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Thanks for your Life Gifts

As I reflect upon the reasons I love working at JMU and with you, the thought that is etched in my mind is unconditional giving. An integral part of the ethos of JMU is giving to others to enrich their lives.

In the class I teach, I challenge my students to “give” of themselves. Sometimes I get these perplexed looks, the non-verbal and verbal responses saying, “I don’t have anything to give.” I really like when I get this answer, because it provides me the opportunity to challenge their beliefs and their actions. I let them know that they have everything to give.

I ask them:
Do you have a hand? Good. It can be used to hold someone else’s.
Do you have ears? Good. They can be used to listen to someone’s story.
Do you have a heart? Good. It can be used to warm another’s.
Do you have feet? Good. They can be used to walk part of life with another.

The gifts our students have and the gifts we have, are many. The opportunities we all have to share them are ubiquitous, and the impact we can make is profound.

I thank you for the gifts that you daily give to others to enrich their lives. I also challenge all of us to keep the giving ethos alive and well by encouraging and supporting our students as they embrace the art and practice of giving. This is one of the greatest gifts we can give them.

All of us together, can indeed transform lives, within and beyond the walls of JMU! Thanks for your giving hearts.

Gratefully,
Mark Warner
Scene: It’s 1787 August Orientation, the weather is nice, and there are 4,300 or more students spread out all over campus engaged in small group activities. They’re talking with each other, laughing, and using expressive gestures.

At first sight, this may look like the scene from a summer camp, but if that is the extent of your understanding of orientation you may be missing the bigger picture.

There is a misconception that JMU Orientation is all about fun games and icebreakers. To the contrary, those activities are opportunities created to help students break down barriers, build community, and often times serve as transitions between our intellectual and academic programming. Why, yes, orientation is full of academically intellectual programs! Sure, as many are moving about campus and pass by a group of students seemingly ‘just having fun’, consider that they likely just finished an advising session, a college meeting, assessment testing, or meeting with their OPA or FROG to better understand the academic expectations at JMU. Making the transition from high school to college is a big deal, and it’s a major adjustment for most students (though they may casually compare it to just moving through life). Equally significant, is helping students understand the difference in academic quality that they can expect at Madison.

Orientation actively engages students in the JMU learning experience, and a significant component of our planning is ensuring that students are prepared to succeed academically and socially.

Tisha A. McCoy-Ntiamoah
Director
Orientation Office
A student’s first year at JMU is filled with numerous challenges and opportunities. New Dukes are expected to adjust to a new living situation, form a new social circle AND tackle challenging academic coursework. For many, joining a Residential Learning Community helps them succeed in all of these areas. Residential Learning Communities give students the unique opportunity to live and attend courses with a small group of students who share similar academic interests.

This year a brand new Residential Learning Community was added to the already established communities across campus. Designed for first year Engineering students, the Madison Engineering Residential Learning Community (MadE RLC) accepted its first cohort of residents in August. JMU’s Engineering program has experienced a large amount of growth in the past few years, including a recent accreditation by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET. This new Residential Learning Community gives students a chance to explore the new program as well as support its future development.

The yearlong experience allows students to live alongside other Engineering students while they form connections within the department, college, university and community at large. Through RLC-only activities, students have a chance to gain the skills necessary to become a leader within the Learning Community (and beyond), quickly launching their engineering career on a pathway to success. Students also learn to apply classroom knowledge alongside faculty and staff outside of the traditional educational environments.

ORL supports the RLC communities through coordinating the recruitment and selection processes, assisting with developing programs, providing extracurricular program funding, managing housing assignments and facilitating the RLC course registration process. The Office of Residence Life’s passion to expand the Residential Learning Communities at JMU supports our goal to provide students with an exemplary learning experience outside of the classroom.

For more information about the Residential Learning Communities offered at JMU visit [http://www.jmu.edu/orl/housing/rlc.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/orl/housing/rlc.shtml) or contact Kathleen Campbell at campbekl@jmu.edu or (540) 568-4767.

