THE TGS AMBASSADORS PROGRAM is a graduate-student-run program that connects new students with current students. Student Ambassadors (current graduate students) from various programs help new students plan for their arrival and first experiences at JMU by sharing their knowledge and offering friendship. Come be part of a supportive community of graduate students on Friday, October 7, 2022, from 3:00-5:00 pm at our Meet & Greet in the Graduate Lounge (Madison Hall - 4th floor). Please register here.

THE GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER (AKA Grad Lounge) is a dedicated space for graduate students. You can use this space to study, use the room’s computers and printer, pick up donated food items or clothing, or just relax between classes. The room is equipped with a kitchen sink, refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker for your use. After normal business hours, you can gain swipe access to the building and room by completing an after-hours access form that you submit to the Graduate School office (Madison Hall, suite 4050) or email to grad@jmu.edu. The room is located in Madison Hall, 4th floor.

DO YOU HAVE A GREAT IDEA but are limited by monetary resources for your research, program, or project? Each year Madison Trust hosts an innovation funding event for which you can submit a proposal. The top 10 innovative projects will be selected to be presented to our panel of philanthropic investors. More Information and Submissions. Submission deadline is Nov. 18.

DEI GRADUATE SCHOOL 101 WORKSHOP SERIES. Graduate School 101 is a year-long series of workshops designed for graduate students who are new to the university and graduate education. During these professionally-led sessions, participants discuss their experiences, and establish community. Each session will center a topic related to the graduate school journey as well as career/professional development. Graduate School 101 is especially designed for students in their first or second year of graduate school. View sessions and sign up here. Sessions are in Madison Hall, room
PRESENT YOUR THESIS at JMU’s Sixth Annual Three Minute Thesis Competition at JMU’s Madison Hall. There will be monetary prizes for the top three presenters. The first-place competitor will be invited to present at the National Conference of Southern Graduate Schools in Tampa, Florida. The conference date is January 20, 2023. The call for entries and more information will be updated here.

THE WOMEN’S GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES program sends announcements and event updates via their listserv each semester. If you would like to be added, you may contact Dr. Mary Thompson at thompsmx@jmu.edu. More Information

JOIN THE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GSA). The GSA promotes interdisciplinary unity among JMU graduate students through social events, career-building workshops and professional development grants. Their first event will be a JMU Football Tailgate – October 22. For questions email gsa@jmu.edu. Stay up-to-date by following the GSA on Facebook and Instagram.

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEADING CHANGE CONFERENCE (#LEADCC23) will be held at JMU in February 2023, hosted by JMU’s School of Strategic Leadership Studies. The call for proposals will open in October. LEADCC23 is a regional interdisciplinary conference that gives JMU scholars an opportunity to present their research without requiring significant travel. LEADCC23 will create an intimate and developmental forum for faculty and student, students and practitioners to share their idea. The conference date is February 24-25. More information

MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON CAMPUS. The Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices (OSARP) is recruiting volunteers to partner with its office in impacting the community. Become a Board Member, a mentor for the Mentor Experience Program, a Restorative Practices Facilitator or a Restorative Practices Community Voice. For questions – contact osarp@jmu.edu/osarp. Sign up here.

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER’S. Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s is the world’s largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer’s care, support and research. Register a team for the 2022 Harrisonburg Walk to End Alzheimer’s by October 7 for a chance to win a pizza party or swag basket! The event date is Nov. 5 at JMU-University Park, Devon Lane, Harrisonburg. Register here. If you do not have a team, but would like to join one, you may contact Katrina Spickler at spickklm@jmu.edu.

SPECIAL RATES FOR FLIGHTS from Shenandoah Valley Airport to Charlotte International Airport are being offered until October 31. Contour Airlines is offering special introductory fares of $49 each way on 30-seat jet aircrafts with leather seating, expanded legroom, complimentary snacks, beverages and free checked bags. Travelers can book seamless connections to destinations worldwide on Contour’s partner, American Airlines at aa.com or purchase tickets at contourairlines.com or by calling 888-332-6686.

WAGE POSITION AVAILABLE. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is seeking a student to provide accommodation services to students with disabilities. The assistant will work in the Exam Accommodations program which offers exams in accessible media formats. This position pays $15/hr for 20 hours weekly. For more information please contact disability-svcs@jmu.edu.

LOOKING FOR A GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP OR A CAMPUS JOB? There are currently 2 graduate assistantships, 49 student positions and 19 part-time wage positions posted on JMU Joblink.

