

JMU Graduate Community News

From here, everything is possible!

December 1, 2014

Showcase of Scholarship & Creative Activity. We encourage graduate students from every program of study to apply to participate in the Graduate Showcase of Scholarship & Creative Activity (Graduate Symposium) to be held on Thursday, April 2, 2015. Collaboratively produced by the JMU Graduate School, Graduate Student Association and the JMU Office of Research and Scholarship, this event celebrates 60 years of graduate education at JMU. We will consider proposals for student presentations in a wide range of formats, appropriate for the nature of scholarly and creative endeavors in various disciplines. Proposals are due Monday, January 19. [More information](#)

TGS Travel Grants. 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 December 1. [More information including application instructions.](#) So far this year the Graduate School has awarded \$5500 in travel funds to 22 students who will make presentations at 10 conferences. A list of recipients is available [online](#).

Kudos to JMU Graduate students! A tremendous number of JMU graduate students have presented their research and creative work at regional and national conferences, published their work, been selected to serve as representatives to professional organizations, and have been engaged in remarkable high-level activities. A sample of student achievements have been posted on the graduate school [website](#). Please report your achievements so we can recognize your work. Send information to Bess Rowden (grad@jmu.edu).

Graduate Student Organizations. Engagement with other students through organizations can be a vital component of your graduate experience. Student organizations can provide graduate students with the opportunity to interact with fellow students, faculty, university administrators, and members of the local community who have similar interests. Student organizations can provide social support, help students engage in community-development and philanthropic activities, and promote professional development. The Graduate School has compiled a list of student organizations that may be of interest to students. [More information](#)

Electronic Submission of Thesis, Research and Dissertation Projects. Students enrolled in programs that require final thesis, research or dissertation projects must now submit these electronically through the [JMU Scholarly Commons](#). In addition, two original signed copies of the Approval Page must be submitted to The Graduate School. [Submission instructions](#)

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- **Travel Grants for Graduate Students.** The next review travel grant applications will consider all requests submitted by December 1. [More information](#)
- **Leadership, IMPROV and All that Jazz.** Improv is based on being present, attentive and open to the ideas presented without a predetermined response. You must collaborate, build on one another's contribution, and allow the outcome to change as you go. This year the James Madison University Leadership Academy will explore elements of IMPROV and leadership in health and human services. We will be sharing knowledge and strategies about how to work

creatively, collaboratively, and in an attuned manner with supervisees, clients, and colleagues. December 5, 8:30-4:00 [More information](#)

- **Graduate Student Ugly Sweater Party.** In lieu of the December GSA meeting, celebrate the end of the fall semester and holiday season with fellow graduate students in this classy event! Mark your calendars December 5, with more details soon to come. Connect to GSA social media on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to stay up to date with this and other upcoming graduate student events!
- **Mindful Experience.** Feeling stressed? Take time to center yourself, relax, and prepare to shine with a Mindful Experience. A variety of sessions are offered on Saturday, December 6, 12:30-4:45 PM. [More information](#)
- **December Commencement** will be held on Saturday, December 13 at 10 AM. [More information](#)
- **All JMU Offices Closed** December 20 through January 4. Offices reopen, Monday, January 5, 2015.
- **Spring Semester Begins.** Monday, January 12, 2015.

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; 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 17 student 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 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	Debbie Juhasz (juhaszdj@jmu.edu)
Continuous Enrollment	Tracie Esmaili (esmailtb@jmu.edu)
General Questions	Bess Rowden (grad@jmu.edu)

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

Have a great end of semester and a wonderful winter break! See you in 2015!