

# Cr<sup>r</sup>edibl Chronicle

FOR, ABOUT, AND BY THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND UNIVERSITY PLANNING

SPRING 2010



## INSIDE:

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| A Note from our Senior VP..... | 2  |
| Awards.....                    | 3  |
| Innovation Grants.....         | 4  |
| America Reads.....             | 7  |
| New Faces & New Roles.....     | 7  |
| Community Outreach.....        | 8  |
| Accomplishments.....           | 8  |
| Future Dukes.....              | 9  |
| Wedding Announcements.....     | 10 |

# Collaboration

## A note from our Senior VP

Dr. Mark Warner

Greetings!

It is hard to believe that 2010 is here and we are well into our second semester. Challenges have been met, lives have been touched and we've had some fun making a difference. In the past, I have used this blurb to talk a little about one of our values. Since the aggregate application of our values makes us CRREDIBL, I think that it is important that we continue to reflect upon them.

I've been thinking a lot about our value of "collaboration" lately. You have heard me talk about the importance of this value on many occasions. I feel that collaboration is especially essential during these uncertain times. We need each other - whether to have someone else to lean on, whether to be the person someone can lean on, or just working side by side to facilitate the positive transformation of a student. Collaboration is a powerful concept.

I heard a story about a mule pull in the '80s. (I'm not sure whether it was the 1980s or the 1880s. So what's a century?) Each mule was harnessed to a sled loaded with weights. The winning mule accomplished an incredible feat by pulling over 8,000 pounds. The



second-place finisher pulled just shy of 8,000 pounds. The strength of these animals was truly amazing. After the official competition was over a bystander yelled out, "I wonder how much they could pull if they worked together?" Intrigued by the question, the mule owners attached one sled to the mules for a joint pull. To the astonishment of the onlookers, the pair of mules working together pulled over 30,000 pounds.

That is the power of collaboration. When we combine our gifts, our capacity and ability to transform the lives of our students and each other are beyond our limited imaginations.

I look forward to continuing our wonderful collaborative partnership. Let's get pulling.

Mark

# Awards

Way to go!

In October, 2009 Chandra Lane (Career and Academic Planning) received an Outstanding Advising Award from the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) during the annual conference in San Antonio, TX. Chandra was one of 12 recipients of this national award.

Martha Kent's (Residence Life) farm was awarded second place for the 2010 Virginia Farm Bureau Environmental Stewardship Award.

Valerie Ghant (Multicultural Student Services) announced that the Chinese Student Association received recognition as the group winner of the 2010 Diversity Enhancement Award.



Our very own Judy Marshall (left - Student Success) and Mary Morsch (right - Career and Academic Planning) had the honor of receiving the Woman of Distinction award on January 21st.

You both inspire us all by your character and dedication to JMU! Congratulations Mary and Judy we are extremely proud of you both!



Congratulations to UREC on their winning entry in this past Winter Snow Jam! Thank you to all who entered!

# • Innovation Grants 2009-2010 •

As part of JMU's commitment to innovation, the following 14 grants have been awarded to the division for the 2009-2010 academic year:

## • Winter Student Organization Leadership Retreat •

Grant Writer: Kristin Muncy

This grant will help fund a retreat that will provide many benefits. With the continuous increase in the number of student organizations on campus (321 currently), we have found the student leaders often need additional leadership training. First, the retreat will provide the leaders the opportunity to gain experience, perspectives, and support for meeting their goals. Second, the organization's leadership represented will build relationships and trust with other organizations on campus leading to collaboration and heightened success. Third, the student leadership will build a better relationship with the staff in Student Activities and Involvement.

## • Study Union •

Grant Writer: Dave Barnes

This grant will create additional study areas for students. The need will be addressed in a number of ways. We will staff each of the Union complexes with full-time and student staff so that the buildings will remain open for 24 hours. We will coordinate with the various tenants of the complexes...namely Dining Services...to insure that vital services would be open to students and their use during this 72 hour period. In addition, unique services would be provided to assist students in their ability to study...from relaxation options such as short massage therapy sign-ups to stress relief through midnight movies in Grafton-Stovall Theatre.

