

CHBS Canopy

Inclusive Excellence

Volume 3 | Issue 4 – September 30, 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.

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CHBS Highlights

Building Connections

By Andrea Knopp

JMU School of Nursing welcomes Dr. Yaa Obirikorang, our colleague from Garden City University College (GUCU) in Kumasi, Ghana. Dr. Obirikorang is the Program Director of the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, School of Health and Allied Sciences at GCUC and is a liaison for the Winter session study abroad for nursing students in Ghana. The JMU School of Nursing is partnering with GCUC Department of Nursing for research in simulation, nurse practitioner role development, and student exchanges.



Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Week
Restaurante Week – Explore the Flavors and [support locally](#).
Sunday, October 7th – Sunday, October 14th
Sponsored by the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

National IT Professionals Day!



IT Professionals Day is recognized the third Tuesday in September and is a recent acknowledgment starting in 2015. This was September 17th this year. Why is it important to acknowledge our Information Technology (IT) professionals as we consider our inclusive practices efforts? They make sure our computer systems run smoothly so we can engage many of our emerging inclusive practices and foster digital spaces of welcoming and belonging. Close your eyes and go back to March 2020. Do you remember the chaos that ensued for many faculty members as the COVID pandemic shuttered schools and put us online? Then remember February 2021 when students started to return to campus and some faculty taught hybrid or online to reduce risks. [The Breeze](#) has the JMU timeline.

Our IT professionals carried unique roles then and continue to hold special burdens as we enhance our use of technology to improve student success and utilize universal design. If our technology is not working in the classrooms – who do we call? They help us figure out why our technology isn't working in our offices as we prepare for class. Some of us talk about “our technology ghost” as if we did not press some wrong buttons or combination of buttons that got us locked out and unable to complete our hoped-for task. Our IT professionals never accuse us or give us the knowing look that technology mostly does what we ask and if we are in a mess, we probably played a role.

Most of us never see the computer updating process that happens in the summer to keep our technology ready or the installation of updated software in support of us being ready to go by August. Some units use specialized software for our labs, simulations, and video spaces. Some of our IT Professionals help with training on updated software and determining when software is not working as it should.

IT Professionals are technical experts and play a crucial role in managing and securing technology environments. They help us with our desktops, laptops, mobile devices, servers, networks, databases, applications, and cybersecurity. We are reassured by their daily presence behind the scene as we do our best to improve teaching, in making supportive contacts with students or peers, engaging successful research, and make community connections.

We help IT Professionals when we do our part like restarting our computers to make sure our software updates, avoiding phishing emails, getting our passwords changed on time, going to class early to make sure everything is working in your classrooms and you know how to use it, or not adding JMU approved software to our computers or classrooms.

CHBS is fortunate to have a team of IT Professionals who prefer to remain behind the scenes. Here are some unique things about them. Some have been with us when we were the College of Integrated Science and Technology (CISAT) and continued into making us CHBS. One is continuing their education, while another trains for a marathon. They are family focused and arrive before most of us to ensure our technology is working well. When you need them and see them appreciate how their unique skills and commitment keeps us moving forward in making our learning spaces ready for the innovations of inclusion and the applications of universal design.

Walk to End Alzheimer's

Older adults age 65+ are expected be 22% of the population by 2040. With an aging population we must prepare for the impacts of health, economic security, caregiving responsibilities, and the general wellbeing of our older population. We are all aging, being young does not stop the process. Growing old does not mean senility. Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia impact those aging, but also their families who become caregivers and bear financial burdens. [Learn about the local walk.](#)

The Neurodiversity Umbrella Project

Successful individuals with different minds are “hiding in plain sight” in our offices, laboratories, schools, universities, leisure, sports arenas, retail outlets – in fact, just about everywhere.

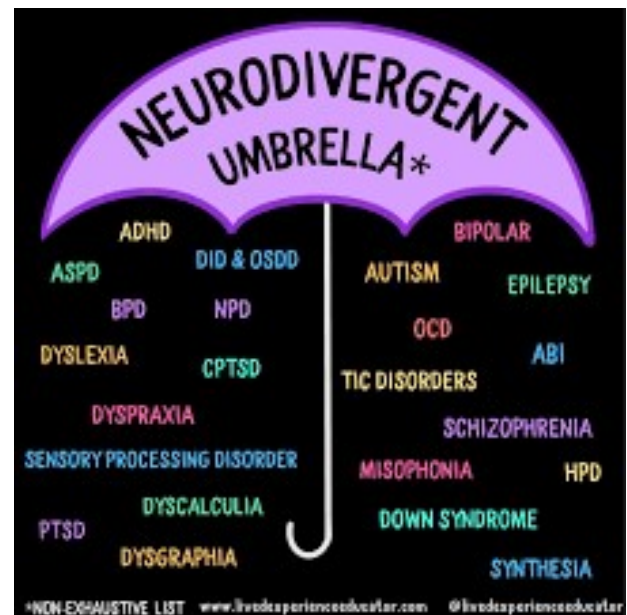
A Neurodiversity Paradigm challenges the outdated concept of intellect and employability in our education system and business culture. We hope to replace the conventional ‘deficit model’ with a strength-based approach to learning and ability; focusing on what an individual can do. In the 21st century, it is crucial that we take neurodiversity into account, and treat it in the same way as other forms of social diversity.



