

JMU Graduate Community News

From here, everything is possible!

August 29, 2016

Welcome to all new and returning Dukes! We hope you had a relaxing and productive summer! As we start the academic year, The Graduate School would like to wish you the best of luck in your academic and professional lives.

Welcome From the Graduate Student Association

Dear Graduate Dukes,

Welcome to the new academic year! As we begin to settle into new routines and studies, I am reminded of the words of James Madison painted across the Forbes tunnel - "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance." To me, this quote captures the essence of graduate studies, our reasons for pursuing the paths upon which we now travel. As graduate students, we long to *know* that which we do not, to master the academic areas which inspire us, and to become experts in our fields.

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is an organization that seeks to support graduate students as we juggle the rigor of academia with external responsibilities and personal wellness. Our predominant goal for this year is promote the professional development of JMU graduate students, and to provide social activities that are both opportunities to network and unwind (such as our Community Dinner coming up on October 14th). To that end, we are also partnering with the Cohen Center and other organizations to provide workshops, symposia, and scholarly lockdowns for our community.

I speak on behalf of the GSA executive council when I say that we are excited to serve the graduate student body and advocate for any and all graduate student needs. We look forward to getting to know many of you as the year progresses and wish everyone a strong start to the 2016-2017 term! If you would like to keep updated on GSA events, please connect with us through the GSA Facebook page, check your email for GSA updates, email us at jmugsa@gmail.com, or email any of the executive council members directly.

Best,

Catie Mathers
Graduate Student Association President

2016-2017 Graduate Student Association Executive Council

President	Catie Mathers	matherce@jmu.edu
Vice President	Daniel Vieth	viethdw@jmu.edu
Secretary	Heather Daly	dalyhr@dukes.jmu.edu

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

Apply For a Travel Grant! Are you traveling to present your scholarship or creative work at a conference? Any graduate student who is making a presentation at a conference is eligible to apply for a travel grant through The Graduate School. If you receive a travel grant, not only can you reduce the cost of professional travel, but you can also include this competitive award as an accomplishment on your resume. The application process has been revised. The first deadline is September 15. [More information](#)

Call for Alumni Award Nominations. Graduate students and faculty are encouraged to nominate JMU alumni for the Distinguished Alumni Awards and Roop Alumni Service Award. To nominate individuals and find out more information on the awards, please [follow this link](#).

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. Team typically consist of 7-9 student participants, 2 student co-leaders, and 1 Learning Partner. Breaks take place one weekend/month each semester, and during academic breaks such as Thanksgiving, January, Spring, and May. Graduate students are always welcome to participate as a student and you can be considered for leadership roles such as serving in the role of Learning Partner for weekend breaks. Learning Partners are now being recruited, considered and selected! For more information, contact abp@jmu.edu or visit their [website](#).

Interested in Mentoring College Students? The Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices offers JMU faculty, staff, and graduate students the unique opportunity to mentor students who have broken the university's code of conduct. Mentors will help students create a personal mission statement, identify goals, and develop strategies for achievement. Together, the mentor and mentee will develop a relationship of mutual respect and trust. Interested individuals must attend a half-day training to become a mentor on September 16th at 1 pm in Student Success Center, Room 4049. To RSVP or find out more information, please email stovalak@jmu.edu or visit the [website](#).

Call for Submissions. Columbus State University is calling for proposal submissions to the Dr. Gregory P. Domin Graduate Conference on November 2 & 3 in Columbus, GA. The conference is unique in that the environment is inclusive and relaxed, which allows a free flow of ideas and knowledge among participants. The conference will host an exciting Three Minute Thesis competition, where students will present their work in 3 minutes to a diverse audience! For deadlines and more information, please follow [this link](#).

Need a Job? Currently, there are 38 student positions, as well as 15 wage positions, for which graduate students might qualify, posted on JMU's [Joblink](#).

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](#).

Updates to JMU Student Handbook. Every student is responsible for knowing and following JMU policies, which can be found in the updated JMU Student Handbook. Students are encouraged to review the [Handbook](#).

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- **Classes begin.** August 29.
- **First Fridays Downtown.** Head to Downtown Harrisonburg on Friday September 2 from 5-8 pm for a celebration of the arts! Over 30 venues will come together to celebrate music, photography, paint, and more with various workshops, performances, and viewing galleries. Perfect for any age! And the best part? This festival takes place every month! [More Information](#)
- **Registration Deadline.** September 6. Last day to add a fall semester class without special permission, or to drop a class without receiving a "W."
- **Pale Fire Lit Share.** Does a piece of literature truly inspire you? Share it with others! Pale Fire Tap Room will be hosting its first ever Lit Share on September 7 from 8-10 pm. Guests are asked to bring an excerpt of inspiring literature to read aloud to others and join in a casual discussion. [More Information](#)
- **GSA Tailgate.** September 10. More details to come!
- **GSA Meeting.** September 11, 5 PM. Cohen Center, Wilson 107.

- **The State of Higher Education for LGBTQ People:** Implications for Campus Polices and Programs will be the subject of the Dominion Lecture by Dr. Sue Rankin, Senior Research Associate of Rankin & Associates Consulting and recently retired as Associate Professor of Education in the College Student Affairs Program at Penn State. [More information](#)
- **Last day to withdraw from university with cancellation of tuition charges.** September 16.
- **Cohen Center Speaker Series: Olga Pierrakos.** The first presenter in the 2016-2017 Cohen Center Speaker Series will be Olga Pierrakos, a previous JMU faculty member specializing in engineering and STEM education. With an astounding resume that includes serving as a Program Director for the National Science Foundation, Dr. Pierrakos will give insight into the current state of STEM careers and education. September 19, 5 PM, Madison Union 256. [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. This is a great opportunity for master's students to learn more about doctoral programs. September 20, 4-7 PM. Festival Ballroom. [More Information](#)
- **Graduation Application Deadline for December 2015 Commencement.** September 23.
- **Graduate Community Dinner.** October 14, 4 pm. Festival Center. All graduate students and their immediate family members are welcome! An email invitation will be sent during the next few weeks. We hope to see you there!
- **Cohen Center Speaker Series: Alex C. Parrish.** During what will surely be a fascinating lecture, Alex C. Parrish will explore rhetorical theory and practice with a biocultural emphasis. His work breaks down hierarchical thinking surrounding the idea of being a human, an animal, and a person. Currently, Mr. Parrish is an Assistant Professor of Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication at JMU. October 24, 5 pm. Harrison Hall 1261. [More Information](#)
- **Withdrawal with W grade for semester.** October 27.
- **Scholarly Lockdown.** October 31, 2-5pm. Cohen Center, Wilson 107.
- **GSA Meeting.** October 31, 5pm. Cohen Center, Wilson 107.
- **Halloween Party!** Head to the Cohen Center on October 31 for the GSA Halloween party! Costumes are highly encouraged, prizes will be awarded, and food will be provided. 6 pm, Cohen Center, Wilson 107.
- **Thesis/Dissertation Deadline for December 2015 Commencement.** November 18.
- **All coursework must be completed.** December 16.

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 (juhaszdi@jmu.edu)
Continuous Enrollment	Tracie Esmaili (esmailtb@jmu.edu)
General Questions	Justin Whetzel (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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