## • Fraternity & Sorority Coalition Assessment Project & Strategic Planning •

Grant Writer: J. Paul Whatley

This grant will make it possible to conduct a full assessment and create a strategic plan for the Fraternity & Sorority Life. This community is comprised of 26 student organizations, representing a population of more than 1800 students which is nearly 12% of the undergraduate student population. The comprehensive assessment will give us a better understanding of the current state of the community and future creation of a detailed strategic plan that will guide the FSL students, advisors, and staff through this latest transition and into the next several years. As this initiative is a one-time project, the form of assessment will be recommendations from the Coalition Assessment Team and publication of an approved comprehensive strategic plan.

## • Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction & Meditation •

Grant Writer: Holly Wade

This grant will fund the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction program. The program will allow meditation to be taken to the next level and to teach skills of mindful living using the model of research by Dr. Steven Keffer, professor of Biology. Dr. Keffer is a MBSR Instructor at Rockingham Memorial Hospital where he has seen the benefits to participants of the program. Thus, he is eager to offer the MBSR program to the JMU community. Students who will benefit from the program include those who struggle with stress, anxiety, panic, sleep disturbances, depression, fatigue, headaches and chronic pain. MBSR is a proven program with over two decades of published research. This approach involves guided instruction and meditation practices; gentle stretching and yoga; group dialogue and discussion; and daily home assignments.

**Continued on pages 5 & 6**

## **• Fall & Spring Student Org. Night (SON) •**

Grant Writer: Matt Barone

This grant will help increase student attendance and time spent at Student Organization Night events. Often, students will come to the events and only visit one table. If they had a reason to stay, they would be more likely to visit more than one organization and ideally, find other opportunities to become involved. This grant will provide additional entertainment during the fall for novelty events, also, during the spring events' Late Night Breakfast Program to be relocated to the Festival Ballroom in order to accommodate a larger group of students.

## **• Presidential Learning Academy •**

Grant Writer: Kristin Muncy

This grant will provide financial support for a week long leadership institute for organization presidents. The institute will create an intense one-week leadership program for approximately 60 invited presidents of major, University-wide student organizations. The institute will follow spring semester finals. It is designed to develop and enhance leadership skills, create and contribute to a sense of community among campus student organization leaders, as well as increase their network of support and knowledge of the University and the surrounding community.

## **• UREC Team Development Course •**

Grant Writer: Sue Lowley

The addition of more recreation turf space in 2008 necessitated the relocation of the TEAM Low ropes course. The original plan was to be able to use the University Park space by mid 2010 for this program. Projected completion of the University Park facility is 2012 which will leave the TEAM low ropes program without operating space for an additional 2 years. This grant will help fund the construction of the Alpine Towers Team Development Course, in an area behind the old varsity softball complex on University Drive. The course will be constructed with the idea that it will be relocated to University Park when that facility is completed. JMU Community groups will have the opportunity to participate in experiential team building, leadership, and conflict programs right on campus

## **• Interdisciplinary Training and Development Program For Student Staff/Peer Educators •**

Grant Writer: Valerie Schoolcraft

Professional staff members contributing to this grant have recognized that our programs demand a very high level of service by our student staff (peer-educators/mentors, graduate assistants, and office assistants). The current training model does not meet the needs of our constituents (students, faculty, staff, parents, and community). We have identified specific gaps in our training in regard to working with students with disabilities, troubled students, FERPA and confidentiality, sensitive situations, and professional responsibilities. These are student leaders and we want to take a developmental approach to their training. This grant provided a training program for the fall '09 semester resulting in 30-35 comprehensive and interdisciplinary training hours for 30 undergraduate/graduate employees.

## **• Communication and Technology Center Site Visits •**

Grant Writer: Michelle Moreau

This grant will fund site visits that will assist Learning Resource Center's speech services to include future technology services that will enhance JMU students' ability to communicate and lead in a digital age. JMU needs a resource center that integrates technological solutions and assistance with traditional communication theory and praxis to help students create messages geared for 21st century audiences. Meeting the need stated above will require gathering examples, information, insights, best practices, and lessons learned related to how other institutions have addressed their students' technology/media needs. Specifically, we will: 1) make site visits to institutions that are addressing their students' technology needs innovatively enough to warrant firsthand visits, 2) direct JMU student speech consultants to research other universities' tech centers, communication centers and the best practices of each, 3) encourage student speech consultants to submit their research to a national conference, and 4) prepare an initiative request for the development of a Communication and Technology Center in the Student Health and Success Center.

