

# GENERAL EDUCATION: THE HUMAN COMMUNITY FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

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Welcome back, everyone! We hope you were able to enjoy a truly relaxing break this summer. As we head into the new semester, we want to share with you some news, reminders, and resources - if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to **gened@jmu.edu**!

## MEET THE GENERAL EDUCATION TEAM

**Dr. Meg Mulrooney**, Senior Associate Vice Provost for Academic Programs & Equity

**Dr. Sarah Brooks**, Cluster One Coordinator

**Dr. Dennis Beck**, Cluster Two Coordinator

**Dr. Elizabeth Brown**, Cluster Three Coordinator

**Dr. Kayla Yurco**, Interim Cluster Four Coordinator\*

**Dr. Kethera Moore**, Cluster Five Coordinator\*

**Ms. Martha Hemingway**, Administrative Assistant\*

### \*NEW MEMBERS OF THE JMU GEN ED ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM:



**Dr. Kayla Yurco**

Interim Cluster Four Coordinator;  
Geographic Science

Dr. Kayla Yurco is joining the team this fall from the School of Integrated Sciences as the Interim Cluster Four Coordinator!

**FUN FACT:** These days, Kayla lives in a log cabin that she adores, but her favorite home will always be the tent she lived in along the border of a national park in Kenya.



**Dr. Kethera Moore**

Cluster Five Coordinator;  
Psychology

Dr. Kethera Moore began her appointment as Interim Cluster Five Coordinator in August 2021. As of Fall 2022, Kethera will be rejoining the Gen Ed team as the full-time Cluster Five Coordinator!

**FUN FACT:** While in graduate school, Kethera was also training to become a competitive ballroom dancer.



**Martha Hemingway**

Administrative Assistant

Ms. Martha Hemingway is a semi-recent JMU alumna (graduated in 2019 with a BFA in Studio Art, a BA in Art History, and a minor in Honors Interdisciplinary Studies). She came over to the General Education Program as Administrative Assistant in November 2021!

**FUN FACT:** Martha loves to walk wherever her feet can take her (so you'll likely see her Everywhere on campus).



## CELEBRATING 39 YEARS WITH SKIP HYSER!

Dr. Raymond "Skip" Hyser joined JMU in 1983 as a faculty member in the department of History and has served generously and thoughtfully in many roles since.

In 1997, he was one of the faculty members who helped create and launch the current outcomes-based program, and, in 2009, he became the Cluster Four Coordinator for the General Education Program.

Skip has been a valued part of the Gen Ed team and has made vital contributions to numerous projects, including leading the annual General Education Student Conference committee and serving as the director of the Summer Semester in Scotland Program. He has served as the Chair of the General Education Council, and, a dedicated teacher-scholar, has also held the Mengebier Endowed Professorship. Skip has consistently brought incredibly high levels of

professionalism and grace to all that he does, and it has been a great pleasure to work with him.

We wish you all the best in retirement, Skip!

## NEW DIRECTOR OF SEMESTER IN SCOTLAND: ZACHARY DORSEY

The Summer Semester in Scotland Program, open to students of all majors, offers four classes (13 credits) of General Education courses! These courses are taught by JMU faculty and professors from the University of Edinburgh and the University of St. Andrews. The program typically takes place from mid-June to mid-August, and, starting this academic year, Zachary Dorsey will be directing the semester abroad. Zachary, Associate Professor of Theatre, shares, "I enrolled at the University of Edinburgh for a year when I was an undergraduate and it was one of the best years of my life, and I'm thrilled now to have the opportunity to direct the JMU General Education summer program in Scotland and be able to help students have similarly life-changing experiences." We are glad to have you, Zachary! Any questions about the Semester in Scotland can be directed to [dorseyza@jmu.edu](mailto:dorseyza@jmu.edu) or [gened@jmu.edu](mailto:gened@jmu.edu).



## GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

The GEC is an advisory body to the program administrative staff and a college level Curriculum & Instruction committee charged with curricular oversight of the General Education program. Because of those two functions, the GEC is composed of faculty representatives who are either elected or appointed by their respective units, as well as persons from key stakeholder offices. The GEC also has subcommittees that manage some of the program's projects such as the Student Conference, Grants, Distinguished Teaching Award, and Integrative courses. The GEC meets monthly; please see the 2022-23 schedule, as well as minutes from past meetings, [here](#).

Recent GEC discussions have focused on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility (DEIJA) efforts across the Program. As part of this mission, the General Education Council is piloting an initiative to highlight sections of General Education courses with significant content or pedagogical practices related to DEIJA so that students interested in exploring DEIJA perspectives can identify sections that may be of particular interest (**General Education Equity TAG**).

This evolution is propelled by the General Education Program's mission to interpret liberal arts education in alignment with James Madison University's mission to create enlightened and empowered citizens, and is supported by student, faculty, and alumni groups. The tag is voluntary and applies to sections of courses. A faculty member teaching in any area of General Education may request that their section of a course be considered.

We hope that this pilot will help to develop a community of practitioners. We welcome any questions about the process. Please see our [website](#) for more information about this process (including a summary of criteria and a list of currently tagged course sections).

At the time of this communication, four instructors in General Education have received approval for their TAG applications:

- **ARTH 204E-0001**: Art, Power and Society (C2VPA), **Sarah Brooks**
- **DANC 215-0001 & 0002**: The Dance Experience (C2VPA), **Emily Wright**
- **ENG 248-0001**: Survey of American Literature: Civil War-Modern Period (C2L), **Allison Fagan**
- **ENG 260-0001**: Survey of African-American Literature (C2L), **Mollie Godfrey**

Thank you to the following individuals for serving on GEC during the **2021-2022** academic year:

**Claire Lyons** (Chair, Psychology)  
**Meg Mulrooney** (non-voting member)  
**Sarah Brooks** (Cluster One Coordinator)  
**Dennis Beck** (Cluster Two Coordinator)  
**Elizabeth Brown** (Cluster Three Coordinator)  
**Skip Hyser** (Cluster Four Coordinator)  
**Kethera Moore** (Cluster Five Coordinator)  
**Tim Ball** (Cluster One faculty)  
**Bill Van Norman** (Cluster Two faculty)  
**R. Shane McGary** (Cluster Three faculty)  
**Tara Parsons Kristiansen** (Cluster Four faculty)  
**David Trouille** (Cluster Five faculty)  
**Emily Becher** (College of Visual and Performing Arts) - Fall  
**Kate Arecchi** (College of Visual and Performing Arts) - Spring  
**Tomás Regalado-Lopéz** (College of Arts and Letters)  
**Bill White** (College of Education)  
**Kayla Yurco** (College of Integrated Science and Engineering)  
**Suzanne Baker** (College of Health and Behavioral Sciences)  
**Phil Heap** (College of Business)  
**Kristen Funck** (College of Science and Mathematics)  
**Sam Morton** (Honors College)  
**Brian Leventhal** (CARS)  
**Aimee Stright** (University Advising)  
**Juhong Christie Liu** (Libraries)  
**Hakseon Lee** (Faculty Senate Liaison)  
**Ginger Barbour & Daniel Gaffin** (Student Government Association)

Members serving on the GEC for 2022-2023 are listed [here](#)!



# CURRICULAR UPDATES & TIPS

## PROGRAM PLANNER

The Program Planner for General Education has been updated for 2022-23 [here!](#)

## INFORMATION LITERACY: MREST

This summer, Gen Ed launched a remote version of MREST (3.0); all continuing undergraduate students who matriculated in January 2022 or earlier may satisfy their Information Literacy requirement by completing the remote option by **November 30, 2022**. Failure to complete the requirement prior to this date will result in a registration hold. For students matriculating in summer 2022, August 2022, and January 2023, Gen Ed will utilize SCOM 121/122/123's embedded Information Literacy modules with quizzes in place of the MREST to ensure that students meet the Learning Outcomes for Information Literacy in Cluster One. More information [here](#).