**Kevin Meaney**
Director
Office of Residence Life
DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES
The incredible things we do.

University Health Center

UHC

Lee and Carroll Ward returned from London on December 15; Lee served as JMU’s Faculty-Member-in-Residence for the Semester in London program. While they were sad to leave behind the excitement of London and their new British friends, they are excited about returning to old friends, the JMU family, and familiar routines. Thanks to everyone at JMU, SAUP and UHC who supported Lee being across the pond for so long.

University Health Center Assistant Director of Substance Abuse Prevention Tia Mann and UHC Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Paige Hawkins received acceptance into the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT). This organization recognizes excellence in motivational interviewing, a technique used to facilitate early-intervention programs for students.

Acceptance into MINT requires a rigorous application process. All successful applicants must attend a workshop called Training for New Trainers, which must be completed before entry to the annual MINT conference. Only 120 applicants are accepted each year.

Safer Sex Centers are now accessible to students at the three UHC entrances as well as a Godwin location, specifically more accessible to student athletes.

Online scheduling for students is available in their MYJMUHEALTH.

The Pharmacy is now open for students wishing to fill their prescriptions written by JMU physicians from the Health Center, Counseling Center and Athletics. This is phase one of our operation and in the future we will be adding over the counter supplies and the ability to fill prescriptions from outside providers.

Sentara RMH Orthopedics and Sports Medicine are now available to JMU students in our Specialty Clinic on Monday afternoons. We are also looking forward to their Radiology services opening later this spring in the UHC Radiology suite.

Common Ground is a group program for JMU students who want to explore, evaluate, or have questions about the role of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in their life. It is a free, confidential, non-judgmental opportunity to connect with and engage in conversations with other students who have similar understanding and experiences with substances. It meets Mondays, 8-9pm, in Madison Union, room 203. Students can join at any point in the semester,
DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

UHC continued.

UHC

and there is no minimum commitment for attendance.

AA/Alcoholics Anonymous holds open, young persons’ meetings Friday nights, 8 pm in Burruss Hall 232.

The University Health Center has two lactation rooms available to students, faculty, and staff from 8am-5pm on the second floor of their facility in the Student Success Center. One lactation room accommodates two with two desks, chairs, and computers separated with a privacy curtain and includes a microwave for sterilizing pump equipment, and a refrigerator. The other lactation room accommodates pumping or breastfeeding.

Both lactation rooms are quiet, private rooms with a lockable door, clocks, parenting magazines, low lighting available, and are across the hall from restrooms. Contact Kristina Blyer or call the University Health Center at 540-568-6178 to reserve a lactation room.

Bill Newton, Communication Specialist for the UHC, has left JMU for an opportunity outside of the university. Veronica Jones will be transitioning to the role of Assistant Director of Communication and Marketing for the UHC over the remainder of this semester.

In November, The Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices launched its new website on the CASCADE platform. The office looked at the websites of conduct offices across the country in order to better meet the needs of students, parents, survivors, and the community.

OSARP
DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Office of Disability Services

ODS

ODS now distributes Access Plan Letters via e-mail for students who are registered with the office. We are very thankful to Bryan Brown for working with us to make this huge leap forward!

Learning Strategies Instruction (LSI), directed by Diane Secord, has had a very productive semester. Since the start of the fall semester LSI has served 314 students for a total of 265 visit hours.

Catherine Branner, the Notetaking and Accommodations Assistant, reports that 172 exams were administered during finals week. Note Taker Appreciation Day was celebrated this month. They are looking forward to the spring semester and improving access to the note-taking system, Share Point.

ODS welcomes our new Intern Asiza Isler, a senior Social Work student. Asiza will be interning with ODS for the Spring Semester.

