

Madison

THE MAGAZINE OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

SPRING/SUMMER 2020

'It was meant to be'

Madison's first African American graduate earned her degree 50 years ago



"Hope humbly then; with trembling pinions soar;
Wait the great teacher Death; and God adore!
What future bliss, he gives not thee to know,
But gives that hope to be thy blessing now.

Hope springs eternal in the human breast:

Man never is, but always to be blest:
The soul, uneasy and confin'd from home,
Rests and expatiates in a life to come."

BY ALEXANDER POPE,
An Essay on Man, 1732



On April 16, an empty campus—necessary to help fight the spread of COVID-19—awaits the return of students, faculty and staff members, visitors and the community.

'An amazing place with the best people'

"You work at an amazing place with the best people," my alumnus friend said to me (with a tinge of jealousy) during a moment of reflection amid the pregame festivities in Frisco, Texas, on Jan. 11. We were in a sea of fellow Dukes, my brethren, gearing up for the FCS National Championship Game.

These "purple people" are my brethren because we look out for one another. I observed it in strangers asking fellow folks wearing purple to watch their bags while waiting at the gate in Dulles International Airport. I noticed it when another alumnus called my alumna friend, who lives in Dallas, telling her that his Airbnb fell through at the last minute and asking if he could stay at her house. "Absolutely, you can!" she replied without hesitation.

The game's outcome wasn't what we wanted, but we still painted North Texas purple. And we helped each other out along the way, made new connections and reconnected with others. As I participated in some conversations and intentionally stood back to be a fly on the wall in other ones that weekend, I was

"Success often requires being in the right place at the right time. There's also some inherent luck involved."

reminded of the theme of this issue, which is "Opportunistic Success: Seizing Opportunities as They Arise."

Success often requires being in the right place at the right time. There's also some inherent luck involved; timing is everything when it comes to career opportunities. I was glad to see and hear Dukes in Dallas leverage that weekend to explore possible business partnerships, share job updates and inquire about life developments. You never know when planting a seed with someone can sprout a future opportunity, whether professionally or personally.

This magazine provides a window—past, present and future—into the university and our constituents, many of whom descended on the Dallas area that weekend in January. If you live far away from campus and rarely see any media coverage about JMU, you can rely on this publication to keep you connected. Read about JMU being the best U.S. institution for vets and the JMU ROTC Rangers bringing home a top prize on Page 9.

If you're now retired and your connections to the career field you once followed have since faded, allow us to reenlighten you. Read about Dr. Brian Belyea ('00), a pediatric cancer oncologist who personifies Being the Change, on Page 22.

If the modern-day college student experience is night and day from your Madison days, we hope you find some through lines in these pages. Read about JMU X-Labs students in a Hacking for Diplomacy class who developed a prototype designed to expedite decision-making among NATO members on Page 46.

A two-fold goal of ours is to offer insight into current campus life and foster a sense of JMU community. On Page 40, read about a biology graduate student who conducted her thesis research in Cameroon, an opportunity made possible by a former biology faculty member who established a scholarship.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Feedback is always welcome: madisonmag@jmu.edu. Go Dukes!

Sincerely,

Khalil Garriott ('04)

executive editor, *Madison* magazine

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SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY

Stories of Dukes' opportunistic successes

FEATURED

30 Planting the seeds

CJ Sapong ('10) finds success on and off the pitch
BY KHALIL GARRIOTT ('04)

34 Not forgotten

Raleigh Marshall ('05) discovers his great-great-great-grandfather, Paul Jennings
BY JAZMINE OTEY ('20)

38 'This is grind time'

When the pandemic hit, Richard Xu ('18) jumped into action to collect needed medical supplies
BY JAZMINE OTEY ('20)

40 Cameroon bound

Biology student chronicles her daily travels and discoveries
BY RUTH BOWERS-SWORD ('20M)

44 Dorm dermatologist

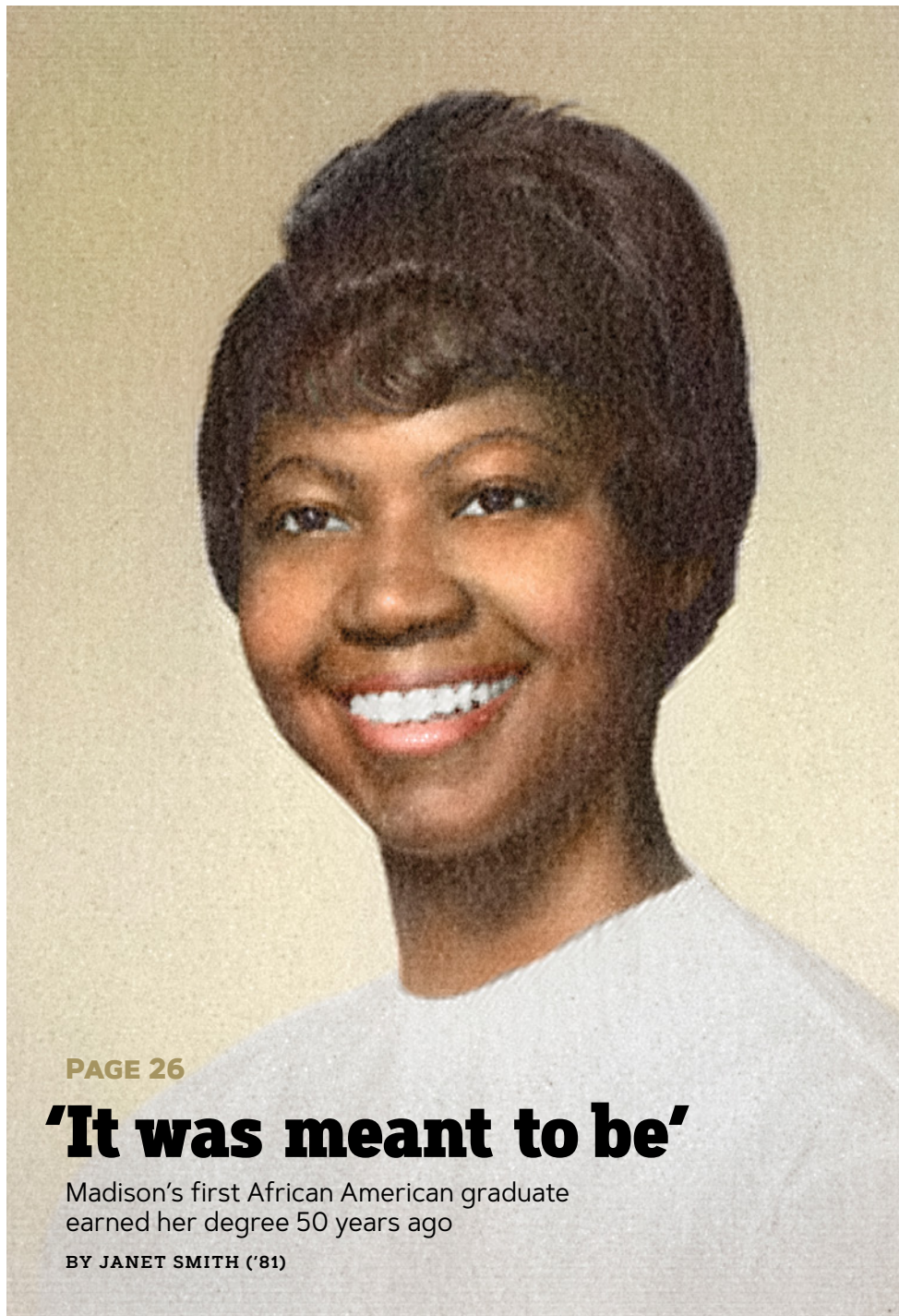
Malique Middleton looks to build on his own line of skin care products
BY STEPHEN BRIGGS

46 'Fast and Furious'

Hacking for Diplomacy students develop decision-making tool for NATO
BY AMANDA CHRISTIAN

.....

ABOUT THE COVER: Artist Sanna Dullaway applied her colorization talents to a black-and-white photograph of the Sesame Club of 1967 that appeared in *The Bluestone*. The club's members were Madison College students who lived off campus.



PAGE 26

'It was meant to be'

Madison's first African American graduate earned her degree 50 years ago

BY JANET SMITH ('81)

CONTENTS

1 Full Frame

All is quiet on East Campus after classes were moved online in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

BY ELISE TRISSEL

2 Letter From the Editor

JMU community bonds during memorable weekend in North Texas

BY KHALIL GARRIOTT ('04)

6 Contributors, Staff Soundbites, Feedback

7 Directions

President Jonathan R. Alger leads during an unprecedented time

8 News & Notes

COVID-19 response; Best College for Veterans; JMU ROTC award; \$18.4M EPA grant; 'A right and a privilege'; 'The future of work'; Alger civic engagement recognition; Fulbright, Goldwater and Boren Scholars announced; Faculty Focus

15 Unleashed

Women for Madison rally in Richmond; Madison Trust in the books

17 By the Numbers

JMU Libraries responds to crisis in amazing ways

18 JMU Nation

FCS Championship Game; Field hockey Duke represents USA; Challice McMillin in memoriam; Winter-Spring sports roundup

48 Alumni for Life

Performing arts career panel; alumnae go from strangers to colleagues; parting thoughts from Alumni Association's president; Homecoming Save the Date

55 Class Notes

News from JMU alumni; Celebrations, including Weddings, Honors and Future Dukes announcements

64 Connections

Reflections on 1918 pandemic



PAGE 22

Leading the fight

Pediatric oncologist takes on childhood cancer in the lab and by the bed

BY JIM HEFFERNAN ('96, '17M)

Lifelong Learning Institute



Are you ready for ZOOMtime?

What makes being a part of a group like JMU's Lifelong Learning Institute so special?

Introducing ZOOMtime...Our way of enriching the intellectual life of JMU alumni, parents and friends through online lectures and courses.

ZOOM in and join the experience!

The JMU Lifelong Learning Institute provides intellectual, cultural and social experiences for adults in the central Shenandoah Valley. The program is embracing a digital future that includes streaming free public lectures and hosting online classes and virtual cafes to keep older adults intellectually engaged and socially connected. They have provided Zoom training to more than 200 people and are partnering with JMU faculty to conduct a research study focused on helping adults 60 or greater cope with social isolation and loneliness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Magazine with no music or art

I just looked through the current *Madison* magazine that arrived in my mail this morning. It is a beautiful and thoughtful piece of journalism. As an alum, I enjoy being kept up to date on the school, campus, staff and students.

I looked through twice before writing to you. I was not a music major at JMU, rather received a second bachelor degree in Communications. My late husband, however was James Rex Riley, who wrote the JMU Alma Mater. It was disappointing to see nothing of the music department in its various forms. No band pictures, no concert photos or articles, no mention of outstanding musicians. No theater mention, no dance. These departments have been well represented in the past.

Hopefully I just overlooked those articles. The school is obviously doing very well and continues to excel with great leadership and contributions from various sources. My late husband adored being a faculty member and we both attended many of the activities and events the school offered. We made lifelong friends on campus and I cherish those years in Harrisonburg. Jim felt a deep connection with James Madison University, more so than other schools where he had taught. Several of his compositions were premiered in Wilson Hall.

He was honored when asked to write a new alma mater for the school. (The first three notes are the same as the fight song). It was sung beautifully by the JMU choir at his memorial service the week after he passed away in 1987. It is a dear and heartfelt piece.

Hopefully in future editions of *Madison* magazine, more mention of the arts will be included. This one, in particular, seemed to be void of representation.

Best wishes to your staff for continued high quality and professional efforts.

— Susan Masinter Riley ('88)



Staff Soundbites

Describe a time when being opportunistic has led to success for you.

“Last year, as a social media intern in University Communications and Marketing, I was asked to help recruit an editorial intern for the following year. While I enjoyed my position, I knew that I could benefit from different types of work as a hopeful public relations practitioner, so I decided to apply for the position myself. Since taking on this position, I have become a more well-rounded person and have added more published work to my portfolio.”

AMANDA CHRISTIAN
editorial intern

“The opportunity to intern with JMU’s communications and marketing team presented itself to me when my adviser, Roger Soenksen, told me about an opening last spring. Without hesitation I gathered the needed materials and applied. In the end, my tenacity landed me an internship that has helped me refine and sharpen my journalistic abilities.”

JAZMINE OTEY ('20)
editorial intern

“The opportunity to serve as the Public Relations Director of SafeRides (a 501 c(3) non-profit organization at JMU) over the past year has given me the ability to become a servant leader, better designer, and efficient communicator. It has also given me the confidence to apply to multiple positions, including my job as a design intern at UCM, which has led to more experience and overall success in my field of study.”

RACHEL RIZZETTO ('20)
design intern

Eric Bowlin ('02) is president of the JMU Alumni Association. The Midlothian, Virginia, resident stays connected to campus through his involvement with the Duke Club, College of Business and RVA Dukes alumni chapter. Bowlin is a big believer in the sense of community that makes JMU special. A partner at Deloitte Risk & Financial Advisory, Bowlin’s final letter as JMUA President appears on Page 51.



Ciara Brennan ('17) is the communications and marketing specialist in the College of Arts and Letters. She is passionate about creating connection through storytelling. She graduated with a degree in writing, rhetoric and technical communication and minored in communication studies at JMU. Her Alumni Spotlight on Matt DeMartis ('06) appears on Page 63.



Margaret Mulrooney is associate vice provost for University Programs and a professor of history at JMU. As a specialist in 19th-century to early-20th-century U.S. social and cultural history, especially race and ethnicity, her research interests include the history of James Madison University, race relations in Virginia and collective memory. Her most recent book is *Race, Place, and Memory: Deep Currents in Wilmington, North Carolina* (2018). Her perspective on integration at JMU appears on Page 37.



Rachel Rizzetto ('20), a design intern in University Communications and Marketing, is a senior majoring in graphic design. She dedicates her time to broadening her design skills and staying involved on JMU’s campus. Her passions include brand identity, logo design, illustration and public relations. After graduation, Rizzetto hopes to pursue a career in design at an agency that will allow her to continue to grow and develop her skills.



Hannah Robinson ('18) graduated with a degree in communication studies with a concentration in cultural studies and a minor in English. After graduating, she stayed at JMU to serve as media relations coordinator for the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Education. Robinson wrote news stories about JMU being the best college for vets and the JMU ROTC Rangers bringing home a top prize (Page 9). Robinson left JMU this spring to accept an account coordinator position at The Hodges Partnership in Richmond, Virginia.



SPRING/SUMMER 2020
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An opportunity to reform society

Originally, my letter introducing this issue of *Madison* was to be very different. But since the pandemic turned all of our lives upside down—including disrupting university operations completely in the middle of spring semester—it has become impossible to discuss anything but mitigating the public health risks rendered by the coronavirus spread, maintaining students' academic progress in a time when we're all physically apart, and planning for the certain economic devastation left in the wake of COVID-19's destructive path. That's why you're not receiving this issue of *Madison* in print, but digitally; issuing a glossy, 64-page magazine in a time of utter financial uncertainty is simply not prudent.

Still, in an effort to restore some sense of normalcy, this issue retains much of its original content. It includes some news about how the pandemic has affected campus. But for the most part, the content enclosed is about our marvelous community. In many of the communications I have been issuing during the crisis, I emphasize repeatedly that this unprecedented disaster has thrown into stark relief the fact that the people of JMU and their relationships with one another are what make our community so important to us all and to society. That's the story this issue tells.

Life will go on. Maybe not exactly as it did before, but we will rebound. I've heard optimism about how the disaster might open our eyes to important changes we might make in how we conduct ourselves and how civil society might reorganize its priorities. We've changed society for the better in the past, and we can do it again if we search for how.

For example, when the founders wrote the first line of the U.S. Constitution during that hot 1787 summer in Philadelphia, "We the People" was far from including all the people. More than half of the population then could not participate in the system of government established by the Constitution at its inception.

Yet, in order to form a more perfect union, the 15th Amendment was ratified in 1870, prohibiting states from denying male citizens the right to

vote based on "race, color or previous condition of servitude." And the 19th Amendment was finally ratified in 1920, granting women the right to vote. While these amendments legally established a more inclusive definition of "We the People," many roadblocks were still in place to obstruct full participation in society, and it wasn't until the Voting Rights Act passed in 1965 that the right to vote extended fully to all American citizens.

James Madison University was founded in 1908 as the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Harrisonburg, a segregated school for a portion of the white population who would not be granted the right to vote for another 12 years. A lot has changed since then, and inclusivity at JMU has improved over the years. The cover story of this digital issue of *Madison* depicts one momentous and positive step forward in our history.

More work will continue to be done, and more progress made. As associate vice provost and historian Meg Mulrooney's sidebar to the cover story indicates, we will take an honest look at our imperfect history and not shy away from it. That's how improvements to society begin.

Our founders—especially the man for whom we are named—framed the Constitution to allow for progress. And while they might not have foreseen progress as a more inclusive union given their time, they expected us to continue their work forming a more perfect one. A mentor of mine once said, "Don't let a crisis go to waste." Maybe this pandemic will help us to see other improvements we might make to ourselves and to our world. Please stay well.



"Life will go on. Maybe not exactly as it did before, but we will rebound."

Jonathan R. Alger
Jonathan R. Alger

president, James Madison University

News & Notes

SPRING/SUMMER 2020

JMU navigates viral pandemic with 'the head and the heart'

Words like “fluid” and “penciling in,” with their sense of changeability, are as important as “social distancing” and “wash your hands” as the world copes with the COVID-19 pandemic. JMU’s senior leadership team has exhibited nimbleness when making decisions in the best interests of students, faculty and staff members, and the greater Harrisonburg community.

University officials have closely monitored the spread of the virus as they partner with the Virginia Department of Health and public health experts on campus to adjust operations at home and abroad. A monumental communication came on March 18, when President Jonathan R. Alger announced that classes were moved online for the rest of the spring semester, all semester-long and short-term summer study-abroad programs were closed and all on-campus events through May 15 were canceled or postponed. Spring Commencement was

postponed. Since then, university officials announced that, if it is safe to do so, in-person commencement will be Aug. 7-8.

Official communications from campus leaders about the COVID-19 outbreak began Jan. 24 and continue on a regular basis. Early communication acknowledged detection of the coronavirus in Wuhan City, China, and encouraged anyone who had traveled to the region to monitor themselves for symptoms. Beginning in late February, communications became more frequent, with each announcement detailing greater effects on the campus and community.

Study-abroad programs, naturally, felt the first wave of concern. On Feb. 25, students, faculty and staff members studying and working in Italy were informed that JMU had suspended all program excursions away from the Florence campus and that no travel outside the program was permitted. Three days later, two short-term summer 2020 programs to China were canceled. Alger announced Feb. 29 that Semester in Florence and the European Union Policy Studies master’s program in Italy



“As Dukes, you have always inspired me with your ability to overcome obstacles and to find ways to make a positive mark on the world.”

— JONATHAN R. ALGER,
president

were closed and that a spring break program to Japan for MBA students was canceled.

On March 11, an announcement from the president made COVID-19 personal for everyone at the university. “JMU will not hold in-person classes the week of March 16,” Alger wrote. “Beginning March 23, most JMU classes will move online until at least April 5.” Students were encouraged not to return to JMU after spring break until at least April 5, and all events scheduled for March 16-April 5 were canceled or postponed.

By March 15, JMU employees were advised to work remotely, if able, to fulfill their job duties. Four days later, Rick Larson, assistant vice president for human resources, training & performance, wrote that “only ‘designated’ employees should continue to work on campus.”

Going forward, JMU plans a virtual Summer Springboard orientation for incoming students and expects to begin the Fall 2020 semester on time with in-person classes.

In a video accompanying his March 18 announcement, Alger said: “This is our time to stand together, to support and lift up one another with courage and compassion, and to write an incredible new chapter in the history of JMU that will be remembered by all of us for the rest of our lives.

“Let’s take care of ourselves and one another, knowing that a JMU education develops both the head and the heart. I look forward to seeing all of you sometime soon, and will continue to be in touch.”

— JANET SMITH (‘81)



View Alger’s March 18 address at <https://jmu.edu/covid-19-message>.