## NEW COURSES

**EDUC 102E\***: Critical Questions in Education (C1CT)

**DANC 215**: The Dance Experience (C2VPA)

**ARTH 204E\***: Art, Power, and Society (C2VPA)

\*Please note: catalog numbers ending with "E" are not included on the General Education program planner, as they are experimental courses. They are approved to meet the area requirement noted.

## C3 LAB CHANGE

Several departments in Cluster Three separated The Lab Experience from their lecture-based courses to improve scheduling processes for students and faculty. Prerequisites and corequisites for these labs are noted below (and in the program planner). The following courses may be used to satisfy the Cluster Three Lab requirement:

**BIO 140L**: Foundations of Biology I Lab (take with BIO 140)

**BIO 270L**: Human Physiology Lab (take with BIO 270)

**CHEM 131L**: General Chemistry Lab (take with CHEM 131)

**GEOL 110L**: Physical Geology Lab (take with GEOL 110)

**GEOL 115L**: Earth Systems and Climate Change Lab (take with GEOL 115)

**ISAT 113L**: Biotechnical Issues in Science & Technology Lab (take with ISAT 113)

**ISCI 104**: Scientific Perspectives

**ISCI 173**: Life & Environmental Science for Teachers (IdLS, some COE majors only)

**PHYS 140L**: General Physics Lab I (take with PHYS 140)

**PHYS 240L**: University Physics Lab I (take with PHYS 240)

## GENERAL ADVISING NOTES TO KEEP IN MIND

- Cluster One should be completed within the first year at JMU.
- The Wellness Domain in Cluster Five (HTH/KIN 100) is recommended in the first year.
- All other cluster requirements can be completed at any time!
- Incoming students can appeal any non-Virginia Community College System (VCCS) 000 course on their transcript; VCCS and AP scores may not be appealed. A course description and syllabus are both needed to complete the transfer appeal process. Students should email these to [gened@jmu.edu](mailto:gened@jmu.edu).

## INTEGRATIVE COURSES

The number of colleges and universities offering Integrative courses in their Gen Ed programs continues to grow. At George Mason, all students complete a 3-credit upper level Integrative requirement: [masoncore.gmu.edu](http://masoncore.gmu.edu). At JMU, Integratives are 300-level classes designed for advanced students to meet their needs for meta-cognition and skill development. Students with more than 59 credits who have not yet completed their Cluster One: Critical Thinking requirement are expected to enroll in one of these 300-level integrative thinking and learning courses, though all students are welcome!

### **INTEGRATIVE COURSES OFFERED IN FALL 2022:**

**UNST 300-0001:** The Physics of Science Fiction (Harold Butler)

**UNST 300-0002:** The Science and Ethics of Human-Subject Experimentation (Mark Mattson)

**UNST 300-0003:** Science, Culture, and Science Fiction (Jennifer Mangan & Matthew Chamberlin)

**UNST 300-0004:** Urban America: Genesis and Necrosis of Detroit (Johnathan Walker)

**SCOM 318-0005:** Communication & Social Media (Kathryn Hobson)

Faculty members interested in the Integrative Experiment should read through these **guidelines**.

## DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD

This competitive award, established with the Provost's Office, specifically recognizes excellence in enabling students to meet luster learning outcomes and make interdisciplinary connections.



CONGRATULATIONS to the 2021-2022 Distinguished Teacher Award recipient, **Dr. Christopher Bachmann!!**

Dr. Bachmann joined the faculty at JMU in 2004, after receiving his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Virginia. Dr. Bachmann regularly teaches ISAT 113: Issues in Science and Technology in Cluster Three, which is an interdisciplinary lecture/lab course that is focused on the ways in which biology can be used to solve important problems. There are seven learning objectives in this cluster and the committee was especially impressed by how well Dr. Bachmann's teaching and materials connect with each of these objectives. As one of many examples regarding how Dr. Bachmann's course articulates with the Cluster 3 learning objectives, his peer-to-peer assignments not only get the students engaged with theoretical and applied topics, but the students also serve as teachers to the other students. This level of interactivity and peer-based learning exemplifies one of the goals of General Education, which is to have students "transcend the limits of specialization" and "become skilled in questioning, investigating, analyzing, evaluating, and communicating."

