President Jonathan R. Alger Inaugural remarks

That’s Why Madison

First at every stop along the way people have described the welcoming culture and family feel of Madison. It is a big, diverse, and constantly evolving family to be sure—but this culture has remained remarkably constant even as the university has grown from a teacher’s college into a major university. When I started in this position last summer, I had the privilege of welcoming incoming freshmen and their families at the Summer Springboard orientation sessions. As a JMU freshman myself, I decided to bring my own parents (along with my wife and daughter) to one of the sessions. By the time we were finished that morning, I think all of us were ready to enroll at JMU—and my parents were getting nervous that they might have to start writing tuition checks again.

As we heard that morning, the magic of Madison can be found in the close interactions of faculty members and students—moments that can be inspiring and life-changing. At a “Why Madison?” event with Parents Council members, alumna Robin Goodman (who was there with her husband Clem, also an alum), spoke of their strong family connection to JMU. Not only are they alumni and parents, they also are donors who give to support and retain top faculty because, as Robin said, “They sustain JMU’s vibrant academic culture and support student success.” That’s Why Madison.

The James Madison University of the future will not be identical to what we see today. We must be prepared to understand and adapt to a rapidly changing world. But we should also recognize that we are positioned well for this moment. We provide high-quality education at lower cost than peer institutions. Our graduation rates are strong. Our faculty are top-notch. We offer many courses online and use technology to enhance the learning experience. We take assessment seriously. We have a mission that is relevant, clear, and much-needed in society. And most of all, we have a phenomenal team of people who care deeply about this institution—just look around you in this room today. Last week, I was reminded of this fact when I witnessed the work of facilities staff all around the campus—clearing the streets, parking lots and sidewalks after a major snowstorm that reminded me of my childhood in Rochester, New York. Our talented and committed people are our most important resource and have a can-do spirit. And more than any other single thing, That’s Why Madison.

To read President Alger’s full Inaugural remarks, visit www.jmu.edu/stories/president/2013/inaugural-remarks.shtml.
Keeping up with Financial Aid

Ways to stay informed
By Brad Barnett
Certified Personal Financial Manager
Senior Associate Director for Financial Aid & Scholarships

Are you interested in staying abreast of what’s going on in financial aid at JMU? If so, we have a few ways you can keep tabs on what’s happening in the financial aid world at JMU.

It’s important to note that almost all of the communication sent to individuals about financial aid goes directly to students, not parents or family members. A goal of our office is to help students become financially independent, so when they graduate JMU they can take responsibility for their finances. In order to help facilitate that, we send the majority of our financial aid communications to the student, instead of sending them home. The primary methods we use to communicate with students are their JMU e-mail and MyMadison accounts.

The good news, is all of the pertinent information about financial aid opportunities, deadline, rules, etc. can all be found on our website. In addition to miscellaneous updates we may send to your students, we also send three newsletters to the student body each year giving them an update on financial aid. Those newsletters are posted to our website as well, which means you have full access to view what we send them.

Here are three ways you can keep abreast of what’s happening in financial aid:

1. Check out our website at www.jmu.edu/finaid. We post the most time sensitive information to our homepage, but we also have a Parents & Guardians portal that has information created just for you.
2. “Like” JMU Financial Aid on Facebook. When we send mass e-mail notifications to the student body or put our newsletters on website, we will post a message to our Facebook page letting you know what’s out there.
3. Create a system with your students where they let you know when they receive financial aid information which will better prepare them for the “real world” after leaving JMU.

We are confident that if we work together we can help your students learn to handle their finances independently, which will better prepare them for the “real world” after leaving JMU.

Financial Aid and Scholarships
Warren Hall, 3rd Floor
(540) 568-7820

Entrepreneurship at JMU

Encourage your students to participate

MGT 472 Venture Creation
An experiential course, open to all majors. Offered fall and spring semesters, and students accepted on an application basis. Deadline to apply is April 1. The Venture Creation Class Competition is scheduled for Monday, April 29, from 3 until 5 p.m. in Transitions, Warren Hall. Venture teams are formed around students' business ideas and JMU generated inventions. Seasoned entrepreneurs are assigned to teach team as mentors. A serial entrepreneur visits the class every three weeks. This is a great opportunity for students to define their future business and build their entrepreneurial network.

