

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**General Education**  
**Student Conference**

September 30, 2022  
2:30 - 5:05 pm



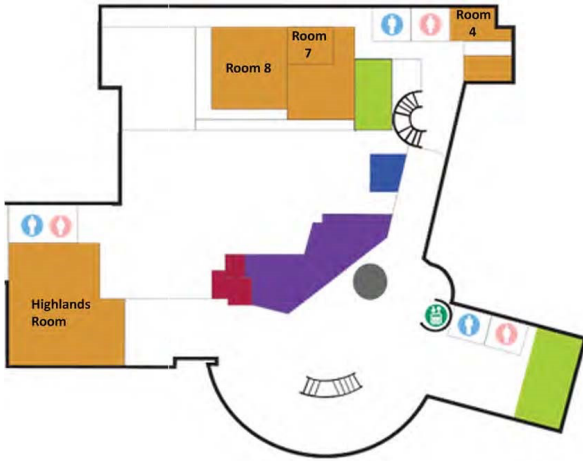
**James Madison University**  
**Festival Conference & Student Center**

## Schedule of Events

1:45-5:00.....Registration, Lobby, Festival (Upper Level)  
2:30-3:15.....Presentations – Session 1  
3:25-4:10.....Presentations – Session 2  
4:20-5:05.....Presentations – Session 3



**Festival Upper Level**



**Festival Lower Level**

## Presentations – Session 1 (2:30-3:15pm)

### Care, Emotion, and Friendship beyond the Human: Robots in Contemporary Anglophone and Germanophone Literature

Moderator: Holly Yanacek / **Board of Visitors Dining Room**

The presenters from this HUM 200 course wrote papers analyzing literary texts that depict human-robot interaction, explore what it means to be human, and imagine how new robotic technologies could transform human relationships.

**Dausny Cruz:** *The Impact of Artificial Friends on Human Relationships in Kazuo Ishiguro's "Klara and the Sun" (2021)*

**Lia Hamilton:** *Mothers or Androids? Human-Robot Interaction in Ted Chiang's 'Automatic Nanny' and Grant Sputore's 'I am Mother'*

**Kira Van Nostrand:** *Not Overcome: Normalized Disability in Marc Uwe-Kling's 'Qualityland' (2017)*

### Postcolonial Dimensions of Indigenous Religions: Impacts and Resilient Reactions

Moderator: Frances Flannery / **Room 3**

Students in this REL 101 course researched ways in which various indigenous religions have reacted to colonial intrusions by both preserving and transforming culture.

**Ethan Baldwin:** *The Enduring Hybridity of Navajo Healing Lifeways*

**Sofie Dalton:** *Kimbanguism: Looking at Christianity through an Indigenous Congolese Lens*

### Writing, Technology, and Fractals

Moderator: Laura Taalman / **Room 4**

Students worked as a group to build a large mathematical sculpture out of over 3,500 business cards as part of an investigation of fractals.

**Hamid Elias & Ethan Velasquez:** *Building a Modular Origami Level 2 Menger Cube*

Moderator: Karen McDonnell

Students in WRTC 103 explored topics in writing and technology.

**Stephanie Koehler:** *Devices and Divides*

### Religion, Identity, and Doing Good

Moderator: Mike Brislen / **Room 7**

Students in REL 102 examined some of the big questions that we pose as humans (i.e., who are we, how can we live well in the world, how can we live together with our differences) from diverse religious, spiritual, and non-religious perspectives.

**Millie Buckberg:** *Between Jewish and Agnostic Identity*  
**Abigail Lee:** *Akutagawa's Mandarins and Zen Buddhism*

## Current Issues Affecting the Health and Wellness of College Students

Moderator: Debra Sutton / **Highlands Room**

Students from two sections of HTH 100, and based on their high academic achievement, will present information on a self-selected issue affecting the health and wellness of college students.

