Welcome to the March 2018 issue of the Beacon. From the Diversity Conference to talks and lectures, artistic exhibitions, presentations, Disability Awareness Week activities and more, this issue will connect you with abundant opportunities to participate in events happening across campus in the coming days.

Looking ahead to these programs, the wide range of expertise and topics of discussion are impressive. Whether you wish to learn more about an aspect of diversity with which you already have some familiarity or you want to learn more about something which is newer to you, you will find topics related to race, gender, ability status, activism, history, contemporary issues and culture.

In this issue, news about our colleagues and highlights from the community in action are celebrated.

So, read and enjoy. Your only difficulty will be deciding what to attend!

Wishing you a wonderful spring season of learning,

Valerie Schoolcraft
Director, Office of Disability Services
# Table of Contents

**Engaging Opportunities** .................................................................................................................................................. 3

- *AN OUTRAGE* Film Screening .................................................................................................................................................. 3
- Diversity Conference ........................................................................................................................................................................ 3
- Linking Meandering Paths Art Exhibit ........................................................................................................................................ 3
- Democracy in Peril Series: Honorable Bill Bolling - Since when did compromise become a bad thing? .............................................. 4
- Student identity, equity, and inclusion in STEM active learning classrooms ....................................................................................... 4
- Women’s History Month Film Series ........................................................................................................................................... 4
- Viewpoints on Health: Combating Structural Racism ..................................................................................................................... 5
- The Purpose of the University: Higher education in the age of polarization ....................................................................................... 5
- Taking Ownership: Making films of race and history ....................................................................................................................... 5
- JMU’s 9th Annual Disability Awareness Week – March 26-30 ............................................................................................................. 6
- DAW Keynote: Tricia Downing - Speaker, Author, Athlete .................................................................................................................. 6
- Poetry Reading ................................................................................................................................................................................. 7
- Adoration and Art Exhibit .............................................................................................................................................................. 7
- Madison Vision Series – Jim Acosta ........................................................................................................................................... 7
- Working with Transgender and Gender Variant Populations: Health Considerations ........................................................................ 8
- Men In Power Panel ........................................................................................................................................................................ 8
- Film Screening: *Audrie & Daisy* ................................................................................................................................................... 8
- Activism at the Crossroads: .......................................................................................................................................................... 9
- Cultura y Comunidad Keynote: Amelia Tseng – Supporting learning for the benefit of all .............................................................. 9
- Transitional Justice Lessons for America from ‘S***hole’ Countries ................................................................................................. 9

**Student Focused Events** .............................................................................................................................................................. 10

- Center for Multicultural Student Services ...................................................................................................................................... 10
- LGBTQ & Ally Education Program .................................................................................................................................................. 10
- Poetry Without Boundaries – Collegiate Summit .............................................................................................................................. 11
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month Events .................................................................................................................................... 11

**At The Forefront** ......................................................................................................................................................................... 12

- Mark Warner – Accessibility, It’s Personal ......................................................................................................................................... 12
- Intentionally Infusing Cultural Awareness at the School of Nursing Clinical Simulation Lab .............................................................. 13

**Highlights from our JMU Community in Action** .................................................................................................................... 14

- Campus Accessibility Information ...................................................................................................................................................... 14
- Minor in Disability Studies ................................................................................................................................................................. 14
- Now at Carrier Library ....................................................................................................................................................................... 14
- IDEA Grant Topics and photos from around campus since our last edition .................................................................................. 15

**Recognition and Awards** .......................................................................................................................................................... 16

- Professors Moran and Gabriele earn highest honor .......................................................................................................................... 16
- Charles May, Jr. (’83) receives Alumni Service Award .................................................................................................................... 16
- COMPASS Award Winners ............................................................................................................................................................. 16
- Woman of Distinction Award Winners ........................................................................................................................................ 16

**Broaden your diversity IQ** ............................................................................................................................................................ 17
Engaging Opportunities

**AN OUTRAGE**
Documentary Film Screening about lynching in the American South. Filmed on-location at lynching sites in six states and bolstered by the memories and perspectives of descendants, activists, and scholars, this unusual historical documentary educates even as it serves as a hub for action to remember a long-hidden past. A Q&A session with the filmmakers will follow the screening.

Tuesday, March 13 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Madison Hall, Room 1001

**Diversity Conference**
Looking forward to seeing you at the 12th Annual JMU Diversity Conference. Registration is now closed. Walk-in registration is available for a limited number of open sessions and opens at 8:00 a.m.

Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Damon Williams**
Nationally recognized expert in strategic diversity leadership.

