

# JMU Graduate Community News

*From here, everything is possible!*

August 28, 2017

## Welcome from the Graduate Student Association

Dear Graduate Dukes,

Welcome to a new academic year at James Madison University! Whether you're returning for another year of academic finery or just beginning a new intellectual journey, we all begin with anticipation of the year ahead and share some common goals; to feed our intellectual curiosity, become masters of our chosen domain, and achieve personal betterment. As inspiration for the year ahead, the words of James Madison ring true - "The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty." As graduate students, our pursuits embody these words that reinforce our collective path towards continued knowledge.

Congratulations, as graduate students at JMU you are all automatically a part of the Graduate Student Association (GSA), an organization that serves as a resource of support for JMU's entire graduate community. Goals of the GSA are to facilitate graduate student professional development, personal wellness, and promote interdepartmental conversation by offering various events, activities, and workshops. Being active in the GSA will provide you further opportunities to advance your academic career and enhance your graduate school experience. Initiatives also include a Grad'n'Go food pantry to address food insecurity and a "Take it or Leave it" location where students can donate or pick up items for free, both housed in the new Graduate Student Professional Development Center in Madison Hall.

On behalf of the GSA Executive Council, I would like to say that we are excited to serve the graduate student community for the 2017-2018 academic year. We want to wish everyone a strong start to the new school year! We look forward to advocating for graduate student needs and continuing to grow the impact of the GSA on campus. To keep up with GSA events, please connect with us through the JMU Graduate Student Association [Facebook page](#), follow us on [Twitter @JMUSGA](#), and check your email for GSA updates. With ideas, questions, or concerns please contact us via email at [gsa@jmu.edu](mailto:gsa@jmu.edu). Have a great year and Go Dukes!

Kind regards,

Sarah McGrath, Graduate Student Association President

### 2017-2018 GSA Executive Council

Sarah McGrath – President

Jonathan Studio – Vice President

Emily Murray – Secretary

David Le Moal – Treasurer

**Graduate School Offices Now in Madison Hall.** Please don't try to visit us in that little house on Grace Street. That house is gone. The Offices of the Graduate School are now on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Madison Hall. Madison Hall is at 100 E. Grace Street, between the Student Success Center and the Madison Hotel and Conference Center (under construction).



Please take advantage of the new Graduate Student Professional Development Center, Room 4000 of Madison Hall. This facility is dedicated to use by all JMU graduate students. The room has four computers, a pay-per print printer, and two large-screen video monitors. It is furnished appropriately for group or individual work at tables or on comfortable chairs or sofas. The room has a refrigerator, microwave and sink. It is the home of the GSA's Grad' n' Go and "Take it or Leave it." All graduate students have JAC card-swipe access to this room whenever the building is open. Currently the room is open during normal university business hours, but extended hours will begin soon.

**For your fall schedule.** All students are invited to consider **PSYC 604. Computer-Based Data Management & Analysis.** This course introduces the basics of Excel, the use of Excel for graphing, and the management and analysis of data using two statistical software packages: SPSS and SAS. The course is appropriate for graduate students who want to improve their ability to manage data, perform basic procedures, and present findings. Class meets on Wednesdays from 12:50-3:20 in Miller G025. Seats are still available! Prerequisites: An undergraduate or graduate introductory statistics course and permission of instructor. Please email the instructor, Dena Pastor ([pastorda@jmu.edu](mailto:pastorda@jmu.edu)) if you need more information or if you would like to enroll.

**Apply For a Travel Grant!** Are you traveling to present your scholarship or creative work at a conference? All graduate students who are making a presentation at a conference are eligible to apply for a Graduate School travel grant. Grant recipients can reduce the cost of professional travel, and they can list this competitive award as an accomplishment on their resume. Note that the application form and submission process has been revised. ***Please use the application form currently available on the TGS website, and be sure to follow the instructions for submitting both electronically and in hard copy form.*** The first deadline is September 15. [More Information](#)

**Global Opportunity Scholarships.** Global Opportunity Scholarships provide support for students who participate in graduate-level study abroad experiences, including, but not limited to, short-term and residential graduate programs at

JMU, internship and field placements outside the United States, and research conducted outside the United States. Award winners receive \$1000. **The application deadline is November 1.** [More Information](#)

**Cohen Center Reorganizes.** The Graduate School is pleased to announce that Dr. Michael Klein has been appointed Director of the Cohen Center for Technological Humanism, a university center that is committed to support graduate education at JMU. This fall, the Cohen Center will be forming a new advisory committee of faculty, students and alumni who will formulate a strategic plan for the center and develop programming in professional development for graduate students and engagement activities for all members of the JMU graduate community. The Cohen Center is already planning new sorts of activities for the 2017-18 academic year. In partnership with Career and Academic Planning (CAP), the Cohen Center will be hosting a series of workshops for graduate students this fall that focus on transitioning from graduate school to the workplace or further professional studies. The first will be a Resume and Cover Letter Writing workshop on Sept 20 and repeated on Sept 21. Watch for more information and details on the Cohen Center [website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

**Be a GSA Program Representative.** While active participation by all graduate students is encouraged, each program also needs to have at least one official GSA representative. Programs without representatives will not be eligible to apply for funding through the GSA. Begin your participation or volunteer to be your program's representative by attending the first GSA meeting on September 6, 6-7 pm in Madison Hall, Room 4000. For information about GSA contact the GSA President, Sarah McGrath ([gsa@jmu.edu](mailto:gsa@jmu.edu)).

