



General Education Newsletter

2020-2021



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General Education: The Human Community is JMU's core curriculum completed by all undergraduates. Based on common learning outcomes, not a distribution of disciplinary areas, it is a coherent, intentionally designed program of study with elements that distinguish it from conventional general education programs. As new conversations around a strategic renewal of the program begin, faculty and students are invited to visit the [website](#) to reacquaint themselves with its mission, outcomes, curricular structure, governance model, diversity statement, guiding principles, and more.

Upcoming General Education Ten-Year Academic Program Review (APR) 2021-2022

The General Education program will undergo 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, are critical areas of focus for the Internal Self-Study; the potential impacts of COVID will also be considered. We welcome faculty input in all areas and as we begin this process. The Self-Study is now underway and is to be completed for the submission deadline of November 2021. 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 APR's External (Virtual) Visit will take place in Spring 2022 and the Final report will be delivered for June 2022.

General Education APR Team 2021-2022

Tim Ball, General Education Council and Cluster 1 Committee, Communications and the Center for Faculty Innovation

Sarah Brooks, APR Chair and Cluster 1 Coordinator, Art History and MECM Faculty

Dennis Beck, Cluster 2 Coordinator and Theater History

Elizabeth Brown, Cluster 3 Coordinator and Mathematics

Kathy Clarke, General Education Council Chair and Cluster 1 Committee, Libraries

David Daniel, Cluster 5 Coordinator and Psychology

Allison Fagan, Honors Representative, English and LAXC Co-Coordinator

Skip Hyser, Cluster 4 Coordinator and History

Brian Leventhal, CARS Assistant Assessment Specialist and Graduate Psychology

Marquis McGee, Associate Director, University Advising

Kethera Moore, Cluster Five Committee and Psychology

Hala Nelson, Cluster Three Committee and Mathematics

Tomás Regalado-López, General Education Council Member, Spanish and LAXC Faculty

Jana Walters, General Education Council and Cluster Five Committee, Kinesiology



Congratulations to the following recipients of the General Education Graceful Pivot Awards for 2019-2020:

- Daniel Blumling - Chemistry, CSM; Mary Gayne - History, CAL; Catherine Hessick - Marketing, COB; TJ Hynd - Biology, CSM; Oscar Judd - Chemistry, CSM; Morgan Smalls - School of Media Arts & Design, CAL
- The GEC voted to suspend temporarily the Distinguished Teaching Award and offer "[the Graceful Pivot" Awards](#) in recognition of the extraordinary efforts faculty made during the shift to remote instruction.

Meet the newest member of the General Education
Program Team



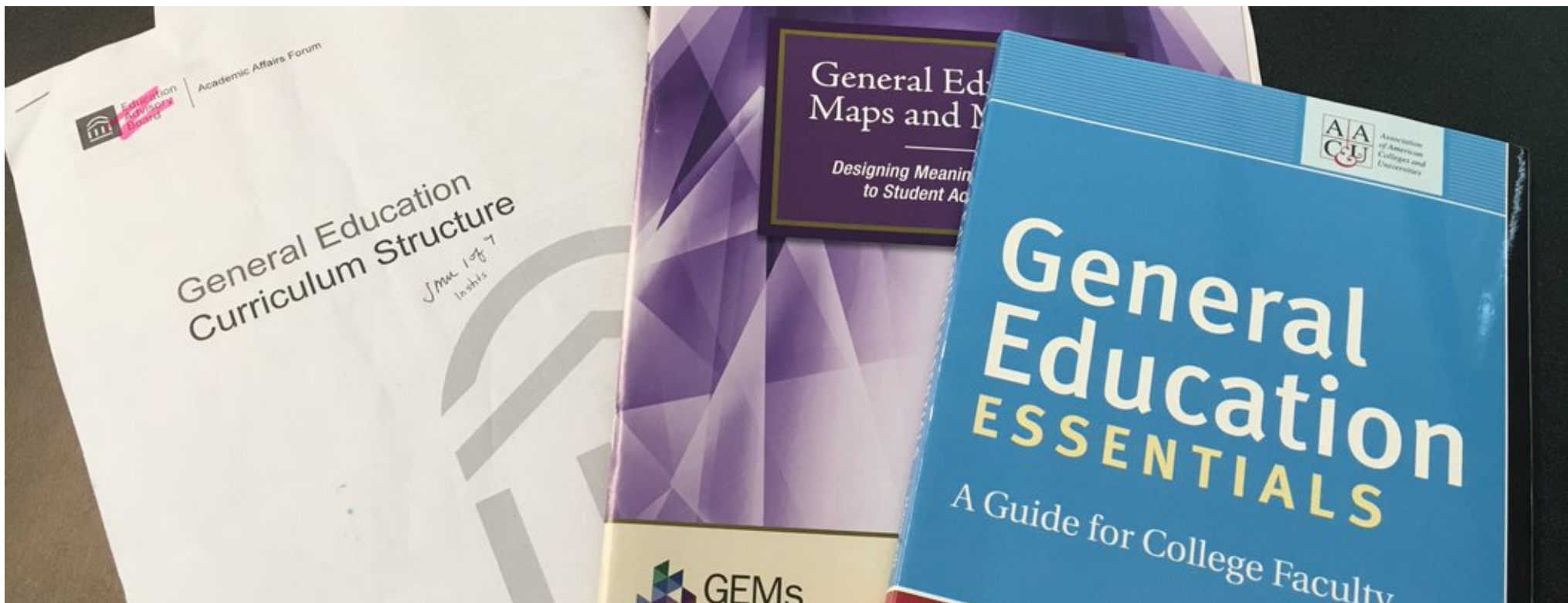
Our new General Education Cluster One coordinator is Dr. Sarah Brooks, Professor of Art History and Museum Studies. She is the 2021 Distinguished Teacher in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, and serves as a First-Year and Transfer Advisor. Brooks began her new appointment in August 2020.



