



CHBS Canopy

Inclusive Excellence

Volume 3 | Issue 3 – September 16, 2024

The CHBS Canopy is our college's newsletter that highlights inclusive excellence efforts within the college, provides insights into issues of inclusion and diversity, and shares learning opportunities on campus and in the region.

What's in this Issue?

CHBS Leadership Training p.1-2
ODS Updates p.3
External Opportunities p.8

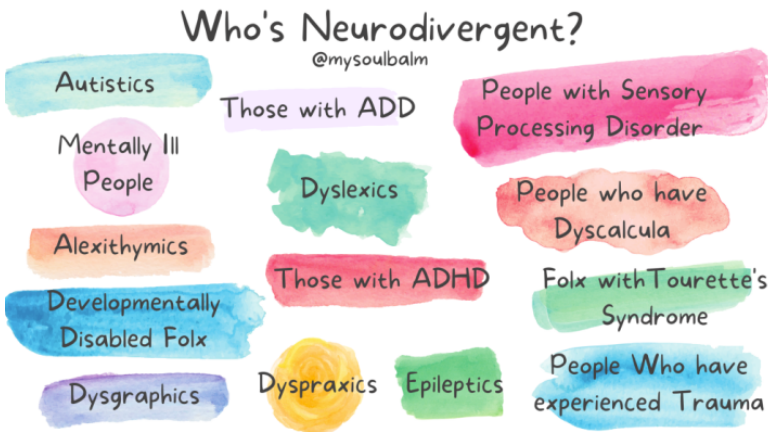
Latina Economics p.2
Suicide Prevention Month p.4

Latin Countries Independence Days p.3
Events p.4-8

CHBS Highlights

CHBS Leadership Training

Forty-five formal and informal college leaders participated in the **Supporting Diverse Learners in the Modern Classroom** three-hour training conducted by Emily Helft of [Landmark College](#). "The college for students who learn differently" is Landmark's tagline and the school focuses on and conducts research about students with executive function challenges, or who identify with dyslexia, autism, or ADHD. The purpose of this training was to facilitate leader knowledge so these leaders may better support faculty, staff, and students. There is greater variation in neurodiversity than addressed at the training.



Finding language and people to talk with about concerns related to neurodiversity without condemnation can be difficult. This is an expansive field where it is easy to misunderstand, judge others, and respond based on popular myths. The challenges of individuals with neurodivergent concerns are often life long, even with interventions. Helping individuals gain processes and systems can help them to understand themselves and learn to appreciate their uniqueness. Through routine and the application of strategies individuals may be better able to manage their concerns, and gain feelings of success. There are high functioning and very successful peers who

could classify themselves among the neurodivergent, not just our students.

A post-session survey showed that eighty-nine percent of attendees found the session very useful to extremely useful and all participants completing the evaluation found it relevant to their leadership. The training was fast paced, covering transitions in language related to how we refer to people impacted by neurodiversity, how diverse all brains are, clarification of terms, major categories under neurodivergence, and many strategies such as the use of gnat charts, concept maps, or 100-point rubrics for grading. Another popular strategy involved breaking complex assignments with many steps down to smaller projects. The discussion regarding

cognitive load related to students' "power bank" and how to put assignments together better were frequent highlights mentioned.

You may be familiar with these popular people or the media characters that exhibit some neurodivergent behaviors.

- Dan Aykroyd
- Sir Anthony Hopkins
- Susan Boyle
- Elon Musk
- Armani Williams
- Simone Biles
- Dr. Shaun Murphy in *The Good Doctor*
- Sam Gardener in *Atypical*
- Barney Stinson in *How I Met Your Mother*
- Abed Nadir in *Community*
- Tracy Jordan in *30 Rock*

Any of these character representations could be in our classes and we might see them as unique. They represent mostly male and all racial identities. Men are more often diagnosed when females are often misdiagnosed. Females tend to internalize becoming more anxious or try to camouflage/mask their traits. Males may externalize with horseplay or being disruptive in the classroom. [Neurodivergent traits](#) may present differently across gender identities. Some research finds that a greater percent of members across the [LGBTQ spectrum](#) may be neurodivergent.