March 14th, Festival Conference Center

**Linking Meandering Paths**
Korean-Americans Sukjin Choi and Anna Westfall explore the influences of two different cultures on identity in the exhibition, Linking Meandering Paths. As sculptors and ceramists, Professor Choi of James Madison University and Professor Westfall of Eastern Mennonite University create a visual manifestation of themes of identity that resonate in our global world.

March 12th-23rd
Opening Reception March 14th 3:00-4:00 p.m.
Lisanby Museum - Festival
Democracy in Peril Series

Since When Did Compromise Become a Bad Thing?

Former Virginia Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling will talk about his experiences in politics and government and the surging partisanship and ideological rigidity that make it difficult for government to function as intended. Mr. Bolling will also offer his thoughts on why we as a society have become so divided, and why many now see compromise, which he calls "the essence of a working democracy," as a bad thing.

Thursday, March 15th  5:00p.m.
Madison Hall, Room 1001

Student identity, equity, and inclusion in STEM active learning classrooms

Sara Brownell
Assistant Professor, School of Life Sciences
Arizona State University

Friday, March 16th 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Madison Union 256

Women’s History Month Film Series

Iron Ladies of Liberia
Friday, March 16th, 2:00 p.m.
Keezell G08

Frida
Friday, March 23rd, 2:00 p.m.
Keezell G08

Liberated: The New Sexual Revolution
Thursday, March 29th, 5:30 p.m.
Harrison 102

Grandma
Friday, March 30th, 2:00 p.m.
Keezell G08
Viewpoints on Health
Combating Structural Racism:
Class, Clinic, and Community

Anthony Schlaff, MD, MPH
Director of the Public Health Program
Professor in the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine
Tufts University School of Medicine

Thursday, March 22 5:30 p.m.
HBS 5040

Poetry without Boundaries
2017 Pulitzer Prize winner Tyehimba Jess and distinguished poets Anastacia-Renee and Brenda Marie Osbey will read excerpts from their most recent works and will be available for book signings.

Thursday, March 22 7:00 p.m. Memorial Hall Auditorium

The Purpose of the University:
Higher Education in an Age of Polarization

Brian Rosenberg
President, Macalester College

Tuesday, March 27th, 5:30p.m.
5040 Health & Behavioral Studies Building

Taking Ownership:
Making films of Race and History

Kevin Willmott
Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies
University of Kansas

Thursday, March 29, 5:30p.m.
2105 Harrison Hall
Join the Office of Disability Services in an array of opportunities that include:

- ODS Open House
- Self-Care Strategies
- Cooking Demo
- Movie Screening: *Growing Up Down’s*

Discover your Inner Champion  Presented by Tricia Downing  (No registration necessary)

- WRRTC Open Class Presentation: Personal Narrative and Rhetorical Practices in Disability Studies
- Tour of UREC adaptive and inclusive equipment
- Flashpoint: Disability Rights/Civil Rights on the Line
- Creating Accessible Materials in Microsoft Office Training – Pre-register in MyMadison
- Wheelchair Basketball, adaptive rock climbing, and blindfold Yoga at UREC

**Tricia Downing**
Disability Awareness Week Keynote Speaker  
Speaker, Author, Athlete

Transitioning from being a competitive cyclist to requiring a wheelchair for mobility, Tricia has faced adversity and redefined able to pursue her goals. Since her accident in 2000, Tricia has completed in over 100 races, ranging from marathons to triathlons and that is just the beginning! Tricia is also a Paralympian and author of *Cycle of Hope- A Journey from Paralysis to Possibility*. Today, she continues to take people on their journeys to find their own “inner champions”. Sign language interpreters and CART services will be provided.

Monday, March 26th, 7:00 p.m.  
Madison Union Ballroom
Poetry Reading
Gabrielle Calvocoressi
and
Jennifer Chang
March 27th, 5:30 p.m.
Madison Union 404

Adoration and Art
Throughout time, religious spaces have been designed to set apart the sacred from the every day. This exhibition explores—through the eyes of Honor student Fiona Wirth—the artistic traditions of the ancient Mediterranean through early modern cultures that infused holy sites with the presence of the divine.

April 2 - 26
Lisanby Museum - Festival

Madison Vision Series – Jim Acosta
Jim Acosta (’93) is CNN senior White House correspondent, currently covering the Trump administration and previously covered the Obama administration from the White House and around the world. He regularly covers presidential press conferences, visits by heads of states, and issues impacting the Executive Branch of the federal government. In addition, Acosta reported from the 2016 campaign trail following Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

Thursday, April 5 at 3:30 p.m.
Memorial Hall Auditorium
Working with Transgender and Gender Variant Populations:
Health Considerations

Christy Olezeski
Assistant Professor, Yale School of Medicine

Thursday, April 5th, 5:30p.m.
256 Madison Union

Men in Power Panel

A Q&A panel of JMU staff and faculty focused around topics such as privilege and power, sexual and intimate partner violence, masculinity, and allyship.