General Education Diversity Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship

The General Education Program has hosted a Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship for the last several years. Dr. Giselle Hendy in Psychology is the 2020-2021 fellow. Hendy is the fourth fellow, following Dr. Morgan Smalls in SMAD, who joins JMU as a tenure- track assistant professor this year.

General Education Council

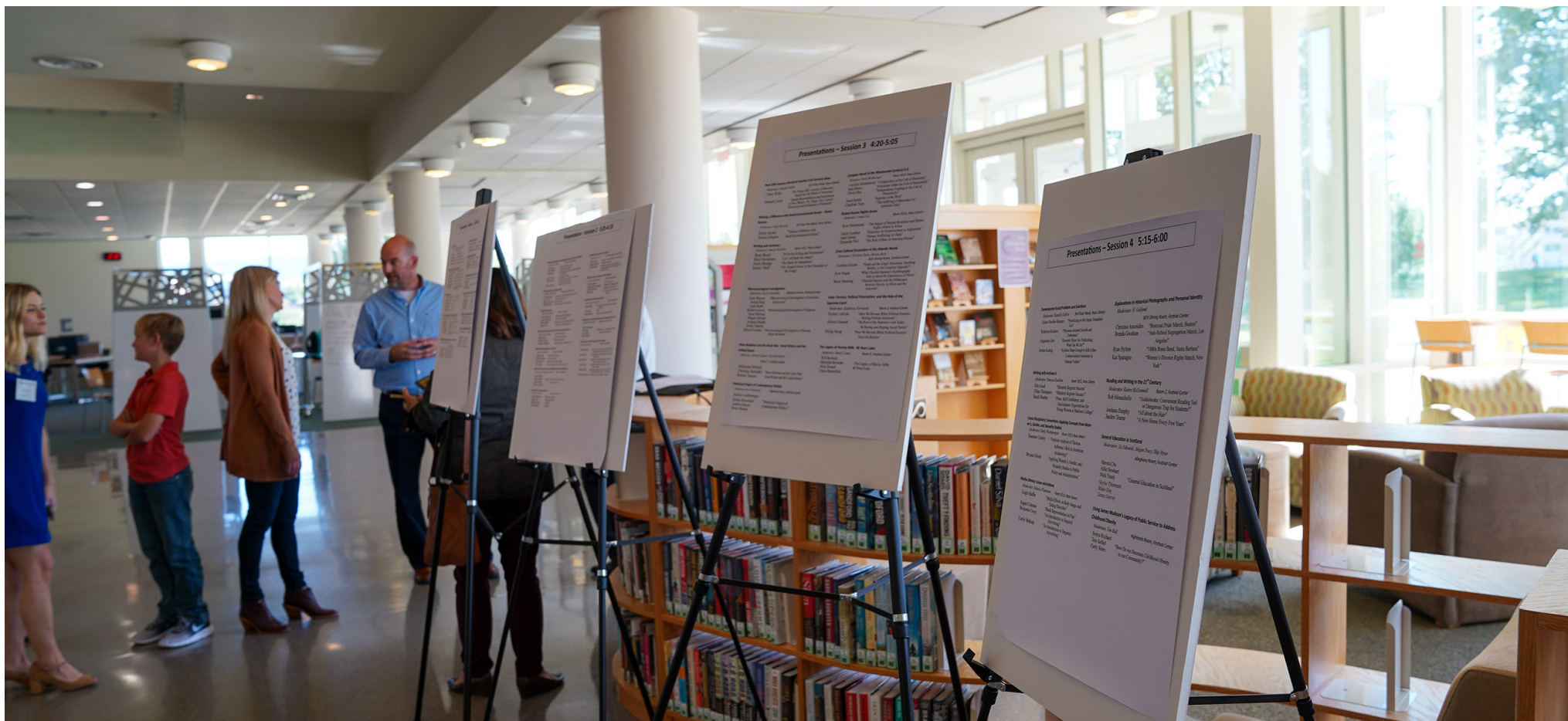


The GEC is an advisory body to the program staff and a college level C&I committee charged with curricular oversight of the general education program. Because of those two functions, it is made up of faculty representatives who are either elected or appointed by their respective units, as well as persons from key stakeholder offices. This year, the GEC welcomed new representatives from the Honors College and University Advising. 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. GEC meets monthly. Recent GEC discussions have focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts across the program and the upcoming Academic Program Review (APR). Minutes are distributed to GEC members, so please feel free to ask them for updates.

Thank you to the GEC's current members for their service:

Kathy Clarke, JMU Libraries, Chair * Tim Ball, Communication Studies, Cluster One Rep *
Jessica Davidson, History, Cluster Two Rep * R. Shane McGary, Geology & Environmental
Science, Cluster Three Rep * Kathleen Ferraiolo, Political Science, Cluster Four Rep * David
Trouille, Sociology & Anthropology, Cluster Five Rep * Emily Becher-McKeeever, Theatre &
Dance, CVPA * Tomás Regalado-Lopéz, Foreign Languages, Literatures & Cultures, CAL *
Ruthie Bosch, Educational Foundations & Exceptionalities, COE * Kayla Yurco, Geographic
Science, CISE * Jana Walters, Kinesiology, CHBS * Phil Heap, Economics, COB * Kristen St.
John, Geology & Environmental Science, CSM * Fawn-Amber Montoya, History, HONORS *
Brian Leventhal, CARS * Bill Knorpp, Philosophy & Religion, Faculty Senate * Michael
Moghtader, Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies, University Advising * Evan Holden & Nicole