Army ROTC Rangers bring home top prize

The Ranger Team at JMU was named champions of the 2019 Army ROTC Ranger Challenge held Oct. 19, 2019, at Fort Pickett, Virginia. Cadets took gold after 10 hours of navigating through the woods with heavy rucksacks and completing challenging military tasks, including marksmanship and an obstacle course.

“Half of this team will commission in May, and I know that they are well prepared to serve our country as Army officers,” said Lt. Col. Thomas Tolman, director of the military science department. “I’ve been at JMU for three years and have seen the incredible amount of work that they have put into preparing for this competition—they earned every bit of this victory.”

Curt Doescher, team captain for

JMU, said that leading the team has been the greatest privilege of his college career.

“Our win speaks to the program, its cadets and the alumni base that allows for an incredible atmosphere.”

Katherine Reebals, one of two women on the 11-person team, said, “This win shows that when we work as a team, we can accomplish great things.”

JMU has consistently performed well at the Ranger Challenge and has won the event 13 times since 1987. The victory comes with an invitation to compete in the Sandhurst Competition at West Point in April against the best teams from around the world.

— HANNAH ROBINSON (‘18)

The Army ROTC Ranger Team from JMU gathers with Lt. Col. Thomas Tolman and President Jonathan R. Alger to admire the hardware it earned at the Ranger Challenge.

JMU named best college for vets

College Factual named James Madison University the best school in the U.S. for providing quality education to veterans.

Factors included in the ranking are veteran affordability; veteran support services and resources; and overall quality metrics important to any student—but especially to nontraditional students.

“It’s wonderful (for) our work and efforts to build a community that serves student veterans to be recognized

nationally,” said Jennifer Taylor, Student Veterans Association faculty adviser at JMU. “Our student veterans work hard

to set and achieve their academic and professional goals, and we are humbled to serve them.”

JMU’s Veteran Scholars Task Force is comprised of students, faculty and staff dedicated to enhancing the student veteran academic experience and professional development by providing a wide array of services.

— HANNAH ROBINSON (‘18)



Scholar discusses the road to women's suffrage

2020 marks the centennial of women gaining the right to vote in America. But in the 100-plus years prior to the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, women participated in the political process—and some even did so at the ballot box.

Rosemarie Zagari, an early American scholar and professor of history at George Mason University, presented “Petticoat Politicians: How Women Won and Lost the Vote in Early America” on Nov. 4, 2019. The Madison Vision Series: Contemporary Issues in an Engaged Society lecture was held in conjunction with the JMU history department’s “Democracy in Peril?” forum.

In Colonial America, women were “political nonentities,” Zagari said. They couldn’t vote or hold public office. Married women were seen as subordinate to their husbands and could not own property, make wills or sit on juries. “It was an exclusively male realm that women did not dare transgress into,” she said.

But that began to change during the American Revolution, which Zagari labeled “a contest for the hearts and minds” of ordinary people. Leaders of the resistance movement realized that if they wanted to be successful in exerting economic pressure on Great Britain, they needed the support of women, she said. Newspapers, magazines and pamphlets appealed to women as consumers, urging them not to buy British goods such as china, cloth, hats, buttons and tea.

“This is the beginning of a recognition that women have a political role to play,” Zagari said. “And what’s fascinating is that women responded.”

They formed associations such as the Daughters of Liberty, met in public and in private to debate the issues of the day, and participated in protests against merchants who violated the boycott. “They began to think of themselves as political agents,” Zagari said.



The cover of Zagari’s book, *Revolutionary Backlash: Women and Politics in the Early American Republic* (2007).

Following the American Revolution, there was an emphasis on education as vital to the future of the republic, Zagari said, as well as a growing consciousness of women’s rights.

Voting rights during the period varied by state, she said, but the prevailing notion was that suffrage was a privilege reserved for those who owned property—a requirement that overwhelmingly favored white men. In some states, unmarried women and widows were allowed to vote if others vouched for their status as property owners, but their numbers were largely insignificant.

Elections at the time were bawdy affairs, sometimes held in taverns, Zagari said. Individual votes were openly challenged, and riots were not uncommon. Women who participated in the process were seen as “unwomanly.” Privately, some men began to worry that women might be emboldened to one day run for public office, she said.

After the Civil War, women in some western states were allowed to vote, Zagari said, but the vast majority of women in the United States were denied that right until the 19th Amendment was ratified in August 1920.

“So what can we learn from this sad tale?” Zagari asked. “History doesn’t always move toward the inclusion of groups. Sometimes rights can be lost as well as gained. We must defend the right to vote, especially for groups who may be vulnerable to disenfranchisement.”

— JIM HEFFERNAN (‘96, ‘17M)



“History doesn’t always move toward the inclusion of groups.”

— ROSEMARIE ZAGARI,
early American scholar

Bobbie Kilberg (left) asks a question of panelists Jennifer Morgan ('93), Carrie Owen Plietz ('97) and Kathy Warden ('92).



Alumnae discuss future of work

Three *Fortune* 500 executives and JMU alumnae—Jennifer Morgan ('93), Carrie Owen Plietz ('97) and Kathy Warden ('92)—shared personal experiences on their paths to the C-suite and offered advice to students and other audience members Feb. 6 in Wilson Hall Auditorium.

Bobbie Kilberg, longtime leader of the Northern Virginia Technology Council, moderated the panel discussion on “The Future of Work,” part of the Madison Vision Series: Contemporary Issues in an Engaged Society.

“I don’t know that I ever had a master plan to get to where I am,” said Morgan, co-chief executive officer of SAP, the world’s largest provider of enterprise application software. “Many times in life when we’re faced with decisions, we tend to evaluate them in a very permanent way. When we do that, we lose sight of all the beautiful forks in the road.”

Plietz, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the hospital division of WellStar Health System, enrolled at JMU as a dance major, but she switched to health services administration because, as she said, “I always knew that my passion was in health care.” From

her first job as a patient advocate to today’s COO role, Plietz has viewed herself as a helper. “I’m so thankful every single day to take care of the people who are taking care of patients.”

Warden entered JMU as a pre-law student, quickly realized that the profession was not for her and majored in computer information systems. Now the chairman, chief executive officer and president of Northrop Grumman and a member of the JMU Board of Visitors,

“I’m so thankful every single day to take care of the people who are taking care of patients.”

— **CARRIE OWEN PLIETZ ('97)**, executive vice president and COO, hospital division, WellStar Health System

Warden said, “I draw passion from having a purpose and doing work that matters.”

Warden, a member of the Business Roundtable, a nonprofit association of CEOs of major U.S. companies, highlighted the recent redefinition of a corporation’s purpose as an example of a major change in business. Warden is one of 181 CEOs who signed the statement, which moves away from shareholder

primacy to include a commitment to all stakeholders, including customers, employees, suppliers and communities.

“Clearly, employees create the value of a corporation,” Warden said. “Our workforce is so much more diverse today.”

Plietz said health care is inherently diverse. “I’m very proud of the work the (WellStar) board and the leadership team has done,” she said, adding that workforce diversity and inclusion of voices must be intentional and led by top officials and administrators.

Morgan agreed that inclusion is important in today’s business world. “You hear the word empathy a lot more,” she said. Leaders must have empathy to ensure employees feel valued and committed to staying with the company.

Asked about the “hot jobs” of the future, Plietz quickly said, “health care.” Noting that people entering the job force today can expect to hold 10 to 15 different jobs in their careers, she said a liberal arts education is key to navigating that reality. “It’s the level of agility, leadership, creativity, critical thinking, engagement, teamwork and relationship-building ... That’s the skill set for the future.”

Warden said the jobs of today and the near future require that everyone be comfortable with data and literate in technology and leadership.

— **JANET SMITH ('81) AND KHALIL GARRIOTT ('04)**



To view the Madison Vision Series event, go to <https://j.mu/tfow>.

President Alger wins ALL IN Campus Democracy award

The All IN Campus Democracy Challenge recognized JMU President Jonathan R. Alger as a Standout President for his leadership in cultivating a culture of democracy and voter participation on campus and beyond. The Challenge is a nonpartisan, national initiative recognizing and supporting colleges' and universities' efforts to make democratic participation a core value on campus and foster generations of engaged citizens.

"It's crucial that colleges and universities assume a leadership role in efforts to enhance our democracy, and graduate civic-minded students capable of solving tomorrow's challenges," Alger said. "This award reflects the work being done by many faculty and students here at JMU. I am honored to accept the award on their behalf and look forward to working with countless partners across campus to continue the good work focused on civic engagement. James Madison University, named for the Father of the Constitution, has an important role to play in preparing people for active and responsible political engagement."

Under Alger's leadership, the university's strategic plan pays special attention to civic engagement with the goal of educating and inspiring people to address public issues and cultivate a just and inclusive democracy. A

constitutional law expert, Alger serves as an important voice in the national dialogue about the role colleges and universities should play in preparing students to be active and informed participants in civic life.

Alger led the creation of the James Madison Center for Civic Engagement as an administrative infrastructure to coordinate year-round, nonpartisan, campus-wide voter education and engagement. Alger also oversaw the development of a voting precinct that gives students the opportunity to vote on campus, hosted the Engagement for the Public Good Conference at JMU and developed the Madison Vision Series, honoring James Madison's conviction that cultivating an informed and educated citizenry is essential to the health of a democracy. JMU's capital campaign, *Unleashed: The Campaign for James Madison University*, also has a distinct focus on raising funds to support the renewal of civil society through



programs such as community service-learning, study abroad and ethical reasoning.

In addition to the Standout President award, JMU was recognized with ALL IN's silver seal for voter participation during the 2018 midterm elections, representing a dramatic improvement in student voter turnout from the previous midterm election.

— CAITLYN READ ('10, '18M)

"James Madison University, named for the Father of the Constitution, has an important role to play in preparing people for active and responsible political engagement."

— JONATHAN R. ALGER, *president*

BY THE NUMBERS International Students at JMU

Most Represented Countries:

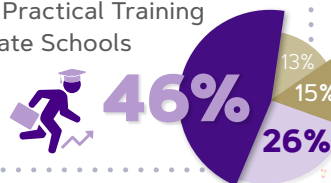
- China (173)
- Vietnam (33)
- Azerbaijan (13)
- India (11)

Gender Distribution

Male - 216
Female - 172

Class of 2019: Post-Graduation Plans

- Applied for Optional Practical Training
- Accepted into Graduate Schools
- Returning Home
- Unsure



DID YOU KNOW?

65 countries are represented by international students at JMU

Top 3 Undergraduate Programs

- Hospitality Management - 37
- Computer Information Systems - 29
- Finance - 26



FACULTY FOCUS

Spotlighting JMU professors through the lenses of scholarship, awards and service



Lauren K. Alleyne
English; assistant director,
Furious Flower Poetry Center

Alleyne was nominated for an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work-Poetry for her book *Honeyfish*. "I write as a black, immigrant woman, and I am humbled and thrilled to know that my work has been acknowledged by this community through this nomination," said Alleyne, who was born and raised in Trinidad and Tobago. "I am also honored to be included in the numbers of such incredible artistic talent." She was one of five poets nominated in the category. *Honeyfish* is Alleyne's second poetry collection and won The Green Rose Prize, awarded to established poets by New Issues Poetry and Prose, a literary press associated with Western Michigan University.



John Almarode
Early, Elementary and
Reading Education

Almarode, who studies what science says about how the brain absorbs information and translates his findings into teaching strategies, gave the keynote speech at the Learning and the Brain conference in Boston, Massachusetts, Nov. 22-24, 2019. "The teachers, teacher leaders and administrators in our schools work so hard and they have no time to spare in the day," Almarode said. "Therefore, we have to ensure that what we learn actually makes the art and science of teach-

ing more efficient—not just the piling on of one more thing." To learn more about Almarode, go to j.mu/learning.



Ed Brantmeier
Learning, Technology and
Leadership Education;
assistant director, Center for
Faculty Innovation

Brantmeier developed an undergraduate introductory course, Leadership for Sustainable Peace, to question how peace educators can create deep learning environments and experiences to invite future generations to become agents of change. "Leaders who are contemplative and inclusive and lead by core values, in history, have made remarkable contributions to the planet and to humankind," Brantmeier said.



Bernd Kaussler
Political Science

Kaussler is the inaugural Betty Coe ('64) and Paul J. Cinquegrana Presidential Chair of Faculty Teaching Excellence and Research at JMU. The monetary award that accompanies the honor will support Kaussler's research on proxy war and civilian victimization in Yemen and his work with students to create a human

"Virginia is positioned to deploy the most balanced and resilient clean energy portfolio in the nation."

— JONATHAN MILES, *ISAT professor and executive director of the Center for the Advancement of Sustainable Energy*

"Leaders who are contemplative and inclusive and lead by core values have made remarkable contributions to humankind."

— ED BRANTMEIER, *Learning, Technology and Leadership Education; assistant director, Center for Faculty Innovation*

security map. The holder of the new position is chosen by JMU's president from among full-time faculty members who have earned tenure and the rank of full professor. Kaussler, an expert on the Middle East, has taught at JMU for 13 years. The results of his research have included two books, *Iran's Nuclear Diplomacy: Power Politics and Conflict Resolution* and *US Foreign Policy Towards the Middle East: The Realpolitik of Deceit*. The latter book was co-authored with **Glenn Hastedt** of justice studies and political science.



Jonathan Miles
Integrated Science and
Technology; executive director,
Center for the Advancement
of Sustainable Energy

Miles wrote an editorial in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* on Oct. 7, 2019, related to Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's announcement of the largest state renewable energy contract in the nation. He wrote: "Virginia is positioned to deploy the most balanced and resilient clean energy portfolio in the nation. ... We are blessed with nearly ideal landscapes along the southwestern region of our state, where winds at higher elevations can be harnessed through informed siting and responsible development. Throughout the central and eastern land masses of Virginia reside vast open spaces that, in many instances, are

under-utilized and well-suited for solar deployment. Finally, along our coast we have identified offshore wind resources that are arguably some of the best in the nation."



Carole Nash
Integrated Science and
Technology

Northam appointed Nash to the board of trustees of the Virginia Museum of Natural History. She joins another JMU faculty member, **Tom Benzing**, also of Integrated Science and Technology, on the board that is considering locating a branch of the museum in Waynesboro. Nash is past president of the Archaeological Society of Virginia and current director of the Virginia Archeological Technician Certification Program, which trains volunteers to help professional archaeologists identify and document archaeologically significant sites.



Robert Roberts
Political Science

Roberts' newest book, *The Death of Public Integrity*, takes a historical view from the ratification of the U.S. Constitution through the administration of President Donald Trump to explore efforts by reformers to protect public confidence in the integrity of government. Arguing that progressives and conservatives increasingly live in different moral worlds, Roberts demonstrates how it has become difficult to hold public officials accountable without agreement on what constitutes immoral conduct. ✉

— JANET SMITH ('81)

JMU tops national list for most Fulbright award winners

JMU has 15 recent alumni living abroad on Fulbright grants this academic year, the most of any master's-level university in the country.

The list of top-producing institutions for the Fulbright Program was published Feb. 10 in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Administered by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program.

"This recognition acknowledges all of the hard work many people have put in across the university to prepare our students to compete for this prestigious award. It demonstrates both the capacity of our students and alumni for taking on large, exciting challenges successfully and our communitywide dedication to preparing students who are educated, enlightened and engaged with the ideas of the world," JMU President Jonathan R. Alger said.

The Fulbright Program was created in 1946 to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Over 2,200 U.S. students and over 900 U.S. college and university faculty and administrators are awarded Fulbright grants annually. In addition, some 4,000 Fulbright Foreign Students and Visiting Scholars come to the U.S. annually to study, lecture, conduct research or teach their native language. — ERIC GORTON ('86, '09M)

INSTITUTION	APPLICANTS	AWARDS
1 James Madison University	41	15
2 Loyola University Maryland	21	8
3 State University of New York College at Geneseo	19	7
4 Rollins College	21	6
5 University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire	9	6
6 College of Charleston	33	5
7 Salisbury University	26	5
8 St. Edward's University	21	5
9 University of Portland	25	5
10 Western Washington University	20	5

Dukes secure Goldwater, Boren Scholarships

Four students take home top prizes for STEM, study abroad

Since its inception in 1986, the Goldwater Scholarship has honored U.S. Sen. Barry Goldwater by supporting sophomores and juniors on the path to becoming the next generation of research leaders in the natural sciences, engineering and mathematics. Two JMU juniors secured the \$7,500 award this year. Additionally, two JMU seniors won Boren Scholarships. Supported by the National Security Education Program, Boren Scholarships provide up to \$20,000 to fund language study abroad in areas of the world critical to U.S. interests. "JMU students are leading the way across disciplines and around the world," said Meredith Malburne-Wade, director of fellowships advising.



Meredith Malburne-Wade

Tyler Brittain

Goldwater recipient is a biophysical chemistry major who conducts research with Oleksandr Kokhan. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry after graduation.

Mary Ogborn

Goldwater recipient is a physics major who conducts research with Keigo Fukumura. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in astrophysics/astronomy after graduation.

Cameron Wade

Boren recipient is an anthropology major who will be intensively studying Swahili in the U.S. and Tanzania in the Summer and Fall 2020 semesters.

Abigail Weiderhold

Boren recipient is an intelligence analysis major who will be intensively studying Russian in Georgia in the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters.

Program gets \$1.84 million to address air pollution

Virginia Clean Cities at JMU has received a \$1.84 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to work with package delivery company UPS. It will replace 69 diesel tractor-trailer trucks in the mid-Atlantic region with trucks that use cleaner domestically produced, compressed natural-gas or newer, cleaner diesel engines.

The project, called the Mid-Atlantic Nitrous Oxide Reduction Program, will run for two years. UPS has matched the EPA grant with about \$8 million. "They're substantially committed to this project," said Matt Wade, deputy director of Virginia Clean Cities. "The goal is to assist them with this transition to these cleaner and more affordable fuels, thus improving air quality in these highly trafficked interstate and urban areas where they operate."

The grant will be used to replace trucks operating in Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Wade said each truck averages 92,380 miles per year, which comes to 6,374,220 miles annually for all 69 trucks.

The project will result in large annual reductions of nitrous oxide (40 tons), particulate matter (200 pounds), hydrocarbons (half a ton), carbon monoxide (2 tons) and carbon dioxide (about 5,300 tons). Additionally, fuel reductions through the more fuel-efficient engines and the use of compressed natural gas will displace 468,000 gallons of diesel. "Not only are we cleaning the air, we're using less imported diesel," Wade said.

The grant is the largest Virginia Clean Cities has received from the EPA since opening an office at JMU in 2009, executive director Alleyn Harned said.

— ERIC GORTON ('86, '09M)



Women for Madison learn to ‘Slay Like a Mother’ and ‘set souls on fire’

Katherine Wintsch ('99), author of the popular book *Slay Like a Mother*, headlined Women for Madison's Richmond rally and instructed alumni and friends to “slay the mean voice in your head. Staying silent will kill you from the inside out.”

Lauralee Allen ('07) and Allison Purcell ('95) hosted the rally at the Country Club of Virginia in Westhampton, Virginia. Remarks by scholarship recipient and Honors College graduate Mary Margaret Hawkins ('18) also helped raise more than \$3,600 in new scholarship funding for students.

“The words we use about ourselves are extreme,” Wintsch told the 116 women who gathered for the February event. “If you start to pay attention to the negative voice in your head, you can realize how extreme it is.

“Slay the dragon of self-doubt that says you’ll never be good enough, or it’ll eat you alive,” Wintsch said. “You suffer at your own hand. Nobody can make you feel bad about yourself without your permission. You’re the only one who can hear your dragon, so only you can stop it. Stop beating yourself up.”

Women embraced Wintsch’s message, calling the rally “stimulating” and an opportunity for women to “come together under the JMU umbrella and to talk about real issues that are making an impact on our lives.” They described the conversations as “very raw and real,” “refreshing and very therapeutic” and “thought-provoking,” and called Wintsch “delightful, brilliant, engaging, funny” and “relevant to all women.”

“I loved Katherine’s message for working moms and women of all ages and stages, her connection to JMU and the connection to women supporting future Madison students,” one attendee shared.

