



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS CAREER CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 23 - 24, 2023

JMU
College of Arts
and Letters

JMU
University
Career Center

February 23rd

REGISTRATION

Opens at 8:45am

OPENING & KEYNOTE

9:30am - 10:45am

Madison Ballroom

Conference Welcome

Dean Robert D. Aguirre

Conference Keynote

Tina Fox, award-winning executive, SCOM alum, entrepreneur, and mentor.



SESSION #1

11:00am - 12:15pm

Taylor 302

Careers in Liberal Arts: Knowing – and selling – the strengths of a liberal arts degree

Liberal Arts degrees offer many advantages in the career world. Employers in a wide range of fields value the habits of mind and the critical thinking, communication, research, and interpersonal skills developed through a liberal arts curriculum. Yet those with a liberal arts degree may have to explain, defend, or sell its strengths to parents, potential employers, or other stakeholders. This panel will explore what a liberal arts degree can offer and how to communicate its value.

Taylor 304

Mentor interest group with Tina Fox

For alums who have an interest in mentoring students.

Taylor 305

Networking: online and in person

Networking is an organic process, that usually happens when two people meet at an event and strike up conversation based on common experiences. With social media, especially LinkedIn, alumni will share experiences in networking online and in person.

Taylor 402

Beyond the Bachelor's degree: Graduate and professional education

A wide range of graduate and professional degrees and certificates are available after completing an undergraduate education. In this panel, alumni will explore their postgraduate educational paths, and share advice with current students considering continuing their own education.

Taylor 405

Internships: What is an internship and how do you find one?

Many organizations are starting to hire students for internships that have the potential to lead to full time employment. With so many career options for Liberal Arts degrees, an internship is a great way to try out a job and explore what you like or don't like to better inform your job search after graduation.

LUNCH

12:30pm - 2:00pm, Madison Ballroom

SESSION #2

2:15pm - 3:30pm

Taylor 302

How'd you get there?

Career trajectories rarely follow a straight line, particularly in the modern job market. Many college graduates, including those with liberal arts degrees, find their careers taking surprising – and surprisingly rewarding – paths. Alumni panelists will discuss their journeys and offer audience members advice for starting their own potentially circuitous paths.

Taylor 305

Careers in Doing Good: Jobs that make a difference

Liberal arts degrees offer unique opportunities for careers in service, nonprofit, social justice, civic engagement, advocacy, and other fields that focus on doing good. Alumni panelists will reflect on their own experiences serving in such fields and offer advice to current students interested in careers in doing good.

Taylor 402

Fellowships and Awards

Fellowships are competitive awards that provide financial support for purposeful activities such as graduate study, study abroad, activism and public service work, language acquisition, internships, self-designed projects, teaching English abroad, and so much more. Fellowships offer diverse, far-reaching opportunities for students of all backgrounds, majors, and interests. While some awards may look for high GPAs or experiences, many do not.

Taylor 405

Knowing where to start: Job search strategies for finding your first job(s)

The process of finding that first job – or changing jobs early career – can be daunting, particularly considering the wide range of career opportunities available to those with a liberal arts degree. Alumni panelists will offer stories, strategies, advice, and encouragement for the job search process, particularly in the early career stages.

SESSION #3

3:45pm - 5:00pm

Taylor 302

Do's and don'ts for thriving in your first job

Settling into the first job can be challenging after graduation. Alumni from a wide range of careers will offer stories, suggestions, and advice for navigating those challenges and thriving on the first job.

Taylor 305

Balancing Acts: managing work, life, and passion projects

Work/life balance has become even more important during the pandemic, and graduates will benefit from learning to navigate multiple roles at once. This panel explores strategies for finding and maintaining balance, particularly for those pursuing multiple jobs, civic engagement opportunities, and passion projects.

Taylor 402

Say What?: Communication skills in the workplace

Nearly every career requires strong written and spoken communication skills. Liberal arts degrees offer many opportunities to develop effective communication skills. In this panel, alumni from a wide range of career fields will discuss strategies for developing and honing those skills and applying them in the workplace.

Taylor 405

On the Job: What I learned from work that I didn't learn in the classroom

No degree can prepare us for every challenge or provide all the skills and knowledge needed for entering the career world. Alumni panelists will share what they learned on the job (or in the world) that they didn't learn in the classroom and will offer current students' strategies for adapting to career demands.

February 24th

REGISTRATION

Opens at 8:45am

SESSION #1

9:30am - 10:45pm

Taylor 304

Networking event for Alumni Board Members open to members of any alumni board at JMU

Learn about other alumni boards and how they work while networking with other alums who participate on alumni boards across campus.

