

# JMU Graduate Community News

*From here, everything is possible!*

---

November 28, 2016

---

**We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!** Now on to the final push for the Fall 2016 semester—only three weeks until the winter holiday break!

**You are welcome here!** JMU is committed to providing a respectful, inclusive, safe, and welcoming environment to all members of our community. If you or someone you know has questions or concerns about safety and/or inclusion, please consider the resources below. These offices are here to provide support for all members of the JMU community:

- **[Center for Multicultural Student Services](#)** (*Taylor Hall, Room 207; 540-568-6636*)  
CMSS is a great resource for all minority students, particularly racial and religious minorities. The office conducts events dedicated to the promotion of diversity, inclusion, and learning about various cultures and can support or referrals to individuals with particular concerns.
- **[LGBT & Ally Education Program](#)** (*Student Success Center, Room 1313; 540-568-5428*)  
The LGBT & Ally Education Program advocates for and promotes education of LGBTQ+ experiences on campus.
- **[JMU Counseling Center](#)** (*Student Success Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor; 540-568-6552*)  
The Counseling Center is a great resource for anyone trying to work through thoughts related to depression, anxiety, and other mental experiences.
- **[Madison Equality](#)** (*Student Success Center, The Well; [MadisonEquality@gmail.com](mailto:MadisonEquality@gmail.com)*)  
Madison Equality is a student-run organization that advocates for and provides programming for LGBTQ+ students and their allies. All minority-identifying students and allies are welcome.
- **[Madison Caucus for Gender Equality](#)** (540-568-7998)  
If you feel unsafe on campus or would like to propose some ideas for change at JMU, please consider reaching out to the Madison Caucus for Gender Equality.
- **[Furious Flower Poetry Center](#)** (*Cardinal House; 540-568-8883*)  
While primarily focusing on African American poetry, the Furious Flower Poetry Center, the center has several sitting and reading areas for students needing a quiet, safe space. Their programming provides opportunities for minority voices to be heard.

**Volunteers Needed.** The Staunton-Augusta WMCA Reach & Rise program is seeking facilitators/mentors for groups of at-risk children, 8-15 years of age. These types of programs improve graduation rates, reduce illegal drug use, and improve self-esteem, decision making skills, and help participant advance their interpersonal relationship skills. You must be 21 years of age to volunteer, and you must commit to 15 hours of training and agree to lead a group for 8 or 16 weeks. [More information](#)

**Call for Award Nominations!** The Office of University Studies is now accepting nominations for the **Provost Awards for Excellence in Academic Advising**. One of these awards will be presented to a academic advisor for graduate students. Has your advisor gone above and beyond in aiding you during your academic journey? [Follow this link](#) for instructions on the nomination process. **Deadline for nominations is December 2.**

**JMU Diversity Conference: Call for Proposals.** The Office of the President has announced that the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Conference will be held on Wednesday, March 15 in the Festival Conference and Student Center. This year's theme is ALL Included, ALL Engaged. Faculty, staff, and graduate students are encouraged to submit proposals for conference sessions; if you would like to provide a presentation related to your work on diversity, please consider this opportunity. For more information, contact James Robinson at [robinsjr@jmu.edu](mailto:robinsjr@jmu.edu). The submission form can be found [here](#). **Proposal deadline is January 6.**

**Travel Grant Deadline Approaching!** Are you traveling to present your scholarship or creative work at a conference? Graduate students who are making a presentation at a conference are eligible to apply for a travel grant through The Graduate School. If you receive a travel grant, not only can you reduce the cost of professional travel, but you can also include this competitive award as an accomplishment on your resume. The application form and submission process was revised in September. Use the application form currently available on the TGS website, and follow the instructions for submitting both electronically and in hard copy form. **The next deadline is January 15.** [More information](#)

**The JMU Physician Assistant Program** produced a "Mannequin Challenge" video. [View now](#)

**Need a Job?** Currently, there are 5 graduate assistantships, 23 student positions, as well as 13 wage positions, for which graduate students might qualify, posted on JMU's [Joblink](#).

