



## College of Visual and Performing Arts

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Greetings Colleagues,

The finish line for the spring semester is tantalizingly within reach. I know I have said it before, but I want to thank you and congratulate you on the work that you have done this year. I am inspired by all that you and your students are doing, and I find real comfort in seeing the arts flourish, even while under the duress of COVID-19. There are still many unanswered questions about our short-and long-term futures, but our colleagues at all levels are working on those solutions and answers. In that vein, I want to point to this link provided by the President's Office and the Contingency Planning Task Force. [This link](#) provides you an opportunity to directly share any concerns and suggestions you may have about resuming on-campus instruction/work.

As you finish calculating and entering your final grades for the fall semester, I wanted to send you one more update and share some encouraging news from our arts community.

**Dr. Maureen Shanahan**, School of Art, Design and Art History, asked her student to do the "Getty Challenge" by recreating an artwork they had studied during the semester by using three objects from around the house. Afterwards they had to



write an essay comparing their work to the original. What her students turned in was simply amazing. Here is just one example from **Maggie Kennedy** (Social Work major) who re-staged Daumier's Rue Transnonain using her father and sister in the scene.



**Patricia Morrison** (Instrumental Music Education, Strings, from the 'Cello studio of **Dr. Carl Donakowski**) has been selected as the recipient of the 2020 Carole G. Jackson Memorial Scholarship Endowment in Music Education. The Carole G. Jackson Memorial Scholarship Endowment is intended to honor and support outstanding undergraduate student scholars enrolled at James Madison University who are majoring in Music Education. The scholarship is graciously funded by members of the Jackson Family specifically. Congratulations Patricia!



**Associate Professor Richard Finkelstein** (School of Theatre and Dance) had his work with JMU students featured on social media accounts of the Virginia Society for Technology in Education and the International Society for Technology in Education. Finkelstein created a virtual duplicate of his design classroom in the virtual world of Second Life so that students would feel at home when lessons transitioned online. He reports that the Second Life instruction worked quite well, and students made final presentations at the end of the semester via zoom and in

the virtual world, Second Life. This included a display of their work in the virtual Forbes Lobby.

I also wanted to share some updates and important dates with you:

- **Final grades are due on Tuesday, May 12th at 3 pm.** In My Madison, remember not only to “save” but to mark as “reviewed” and then save. You will know that your grades are successfully submitted when you receive an email for each course from the Registrar.
- **In-Person Graduation for CVPA is Saturday, August 8th at 2:00 pm** in the old Convocation Center. We will share the ceremony with the College of Health and Behavioral Studies. The ceremony is contingent upon available health information and will only take place if it is safe to do so.

I hope that you take a well-deserved break to relax and renew. When you begin to think about the fall semester, I encourage you to consider these teaching resources provided to you by CFI and the Libraries. As we have all learned this semester, anything can happen, and I encourage all of you to consider how you can adapt your pedagogies and courses in a way that could support the flexibility that may be necessary to deal with the ongoing issues related to COVID-19.

- [CFI's one-on-one consultations](#) for teaching, scholarship, and/or career conversations.
- [CFI's The Teaching Toolbox website](#) where you can subscribe or find old PDFs here (CFI also loves new authors, so let them know if you are interested!).
- [The CFI Teaching Podcast](#) Andreas has been doing some more “just in time” talks and there’s something for everyone.
- Sign up for the [JMU Libraries Institute on Online Learning](#), which will be offered this summer
- Consult the [Online Teaching and Learning Guide](#)
- Take an [online workshop](#) about teaching online
- [Request a consultation](#) about online teaching with Libraries’ experts

Most importantly, I hope that you continue to communicate with me and the Dean’s Office. I remain an ardent supporter of you and your work.

Please enjoy your well-deserved break.

All my best,

Rubén Graciani, Acting Dean

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