s degree at JMU in both history and political science. Besides actively pursuing my academics at JMU, I also am involved with leadership organizations such as student government. I hope once I graduate to pursue a career in either law or politics, or commit myself to some form of public service.

My ultimate life goal is to encourage and create a positive change in our nation and world. By having chosen JMU, I think I will receive an education that will provide me with an excellent education for future endeavors and with the help of your generous gift I am one step closer to obtaining it. As the recipient of your scholarship, you have invested in the future. It is my sincere hope that I may continue to reflect the academic prowess and inspiring spirit of JMU.

Thank you,
– Jacob Glessner ’13

I wanted to write you a letter to tell you how much I appreciate the scholarship that you have rewarded me. The Parents Council Endowment for Scholarships has given me a lot of opportunities this year in my educational journey. The school year is going well for me so far – I am a sophomore anthropology major on the pre-med track, and am working hard to get to medical school! I can’t tell you how much your financial help is benefitting me!

– Ansley Luce ’13
JMU ATHLETICS – GO DUKE5!

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)
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 2011 will be held Oct. 14–16. Remember, hotels and motels fill up quickly, so make your reservations early! Visit the accommodations Web site at www.jmu.edu/parents/accommodations.shtml for a comprehensive listing of hotels/motels in the local area.

Family Weekend postcards, containing new brochure and registration information, will be mailed the first of July. Tickets for the Family Weekend football game and the Thursday/Friday night event, Whose Live Anyway, are available now. All other Family Weekend event tickets will go on sale July 1.

Football tickets can be ordered through the JMU Athletics Ticket office by phone (540) 568–3853 or online at www.jmusports.com.

Whose Live Anyway is 90 minutes of hilarious improvised comedy and song all based on audience suggestions. Ryan Stiles, Greg Proops, Chip Esten and Jeff B. Davis leave their audiences gasping with the very witty scenes they invent before audience eyes. It’s a night of unforgettable funny interactive comedy! All seats reserved. Ticket ranges from $33–$53. Tickets are also available for the Saturday night Pops Concert. These performances will sell out very quickly so order early for best seats. Order tickets online at www.jmu.edu/JMUArts, by phone (540) 568–7000 (Mon–Fri: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) or in person at the Forbes Center Box Office located at 147 Warsaw Avenue.

For more Family Weekend information visit, www.jmu.edu/parents/Family_Weekend.shtml.

GETTING PERSONAL

Genetics studies hit home for freshman researcher Carly Starke (’14)

BY BRAD JENKINS (’99)

O

n the difficult days — the ones when his muscles are quivering or when his short-term memory falters — Robert Starke finds strength more than 300 miles from his Clarksburg, N.J., home.

There, at a biotechnology lab at JMU, Starke’s daughter, Carly Starke (’14), is researching turkeys, specifically a vaccine to treat Bordetella avium, or a form of avian whooping cough. It has nothing to do with her dad’s multiple sclerosis, but the research and lab skills she is learning may one day help scientists treat MS and other diseases. Starke’s academic path is a source of strength for her parents, both of whom have faced medical challenges.

Starke’s father was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis 30 years ago. Her mother is currently undergoing treatment for breast cancer; doctors found it early enough that her prognosis is excellent.

As a science student who has enjoyed drawing since she was 5, Starke fit right in to the Dance of Art and Science, JMU’s yearlong use of the arts to explore genetics. For her, it all began with the dance on the Quad, which turned freshmen into a huge strand of DNA. There, she wore a yellow shirt and represented thymine, one of four DNA elements. “The dance connected everything I had learned in high school about DNA and showed how much JMU has to offer,” she says.

A large part of her Madison Experience will be learning to do genetic research. And if some diseases have genetic components, then Starke is optimistic that perhaps the cure to those diseases could be found in genetic research she does later in life.

There is no cure for her father’s MS, which attacks the central nervous system and can range from mild to severe. The progress of the disease — which can include paralysis or loss of vision — is unpredictable. Its cause is unknown, but scientists wonder if genetics plays a role. Scientists already know that genetics can contribute to some forms of breast cancer. Women whose grandmothers, mothers or sisters have had breast cancer may have a higher risk, too.

Starke came to JMU enthusiastic to make a difference, partially because of her father’s illness.

Involved in research with a vaccine-development company near her home during high school, Starke connected with Louise Temple, JMU professor of integrated science and technology, about helping with the professor’s research on turkeys’ respiratory disease. Using molecular biology and biochemistry techniques, Temple and the students are trying to create a live vaccine that can immunize the turkeys.

“As any research experience is valuable training,” says Temple, who adds that most students don’t start researching until they are juniors or later. “Our work, even though it is with poultry diseases, is relevant training for any kind of biomedical work she might choose later on. The techniques she is learning and practicing, the skills in literature critique, communication of scientific findings — all of these are extremely valuable for someone like her.”

Starke knows the value, and she’s grateful. “I am just a freshman, and I am already doing undergraduate research,” she says. “That goes to show how JMU gets students involved. I am doing work that juniors and seniors are working on, and I am understanding what’s going on.”

More valuable, though, may be Starke’s understanding of how science will help others like her mother, who have breast cancer, or her father, whose MS symptoms are starting to show.

Starke’s father, an electrical trainer for a power company, has a mild form of MS. Over the years she has become more aware of the affects. Two years ago, his symptoms began progressing, and more people became aware that he has MS, which can have symptoms that come and go. He walks with an odd gait, and getting up stairs can be difficult.

“I want to help my mom and dad,” says Starke. “I want to develop treatments and cures for other people, too, because I know what they’re going through.”

Starke studies her science material with a personal curiosity, wondering what may be lurking in her own genes. And yet, she is resigned that there’s no changing it. “Whatever happens, happens,” she says. “If it’s meant to be, it’s going to happen.”

Starke tells her parents about the research she’s doing, and even though it doesn’t pertain to their illnesses, it shows them that research can make a difference. “It encourages them,” she says. “They know there’s hope and that there are people like me in the sciences who are motivated to do something.”

Robert Starke sees that motivation when he discusses science with his daughter. “Because of her passion for research, I have hope that one day she will find a cure or treatment and maybe solve mysteries of other illnesses,” he says. “I honestly believe that if there were more people with her passion, illnesses like MS and cancer would be cured.”

The research process also encourages Starke. She sees the successes and failures, and knows that sometimes the failures lead to success. “You may not find what you’re looking for now, but we have to keep trying because it may be out there.”
Thank you for supporting the Parents Fund!

Your gifts enhance the Madison Experience

Thanks to all our parent donors and congratulations to the Class of 2011 from the Office of Annual Giving.

(800) 296-6162, www.jmu.edu/give