

March 29, 2020

Dear Madison Founders Society Members,

I never would have dreamed I would be writing to you in the middle of a global health crisis. Please excuse the impersonal nature of this group letter, I just wanted to reach out to as many of you as possible, as quickly as I could.

How are you?! We are thinking of you and sending all positive thoughts your way.

You may also be hearing from us personally through emails, cards and phone calls but I feel it is important to let you know what is happening at JMU right now.

This pandemic hit while our students were away on spring break. Our administration made the decision to extend the break another week to allow our faculty and staff to prepare for online classes wherever possible. And prepare they did! Our **IT Services and faculty** worked diligently to be able to go online and our **Residence Hall staff** prepared for students to come and get their personal items from the halls. Athletics were cancelled and our **Athletics staff**, working closely with the NCAA, are planning for another year of eligibility for our athletes. **Admissions** is offering virtual tours for students interested in coming to JMU and personal touches are going out to our new freshman class. Our **Facilities and Grounds staff** took extra precaution in maintaining their high level of commitment in keeping our campus clean, safe, and beautiful. And now, besides some essential personnel, most of the **JMU staff** is working from home. For someone who is not tech savvy I have been learning a lot about holding meetings through our computers! Many of our **Departments, students and alums** are doing great things in helping with supplies, personnel and management in relation to the pandemic.

Our **Administration** meets daily. Decisions are still being made about future events and if and when to hold events that have been cancelled as well as trying to anticipate every scenario and its impact on our operations. As you know, each day is different but our University is resilient and is moving forward with only the health, well-being and safety of our students, faculty and staff in mind.

You can get COVID-19 updates on the JMU website and if you wish, you can also see campus! You can view your beloved Quad live as well as see some of the latest messages from Administration by visiting www.youtube.com/user/DukeDogTV.

Take care of yourself and each other, we want you to know we are thinking of you and we appreciate your support of our collective Madison family.

With gratitude,

Kathy Sarver, Director