

# JMU Graduate Community News

*From here, everything is possible!*

---

February 2, 2015

---

**Influenza.** JMU is now experiencing high levels of influenza among the student population. What was once anticipated is now real – influenza is here, it is hitting our students hard, and we expect it to continue to spread for several more weeks. According to the [Virginia Department of Health](#), Virginia will continue to experience high levels of influenza this winter. [Flu prevention and treatment tips](#)

**TGS Travel Grants.** So far this year, the Graduate School has awarded \$14,700 in travel grants to 50 students. [Are students from your program on the list?](#) We are so proud of the accomplishments of JMU's graduate students. We continue to accept applications from graduate students to defray the cost of traveling to professional conferences to present scholarly and creative work. The next deadline is February 16. [More information including application instructions](#)

**Are you interested in serving on the 2015-16 GSA Executive Council?** Watch for information on how to apply soon! [GSA Information](#)

**The GSA may start a mentoring program for new graduate students,** and they want to know your thoughts. Please take five to ten minutes to respond to their survey. Contact Samantha Noble ([noble3sl@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:noble3sl@dukes.jmu.edu)) if you have questions. [Survey link](#)

**Seeking Housing?** The GSA asked current graduate students about their living situation and has started a blog about the available options. Check it out and contribute your ideas! [More information](#)

**Summer Positions Available at JMU.** [JMU Conference Services](#) provides logistical support for events held on our campus. They are now seeking students to serve as conference or administrative coordinators and operations staff. Students must be available to work May 11 through August 8. Applications are due February 26. [More information](#)

**Discovery Museum seeks Volunteers and Interns.** The [Explore More Discovery Museum](#) is seeking a Development Intern for the spring of 2015 who has a passion for non-profit organizations, education, children, community development, and business & administration. Students will gain hands-on experience with a small non-profit, build their resume, and engage with local businesses and community members. To discuss opportunities contact Trisha Blosser ([trisha@iexploremore.com](mailto:trisha@iexploremore.com)). [More information](#)

**Paid Summer Research Opportunity.** [Westat](#), a private employee-owned social science research firm in Rockville, Maryland, is seeking individuals who are interested in gaining experience and learning about social science research as applied in the "real world." Their internship program is for individuals who are enrolled in a master's or doctoral degree program in the social sciences, broadly defined. For more information enter Job ID 8811BR. [More information](#)

**GA Positions Available.** JMU Athletics Marketing has two year-long graduate assistantship positions posted on Joblink for the 2015-16 academic year. See "Graduate Assistant Positions" on JMU Joblink. [More information](#)

**Diversity Enhancement Awards, Call for Nominations.** These awards recognize individuals and units that have demonstrated a significant commitment to enhance diversity at JMU. Academic or staff units (or a group within a unit), campus organizations, students, alumni, faculty and staff are eligible. Enhancing diversity should not be the nominee's primary job function at the university. Nominations are due February 6. [More information](#)

**Woman of Distinction Awards, Call for nominations.** A woman of distinction inspires us through her imagination, innovation and dedication; her exemplary talent and achievements; her strength of character and the sincerity with which she serves. A woman who possesses passion for the people and places making up her everyday life, who breathes life and energy into our community – this is a woman of distinction! The University Health Center is now accepting

nominations for the 2015 Woman of Distinction Awards. Four awards will be given – one each for a JMU student, instructional faculty, A & P faculty, and staff. Nominations are due February 16. [More information](#)

**Innovative Diversity Efforts Award (IDEA) Program.** The JMU Office of Access & Inclusion welcomes requests for funds to test innovative ideas and/or develop sustainable activities and projects that would enrich the diversity of the university. Students, faculty and staff may apply for these funds. Awards of up to \$4,000 are available for the 2015-16 academic year. Applications are due March 2. [More information](#)

**Award for Feminist Scholarship and Creative Work.** To recruit, encourage and support feminist scholarship in the JMU community, the Women's and Gender Studies Program welcomes submissions from students and faculty for consideration for these awards. Submission deadline: March 18. [More information](#)

**Many Languages, One World.** Share your ideas and be heard! Students will be selected as delegates to the 2015 United Nations Academic Impact Global Youth Forum, and will present their plans at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, based on essays submitted by March 25. Entries must be in an official language of the United Nations that is not your first language, and was not your principal language of instruction during your primary and secondary education. [More information](#)