The great thing about this year is that we are unclinking the hidden by asking everyone to learn about this population making up about 30% of all students. Our goal is to focus on how to help every student have a sense of belonging and help students or co-workers to succeed out of the darkness. Dr. Brené Brown researches vulnerability, guilt, and shame. Our capacity to relieve shame with light is essential to increasing the message that students and peers belong among us and that we all struggle at some point. Perfection is a myth we are often asked to believe. The message that our diverse students or peers are defective beyond repair is never a positive thing as we all need hope and help at some point. Perhaps this [short clip](#) might make the message clearer as to why collectively working on this issue will help so many let go of the shame related to their uniqueness.

Universal design is one active strategy we are using to make course content more accessible. You may go to the [university website](#) or sign up for the LAUD training. Our neurodiversity training sessions are still open.

- **Recognizing a Neurodiverse World** – (almost full) Tuesday, 9/24/24, 3:30 – 4:45 p.m., HBS 4041.
- **I AM in Your Class** - Monday, 10/7/24, 2:00 – 3:25 p.m., The Union - Taylor 306
- **Creating Accessible and Inclusive Learning Environments for Diverse Learners** – Wednesday, 10/23/24, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m., HBS 5040

Sign up for one of our sessions on neurodiversity [here](#).

%%%%%%%%%

Recognizing Latinas Economic Contributions



Recent research highlighted the \$1.3 Trillion contribution of Latinas to the nation's GDP illustrating that this is as much as the GDP of the state of Florida. "Latinas outpace their gender and ethnic peers in key economic measures, including record levels of Latina workforce participation, educational attainment, and income growth." While there is advancement of Latinas to higher ranked positions, there remains a large wage gap. As we look at the [economic realities of Latinas](#), we see older immigrant Latinas aging out of the workforce and being replaced by their U.S. born daughters and granddaughters as bilingual professionals with high levels of education.

Latin Countries' National Independence Days

Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month was established based on the Independence Days of Latin countries.
- September 15-

Costa Rica

El Salvador

Guatemala

Honduras

September 16 – Mexico

September 18 – Chile

September 21 – Belize

%%%%%%%%%

ODS Updates



Please welcome Brittany Dioszeghy as the new [Office of Disability Services \(ODS\)](#) Director. Brittany served as the Assistant Director for over ten years at ODS and brings that experience to the position. Faculty should be aware that student requests for ODS accommodations are still occurring as students gather and submit appropriate documentation. Faculty should refresh their knowledge about the testing [guidelines for accommodations](#), that would include getting exams to ODS in a timely manner to prevent additional stress for students and staff. Please remember to use the Accommodate system in working with students to arrange test proctoring needs and have students start early as accommodation space can be a challenge during high need times such as mid-terms and finals. The testing space

on the top floor of Madison Union is no longer available; however, space at the testing center is available. CHBS faculty should be aware that we are the highest user of ODS testing accommodations. These processes are difficult for our larger classes. Student learning and testing accommodations are determined by ODS as part of our legal mandate.

Faculty are learning newer universal design processes of assessment that expand traditional timed objective questions, short answer, or long essays. Instructors may better define the test purpose and approach rather than assuming this is widely understood by students; some refer to this as testing with a purpose. Consider item design and length. Instructors worry about cheating, especially with the emergence of AI and other technology. Using the Canvas testing feature can allow you to build a testing question bank, randomly select a number of questions and assign students to various testing times based on their accommodations. Some instructors talk about what is learning and engage students in how they learn best and show what they have learned better. Universal design does not replace legal accommodations, but we can help students better manage their process. This is introduced in the Assessment section of the [LAUD Canvas](#) site.

ODS will provide additional evening hours in the Testing Center Monday – Thursday for students who have evening classes. A three business day notice is required. If you are new to JMU you may find out more from the [Accommodation Faculty Guide](#). Faculty can learn whether a student has an ODS accommodation through the Accommodate system on MyMadison. Faculty should sign off on receiving student accommodation notices. It is not unusual that some students are still in process. If you need assistance, please talk your AUH and reach out to ODS for additional assistance.