Hawkins, a University of Richmond School of Law student, drove



Anyone who makes an annual gift to JMU and identifies as female is a Woman for Madison. For more information, go to www.jmu.edu/womenformadison/supporting-students.shtml



home the ongoing importance of providing scholarships to JMU students. “Scholarships encourage students to pursue what sets their souls on fire,” she said.

The scholarship that set Hawkins’ soul on fire provided a study-abroad experience. “Little did I know that this one-week trip to the Dominican Republic would alter the course of my academic career at

JMU and possibly my entire life,” she said. “That trip made me realize how much more was out there for me than I had ever truly understood.”

“Without scholarships,” said Hawkins, “I would not have finished my senior honors thesis. I would not have graduated from JMU or the Honors College with the distinctions that I did—*or at all*, to be candid. I would not have been offered a Fulbright Award. I would not be in a top-tier law school on a scholarship. Frankly, I would not be the woman I am today if it were not for the support of the transformative scholarships and experiences with which I was blessed and the folks who made those possible. Thank you.”

Hawkins’ story prompted women at the rally to support student scholarships. “Hearing Mary Margaret’s story reinforces that my investment in JMU matters,” a donor reported. So does “hearing how we are able to offer significantly fewer scholarships compared to other state schools.”

— PAM BROCK

Speaker Katherine Wintsch ('99) and rally hosts Lauralee Allen ('07) and Allison Purcell ('95) at the Richmond event, which drew 116 women.

Rebound drives Madison Trust investment to new heights

Rebound, a program designed to help JMU students overcome challenges and see setbacks as opportunities, tugged at the heart- and purse-strings of investor-judges this year, garnering \$32,725 for the 2020-21 academic year at the Madison Trust event in February.

Rebound has captured the most funding for a single Madison Trust project. The initiative provides additional campus resources like mentors, small-group support and storytelling to address student anxiety, depression and feelings of isolation. Even before the rise of COVID-19, mental health issues had become a crisis for undergraduates across the nation.



Josh Bacon,
dean of students

The presentation included videos of students talking about the difficulties of recovering from disappointments and failures on their own, and feeling intense anxiety about measuring up until Rebound



JMU students answered questions at the Madison Trust event, where (below) Brad Jenkins ('99, '19M) presented Rebound.

stepped in. Funding will help the program reach more students.

“When you partner with Rebound,” Dean of Students Josh Bacon told investor-judges, “you ... say to [students] that they are not alone. ... You teach them something valuable—that failure is not the end of their story. It’s the beginning.”

With giving totals still being tallied, Madison Trust 2020 could also set new overall funding records. At press time, gifts and commitments from investor-judges stood at \$135,175 for the 10 faculty-staff innovations pitched at the live event.

“Our investor-judges stepped forward in a big way, and I want to say thank you,” said John Meck, Madison Trust’s executive director. “There are exciting funding conversations still going on, so we predict our totals will continue to rise. Giving is also welcome through crowdfunding.”

The funding record to date was set in 2014, when investor-judges contributed \$155,000 to faculty innovations. 2020 is the sixth year for



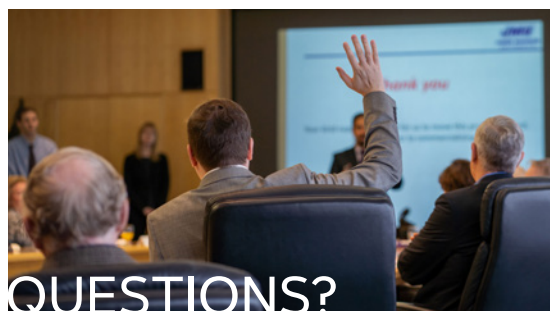
Madison Trust, which cumulatively has yielded \$733,830 in funding for 57 JMU innovations.

Madison Trust occurs annually and encourages investor-judges to come to the table to hear faculty and staff members pitch scientific, technological and social innovations that address real-world problems at the university and beyond.

“There is so much energy and enthusiasm at the live event as our investor-judges get up close and personal with our faculty and staff,” Meck said. “Madison Trust peels back the veil on the scope and caliber of creativity, research, intellectual pursuits, innovation and problem-solving that go on every day here at JMU.”

— PAM BROCK

MADISON TRUST



QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about Madison Trust, please contact John Meck at meckjh@jmu.edu.

THIS YEAR’S OTHER PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- **Animal Monitoring Data Station:** Developing field equipment for more robust, humane research on sensitive species
- **Beyond the Valley:** Providing study-abroad opportunities for Valley Scholars and Centennial Scholars
- **Building the Prototype for Broadband Radio Wave Energy Harvester**
- **Increasing Student Internships with the Healthy Families Program**
- **Gus Bus iPads:** Equipping JMU’s award-winning mobile library to extend learning for schoolchildren
- **Mad for STEM Camp:** Creating a pilot for statewide expansion to encourage underrepresented middle schoolers to pursue and persist in academic and professional STEM careers
- **Next-Generation Energy Storage Devices:** Providing beyond traditional batteries
- **The Paralympic Skill Lab:** Changing attitudes and perceptions through contact
- **WILD:** Cultivating undergraduate students for Women in Leadership Development



Find videos and funding status for 2020 projects at <https://jmu.edu/mt2020>

By the Numbers

JMU Libraries' response to COVID-19

When the COVID-19 pandemic required new avenues for content delivery, faculty and staff members in JMU Libraries quickly stepped in to help professors adapt their academic instruction to meet the needs of students.

To help with the transition to online classes, JMU Libraries offers students around-the-clock access to a wealth of library resources, including books, articles, databases,

movies and more. Students can also get help from a virtual librarian, request materials from other institutions via Interlibrary Loan, and explore JMU Special Collections—all without having to leave home.

In providing workshops, consultation, technical support and other assistance, JMU Libraries has made sure the university's commitment to quality education is preserved during an uncertain time.

6,200

CANVAS COURSES

supported by Libraries staff and faculty



20.3 million
page views in Canvas



1,646
FACE SHIELDS

for health care workers
3D printed in a Libraries/
Harrisonburg community
partnership



46

Online Teaching Faculty Peers from across campus, in partnership with librarians

279
FACULTY

members participated in the Libraries' new online workshops

23,607 visits

to the Libraries' Temporary Online Teaching and Learning Guide

DID YOU KNOW?

2,911
ONLINE SUPPORT REQUESTS

from students and faculty were answered by the Libraries

JMU NATION



A memorable 2019 season on the gridiron

BY CHRIS BROOKS, *athletics communications associate director*

James Madison had its sights set on recapturing the Colonial Athletic Association championship in 2019 and making a return trip to Frisco, Texas, to battle for a national championship. Under first-year head coach Curt Cignetti, the Dukes once again proved to be one of the top teams in the FCS.

JMU entered the season with a No. 2 preseason ranking, and a huge test awaited the Dukes in Big 12 foe West Virginia. They almost passed the test.

On a hot Saturday on the final day of August 2019, WVU skidded by with a 20-13 win against the Dukes. JMU held a 7-3 lead at halftime and was tied with the Mountaineers at 10-10 entering the fourth quarter. WVU capitalized on a turnover deep in JMU territory, scoring 10 points in a span of 1:43 and holding off JMU's late rally for the win.

After the opener, JMU put up huge numbers against FCS opposition, outscoring their next four opponents by an average of 36.5 points, with the latter two games being road wins. With a 4-1 record, JMU flew to Long Island for a prime-time showdown at Stony Brook in a game featuring the league's top two offenses. JMU nearly put the game away numerous times, but four turnovers proved costly as the Seawolves tied the game as time expired, forcing overtime. Prior to OT, Cignetti turned to his players on the sideline and said, "Are we having fun yet?" It would be a fun flight home that night, as Jawon Hamilton scored a touchdown and the defense got a stop, resulting in a 45-38 road win.

Adversity showed its face the next week in the form of No. 5 Villanova. The Dukes would not be denied a victory in front of over 25,000 fans at Bridgeforth Stadium. Villanova led 24-17 entering the

fourth quarter and had the ball, but the Dukes forced four turnovers and scored 21 unanswered points to rally.

The CAA title would never be in doubt. JMU turned in four wins by at least 28 points over the final five weeks, which included scoring 48 or more points in the final three games.

The Dukes regained the outright CAA championship and entered the playoffs with an 11-1 record and a perfect 8-0 mark in CAA play.

JMU earned the No. 2 overall seed for the 2019 FCS Playoffs but would have a tough road if it wanted to make it back to the national championship game.

In the second round against Monmouth, which boasted the nation's top running back, JMU piled on 45 straight points to roll to a 66-21 win. Playing under the lights on a Friday night in the quarterfinals, JMU's defense dominated Northern Iowa for a 17-0 win. JMU limited UNI to just 114 total yards, including zero rushing yards, and registered its first postseason shutout.

The national semifinals pitted JMU against No. 3 Weber State in a rematch of the 2017 quarterfinals. No walk-off field goal was needed that day, as the Dukes controlled the pace throughout, due in large part to Ben DiNucci's 317 total yards and Riley Stapleton's 162 receiving yards and two touchdowns. The Dukes cruised, 30-14. Next stop: FRISCO!

JMU was determined to recapture the national championship. Standing in its way was undefeated and No. 1 North Dakota State. The hype was real. The game, well, it was wild. It was fitting this heavyweight bout would come down to one final play.


JMU jumped in front early, but NDSU was able to surge ahead, 21-10, at the break. The Dukes trailed 28-13 before Stapleton scored

his second touchdown of the game to make it a 28-20 game with 6:55 to play. On the ensuing drive, the Bison went for it on 4th-and-2 at the JMU 37-yard line and the defense stood tall.

NDSU was penalized for pass interference, moving the ball to the Bison 3-yard line as time ticked away. With eight seconds to play, JMU's pass was intercepted at the goal line to give NDSU the win.

"My senior season was everything I could have asked for. I had the most fun playing ball this year than any other," senior center Mac Patrick said. "I have nothing but gratitude toward the coaching staff and love for my brothers on that team. I've made so many memories and learned so many lessons over the past four years that I will take with me for the rest of my life. I'm proud to be a JMU Duke!"

Senior safety Adam Smith said, "This past year of football has been the most enjoyable year of football I've had in my whole career. Every day we enjoyed coming to practice, lifts and runs just because we were with the guys. This season was special in that it was my last, and I saw everything differently. I took nothing for granted and tried to embrace every moment I had with my teammates. Although our national championship run came up short, I wouldn't trade it for anything. This team will forever be remembered."

JMU is not going anywhere. The Dukes will be back. 

Challace McMillin (1942–2020)

Challace McMillin, the first head coach in the history of James Madison football, an ardent supporter of a well-rounded experience for student-athletes and a fixture of JMU Athletics for nearly 50 years, died on March 8.


McMillin, who launched the JMU football program from the ground up in 1972, led the Dukes for 13 years (1972–84) and was inducted into the JMU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1994. Following his tenure as head coach, McMillin continued to serve the department as a sport psychologist and was a JMU professor.

"JMU Athletics would not be what it is today without Challace McMillin," JMU Director of Athletics Jeff Bourne said. "He started our football program from scratch, recruiting young men from the campus class registration lines. He built the program quickly, coaching young men to success on the field, leading them to various individual achievements and professional opportunities, and caring for JMU student-athletes outside of competition with attention to their academic and mental health. He always had a smile on his face and a positive attitude and made life better for everyone he came across. He will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family."

In 1975, the team's fourth year of existence, McMillin guided JMU to its only



unbeaten season, as the Dukes finished 9-0-1 and won their first conference championship. The following year, he led JMU to a No. 1 ranking in the first Division III poll.

McMillin completed his JMU career with a 67-60-2 overall record and was three times named the state's top football coach, earning Richmond Touchdown Club Coach of the Year in 1975, 1978 and 1982. He coached numerous distinguished players to the National Football League, including Pro Football Hall of Famer Charles Haley, Gary Clark and Scott Norwood. The Gilt Edge, Tennessee, native additionally led track and field and cross country programs and was a member of the JMU kinesiology department. JMU football's Special Teams MVP award is also named after McMillin. 



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Miranda Rigg earns spot on 2020 U.S. Women's National Team

BY ERIC EVANS II, *assistant director, athletics communications*

JMU senior field hockey player Miranda Rigg earned a spot on the 2020 U.S. Women's Field Hockey National Team roster.

The roster is comprised of athletes who completed three days of intense training sessions in January in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Of the pool of athletes recommended by their college coaches, those successful candidates produced a high level of play, creating a truly elite trial environment. Athletes were challenged to push the standards of the game and they rose to that challenge.

Rigg ended her JMU career on a high note as she earned her third All-Colonial Athletic Association First Team honor, garnered a spot on the CAA All-Tournament team, was named a Longstreth/NFHCA Division I All-South Region First Team selection and secured a spot on the VaSID All-State First Team at the end of the regular season.

Rigg led JMU with seven goals, five assists and 19 points last season. She scored her

100th career point in a win over Saint Francis, becoming the eighth player in JMU history to reach 100 points. For her career, Rigg sits eighth all-time with 45 goals and 102 points.


Two of her biggest highlights in the 2019 ledger came when she scored the game-winning goal against Richmond and against then-No. 22 Old Dominion, allowing her to earn CAA Player of the Week honors.

"We are very excited that Miranda was selected for our USA national team," head coach Christy Morgan said. "She's a special player and I'm so happy that the selection committee recognized the gifts that she can bring to the program. The JMU family is beyond proud to have Miranda represent our country!"



"The JMU family is beyond proud to have Miranda represent our country!"

— CHRISTY MORGAN, *field hockey head coach*

Joining Rigg on the 2020 USWNT is former Duke standout Taylor West, who has played in 74 international games. West was a heavily decorated player for JMU from 2011 to 2015. 

**MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
RON'DELL CARTER**

**FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
MEGAN GOOD**

**CASEY CARTER FEMALE
SCHOLAR-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR
FAITH ANDERSON & SARA JUBAS**

**CASEY CARTER MALE
SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
KEVIN KELLY**

JMU Athletics held its annual James Madison Athletics (JMA) Awards ceremony virtually on April 28. In addition to the four major awards listed here, a full list of award winners can be found at: JMUSports.com/2020JMAs

WINTER/SPRING SPORTS ROUNDUP

BY KEVIN WARNER ('02)



DUKES ON TOP

JMU captured a pair of CAA championships in the fall, going 8-0 in league play to claim the CAA football title for the fourth time in the last five years. After finishing second in the regular season, JMU knocked off top-seeded UNC-Wilmington on the road to capture its second straight men's soccer title. The Dukes made it three titles for the year as swimming and diving claimed its third consecutive championship in late February.

ATLANTIC UNION BANK CENTER

Construction of the Atlantic Union Bank Center remains on schedule. The 8,500-seat facility will open in November as the home of JMU basketball along with other university and community events. Season tickets are on sale now at JMUTickets.com. Don't miss the exciting debut season, featuring home games for the JMU men against Virginia, George Mason and Old Dominion and the women against Virginia, George Mason, George Washington and Villanova.




DIAMOND UPGRADE

For the first time since its 2010 opening, the turf at Eagle Field at Veterans Memorial Park was replaced prior to the 2020 JMU baseball season. Among the upgrades, the turf features a darker colored infield, alternate shades of green piping on the field, a muted logo in the outfield and a prominent logo behind the plate.



LEARFIELD RENEWAL

In November 2019, James Madison Athletics renewed its multimedia rights agreement with Learfield IMG College for the next 15 years. The local wing, JMU Sports Properties, manages all sponsorship related to broadcast, facility signage, social media, website, print materials and more. The relationship provides a significant source of guaranteed revenue for JMU Athletics. 

Bright Lights

Leading the fight

Pediatric oncologist takes on childhood cancer in the lab and by the bed

BY JIM HEFFERNAN ('96, '17M)

For as long as he can remember, Brian Belyea ('00) wanted to be a doctor. "I like to tell people, 'I was pre-med in preschool,'" he said.

When it came time to choose a college, Belyea surprised many of his friends and family members by picking JMU. "When I toured here, it just felt good," he said. "It felt right. I couldn't put my finger on exactly what it was. But for four years, I reaped the benefits of that decision."

At the time, JMU's pre-med program was relatively small and not widely known. "But every year, students from JMU were getting into medical school—good medical schools," he said. "I felt this was the right place for me to be successful in achieving that goal."

A chemistry major, Belyea got involved with the pre-med honor society, Alpha Epsilon Delta, serving as vice president of the JMU chapter in his junior year and president in his senior year. He also volunteered at Rockingham Memorial Hospital, leading a program called Helping Hands, in which students helped feed some of the patients.

"There were a lot of extracurricular opportunities at JMU," he said. "Plus, my science classes were great. I got a great education."

Belyea had always planned to return to his hometown of Mount Jackson, Virginia, after medical school to practice as a pediatrician. But during his residency, he did a monthlong rotation in the oncology unit at UVA Children's Hospital.

"I fell in love with multiple aspects of the field, but most of all the patients. They were these amazing children who, through no fault of their own, had these life-threatening conditions. The strength and resiliency they showed, and the relationships you make with them, their parents and siblings ... I wanted to be a part of that."

Belyea's oncology training led him to Duke University, where he was introduced to research. "My research mentor had this sign on her door that said, '75% of children with cancer are cured.' She said to

me, 'If you do oncology and take care of kids, you'll deliver on that. But if you do research, you might help improve on that.' What she said to me that day never left me."

Today, Belyea is a pediatric oncologist at UVA Children's Hospital. He spends about 75% of his time in the lab researching B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, the most common type of cancer in children. He is especially interested in epigenetics—controlling for factors other than a person's DNA.


In September 2019, the hospital received a \$300,000 grant from Hyundai Hope on Wheels, a nonprofit organization supported by the car maker and its U.S. dealers, to continue the fight against pediatric cancer. Belyea was presented with the Hyundai Scholar Hope Award, one of 52 doctor-researchers to be recognized nationwide. At a time when public funds for pediatric cancer research are limited, he said, a private research grant like Hyundai's is "huge."

Belyea's research helps inform his work as a physician. He said the keys to being a good doctor are "staying humble and always keeping an open mind."

"I'm trying to learn each and every day," he said, "and I trust patients and families to tell me what's going on, as opposed to vice versa."

Belyea was named to the 2019-20 Best Doctors in America list and twice has been recognized by his patients for his bedside manner.

In February, he returned to JMU to speak with organizers of the annual MadiTHON event benefiting the Children's Miracle Network. The group included some of his former patients and their families.

"All of us pediatric oncologists, we draw a lot of strength from the kids we've helped," Belyea said. "Part of our profession, unfortunately, involves going to funerals. After a while, I realized that I also need to make sure to go to the life celebrations, the graduations and events like this one, where I get to see (former) patients who are doing great. That's the most rewarding part." 



Belyea spends about 75% of his time in the lab and the remaining 25% treating patients at UVA Children's Hospital.



“I fell in love with multiple aspects of the field, but most of all the patients. They were these amazing children who, through no fault of their own, had these life-threatening conditions.” – DR. BRIAN BELYEA ('00)



Madison's first African American graduate earned her degree 50 years ago



'It was meant to be'

BY JANET SMITH ('81)

Sheary Darcus Johnson ('70, '74M) did not set out to be a trailblazer, but as this institution's first African American graduate, the mantle was nonetheless on her shoulders.

Growing up in Harrisonburg, where public schools were racially segregated, Johnson and her siblings were shielded from the harsh realities of discrimination by their parents, Pastor Henry Darcus Sr. and Ann Darcus. But as a student at Lucy F. Simms School, Johnson realized that "sep-

arate but equal" meant secondhand books, teachers with limited experience beyond the African American community and less rigorous academic standards.

"What made me really want to change was when we had someone who was a valedictorian from Simms School go to Virginia State, which is an all-black college, and have to take remedial courses," Johnson said. "Well, to me, that didn't make sense. It said that we weren't receiving proper preparation all the way around."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 >>>



Johnson during the Black Women in Academia Conference at JMU, Oct. 13-14, 2016. (Opposite): Her Madison College senior portrait, 1970, *The Bluestone*.