Friday Fusion
Open to all students in all majors. Meetings are held the second and fourth Fridays of the fall and spring semesters. Spring 2013, M arch 22, meeting on lawn of President's home. On April 12 and 26, meetings are held in Zane Showker Hall room 242. Fall 2013 semester, meetings are held in Tyler Down Under.

Friday Fusion is a collaborative coffeehouse for aspiring entrepreneurs, innovators, inventors, creators, and technicians. Explore, create, build, and redefine new or innovative products, processes, resources and markets.

You Can Change the World Symposium
7 until 9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, in Grafton Stovall. Experienced entrepreneurs share their stories. Open to the public.

Fallen Entrepreneurship Scholarship
A new $500 academic scholarship for a student of strong moral character with an entrepreneurial interest and pursuit. Application deadline is April 2.

<<Continued in sidebar>>
**Student Account Refund**

**Important Changes are Coming**

JM University has contracted with Higher One to handle all student account financial aid and personal payment refunds starting with the summer 2013 semester. The change is being made to enhance security of sensitive banking information, decrease the refunding time, as well as meet a state mandate to decrease the number of paper checks being processed by JMU.

All students will receive an email from JMU about this change and parents will receive a letter from JMU with detailed information. Higher One will be mailing a green colored envelope which will contain information on the new program and will include a black plastic card with the student’s name and unique number. This card must be used to log into the Higher One web site to set up an account and select the refund method preference. If your child is currently enrolled in direct deposit with JMU, their banking information will be securely forwarded to Higher One but they must still log into the system to verify the information or change it to another account or method.

There will be three (3) options available:

- Existing bank account for direct deposit
- Higher One bank account for direct deposit
- Paper check mailed to the home address

Important things to remember:

- Even if you think that your child will never receive a refund, please choose a refund option and keep the card in a safe place in the event that a refund does occur and on-line verification is necessary.
- Even though Higher One offers a bank account, you are not required to use it for direct deposit – it is only an additional option. Please keep the card in a safe place in the event that on-line verification is necessary.
- If you do choose the Higher One bank account, the black plastic card converts to a debit MasterCard attached to the Higher One bank account that allows cash transactions from ATMs and is used to access refunds. A Higher One ATM will be available for withdrawals.
- Look for the green envelope and carefully read and follow the instructions.
- Contact the University Business Office at uboi@jmu.edu or (540) 568-6505 if you have questions.

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**Arbor Day: Trees and Native Plants Sale**

For the savvy gardener wanting a home garden filled with botanicals tailored by Mother Nature to be suited to regional climate and precipitation, the EJC Arboretum’s Native Plant Sale is the right place to shop for these often hard to find native plants, shrubs, and trees.

**Friday and Saturday, April 19 and 20, 2013**

At the Frances Plecker Education Center parking lot 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. both days.

For more information, visit [www.jmu.edu/arboretum](http://www.jmu.edu/arboretum).

**Ephemerals:**
- Anemones Rue and Snowdrop
- Bellwort
- Bird Foot Violet
- Bloodroot
- Blue Bells
- Dutchman’s Breeches
- D warf Iris
- Foam Flower
- Jack in the Pulpit
- Larkspur
- Lily of the Valley
- May Apple
- Mountain Pink
- Solomon Seal
- Spring Beauty
- Trillium
- Wood Poppy

**Perennials:**
- Bee balm
- Black and Blue Cohosh
- Black Eyed Susan
- Boneset
- Cardinal Flower and Blue Lobelia
- Columbine
- Ebony Spleenwort
- Ferns: Cinnamon, Maidenhair, Lady, Sensitive among several others
- Ginger, and Evergreen
- Ginger
- Goatsbeard
- Goldenrod
- Milkweeds
- Nodding Onion
- Salvia - improved varieties
- Yarrow

**Shrubs:**
- Arborvitae
- Elderberry
- Mock Orange
- Sparkleberry
- Sumac
- Sweetbay
- Magnolia
- Sweetgums
- American Hornbeam
- Littleleaf Linden
- Native M agnolia
- Dogwoods
- Oaks
- Sweet shrub
- Yellowwood

**Trees:**
- Maples
- American Hornbeam
- Littleleaf Linden
- Native Magnolia
- Dogwoods
- Oaks
- Sweet gums

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**Family Weekend**

October 4-6, 2013

Mark your calendars now for the annual JMU Family Weekend. Remember, hotels and motels fill up quickly, so make your reservations early! Visit the accommodations Web site at [www.jmu.edu/parents/accommodations.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/parents/accommodations.shtml) for a comprehensive listing of hotels/motels in the local area.