Wednesday, April 11th, 6:00 p.m.
Festival Ballroom B/C

Film Screening: Audrie & Daisy

Audrie & Daisy is an urgent real-life drama that examines the ripple effects on families, friends, schools and communities when two underage young women find that sexual assault crimes against them have been caught on camera. A facilitated discussion will follow the film showing.

Monday, April 16th, 6:00 p.m.
Grafton Stovall Theatre
Activism at the Crossroads:
Fugitive Sanctuary and Coalition Possibilities through Queered Immigrant Politics

Karma Chavez
Associate Professor, Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies,
University of Texas, Austin

Wednesday, April 18th, 7:00 p.m.
1101 Miller Hall

Cultura y Comunidad Keynote Lecture

Supporting Learning for the Benefit of All:
Understanding Immigrant Children in Classrooms and Communities

Amelia Tseng
Teaching Assistant Professor of Linguistics, Georgetown University and
Research Associate, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

Thursday, April 19 7:00 p.m.
Health and Behavioral Studies Building Room G040

Transitional Justice Lessons for America from ‘S***hole’ Countries

Hugo van der Merwe
Director of Research, Knowledge and Learning, Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation,
Braamfontein/Cape Town, South Africa

Tuesday, April 24, 4:00pm
Madison Union 405
Student Focused Events

**Center for Multicultural Student Services**

for a variety of events that include:

- **March 16:** Women of Color togetHER Conference  
  6:30p.m. Madison Union 405
- **March 19:** Exploring our Latinx identity  
  7:00p.m. Madison Union 402
- **March 26:** Central America:  
  Heartbreak and Helplessness  
  7:00p.m. Madison Union 206
- **March 28:** DEEP Dialogue: Disability Awareness Week  
  Unpacking Inspiration: Finding Your Resilience and Grit  
  7:00p.m. Madison Union Ballroom
- **March 31:** African Student Org - Taste of Africa  
  7:00p.m. Madison Union Ballroom
- **April 4:** Chinese Student Association Culture Show  
  8:00p.m. Memorial Hall Auditorium
- **April 7:** Latino Student Alliance Celebracion Latina (ticketed event)  
  7:00p.m. Festival Grand Ballroom
- **April 11:** NAACP Image Awards  
  7:00p.m. Madison Union Ballroom
- **April 17:** Women of Color - Fragile Masculinity Program  
  7:00p.m. Festival Allegheny Room
- **May 1:** Donning of the Kente  
  6:00p.m. Festival Grand Ballroom

**LGBTQ & Ally Education Program**

For a variety of events that include:

- Queers & Coffee: March 16th (with guests from the Virginia Anti-Violence Project), April 10th and 18th
- Puppy Pride: March 28th, April 25th and 26th
- Out on Campus Dialogues: April 4th
- Lavender Graduation: April 19th
Furious Flower

Poetry Without Boundaries – Collegiate Summit
Join us for this exciting three-day event as we explore how poetry reaches across geographical borders and beyond conventional literary and ideological boundaries. Open to all undergraduate and graduate students.

Thursday, March 22 6:00 p.m. – Saturday, March 24th 3:00 p.m.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Events

Take Back the Night Speakers
Tuesday, April 3rd, 7:00 p.m.
Grafton Stovall Theatre

Take Back the Night Speak-out
Thursday, April 5th, 6:30 p.m.
Lakeview 1104

What Were You Wearing Gallery
April 9-15th, Madison Union Airport Lounge

CARE Resource Room
Friday, April 13th, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Student Success Center 1075

Film Screening: Audrie & Daisy
Monday, April 16th, 6:00 p.m.
Grafton Stovall Theatre

Open Mic Night
Tuesday, April 17th, 6:30 p.m.
Taylor Down Under
I have been at JMU for a hundred years. I started as a student and never left. I am currently the Senior Vice President for Student Affairs. As a student I became a resident advisor, then a hall director. I’m probably the only person who lived on campus for 6 straight years – all in the Village. Then, for my first job, I was the Assistant Director for Residence Life – for – the Village. Crazy!

I have had 10 professional jobs on this campus. I love this place. It has been a pleasure watching JMU change in such positive ways. What I appreciate most though is that we have preserved the student-centered culture.

