

JMU Graduate Community News

From here, everything is possible!

November 27, 2017

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break, and that you are ready for the last few weeks of the Fall 2017 semester!

Three-Minute Thesis Competition. Share your research in a high impact 3-minute presentation and compete for cash prizes and a chance to participate in a regional competition. The Three Minute Thesis competition gives students the opportunity to present their research in a compelling and concise narrative aimed at engaging a general audience. Students are challenged to synthesize the core concepts of their projects and make meaningful connections to real-world issues. The first place winner will be sponsored by The Graduate School to attend the regional competition at the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools in Fayetteville, Arkansas, February 22-25, 2018. **The registration deadline is January 11, 2018.** [More information](#)

Apply For a Travel Grant! Are you traveling to present your scholarship or creative work at a conference? All graduate students who are making a presentation at a conference are eligible to apply for a Graduate School travel grant. Grant recipients can reduce the cost of professional travel, and they can list this competitive award as an accomplishment on their resume. *Please use the application form currently available on the TGS website, and be sure to follow the instructions for submitting both electronically and in hard copy form.* **The next deadline is January 15.** [More Information](#)

Spring Course Available: LTLE 611. User Interface Design. This course will explore the concepts of mental models and user-centered designs; visual design including but not limited to color, consistency and iconic representation; layout, navigation and flow; affordances and constraints; principles of user interface design and universal design; cognitive load; and designing for transfer of learning. Students will practice communicating with stakeholders and target users to make iterative design changes and will apply appropriate methods and tools for usability testing, analysis and reporting. Live online course, Wednesdays, 5:45 –8: 15 PM. No prerequisites. 3 credits. For more information contact Dr. Michele Estes (estesmd@jmu.edu).

Diversity Conference Proposals. Interested in holding a diversity focused-workshop for the university community? JMU's Annual Diversity Conference is accepting proposals. The theme for this year's conference is Voices of Diversity, Visions of Inclusion. The selection committee is seeking proposals for workshops that enhance understanding and skills, while also contributing to productive change within higher education and the community. Questions can be directed to James Robinson at robinsjr@jmu.edu. **The submission deadline is December 1.** [More Information](#)

Title IX Pledge. Take a stand against sexual violence in the James Madison University community by signing the Title IX Pledge. The pledge was inspired by the national "It's On Us" campaign created by former Vice President Joe Biden. "It's On Us" encourages citizens to speak out against sexual violence and show support for survivors. [Take the Pledge](#)

Call for Abstracts! The Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Association of William and Mary is now accepting submissions for the 17th Annual Graduate Research Symposium on March 16 and 17, 2018. Graduate students from the fields of arts and sciences are invited to submit abstracts of no more than 250 words for both oral and poster presentations. Further information can be found [at the following link](#). **The submission deadline is December 8.**

Call for Proposals! The University of Tennessee, Knoxville is accepting proposals for the Nexus 2018 conference. The theme for this year's conference is Agency and Artificiality: Assembling Humanity in the 21st Century. Conference coordinators are looking for papers that examine the connections between the Humanities, Fine Arts, Social Sciences, and Sciences that establish new meanings for society. The conference is interdisciplinary, and students are invited to

submit presentation proposals even if their panels or papers are not directly related to the theme. **The deadline to submit your 250 word abstract is January 5th.** Please send submissions and any questions to utnexus@gmail.com.

IDEA Program Applications: The Office of Access & Inclusion is accepting proposals for the Innovative Diversity Efforts Award (IDEA) Program. Individuals, departments, units, or groups are invited to submit proposals that would test innovative ideas and/or develop sustainable activities that would enrich the diversity of James Madison University. Winners may receive a grant of up to \$4,000 to fund their project. **The application deadline is Monday, January 15, 2018.** [More Information](#)

Hotel Madison Now Taking Reservations! Do your family and friends need a place to stay for May commencement? Hotel Madison is now taking reservations for May 2018! Located on South Main Street, the hotel will offer various room types, including deluxe king, studio king, one bedroom suites, presidential suites, and more. [More information](#)

Need a Job? Currently, there are 11 graduate assistantships, 18 student positions, as well as 7 wage positions, for which graduate students might qualify, posted on JMU's [Joblink](#).