Dr. Bachmann will be the keynote speaker at the General Education Student Conference banquet in Fall 2022. Thank you to committee members Michael Trocchia (Chair), Yamilette Chacon, Robyn Kondrad, Rich Lawler, and Kethera Fogler for all their diligent work selecting a recipient this year!

Nominations for the **2022-2023 DTA** will be sought very soon; please look for communication from Kethera Moore ([foglerka@jmu.edu](mailto:foglerka@jmu.edu)) about this in the coming weeks!

## POSTDOCTORAL TEACHING FELLOWSHIP

In support of the University's commitment to foster diversity, access and inclusion, the General Education Program annually offers a postdoctoral teaching fellowship. This fellowship is awarded to a department that offers high-demand courses in the General Education program and is willing to support the professional development of early career faculty. The fellowship is defined as a full-time, one-year, instructional faculty position with commensurate salary and benefits. Eligible candidates for the fellowship are identified jointly by General Education; the office of Access and Inclusion; and the host department, with preference given to individuals completing the Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) program.



CONGRATULATIONS to the 2022-2023 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow,  
**Dr. Constance Pruitt!!**

Dr. Pruitt completed her Ph.D. in Political Science at Howard University. Her research focuses in on intergovernmental organizations in Africa. We are so delighted to have Dr. Pruitt join us this year; she is being hosted by the Department of Political Science while teaching courses in General Education's Cluster Four: Social and Cultural Processes. During the fall semester, Dr. Pruitt is teaching a section each of **AAAD 200**: Introduction to African, African American and Diaspora Studies & **POSC 225**: United States Government. Welcome, Dr. Pruitt!

## GRANTS

**Collaborative Curriculum Development Grants:** The purpose of this program is to support General Education curricular reform (through revision of existing General Education courses or design of experimental courses). The 2021-2022 grants primarily supported projects pertaining to diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and accessibility. In summer 2022, the following grantees were awarded:

**Dr. Kaveh Baghbadorani:** *Enhancing Equity and Accessibility by Offering College Physics Laboratory as a Hands-On Remote Lab*

**Ms. Kathy Clarke:** *Investigating Accessibility, Diversity, and Equity: an Information Literacy Guide for General Education*

**Dr. David Ehrenpreis:** *Art and Democracy*

**Dr. Evan Friss:** *Moving Forward in History*

**Dr. Mollie Godfrey:** *Building Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Capacity for AAAD 200: Introduction to Africana Studies*

Grant reports from these project directors and their teams will become available on the General Education website this fall. Please check [here](#) for updates.

Keep an eye out for a forthcoming call for applications for the 2022-2023 cycle of Collaborative Curriculum Development Grants! Application materials will be due to the General Education Council in early spring 2023. The General Education office will communicate additional instructions and specific deadlines in late fall!



# GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENT CONFERENCE

This annual event is designed to recognize the exceptional academic learning experiences our undergraduates have in their General Education courses. To participate, students must be nominated by their professor and must have produced outstanding work. Those who accept their nominations are grouped into panels as if they were presenting at a professional conference. In this way, the conference also allows undergraduates to practice valuable public speaking skills.