Football tickets for this event will go on sale June 1. For more information, contact the JMU Athletics Ticket office by phone (540) 568-3853 or online at [www.jmusports.com](http://www.jmusports.com).

For additional Family Weekend information, visit the Web site at [www.jmu.edu/parents/Family_Weekend.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/parents/Family_Weekend.shtml)
Keeping students’ property safe

The James Madison University Department of Police & Public Safety encourages students to properly prepare before leaving Harrisonburg during school breaks:

**Secure Property**
- Take anything of value home, especially small items.
- Lock dorm/apartment doors when leaving for the break.
- Close and lock all windows and sliding glass doors. Place wooden dowels in sliding glass door track. (These may be purchased at a local hardware store.)
- If leaving a vehicle in a campus parking lot or at an apartment complex, place all valuables out of site, secure them in a trunk and lock the doors. Try to leave the vehicle parked under a streetlight.
- If your student has a bicycle, request he/she check with their hall staff to see if it is okay to leave it in his/her room over the break. If this is not possible, then ensure it is secure in a bike rack. If he/she lives off campus, secure the bicycle in the apartment.
- Write down all serial numbers for valuables, take pictures of them and store this information in a safe place.

**The 511 System**
- The 511 system contains real-time traffic conditions, route planning and information about alternative ways to travel without a car.
- Encourage your student to access the 511 system before traveling from JMU by phone (dial 511) or online at www.511virginia.org. If traveling to JMU, visit http://deploy511.org to see if his/her home state is part of the 511 system.

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### Academic Year 2012-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>FALL</strong></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Halls Open 9 a.m. Transfer and International</td>
<td>8/23</td>
<td>8/22</td>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>8/25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Halls Open 9 a.m. Returning Students</td>
<td>8/24</td>
<td>8/23</td>
<td>8/29</td>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>8/27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>8/31</td>
<td>8/29</td>
<td>8/28</td>
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<td>10/4–10/6</td>
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<td>Homecoming</td>
<td>11/2–11/3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration for Spring Semester Begins</td>
<td>10/28</td>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Halls close at 10 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes Resume</td>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>11/24</td>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>11/27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>12/5</td>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>12/9</td>
<td>12/8</td>
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<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>12/9–12/13</td>
<td>12/8–12/12</td>
<td>12/14–12/18</td>
<td>12/12–12/16</td>
<td>12/11–12/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Halls close at 5 p.m.</td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>12/16</td>
<td>12/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commencement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Halls close at 3 p.m. for graduates</td>
<td>12/14</td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>12/19</td>
<td>12/17</td>
<td>12/16</td>
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### SPRING 2014

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<tr>
<th><strong>2014</strong></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>1/13</td>
<td>1/12</td>
<td>1/11</td>
<td>1/9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No Classes)</td>
<td>1/20</td>
<td>1/19</td>
<td>1/18</td>
<td>1/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment Day</td>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>2/9</td>
<td>2/8</td>
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<td>No classes 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>Halls close at 5 p.m.</td>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>3/6</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>3/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Break Begins</td>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>3/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Halls open at noon</td>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>3/13</td>
<td>3/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration for Fall Semester Begins</td>
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<td>4/7</td>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>4/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
<td>5/2</td>
<td>5/1</td>
<td>4/29</td>
<td>4/28</td>
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<td>5/6</td>
<td>5/5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commencement</td>
<td>5/10</td>
<td>5/9</td>
<td>5/7</td>
<td>5/6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Office of Parent Relations
220 University Blvd., MSC 3605
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
(540) 568-3190
www.jmu.edu/parents/