

# JMU Graduate Community News

*From here, everything is possible!*

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January 8, 2018

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**Happy New Year!** We hope that you had a wonderful break and are ready for the Spring 2018 semester!

**Three-Minute Thesis Competition.** Share your research in a high impact 3-minute presentation and compete for cash prizes and a chance to participate in a regional competition. During the Three Minute Thesis competition students present their research in a compelling and concise narrative aimed at engaging a general audience. Students are challenged to synthesize the core concepts of their projects and make meaningful connections to real-world issues. The first place winner will be sponsored by The Graduate School to attend the regional competition at the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools in Fayetteville, Arkansas, February 22-25, 2018. **The registration deadline is January 11, 2018.** [More information](#)

**Apply For a Travel Grant NOW!** 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. *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 next deadline is January 15.** [More Information](#)

**Call for Proposals: 2018 Graduate Showcase.** The Graduate School is now accepting proposal submissions for the 2018 Graduate Showcase of Scholarship and Creative Activities. Currently enrolled graduate students in certificate, master's doctoral, or Ed.S. programs are encouraged to submit proposals for panel and poster presentations. Submissions should include a 400-500 word abstract, brief state of the project's contribution or relevance to its discipline, and faculty advisor information. **Proposals are due March 16, 2018.** [More Information](#)

**Spring Course Available: LTLE 611. User Interface Design.** This course will explore the concepts of mental models and user-centered designs; visual design including but not limited to color, consistency and iconic representation; layout, navigation and flow; affordances and constraints; principles of user interface design and universal design; cognitive load; and designing for transfer of learning. Students will practice communicating with stakeholders and target users to make iterative design changes and will apply appropriate methods and tools for usability testing, analysis and reporting. Live online course, Wednesdays, 5:45 –8: 15 PM. No prerequisites. 3 credits. For more information contact Dr. Michele Estes ([estesmd@jmu.edu](mailto:estesmd@jmu.edu)).

**Become a Restorative Practices Facilitator.** This can be an empowering way to get involved on campus, connect with students and facilitate meaningful dialogues among community members. Become a Restorative Practices Facilitator! Interested volunteers attend two half-day workshops to learn more about the program. Questions can be directed to the Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices at [osarp@jmu.edu](mailto:osarp@jmu.edu).

**Call For Proposals.** The Harvard University Mahindra Center for the Humanities and Science, Religion, and Culture is now accepting proposals for an upcoming conference entitled Priors and Priorities: Conceiving Time and Other Bodies. Papers from all fields are welcome, especially submissions relating to postcolonial (trans) modernity, indigenous temporality, queer inhumanism and futurism, among other topics. **Submissions are due February 12.** The conference will take place April 20-21 in Cambridge, MA. [More Information](#)

**Planning a trip to DC or beyond?** Try the brand-new Virginia Breeze! The Virginia Breeze is a daily bus service that transports passengers between JMU, Washington Dulles Airport, and Amtrak's Union Station in Washington, D.C.

Passengers can enjoy free wifi, in-seat power outlets, and comfortable seating during their trip. Virginia Breeze customers can also purchase interline Megabus tickets to Philadelphia and New York City. [More information](#)

**Part-Time Employment and Experience Opportunities.** Dr. The JMU Kinesiology Department is now accepting applications for several employment opportunities via a grant provided by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities. Each position will work toward improving the health and wellness of individuals with disabilities in the Shenandoah Valley. Positions include:

- Training Modules Assistant
- Wellness Coalition Assistant
- Research Assistant
- Project Assistant (Training and Support)
- Project Assistant (Wellness Coalition)

Applicants who have documented disabilities are especially encouraged to apply. Cover letters, resumes, and questions can be directed to Dr. Tom Moran at [morante@jmu.edu](mailto:morante@jmu.edu).

**Updated Student Handbook.** The 2017-2018 JMU Student Handbook has been released. Please note that all students are expected to know and abide by the policies outlined in the handbook. [Read the handbook here.](#)

**Need a Job?** Currently, there are 8 graduate assistantships, 13 student positions, as well as 10 wage positions, for which graduate students might qualify, posted on JMU's [Joblink](#).

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## Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** January 15 (University closed)

### MLK Celebration Week: January 15 – 19.

#### “Reclaiming His Dream: Kneeling for Justice, Rising for Peace”

##### [Full List of Events](#)

- **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Formal Program.** The guest speaker for this year’s MLK Jr. Formal Program will be Kevin Powel, an acclaimed political, cultural, literary, and hip-hop voice. Kevin has written 12 books and has had his writing featured in Esquire, The Huffington Post, The Washington Post, and CNN.com, among several other publications. In 2018, he will publish a biography of the late Tupac Shakur, one of America’s most iconic rappers. Join the Center for Multicultural Student Services for an evening of inspiring dialogue. **January 15**, 5:30 pm, Wilson Hall Auditorium.
  - **D.E.E.P. Impact Dialogue: Civil Rights to Social Justice.** This dialogue will explore the transition of the civil rights movement to social justice, as well as influencers of modern day movements such as celebrities, politicians, hashtags, and marches. Reflect on the past and envision the future! **January 17**, 7 pm, Madison Union Ballroom.
  - **March and Speak Out.** Celebrate the contributions of Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement, while making connections to our lives today and the dreams we have for the future by participating in the March & Speak Out. Participants will gather at the James Madison statue near Varner House and will march to various locations on campus before concluding with a Speak Out in Madison Union 256. **January 18**, 3:50 pm, outside Varner House.
  - **“Reclaiming His Dream” Gala.** MLK Celebration Week will come to a close with a gala featuring a variety of performances and entertainment for audiences to enjoy. Food will be served, and guests should dress in semi-formal attire. Sponsored by Esteem Models, NAACP, and BSA. Registration is required. **January 19**, 7 pm, Madison Union Ballroom.
- **Add/drop deadline for semester and first block courses:** January 16

- **Cognition, Care, and Culture: Integrating User Experience Design into International Health and Medical Communication Practices.** Join The Cohen Center for a talk given by Dr. Kirk St.Amant, Professor and the Eunice C Williamson Endowed Chair of Technical Communication, Louisiana Tech University. Contact The Cohen Center at [cohencenter@jmu.edu](mailto:cohencenter@jmu.edu) for more information. **January 22**, 5 pm, Madison Union 302.
- **Dublin Irish Dance: Stepping Out.** Enjoy an evening of step dance featuring world champion step dancers, traditional Irish music and vocals, and a cast of performers who have appeared in Riverdance, Celtic Woman, and Michael Flatley’s Lord of the Flies! **January 22**, 8 pm, Forbes Center Mainstage Theatre. [More Information](#)
- **Three Minute Thesis Competition.** Whether you’re competing or watching, join The Graduate School during our first Three Minute Thesis Competition! Watch as students summarize their theses and other culminating projects in fast-paced presentations and compete for monetary prizes. Participants are required to register by January 11. Registration is not required for audience members. **January 25**, 6 pm, Madison Hall Presentation Room (First Floor). [More Information](#)
- **Cantus: Discovery of Sight.** Cantus is an Minneapolis-based acapella vocal ensemble known for its musical versatility, rich sound, and engaging performances. Discovery of Sight features classic masterpieces, newer works, and a guest appearance by JMU’s Madison Singers. **February 4**, 2 pm, Forbes Center Concert Hall. [More Information](#)

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> )

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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