

# Seven is lucky number for students

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**J**ason Minton and six of his friends get together at least once a year to play golf for charity. And then there are bachelor parties, weddings — any excuse will do. These seven Dukes travel from four eastern-seaboard states to meet. Why? What's their bond? Pi Kappa Phi and the JMU College of Business.



P̄s Hut t̄ kr̄. ̄8/2S ó ngkr̄Rkt z̄t̄ k̄. ̄9/2S ó ngkr̄S gxi gt̄ zut̄ aī. ̄9/2 Pgs̄ ðk̄ S̄ ī J̄ ut̄ gj̄. ̄8/2Pgyut̄ S̄ ð̄ zut̄. ̄9/gt̄ j̄ Put̄ S̄ ī | n̄d̄ t̄ k̄. ̄8/ yont̄ j̄ uī { s̄ kt̄ zȳ'zū kyzghrym̄ ḡ\*8; ̄866 kt̄ j̄ ū} s̄ kt̄ z̄lux̄znk̄ S̄ gj̄ ̄yut̄. H̄f̄ ȳd̄ kyȳ'Yī nurgxynov̄4

The group's first 2007 gathering was in Zane Showker Hall as they met to establish the Madison Business Scholarship as a tribute to their alma mater and an investment in future JMU students.

This may be the youngest alumni group to ever establish an endowment, according to Elizabeth Pharr, CoB director of development.

Six of the young men met on Jan. 20 to sign a \$25,000 scholarship agreement: Jim Bonnell ('02), Michael Lentine ('03), Michael Marcantonio ('03), Jamie McDonald ('02), Jason Minton ('03) and Jon McWhinney ('02). Though he was there in spirit, Dave Krause ('03) was unable to attend. The former classmates, whose friendships continue long distance, will ask family and friends — over the next five years — to help support the endowment.

"When you benchmark the JMU College of Business against other great business schools, ... we believe that the CoB needs the same resources as those schools," Minton says about what motivated him and his colleagues to establish the endowment. The group unanimously agreed that CoB graduates are competitive in the marketplace and that an increasing endowment will make it possible for the college to recruit the best students and help bring deserved recognition. Minton spearheaded the project with full support from his fellow donors.

"Working collaboratively in teams is a hallmark of the College of Business curriculum," says Robert Reid, CoB dean. "These alumni have extended this concept beyond graduation by putting a stake in the ground and challenging other young alumni to become involved. By establishing this endowment fund, they have demonstrated that young alumni can give back early in their careers. Their endowment will benefit others for decades to come."

"We have been fortunate to experience early success in our careers, and it is rewarding to have the opportunity to give

back," says Bonnell, who is director of member benefits services for the Home Builders Association of Virginia.

McWhinney agrees. "We want to help others have the same great experience we had."

McDonald recently proved the value of a CoB education. He passed the Chartered Financial Analyst Level I exam on his first attempt, a significant accomplishment considering only about 40 percent of exam takers worldwide passed Level I in June 2006. Even fewer, about one-third, pass on the first attempt.

The founders of the Madison Business Scholarship invite friends and classmates to contribute. It takes \$250,000 to endow a scholarship to support a full-time, in-state student. This group intends, in time, to exceed that amount with the support of friends, family and business associates. They already have many ideas to help them accomplish that goal.

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## Fall Reunion & Weekend is Sept. 7-9

Classes of 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002 (REGISTER EARLY)



*Cheer on the Dukes at the first home football game (against UNH), enjoy Fall Tailgate, share in family friendly activities and reconnect with classmates and friends.*

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