---

### Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- **Graduation applications are now overdue** for both December 2016 and May 2017. If you have not turned in your graduation application, please do so as soon as possible. Applications can be dropped off at Grace Street House.
- **Scholarly Writers' Lockdown:** November 28. [Register here](#)
- **JMU Brass Band.** Before you leave for winter break, take time to see one of only a few collegiate brass ensembles in the United States. The JMU Brass Band will be performing on December 1 at 8pm in the Forbes Center Concert Hall. [Ticket Pricing & Information](#)
- **Downtown Harrisonburg Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting.** Harrisonburg will be holding its annual holiday parade and tree lighting ceremony on December 2. The parade begins at 7 pm, followed by the tree lighting. To end the evening, the JMU Marching Royal Dukes will perform a holiday concert! [More information](#)
- **Holidayfest: Dreams of the Nutcracker.** Don't miss the JMU Chorale and Symphony Orchestra perform a festive collage of holiday works. Before the matinee on December 4, children can enjoy crafts, cookies, and cider in the lobby. December 3 & 4, Concert Hall in Forbes Center. [Show Times & Ticket Information](#)
- **Mystery of the Christmas Star.** Want a little astronomy mixed in with your holiday celebrations? The John C. Wells Planetarium will provide multiple shows exploring the scientific explanation of the star that the Wise Men followed to find Jesus. All ages are welcome. Please see the schedule of show times at [this link](#). Each showing will be followed by a star talk featuring the Shenandoah Valley night sky.
- **Scholarly Writers' Lockdown:** December 5. [Register here](#)
- **Film Screening: Blood.** This documentary, directed by Alina Rudnitskaya, follows a mobile blood collection unit as they travel through desolate and post-industrial landscapes north-western Russia. Admission is free, and a discussion will follow the film. December 8, 7 pm, Harrison 1261. [More information](#)
- **Dancescapes: JMU's Virginia Repertory Dance Company.** If you love dance, do not miss JMU's premiere dance ensemble perform in the Mainstage Theatre at the Forbes Center. Interested viewers will have multiple opportunities to see the performance. For a schedule of show times and ticket information, please [click this link](#).

- **JMU Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Band.** Unwind from the end-of-semester stress with some jazz. The JMU Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Band will be performing on December 10 at 8 pm in the Forbes Center Concert Hall. [More Information & Ticket Pricing](#)
- **All coursework must be completed for December graduation.** December 16.
- **December Graduate Commencement.** December 16, 7 pm; Wilson Hall [More information](#)
- **JMU closes for Winter Break:** December 21.
- **Spring semester classes begin:** January 9.
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** January 16. Keep an eye on the JMU events calendar for MLK Jr. Day events to be announced.
- **Spring Break:** March 6-10.
- **May Graduate Commencement:** May 4.

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 ( <a href="mailto:rymanle@jmu.edu">rymanle@jmu.edu</a> )
Graduation/Commencement/Transfer of Credit	Debbie Juhasz ( <a href="mailto:juhaszdj@jmu.edu">juhaszdj@jmu.edu</a> )
Continuous Enrollment (Current Students)	Laura Ryman ( <a href="mailto:rymanle@jmu.edu">rymanle@jmu.edu</a> )
Initial Enrollment (Unable to Begin Program)	Sheree Will ( <a href="mailto:willsa@jmu.edu">willsa@jmu.edu</a> )
General Questions	Justin Whetzel ( <a href="mailto:grad@jmu.edu">grad@jmu.edu</a> )

We welcome suggestions for this newsletter, including events and opportunities. Please send your submission to [grad@jmu.edu](mailto:grad@jmu.edu).

---

The Graduate School (TGS)

[17 West Grace Street](#), MSC 6702

James Madison University

Harrisonburg, VA 22807

(540) 568-7860

<http://www.jmu.edu/grad>

[grad@jmu.edu](mailto:grad@jmu.edu)

[Like us on Facebook.](#)

[Follow us on Twitter.](#)