VIRGINIA TECH’S PRESIDENTIAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM has expanded to include four distinct tracks and opportunities that may be of interest to late-stage Ph.D. students. These are two-year appointments with competitive salaries and benefits, $10,000 for training and professional development and professional development support. Next proposal due Nov. 15. More Information
THE AIR FORCE SUMMER FACULTY FELLOW PROGRAM through the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) is accepting applications for qualified faculty members and graduate students interested in conducting research at Air Force Research Labs/Centers. This commitment would be 8-12 weeks from May – September. Apply by November 30. More Information. Contact AFSFFP.PMO@Sysplus.com with questions.

THE UNIVERSITY CAREER CENTER’S GRADUATE SCHOOL LIASON Alyssa Hawley is a great resource to assist you with resume review and career preparation. Check out University Career Services for Graduate Students or contact Alyssa for more information.

TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF JMU LIBRARIES. Learn what’s available for graduate students. A portal to library resources for graduate students can be found here.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY STUDENT RESOURCES. Campus and community resources available to support students’ basic needs can be found at the Student Support Hub, a website that will connect you to food, financial assistance, housing and other resources. These resources will help you thrive at JMU.

MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS. JMU VALOR provides all military-connected students with resources for success. More information

NEED FOOD OR HYGIENE ITEMS? Check out The Pantry in Taylor Down Under (The Union), room 112. Shop in-person or place orders through The Pantry app, available in the Apple and Android stores. Use the app to select the curbside pickup option or rapid pickup in The Pantry. The Pantry is open Mon 12-6 pm and Tues-Thurs 12-5 pm. Available to all students, no questions asked! More Information

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES EXPANDED. The JMU Counseling Center is available to all students and they have just announced new resources available for free to all students, available 24/7. More information

Campus Events

THE FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS has a great lineup for this Fall. Start October with the JMU Symphony Orchestra on Oct. 4, The Humans by Stephen Karam on Oct. 4-9 and Tenor Saxophonist Melissa Aldana on Oct. 5. More Information and Events

BREAKFAST BLASTERS. Learn new ways to incorporate simple and healthy breakfast recipes into your daily routine. Class location - UREC Demonstration Kitchen. Oct. 4, 6:30-7:30 am. More Information

THE UNIVERSITY PROGRAM BOARD (UPB) sponsors student-focused events throughout the year. For example, join us for Pumpkin Painting on the Patio, Oct. 3, Comedy Night, Oct. 5 or one of the many movies shown for free at Grafton Stovall theater. Other UPB Events

DUKE GALLERY FO FINE ART is currently showing Nekisha Durrett’s exhibit – True Grit. Rooted in Durrett's experiences as a Washington D.C. native, True Grit honors the process of place-making in opposition to the colonial forces of dispossession and extraction. This showing is in Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art until Oct. 15., 11 am – 5 pm, Tuesday – Saturday. More Information and Upcoming Exhibits

CHECK OUT THE MASTER JMU EVENT CALENDAR. More Campus Events

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN HARRISONBURG? Find out what’s happening in downtown Harrisonburg here and here.

Tips from TGS (The Graduate School)
The Student Handbook. It is the responsibility of every student to know and follow the policies outlined in the JMU Student Handbook along with federal, state, and local laws. Student Handbook

Graduate Policies. You are responsible to read and follow the graduate policies set forth in the Graduate Catalog. Important information regarding degree progress, including rules for successful progression and continuous enrollment are also on the Graduate School website.

Approval of a Thesis or Dissertation Committee. Students who are completing these sorts of projects must submit a signed approval form to The Graduate School by the second week of the semester in which the student first registers for thesis or dissertation credits. Approval form

Monitor your Dukes E-Mail account! Official information is sent to each student’s official Dukes e-mail account. Check your @dukes.jmu.edu e-mail account on a regular basis.

Monitor MyMadison! The Student Center in MyMadison is where you will find advising information, register for classes, and where you can view “To Do Items” that will keep you on track towards graduation. Use the Student Center to update your mailing address and cell phone number. It is your responsibility to maintain accurate contact information. Check your account regularly. Don’t miss important information!

Essential Links:
- Graduate School Website
- Graduate Catalog with Graduate Policies
- JMU Student Handbook
- Forms for Graduate Students
- Thesis Guidelines
- Financial Aid

Have Questions? Please contact the following person if you have questions regarding:

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We welcome suggestions for this newsletter, including events and opportunities. Please send your submission to grad@jmu.edu.

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