## • PictureIT! •

Grant Writer: Frank Doherty

This project has been funded for the past four years, beginning in the fall of 2006 with 18 first-year students. The Office of Institutional Research continues to learn about the JMU undergraduate experience through the use of cameras and discussions. Students share experiences with each other, current and future students, and the JMU community. The objective of this program is to follow these students from orientation to graduation. Learn more at <http://www.jmu.edu/pictureitjmu/>.

## • Peer Writing Tutors' Professional Development Project •

Grant Writer: Karen McDonnell

This grant funded a team of writing center professionals and peer tutors to attend the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. The team leaders—Karen McDonnell, Mark Thomas, Kristin Sindt, and Christina Wulf—recruited interested undergraduates from the cadre of current peer tutors and from the group of aspiring tutors enrolled in the fall 2009 Tutoring Writing class (WRTC 345), taught by Karen McDonnell and Mark Thomas of the School of Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication. This opportunity allows students to envision various possibilities and contribute to the RMH renovation planning and design. Student input will help make our facility a national model for excellence. In addition, this enterprise will enhance collaboration between the writing center; the School of Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication; Residence Life's First Year Involvement Writing Center; and the History Department. Undergraduate tutors and interns from many different disciplines work in the writing center, thus offering opportunities for cross-disciplinary connections.

## • Cultural Immersion Experience •

Grant Writer: Celeste Thomas & Kara Karr

This grant is funding a group field trip visiting differing cultures, such as the Kurdish community, Hispanic community, and Old Order Mennonite community. We will partake in traditional foods, representing various cultures/ethnicities for lunch and dinner. During the field trip, the student will be exposed to history, traditions, values and issues regarding these groups. Members of these groups will help students to understand how culture may impact their view of the world. This experience will help prepare students to work with individuals from cultures and backgrounds different from their own, whether this is in counseling or another aspect of the helping professions.

## • Leadership for Black/Latino/Asian/ Multicultural (BLAMS) Greek Letter Organizations •

Grant Writer: Tenea Lowery

Through the continued support of funding through the innovation grant, the Inter-Cultural Greek Council (ICGC) can continue to develop and enhance their knowledge and leadership skills by attending conferences that address unique issues of BLAMS fraternities and sororities. With the support of the innovation grant, not only will members of the ICGC be able to attend conferences, additional funding will allow them to maintain, receive and provide a variety of resources to its members and the larger JMU community

## • Disability Awareness Week Keynote Address •

Grant Writer: Valerie Schoolcraft

This grant will fund a keynote speaker as part of the Mentoring Program within Disability Services. This is a collaboration including the Office of Equal Opportunity, the Center for Multicultural Student Services, and student organizations including the Best Buddies, and the Exceptional Education Ambassadors. As a cornerstone event, the partners will host Richard Pimentel to speak on disability awareness and the power of one to make change in our world. Further descriptions of Dr. Pimentel and his service as a motivational speaker is available at [http://www.miltwright.com/\\_richard\\_pimentel/index.htm](http://www.miltwright.com/_richard_pimentel/index.htm).

# New Faces & New Roles



## America Reads

Congratulations to Rachel Kuchta, a JMU December graduate, who completed 4-1/2 years in the America Reads Federal Work Study program through the Office of Community Service-Learning (CS-L). America Reads students provide tutorial support exclusively in reading for children in Rockingham County and Harrisonburg city public schools (kindergarten through 5th grade). Rachel was presented with a "Certificate of Appreciation" at Waterman Elementary School by Community Service-Learning professional staff members Walt Ghant and Debbie Fox.