**Renee St John:** *How Mental Health Affects Academic Achievement*

**Kaitlyn Marro:** *The Benefits of Exercise on Health*

**N'Deye Sock:** *How to Maintain a Healthy Diet on Campus*

## Presentations – Session 2 (3:25-4:10pm)

### Topics in HIST 102 & 150

Moderator: Michael Seth / **Room 2**

Students in HIST 102 and HIST 150 explored topics in global history since 1500.

**Jack Bush:** *Graveyard of Empires: The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan*

**Alex Collazo:** *Origins of Palestinian Nationalism*

**Christian Ellis:** *Amsterdam and the First Stock Exchange*

**Meredith Larsen:** *The Rise of Feminism*

**Jaime Peterson & Erin Varner:** *Gorbachev and the Collapse of the Soviet Union*

### On the Mat and Beyond:

### The Benefits of Yoga in a College-level Wellness Course

Moderator: Jana Walters / **Alleghany Room**

Students who have completed KIN 100: Lifetime Fitness and Wellness discuss the benefits of participating in yoga two times each week during a semester long course. We will explore the impact of a regular yoga practice on the student's emotional and physical wellness.

**Caroline Crandall**

**Ellie Dambra**

**Ashauni Young**

### The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas

Moderator: Mike Brislen / **Room 7**

The panel on *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas* are students from REL 102, but the focus of the panel is on an ethical understanding of Le Guin's short story.

**Katie Cline**

**Jaymie Cohen**

**Kira Van Nostrand**

## Presentations – Session 3 (4:20-5:05pm)

### Teaching Race & Slavery

Moderator: Dennis Beck / **Board of Visitors Dining Room**

Each student in this WRTC 103 class investigated an issue related to the teaching of race & slavery.

**Eamon Lalley**  
**Amanda Lund**

### Complexities in Nineteenth-Century U.S. History

Moderator: Emily Westkaemper / **Room 3**

HIST 225 students developed original interpretations of historical documents reflecting nineteenth-century experiences and ideals of womanhood.

**Mihir Borah:** *The American Frontier: The Bad and the Ugly, but Not Much Good*  
**Grace Young:** *The United North During the Civil War*

### General Education Summer Semester in Scotland Program

Moderator: Zachary Dorsey / **Alleghany Room**

Would you like to Study Abroad in Scotland? Come to this panel for information, stories, and pictures from past student experiences.

### Paintings in the Eye of the Beholder

Moderator: Sarah Brooks / **Room 4**

This ARTH 206 class wrote short formal analysis papers arising from two fall 2021 exhibitions in the Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art: the faculty show and Exuberance: Dialogues in African American Abstract Painting.

**Alessandra Rivera:** *Susan Zurbrigg's South Side in Moon Boots* (2021)  
**Alexa Smith:** *Erika Renee's Hi Honey* (2018)

### Diving Deeper into the World's Religions

Moderator: Mike Brislen / **Room 7**

Students in REL 101 learned about six major religious traditions, while also examining a few specific issues (e.g., ethics, history, ritual) within each tradition. Students will present on their research into a particular issue.

**Aydin Hall:** *South Asian Women and Their Influence in Sufism*  
**Brianna Moats:** *The Hijra Community of India*

### Using Sociology to Understand Society

Moderator: Kethera Moore / **Highlands Room**

In SOCI 110, students created two-minute long YouTube projects that explored sociology topics to understand society.

**Riley Brown:** *Suicide Amongst Global Indigenous People*

**Samantha Dean, Abby Killmon, Lucia Layden, Maxwell Marino, Elyse Rideout &**

**Holly Wageley:** *Vaccines: Life and Death on the Balance of Greed*

**Alexis Rubery, Richard Peng & Shyleigh Good:** *The Misconception Behind Food Scarcity*

**Alexis Stewart, Caroline Castellow, Nicki Goumas, Shelby Horton & Thomas**

**Brickhouse:** *Glocalization with Lay's Chips*



## Special thanks to:

### JMU Libraries' Faculty and Staff

Dennis Beck

Sarah Brooks

Elizabeth Brown

Kathy Clarke

David Daniel

Bob Davis

Noah Gustin

Phil Heap

Martha Hemingway

Skip Hyser

Kethera Moore

Meg Mulrooney

Debra Sutton

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