Office of Residence Life

ORL

The Office of Residence Life is excited to have Karris Atkins join the Housing team as their new Operations Technician! A graduate of Bridgewater College, Karris comes to JMU with extensive experience in Human Resources, office management, and wedding planning. Karris will be managing several important Housing processes including Early Arrivals, sorority placements, and budget review. Karris lives in Harrisonburg with her husband, Jonathan and her son, Clark. ORL is thrilled to have Karris as one of their own!

Please help the Office of Residence Life in welcoming Sarah Klawinski, who is the new Full-Time Hall Director for the upcoming spring semester in Potomac Hall. During graduate school, Sarah served as a Graduate Resident Director and graduated with a Master’s in Education from Slippery Rock University (north of Pittsburgh).

Counseling Center

CC

The Counseling Center has been enjoying its new space in the Student Success Center. This semester two new spaces have been opened in the center for students to practice self-care; The Oasis (the relaxation room) and The Studio (the expressive arts room). These spaces provide students with tools to practice relaxation and be creative in a way that supports mental health.

The center has also continued to run our two new treatment programs, #tacklinganxiety and You’ve Got This. Both programs consist of five one-hour sessions, and are aimed at helping students to reduce and better manage anxiety (#tacklinganxiety) and increase resiliency (You’ve Got This). This semester these programs have been very popular, reaching over 300 students with 31 separate programs run.
Goodbye Planning Database!

After many years, the Planning Database – the reporting tool that each unit used to record their objectives and use of results – is being retired. A task force was appointed by the University Planning Team to search for a new tool that would better suit the needs of JMU, and based on a wish list compiled by several focus groups, the task force chose the new STAR tool. STAR (Strategic Accountability and Reporting) tool, allows for some key improvements over the old Planning Database:

- When a user enters an objective, they can link any objective to multiple university strategic plans, such as the University Strategic Plan, the SAUP Divisional Plan, and the Annual Report.

- The tool allows users to view objectives from other areas, which increases transparency within areas.

- It allows users to tag objectives with keywords, which can then be searched by JMU faculty and staff. This has the potential to facilitate collaboration across units and divisions.

Training on the new tool began in November (SAUP was one of the first groups to train!). Tina Grace with assistance from Cindy Chiarello and Lou Hedrick are training groups of users by AVP or Dean area. This gives the AVP and Deans a chance to talk to their group about their expectations for entering objectives, transparency, and use of the new tool.

Overall, the training and new tool have received positive comments about the improvements over the old tool and how well the STAR tool fits our planning process at JMU.
Construction on the UREC Addition is moving along at a good pace and we expect to open the new space when students return January 2016! See the latest construction photos [here](#) and learn more about the project [here](#). Please help us dispel the rumor about the Lazy River if you hear it – there will be no Lazy River as every part of our facility will have an active component (the opposite of “lazy”). There will be a “jetted fitness channel” in the new pool which will be for swimming/walking against for low-impact, high-resistance activity!

UREC will miss two employees who will be vacating their positions after the New Year. Holly Wade will be vacating her position as the Coordinator of Group Fitness & Wellness programs, a role she has served in for 8.5 years. Keala Mason will be vacating her position as the Coordinator of Sports Clubs & Youth programs — she has been with UREC as a student employee, graduate assistant, and coordinator for a total of 9.5 years. Keala will still be teaching adjunct for the SRM/HM program as well as Kinesiology classes and will be working as a full time mind/body teacher in the ’Burg. Holly is headed back to the Midwest. We thank them for their service to JMU and wish them both the best in their future endeavors!

UREC participated in the Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge this semester and JMU finished 5th out of 10 competing schools. JMU logged 2,977 activities, or about 1500 hours of time spent outdoors engaging in adventurous activities! We collaborated with CMSS and ODS on events and many students were able to try an adventure activity for free with the additional funding the program provided.

Chad Gensel left CAP in December to pursue a new career path in real estate. Working in career services, there is a certain peril to researching exciting career opportunities! While we are excited about his new adventures, his collaboration and dedication to students will be missed.
AWARDS & RECOGNITION
A little praise for our top quality work.