The Neurodiversity Umbrella Project sought to creatively highlight the strengths and character of persons who fall under the nonmedical socially constructed neurodivergent classification. According to the ADHD Foundation (UK) one in five people are neurodivergent, they think differently” by virtue of ADHD, autism, dyslexia, dyspraxia, Tourette’s syndrome, and dyscalculia, etc. The umbrellas celebrate, raises awareness, and seek to foster understanding.

Did you miss it?

Thirty of your fellow staff and faculty attended the first of three PLC learning opportunities focused on neurodiversity facilitated by Daisy Breneman. We learned new terms like “neurospicy”, explored the impact of a disability justice framework, talked about the establishment of “standards”, and addressing issues of implicit bias in the learning environment. These are a few new thoughts gained from the experience along with a sprinkling of strategies. Join your peers for the next session, ***I AM in Your Class***, Monday, October 7, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m., Taylor 306, facilitated by CFI’s Daisy Breneman and Dayna Henry. It is estimated that up to 30% of students in higher education are neurodivergent, with many without designated accommodations, a reality we talked about during session one. Focus of the second session introduces universal design as a helpful strategy. Register [here](#).



CHBS Study Abroad

About 16% of Harrisonburg's local population are [foreign-born](#) above the Virginia state above foreign-born residents. Immigrants make up 12.4% of nurses, 23% of STEM workers, and 23% of entrepreneurs statewide. While students may be exposed to local immigrants, what could they learn from being in a different country? Learning through exposure can leave students with a different perspective on those they meet locally.

Study Abroad is more than a typical class scheduled in another country. It offers students the opportunity to immerse themselves in a new culture, broaden and apply knowledge within a new context, try language skills, expand their network, and gain independence. CHBS faculty are offering amazing opportunities for students. This is a partial list and you can find more through CGE.

Please consider posting these opportunities in your Canvas page to support our student's learning efforts. For faculty/staff who might consider exposing students to a cultural experience, be inspired by those who are already engaged. This is one way we help students learn outside the traditional classroom and help them to develop social emotional learning (SEL) needed for all in today's fast paced ever changing and challenging society.

This is an example and more can be found [here](#).