I bumped into access and inclusion issues as a 10 year old. My mother was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. She went from being a physically active person to a quadriplegic. I watched her become dependent on a cane, leg brace, arm brace and then she moved to a wheelchair. Access in those days was unheard of. As a teenager pushing my Mom in a wheelchair, we had to navigate curbs (no curbcuts), stairs (no ramps), doors (no automatic openers) and much more.

I first noticed physical changes being made at JMU as a result of ADA. The emphasis on making campus accessible was very welcomed. I watched us evolve from a non-accessible campus to an accessible campus. Because of what I experienced in my younger years, I have a great appreciation for the changes that have been made.

As a side note, although my mother spent the last years of her life looking at a ceiling and four walls, she was one of the most positive people I ever knew. When people would visit, they would come out of her room smiling, laughing and spirit filled. The lesson I learned from my mother was that it is not what happens to you that matters, it is what you do with what happens to you that matters. To me, that is a challenge that all of us should embrace.
Preparing students for nursing practice takes more than learning pathophysiology and skills/procedures; students also learn about cultural beliefs and healthcare beliefs to properly care for patients, families and significant others. Although the SON provides these opportunities, faculty noted that the infusion of diversity content and experiences varied widely across the curriculum and semesters with students having varied levels of cultural exposure.

As a solution to this issue, the faculty determined that they would intentionally thread diverse experiences through the undergraduate curriculum using clinical simulation. Simulation is a high impact, dynamic teaching modality that uses high fidelity manikins and actors to portray patients and family members. Students engage with patients in the safety of a simulated healthcare environment. Targeted simulation experiences expose students to scenarios that might not be encountered in the traditional clinical setting.

In collaboration with a simulation expert, nursing faculty developed four simulation experiences for BSN students (one for each semester level) designed to help students achieve increased cultural sensitivity, awareness, and inclusivity. All four semesters were represented in this project, but each simulation had a distinct focus. For example, semester one focused on language, semester two looked at faith, semester three was about caring for patients with disabilities, and the fourth semester addressed sexual orientation. A plan was created to continue this type of intentional exposure to diversity and inclusion that would include marginalized populations, socioeconomic issues, rural populations and end of life issues. Through these simulation experiences, students learn a myriad of skills that will translate to better patient care for the communities they serve.

Student feedback from the simulations has been positive. The following student statements were collected from post simulation evaluation reports:

"Helpful in learning an aspect of nursing I have not experienced yet."

"Very good simulation of a cultural situation."

"This is a very beneficial simulation. Even in the short 10-15 minutes or however long we had I feel much more comfortable approaching a patient where there is a language barrier."

The SON plans to continue implementing the diversity simulations as a means to infuse cultural competency into new graduate nurses. Our hope is to also ensure that JMU Nursing graduates are prepared to meet the needs of our diverse world in a manner consistence with the human experience.

Lauren Mullen, MSN, RN, CNE, CHSE and Linda Sobel, PhD, RN
Highlights from our JMU Community in Action

Campus Accessibility Information

The ADA Coordinator, James Robinson, and the Office of Equal Opportunity are spearheading a campus-wide effort to improve the web presence of campus accessibility information. New to building webpages is current accessibility info that includes:

- Nearest Accessible Parking
- Description of Accessible Entrance
- Between Floor Access
- Family/Gender Neutral Restrooms
- Lactation and Baby Changing Stations
- ADA Technology availability

Find this valuable information under the building’s accessibility tab.

We recommend including a link to the building page when promoting events: “for venue accessibility please click here”

Minor in Disability Studies

Did you know that JMU has a minor in disability studies? New this year, this minor engages students in an examination of the many ways disability is defined and constructed. The minor in disability studies is open to all undergraduate students.

Now at Carrier Library

March 15th – April 15th
Disability Resources Display
Carrier Library, First Floor

This display features resources concerning disabilities, especially those that show grit! You will find everything from information on disability rights to personal stories and thought-provoking films. We hope this display provides you with a greater understanding of disability at JMU and in the world as a whole.

Now – August
Black & White on Bluestone Hill: JMU’s Racial History in the Archives Carrier Library, Second Floor

This exhibit gathers together archival materials from JMU Special Collections that confront the painful racism of JMU’s past, as well as the efforts of black and white students, faculty, and administrators to make space for African Americans at JMU.
2018 IDEA Grant Projects

Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion of Graduate Admissions through Holistic Review Training for Graduate Admissions Committee Members

African American Comic Books: Diversifying Research and Pedagogy at JMU

Bursting the Bubble with C.A.R.E., Creativity and community: JMU Students Learning Alongside Refugee Families

Addressing Identity: Cross-Cultural Engagement Workshops and Training

The JMU/Harrisonburg Mental Health Stigma Eradication & Neurodiversity Celebration Collaborative

Interfaith Engagement of JMU Students in our Community

and photos from around campus since our last edition...