**Tolerance: A Global Necessity from Ancient Times to the Present** will be the subject of the spring conference being organized by the JMU Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures. This conference, to be held on April 8-9 at JMU, will bring together scholars/researchers from a variety of disciplines to address the meaning of tolerance, the virtue that makes peace possible. JMU graduate students and faculty are invited to propose presentations for the conference. Collaborative-team proposals are welcome. Proposals are due March 25. [More information](#)

#### Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- **One Case Changed a Nation and Ignited the World.** Jasmine Rand, Esq., the attorney for the Trayvon Martin Family will be speaking on February 4, 7 PM in Wilson Auditorium. Sponsored by the [Center for Multicultural Student Services](#).
- **GSA Happy Hour.** February 6, 5 PM at [Union Station](#).
- **Opera Spotlight.** February 7, 8 PM and February 8, 2 PM. Forbes Center Concert Hall. Graduate students from the JMU Opera Theater are poised to launch their careers, and this event is your opportunity to see these future stars perform sweeping melodies. [More information](#)
- **GSA Meeting.** February 8, 6 PM at the Cohen Center in Wilson Hall. [Information about the GSA](#)
- **Assessment Day.** Tuesday, February 10, 8 am – 4 pm, many undergraduate students will be participating in assessment tests. Graduate students should check with instructors to determine if your class will be held or cancelled. Classes starting at 4 PM or later will meet as scheduled.
- **Travel Grants for Graduate Students.** The final deadline to submit a grant to travel during this academic year is February 16. [More information](#)
- **Career and Internship Fair,** February 16 & 17, 11 am- 3 pm, Festival Conference Center. This fair helps connect students with potential employers. Graduate students are welcome to participate. [More information](#)
- **Planet of the Apps: Innovation and the Eclipse of Progress** is the title of the presentation by Langdon Winner, the next Cohen Center speaker, on February 19, 2-3:30 in Taylor 306. Dr. Winner is the Thomas Phelan Chair of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Science and Technological Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is a political theorist who focuses upon social and political issues that surround modern technological change. He is the author of *Autonomous Technology*, a study of the idea of “technology-out-of-control” in modern social thought, *The Whale and The Reactor: A Search for Limits in an Age of High Technology*, and editor of *Democracy in a Technological Society*. [More information](#)
- **Madison Vision Speaker,** February 19, 3:30 – 4:30 PM in Warren Hall Auditorium. The first Madison Vision Series Speaker this semester will be Michael Signer, a political theorist, lawyer, advocate, and author who focuses on topics including leadership lessons from Madison and the lessons of history for public policy. Mr. Singer has just completed his second book, *Becoming Madison: The Making of an American Statesman*. The book begins in his deep concern about America's leadership predicament and the fact that Congress seems to be

broken then delves into strengthening democracy wherever and however possible. He also authored a widely read book, *Demagogue*, which tells the story of the fight against demagogues in several arenas: in American history, in political theory, and in foreign policy and democracy promotion. [More information](#)

- **Limitless Life for Every Body My Personal Journey to Self Love and Living Limitlessly**, February 24, 7 PM, Grafton Stovall Theater. This presentation, by Louise Green, a globally recognized “fit and fat” voice at the forefront of the Body Advocacy movement, will make this presentation as part of [Eating Disorder Awareness Month](#). [More information](#)
- **VMI Leadership Conference**. The conference, held March 10 & 11 at VMI, will explore how leaders from various walks of life are addressing complex humanitarian issues including poverty, human trafficking and civil rights. [More information](#)
- **Thesis and Dissertation Projects** are due in the Graduate School office on April 22 for students graduating in May. [More information](#)
- **May Graduate Commencement** will be held on Thursday, May 7, at 7 PM in the Convocation Center. [More information](#)

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

**Keep up with Graduate Student Association (GSA) Events.** The GSA is a student-led and student-run organization that provides professional and social opportunities to all JMU graduate students and alumni. [Like them on Facebook](#). [Find them on Twitter](#). ([gsa@jmu.edu](mailto:gsa@jmu.edu); 568-7088) [More information](#)

**Need a Job?** The JMU [Office of Student Employment](#) has links to positions now available on and off campus. For example, there are currently 10 student positions, 4 wage/part-time positions, and 6 graduate assistantships posted on JMU’s [Joblink](#).

### 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](mailto:@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:juhasz dj@jmu.edu">juhasz dj@jmu.edu</a> )

Continuous Enrollment	Tracie Esmaili ( <a href="mailto:esmailtb@jmu.edu">esmailtb@jmu.edu</a> )
General Questions	Bess Rowden ( <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  
[grad@jmu.edu](mailto:grad@jmu.edu)  
[Like us on Facebook.](#)  
[Follow us on Twitter.](#)