%%%%%%%%%

Suicide Prevention Month

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reminds us that suicide thoughts can affect anyone regardless of background, identity, or age. The month draws our attention to increase awareness for our community. Remind students, peers, and community members that they are not alone. Speak directly to them about your concerns or their behaviors. Provide support and reach out for support. Helpers are not alone. Here are some resources:



- Crisis hotline: Call or text – 988 (24 hours/7 days/365)
- Chat with someone at the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988lifeline.org
- JMU students experiencing a mental health emergency (e.g., thoughts or plans to kill yourself, thoughts of seriously harming others, recent sexual assault) occurring **Monday - Friday 8am-4:30pm** visit the Counseling Center (SSC, 3rd floor, Suite 3100) to speak with a clinician.
- Active Crisis Sentara RMH Medical Hospital ([540-689-1414](tel:540-689-1414)), 2010 Health Campus Drive, Harrisonburg, VA
- JMU Counseling Center first visit walk-in appointments M-F 10am-3pm
- [Madison Cares](#) if you are concerned about any student. Contact the Dean of Students ([540-568-6468](tel:540-568-6468))

%%%%%%%%%

EVENTS... EVENTS... EVENTS... EVENTS...

Americans Who Tell the Truth

Grace Street Gallery in Duke Hall
August 21 - September 30, 2024
Sponsored by multiple JMU entities, including IIHHS

Fifteen (15) portraits from acclaimed artist Robert Shetterly's [Americans Who Tell the Truth](#) collection will be visiting James Madison University in the Fall 2024 semester. Shetterly's work focuses on current and historical figures who have exhibited exemplary citizenship, compassion, bravery, and excellence in facing thorny problems in many aspects of American life. The JMU exhibit is designed to share these beautiful paintings, and the inspiring stories of their subjects, with the university and local community, in hope of promoting dialogue about what it means to be an excellent citizen and to consider the connections between art and the pursuit of justice. Portraits in the exhibit include Niki Giovanni, Langston Hughes, and other Black literary figures. This exhibit will be on display from August 21 through September 30, 2024. Many JMU units support this exhibit including IIHHS.



405 Exhibition

September 17 – October 31, 2024; 150 Franklin Street Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA
Sponsored by Furious Flower Poetry Center

- *Mistress*; together, the conversation between image and text explores the legacy of slavery on Black women and their sexualities. Learn more through the link.

2024 Furious Flower Conference - *The Worlds of Black Poetry*

September 18 – 21, 2025

Multiple locations, East Campus

- Intergenerational, international, and intentional in its focus on the expansiveness of the Black poetic tradition, the celebrates and is jointly dedicated to the inestimable Elizabeth Alexander and Kwame Dawes. All JMU students, faculty, and staff will receive free attendance to Furious Flower IV. You must register in the JMU form using your JMU email; if you do not use your JMU email your registration will be invalid and removed.
- For more information - (540) 568-8883; furiousflower@jmu.edu

Japanese Movie Night –

Thursday, September 19, 2024

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Keezell Hall 0105

Sponsored by: Department of World Languages and Cultures

International Week – Starts September 22

Check out the happenings - [here](#)



Keynote Speaker -- Shalini Kantayya | International Week

Monday, September 23, 2024

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Wilson Hall Auditorium

Join us for the kickoff of International Week 2024 with an inspiring keynote speaker. Shalini Kantayya is a renowned filmmaker and director known for her work on social justice, technology, and the environment. She is one of the leading voices at the intersection of renewable energy, artificial intelligence ethics, social equity, and the societal impacts of technology. The event will also include a screening of her impactful short documentary, "A Drop of Life." Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights from Shalini Kantayya.



Beitzel Symposium (JUSTPEACE Week)

September 25, 2024: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM; The Union, Taylor 404 (Free)

Sponsored by The Gandhi Center

- The Gandhi Center's JUSTPEACE Week includes the Beitzel Symposium, with presentations by practitioners and scholars. The theme for 2024 is climate, peace, and justice. Find out the schedule and speakers – [here](#).