'IT WAS MEANT TO BE'

"I wanted to change and go to the white school because it was definitely my desire to go to college," she said. Her father—believing "nothing beats a failure but a try"—went to the Harrisonburg School Board to request enrollment for his daughter. To this day, Johnson does not know the particulars of the meeting, but she and five other African American students enrolled at Harrisonburg High School in 1964.

She was challenged academically at HHS, and she performed well as a dedicated student. "I went to the library a lot," she said. There, she studied and deepened a love of books, nurtured at home and at Simms, which inspired her to choose library science as her college major.

Johnson, whose high-school performance garnered a state scholarship, applied to Madison, Longwood and Virginia State colleges because each offered library science pro-



Sheary Darcus (second from left) joined her sisters, (L-R) Alecia, Cynthia and Henrietta Vernice, in a jacket photo for a gospel album they recorded. The sisters sang in churches throughout the Shenandoah Valley.

grams. "I applied to Madison and got early acceptance, which said, 'Wow, you had to be good to get that,' so I was pretty pleased." She joined the Class of 1970.

"I believe that I needed to go to Madison," Johnson said. "I needed that library degree. That's what I was focused on, and I needed that as one of my spirit experiences to get me ready to be able to do the things that I've been doing."

Her Madison College experience was generally positive, with the exception of a few students' actions. "There were a few people who

kind of acted like they didn't want to be around me. If I sat down, they got up," she recalled. "But that was on them, how they were acting. How they felt didn't have to determine how I was going to respond."

Johnson said, "I chose to be around people who meant business as far as going to school was concerned. It wasn't like I was in partying atmospheres and that kind of thing. I was there for the education."

She recalls good professors, especially among the library science faculty, led by department chairman Forrest Palmer. "At Madison, I felt like people cared whether or not Sheary was successful," she said. "And because they cared, they wanted to know how they could help me."

A singer with her sisters in her father's church, Johnson auditioned for the Concert Choir and was part of the ensemble throughout her Madison years. "I enjoyed learning the music from the different periods and I enjoyed traveling," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 >>>



(Above): Forrest Palmer was chairman of the library science department during Johnson's Madison College days. (Right): The Concert Choir in 1969-70.



'IT WAS MEANT TO BE'

"At Madison, I felt like people cared whether or not Sheary was successful, and because they cared, they wanted to know how they could help me."

— SHEARY DARCUS JOHNSON ('70, '74M)



Members of the Sesame Club gathered for a photo that appeared in *The Bluestone* in 1967. The organization was for Madison College's "day students" who lived off campus.

In 1968, the choir traveled to New York City for a concert. Upon arriving at their hotel, they learned that Martin Luther King Jr. had been assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, and riots were breaking out in NYC. The students were whisked into the hotel, where they remained until the next evening's concert. The choir performed as planned and safely returned to campus, shaken by their experience and saddened by King's death, Johnson reflected.

Johnson graduated in Spring 1970 and became the librarian at Waterman Elementary School in Harrisonburg. She earned a master's degree in library science at Madison and remained in the city until 1978, when she and her husband, Russell Johnson ('74), moved to Richmond for her new job as head librarian at Hopewell High School.

In 1988, she earned an Ed.D. with an instructional technology focus from the University of Virginia and joined the faculty of the College of Education at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she taught library science and supervised student teachers before she left for full-time ministry.

Johnson also administered Victory Academy of Early Learning at the church she and her husband founded in Richmond, Victory Family Worship Center. Seeing a need in her community in 1990, Johnson founded an outreach initiative that became Better People Inc., a nonprofit to educate youth and adults to become productive citizens. She wrote successful grant proposals to help implement programs as well as curriculum for the nonprofit's seminars and workshops that teach and reinforce skills in conflict resolution, moral guidance, problem-solving, social skills, personal development and entrepreneurship.

Johnson remains involved with Better People and supports its efforts to help people be their best.

"You have a lot of children who have potential," Johnson said, "and unless some-



(Above): Sheary Darcus' 1968 photo in *The Bluestone*. (Below): Sheary Darcus Johnson, sitting for an interview with *Madison* at the Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia.



body takes an interest in them and is willing to spend time and their resources, they'll go, just live without reaching their potential. And that's certainly a waste to that family and to the children."


Johnson's experience and influence are keenly felt in her religious denomination, the 6 million-member Church of God in Christ. She is a member of the National Advisory Board Department of Women, was the original coordinator of the International COGIC Women's Book Club and

is the founding supervisor of the Virginia 4th Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

She has written two books, *Steps to Empowerment*, which explains the concept of bibliotherapy—the use of books, articles and videos to enhance knowledge and understanding to overcome a challenge—and *Why I Didn't Say YES: Understanding the Dynamics of the Body, Soul, and Spirit*, which provides insight into understanding oneself as a step toward making the right choices in life.

In her own life, Johnson believes "The Lord ordered my steps. (Going to) Madison was one of the wisest decisions that I made because of what I gained, and I've been able to use that to help others. I'd like to feel like I can go in any environment, anywhere, and be able to exist. I am a thinker; I am an observer. I learned the value of just sitting and listening and trying to get all the sides. And more than likely, once you get all the sides, at least you understand what happened or why people think like they think."

She aspires to "keep open" to future opportunities, including the possibility of writing another book to educate and encourage other people by drawing on her experiences and insights. Johnson enjoys helping her daughter, Rachael, and son-in-law, Mecca, propel her three grandchildren, MecCaylah, Leigha and Mecca Jr., into their futures through education and experiences that will enrich their lives.

"I just think it was meant to be, but it wasn't something that I meant to do," Johnson said of her part in integrating HHS and Madison College. "It wasn't me thinking first that I'm going to integrate. It was going after what I needed." 

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Madison* appreciates Adele Johnson, executive director of the Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia, and her staff for providing the location for our interview with Johnson. For more information about the Richmond center, visit www.blackhistorymuseum.org.

Virginia's history of segregated schools

BY MARGARET M. MULROONEY, PH.D.

Dr. Johnson's positive memories of Madison reflect her unique experiences in the 1960s. Placed in historical context, her story reminds us that JMU's campus was once segregated, and that thousands of black Virginians were denied equal access to education. Many Americans mistakenly think that the *Brown v. Board of Education* U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1954 ended racially separate schools. In fact, Southern states



(Far left): The Brown family of the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case in the mid-1950s. (Left): Virginia Sen. Harry F. Byrd opposed integrated schools and began the state's massive resistance movement.

quickly implemented a policy of "massive resistance," the term coined by the movement's leader, Virginia Sen. Harry F. Byrd. Since the Supreme Court's ruling allowed localities to determine the process for and speed of desegregation, some communities in Virginia, dominated by pro-segregation whites, decided to close their public schools rather than comply with federal mandates, while others explored strategies for limited desegregation. Lawyers for the NAACP, Oliver Hill and Spotswood Robinson continued to sue uncooperative school boards in an effort to achieve substantive change.

During Johnson's childhood, Harrisonburg garnered significant statewide attention. The Friendly City was one of a handful of white-dominated localities that voted against a controversial Virginia constitutional amendment to redirect public-school funds to private, all-white, charter schools; it also boasted Madison College, the state's leading teacher-training institution as well as the federal courthouse for the Western District of Virginia, where in 1956 and 1958 Judge John Paul issued two pivotal rulings that contradicted the Byrd machine's directives. But despite local support for desegregation, Harrisonburg schools remained racially separate until 1964, when Dr. Johnson and 10 other individuals formally desegregated the high school, now JMU's Memorial Hall.


Johnson's admission to Harrisonburg High School and, later, Madison College occurred under so-called freedom of choice plans. These plans emerged after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which allowed the federal government to sue noncompliant school districts and withhold fed-

eral funds. On paper, freedom of choice plans allowed families to choose which schools they wanted their children assigned to, but in practice, they functioned as yet another way to preserve dual-school systems. In Virginia, no white families switched to black schools, and the number of black families who, like the Darcuses, requested and actually received reassignment was very small.

Thanks to additional NAACP suits, the U.S. Supreme Court declared freedom of choice plans unconstitutional in *Green v. New Kent County, VA* (1968). By that time, Madison College had admitted just a few black students. Although Dr. Johnson is Madison's first African American graduate, preliminary research suggests there were possibly two individuals who attended before her but kept their racial

identity concealed. There is still so much to learn as we study Madison's complex past.

Desegregation efforts expanded under JMU President Ronald E. Carrier, who began his tenure in 1971 determined to transform the institution

from a single-sex, segregated college into a comprehensive university. By 1972, Madison enrolled 72 black undergraduates out of a population of 5,000. The establishment of Delta Sigma Theta in 1971, the Black Student Alliance in 1972 and new courses in African American history after 1975 demonstrated a new commitment to change. So did the hiring of black faculty and staff. After Gov. John Dalton finally settled the last federal suit against Virginia in 1978, integration at the newly christened James Madison University accelerated. 

"In Virginia, no white families switched to black schools, and the number of black families who, like the Darcuses, requested and actually received reassignment was very small."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mulrooney is associate vice provost for University Programs and a professor of history at JMU. Her research interests include the history of James Madison University, race relations in Virginia and collective memory.



CJ Sapong ("10") of the Chicago Fire celebrates after a goal in a game against Atlanta United FC at Seat-Geek Stadium on July 3, 2019.



Sapong finds success on and off the pitch

PLANTING THE SEEDS

BY KHALIL GARRIOTT ('04)

He was the 10th overall draft pick and MLS Rookie of the Year in 2011. In 2012, he won the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup and debuted with the U.S. Men's National Team. He became MLS Cup champion in 2013.

Even after all that success early in his career, CJ Sapong ('10) wasn't fulfilled. He wanted to change lives. A personal battle with injury led him to realize that he can't play soccer forever. Couple Sapong's foresight for needing a post-soccer career with a yearning for fulfillment and positively impacting others, and you have Sacred Seeds Inc.

In February 2017, Sapong founded Sacred Seeds, which empowers underserved communities through nutrition, education and community building. While recovering from soccer injuries, Sapong preferred nutritional methods over painkillers and pushed himself to think bigger.

“The human body is interesting in that it will adapt to whatever environment it’s put in,” Sapong said. “You might think that you’re healthy, but you’re really kind of running on 50%. So I said, ‘Well, why aren’t more people nourished?’ They’re not educated about it.”

Sacred Seeds provides educational agricultural opportunities for youth while promoting self-sustainability and growth of their communities. Through the development of urban gardens and farms, Sapong’s foundation is paying it forward for the next generation. As a self-described “citizen of the universe,” the Manassas, Virginia, native leverages his professional athlete platform to elevate those around him.

“We have an opportunity to really expand in any facet of society we wish,” Sapong said of Sacred Seeds. “Being able to understand that there is a lot more out there, and to traverse those lands with a powerful sense of being, that’s what will lead you to opportunities that will allow you to continue to grow.”

Through his nonprofit, Sapong is helping grow the future for underserved communities. He’s living out his mission of practicing a more conscious and healthful lifestyle.

On the pitch, he’s evolved from promising

“You might think that you’re healthy, but you’re kind of running on 50%. Why aren’t more people nourished? They’re not educated about it.”

— CJ SAPONG (‘10)

young talent to savvy veteran as MLS celebrated its 25th season before suspending play as it continues to assess the impact of COVID-19. After four seasons each with Sporting Kansas City and the Philadelphia Union, the forward has settled in with Chicago Fire FC. In 2019, Sapong netted a team-high 13 goals along with a pair of assists, while tying for the most appearances in his first season with Chicago.

The speedy striker has regained his 2017 form (16 goals and five assists with the Union), proving his versatility as the lone marksman up top or positioned on the wing. The former JMU soccer standout was the first JMU player to be first-team all-conference four times.


Sapong returned to campus in Decem-

ber 2019. Among the items on his itinerary was speaking to JMU student-athletes about ways they can maximize their potential on and off the pitch.

“I had amazing experiences with students, other athletes, coaches and a lot of people that, 10 years later, I can really recognize how they helped shape who I am today,” he said. “I would like ... to help student-athletes understand how this is going to work after college.”

Sapong said that despite the considerable changes on campus since he left a decade ago, the essence of JMU remains. “Students, staff and even local organizations are dedicated to the progression of themselves and the people around them,” he posted on Instagram after his visit.

The affable Sapong hasn’t yet completed his degree, but he’s excited to have recently found the Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship track through the Adult Degree Program. With several years of life wisdom now under his belt, he recognizes the importance of applying the knowledge gained in the classroom to real life.

“You’ve gotta be able to swallow your pride to do things that you think might better yourself or people around you,” Sapong said. 



Sapong’s 2019 visit to campus included some interaction with student-athletes.

For more on CJ Sapong’s foundation work, soccer career and Madison memories, go to <https://j.mu/sapong>.



Sapong has evolved from a soccer phenom to community leader doing his part to give back.



During his return to Harrisonburg, the Manassas, Virginia, native stopped at the Friendly City Food Co-op to spread the mission of Sacred Seeds.

Raleigh Marshall ('05)
discovers more about
his family heritage



LEARNING HIS

Legacy

By Jazmine Otey ('20)

(Above): A portrait of Paul Jennings, an African American enslaved by the Madison family. (Opposite): Jennings' descendants at the White House in 2009 near the portrait of George Washington, which Jennings helped save.

Raleigh Marshall ('05) recalls being surrounded by history since elementary school. Coach lamps that once belonged to Founding Father James Madison were mounted on the wall in Marshall's basement.

There were also nearly a thousand black-and-white photos scattered about, many of which were taken by Addison N. Scurlock, a prominent photographer in Washington, D.C.'s African American community. Within the collection was a photo of Marshall's great-grandmother, Pauline Jennings Marshall.

But it wasn't until 2008 that Marshall discovered the significance of the family heirlooms within his ancestral home. Through his great-grandmother, he is the great-great-great-grandson of Paul Jennings, an African American enslaved attendant to James Madison and his family.



JENNINGS PORTRAIT COURTESY OF SYLVIA JENNINGS ALEXANDER;
FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF RALEIGH MARSHALL ('05)

Elizabeth Dowling Taylor, a researcher, author and former director of education at Montpelier, Madison's estate, invited Marshall to Montpelier to participate in a reading of the preamble of the U.S. Constitution, along with collateral Madison descendant Madison Iler Wing.

Marshall realized the magnitude of Taylor's research and his heritage when he saw the large crowd assembled for the reading in front of the restored plantation mansion.

"I was shocked at how many people were there [for the reading], and how many people considered this plantation legacy to be important enough to them to cut out of work and organize all these field trips for [local school] kids," Marshall said.

At first, Marshall was indifferent about the newfound knowledge concerning his ancestry because he knew that many slaves worked for Madison. While attending JMU, Marshall was unaware of his unique tie to the university's eponym. He'd chosen the university for its attractive campus, amiable student body and exceptional computer science program. Marshall recalls pleasant memories from his time at JMU and was an engaged, active student. He served as vice president of the Tae kwon do Club for two years and as president his senior year. He was also a member of Zeta Beta Tau and an SGA representative.

With the help of Taylor, Marshall learned more about his family heritage and became much more fascinated about his family history.

Since a young age, Taylor has had a keen interest in race relations and even attended a Martin Luther King Jr. rally as a child. While she was director of education at Montpelier, she decided to research Jennings. She was motivated by the limited amount of research and findings on him and the fact that his memoir, *A Colored Man's Reminiscences of James Madison*, hadn't been reissued since it was published in 1865.

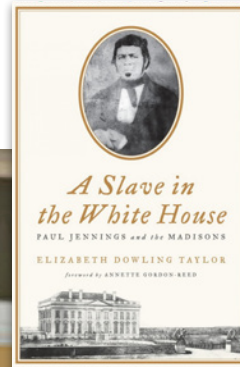
After several years of research, Taylor found herself captivated by Jennings' story.

What originally was supposed to be a biographical essay, combined with Jennings' memoir, developed into a book-length biographical narrative, *A Slave in the White House: Paul Jennings and the Madisons*.

Marshall's first face-to-face interaction with Taylor was at the Montpelier event. Taylor presented him with a Constitution-sized piece of paper that bore his family tree with a copy of Jennings' signature at the bottom.

"Beth Taylor kind of found me first," Marshall said. "She found out that I was a Jennings descendant, and then found out that I

Madison Iler Wing, a descendant of James Madison, and Raleigh Marshall participate in a 2008 reading of the preamble of the U.S. Constitution. (Right): Elizabeth Dowling Taylor's book about Jennings.



had a lot of physical artifacts in the house that were worth examining. She was able to actually dig into all the records [and] connect all the dots. If you need to know any information about Paul Jennings, she's probably the most knowledgeable person to talk to, even including most of his actual descendants."

Taylor's research motivated her to portray Jennings as more than just Madison's slave and instead speak on how he triumphed despite living in a time of great tribulation.

"Yes, of course, he has an important connection with James Madison, and he was an eyewitness to important history," Taylor said. But she wanted to ensure that she accurately "honored and recognized him for the remarkable person [he is] and his compelling story."

Jennings is recognized for a plethora of achievements.

During the War of 1812, as British troops prepared to set fire to the White House, Jennings helped save a portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart.

In 1846, he moved to purchase his freedom. Dolley Madison sold Jennings to an insurance agent named Pollard Webb for \$200. Statesman Daniel Webster bought Jennings from Webb for \$120. Webster immediately freed Jennings. He had essentially loaned Jennings the money to purchase himself, and Jennings paid it off at the rate of \$8 a month working as Webster's dining room servant.

Two years later, Jennings, white abolitionists and other free African Americans, planned the Pearl incident, one of the largest recorded, nonviolent slave escape attempts in history. A group planned to board the Pearl and sail south on the Potomac River, then north up the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River to freedom in the North. However, the mission failed due to the contrary tides, and a posse caught up with the vessel. Many of the slaves were then sold to plantations farther south as punishment.

In 1853, after working hard to ensure his family was well-established in Washington, D.C.'s free black community, Jennings purchased property on L Street.

In 1865, Jennings wrote the first White House memoir, which illustrated the relationship between a slave and slaveholder and also provided his perspective of the Madisons.

Taylor was a catalyst in arranging for Marshall's family heirlooms to be curated by professionals at the African American Museum of History and Culture. She also helped organize a Jennings family reunion at Montpelier, which drew several generations of descendants from throughout the U.S.

She arranged a private tour at the White House on Aug. 24, 2009—the 195th anniversary of the date Jennings helped rescue the portrait of Washington. That day, Jennings' descendants gathered around the portrait for a family photo.



(Above): A print shows a view from the north-east of the fire-damaged White House, a result of the War of 1812. (Left): Marshall and daughter, Aria, at the opening of Paul Jennings Hall at JMU. (Below): Jennings' descendants gather at Montpelier for a family reunion.



“There is a weird feeling that grips you when you are in contact with something that you know for certain one of your ancestors from way back was in contact with.”

- Raleigh Marshall ('05)

“There is a weird feeling that grips you when you are in contact with something that you know for certain one of your ancestors from way back was in contact with,” Marshall said.

The moment had an added layer of depth because another black man, Barack Obama, was president at the time.


“The fact that Paul Jennings had the only allowable role for a black man in the White House in his day, as a liveried footman, and now the first African American president and his family were making their home in that same distorted structure, made it all the more exciting,” Taylor said.

With his heightened appreciation for his heritage, Marshall is now a member of the Pearl Coalition. The group’s mission is to build a replica of the 1848 Pearl ship with the help of

youth and volunteers as a means of educating them on “the array of racial, social and economic factors, [and the] contributions of the people and places involved in the Pearl escape.”

Marshall, an engineer at Microsoft, is also a father to a 1-year-old girl, Aria Marshall. He hopes to instill their family’s legacy in her as she grows up.

“It’s actually a deliberate plan that I have to do a bit of a better job of it than my dad did for me,” Marshall said. “I don’t want to overwhelm her with it because it’s a lot. But I will, over time, strategically drop nuggets of information on her to see how much of an interest she has independently.”

“You know, there’s an old saying that the worst thing is to be forgotten,” Marshall said. He refuses to let that happen with his family’s legacy. 

TELLING THE JENNINGS STORY

Student’s suggestion for JMU residence hall honors former slave’s life

By Jazmine Otey ('20)

While at Montpelier, a life-size, black-and-white cutout depicting James Madison in mid-conversation with his wife, Dolley, caught Honors student Jenna Osorio’s eye. In the corner was a cutout of Paul Jennings, his African American personal servant. Osorio soon discovered that while Jennings stayed by Madison’s side until his death, his accomplishments far surpassed his servant role.