**Please join us in congratulating the students who presented at the Fall 2021 conference!**

Anne Katherine Andersen, Katie Antonucci, John Archibald, Jack Barbour, Mia Boswell, Baily Brown, Courtney Brown, Piper Brown, Riley Burcher, Skye Burden, Lexie Burns, Ashlyn Campbell, Melanie Chambers, Rosalie Chesney, Dillon Corral, Ashley Creekmore, Megan Cresci, Alexandra Davis, Jordan Davis, Joaquin Dela Cruz, Jack Dempsey, Anna DeNoia, Samantha Donaire, Jana Donato, Bella Dowdell, Samantha Forbes, Allie Gause, Aaliyah Gibbons, Serena Gilbert, Olivia Gilmore, Elizabeth Golightly, Mya Gonzalez, Rachel Gordon, MacKenzie Graber, Niah Gray, Skyler Gray, Hunter Grepiotis, Chloe Harper, Grace Harwell, Sky Hawkes, Katie Hayes, Fiona Hefe, Alexa Paredes Idiaquez, Samantha Jackson, Hannah Kibler, Julia Koehler, Molly Kurst, Anthony Lawson, Sophia Libonate, Veronica Lopez, Lexi Marty, Kelsey McCann, Brittany McCombs, Moriah McDonald, Ryan McGowan, Erin Meier, Matthew Meisner, Hannah Mills, Abby Morris, Jack Morris, Eli Mulligan, Ashley Muse, Taylor Nauflett, Rachel Nohe, Ella Parse, Bridget Patterson, Liam Payne, Carter Payne, Alex Pearson, Lily Perry, Rachel Raffino, Mathew Reid, Jenna Reilly, Caroline Rice, Jenna Richards, Maggie Rickerby, Colleen Riley, Kelly Riley, Maddie Roever, Caroline Rose, Ta'Mya Ross, Morgan Roy, Michael Russo, Caroline Sampson, Ryan Santa Maria, Cassy Scanlon, William Scharnweber, Elise Scheuring, Jessica Shamloo, Allie Shearer, Laney Snodgrass, Shelby Staib, Vivien Trent, Sarah Triola, Brian Wachter, Alexa Walsh, Kate Weaver, Tegan White, Mya Wilcox, Adia Williams-Leventhal, Cecilia Wood, De Juan Wood, Hill Yauger, Gia Yoder, Zhuowei Yue

We would also like to extend special thanks to faculty members who nominated students from their General Education courses and gave them the opportunity to share their academic achievements beyond the classroom. Please mark your calendars for the upcoming GESC:

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

**Rose Library &  
Festival Conference and Student Center**

**2:30-5:05pm**

This year, the conference will feature student research on a range of topics, including human-robot interaction in literature, abstract painting, sociological investigation of society, mathematical sculptures, yoga, and more! For the complete conference schedule, as well as notes for presenters & their families, please keep an eye on our [website](#); the most current information will be included there. This conference will also be a Wellness Passport event; please visit the [HTH 100 website](#) for more information about Passports. If you have any conference-related questions, please feel free to reach out to Kethera Moore at [foglerka@jmu.edu](mailto:foglerka@jmu.edu).

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW**

The goals of an APR generally are to provide: a clear specification of desired educational outcomes; evidence of achievement; and documentation of strategic planning and its implementation. The General Education program has just completed its ten-year APR as part of the University's regular accreditation process; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion across the curriculum, as well as the success of learning outcomes in the five clusters, were critical areas of focus for the Internal Self-Study. The APR's External Visit was completed in April 2022, with the final report delivered in May and the formal responses provided in July. The General Education Council will receive these reports in September and develop plans for next steps.

## **KUDOS**

**Ms. Kathy Clarke**, Liaison Librarian & Professor, is the 2022 Distinguished Service award winner for the JMU Libraries - details [here](#)!

**Dr. Lindsay King**, Lecturer in Marketing, has been awarded the **Graduate School's Outstanding Dissertation Award** in the Social Sciences, Business, Health and Behavior Studies category for her dissertation, *An Entrepreneurial Mindset: Not Just for Entrepreneurs*.

**Dr. Juhong Christie Liu**, Director of Instructional Design & Associate Professor, is the 2022 Madison Scholar for the JMU Libraries - details [here](#)!

**Dr. Jessica Stewart**, Instructor of Art History, received the 2022 Provost's Award for Excellence in Part-Time Teaching in recognition of her dedicated service to JMU since 2013, including her outstanding undergraduate teaching in General Education and upper-level Art History & Museum Studies classes, and for her development and direction of [Michelangelo's Italy](#) study abroad.

Congratulations all, and thank you to everyone teaching in and supporting Gen Ed! Have any Program news you'd like to share? Please email [gened@jmu.edu](mailto:gened@jmu.edu); we'd love to hear from you!