Taylor 305

Careers in Legal Fields

Not everyone with a law degree practices law – but some do. This panel will explore the range and variety of careers in legal fields, and the ways that career trajectories can change over time.

Taylor 306

Knowing Where to Start: Job search strategies for finding your first job(s)

The process of finding that first job – or changing jobs early career – can be daunting, particularly considering the wide range of career opportunities available to those with a liberal arts degree. Alumni panelists will offer stories, strategies, advice, and encouragement for the job search process, particularly in the early career stages.

Taylor 309

Navigating Gender and Identity in the workplace

Your identities play a big role in the workplace, especially when they are different from those you work with, which can impact your everyday work experience. In this session, we will look at the multifaceted nature of identity and how it applies to you. We will explore how to handle difficult conversations, advocate for your authentic self, and identify people & places that align with your values. There will also be the opportunity for you to share and hear stories from alumni and other students.

Taylor 402

Careers in Liberal Arts: Knowing – and selling – the strengths of a liberal arts degree

Liberal Arts degrees offer many advantages in the career world. Employers in a wide range of fields value the habits of mind and the critical thinking, communication, research, and interpersonal skills developed through a liberal arts curriculum. Yet those with a liberal arts degree may have to explain, defend, or sell its strengths to parents, potential employers, or other stakeholders. This panel will explore what a liberal arts degree can offer and how to communicate its value.

Taylor 405

Career Fair 101

Attending a Career Fair can be overwhelming. Learn what you can expect at a Career Fair and tips for talking to employers.

SESSION #2

11:00am - 12:15pm

Taylor 304

Say What?: Communication skills in the workplace

Nearly every career requires strong written and spoken communication skills. Liberal arts degrees offer many opportunities to develop effective communication skills. In this panel, alumni from a wide range of career fields will discuss strategies for developing and honing those skills and applying them in the workplace.

Taylor 305

Pathways to Law School

Some lawyers go straight from undergraduate studies to law school. Others take a gap year (or two) or work in a different career before going to law school. This panel explores different paths to law school and things to consider when deciding if and when law school is the right choice for you.

Taylor 306

How'd you get there?

Career trajectories rarely follow a straight line, particularly in the modern job market. Many college graduates, including those with liberal arts degrees, find their careers taking surprising – and surprisingly rewarding – paths. Alumni panelists will discuss their journeys and offer audience members advice for starting their own potentially circuitous paths.

Taylor 402

Doing business with a Liberal Arts Degree

Many liberal arts graduates find themselves doing business: starting small (or big) businesses, consulting or contracting, or otherwise working in the business world. Alumni will share their experiences and advice for navigating that world and leveraging their liberal arts degree to succeed.

Taylor 405

Insights from employers for students

Alumni with hiring or supervising experience share insights about the job search and hiring process, including what they look for in resumes, tips for the interview process, and expectations of new employees.

LUNCH

12:30pm - 1:30pm, Madison Ballroom

SESSION #3

1:45pm - 3:00pm

Taylor 304

Working in a non-profit

Working in a non-profit organization can be rewarding. Working for an organization that aligns with your passions can be extremely rewarding. Many people find this experience while working in a non-profit organization. Alumni will speak from experience about the rewards and challenges presented in the non-profit sector.

Taylor 306

Balancing Acts: managing work, life, and passion projects

Work/life balance has become even more important during the pandemic, and graduates will benefit from learning to navigate multiple roles at once. This panel explores strategies for finding and maintaining balance, particularly for those pursuing multiple jobs, civic engagement opportunities, and passion projects.

Taylor 309

Insights from Employers for faculty

Alumni with hiring or supervising experience share insights about how faculty can help students navigate the job search process.

Taylor 402

Networking: online and in person

Networking is an organic process, that usually happens when two people meet at an event and strike up conversation based on common experiences. With social media, especially LinkedIn, alumni will share experiences in networking online and in person.

Taylor 405

On the Job: What I learned from work that I didn't learn in the classroom

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CLOSING EVENTS

3:15pm - 4:00pm

Madison Union Ballroom, Warren Hall

Closing Networking Session for Students and Alumni

This is an opportunity for students to follow up on a conversation or ask alums a few questions. Practice those networking skills.

FACULTY, STAFF, AND ALUMNI RECEPTION

4:30pm - 6:00pm

Hall of Presidents, D-Hall

Refreshments provided