

JMU Graduate Community News

From here, everything is possible!

August 31, 2015

A warm welcome to our new JMU Graduate Students! Welcome back to our continuing students! The JMU graduate faculty hope you have had a wonderful summer and we welcome you to a new academic year!

Which graduate students feel most connected?

Last year we conducted a survey of all JMU Graduate Students to relate their “sense of belonging” to the activities in which they participated. Based on the responses of 358 students, the graduate students who had the strongest sense of belonging were those who more regularly participated in professional development activities and those who more regularly interacted with undergraduate students.

According to our survey, many graduate students participate in social activities and professional development opportunities sponsored by their program, department, the Graduate School and the Graduate Student Association. Graduate students take advantage of the [libraries](#), [Career and Academic Planning](#) office, [Communication Center](#), [Writing Center](#), [Center for Faculty Innovation](#), [Recreation Center \(UREC\)](#), [Health Center](#), [Counseling Center](#), [Disability Services](#), and many others. Graduate students often attend [athletic events](#), [Forbes Center performances](#), [University Program Board events](#), and campus lectures including those sponsored by the [Cohen Center](#).

To succeed in Graduate School, complete the requirements for your program of study. To really benefit from your time as a graduate student, do more than meet the mandatory requirements. Take advantage of all that JMU has to offer. Get involved! Stay connected!

Missed Orientation? A new graduate student checklist is available. [More information](#)

Courses are still available for Fall 2015! Several JMU graduate programs offer courses that may be of interest to students throughout the campus. Consider the following courses:

LEAD 711. Effective College Teaching. This course is designed to present specific theories and strategies for teaching effectively in the university classroom. This course will assist you in showing effectiveness in your teaching from the beginning of your career. This course will give you the opportunity to take the higher-level knowledge and skills from your concentration and apply them to undergraduate teaching/learning situations. This is a second block course instructed by Dr. Karen Ford. For more information contact Brook Rhodes (rhodesbm@jmu.edu).

LTLE 625. Advanced Video and Audio Production. This course will address the pre-production, production and post-production process of making educational videos. The content is framed by discussions of critical media literacy and the integration of video into modern learning environments for training and school applications. Students will develop technical skills and hone artistic expression using message and design techniques, and will learn how video is used for research. This is a "hands on" course where students will develop graded products, both individually and as part of a crew. Offered online but at a fixed time (Thursdays 5:45-8:15 pm). Instructed by Dr. Richard Ingram. For more information contact Michele Estes (estesmd@jmu.edu).

PSYC 850. Introduction to R. This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the statistical program R for individuals without formal training in programming in behavioral and social sciences. The course is divided into four sections: basic tasks, writing functions, visualizing data, and basic simulations. Content includes the grammar of R syntax, basic data management, for loops, conditional statements, 2- and 3-D plotting, and

other topics. Basic statistical knowledge is assumed (i.e., null hypothesis testing, t-tests, and correlation). For more information, please contact Monica Erbacher (erbachmk@jmu.edu).

Additional information about these courses is available on [MyMadison](#).

Alternative Break Programs (ABP) welcomes YOU! ABP offers student-led and student-developed service-learning experiences to locations in the United States and abroad. Each service team typically consists of 7-9 student participants, 2 student co-leaders and a faculty/staff [learning partner](#) (LP). Breaks take place during various weekends each semester, and Thanksgiving, January, Spring, and May academic breaks. Graduate Students are always welcome to participate and/or lead. ***Graduate Students are needed to serve as Weekend Break Learning Partners.*** Check out the [weekend breaks](#) for this [fall](#) and contact ABP at abp@jmu.edu if you're interested in serving as a Learning Partner or if you want more information.

New GA Positions Available!

Community Development. The Madison Center for Community Development is seeking a community based graduate assistant who will support the fundraising, marketing, and administrative activities of The First Tee of Harrisonburg (a local nonprofit organization). This individual will report directly to the Executive Director of The First Tee of Harrisonburg. This position is funded for the fall 2015 with the potential to renew. If you are interested, please send your resume and a cover letter describing your interest in the position to Dr. Nick Swartz (Director of the Madison Center for Community Development) at swartznj@jmu.edu.

Community Health Assessment. The student will conduct research with JMU faculty and community health leaders to support the Healthy Community Council's next Community Health Assessment. Specific tasks for the grant-funded position include conducting a literature review of social indicators of health, discovering and compiling local data pertaining to social determinants of health, and contacting local health organizations to request data and information. Opportunities to co-author research publications are anticipated. This 20 hour per week position is funded for a stipend of up to \$3,765 per semester and tuition (up to 9 credit hours per semester) for two semesters for a full-time, in-state graduate student. To apply, please submit a cover letter and resume to Christie-Joy B. Hartman, Ph.D, Associate Professor, Integrated Science and Technology Department, at brodricj@jmu.edu as soon as possible and no later than September 4.

