

JMU Graduate Community News

From here, everything is possible!

MARCH 29, 2021



LINDA THOMAS, J.D., PH.D. HAS BEEN APPOINTED DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL. Dr. Thomas was selected after JMU conducted a national search that included a large pool of qualified applicants. Dr. Thomas now serves as the Director of the JMU School of Integrated Sciences. Born in Massachusetts, she holds bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Florida, a Juris Doctor in law from the University of Miami, and a Ph.D. in the Built Environment from the Georgia Institute of Technology. She has been an officer in the U.S. Navy, a Civil Engineer, Construction Manager for the 1996 Olympic Games, Attorney, Professor and Department Chair. Dr. Thomas officially assumes the role of dean on June 1, 2021.

2021 GRADUATE SHOWCASE OF SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES. This year's event will be virtual, held asynchronously and available on JMU's website on **April 19, 2021**. The Graduate Showcase is a celebration of graduate student creativity and scholarship at JMU. This event provides graduate students with the opportunity to present their research and experience a professional conference; and for all participants the opportunity to create interdisciplinary connections for future collaborations and learn about exciting projects happening all across campus. [Visit last year's virtual Graduate Showcase](#) [Refer to our webpage for updates.](#)

BECOME A LEADER FOR THE GRADUATE COMMUNITY. If you would like to promote a supportive and inclusive graduate environment here at JMU you should apply for the **Graduate Student Association Executive Council 2021-2022!** The GSA Executive Council is an excellent leadership opportunity that serves the success and well-being of JMU Grad Students. Be part of the organization that creates social opportunities for grad students and offers professional development grants for fellow students. It also looks great on a resumé! Please email gsa@jmu.edu to receive an application.

SPRING 2021 GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT WILL BE A LIVE EVENT, Thursday, May 6 at 7:00 PM. The Graduate School will host an in-person ceremony at Bridgeforth Stadium/Zane Showker Field so that all graduates can be individually recognized. Each graduate will be able to bring up to four guests. Advanced registration will be required. [Monitor JMU's commencement website for updates.](#)

PREREGISTER FOR YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE. Everyone in Virginia can now preregister for a COVID-19 vaccine. If you preregister you will be notified when you can sign up for an appointment. [Register here](#)

PLANNING FOR FALL 2021. President Alger has announced that JMU is planning for an in-person Fall 2021 semester. [See the announcement](#)

APPLY FOR A FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT GRANT. Fulbright Grants offer 8-13 months of funding in over 150 countries worldwide; recipients can conduct independent research, assistant in an English language classroom, or pursue further graduate study. Now is the time to start the applicant process! Upcoming information sessions: **Friday, March 26 (4-5 pm), Tuesday, April 6 (1-2 pm), and Wednesday, April 7 (4-5 pm).** Interested students/alumni should contact Dr. Meredith Malburne-Wade (malburmm@jmu.edu) to learn more and get started.

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN WEEK 2021 presented by the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR) offers the following events:

- **Humanitarianism in Action: Security and Peace in Central Africa.** Dr. Yvan Yenda Ilunga, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science at Providence College in Rhodes Island, and instructor of Political Science at JMU, discusses his book, *Humanitarianism and Security: Trouble and Hope at the Heart of Africa* and the correlation between humanitarian crisis and issues of security, displacement, and the refugee and internally displaced persons crisis – **Tuesday, March 30, 7-8:00 pm** - [More Information](#)
- **Conversations with Leading Women in Humanitarian Mine Action: Beyond 2021 in Post-Conflict Development,** CISR will host women leaders from the U.S. Department of State (Emma Atkinson), The HALO Trust (Kristen Stevens), and the Marshall Legacy Institute (Elise Becker) who will discuss their personal career paths, talk about how gender has impacted their work, and the specific challenges impacting the humanitarian sector's responsiveness to issues of inclusiveness and diversity. **April 6 at 7:00 pm** - [More Information](#)

PARTICIPATE IN THE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION:

- **JOIN THE GSA!** The GSA meets each second **Wednesday** of the month from **7:15-8:00 pm**. For questions email gsa@jmu.edu.
- **CONNECT TO GSA.** You may find information for events and participation on our social media pages: [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#).

