

May 18, 2020

**Dear Madison Founders Society,**

**How are you and yours?** By this time we probably all know someone who has been physically impacted by this disease. I hope there is healing and peace.

Working at home as had its challenges but **a definite positive** is I am here to move training along for our new puppy! I can't imagine how far behind we would be if I left for the office each morning! Moxie is now beginning to understand that outside is a much better place than inside to take care of certain things. Those of you from New England will know where her name came from! It looks like we will begin to **phase in staff to campus** after June 10.

**Another positive**, I get to walk on campus. As you remember, spring is quite beautiful on the Quad (don't forget to look at our Quadcam! Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and in the Search type JMU Quad Cam) and right now it is so green! Our **Facilities and Landscaping** keep it beautiful and lush. Something about walking on campus when it looks like this makes one feel everything is going to be all right.

I am so proud of and fully trust our **Administration and our Contingency Planning Task Force** as they continue to meet daily anticipating all possible scenarios. At our **May Virtual Commencement** 3,202 undergraduate and 602 graduate degrees were conferred and hopefully the **in-person graduation in August** will happen so they can experience "THE Walk". We are planning (& hoping) to welcome our new **Class of 2024** (can you imagine 2024?!) onto campus in mid-August. There are so many variables and things can change so quickly-I can't imagine having to figure out all the ins and outs that we face as a University. **President Alger**, among others, is quoted about this very same thing in *The Atlantic: The Nightmare That Colleges Face This Fall* by Adam Harris May 19, 2020- available on line: [www.theatlantic.com](http://www.theatlantic.com).

We know that many of our **JMU families** are facing financial hardship so our **Board of Visitors** voted **to freeze tuition** for in-state and out-of-state undergraduate and graduate students. JMU continues to offer one of the lowest tuitions in Virginia and to be one of the best values in higher education nationally. Our **Madison For Keeps** initiative continues. If you were able to participate, thank you. We have raised enough to help 100 Dukes and are hoping to make it 150 by the end of the May deadline in order to award for the fall.

Since this letter reaches so many all across the United States I wonder what are you doing to survive? enjoy? manage? these days. **How are you having a life in the midst of a pandemic?** If enough people share (email, text, write or call me) I will compile and send out---we can all use some new ideas!

**We send you all positive energies, faith and hope for healing. We are thinking of you, can you feel it?! Stay safe.**

**Grateful for you, this place that connects us and this day,**

Kathy Sarver & the OPG Team  
540-820-3238 cell  
[sarverkb@jmu.edu](mailto:sarverkb@jmu.edu)