Additional GA Positions. At least three additional graduate assistantships are currently posted on Joblink for the 2015-16 academic year. These include positions with Human Resources, the JMU Planetarium, and the Institute for Visual Studies. Additional positions may be posted. Regularly monitor "Graduate Assistant Positions" on JMU Joblink. [More information](#)

Need a Job? Currently, there are 23 student positions, as well as 8 wage positions, for which graduate students might qualify, posted on JMU's [Joblink](#). The JMU [Office of Student Employment](#) will host a Part-Time Job Fair on Tuesday, September 8, 1:30-4:30 PM in the Festival Conference and Student Center. For more information contact studentjobs@jmu.edu or call 568-3269.

Keep up with Graduate Student Association (GSA) Events. The GSA is a student-led and student-run organization that provides professional and social opportunities to all JMU graduate students and alumni. [Like them on Facebook](#). [Find them on Twitter](#). (gsa@jmu.edu; 568-7088) [More information](#)

Hungry? Did you know that JMU has [28 dining facilities](#) offering everything from coffee and snacks to full meals. A wide variety of [meal plans](#) are available for reduced-price campus dining.

Need help moving to Harrisonburg? Information about City Services (utilities, trash & recycling, public transportation), vehicle registration, local schools, information about pets, information about places of worship, etc. are available in the [City of Harrisonburg Moving Guide](#).

Want to attend a JMU Sports Event? Currently enrolled graduate students are eligible for free admission to all regular season home athletic events. Ticketing procedures vary by sport. [Student ticket information](#). All team schedules can be

found at jmusports.com . Students can earn points for attending sporting events and engaging on JMU-Sports social media. Learn more at [Dukes Rewards](#).

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- **Classes begin.** August 31.
- **Registration Deadline.** September 8. Last day to add a fall semester class without special permission, or to drop a class without receiving a “W.”
- **GSA Tailgate.** September 5, 2 PM. Grace Street House. [More information](#)
- **UREC Grad Night.** September 7, 4-6 PM. A “University Recreation Fest” specifically for JMU graduate students with games and giveaways. [More information](#)
- **Student Employment Fair.** September 8, 1:30-4 PM. [More information](#)
- **An Evening of Mozart** featuring JMU voice faculty member, Dorothy Maddison. September 10, 8-9:30 PM. [More information](#)
- **Altruistic Brain Theory: Mechanisms Underpinning Behaviors that Obey an Ethical Universal** is the title of a lecture by Donald Pfaff of Rockefeller University, September 11, 11 am in Grafton Stovall Theater. The lecture takes the position that altruistic behavior can be treated as a natural neurobiological phenomenon, regulated by mechanisms that are universal across the scope of humans' brains. Most importantly, an efficient theory of how these mechanisms work will be presented; a brief digest of the book *The Altruistic Brain*. This theory explains a wide range of prosocial behaviors without making any special assumptions about human neurophysiological capacities. Explaining altruistic behavior in this mechanistic way is perfectly compatible with evolutionary theories. While countervailing tendencies toward male aggression must be admitted (and can be explained), we think that prosocial mechanisms explain a very large percentage of the behaviors shown by a very large percentage of people. This lecture is the first talk in the 2015-16 Cohen Center Speaker Series. For more information contact Larry Burton (burtonlw@jmu.edu).
- **GSA Meeting.** September 13, 5 PM. Cohen Center, Wilson 107. [More information](#)
- **The New Networked Campus Anti-Rape Movement** is the title of the Dominion Lecture presented by Dr. Caroline Heldman, September 14, 7-8 PM in the Festival-Highlands room. [More information](#)
- **Last Day to Add a Spring Semester Class.** September 17.
- **Hunger in Haiti: What Haitians Want You to Know** is the title of a presentation by Dr. Mary Tacy, September 21, 4:30-6 PM, Festival Highlands Room. [More information](#)
- **Graduate and Professional Fair.** Connect with recruiters from more than 120 programs from across the country. This event is not only for undergraduates. For example, this is a great opportunity for master’s students to learn more about doctoral programs. September 22, 4-7 PM, Festival Ballroom. [More information](#)
- **Graduation Application Deadline for December 2015 Commencement.** September 25.
- **Back to the Future: Recovering the ‘Age of Wonder.’** Is the title of a lecture by David Campbell of Boston University, October 2, 11 am in Festival-Highlands. I will speak to some recent developments (with some of which I am involved) aiming at re-invigorating the “art/science” or “humanities/science” interactions, including a forthcoming conference being sponsored by the National Academies Keck Foundation Initiative (NAKFI) on exactly this topic. Examples of art/science interactions from research in physics will be included. This lecture is sponsored by the Cohen Center. For more information contact Larry Burton (burtonlw@jmu.edu).
- **Thesis/Dissertation Deadline for December 2015 Commencement.** November 20.

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

Tips from TGS (The Graduate School)

Graduate Polices. 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 (rymanle@jmu.edu)
Graduation/Commencement/Transfer of Credit	Debbie Juhasz (juhaszdj@jmu.edu)
Continuous Enrollment	Tracie Esmaili (esmailtb@jmu.edu)
General Questions	Graduate School Office (grad@jmu.edu)

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

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