The Orientation Office received the Outstanding Booklet for Special Populations award from NODA in recognition of excellence in design and ease of reading The 2014 Transfer One Book. Mollie Zenz received the award on behalf of the office at the national conference in Orlando, Florida.

Rick Orebaugh (UREC) and Lorie Miller (UREC) invented the Boxing Wrap Auto Roller and were selected as winners of the Intellectual Property Disclosure Incentive Program from James Madison Innovations.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Taking the time to step out and pitch in.

Counseling Center

This semester the Counseling Center has facilitated many outreach events, including tabling and presentations for National Suicide Prevention Week, events for Peer Mentors (a program to help support the underserved JMU student population), and the Relaxation Station and Free Hugs events outside the Student Success Center. Francis (the Center’s Therapy dog) has also met many students during his walks around campus, and you can even follow him on his Facebook page. Also, during the semester, the Program Assistants at the Counseling Center provided 54 workshops to the JMU community on topics including: Stress Management, Anxiety, Depression, Drug and Alcohol Use, Dealing with Difficult People, and Self-Esteem.

Office of Disability Services

In the spring semester of 2015, we will be having our 6th Annual Disability Awareness Week. The DAW 2015 events will begin the week of March 23rd.

Office of Residence Life

This semester, Matt Trybus has been participating on an advisory committee at the State Council for Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) drafting a paper analyzing aspects of students with disabilities’ ability to access postsecondary education in Virginia.

Cover Heishman was accepted and has been participating in the Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Chamber of Commerce Leadership program for the last few months. The program was designed to expose current and aspiring leaders to the many different aspects of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County; educating them about the community’s past, present and future, including the strengths and opportunities that will help this area build a better tomorrow.
Office of Student Accountability & Restorative Practices

OSARP

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Josh Bacon, Chris Ehrhart, and Ashley Stovall have been spreading the word of restorative practices throughout the Harrisonburg community. It’s been extremely well received and, as a result, the Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices will be hosting an extensive restorative practices training for the Harrisonburg City Schools, Harrisonburg Police Department, Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, Probation and Parole, and other community constituents this Spring semester. Be on the lookout for how you can be involved.

Adapted Sports Day Fall 2014: UREC Adventure and TEAM Challenge Course partnered with Matt Trybus in the Office of Disability Services, Richelle Villa with Overcoming Barriers, Thomas Moran and Josh Pate who organize the Adapted Sports Day program every year. We were able to add another element to an existing program with our TEAM Challenge Course. We had participants engaging in multiple ways, from just watching to playing games and from climbing up to ziplining down. There was something for everyone with any ability level. Prior to the event we were able to hold a few brainstorming sessions and try a few ideas throughout the semester before the program to talk through what we wanted to do. The end result was a program to be remembered. Parents were getting emotional as they watched their son or daughter take on new heights out of their wheelchairs going to zip line. Volunteers were helping with gear and support for all of the participants and the TEAM Challenge course facilitator had the opportunity to work with a new population of participants.

Warm a Winter Wish 2014: UREC’s annual service program helped approximately 200 families in Harrisonburg. With the help of SAUP and other departments and organizations on campus, we fulfilled 500 gift wishes this holiday season. Thank you to those of you who contributed!
PERSONAL UPDATES
Inspiring stories from our colleagues.

Community Service-Learning

Glenn May, father of Debbie Fox (Community Service-Learning), was presented his WWII ribbons and medals in a special honorary service at the Shenandoah Veterans of Foreign Wars, Avis O. Comer Post 8613, Shenandoah, VA (Sunday, November 23, 2014). Glenn (89 years old) served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-1947 and was one of the first boats to land on the beaches of Normandy, France on June 6, 1944 (D-Day) during the Allied invasion. Twenty people attended the service including family and close friends.