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- **NaNoWriMo Write-In.** November is National Novel Writing Month! In partnership with Shenandoah Valley Writers, the Massanutten Regional Library will be hosting a write-in. Bring your pens, papers, laptops, and coffee and work on your writing in a quiet space. **November 27**, 6 pm, *Massanutten Regional Library*. [More Information](#)
- **Harrisonburg: The Musical.** In this semester's studio seminar, students in Musical Theater, Music, and History, are writing short musical scenes and songs inspired by images of historical Harrisonburg and the people and historical events connected to these images. **December 1**, 7:30 pm, *Court Square Theatre*. [More information](#)
- **General Assembly Preview.** In preparation for Virginia's upcoming General Assembly session, members of the Harrisonburg and JMU community are invited to a watch party that previews what is in store for Virginia's natural landscapes and resources in 2018. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask panelists questions and participate in the regional strategy conversation. Coffee and a light breakfast will be served. **December 2**, 8:30 am, *The Hub Coworking (128 West Bruce Street, Harrisonburg)*. [Register Here](#)
- **Mystery of the Christmas Star.** One of the John C. Wells Planetarium's most popular events of the year. The program retells the story of the three wise men and the star they followed to find baby Jesus. After the show, audiences will also have a chance to view a simulation of the Shenandoah Valley sky, highlighting the positions of stars, constellations, and planets that they can see in their own backyard! December 2 – 17, John C. Wells Planetarium. Various show times. [Show Times & More Info](#)
- **GSA Ugly Holiday Sweater Party.** Grab your ugly holiday sweater and join the GSA for one last social event of the semester. There will be treats, ugly sweaters, and a holiday movie! **December 6**, 6 pm, *Graduate Center (Madison Hall 4000)*. For more information contact gsa@jmu.edu .
- **Three Minute Thesis Workshop.** The Graduate School will be holding a workshop for individuals interested in participating in JMU's first Three Minute Thesis Competition. Head to the Cohen Graduate Student Professional Development Center for information on the competition and examples of strong presentations. **December 7**, 6 pm, *Graduate Center (Madison Hall 4000)*. For more information contact grad@jmu.edu .
- **Dancescapes.** JMU's premier dance ensemble will perform contemporary choreography by nationally and internationally known guest artists, as well as award-winning dance faculty members. **December 7 – 10**, *Forbes Center*. Various show times. [Purchase Tickets](#)
- **Graduate Commencement.** **December 15**, 7 pm, *Wilson Hall Auditorium*. [More Information](#)

For additional events of possible interest, regularly check <http://www.jmu.edu/events>

Tips from TGS (The Graduate School)

Graduate Policies. You are responsible to read and follow the graduate policies set forth in the [Graduate Catalog](#). Important information regarding degree progress, including rules for successful progression and continuous enrollment are also on the [Graduate School website](#)

Approval of a Thesis or Dissertation Committee. Students who are completing these sorts of project must submit a signed approval form to The Graduate School by the second week of the semester in which the student first registers for thesis or dissertation credits. [Approval form](#)

Monitor your Dukes E-Mail account! Official information is sent to each student's official [Dukes e-mail account](#). Check your @dukes.jmu.edu e-mail account on a regular basis.

Monitor MyMadison! The *Student Center* in [MyMadison](#) is where you will find advising information, register for classes, and where you can view "To Do Items" that will keep you on track towards graduation. Use the Student Center to update your mailing address and cell phone number. It is **your responsibility** to maintain accurate contact information. Check your account regularly. Don't miss important information!

Essential Links:

- [Graduate School Website](#)
- [Graduate Policies](#)
- [JMU Student Handbook](#)
- [Forms for Graduate Students](#)
- [Thesis Guidelines](#)
- [Financial Aid Policies](#)

Have Questions? Please contact the following person if you have questions regarding:

Assistantships/Scholarships/Thesis/Dissertations	Laura Ryman (rymanle@jmu.edu)
Graduation/Commencement/Transfer of Credit	Kathryn Brown (wendelkt@jmu.edu)
Continuous Enrollment (Current Students)	Laura Ryman (rymanle@jmu.edu)
Initial Enrollment (Unable to Begin Program)	Sheree Will (willsa@jmu.edu)
General Questions	Justin Whetzel (grad@jmu.edu)

We welcome suggestions for this newsletter, including events and opportunities. Please send your submission to grad@jmu.edu.

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