Winter Break	
<p>South Africa: Global Citizenship and Healthcare</p> <p>Winter 2025: January 02 - January 18, 2025</p> <p>Modjadji Choshi choshimm@jmu.edu School of Nursing Callie Bradley bradl3cm@jmu.edu School of Nursing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSG 490: Special Topics (2 credits) 	<p>This one-of-a-kind study abroad is designed to serve nursing students, specifically current semester 3 students, as they explore the histories and the diversity of cultures in South Africa and their impact on the healthcare system. Students will systematically assess individuals and vulnerable populations in community settings and work collaboratively to lead the development and implementation of evidence-based, population-focused community health nursing interventions while providing direct patient care. In addition to the clinical care provided and social determinants of health exploration, students will have the opportunity to go on a Safari to explore Kruger National Park.</p>
<p>Ghana: Global Healthcare</p> <p>Winter 2025: January 05 - January 18, 2025</p> <p>Andrea Knopp knoppaf@jmu.edu Nursing Elizabeth Herron herronek@jmu.edu Nursing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSG 681: Special Topics in Advanced Practice Nursing: Global Health Care Leadership-Ghana (1 credit) • NSG 490: Nursing in Ghana (2 credits) 	<p>This course will focus on the global healthcare system in West Africa. Students will explore physical and social environments to understand individual, societal, and population-based influences on health and well-being while discovering the rich history of the Gold Coast in Ghana</p>
<p>Cayman Islands: Global Health Care Leadership</p> <p>Winter 2025: January 05 - January 11, 2025</p> <p>Christine Argenbright argenbca@jmu.edu Nursing</p>	<p>This course will explore global healthcare systems. Graduate students will examine interprofessional leadership characteristics and how they address health needs across settings. Students will explore physical and social environments to understand individual, societal, and population-based influences on health and well-being</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSG 684: Global Health Care Leadership (2 credits) 	
Spring Break 2025	
<p><u>South Africa: Global Health Care Leadership, Health and Policy Perspectives</u></p> <p>Spring 2025: March 15 – March 22, 2025</p> <p>Christine Argenbright argenbca@jmu.edu School of Nursing Jamie Robinson robin6jd@jmu.edu School of Nursing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSG 489: Global Health Care Leadership (2 credits) • NSG 684: Global Health and Policy Perspectives: South Africa (2 credits) 	<p>Students will be immersed in the history and culture of communities within South Africa to enhance knowledge and understanding of healthcare challenges unique to this population and how health policy is established and implemented. Graduate students will examine interprofessional leadership characteristics and how they address health needs across settings. An emphasis will be placed on understanding healthcare challenges unique to South Africa and healthcare policy development.</p>
Summer, 2025	
<p><u>Spain and Estonia: Global Healthcare Europe</u></p> <p>Summer 2025: May 13 - May 27, 2025</p> <p>Jill Lassiter lassitjw@jmu.edu Health Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTH 368: Global Healthcare (3 credits) 	<p>Are you interested in a career in healthcare, public health, or public policy? Every country in the world takes a different approach to answering these questions and implementing their healthcare systems. What better way to learn about varying perspectives than to visit and talk to the People who live and work within them.</p>
<p><u>Namibia: Health, Wellness, and Care</u></p> <p>Summer 2025: May 19 - June 13, 2025</p> <p>BJ Bryson brysonbj@jmu.edu Social Work Delores Phillips phillidb@jmu.edu AAAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOWK/FAM/NPS 487: Justice and Global Wellbeing Special Topics (3 credits) • AAAD 200: Introduction to African, African American and Diaspora Studies (3 credits) 	<p>Join us for four weeks in the unique African country of Namibia, to learn African ways of knowing to explore health, social services, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in an African context, while forging new perspectives and friendships. Namibia is a modern country with both city and small-town vibes, where wildlife is abundant, and the world's oldest desert dunes meet the Atlantic Ocean. Germany once colonized Namibia, and much of that flavor remains as many Germans live in the same cities as African Namibians.</p>
<p><u>Spain Health Care: A Cross-cultural Exploration of Illness and Wellness</u></p> <p>Summer 2025: May 24 - June 13, 2025</p> <p>Christine Argenbright argenbca@jmu.edu Nursing Erika Metzler Sawin sawinem@jmu.edu Nursing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSG 363: Health Care in Spain: A Cross-cultural Exploration of Illness and Wellness (4 credits) 	<p>Classroom lecture, personal reflection, excursions to healthcare agencies, guided tours, project-based learning in a community, and cultural immersion. Students will attend regular lectures in classroom and clinical settings enhanced with cultural outings in Spain.</p>

<p><u>Study Abroad in Germany and Poland: Psychology of the Holocaust</u> Summer 2025: May 29 - June 14, 2025</p> <p>Kevin Apple applekj@jmu.edu Psychology</p>	<p>While exploring the Psychology of the Holocaust, students will travel in Germany and Poland. Although the focus is on the Holocaust, students will explore other genocides as well. All majors are welcome, and students can earn either PSYC 261 or PSYC 461 credit. Additional information.</p>
<p><u>Costa Rica FLOW - PURA: Health and Wellness</u></p> <p>Summer 2025: May 29 - June 17, 2025</p> <p>Ailton (Santo) Coleman colemaas@jmu.edu Health Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NUTR 380: Global Nutrition (3 credits) • KIN 428: Advanced Topics in Exercise Science and Leadership (3 credits) • HTH 391: Special Topics of Health: Socio-Cultural Behavioral Aspect of Health (3 credits) 	<p>Costa Rica FLOW PURA is a three-week study abroad program in May focused on promoting resiliency and awareness through experiential learning and wellness practices. Students will explore Costa Rica rich cultural and health focused traditions while participating in activities like hiking, yoga, meditation, and fieldwork to learn about longevity and health promotion. The program combines traditional instruction, hands-on experiences, and project-based learning to help students understand social determinants of health and develop life skills that promote longevity.</p>
<p><u>Costa Rica FLOW: VIDA</u> Summer 2025: June 19 - July 08, 2025</p> <p>Celestine Woodruff woodruca@jmu.edu Mathematics & Statistics Michelle Hesse hessemx@jmu.edu Health Professions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MATH 103: The Nature of Mathematics (3 credits) • NUTR 380: Global Nutrition (3 credits) 	<p>In a 3-week program, students learn about nutrition, food culture, math, and statistics through lectures, readings, and practical activities like cooking classes, hiking, and meditation. The course integrates theory with hands-on experiences and offers 6 credits in Gen Ed/Quantitative Mathematics and Global Nutrition.</p>
<p><u>Scotland: Nature, Creativity, and Well-Being Across the LifeSpan</u></p> <p>Summer 2025: July 02 - July 20, 2025</p> <p>Debbie C Sturm sturmdc@jmu.edu Graduate Psychology Renee Staton statonar@jmu.edu Graduate Psychology Robin Anderson ander2rd@jmu.edu Graduate Psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSYC 261: Topics in Psychology • PSYC 461: Advanced Topics in Psychology 	<p>Through the lens of the Scottish people and culture, together we will discover the power of nature on our creativity and well-being across the lifespaces, including time spent with a wonderful woodland nature kindergarten where sense of wonder and curiosity abound, a creative opportunity with a nature-focused art retreat, and mindfulness and forest bathing in the national park. We will explore all that nature provides for us through wild foraging and swimming, community gardens, and public arboretum spaces. We will connect with people who are preserving nature for future generations, coastal ranger hikes, national parks' efforts to connect people to the parks, and wildlife sea excursions.</p>

