Welcome to James Madison University

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 >>>
Summer/Fall ‘12 Event Calendar:

FYSO – First-Year Send Off Schedule:

June 16  Georgia
            Griffin
July 13  Saluda, Va.
July 14  New England
            Westbrook, Mass.
July 15  New Jersey
            Bernards Township
July 16  Pennsylvania -
            Eagleville
July 18  Fairfax County
            Alexandria, Va.
July 19  Virginia Beach, Va.
July 20  Williamsburg, VA
July 22  Maryland
            Columbia
July 23  West End Rich-
            mond
            Glen Allen, Va.
July 25  Prince William
            County
            Woodbridge, Va.
July 27  Connecticut -
            Greenwich
July 28  New York
            Westbury
July 29  Southern New
            Jersey
            Medford
July 30  Pittsburgh
            O’Hara Township, Pa.
Aug.  2  Southside Rich-
            mond
            Midlothian, Va.
Aug.  3  Charlottesville, Va.
Aug.  5  Roanoke, Va.

For more information and registration visit www.jmu.edu/parents/.

Other important dates:

Aug. 21/22  Move-in Dates
Aug. 27    First Day of Classes
Oct. 5-7   Family Weekend
Oct. 26-28 Homecoming
Nov. 17-24 Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 10-14 Final Exams
Dec. 15    Commencement

Welcome to the Madison Family

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 website. 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. 5-7, 2012. 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 website 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 extracurricular 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 website 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 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!

Richard & Tina Turner (’13 & ’16P)
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.
Tuition and Fees...

The rates for the 2012/2013 academic year are available on the University Business office website at www.jmu.edu/ubo under the “Tuition and Fees” link on the left sidebar.

Virginia Prepaid Account (VPEP)

Parents with a Virginia Prepaid Account (VPEP) must inform VPEP that their student is attending JMU. VPEP will send a roster of students to JMU prior to the start of the semester and the anticipated VPEP payment will be listed on the fall billing statement as a credit. JMU will bill VPEP after the third week of classes. Parents with a VEST account, must contact VPEP and request a specific dollar amount be sent to JMU.

Federal Loans

Parents and students taking out federal loans, please make sure the loans are accepted and the Loan Request Form is completed. Additionally, first time borrowers need to complete a Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling.

Veterans 9/11

Parents of students receiving Veterans 9/11 funds, must contact the JMU veterans coordinator in the Registrar’s Office. The coordinator will assist parents in estimating what VA will pay JMU each semester. Room and board charges are not covered by these funds, therefore, must be paid by personal payment or financial aid. Personal payment can be a one-time payment before the due date or through the installment payment plan set up by the due date. Any combination of personal payment, payment plan or financial aid is acceptable as long as the balance is covered.

Duke Dog Direct Deposit

The quickest way for students to receive their financial aid refunds is through direct deposit. To register, students log in to their MyMadison account, go to the Student Services section, click on the Duke Dog Direct Deposit link and submit the required bank routing and account number information.

Parents requesting a federal Parent PLUS loan, may also set up direct deposit for times when the loan creates a credit balance. To do so, visit the refunds section of the University Business Office (UBO) website, click on the Duke Dog Direct Deposit link and select the Parent Enrollment Form at the bottom of the page.

QuikBILL updates

Installment plan for 2012–2013

QuikBILL, the JMU electronic student billing system, manages student account installment payment plans. Starring in June 2012 parents may enroll in the 2012–2013 installment payment plans and set up five equal monthly payments for the fall and spring semesters. The QuikBILL installment payment plan, allows students and authorized payers to coordinate the payment plan budget with actual charges and any anticipated aid listed on the account.

QuikBILL benefits:

- Five monthly payments for fall semester and five monthly payments for spring semester, if contracted by the deadline. Delays will result in fewer monthly payments available for the upcoming semester.
- Life insurance on any balance of the contracted budget, as of the date of death of the “responsible party.”
- Ability to pay by credit card or electronic check at the Web site.

Important items to remember about the QuikBILL installment payment plan:

1. Only authorized payers may access the student bill and the installment payment plan. Only students have the ability to designate an authorized payer in QuikBILL. If you or your student have questions about the authorized payer set up, please contact the University Business Office by phone, (540) 568-6505, or e-mail ubo@jmu.edu, or stop in the UBO office (Warren Hall) during business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) for assistance.