Office of Disability Services

In November Matt Trybus and Mary Clay Thomas ran a 1/2 marathon in Richmond, VA and raised over $2000 for the Organization For Youth Empowerment (OYE), a Non-Government Organization (NGO) Matt became affiliated with through a JMU sponsored Alternative Spring Break trip.

Orientation

Ross Gulliver (Sandra Gulliver’s youngest son), JMU Duke 2014, has accepted a 2 year placement with International English and Cultural Studies. Ross is teaching English at Hebei Finance University in Baoding, China. He will return to the states in summer 2015 for a visit before returning to China for his 2nd year.

Sarah Sunde ran her third half marathon in November.

SAUP DIVISION NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2015
The Office of Residence Life has an ongoing partnership with the Office of International Programs to provide housing with RAs when universities from other countries send leadership programs to James Madison University. Over the last four years, students from South Africa (University of the Free State) have visited and stayed with host RAs on two occasions for their “Leadership for Change” program. In the summer of 2015 (July 4-19), Cover Heishman will be taking five current and former RAs to Bloemfontein, South Africa and the University of the Free State for their 2015 Global Leadership Summit. These RAs hosted South African students when they visited JMU in the fall of 2013. This will be the second time JMU has attended this summit with the first time occurring in the summer of 2012.
Brandi Cooper and Adam Staats were united in marriage on July 19. Brandi is the daughter of Denise Cooper in the Orientation Office. Brandi is a 2014 graduate of JMU with a Masters of Arts in Teaching, and is now working as a third grade teacher at W.W. Robinson Elementary School. Adam is a teacher and coach at County Christian School. The couple happily resides in Winchester, Virginia.

Wendy Young (now Lushbaugh) married Edwin Lushbaugh on October 18th, 2014. The beautiful ceremony held at a barn in the Valley was covered in sunflowers and bluegrass music; They’ll be heading on their honeymoon this summer.

Kelli Rockwell (formerly Peterson) (UREC) married John Rockwell, Manager of Accounting Technology at JMU, on May 31, 2014 at the Cherokee Run Golf Club in Conyers, GA.

Matt Lovesky (UREC) married Christine Marie Lovesky (formerly Natalie) on 10/11/14 in beautiful Erie, PA!
FUTURE DUKEs
Continuing the tradition one adorable baby boot at a time.

Heather Patterson and her husband Brandon welcomed Dylan Scott on August 25th.

Emma Maynard and her husband Alan (who works in Alumni Relations) welcomed Avery Louise on September 10th. (Image shown right)

Rosie McArthur, from Community Development in Residence Life, and her husband George are overjoyed to announce the arrival of their second grandchild, Mac, a healthy baby boy weighing 7 pounds 11 ounces and measuring 20 inches, who first saw light on 11/01/2014. They are proud to be grandparents for the second time with the first child of their son, George, and his wife, Tina.

Kaitlyn Sheets, from the Office of Residence Life, and her husband, Justin, are the proud parents of a new baby girl, Raegyn Harper Sheets. Born on November 10, 2014, she weighed 7 lbs 1.7 oz 18 3/4 in long. Reagyn was warmly welcomed by her big sister Anistyn.

Calligan Timothy Stephens was born on July 29th weighing in at 9lbs 2oz, and was 21” long. Proud parents are Kristin and Dagan Stephens.
Kristin (UREC), Kevin and big brother Brady Gibson welcomed Colbie Joy Gibson to the world June 6, 2014. She was 7 lbs, 14 oz and is living up to her middle name!

Levi Thomas Gulliver was born on April 23, 2014, in Aviano, Italy. Sandra’s daughter-in-law, Lindsey, serves as a broadcast journalist for the USAF. Levi is currently enjoying some time with his Gramma and Gramps Gulliver (Sandra & Keith) in Broadway.
A Community with IDEAS 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 Community with IDEAS committee members.

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We look forward to hearing from you!