Moved by the experience, Osorio felt the need to educate others about Jennings’ legacy. In Fall 2018, she submitted his name in a JMU competition to name a new residence hall on campus. Her aim was to depict Jennings as his own person, not as Madison’s slave.

“I feel like we needed someone so powerful, yet so humble, because he was forced to give his life to the Madison family and yet he thrived,” said Osorio, a sophomore psychology and integrated science and technology double major. “You know, he could have sat back and succumbed to his struggles, but he persevered. His story inspires me, and I felt like [other people] would be inspired by him too.”

In April 2019, JMU revealed that Osorio’s nomination, which was supported by other members of the JMU community, was chosen for the residence hall upon its opening in Fall 2019.

Attending the hall’s grand opening in October, Osorio was impressed with JMU’s efforts to make Paul Jennings Hall a learning experience for students. By having an in-depth exhibit featuring Jennings’ background and family tree, she believes JMU is doing more than just “slapping a name on a building”; it is making a conscious effort to educate its community.

Osorio hopes the hall will inspire people to learn more about the dark chapters of U.S. history such as slavery, rather than accepting the “Disney version” they’re often given.

“I feel like it’s really important to learn to become a more open-minded, well-rounded individual,” Osorio said. “So maybe that’s more what I’m hoping for ... just for people to dare to learn more, even if it might be upsetting.” 

'This is grind time'

Richard Xu ('18) and his team collect medical supplies for hospitals during pandemic BY JAZMINE OTEY ('20)

For the last three weeks, 23-year-old entrepreneur Richard Xu ('18) has stayed up all night sending emails and making calls to request medical masks from vendors in southeast Asia. After the masks arrive, free samples are distributed to labs and doctors' offices in need of them. If they're satisfied with the supplies, medical workers can place an order at a reduced price.

So far, Xu and his team have worked collaboratively to distribute more than 100,000 masks to assist medical facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Everybody wants to be an entrepreneur, but no one wants to grind for it," said Xu, a former Dukes football player. "Sacrificing a couple hours of sleep to protect a couple hundred doctors' lives, I'll do that any day. I'm trying to help these people out. It doesn't matter if I lose a couple of hours of sleep. This is grind time."

The overall process has been a team effort. The idea to help source masks for medical facilities manifested during a Zoom video call with Xu and a network of individuals with connections nationwide. The group met mostly through JMU X-Labs, a transdisciplinary program that encourages students to resist easy solutions and be fervent about innovation.

Many of the contributors are also a part of Xu's hardware startup business, Vulcan Machine Co.

Before COVID-19 surfaced, the team had been networking with factories in China to source materials for a computer numerically controlled machine Xu is in the process of building for Vulcan Machine Co. When the pandemic hit, the team readily shifted gears and utilized its resources and contacts to find a solution to help thwart the pervasive virus.

At first, the group planned to make masks. Instead, Xu applied what he learned from JMU X-Labs. He took a proactive approach, working with Chinese factories to ship the masks directly.

"When you go to X-Labs, the focus switches from thinking about the best solution to implementing a solution that will work right now," Xu said. "In my mind, if I can get a solution by the end of the week, it's

a lot better than thinking about creating the perfect solution."

Xu's week consists of shipping days and sourcing days (and nights).

Sourcing days start at noon when Xu's team members tell him how many medical supplies are needed. He then compiles a list of possible vendors and begins contacting them through email and WhatsApp Messenger. Once the list is narrowed down, he begins writing proposals.

By 6 p.m., Xu begins calling vendors to request supplies. During the process, he looks at photos taken by the vendors, along with brochures, to ensure the masks are of good quality. Sourcing days typically last until 6 a.m. the next day.

For shipping days, Xu wakes up at 10 a.m., packs his truck and delivers the supplies. He finishes around 2 or 3 p.m., then his team members call him to notify him about more medical facilities that need help sourcing medical supplies.

Fred Briggs, an adjunct professor with JMU X-Labs, is also a part of Xu's team. He has contributed by talking to doctors, delivering samples to hospitals and collecting orders. Briggs said that sourcing masks could truly have "a real impact on medical institutions in this time of need."

"The hospitals have money to afford masks, but they have trouble sourcing them and we're trying to help fill the gap," Briggs said. "As we try to source the PPE, Richard works on trying to reduce the costs. The larger the order, the lower we can get the cost and the less it will cost for everyone."

Xu believes that people need to take the COVID-19 pandemic seriously because of the strain it's putting on the American health care system.

"It's not designed to handle this scale yet," Xu said. "And I think the most rewarding part is that the masks are going to doctors and nurses [to help them] actually protect themselves and not have to worry, so they can make sure patients get better."

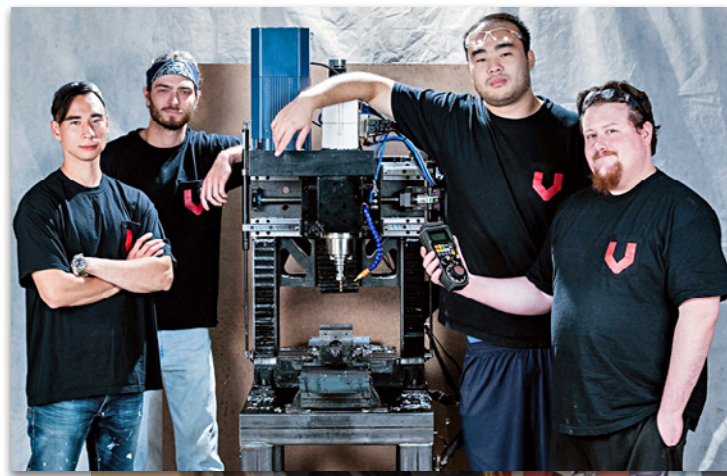
"I like the satisfaction of finding these things and handing them off to people who are in need of the stuff and seeing the look on their faces," Xu said. "They're like, 'Wow, we can finally use this stuff and we don't have to treat it like it's gold.'"

If doctors are in need of medical supplies, they can send an email to chris@vulcanmachineco.com.

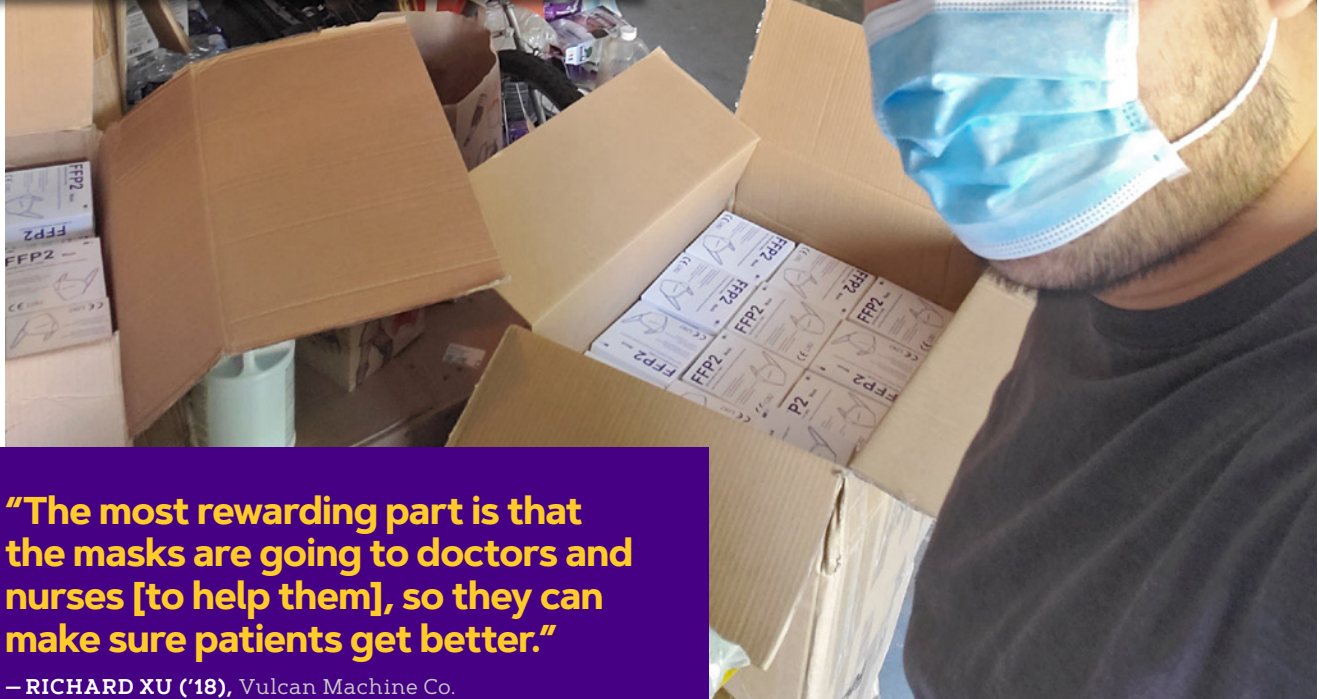


Richard Xu ('18) tests prototype face shields and masks for quality before distribution.

"I like the satisfaction of finding these things and handing them off to people who are in need of the stuff and seeing the look on their faces." – RICHARD XU ('18)



JMU alumnus Richard Xu ('18), a 23-year-old entrepreneur, and his team have worked collaboratively to distribute more than 100,000 masks to assist medical facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Left): Vulcan Machine Co. team.



“The most rewarding part is that the masks are going to doctors and nurses [to help them], so they can make sure patients get better.”

– RICHARD XU ('18), Vulcan Machine Co.



On the trail of the red colobus monkey

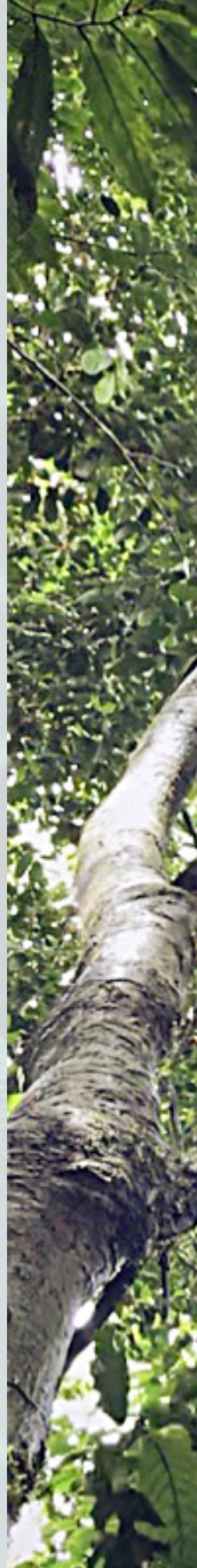
Graduate student's research takes her to far reaches of West Africa BY RUTH BOWERS-SWORD ('20M), *guest writer*

Red colobus monkeys are among the most endangered groups of primates in Africa, with all 17 species threatened with extinction. These monkeys are endemic to the forests of southeastern Nigeria and western Cameroon and are threatened by bushmeat hunting and habitat loss.

For four months, I investigated the status of this endangered population in the Ndokbou forest of Cameroon. I collected data on their distribution and abundance. I also deployed six acoustic monitoring sensors, which continuously recorded low-frequency sounds, including gunshots and primate vocalizations. Then, I analyzed the sound data to quantify spatial and temporal patterns of gun hunting. My research directly supports recommendations in the Red Colobus Conservation Action Plan and the Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Nigeria Cameroon chimpanzee.

The funding I received from the W. Dean Cocking Scholarship was integral to carrying out my research project. Funds were used for purchasing camping and climbing equipment, airfare from the U.S. to Cameroon and visa fees. Ultimately, the scholarship endowment contributed not only to the conservation of a critically endangered primate species in the heart of West Africa, but also to my growth as an ecological researcher in primate conservation.

(Left): For her thesis project, Bowers-Sword traveled to Cameroon, where she was assisted by locals who shared her interest in protecting the endangered primate.





Bowers-Sword
deployed acoustic
monitoring sensors to
record the monkey's
vocalizations as well as
gunshots in the area.

.....

SEPT. 18, 2019:

Well, I made it! All of my flights went as planned and all four of my checked bags (exactly 49.5 lbs. each) made it in one piece to Douala! It's incredible. The smoothest start I could have asked for.

SEPT. 23: Plans have been finalized, I'm leaving Douala and heading to the forest on Wednesday! I've only been here eight days, but I already feel so incredibly grateful for this experience and having the courage to put myself outside the box and do something that no one else is doing. Coming to this country that I've never been to, by MYSELF. And implement an entire research project. Tomorrow we're going supply shopping and figuring packing things out, and Wednesday I'm off! I'm super excited but also nervous. I just want it to go well.

SEPT. 30: We made it to the cliffs of Mt. Sinai! The trek out here took two days and was treacherous in every way—ascending steep rocky slopes, descending steep rocky slopes, crossing a raging river via dead log. But we've successfully installed my six acoustic sensors without a hitch! I've also seen loads of chimp nests and heard primate vocals today! We're making our start back toward the village tomorrow. Not gonna lie, I'm so tired and so worn out, but also so happy to be here all at the same time. It's only 8:07 p.m. and I'm going to sleep. In my tent. Night.

OCT. 4: Today is my birthday and I actually decided not to tell anyone here. I'm trying to do little things for myself like cutting my nails (lol) and walking up the giant hill to get phone service to text the fam (even though they didn't answer because it was only 5 a.m. their time). I think it was a gift enough finding the simple things that actually make me happy without all the attention and pomp and circumstance. Today I love myself, I'm proud of myself, and I'm happy to be, just, me, in Cameroon.

OCT. 8: I've organized and scheduled my supply drop-off for Thursday, which means I'm planning on leaving for the forest on Friday for my first round of surveys! It's going to be 21 days in the forest.



"You have no idea how badly I want to find my red colobus monkeys," Bowers-Sword wrote in her journal in October 2019. "This is what I live for right now. Walking through the jungle in complete silence, looking and listening for primates."



You have no idea how badly I want to find my red colobus monkeys. I know it's going to be hard, but I'm so stoked to get out there and actually start collecting data for my THESIS. I've mastered the art of wearing sandals with full-length socks over my pants, long sleeves, and putting bug spray on my hands and face until the sun comes out mid-day during which the bugs go away until like 4:30ish, when I return to my bug-thwarting outfit. **MASTERED.**

OCT. 10: Surveys! This is what I live for right now. Walking through the jungle, in complete silence, looking and listening for primates. There's honestly nothing like it. And for 20 days! I won't be back in the village until November! And then I only have two months left ...

OCT. 13: Took us seven-and-a-half hours to hike two miles. My porters repeatedly asked me if we were hiking to America. We had to stop 1 km short of the spot I was hoping we'd get to, but the camping spot is beautiful. It's right along the slope of a river with water runs and waterfalls. Amazing.

OCT. 15: First day of surveys! We're all exhausted from the days of hiking to get here. One nictitan sighting and some chimp nests. It started downpouring around 1 p.m. before we got back to camp. I bathed in the river in the rain. Did I mention it's cold here? I think it's because we're at such a high elevation, around 3,000 feet. So any opportunity I have to bathe while I'm still remotely warm from surveying is taken, even if it's raining and the

river water is brown from the mountain run-off ...

OCT. 16: We're apparently under an airplane pathway and it's weird hearing planes fly over when I'm out in this place, so far from civilization. Here's to waking up at 5:30 a.m. when it's still dark out and probably putting on at least one damp, cold piece of clothing for the sake of red colobus and primates.

NOV. 12: Today we are 2-for-2 on checking my acoustic sensors! Both sensors were still there and successfully recorded for the entire period they were up. So I changed out SD cards and backed up all of my sound files onto external hard drives. I was having nightmares of the sensors like, falling out of the trees and we find them on



"I'll never forget the lessons I learned here," Bowers-Sword wrote in her last journal entry in Cameroon. "Eventually some memories might fade, but the love and the lessons will always remain and carry me through wherever I go and all that I continue to achieve."




and a few minor scratches, I'm fine. Y'all, I could've broken any limb, hit my head on any of the exposed rock slab, gotten stabbed by a tree limb. ANYTHING. But I was fine. My guide looked so concerned and checked me over in disbelief. So I like to think of this incident as a gentle reminder that this forest is a wild place and can be rough when it wants to.

DEC. 21: I'm starting to look forward to small things when I get back in the States: cooking whatever food I want for myself, coffee and having lazy mornings in my bed, sweatpants.

DEC. 27: It's my last night in my tent in the Ndokbou forest, under the cliffs of Mt. Sinai, with the sound of Gran-Nouya river running nearby outside my tent. I don't have a whole lot to say ... just, very suddenly, my time here is coming to a close.

JAN. 4, 2020:

This is officially my last journal entry in Cameroon. I've been thinking a lot about some words my forest guide told me on Christmas Day. We were in the forest and it was another long day of hiking, and he's in front of me and suddenly stops and turns to me and says, "Ruth, you are heavy on my heart. Heavy. You brought me to the forest for three months and we are the same now, you and I. We are family, we are one blood. Bless our time here. Bless you here." I almost broke down in tears in the middle of the forest. It was such a gift hearing him say that. And now as I reflect, those words really encompass my time here. Heavy on my heart. It was hard. But all the while, this place was my home and the people here my family. And sometimes you get sick of your family and you need a break from your home. But at the end of the day, it makes you who you are and it's all love. *All love.* I'll never forget the lessons I learned here. Eventually some memories might fade, but the love and the lessons will always remain and carry me through wherever I go and all that I continue to achieve. So it's goodbye to this time and this experience. But the next chapter is just beginning. 

the ground or they never actually recorded anything OR we couldn't find them again ... so many worries. But so far, so good. You can't predict anything in the forest. I'm repeatedly learning that.

NOV. 16: We've had a rough past couple of days. The honeymoon phase is officially over. The hiking has been hard, the schedule I've made has been intense. To put a long story short, I made us all take a break day today. No hiking, no surveying, rest only in camp. We all desperately needed it. Tomorrow we check two more sensors, then head back out for surveys.

NOV. 28: Well, it's Thanksgiving and for my feast I had ... drum roll ... rice and beans. Not an ideal Thanksgiving, but it is what it is

and in the spirit of the holiday, I am thankful for my health and well-being, the family and friends I have back home, and the continued support from my team here in Cameroon, even when I don't always know what I'm doing.

DEC. 14: The forest put me in my place today. I've probably been getting a big head about how well my jungle hiking abilities have gotten. We were in the last 1.5 km of our survey, going up and across a nasty steep slope, when we came across an area where a huge log had fallen on this football-field-sized rock slab. So there were a ton of rotten branches littering this rock slab; you could barely see the surface. An impossible area to cross. But one larger branch extended from about where we were standing onto another fallen dead log,

effectively making a bridge over all of the dead branches on top of this rock slab slope. So my guide goes first and crosses the branch successfully. And as per usual, I follow where he goes. But right as I get to the end of the branch—I'm literally about to put my foot on the large log—the branch I'm on snaps. Now it was maybe two feet above the rock slab, but because we were on this steep slope, I go plummeting down the slope littered with dead branches. I finally came to a halt; my bag was over my head tangled up in my arms, my glasses somehow were still on my face, my notebook I was holding is a foot up-slope from me. And I just kind of lay there a second and monitored. Okay ... does anything majorly hurt, am I bleeding, what has just happened? And I notice nothing. I gingerly get up, and apart from being covered in dirt

 Watch Bowers-Sword's video journal entries at <https://j.mu/cameroon>.





A natural entrepreneur

Malique Middleton: Student, businessman, budding dermatologist

BY STEPHEN BRIGGS

It all started with plants and bugs. “Growing up, I was always obsessed with ... life,” said junior biology major Malique Middleton. “I used to be outside all the time, bringing in all types of flowers and bugs.” Sure, kids like to play in the dirt and muck, but Middleton took it *seriously*. “For Christmas, I asked for a microscope,” he recalled. “Most kids don’t ask for a microscope.”