4. June 21, 2012 – Must enroll by this date to make five payments for fall semester.

5. Aug. 3, 2012 – Date that fall student account bills are generated. All student and authorized payers will receive an e-mail notification.

6. Aug. 31, 2012 – 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, parents don’t have to worry about it again until the next school year. Payments are automatically deducted from their bank account or charged to their credit card. It is important to remember that each semester must be set up separately. Although fall bills will not post until early August, parents may still set their budgets in June and start the payment plan in early July.

Parents attending Orientation will hear more about the QuikBILL system and how to gain access as an ‘Authorized Payer.’ All Authorized Payers receive billing dates and pertinent information, as well as confidential information pertaining to their student’s account.

Please contact UBO if you have questions or need assistance with the QuikBILL Installment Payment Plan.

James Madison University
University Business Office
MSC 3516
Harrisonburg, VA
(540) 568-6505
e-mail: ubo@jmu.edu
www.jmu.edu/ubo
Financial Dollars and Sense: COMMUNICATE AND PLAN

By Brad Barnett
Accredited Financial Counselor
Certified Personal Financial Manager
Senior Associate Director
Financial Aid & Scholarships

As students head off to college, there are many issues to discuss. One of the most important may be money. Often for the first time, students are moving to an environment without a parent’s daily presence. For many students, it is the first time they’ve made financial decisions on their own. Unfortunately, in the world of finances, a bad decision made on the spur of the moment can take years to rectify.

Financial Education
Many people think of the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships as the place where students go to secure money to pay for college. While that is a large part of what we do, we also seek to educate. Our mission statement reads:

We will ASSIST with identifying and obtaining resources to finance higher education; DELIVER funds in a timely and equitable manner; and EDUCATE, so that informed financial decisions can be made.

Research tells us that many 18 year olds are simply not in a position to handle their financial affairs completely by themselves. Without guidance and education, many students learn the “hard way,” by making costly financial mistakes. Financial education and open communication with parents can make a difference.

The Student is Our Contact
As the parent of a new student, you should be aware that the student is the primary contact for almost all JMU financial aid communication. Making students the primary point of contact for this information puts them in a position to take ownership and responsibility for their finances from the perspective of financial aid. It’s a step toward financial independence.

Our office sends little information home or to the parents of JMU students. In most cases we will communicate dates, deadlines, and requests for information with your student via e-mail, their MyMadison account, Facebook, our website, and our newsletters.

A Communication Plan
Since many new students have relied on their parents to handle most of their financial matters in the past, we suggest students and parents agree upon a communication plan regarding financial information. Talk with your student about how they plan to handle their financial affairs at school.

As parents, you can learn about important financial aid information by joining our Facebook group (JMU Financial Aid) and reading the newsletters and other information on our website. However, you will not be able to access your student’s personal financial aid information without your student’s assistance. This is where developing a communication path between you and your student is extremely important.

Day-to-Day Finances
Students are also faced with challenges in handling finances on a day-to-day basis. In most of the surveys we have conducted on campus, our office has discovered some areas where students can benefit from instruction. For example, between 50 and 60 percent of surveyed students have overdrawn a bank account at some point. In another survey conducted by the Counseling and Student Development Center, students said they had concerns about a lack of money/resources and would like more assistance in wisely handling money.

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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.
Ask A Nurse: 
New Health Center program for students

The University Health Center (UHC) clinical team includes physicians, nurse practitioners, certified physician assistants, nurses, licensed practical nurses and registered medical assistants. Our team also includes health educators and a medical technologist.

The UHC offers a new program to students called “Ask A Nurse.” Nurses from the health center go out on campus to provide information and be accessible to the students. The staff will assist students with any question or concern they may have—self-care, women’s health, STDs, questions about specific symptoms and what to do, do they need an appointment, what are UHC services, etc. Various pamphlets regarding current health issues are also provided, as well as free promotional health center gifts. Therefore, encourage your student to visit one of the listed locations.

- Rose (East Campus) Library
  Tuesday, 9–11 a.m.
- Montpelier Hall
  Wednesday, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Carrier Library
  Friday, 9–11 a.m.

The UHC staff values the confidentiality of every students health information. Staff will not release information to any outside party without the students written consent. Students may request the Health Center discuss their specific case with a family physician, parent, professor or other designated individual by signing the Medical Record Release form available at the UHC office.