31st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration: Formal Program

MLK March and Day of Service and Lynn Pasquarella

Culture Nights – The African Continent and Spicy Food

The Future is Female, USA Paralympic athlete Adam Ballou, and the Inaugural Purple & Gold Society
Recognition and Awards

COMPASS Award Winners
For demonstrated outstanding contributions to diversity and inclusion at JMU

**Visionary** – School of Nursing

**Leader** – Latin American & Caribbean Studies Leadership Committee

**Advocate** – LGBTQ & Ally Education Program

**Catalyst** – Facilities Management team members: Frank Lucas, Tony Smith, Chad Ellinger, and LaVern Dillard

In honor of the first year of the COMPASS Awards, Joyce Guthrie is recognized with an overall Compass Award as she exemplifies all of the above qualities.

**Woman of Distinction Award Winners**

**Teaching Faculty:** Dr. Amy Russell Yun

**A&P Faculty:** Kathleen Sensabaugh

**Classified/Wage Staff:** Emily Winter

**Students:** Ariana Tutko

**Professors Moran and Gabriele earn highest honor**

Dr. Moran, professor of kinesiology, has dedicated his career to empowering students, local communities, and physical education professionals to overcome barriers and enable persons with disabilities to participate in physical exercise programs.

A professor of biology, Dr. Gabriele has won highly competitive grants—including from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation—for his work on the neurological underpinnings of hearing disorders.

**Charles May, Jr. (’83) receives Alumni Service Award**

Hoping to improve the percentage of African Americans at JMU, Charles May founded the Ole School Alumni Group. May, along with over 100 other alumni who graduated during the 1980s, award two annual scholarships to deserving African American students. Over the years, the group has given over $54,000 in scholarship.
A glimpse of significant dates in:

March

March is Women’s History Month. Started in 1987, Women’s History Month recognizes all women for their valuable contributions to history and society.

March is also National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, which was established to increase awareness and understanding of issues affecting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

March 2: Holi, a Hindu and Sikh spring religious festival celebrated by throwing colored powder and water at each other.

March 8: International Women’s Day. First observed in 1911 in Germany, it has now become a major global celebration honoring women’s economic, political, and social achievements.

March 13 – April 15: Deaf History Month. This observance celebrates key events in deaf history, including the founding of Gallaudet University and the American School for the Deaf.

March 17: St. Patrick’s Day, a holiday started in Ireland to recognize St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

March 30-April 7: Passover, an eight-day Jewish holiday and festival in commemoration of the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt.

April

April is Celebrate Diversity Month, started in 2004 to recognize and honor the diversity surrounding us all.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, an annual campaign to raise public awareness about sexual assault and educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence.

April 1: Easter, a holiday celebrated by Christians to recognize Jesus’s return from death after the crucifixion.

April 2: World Autism Awareness Day, created to raise awareness of the developmental disorder around the globe.

April 22: Earth Day promotes peace and sustainability of planet Earth. Events are held globally to show support of environmental protection of the earth.

April 23 (Evening) - April 24 (Evening): Holocaust Remembrance Day, a time to “mourn the loss of lives, celebrate those who saved them, honor those who survived, and contemplate the obligations of the living”- former President Barack Obama.

April 27: the Day of Silence, during which students take a daylong vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.
May

May is Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the United States. The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks on the project were Chinese immigrants.

May is Jewish American Heritage Month, which recognizes the diverse contributions of the Jewish people to American culture.

**May 5:** Cinco de Mayo, a Mexican holiday commemorating the Mexican army’s 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War (1861-1867). This day celebrates Mexican culture and heritage, including parades and mariachi music performances.

**May 15 (sunset)-June 15:** Ramadan, an Islamic holiday marked by fasting, praise, prayer and devotion to Islam.

**May 17:** International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, a global celebration of sexual-orientation and gender diversities.

**May 21:** World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, a day set aside by the United Nations as an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better.

**May 28:** Memorial Day in the United States, a federal holiday established to honor military veterans who died in wars fought by American forces.

This newsletter has been created Office of Access & Inclusion to share the good work of academic and administrative departments, students, affinity groups and more in supporting diversity and inclusion at JMU. If you have any corrections or have an article or upcoming event that should be considered for the next newsletter please send us an email:

[diversity@jmu.edu](mailto:diversity@jmu.edu)

Office of Access & Inclusion

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