Bosurgi, Student Government Association

2020-21 Annual Student Conference Postponed



With regret, the GEC and program staff agreed to postpone the 2020-2021 General Education Student Conference due to the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. For fifteen years, the conference has celebrated the excellent work of more than 100 student participants each year. In translating their prior work for conference sessions, student presenters benefit from active or engaged learning--a high impact practice--and enhance their skills in writing, oral communication, and critical thinking (especially metacognition).

The call for nominations for the 2021-2022 conference is in progress, and we look forward to being back better than ever in October 2021!



What was your experience participating at the General Education Student Conference?

"I believe that the General Education Conference is a wonderful event unique to JMU; it shines a bright spotlight on the classes and projects that can fly under the radar at other universities. I had a great time last year's event and I expect this year to be even better. I am humbled by the opportunity to have been selected to speak at this conference for the past two years."

By Kellen Sweeney, a junior Management major with a minor in Human Resources Management. He presented at both the 2018 and 2019 conference.

4:54

In memorium: Dr. Terry Beitzel, professor of Justice Studies and lead instructor of JUST 225: Justice and American Society, passed away on Jan. 29, 2021. A stalwart advocate for the transformative power of a liberal education, he routinely nominated his best students to the conference, served on the Cluster Four committee and the General Education Council, and participated in the integrative courses project. He is greatly missed by all who knew him.



The General Education Program has a new address: Gabbin Hall. We join the JMU community in celebrating the historic renaming of our building, the oldest academic building on campus, in honor of Dr. Joanne V. Gabbin and Dr. Alex Gabbin.



Gabbin Hall