**Director of Prestigious Scholarships available to help JMU Graduate Students.** Kurt Davies has recently been hired as JMU's inaugural Director of Prestigious Scholarships. In this role, Kurt will work with students across the university to find and apply for nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships. He supports applications to such programs as Fulbright, Boren, and the NSF-GRFP. Prior to assuming this role, Kurt served as Assistant Director for the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships at Villanova University. He holds an M.S.Ed. in Higher Education from the University of Pennsylvania and undergraduate degrees in Linguistics and Anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. You can reach Kurt at [davieskt@jmu.edu](mailto:davieskt@jmu.edu) or 568-6526.

**JMU Alternative Breaks: Participants and Learning Partners Needed.** Graduate Students are encouraged to participate in JMU's Alternative Break Program (ABP)! ABP offers service opportunities with communities in the United States and abroad. Teams typically consist of 7-9 student participants, 2 student co-leaders, and 1 Learning Partner. Breaks generally take place one weekend/month each semester, and during academic breaks such as January, Spring, and May. Graduate students are always welcome to participate as a student and they will be considered for leadership roles as well. Graduate students are very welcome to serve in the role of Learning Partner for weekend breaks. Apply to be an Alternative Weekend Break Learning Partner at the beginning of each semester (Learning Partners are still being recruited, considered and selected-it is NOT TOO LATE to apply). There is an information session for anyone interested in leading a fall weekend break on Tuesday, Sept 5 at 4 pm in Madison Union 309. If you are interested in being a Learning Partner, fill out a profile and select weekend breaks. You will receive more information as the dates are confirmed. For more information, contact [abp@jmu.edu](mailto:abp@jmu.edu) or visit [www.jmu.edu/abp](http://www.jmu.edu/abp).

**Call for Proposals!** Columbus State University is now accepting proposals for their 2017 Graduate Conference. This year's theme is "Looking Inward, Looking Outward." Participants have three options for presenting, including oral presentations, poster presentations, and a 3 Minute Thesis Competition. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to participate. **The submission deadline is September 15.** [More Information](#)

**Internship Opportunities.** Dr. Thomas Moran of the James Madison University Department of Kinesiology is looking for motivated individuals to assist with various research projects. Topics of research include:

- *Quadriciser – Improving Overall Functionality through Movement*
- *Impact of Physical Activity Programs on Overall Health and Wellness of Individuals with Disabilities*
- *Bike Project – Protocol in Development*
- *Barriers to Community Based Physical Activity for Individuals with Disabilities (Survey Research)*
- *Mentor Research – Protocol to be developed*

If you are interested in any of these internship opportunities, please contact Dr. Thomas Moran ([morante@jmu.edu](mailto:morante@jmu.edu))

**Need a Job?** Currently, there are 2 graduate assistantships, 32 student positions, as well as 12 wage positions, for which graduate students might qualify, posted on JMU's [Joblink](#).

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### Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- **Rocktown Bites: Regular Food Tour.** Get to know Downtown Harrisonburg with a walking food tour. Tour guides will take participants on a 2.5 hour food and beverage tasting tour at locally-owned restaurants, food shops, and businesses. **September 2.** *Harrisonburg Tourism and Visitor Center, 2 pm.* [Purchase Tickets Here](#)
- **Deadline for adding/dropping of classes for fall semester (semester classes and first eight-week classes).** **September 5.**
- **Wampler Lecture: "The Photograph as Document."** On April 16, 2014, 250 students and 12 teachers from Danwon High in Donggeochado, South Korea were lost in a tragic ferry accident. In his exhibit, JMU MFA alumni Argus Paul Estabrook features photographs of families coming to terms with the removal of the memorial site that spontaneously arose at the high school after this tragedy. Mr. Estabrook will discuss his work on **September 5** at 5 pm in Duke Hall 3036. The exhibit will be in the New Image Gallery from **September 5 through October 6.** [More information](#)
- **GSA Meeting.** Attend the first GSA Meeting of the year! Anyone interested in becoming a program representative should attend. Programs without representatives will not be eligible to apply for funding through the GSA. **September 6.** Madison Hall, Room 4000. 6-7 pm.
- **JMU vs. East Tennessee State University. September 9, Bridgeforth Stadium, 6 pm.**
- **GSA Tailgate.** GSA Tailgate for the JMU v. ETSU game and Community Day! Tailgating will start 4 hours prior to kickoff. Location will be announced via social media the day of due to first come/first serve parking in the student lots. **September 9.**
- **"We are the Whole People: Creating a More Perfect Union from Imperfect People"** is the title of the Madison Vision Series lecture being presented by Linda R. Monk, J.D. **September 14, 3:30-5:00 PM** in the Forbes Center Concert Hall. [More information](#)
- **Deadline for adding classes with instructor and AUH permission (semester classes and first eight-week classes).** **September 14.**
- **GSA Happy Hour.** All members of the graduate community are invited to the first GSA Happy Hour of the year at Brickhouse Tavern (across from the Quad). **September 15.** *Brickhouse Tavern, 5-6 pm.*
- **JMU vs. Norfolk State. September 16, Bridgeforth Stadium, 3:30 pm.**
- **Resume & Cover Letter Workshop.** Career and Academic Planning (CAP) will be hosting a resume and cover letter workshop specifically for graduate students. **September 20.** *Madison Hall, Room 4000, 3 pm.*
- **Resume & Cover Letter Workshop.** Career and Academic Planning (CAP) will be hosting a resume and cover letter workshop specifically for graduate students. **September 21.** *Madison Hall, Room 4000, 9 am.*
- **Graduation applications are due for students graduating in December 2017. September 22.** [Download Form](#)
- **Step Afrika!** Witness an electrifying show by Step Afrika!, the first professional dance company in the world dedicated to the tradition of stepping. The art of stepping combines footsteps, claps, and spoken word to create intricate rhythms and sounds. This is the perfect show for the entire family! **September 22.** *Wilson Hall. 8 pm.* [Ticket Information](#)
- **Family Weekend: JMU vs. Maine. September 23, Bridgeforth Stadium, 1:30 pm.**