THRIVE EVENTS. THRIVE is a multi-dimensional program that seeks to foster connections among diverse graduate student communities, offers unique mentorship opportunities and provides tailored programming to engage and advance diverse perspectives. Inquire about **THRIVE** meetings and events at thrive@jmu.edu.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. There are currently 15 Graduate Assistantship positions being advertised on [JobLink](#). Graduate students may also qualify for student and "wage" staff positions posted on [JobLink](#). Some summer positions are now being advertised.

FOOD PANTRY AND OTHER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE. The [Pantry](#) offers shelf-stable foods, basic hygiene products, and limited school supplies, plus assistance with printing costs, on-campus laundry costs, and access to campus dining options. Email pantry@jmu.edu with questions.

HONE YOUR INTERVIEW SKILLS. The University Career Center is offering opportunities to practice and improve your interview skills. Among the options are practice sessions with **University Career Advisors**, **InterviewStream**, an online tool for practicing alone with a webcam, and **SAP Brilliant Hire**. [More Information](#)

INFORMATION ABOUT LIBRARY SERVICES FOR NEW STUDENTS is available on the library website. [New Student Information](#)

GRADUATE SCHOOL DATES AND DEADLINES. For upcoming dates and deadlines please refer to this [link](#)

Upcoming Events

DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY WELCOMES TANYA PREWITT-WHITE, Ph.D. for its 2021 live virtual **Annual Dorothy V. Harris Lecture – March 30 at 7:00 pm**. Dr. Tanya Prewitt-White is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and Nutrition at the University of Illinois Chicago. She is also a certified mental performance coach (CMPC) and Survivor Advocate who provides performance enhancement consulting to athletes and coaches. She will discuss, "*Centering Identity and Intersectional Justice in Sport Psychology Practice*". This event requires [registration](#).

15TH ANNUAL LAVENDER GRADUATION EVENT sponsored by SOGIE Programming will honor and celebrate the achievements of our LGBTQ+ graduates at the Lavender Graduation and Awards Ceremony, **Thursday, April 15th at 6 pm**. This event will be hosted virtually on Zoom. Guests and students please [RSVP for Lavender Graduation](#). Deadline for graduating students to be recognized at the event, for speech submissions, and for SOGIE award nominations is **April 2**. [Recommend a commencement speaker](#). [Nominate a student](#) for the SOGIE Award. [More Information](#)

DEMOCRACY IN PERIL is pleased to announce its next session, entitled "Inequality of Opportunity: Why the US Education System Is So Unequal and How to Reform It," with University of Virginia Law and Education Professor Kimberly Robinson. This event will take place on **Monday, April 5, 12:00-1:30 pm** EST on Zoom. [Register Here](#) [More Information](#)

THE FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS is excited to announce FORBES CENTER @ HOME, sharing artistic experiences with you online. FORBES @ HOME programming will feature streamed concerts from JMU School of Music faculty, student performances, shows for young audiences, and talks with leading opera, music and theatre guest artists and faculty. Events are free or offered for a low ticket price. [More Information](#)

DUKE GALLERY OF FINE ART presents Audrey Barnes & Kevin Phaup, WN2T (We Need to Talk), **March 15 - April 10**, Designer talk online: **April 5 at 2:00 pm**. [More Information](#)

SPRING GARDEN LECTURE SERIES AND OUTDOOR EVENTS sponsored by the Edith J. Carrier, **Wednesday, March 24, April 7 and April 14, noon to 1:00 pm**. Also join us for our Wildflower walks and Spring Celebration Plant Sale. [More Information](#)

THE FOURTH ANNUAL DIVERSIFYING SCHOLARSHIP RESEARCH CONFERENCE will be hosted online by the University of Virginia **on April 9, 2021**, registration is free. [More Information](#)

[More on-campus events](#)

Tips from TGS (The Graduate School)

The Student Handbook. It is the responsibility of every student to know and follow the policies outlined in the JMU Student Handbook along with federal, state, and local laws. [Student Handbook](#)

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](#). Some temporary policies are currently in force due to COVID-19. [Temporary Policies](#)

Approval of a Thesis or Dissertation Committee. Students who are completing these sorts of projects 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 Catalog with Graduate Policies](#)
- [JMU Student Handbook](#)
- [Forms for Graduate Students](#)
- [Thesis Guidelines](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)

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

Thesis/Dissertations	Laura Ryman (rymanle@jmu.edu)
Assistantships/Scholarships	Boris Escalona (escalobd@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	Pamela Bell (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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