Accessibility: ADA Title II Compliance

On April 8, 2024, the [Department of Justice \(DOJ\) formally established](#) the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG v 2.1 A, AA) as the accessibility standard for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The regulation aims to eliminate barriers that prevent people with disabilities from accessing vital state and local government services online, aligning with ongoing efforts to ensure digital inclusivity. As a state agency, JMU must comply with WCAG 2.1 AA guidelines by **April 2026**. More information is forthcoming from the university.

Here are some resources to assist with teaching materials.

- [Keep Choosing Accessible Learning Materials](#)
- [Accessible Social Media](#)
- [Instructional Design and LAUD](#) (JMU Libraries)
- [Faculty Guide to AcMe Accommodations](#) (ODS)

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

Last day – TODAY – September 30

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

Sponsored by Furious Flower Poetry Center

September 17 – October 31, 2024; 150 Franklin Street Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA

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

Sponsored by CMSS

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

- 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

Proud of My PRIDE

Sponsored by SOGIE

Thursday, October 24, 2024, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Success Center 1075

- Join SOGIE for a panel event to hear from current and past faculty, staff, and students at JMU talking about identity exploration, what it was like to be LGBTQ+ on campus, and how resources have changed!

Freedom of Expression Series Session 2: Freedom of Expression in Public Spaces, Signage & Public Speakers

Sponsored by: Office of Inclusive Excellence and Engagement, diversity@jmu.edu

Wednesday, October 30, 2024, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM, Virtual Events, [Virtual Event](#)

Dia De Los Muertos Honoring, by Honors, LAXC, Libraries

Nov 7 | 6-8 p.m. | The Forum @ Memorial Hall

Asian Student Union Culture Show

Sponsored by CMSS

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

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

Deep Impact: Trans Awareness

Sponsored by CMSS

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

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

German Film Festival

Sponsored by: Department of World Languages and Cultures
Thursday, November 14, 2024, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Burruss Hall 0044
Contact: Laura Stewart, stewarla@jmu.edu

Refugee Thanksgiving Meal

Sponsored by: Community Engagement and Volunteer Center
Sunday, November 17, 2024, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, The Union, Warren 256
Contact: Crystal Inman, inmanck@jmu.edu

Transgender Day of Remembrance Open House

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

- 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.

Candlelight Vigil: Transgender Day of Remembrance

Sponsored by SOGIE
Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM, The Union, Warren 256

- Please join SOGIE for a candlelight vigil to memorialize the lives lost due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice, and to spread awareness on how we can be better allies in the fight for trans lives.

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LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

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External Opportunities

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.

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CHBS IE Learning Community Sessions

Register [here](#)

Title IX Update (Virtual) [Faculty]

- Wednesday, October 2, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- The Title IX Office at JMU is responsible for receiving and responding to reports of sexual misconduct and other discrimination on the basis of sex or gender such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

Title IX Update (Virtual) [Staff]

- Friday, November 1, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- This session is designed for staff to update their knowledge on JMU's Title IX policies related to reporting sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

Neurodiversity Sessions

Session 2: I AM In Your Class

- Monday, October 7, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. The Union Taylor, 306
- *Introduces universal design as a strategy to improve teaching and learning for all students, recognizing that some forms of diversity are hidden*

Session 3: Creating Accessible and Inclusive Learning Environments for Diverse Learners

- Wednesday, October 23, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m., HBS 5040
- *Provides strategies for developing a positive learning environment.*