Rachel recalls her time at Waterman - "For four and a half years I studied the Studio Arts at James Madison University. I worked at Waterman Elementary School through the America Reads FWS Program for the majority of my

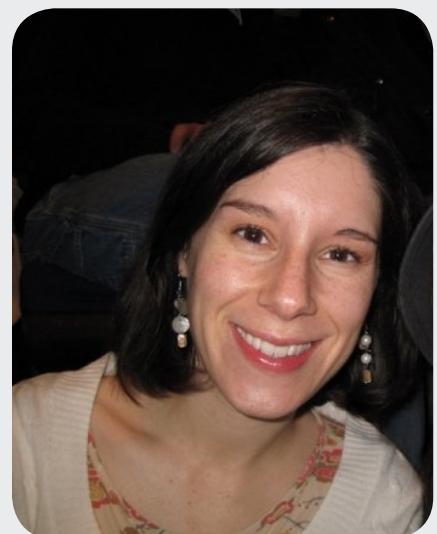
college studies. I would always brag to my friends that I was the only one who worked a job requiring me to finger-paint, play on the playground, and tell stories.

Everyone knows that working with children is rewarding, but actually witnessing a child go from barely knowing his ABCs to reading full sentences aloud for the class is a truly profound experience. Not only the children, but also the teacher Mr. Rick Kline, had a significant impact on my life. I returned to his classroom year after year because he really made school fun, not only for the kids learning in his room but also for the much bigger kids, like myself, working in his classroom."

Rachel majored in Studio Arts – her home is in Hampton, Virginia.

Last semester Connie Rott joined the staff in the University Health Center's Substance Abuse Prevention Office as the fiscal technician where she is responsible for their financial processes and business operations. After work she enjoys time with her family and friends and a good book every now and then. Her motto is "when you're through changing, you're through." Please stop by their Maury Hall office to welcome Connie to JMU and our division.

Becky Schaeffer, RN has been working part-time at JMU since 2007 but recently joined the UHC staff full-time as the Patient Advocate, Phone Triage Nurse and back-up Urgent Care Nurse last October. Her primary responsibility is serving our students as an advocate to address their concerns, questions or needs. In her numerous roles she considers herself a partner to the students in their care, recovery and health.



Please welcome Jeanine Wilson, a Certified Physician Assistant; she will help care for our students part-time at the University Health Center during the busy winter illness season and when she has time from her regular position with a local dermatologist.

# Community Outreach

Rosie McArthur (Residence Life) has been able to accompany students to foreign countries for works of charity to improve the lives of a few impoverished people.

Last spring they went to Nicaragua and funded a variety of projects in Chacraseca and Nuevo Amanecer, and also helped with construction projects. They purchased land and built a school, a

house for a family, four latrines, and installed sinks in 13 different schools. They used biointensive-farming strategies to bring food to those who don't have and taught lessons on germs/hand washing to kids at six different elementary schools. Sixty suitcases worth of donations were delivered to 120 of the poorest families in the community, and they spent the week completely immersed in the Nicaraguan culture putting

faces to statistics and seeing first-hand how two thirds of the world lives.

This March she will accompany students going to Trujillo, Perú. Their trip will focus on educating children in community wellness and also to help strengthen the community bonds in Perú. They plan to volunteer in the classroom and also assist with repairs around the community and the school.



Back Row (left to right):  
Samantha Marr, Kim Wheeler, Evan Witt, Kelly Weitzel, Bradley Kurtzman

Front Row (left to right):  
Rosie McArthur, Jen Kochesfahani, Jessica Landis, Britt Edstrom, and Shannon Cawley

Evan named the group "Los Sucieitos!" (meaning the little dirty ones).

## Accomplishments

Listen to Dr. Laura Sobik Kavanagh (Counseling and Student Development Center) on NPR speaking on "Growing Up Female" at

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wmra/news.newsmain/article/0/3507/1599685/Civic.Sapbox/Growing.Up.Female>

# FUTURE DUKES



Paul (Residence Life) and Dusty Krikau (Community Service Learning) and brother Miles welcomed Eleanor Marie to their family on September 26th.



John (UREC) and Olga Karabelas became the parents of a baby boy on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 1:30pm. His name is Thanasi Nicholas Karabelas, he weighed 7.9lbs and is 20 inches long.

Carrie (Career & Academic Planning) and David Urso had identical twin boys. Their names are Chase and Luke and they are 7 1/2 months old right now.



Gail May's (University Unions) granddaughter, Lily Annabelle was born June 13th to R. L. & Kerrie May, stepson and daughter-in-law of Gail. Lily is now seven months old and weighs a petite 14 lbs. She is a totally alert baby, no one is getting much sleep with her – everyone thinks she is taking after Grand-daddy Ricky!



