

# JMU Graduate Community News

*From here, everything is possible!*

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October 5, 2020

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**BACK TO CAMPUS!** JMU is resuming in-person and hybrid classes on Monday, October 5. If you are unsure how your classes will be conducted, please ask your instructor.

**STOP THE SPREAD!** Classes may now resume because JMU's new case rate is low and there is no evidence that the virus has been contracted in classroom settings. We believe that the quick virus spread that occurred at the start of the semester was primarily attributable to social interactions. Please protect yourself and others, and make it possible for us to continue campus activities, by taking appropriate precautions such as physical distancing, avoiding large-group gatherings, wearing masks and frequently washing your hands. [Video: What if I was exposed to COVID-19?](#) [Video: What if my roommate tests positive?](#)

**CAMPUS DINING.** All dining facilities are expanding hours and further lowering capacity. Dining service managers will more actively enforce mask wearing while students are not eating or drinking. Students will also be required to show their LiveSafe app daily self-attestation result upon swiping their JAC card when entering dining facilities. Additional "To-Go" options will be available at the all-you-can-eat dining halls, along with changed flow to allow for more queuing space and physical distancing. [JMU's Dining Options](#)

**RENAMING OF BUILDINGS ON CAMPUS.** During a speech he gave in 1980, James Baldwin said, "I want to suggest that history is not the past. It is the present. We carry our history with us. We are our history." Today at JMU, we continue to work to better understand our history, to tell it in ways that provide a more complete picture of the past, and to make decisions now that build a better future. The Campus History Committee will make recommendations for JMU buildings bearing names of persons associated with racist ideologies and practices, including the three buildings formerly named after Confederate figures that are temporarily called Valley Hall, Mountain Hall and Justice Studies. To stay up to date on our progress, participate in the renaming project, and learn more about your campus and the committee's work, subscribe to receive email updates [here](#).

**CALL FOR THE AFRICAN, AFRICAN AMERICAN AND DIASPORA STUDIES CONFERENCE PROPOSALS.** The JMU African, African American, and Diaspora Studies program is hosting a virtual

webinar series from **Wednesday, February 17 to Saturday, February 20, 2021**. This year's theme is "**Movement(s), Collectives, and Collectivity.**" Ranging across topics from archival practices to Black Lives Matter, the conference will bring together scholars and archivists from many fields. Please send presentation or panel proposals to [aaadstudies@jmu.edu](mailto:aaadstudies@jmu.edu) by **November 1, 2020**. Proposals are welcome from scholars in all disciplines at any point in their scholarly careers. Proposals are for 20-minute presentations or 60-minute panels with at least three panelists. Send questions to [aaadstudies@jmu.edu](mailto:aaadstudies@jmu.edu) . [More information](#)

**CALL FOR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE PROPOSALS.** JMU is hosting a Leading Change Virtual Conference **February 18-19, 2021**. Proposals with a leadership emphasis from students, alumni and faculty in any discipline are welcome as long as they have a leadership emphasis. Proposals (1000 words max) will be accepted through the conference website **October 15<sup>th</sup>-November 30<sup>th</sup>**. [More information](#)

### **PARTICIPATE IN THE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION:**

- **OUTDOOR EVENT.** Hike with the GSA! We will be hiking [Fridley's Gap](#) on **Sunday, October 11 at 10 am**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be practicing social distancing and following CDC, state, and local guidelines. For location and questions email [gsa@jmu.edu](mailto:gsa@jmu.edu).
- **MONTHLY MEETINGS.** Join the GSA for meetings each second **Wednesday** of the month from **7:15-8:00 pm**. For questions email [gsa@jmu.edu](mailto:gsa@jmu.edu).
- **CONNECT TO GSA.** You may find information for events and participation on our social media pages: [Instagram](#) , [Twitter](#) , or [Facebook](#).