When he found out that being a biology major would allow him to explore the natural world in depth, “I couldn’t see myself doing anything else, or something not aligned with my passions,” he said. “I get to sit in labs all day and learn about the different aspects of life, from the cellular level to ecology and ecosystems. It’s really inspiring for me.”

Middleton has been making his own skin care products since high school, when he discovered that the ones on the market caused his sensitive skin to break out. “My concentration is in plant biology because I get to learn about how to use those phytochemicals to treat ailments naturally,” he said.

As a freshman in Eagle Hall, he cooked batches of his skin creams in the dorm kitchen, one day attracting the notice of another resident. “She asked for some, so I gave it to her,” Middleton said. “By the end of the semester, I had maybe [25%] of the entire building coming to me to buy products.”

So, when he received an email about the entrepreneurship minor offered through the College of Business, he signed on. “My mom’s an entrepreneur herself,” he said. “She’s what she calls a ‘wing-a-preneur.’ She will start a business, get it up and running, make some money and then she’s on to the next, biggest, brightest idea. When I told her about the entrepreneurship program, she said I should think about growing my business and learning the fundamentals of how to run a business properly.”

Middleton’s entrepreneurship classroom experiences have begun paying dividends. He recently started an LLC called Liques to take his products to the marketplace, where he sees potential for his natural formulations. “I don’t use anything that is chemi-

cally derived,” he said. “It’s all essential oils, base oils, only oils that come from plants. I don’t even use preservatives. What I do use is vitamin C, extracted from oranges or other citruses.”

Another ingredient in Middleton’s formula for success came from his work in an independent research course supervised by biology professor Michael Renfroe. “I try to act as a sounding board for Malique and help provide insight and experience from my botanical knowledge as he considers various ingredients,” Renfroe said. “For some ingredients, he already knows more about them than do I, so he is doing very well in thoroughly researching his products and trying to make the best product that he can.”

After the 2014 farm bill allowed for hemp to be grown and studied in conjunction with universities, Renfroe was instrumental in partnering with two area farmers to produce research stock for JMU. In Fall 2019, Middleton attended an event with U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine at a local hemp farm. He came away with some new perspectives, as well as some hemp oil that he has taken to the lab to incorporate into his products.

“We actually developed our first lip balm line with hemp oil,” Middleton said. Soap, however, is proving more challenging. “The problem with just using hemp oil for a bar of soap lies in what’s called the saponification reaction, which is basically where the fatty acids are cleaved off of the glycerol backbone. Hemp has these long fatty acid chains, so it causes the soap to take a long time to cure. So we’re looking at using a blend of hemp and coconut oil.”

Middleton has added a pre-med designation to his studies, envisioning himself a dermatologist or a Ph.D. with his own clinic and the Liques product line.

“I believe everything happens for a reason,” he said. Had he not chosen JMU, “I wouldn’t have found out about the entrepreneurship minor. I wouldn’t have been an undergraduate student doing research in a lab with Dr. Renfroe. I wouldn’t have had that opportunity to meet Senator Kaine and I wouldn’t have started thinking about developing a small skin care business because I wouldn’t have met that student in Eagle Hall.”



“I don’t use anything that is chemically derived. It’s all essential oils, base oils, only oils that come from plants.”

— MALIQUE MIDDLETON,
Liques founder



‘Fast and Furious’

X-Labs students pivot to deliver decision-making tool to NATO

BY AMANDA CHRISTIAN



Imagine working on a class project for weeks—producing creative ideas, testing hypotheses, creating experimental designs and gathering feedback through a series of interviews—only to realize, the problem that really needed solving was something entirely different.

A group of JMU undergraduate students experienced this “pivot” on a grand scale while working with the international government entity NATO in Fall 2018. Originally tasked with a logistics problem of moving troops efficiently across Europe, the students soon found that the culture of decision-making within NATO was the real culprit.

The ambiguity in solving real-world problems is a part of the JMU X-Labs experience. Using a lean launchpad methodology, Hacking for Diplomacy students work together through a process of trial and error, continuously gaining feedback—and pivoting—throughout the semester. The methodology requires students to develop hypotheses and test their viability by conducting multiple interviews with stakeholders each week.

Three to four interdisciplinary professors introduce the methodology, assign groups and guide the students through their complex

problems. Political science professor Bernie Kaussler has been with H4Di since the start.

“I’ve seen students who may not be in the top 4% but completely exceed in this particular course, and I was blown away by what they’ve produced,” Kaussler said. “It gives the student a different space to really shine in an area which they were not able to do in a traditional classroom.”

After sorting the students into groups of varying majors, backgrounds and leadership styles, each group is given a client with a problem that needs solving. The root of the problem—or the solution—isn’t obvious and requires the students to think and work through obstacles in new ways.

“I’ve learned to work toward a goal and have that goal change,” said Danielle Kratowicz, a junior accounting major who took the Fall 2018 class. “And then, more importantly, to have a destination for where you want to get, but have absolutely no road map for how you’re going to get there and what you’re going to do to reach that end game.”

The First ACT and Fast and Furious Decisions student teams received valuable feedback from NATO officials following presentations at conferences at home and abroad.

“They saw our vision and how they, too, are part of the NATO alliance in helping to solve the problem and provide solutions for a safer world.”

— LT. COL. VAUGHN GRIZZLE, NATO ACT project officer

In 2017, JMU became the first and only institution in the nation to offer H4Di exclusively to undergraduate students. By 2018, H4Di had added NATO’s Allied Command Transformation branch as a client.

The Fall 2018 team, First ACT, spent the first few weeks of the semester trying to get to the root of the problem. After realizing transportation logistics were only a small portion of the issue, they decided to focus on how decisions were being made in the first place.

By the end of the semester, First ACT developed a minimum viable product, a decision-forcing exercise to accelerate troop deployment. The group went on to present their ideas to fellow H4Di classmates and NATO officers in Norfolk, Virginia, and later in Croatia.

Lt. Col. Vaughn Grizzle, the NATO ACT project officer who acted as the liaison between NATO and JMU, was impressed with what the students produced. “Their enthusiasm, desire and genuine interest to tackle the problem was clear from the beginning of the project,” Grizzle said. “They saw our vision and how they, too, are part of the NATO alliance in helping to solve the problem and provide solutions for a safer world. They really took ownership [of the project], so they definitely exceeded our expectations.”

With overwhelmingly positive feedback and another H4Di class scheduled in the fall, JMU X-Labs’ work with NATO was far from over.

The Fall 2019 group, renamed Fast and Furious Decisions, consisted of six students representing four majors—political science, international affairs, management and finance. The students were tasked with making the previously established minimum viable product a reality.

By the end of the semester, after a series of interviews, meetings and discussions, the team produced a computer application to help assess and test decision-making among

NATO officers. The app includes a personality test that evaluates the kind of decision-maker the user is—specifically, where he or she falls on the risk spectrum. Then the officer is presented with a few scenarios embedded with common problems and is forced to make a decision.

Similar to the Fall 2018 team, the Fast and Furious Decisions team presented its work to H4Di classmates and in Norfolk to NATO officers. Three students were prepared to present at the annual TIDE Sprint

fact that the first idea isn’t necessarily the best or end-all, be-all. These skills are things I fall back on often and am forever grateful for.”

H4Di makes students think differently, push past their comfort zones and build skills that will help carry them into their careers. “In the end, they don’t care about the grade; they think about creating something meaningful and of value to the client and to themselves,” Kaussler said.

After a collective two semesters of work, JMU students did indeed create something meaningful for NATO ACT. Their goal is for the NATO school in Oberammergau, Germany, to adopt the decision-forcing tool. As part of their training, NATO officers would be required to put their decision-making to the test.

JMU X-Labs’ students were not the first students to attempt to solve the problem. After working with a graduate program from another university, Grizzle decided to go in a new direction. His tenacity and the high-quality work of JMU students led to an award for innovation from NATO.

“I could have given up on the idea and just let it die, since this wasn’t a mandatory project, but we all need to look at leveraging many avenues to solve a problem,” Grizzle said. “My recognition for the innovation award is directly related to the work that JMU students were delivering. As I mentioned to the students, I really was accepting the award on their behalf and they deserve all the credit.”

In the future, X-Labs hopes to continue working with NATO—whether it’s expanding what they’ve already produced or tackling a new challenge.

“Hacking for Diplomacy isn’t just any project- or discussion-oriented course,” said senior economics major Kevin Peng, an international student from Taiwan who was in the Fall 2019 class. “We are given the chance to not only make a difference in the well-being of the United States but contribute to the advancement of the world in general.”



The Fast and Furious Decisions team represented JMU at the 2019 NATO TIDE Sprint conference in Norfolk, Virginia, in October.

conference in Stockholm, Sweden, at the end of March; however, the conference was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These presentations are a chance for more feedback to further refine the product, with the hopes of wide-scale implementation.

Experiences accumulated throughout the semester add invaluable skills and tangible work to the students’ portfolios, opening doors for them to succeed after graduation. Several H4Di alumni have landed internships, fellowships and jobs as a result of their client work.

Elizabeth “Cole” Thomas (’19), a student in the Fall 2018 class, was hired by Politico as a business development associate immediately after graduation. She says working with NATO gave her the confidence to step out into the real world. “I learned the importance of organization, confidence and the ability to sell a room. Perhaps most importantly, I learned the ability to be flexible and accept the

Alumni for Life

On stage with the arts

BY SHEENA RAMIREZ, *College of Visual and Performing Arts director of recruitment*

The Grand Lobby of the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts was buzzing with excitement. We had just finished our alumni panel at “The World of Visual and Performing Artists,” an event sponsored by Career and Academic Planning, the Office of Alumni Relations and the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

You could see eight distinct clusters in the room, each with a crowd of 15 to 25 people surrounding the speakers. The presence of JMU President Jonathan R. Alger and first lady Mary Ann Alger, along with many other distinguished faculty and staff members, amplified the significance of the networking event.

As industrial design student Mitch Donohue said, “Getting a glimpse into the literally endless numbers of paths that a career as a creative professional can take was both exciting and validating.”

CAP and the Office of Alumni Relations have teamed up to offer Madison Networking events in the past, but this was their first pairing with an academic college. I became involved in the project in October 2019 when Kate Bergey ('17), a career and academic advisor who is the CVPA liaison, asked me if I would be interested in moderating the panel. While I talk to prospective students and parents every day in my role, I don't often have the opportunity to connect with JMU alumni.

“The four years that I spent here at JMU collectively shaped me into who I am as a person, both in my professional sense and at a personal level.”

— MOIRA GALLAGHER ('10)

We picked alumni from the last 15 years, since the CVPA officially became a unit in 2005. As I began researching our selected panelists, I was blown away by the amazing accomplishments of these eight professionals.

Moira Gallagher ('10), a research associate at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, echoed a sentiment many of our panelists expressed. “The four years that I spent here at JMU collectively shaped me into who I am as a person, both in my professional sense and at a personal level.”

Deanna Kennett ('06), a senior manager for Ensemble Connect at New York's Carnegie Hall, said, “Anytime I come across somebody who went to James Madison, we're both instantly enthralled with each other because we share this secret. We both know that JMU is the best place.”

Half of our alumni contingent are living in New York City, including Lina Lee ('15), a professional actor who recently performed in Broadway's *Miss Saigon*, and Shannon Kingett ('10), director of special projects for Broadway's *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*.

We had panelists from closer to campus like Danielle O'Brien ('15), a visual artist and educator based in Baltimore, Maryland, and Sarah Gosselin ('08), who maintains a physical therapy prac-



(Left): Deanna Kennett ('06) answers questions from the audience during the alumni panel event, which was held Feb. 3 in the Forbes Center Recital Hall. (Above, L-R): CVPA alums Sarah Gosselin ('08), Danielle O'Brien ('15), Moira Gallagher ('10), Evan Duffy ('12), Shannon Kingett ('10), Josh Smead ('12), Lina Lee ('15) and Deanna Kennett ('06).

ALUMNI FOR LIFE

tice at Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital while serving as an adjunct dance faculty member at JMU.

The two alumni who came the farthest were Evan Duffy ('12), who works as a film, video game and television composer in Los Angeles, California, (*Charlie's Angels*, *Crazy Rich Asians*, *The Fate of the Furious*), and Josh Smead ('12), who recently opened a branch of Crawford Architects in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Many of the alumni visited classes before the Madison Network event. After interacting with theatre and musical theatre upperclassmen, Lee said, "Speaking to the students this morning showed me how much the department has grown. They asked very smart questions, they were so driven and they were all ready to move to New York. It was great to come back and help them along their journey."

Smead, who addressed the Architectural Design Professional Practices class, said, "It wasn't that long ago that I was a student, and now that I am in the profession, practicing, I want to do everything I can to give JMU students, in particular, a leg up."

We were hoping for an audience of 70 to 80 people, but the Forbes Center Recital Hall was packed, with over 170 in attendance. It was clear that our student community yearned to know what it was like to be an artist in the real world, and our panelists didn't disappoint.

Some panelists entered JMU knowing exactly what they wanted to do, while others discovered new passions by inter-

acting with professors or taking inspiring classes. While every alum had a different artistic background, all found careers using skills they developed as students at JMU: time management, collaboration, networking, a strong work ethic and attention to detail.

We all had a good laugh when Shannon Kingett ('10) described getting her first job with a music-video cover letter.

She said, "I think if someone had come to school when I was here and said, 'Hey, here's this career that you don't know exists: You interact with actors and producers, you still work on Broadway, and you're integral to the process,' I would have been like, sign me up!"

As the networking event came to a close, a select group of students joined the panelists for dinner with the Algers and faculty members. Hearing current

students describe their unique JMU journeys, you could tell our alumni were in awe.

Rebecca Kenaga, a music education major and representative for the Center for Inclusive Music Engagement, helped develop a nonprofit music curriculum to serve incarcerated youth. "It was reassuring to hear success stories of individuals who don't quite fit the norm—just like me," she said.

Seeing Kenaga exchanging contact information with Kennett, whose Ensemble Connect project also serves prison populations, proved once again what a selfless and exceptional artistic community we have here at JMU.

"Speaking to the students this morning showed me how much the department has grown. They asked very smart questions, they were so driven and they were all ready to move to New York."

— LINA LEE ('15)



(Above): After the alumni panel event, students networked with alumni at a reception. (Right): A select group of students joined the panelists for dinner with the Algers and faculty members.

From Harrisonburg to Antwerp: Alumnae live and work abroad

BY SHANNON SHEVLIN ('19, '20M), alumni relations graduate assistant

Behind every successful experience or adventure is a person with great courage, boldness and curiosity. Taylor Holmes ('17) and Keri Byrne ('15) took on global experiences, learning to embrace uncertainty, take risks and enjoy excitement along the way.

From studying abroad to working for Salesflare—a customer relationship management startup in Antwerp, Belgium—both women demonstrate the spirit of JMU and what it means to be ambitious, open-minded and energetic.

Originally from Warrenton, Virginia, Holmes graduated with a degree in marketing and a minor in communications. During her junior year, she studied abroad in Antwerp to complete the College of Business' 12-credit centerpiece course, COB 300. Although she'd never been to Europe, Holmes felt drawn to the program and she gained a deeper understanding of business from her experience.

Holmes returned to JMU looking for new ways to immerse herself abroad. After attending the Grad Fair, she learned about JMU's Antwerp Management School and applied on a whim.

She was accepted. "I felt like there was more for me and I knew I had to do it," she said. "The program was one year compared to just a few months of study abroad, so I knew it would get me out of my comfort zone. It was the best decision I could have made and was exactly what I was looking for in terms of global exposure."

Holmes earned her Master of Global Management degree in May 2019. "The program gave me an amazing opportunity to study with people from all over the world," she said, "and I learned so much about business."

The language barrier with potential employers during her job search abroad proved challenging, and after graduating, Holmes returned to the U.S. Still enchanted with Antwerp, she hoped to return to the city she loved while doing meaningful work. Her dreams became a reality after she reached out to Byrne, a complete stranger, on LinkedIn.

Originally from Darien, Connecticut, Byrne graduated with a degree in international business and a minor in Spanish. Like Holmes, Byrne studied abroad as an undergraduate, completing a



Taylor Holmes ('17) in Antwerp, Belgium, and at JMU. (Left): Keri Byrne ('15) celebrates graduation with her aunt, Katie Byrne ('87).

semester in Salamanca, Spain, in 2014. She also attended Antwerp Management School after leaving JMU, earning a Master of Innovation and Entrepreneurship degree in 2016. In November 2017, she began her current role as partnerships manager with Salesflare.

Noticing shared educational experiences, Holmes messaged Byrne to ask about her role with Salesflare and for tips on navigating the job search with language barriers. Just as Dukes always help Dukes, Byrne responded to share her experience and mentioned an open position within her company. Holmes eagerly applied, interviewed and accepted the job as client relationships manager with Salesflare.

Byrne returned to Antwerp in December 2019 and has spent three months working for Salesflare.

"Everyone at JMU knows the alumni network is strong," Byrne said.

Holmes agreed. "JMU is such a community, even as an alum. It's about holding doors open both in person and in a professional sense."


The adventures, connections and memories that students make

as members of the JMU community are what they will carry with them for the rest of their adult lives. Beyond any classroom lecture, experiences and relationships gave Holmes and Byrne strong foundations for professional success.

Holmes said, "I was a [residential adviser] for a year while at JMU, and it taught me so much about relating to people and being someone's go-to person for problem-solving," Byrne said. "I learned so much about how to integrate myself into a community and learn from people, which I think is such an important thing to have."

Both women continue using their Madison Experiences to shape their professional, personal and social lives.

"We have a JMU connection that is so strong. It has someone go from messaging me on LinkedIn as a total stranger to moving to Belgium and becoming my colleague," Byrne said. While the future is not set in stone, their JMU spirit and passion for helping other Dukes remains stronger than ever.

As a way for Dukes to support other Dukes, especially during this difficult time, Salesflare is offering JMU alumni a 25% discount for three months on Customer Relationship Management products. To redeem this discount, visit support@salesflare.com. 

SCHOLARSHIP THANK-YOU LETTERS

Class of 1960 Endowed Academic Scholarship

The scholarship was established in 2000 by the Class of 1960 in celebration of its 40th class reunion.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. O'Donnell,

Thank you for your generous award from the Class of 1960 Endowed Academic Scholarship. I was very thrilled and grateful to learn that I was selected as a recipient of this scholarship.

I am passionate about education and exploring new things on a continual basis. My educational goals are to finish my undergraduate degree, as well as pursue a graduate degree, in human resources. My long-term goal is to work in higher education as a career adviser. I like the idea of being able to help others choose a career path they will be passionate about for the rest of their life.

This scholarship will definitely ease the financial burden associated with college tuition. The scholarship will allow me to have more time and energy to focus on my studies as well as boost my confidence in my ability to work toward a better future. Thank you very much for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Annessia Bryant ('21)
Williamsburg, Virginia

Robert S. ('80) and Vicki P. ('73) Hudson Scholarship Endowment

The scholarship was established in 2015 by Vicki P. Hudson ('73) to honor the memory of her husband, Robert Hudson ('80).

Dear Mrs. Hudson,

I hope you are doing well. I would like to take the time to thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Robert S. ('80) and Vicki P. ('73) Hudson Scholarship. I am very pleased and appreciative to have been offered this scholarship fund as it has impacted me greatly.

I am currently a junior health sciences major on the pre-physician assistant track. This past summer, I gathered my direct-patient-contact hours needed for PA school by volunteering at the Harrisonburg Rescue Squad and receiving my EMT certification. My goal is to get a job in the emergency department at the hospital back home and to continue volunteering for EMS until I attend PA school after graduation.

Receiving this scholarship has reminded me that hard work pays off, and it has encouraged me to continue my hard work as a health sciences student, to maintain my GPA and to work toward achieving my goal of attending PA school. Thank you so much for your generosity and helping me achieve my goal.

Sincerely,

Tina H. Yazdi ('21)
Herndon, Virginia

J. Robert Gordon Physics Scholarship

The scholarship was established in 2001 by Raymond Serway, JMU professor emeritus of physics, and Walter M. Curt ('85), president of Shenandoah Electronic Intelligence Inc. of Harrisonburg, in honor of J. Robert Gordon, head of the JMU physics department, upon his retirement.