For assistance with any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the UHC Patient Advocate Coordinator, Becky Schaeffer, RN, by phone at (540) 568–6178.

University Health Center
235 Cantrell Ave., MSC 7901
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
(540) 568–6178
www.jmu.edu/healthctr

Financial... (cont.)

Our office has implemented many measures to help students with these important financial literacy topics. For example:

- We conduct workshops for students throughout the year.
- Our website (www.jmu.edu/finaid/finliteracy.shtml) contains a financial literacy section with a budgeting case studies/worksheets as well as a host of other resources.
- We teach a 3 credit hour elective course (IS275 Dollars and Sense) aimed at helping students understand the basics of handling their money and making wise financial choices.
- We are available to assist students with developing their personal budgets and answering many of their general financial questions.

Our hope is that students attending JMU will achieve a high level of independence so when they graduate, they will be in a better position to handle their own affairs. Making wise financial decisions is a major component of this.

Speak with your student about how they plan to handle their financial affairs at school. If your student needs assistance in this area, please direct them to our office. The sooner we can help a student stand on his or her own feet, the better prepared they will be to “lead productive and meaningful lives” once they graduate JMU.

Financial Aid & Scholarships
Warren Hall, MSC 3519
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
(540) 568-7820
Fax: (540) 568-7994

For a listing of on campus physical health resources, visit www.jmu.edu/healthctr/ONphysiological.shtml.

Stay Well
A wellness resource guide

For Family Weekend 2012 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 2012 will be held Oct. 5–7. 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, the Thursday/Friday night event, – Rockapella Group and Saturday night Pops Concert are available now. For all other Family Weekend events, 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. Rockapella Group and Pops Concert 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.
First-Year Send Offs

Before embarking on one of the most wonderful experiences of a first-year student’s (and new parent’s) life, celebrating JMU style at one of JMU’s amazing First-Year Send Offs is a must! First-Year Send Offs offer incoming students and their parents an opportunity to talk with current JMU students, alumni, faculty and staff members, Parents Council members, and enables them to meet fellow classmates from their geographic areas.

These events are a great way to network with other Duke families, and provides an excellent opportunity to get any last minute questions answered.

Each sendoff lasts approximately two hours, and includes: an icebreaker BINGO game, prize drawings, lunch or dinner, question and answer session, information session, and every student and his or her parents will walk away with a goodie bag.

www.jmu.edu/parents/FYSO_2012.shtml

JUDICIAL AFFAIRS
Restorative Practices

BY CHRISTOPHER EHHRHART, COORDINATOR OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

The James Madison University Office of Judicial Affairs is responsible for establishing a system of judicial and disciplinary procedures for use when community members potentially violate university policy. We collaborate with partners to facilitate civic responsibility and student development, in order to provide opportunities for the cultivation and restoration of the university community.

The Office of Judicial Affairs also recognizes that just because there is not a policy violation, it does not mean students are not experiencing harm or conflict. There are struggles often associated with college life, such as a disagreement between two roommates in a residence hall having to share living space for the first time, or conflict between group members working on a class project, that can result in extra stress on a student.

The Office of Judicial Affairs uses Restorative Practices as a way of assisting students to work through such conflicts, as well as a way to provide additional opportunities for personal growth and development. Restorative practices are practices that attempt to take into consideration the harms, needs, and obligations, of all those involved in a conflict. Wrongdoing is treated as a violation (harm) of people and relationships. These violations create obligations and the central obligation is to put right the wrongs by engaging all who have been affected by the specific incident.

There are numerous methods to engage all stakeholders, such as mediation and conflict coaching, and the context and needs of those involved are taken into consideration when determining how best to repair and address the harms of a given circumstance. Restorative practices may be different from other more familiar processes, as they allow opportunities to share emotions, address harms and needs in a polite and respectful manner, tell one’s story, listen to others’ stories and gain a deeper understanding of the other individuals involved in a situation.

Whether an individual is involved in a judicial case, a person referred to our office, or a student that proactively comes in on their own regard, when speaking with an individual we explore what was done, who was harmed, and what can be done to address the harm. All restorative practices are voluntary. We hope students experiencing, and being involved, in restorative practices will learn to address conflict in a more restorative way.

Judicial Affairs
Frederickson Hall
(540) 568–5300
www.jmu.edu/judicial/restorative/