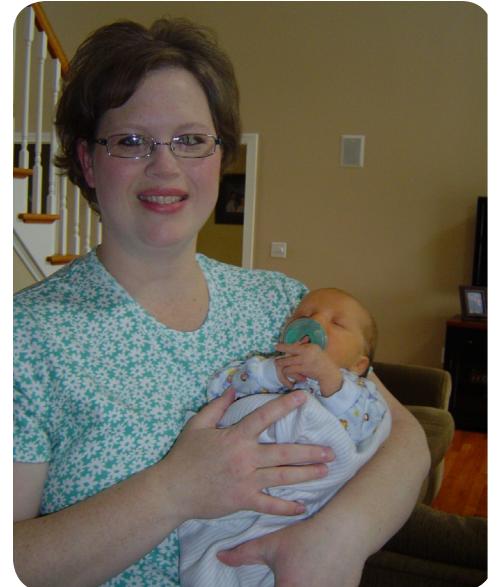
Lyn Hart (University Planning & Analysis) has a new grandson. Jake James Coffey was born January 2nd at 10:47 p.m. and weighed 7 lbs 9 oz and was 20 inches long.



# MORE FUTURE DUKES!



Leslie Beam's (Vice President's office) grandson Connor Richard Mello was born on July 19th and joins sister Morgan.



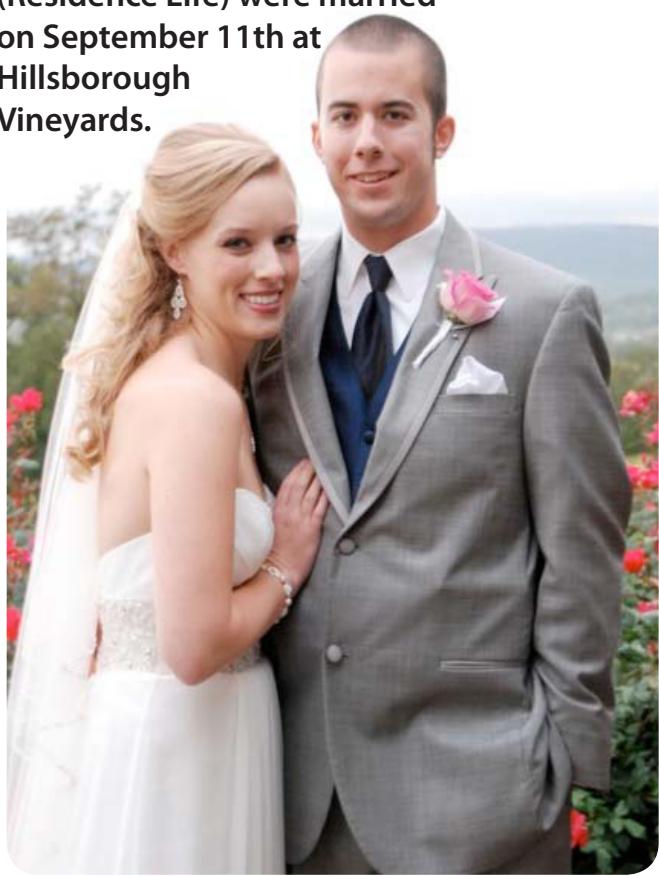
Carson Alexander Lam was born to Duane and Paula Lam (University Unions) on May 8th and weighed 7 pounds 15 ounces!

## WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Heather Strine (Career and Academic Planning) married Brandon Patterson on October 10th. She is now Heather Patterson and her new email address is patterhj@jmu.edu.



Chelsea and Cover Heishman (Residence Life) were married on September 11th at Hillsborough Vineyards.



Laura Sobik (Counseling & Student Development Center) and Arlene Kavanagh were married in Connecticut on July 11th.

# About The Crredbl Chronicle

The Crredbl Chronicle is your bi-annual newsletter. We welcome any comments and suggestions you might have.

To submit an article, share photographs or announcements, please contact any of the Crredbl Chronicle committee members.

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We look forward to hearing from you! Our next issue will feature SAUP's Diversity Council, PictureIT! and Departmental Excellence.