Dear Dr. Serway, Mr. Curt and Mr. Gordon,

I want to thank you for the extremely generous scholarship I was awarded. Physics has been a passion and interest of mine for a long time. I hope to further the scientific community by helping in research throughout my career. This donation helps secure my funding and commitment to graduating from college. I cannot thank you enough for this very kind donation and wish you the best.

Sincerely,

Phillip Lyons ('23)
Charlottesville, Virginia



Parting thoughts for all alumni

BY ERIC BOWLIN ('02), Alumni Association president

As I wrap up my two-year term as president of the JMU Alumni Association, I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to lead this remarkable organization.

It has been an extraordinary experience that will stay with me forever. Every hour I get to spend with our board of directors fills me with Purple Pride and inspires me to continue our support for JMU. The staff in the Office of Alumni Relations, led by Carrie Combs ('07, '09M), has been a pleasure to partner with. They're doing an amazing job supporting our 140,000 alumni with impactful programming on campus and across the country.

I'm confident that the association is in great hands with our incoming president, Dave Urso ('03, '05M). I've known Dave since our undergraduate days as Student Ambassadors together. He's a strategic thinker who challenges the status quo and is always finding ways to move us forward. I know he'll lead the Alumni Association to even greater heights.

I'll leave you with three simple asks:

Ask #1: Rock your JMU gear whenever and wherever possible. I often hear a "Go Dukes!" when I'm walking through an airport, eating at a restaurant with my family or shopping at the grocery store. You never know when one of those interactions will open your next personal or professional opportunity. Post your Purple Pride photos using **#WeBleedPurple**.

Ask #2: Stay engaged with this fantastic university. Serve as a mentor to a student or come back and speak to a class. Get involved with your local alumni chapter. Support our athletic teams and join the Duke Club! Keep your information updated so you don't miss out on getting involved: <https://advancement.jmu.edu/myinfo>.

Ask #3: Last, but certainly not least, pay it forward. Your generosity makes the Madison Experience possible for today's students and the next generation. JMU can't do it without your support. Every gift makes a difference, regardless of the amount. Start small if you have to, but make giving back a habit. Give to wherever your JMU passion lives: jmu.edu/give.

It's been a pleasure serving this university! I look forward to seeing all of you soon at a local chapter event or back on campus. Go Dukes!



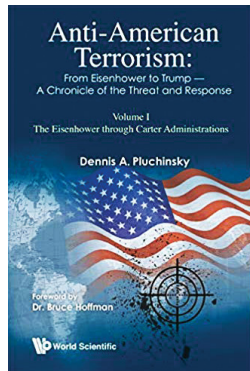
MixedMedia

BOOKS, MUSIC & FILM

Anti-American Terrorism: From Eisenhower to Trump—A Chronicle of the Threat and Response: Volume I—The Eisenhower through Carter Administrations; Volume II—The Reagan and George H.W. Bush Administrations

BY DENNIS PLUCHINSKY ('73)
World Scientific Publishing Europe Ltd.
ISBN: 9781783268726 and
9781786347916

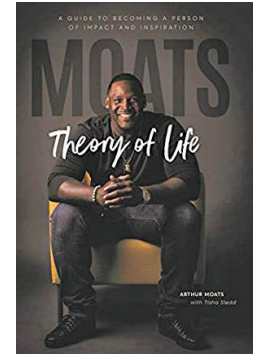
One of the major international security concerns that surfaced in the post-World War II period was the emergence and evolution of international terrorism. This planned four-volume work recounts the development of this threat through 12 U.S. presidential administrations over a 70-year period.



Moats Theory of Life: A Guide to Becoming A Person of Impact and Inspiration

BY ARTHUR MOATS ('12)
Leadership League Publishing
ISBN: 9781733318617

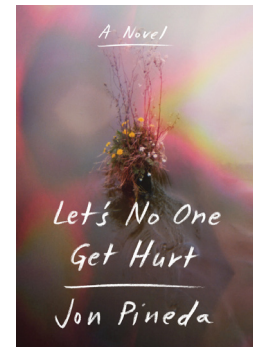
From the inner city of Norfolk, Virginia, to a starting position in the NFL, Arthur Moats has lived an incredible life full of twists and turns. During his journey, Moats learned that the glory and fame of the NFL was worthless compared to inspiring others to become all they could be.



Let's No One Get Hurt

BY JON PINEDA ('94)
Farrar, Straus and Giroux
ISBN: 9781250310330

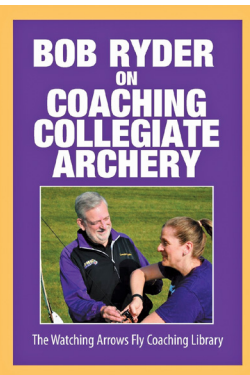
This novel is a coming-of-age story set equally between real-world issues of race and socioeconomic, and a magical, Huck Finn-esque universe of community and exploration. *Let's No One Get Hurt* won the 2019 Library of Virginia Award for Fiction.



Bob Ryder on Coaching Collegiate Archery

BY BOB RYDER ('75)
Watching Arrows Fly LLC
ISBN: 9780578586519

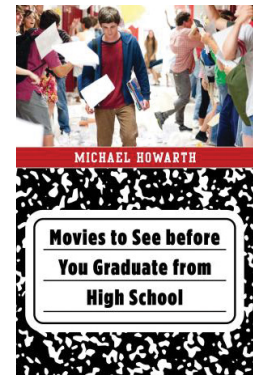
Bob Ryder, former JMU archery coach, is a decorated coach with many national championship titles, as well as archers who have won national championships under his tutelage. While this book focuses on collegiate archery, it is also beneficial to fellow coaches and collegiate archers looking for an edge in competition.



Movies to See Before You Graduate From High School

BY MICHAEL HOWARTH ('99)
Rowman & Littlefield
ISBN: 9781538120019

Howarth examines 60 rite-of-passage films that are essential viewing for teenagers. Whether serious or silly, scary or profound, the films discussed here comment on the trials and tribulations of adolescence.



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PRIDE!

JMU license plate sales have provided nearly \$900,000 for student scholarships. To show your Madison pride wherever you drive and support scholarships for Virginia students, visit www.dmvNOW.com to get your JMU plate today.

Rocket man

Humanities alumnus succeeding in the space industry

BY BROOKE Z. GRAHAM, *guest writer*

Raphael Perrino ('07, '09M) is a perfect example of how JMU attracts and inspires students who crave Being the Change. He is a senior business intelligence analyst at Virgin Orbit, a rocket company developing a highly flexible, responsive air launch platform. Perrino received his bachelor's and master's degrees from JMU in Technical and Scientific Communication (now Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication).

Perrino's career path began at age 6 when he attended an event with his dad at a local planetarium in Arlington, Virginia. As a child, his family also introduced him to PBS's iconic 13-part series *Cosmos* by Carl Sagan. These experiences inspired Perrino's desire to work in the space industry. Today he lives in Long Beach, California, where Virgin Orbit's rocket factory is located.

While tasks such as developing an algorithm to evaluate business opportunities have been challenging, Perrino found that his technical communication coursework at JMU provided him with a strong background in technical writing, technical editing, design principles and scientific communication. Perrino believes that as an analyst, the quality of data and documentation is critically important in producing impactful, repeatable analyses. He believes that data analysis requires clearly stated findings and visualization for others to interpret and understand.

Perrino previously worked for The Tauri Group and in NASA's Strategic Investments Division in Washington, D.C. He has also worked as a technical writer and editor for SAIC and Vovici Corp. In addition to his degrees from JMU, Perrino holds a master's degree in International Science and Technology Policy from George Washington University.



When asked about advice for those thinking about graduate school, Perrino said, "When selecting a university to attend or workplace to apply to, consider not just the name recognition of the organization but the degree to which that university or workplace will enable you to achieve your goals. JMU offered an expansive range of high-quality programs from which I could choose—it's why I went back for a master's after completing my bachelor's at JMU."


Perrino suggests that students "pursue the university program that is the strongest fit. Pursue the position that encourages you to grow." When thinking about the philosophy that seems to have guided his professors, he quoted Virgin CEO Richard Branson: "Train people well enough so they can leave. Treat them well enough so they don't want to."

BEING THE
CHANGE

Raphael Perrino ('07, '09M) shows his delight in being a part of the Virgin Orbit team as he stands by one of the company's planes. He is a senior business intelligence analyst at the company's rocket factory in Long Beach, California.

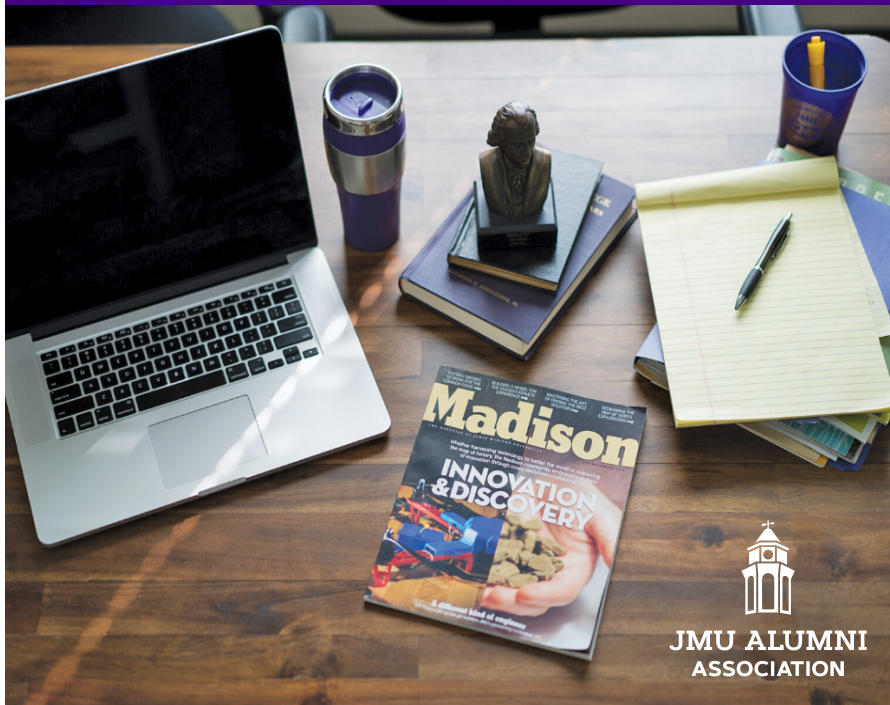
Perrino encourages JMU students who are pursuing their dreams to "put in the extra time and effort that others may not. Aspire to be the most hardworking and efficient worker in your organization. Dreams without hard work remain dreams."

He also suggests that students take care of their health. Eat well, exercise and sleep. Work hard, but also rest.

"Your mind also needs rest in order to maintain maximum potential," he said. "Good health enables you to enjoy your accomplishments in life." 

THE JMU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ALUMNI LEARNING CONSORTIUM

Get exclusive access to webinars and online events



**Madison
 EVENTS**

**SEPT. 26
 RVA Crabfest**

Join fellow Dukes for a day of food and fun at Crabfest, the Richmond, Virginia, Alumni Chapter's largest scholarship fundraiser.

**OCT. 10
 MetroDukes Crabfest**

Join fellow Dukes for a day of food and fun at Crabfest, the MetroDukes Alumni Chapter's largest scholarship fundraiser.

**NOV. 6-8
 Homecoming**

Come home for a weekend of football, friends and plenty of purple-and-gold spirit.

**MARCH 19, 2021
 Alumni Awards Banquet**

Recognize the accomplishments of distinguished JMU alumni.

**APRIL 16-18, 2021
 Spring Reunions**

If your graduation year ends in a one or a six, you are celebrating a milestone reunion in 2021. Join us back on campus for a weekend of fun and reminiscing.

**VARIOUS DATES
 Alumni Learning Consortium**

Did you know that as a JMU alum, you have access to the Alumni Learning Consortium, a series of high-impact webinars on a wide variety of topics? Visit alumni.jmu.edu to see all upcoming events.

For more information and to register for all alumni events, please visit alumni.jmu.edu/events

**HOME
 COMING**

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

SAVE THE DATE: NOV. 6-8

Homecoming 2020 will be here before you know it! Make plans to join us back on campus to reconnect with your JMU friends and show your Purple Pride!

View a full list of events and register at: alumni.jmu.edu/homecomingevents



STAFF EMERITI 57 CELEBRATIONS 59 INAUGURATIONS 62
FACULTY EMERITI 62 ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT 63

Class Notes



1970 Eagle Hall opened to house a growing population of men due to the residential coeducation that began in 1966. Named for education professor Alfred Eagle, the eight-story residence hall by Newman Lake is one of the tallest buildings on campus. (Inset): Student protesters rallied in the lobby of Wilson Hall to show their support for three faculty members whose contracts had not been renewed for the 1970-71 academic year. Although three students received jail time for their involvement, Gov. Mills E. Godwin Jr. issued a pardon for the jailed Madison protesters in 1977.



CLASS NOTES

68 Trudy Norfleet and Carol Horton, senior-year roommates, traveled to Manitoba, Canada, to see polar bears in their natural habitat. On their trip, they enjoyed a dog-sled ride on the first snow to fall that season. They even brought a copy of *Madison* magazine along for their “in-sled” entertainment.

70 Glen Watkins and members of Tau Sigma Chi, a fraternity active during Madison’s Bluestone years, recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the fraternity’s official recognition as a campus organization. Although the fraternity dissolved in 1976, many of the brothers and their families return to Harrisonburg each summer for an annual reunion at Tom Pack’s (‘73) family farm.

77 Billy Sample, former JMU baseball and Texas Rangers star, was honored by the city of Salem, Virginia, in



Trudy Norfleet (‘68) (standing with *Madison* magazine) and Carol Horton (‘68) in Manitoba, Canada.



Glen Watkins (‘70) and members of Tau Sigma Chi fraternity attending their annual summer reunion at Tom Pack’s (‘73) family farm in Harrisonburg.

While space is limited in print issues of ***Madison* magazine**, the Alumni Online Community gives you a chance to tell your full story, share your photos and communicate with other alumni!

To sign up and start sharing your news, visit alumni.jmu.edu

SEA members engage through volunteering, luncheon series

BY TINA UPDIKE ('73), SEA Steering Committee chair


Volunteering at JMU to increase awareness of the staff emeriti designation is a goal of the Staff Emeriti Association. In October 2019, the Office of Human Resources hosted its annual retirement fair for employees planning to retire within the next few years. SEA members hosted an information table, answering questions and distributing the newly updated association brochure. SEA member Wanda Layman served on a panel, offering advice on preparing for retirement and staying active after completing a successful career.


SEA membership has grown to over 190 classified staff retirees who have earned the designation, and over 30% are active members. Increasing SEA member participation is another goal that is achieved by the monthly luncheon series of activities. The luncheons are not just focused on food; each one incorporates either discovering new venues or learning new things, along with valuable time for fellowship.

The series gained in popularity over the course of the year. The November 2019 luncheon was held at the Montpelier Restaurant & Bar in the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, followed by a guided tour of the newly renovated Wilson Hall on the JMU campus. In December 2019, a festive holiday luncheon was held at the Village Inn with Phillip Updike, membership chair of the JMU Lifelong Learning Institute, speaking on the

upcoming spring semester of classes, trips and special lectures. A March 12 luncheon was followed by a guided tour of Paul Jennings Hall, the newest residence hall on campus.

As SEA gains momentum in 2020, one luncheon will feature a special guest, JMU Presi-

dent Jonathan R. Alger, talking about the "State of the University" on May 27. 

 For more information about the Staff Emeriti Association and upcoming events, visit jmu.edu/staffemeriti or email staffemeriti@jmu.edu.



Before taking a guided tour of the newly renovated Wilson Hall in November, SEA members enjoyed lunch at Hotel Madison's Montpelier Restaurant & Bar. (Inset): SEA hosted an information table at the Office of Human Resources' annual retirement fair.



Former JMU baseball great Billy Sample ('77) with his family during a ceremony at Salem High School in 1987.

October 2019. Kiwanis Park was renamed Billy Sample Field in his honor. ■ **Robert Ward** was appointed by the Virginia Supreme Court to the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners. The five-member board is responsible for the testing and licensing of new attorneys who wish to practice law in Virginia.

81 **Cliff Miller** and his wife recently finished restoring a 200-year-old home in Hertford, North Carolina.



Robert Ward
('77)



Jeff Harper
('87)

The house dates to the year after James Madison left office as president of the United States.

83 **Carole Nash**, professor of integrated science and technology at JMU, was appointed by Gov. Ralph Northam to the Virginia Museum of Natural History Board of Trustees.

87 **Jeff Harper** is the chief revenue officer of KlariVis, a new Roanoke-based analytics

SCHOLARSHIP THANK-YOU LETTERS



The before-and-after shots of the 200-year-old home Cliff Miller ('81) and his wife recently finished restoring.



platform by bankers for bankers. The company's president and founder, Kim Snyder ('92), is also a JMU graduate.



Vonya Alleyne ('93)

The couple celebrated with a number of college buddies, many of whom have legacy students attending JMU and future Dukes who hope to attend down the road.

92 Doug Penner celebrated his 50th birthday with a surprise tailgate organized by his wife, Leigh Wise Penner ('91).

93 Vonya Alleyne was awarded a Touch-
CONTINUED ON PAGE 60 >>



The 50th birthday surprise tailgate for Doug Penner ('92).

Todd Perry ('92) Aspiring Analytics Endowed Scholarship in the Department of Computer Information Systems

The scholarship was established in 2018 by Karen Perry ('92) to honor the memory of her husband, Todd Perry ('92), and his love of JMU, soccer and his career in analytics.

Dear Mrs. Perry,

Thank you very much for the generous Todd Perry ('92) Aspiring Analytics Endowed Scholarship in the Department of Computer Information Systems award. I am absolutely appreciative that I was selected as the recipient of this honor.

I hope you and your family are doing well. It was an absolute pleasure to meet you all last May at the ceremony. As you know, last summer I played soccer in Long Island, which was a great experience. On top of that, I got an internship in New York City. Altogether, I had an incredibly productive and enjoyable summer and I am now ready to master my last year at JMU.

Once more, I appreciate your generosity and I'd be happy to hear back from you on how you are doing.

Best regards,
Tim Estermann ('20)
Gossau, Switzerland

Carole Jan Gorry Memorial Scholarship

The scholarship was established in 1985 by Nancy Gorry Craft ('73) in memory of her sister, Carole Jan Gorry ('64).

Dear Mrs. Craft,

I am writing to thank you for your generous Carole Jan Gorry Memorial Scholarship. I was thrilled and very appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

I am a senior political science major with a minor in women, gender and sexuality studies on a pre-law track. After graduation in May, I hope to attend law school and pursue a career in law, politics or both. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal!

By awarding me the Carole Jan Gorry Memorial Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden, which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school: learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,
Amel Al-kilany ('20)
Ashburn, Virginia

Betty Ball Mann ('58) Endowment for Special Education Scholarships

The scholarship was established in 2006 by Betty Ball Mann.

Dear Mrs. Mann,

This is my fifth and final year at James Madison University. At the start of the summer, I was worried if I was going to be able to attend the university in the fall because of my financial situation. Because of your scholarship, I was able to attend JMU for my last year. I am very thankful for the scholarship, which went directly to my tuition bill. I did not need to take out private loans for this school year because of this scholarship.

I hope to have a teaching job as a special education teacher after graduation. I plan on staying in Virginia to teach, but I am still trying to figure out where in Virginia I want to move to.

Thank you again for your contribution to my education.

Sincerely,
Samantha Amey ('19, '20M)
Pulaski, Virginia



Celebrations

WEDDINGS, HONORS
& FUTURE DUKES



1 Sarah Fletcher ('13) and Justin Totten ('12) were married at Faithbrooke Barn and Vineyards in Luray, Virginia, on Sept. 14, 2019. **2** Kelsey Harman ('14) and Chris Diachok ('13) were married at The Barn at Kline's Mill in Harrisonburg, Virginia, on May 26, 2019. They shared the first kiss of their wedding day on the Kissing Rock. **3** Emily Alvaro ('17) and Sam Henkel ('17) were married at Stevenson Ridge in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on

Sept. 7, 2019. Road Dawg joined the wedding party and friends for a fun photo. **4** Daniel Spiker ('13, '14M) and Shannon Thomas ('15) were married at Morais Vineyards and Winery in Bealeton, Virginia, on June 22, 2019. **5** Donna Jones ('10, '13M) married LaMar Parker in Richmond, Virginia, on May 18, 2019. Before the wedding, the bride and her JMU bridesmaids posed for a JMU-inspired picture.