Harrisonburg's International Festival

September 25 - 28, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Fairfield Center

The [Harrisonburg International Festival](#) is a very special event that celebrates this area's rich cultural and language diversity. One of Harrisonburg's largest annual attractions, the festival draws more than 9,000 people every year from the Shenandoah Valley as well as areas such as Baltimore and DC. This family-friendly event is free, with plenty of food and crafts available for purchase, and activities for visitors of all ages. For more information call 540-434-0059 x 5 or internationalfest.hburg@gmail.com

Deep Impact: Latin Heritage Month

September 25, 2024; 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM; The Union, Warren 256

Sponsored by CMSS

- Join CMSS & Madison Hispanic Caucus for the Hispanic Heritage Month speaker.

Constitution Day Lecture: with Raj Vinnakota

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

7:00 PM - 8:15 PM

Wilson Hall Auditorium

For this Madison Vision Series event, Vinnakota will be joined on stage for a fireside chat with Dr. David Kirkpatrick and Dr. Kara Dillard, as well as a student Democracy Fellow, followed by a question-and-answer session with members of the audience. The event is free and open to the public. It will also be livestreamed on [YouTube](#).



Freedom of Expression Series Opening Session: Importance of Civility and Freedom of Expression

Thursday, September 26, 2024

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Sponsored by: Inclusion at JMU

James Madison University is hosting a virtual event series of multi-industry panelists who think aloud about Freedom of Expression and applicable rights and responsibilities. Passionate disagreements, divisive protests, insensitivity toward those who think differently and an increase in acts of violence demand focused discussion. For more information - [Here](#)

CGE's Study Abroad Fair | International Week

Thursday, September 26, 2024

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Festival Ballroom Grand

Encourage your students to participate as CHBS faculty are offering many opportunities including Germany, South Africa, Namibia, on a variety of topics. If you are interested in offering an opportunity for students, come network for the future.

Latinx Heritage Month Speaker Dr. Isaac Rodriguez

Thursday, October 3, 2024

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Festival Highlands Room

Sponsored by: Madison Latinx Caucus

Coming Out Monologues

October 10, 2024; 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM; Success Center 1075

Sponsored by CMSS

- Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression (SOGIE) office to celebrate National Coming Out Day through this low-pressure open mic-style event. Listen to, or share your own stories of coming out or not coming out through song, poem, or just talking.



October 11, National Coming Out Day

Asian Student Union Culture Show

November 9, 2024; 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM; Wilson Hall Auditorium

Sponsored by CMSS

- JMU Asian Student Union will have its Culture Show for the general body members and the general public.
-

Deep Impact: Trans Awareness

November 13, 2024; 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM; The Union Ballroom
Sponsored by CMSS

- Join the DEEP Impact Diversity Educators for a conversation exploring the experiences of Trans people during Trans Awareness Week!

Transgender Day of Remembrance Open House

November 19, 2024; 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM; Success Center 1075
Sponsored by CMSS

- Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual event to remember the lives lost to anti-trans violence and spread awareness on how we can be better allies in the fight for trans lives.

+++++

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

+++++

External Opportunities

Introduction: Explore Universal Design for Learning ([Online](#))

Sponsored by: CAST is a leading nonprofit education research and development organization
8-week course with 4 modules
Cost: \$850

Palliative Care Symposium ([Virtual](#))

September 20
Sponsored by VCU Health

- This symposium is designed for interprofessional team members, including nurses, physicians, social workers and chaplains who are involved in working with patients who have life-limiting illnesses and/or have need of palliative care, as well as their families. Topics this year will include: cancer pain management and OUD, cultural communication, and advance.

Good Grief Conference ([Virtual](#))

October 21
Sponsored by VCU Health

- The Good Grief Conference is designed to educate and equip interprofessional teams, chaplains, volunteer caregivers, and others working with those experiencing grief, whether related to health crises, chronic or life-changing situations, end-of-life issues, or bereavement issues.

+++++