- **Deadline to drop a class with a “W” grade (first eight-week classes).** October 26.
- **Equus.** In his 1975 Tony Award winning play, Peter Shaffer tells the coming-of-age story of Alan Strang, a 17 year old boy taken for psychological treatment after blinding several horses with spikes. The play explores the topics of sexuality and religion and questions why people commit terrible acts of violence. Features students from JMU’s School of Theatre and Dance. Viewer discretion is advised. **September 26-30.** [Ticket Information & Showtimes](#)
- **Hispanic Film Festival.** Celebrate the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Hispanic Film Festival (formerly known as the Latino Film Festival) at Court Square Theatre. Curated by JMU Professor Karina Kline-Gable, this festival is a celebration and reflection of the Shenandoah Valley’s growing diversity through the art of film. [Film lineup and show times.](#) **September 27-October 1.**
- **Interviewing Workshop.** Career and Academic Planning (CAP) will be hosting an interviewing workshop specifically for graduate students. **October 2.** *Madison Hall, Room 4000, 3 pm.*
- **Interviewing Workshop.** Career and Academic Planning (CAP) will be hosting an interviewing workshop specifically for graduate students. **October 6.** *Madison Hall, Room 4000, 9 am.*
- **Film Screening: Training Rules.** During her 26 years of coaching basketball at Pennsylvania State University, Rene Portland had three training rules for her athletes: no drinking, no drugs, and no lesbians. Training Rules is a documentary that examines how an athletic department at a prestigious university allowed athletes to be dismissed from their college team based on assumptions about their sexuality. Jennifer Harris was one of the students affected by this rule. She eventually transferred to JMU to play basketball. Ms. Harris will be present during a Q & A session after the film. **October 9.** *Grafton-Stovall Theatre. 6-9 pm.* [More Information](#)
- **Deadline for adding/dropping of classes** for fall semester (second eight-week classes). **October 23.**
- **Deadline to drop a class with a “W” grade** (semester classes). **October 26.**
- **Deadline for adding classes with instructor and AUH permission** (second eight-week classes). **November 1.**
- **Graduation applications are due for students graduating in May 2018.** **November 10.**
- **Deadline to drop a class with a “W” grade** (second eight-week classes). **November 16.**
- **Thesis and dissertations are due to The Graduate School.** **November 17.**

For additional events of possible interest, regularly check <http://www.jmu.edu/events>

### Tips from TGS (The Graduate School)

**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 project 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 Policies](#)
- [JMU Student Handbook](#)
- [Forms for Graduate Students](#)
- [Thesis Guidelines](#)
- [Financial Aid Policies](#)

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

Assistantships/Scholarships/Thesis/Dissertations	Laura Ryman ( <a href="mailto:rymanle@jmu.edu">rymanle@jmu.edu</a> )
Graduation/Commencement/Transfer of Credit	Kathryn Brown ( <a href="mailto:wendelkt@jmu.edu">wendelkt@jmu.edu</a> )
Continuous Enrollment (Current Students)	Laura Ryman ( <a href="mailto:rymanle@jmu.edu">rymanle@jmu.edu</a> )
Initial Enrollment (Unable to Begin Program)	Sheree Will ( <a href="mailto:willsa@jmu.edu">willsa@jmu.edu</a> )
General Questions	Justin Whetzel ( <a href="mailto:grad@jmu.edu">grad@jmu.edu</a> )

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We welcome suggestions for this newsletter, including events and opportunities. Please send your submission to [grad@jmu.edu](mailto:grad@jmu.edu).

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