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6 Courtney Jones ('16) and Ryan Meeks ('14) were married in Farmville, Virginia, on Oct. 26, 2019. **7 Xuan Bui Arnette ('07) and David Arnette**, had a son, Harrison Bui, March 3, 2019. **8 Katie ('14) and Evan Bryant ('14)**, had a daughter, Emerson Grace, Aug. 23, 2019. **9 Abby Ware ('13, '14M)** married Michael Behrens at Tranquility Farms in Purcellville, Virginia, on Sept. 28, 2019. The couple exchanged handwritten vows in a beautiful ceremony. **10 Amanda**

('13, '14M) and Foster Hardiman ('09) were married on the Festival Lawn on June 19, 2019. The couple met through the JMU Philadelphia Alumni Chapter. **11 Lauren Matthews ('10, '11M) and Chip Larkin** were married on June 30, 2019, at Upper Shirley Plantation in Charles City, Virginia. #FlatDukeDog was excited to be part of the celebration. Pictured: **Nick Schroeder ('07), Amy Barnett ('06), Lauren Matthews Larkin ('10, '11M) and Leslie McLane ('10).**

stones of Leadership award by the Women in Cable Television's Washington, D.C./ Baltimore Chapter. Alleyne was recognized in the "Listen" category.

■ **Veleka Studivant Gatling** was appointed director of diversity initiatives and assistant professor in the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity at Old Dominion University.



Dr. Omar Mian ('98)

98 Dr. Omar Mian is a radiation oncologist at the Cleveland Clinic. After graduating from JMU, he earned an M.D./ Ph.D. from the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine.

03 Brent C. Jackson, president of Jackson Hotel

Management, was appointed the 2020 chair of the Inter-Continental Hotels Group Owners Association Emerging Leaders Network for the United States, Canada and Mexico.

04 Clint Morse was among the 21 Brooks Pierce attorneys recognized by their peers for inclusion in the 2020 edition of Business North Carolina's "Legal Elite"

and "Hall of Fame," a listing of the state's top lawyers in business-related categories.

05 Blue Angel pilot Jim Cox connected with **Patrick Cooke ('83) and Holly Moye ('18)** for a photo at the Miramar Officers' Club in San Diego, California, during a Blue Angels Airshow. In addition to sharing an alma mater, Cooke is a former Blue Angel. He was the No. 2 pilot during



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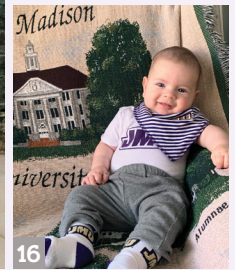


14

12 Matthew Wallace ('12) and Grace Henderson ('14) were married on Aug. 17, 2019, in Richmond, Virginia. They live in Nashville, Tennessee, and work at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Matthew is a dermatology resident and Grace is a clinical/translational research coordinator in cardiovascular medicine. **13 Avery Wengler ('16) and Jackson Neal ('15)** were married at the Tides Inn in Irvington, Virginia, on Sept. 7, 2019.



15



16

14 Leigh Patrick ('15) and Tyler Shaw ('16) were married in Baltimore, Maryland, on Nov. 23, 2019. They were surrounded and supported by 21 JMU alumni. **15 Alissa ('05) and Andrew Kern ('05)** had a daughter, Kylie, Feb. 25, 2019. During a recent trip to campus, the family took a moment to pose Kylie with "Little Jimmy." **16 Ashley Burton ('05) and David Kennedy ('04)** had a son, Keegan Campbell, Sept. 14, 2019.



(L-R): Holly Moye ('18), Jim Cox ('05) and Patrick Cooke ('83) in San Diego, California.

the 1996-97 season. ■ **Allison M. Parsons** was named principal at Homes, Lowry, Horn and Johnson.

06 Lindsay Rapoport, vice president of digital marketing at The Corcoran Group in New York, received the 40 Under 40 Outstanding Marketers 2019 award.



Lindsay Rapoport ('06)

10 Alexandra Busch joined the construction law practice of Cozen O'Connor. Busch counsels and represents key industry players on a range of projects, including power plants, commercial buildings and luxury multifamily properties. ■ **Anthony Ranghelli** was appointed chief technology officer of Bank of Charles Town in West

CLASS NOTES

Virginia. Ranghelli is responsible for overseeing technology initiatives and operations.

13 Jessica Romanelli David, director of marketing at SeventySix Capital, was named to the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 Class of 2020 and Cynopsis Best of the Best Rising Stars of 2020.

15 Xavia Gary, former JMU Engagement Fellow,



Anthony Ranghelli ('10)



Jessica David ('13)

is athletic director of Carver Academy in Chesterfield County, Virginia. Gary, the only African American male instructor at Carver, teaches Introduction to Business Management, Entrepreneurship and Introduction to Accounting.

19 Gabrielle Lewis was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program award to study biology in Nigeria. 

Alumnus represents JMU at university presidential inauguration in 2019

Drew Mills ('81), an alumnus of the College of Arts and Letters, represented President Jonathan R. Alger and JMU at the inauguration of Andrew T. Hsu as the 23rd president of the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina, on Oct. 25, 2019. (Mills is pictured with his daughter, Brooke, a student at the College of Charleston.)



Faculty Emeriti Association news

John William Hanlon, 82, former dean of the College of Business, died Nov. 7, 2019. As dean, he was instrumental in securing the college's first accreditation from the AACSB.


George W. Marrah, 81, associate professor emeritus of mathematics and statistics, died Jan. 25. Marrah retired in 2004 after teaching for more than 30 years at JMU. His wife, Janet W. Gloeckner, professor emerita of health professions, survives.

Thomas R. Martin, 70, former men's soccer coach, lecturer of sport and recreation management, and interim director of athletics, died Oct. 4, 2019. As soccer coach from 1986 to 2014, Martin compiled a 359-164-58 record and five Colonial Athletic Association championships. He was inducted into the JMU Athletics Hall of Fame in September 2019.

Kevin G. Miller Sr. ('57, '59M), 89, associate professor emeritus of accounting, died Nov. 8, 2019. Miller joined the Madison College faculty in 1969 as the first accounting teacher and retired in 1995. He served two terms in the Virginia House of Delegates and five terms in the Virginia Senate before retiring in 2003.

Robert Leslie Scott, 80, retired vice president for student affairs, died Nov. 4, 2019. Scott worked in student affairs at JMU for more than 20 years before retiring in 2002.

Carl George Krieger Weaver, 81, professor emeritus of finance, died Oct. 7, 2019. Weaver served as director of the Master of Business Administration degree program at JMU before retiring in 1998.

For more information about the faculty emeriti organization, contact **Sherry King**, director of parent and faculty emeriti relations, at kingsf@jmu.edu or by phone at 540-568-8064. 



The Xi Delta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity celebrated its 40th anniversary during Homecoming 2019. As part of its celebration, Xi Delta successfully concluded a \$50,000 campaign to fully endow the Walter W. Jackson II Memorial Scholarship Endeavor. The scholarship will bestow two annual awards: one to an underrepresented student who demonstrates financial need and the other to a member of Xi Delta who demonstrates financial need.

SCHOLARSHIP THANK-YOU LETTERS

Philip Wade Hall Memorial Scholarship

The scholarship was established in 1985 by James and Doris Hall in memory of their son, Philip, who would have graduated from JMU in 1986.

Dear Mr. Hall,

I am truly honored and appreciative to have received the Philip Wade Hall Memorial Scholarship for the upcoming academic year. The assistance provided through your scholarship fund will greatly help cover the costs of the next year and aid me in my lifelong goal of becoming an economics professor. I have a deep passion for teaching others, as well as for research and lifelong learning. Your support will enable me, as well as so many other students, to chase our dreams without having to stress about the financial burden we face. Again, I am deeply humbled and grateful for your support of our education and want to extend my thanks for your generosity.

All the best,

Seth Walker ('19)

Chesapeake, Virginia

Spillman Family Scholarship Endowment

The scholarship was established in 2007 by William A. Spillman III and David R. Spillman on behalf of their father, William A. Spillman Jr.

Dear Spillman Family,

I want to start by thanking you for the continued support I have received from your scholarship over the last few years. JMU has become my home away from home, and I am grateful for the opportunity to study and grow in such a supportive environment. As I begin my final year of college, I plan to focus on my academic research while leaving time to decompress with my dance team. I know I will miss my time here, but I am excited to branch out and make my mark on the world. My dream is to utilize computer simulations and my knowledge of chemical interactions to discover ways to negate some of the side effects of cancer treatment. Your support is much appreciated and has helped me become the woman I am today.

Thank you,

Katherine Elliott ('20)

Culpeper, Virginia

Robert and Charity Showalter Opera Theatre Scholarship

The scholarship was established in 2015 by Robert and Charity Showalter.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Showalter,

I am honored to receive the Robert and Charity Showalter Opera Theatre Scholarship, and I cannot thank you enough for the generous donations you have made in order to make this scholarship available to students. I look forward to using this award to further my studies in vocal performance at JMU.

During my time at JMU, I have been given many wonderful opportunities to express myself through music, and it's the best feeling to be rewarded for something that I am so passionate about. I will be graduating in May and plan on continuing my education in opera performance at the graduate level starting in the fall.

I think it is incredibly important to support the arts, so thank you again for your contributions to students like me. I hope you both come to enjoy more JMU opera performances so that I can thank you in person.

Sincerely,

Joel Clemens ('20)

Ashburn, Virginia

**'Sports junkie' climbs ladder through persistence**

BY CIARA BRENNAN ('17)

At 5:30 a.m., Matt DeMartis ('06) is on a business call from France in his role as head of marketing and brand partnerships at Uninterrupted, an athlete-empowerment brand started in 2016 by LeBron James and Maverick Carter. It's his job to help advertisers reach their marketing goals by aligning with the company's message: I Am More Than An Athlete. For DeMartis, the job has been two decades in the making.

During high school, DeMartis wrote a list of experiences he wanted to pursue. The life résumé, as he calls it, included running a soup kitchen, traveling to Australia, starting a family and making an audition tape for *Survivor*. The following year, he ran a soup kitchen on Thanksgiving Day in his hometown of Bergen County, New Jersey.

At JMU, the communication studies major led tours as a Student Ambassador, played intramural basketball and flag football and worked on campus at Madison Connection. By his junior year, he was ready to expand his horizons. He picked up a second major in marketing and studied at the University of Queensland.

After returning home the summer before his senior year, he began to consider a career in TV. "I'm a sports junkie, so when I saw a commercial for the 2006 Olympics in Italy, I knew I had to get there."

For two months, he emailed the coordinator of the NBC Sports Olympic Internship program. In early November 2005, he finally received a reply stating that all 120 internship positions had been filled. He emailed the coordinator twice more with the message, "If an internship falls through, I'm still interested." One did, but DeMartis needed to be in Torino at his own expense. "I called my parents and said, 'If I've ever asked you to invest in my future, it's now.'"

For three weeks, DeMartis lived in the media village and logged tape for curling, while completing his JMU course work.

In Italy, he met the director of the NBC Page Program in New York City, who encouraged him to interview for a page position. Days after graduation, DeMartis gave a presentation to five NBC executives. Drawing upon his Student Ambassador experience at JMU, "I told my life story in terms of giving a tour of my life. They loved it."

Working as a page, DeMartis gained experience in the media industry as a production assistant. Next, he landed a position at Bravo doing product integrations for *Project Runway* and *Top Chef*.

Offered a job at ABC Network, DeMartis relocated to Los Angeles and spent the next eight years doing brand integrations on prime-time television shows like *Lost* and *Modern Family*. A contact from the 2006 Olympics connected him to Uninterrupted.

Throughout his climb, DeMartis has stayed true to the values that led him to JMU 18 years ago. "The biggest thing I tell people today is to always strive to have a higher title at home than at the office." It's this conviction that keeps DeMartis from crawling back into bed when his call ends at 6 a.m. Instead he assembles a step stool for his daughter.

There's still the audition tape for *Survivor*. "I gotta do it," he said.

To read the full story, go to <http://j.mu/demartis>.



'A trying experience'

More than a century ago, the institution that now bears the name James Madison University was impacted by a global medical crisis—the 1918 influenza pandemic, also known as the Spanish flu.

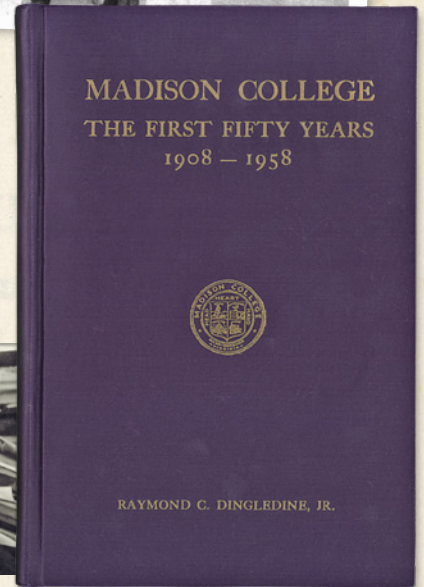
The late Raymond C. Dingleline Jr., who wrote *Madison College: The First Fifty Years 1908-1958*, the authoritative history of the college, had knowledgeable firsthand sources for his writing about the disease's outbreak at the State Normal School for Women at Harrisonburg. His parents, Raymond Carlyle and Agness Stribling Dingleline, who married in 1918, were faculty members at the time.

The younger Dingleline joined the school's faculty in 1948 and became head of the history department in 1965, serving until his retirement in 1984. His brief, poignant writings about the 1918 pandemic provide a glimpse into a period in which the institution's people united to help each other in mighty ways. — JANET SMITH ('81)


The most difficult period of the war for the Normal came in the fall of 1918 when the flu epidemic that was sweeping the country struck the campus. When school opened on September 25, the epidemic was spreading over the state and the four normal school presidents met in Charlottesville for a special conference. The usual school activities and classes were held during the first week at Harrisonburg but, by the first of the next week, so many girls were sick that Jackson Hall was, bit by bit, turned into an infirmary—half of the first floor at first, then all of that floor, and then the whole building. The social director, Miss Lancaster, took charge of this "infirmary" while the School nurse, Miss Godfrey, supervised the regular infirmary in Cleveland Cottage. Feminine members of the faculty helped as nurses. President Burruss, himself, came down with the flu on Tuesday, October 1, and was confined to his room for three weeks, during which time Professor Johnston was made acting president. Appeals to the State Health Commission for nurses were virtually fruitless. Serving meals to the sick, which by this time numbered sixty or more, was a heavy burden. Miss Lancaster became ill and other faculty and Post-Graduate student assistants had to carry on.

By Sunday, October 6, the shortage of help was so desperate that Dr. Wilson, at the request of Mr. Johnston, appealed for volunteers at his Sunday night service at the Presbyterian Church. Ethel Spilman, a supervisor in the

Above: The 1918 influenza epidemic forced students to remain on campus. Written on the back of this photo: "Sunday morning (instead of going to church)." **Below:** Raymond C. Dingleline Jr. wrote the history of JMU's first 50 years.



training school, and Miss Shaeffer answered the call. They spent the night on duty in Jackson Hall, one on one floor and one on the other. The next day classes were suspended for two weeks. All well students, except student assistants and Post-Graduates who stayed behind to help, were sent home. Without the burden of constant new cases, conditions at the School rapidly improved. The suspension of classes was extended for two more weeks to allow time for full recovery and to allow students to help at home if needed. Members of the faculty and many of the Post-Graduate students helped out in Harrisonburg. On Wednesday, November 6th, the Normal reopened with virtually all the students present.

It had been a trying experience, but not a single life had been lost. In humble thanksgiving, special services of gratitude were held the following Sunday. Since so much time had been lost, classes met on Thanksgiving Day that year, but special events were held. During the assembly period the Y.W.C.A. conducted a service. At four o'clock, students and faculty participated in a "Victory Sing" led by Miss Shaeffer and featuring the national songs of England, Belgium, France and Italy, and a talk by Dr. Wilson. At 5:00, all were served Thanksgiving dinner in the dining hall. 

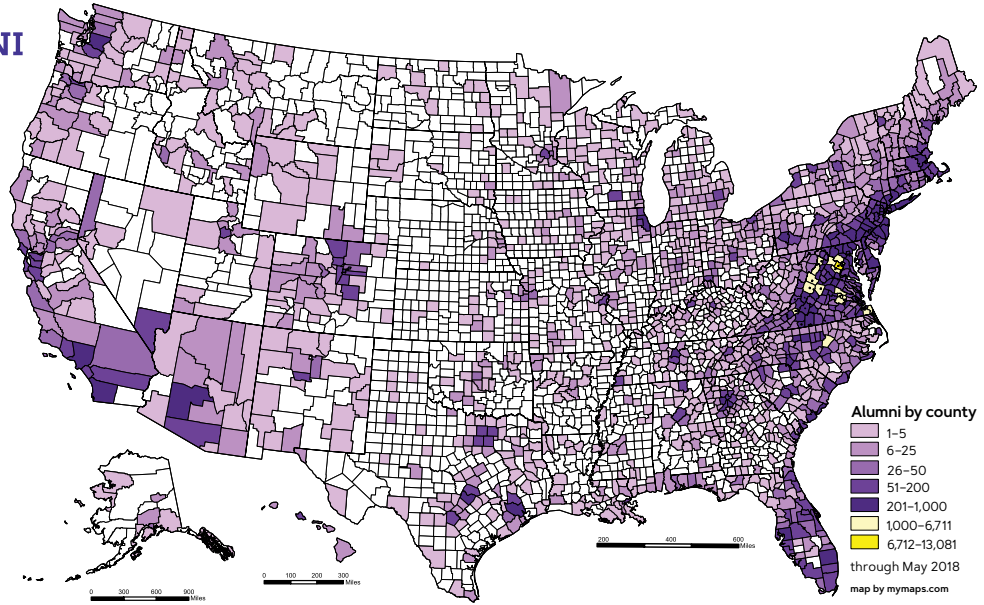


To learn more about the Dingleline family's contributions and connections to JMU, see jmu/dinglelines.



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COMING THIS FALL



LEADING THE RANKS



“JMU provided us with a great foundation to live and thrive in any community. We’re just as grateful for the life experience at JMU as we are for the tremendous education.”

— MATT MCFARLANE ('92),
*commander, 4th Infantry
Division of the U.S. Army*

Matt McFarlane's ('92) journey with the U.S. Army has included several deployments in Afghanistan, Iraq, Italy, Kosovo and Alaska, plus stints as an Army Ranger, Master Parachutist, Expert Infantryman, Combat Infantryman and Pathfinder, and accolades such as the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal. He recently added major general (two-star) to that impressive list of accomplishments.


McFarlane was promoted to commander of the 4th Infantry Division in October 2019. Previously the senior military assistant to the deputy secretary of defense at the Pentagon, McFarlane is now based in Fort Carson, Colorado, where he and his family are settling into the greater Colorado Springs community.

“Working with some amazing subordinates, peers and superiors has helped me get to where I am today,” McFarlane said.

When the Burke, Virginia, native left Harrisonburg nearly 30 years

ago as a distinguished military graduate, he didn't picture a career like this. But he never wavered in wanting to serve his country.

“I planned to serve our country for a few years and get out when I stopped having fun,” McFarlane said. “I wanted to serve a purpose greater than myself, and working with some amazing soldiers and families along the way has made it especially rewarding.”

McFarlane, who attended the *Unleashed* event in Alexandria last year, has been a big advocate of the Duke Battalion. He and his wife, Kelly ('92), hosted a watch party for the FCS national championship game and are proud JMU alumni. 

— KHALIL GARRIOTT ('04)

BEING THE CHANGE
See more inspiring stories at j.mu/beingthechange