

PICTURETHIS

Welcome to the Madison family!

JMU students had an important message waiting for incoming President Jonathan Alger, his wife, Mary Ann, and their daughter, Eleanor. Students painted "Welcome to the JMU family," on Spirit Rock, which is located on the east side of campus, near the Student Festival and Conference Center.

President Alger comes to JMU from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, where he served as senior vice president and general counsel. He earned his educational degrees at Swarthmore and Harvard

Law School. Even for the Madison community, which embraces change as an integral part of its culture, the appointment of a new president is momentous. In its 104-year history, only six presidents have led the university.

In his acceptance speech last November, Alger spoke extensively of "the engaged university" as his vision for JMU. The engaged university is a concept lived every day by the Madison community. It is regarded as a point of pride among JMU's 112,000 alumni and as a great promise among current students.

Alger, who has embarked on the "Why Madison?" listening tour to hear from key JMU audiences, says, "A university has a critical role in preserving and enhancing the heritage of democracy. It is up to us to develop educated and enlightened citizens who will participate actively in the world, who have the knowledge and skills to meet and confront new challenges, and to work with people from different backgrounds." Read Alger's first *Madison* message on Page 7.

* Read more from President Jonathan Alger's Q&A with *Madison* magazine at www.jmu.edu/bethechange/stories/speaking-the-same-language.shtml.