**TAKE PART IN THRIVE.** With Fall semester in full swing, we hope you will take a break from your academics and join us for THRIVE's monthly meetings this October. Meetings will take place virtually (via Zoom). THRIVE meetings provide a space to cultivate community and conversation. Please see all meeting dates below:

- **Monday, October 5:**
  - Bi-racial/ Multiracial Student Affinity Group Meeting: 10:00 - 11:00 am
  - Asian American Student Affinity Group Meeting: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
  - African American/ Black Student Affinity Group Meeting: 4:00 – 5:00 pm
  - International Student Affinity Group Meeting: 6:00 – 7:00 pm
- **Wednesday, October 7:**
  - Hispanic American Student Affinity Group Meeting: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
  - LGBTQ+ Student Affinity Group Meeting: 4:00 – 5:00 pm

For meeting links or questions please e-mail [thrive@jmu.edu](mailto:thrive@jmu.edu). Find THRIVE on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

**UREC AND UNIVERSITY PARK** continues to operate this semester to provide the opportunities for you to maintain your personal fitness/wellness and manage stress during this challenging time! [More Information](#)

**THE UPDATED STUDENT HANDBOOK** can be found at [www.jmu.edu/handbook](http://www.jmu.edu/handbook). The Handbook includes updates of JMU's Title IX policies and procedures to conform to new guidance for the US Department of Education.

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## Upcoming Events

**UREC OUTDOOR BOOT CAMP** is offered twice a week (**Monday's and Wednesdays**), starting **Oct. 5** and for the first 8 weeks of the Fall Semester from **5:30 until 6:30 pm**. Personal Trainers will arrive early to set up equipment at UPark. Registration Required. Contact Anna Longaker at [longakad@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:longakad@dukes.jmu.edu) or 540-568-8702.

**D.E.E.P. IMPACT DIALOGUE (VIRTUAL)** aims to educate students on different aspects of diversity and create a brave and open space for engage in conversation and learning form one another.

**Wednesday, October 14, 7-8:30 pm.** Contact Cynthia Ruff at [ruffcr@jmu.edu](mailto:ruffcr@jmu.edu) or call 540-568-2544.

**YOUR CUSTOMER, YOUR BRAND, YOUR STORY: Women Entrepreneurs and Master Marketers** As part of global Women in Entrepreneurship Week join female entrepreneurs and master marketers to talk about branding, marketing and using your personal story to gain social media traction to build a customer base. Panelists will be: Cara Dickens, Rocket Pop Media, Laura Kuykendall Factory LLC, Renu Blankenship, Maker Mint and Caitlin Durning, Meraki Media Management. **October 15, 7 pm.** [Register here.](#)

**BREAKFAST BLASTERS.** Are you in need of some inspiration for the most important meal of the day and want to get your hands dirty in the kitchen? Come check out these simple and healthy breakfast recipes that can easily be incorporated into your daily routine and are sure to keep you fueled throughout your busiest days! **Sunday, October 18, 6:30-7:30 pm.** Registration Required. Contact Holly Bailey at [baileyha@jmu.edu](mailto:baileyha@jmu.edu) or call 540-568-8712.

[More on-campus events](#)

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## Downtown & Area Calendar

When venturing off-campus, JMU students, faculty and staff must take care to continue mask-wearing, social distancing and other safety procedures to STOP the Spread. Virginia has implemented [“Phase 3” reopening guidelines](#) which permits retail establishments, restaurants and other businesses to open with social distancing and other restrictions. Gatherings of more than 50 people are prohibited in the City of Harrisonburg. [More Harrisonburg Stop the Spread information](#)

**THE HARRISONBURG FARMERS MARKET** is open for walk through and online ordering and pickup, **Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8 am – 1 pm.** [More information](#)

**HARVEST CELEBRATION AT SHOWALTER’S ORCHARD AND GREENHOUSE.** Join us every **Saturday this October** for family fun from **10 am-5 pm.** Pick-your-own apples, local food trucks, orchard fare, local craft vendors, and Old Hill Hard cider. [More information](#)

**NIGHT SKIES AT SKYLINE DRIVE, BIG MEADOWS.** Bring your binoculars to gaze at the heavenly stars, as amateur astronomers discuss the control of light pollution, the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Moon, Jupiter and Saturn. **October 23, 6:30 pm.** [More information](#)

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## Graduate School Dates & Deadlines

<b>Deadline to Withdraw from University with a Pro-Rated Tuition Refund (75%)</b> Student must submit a Non-returning/LOA Notice to be eligible. “W” grades are assigned.	<b>10/10/2020</b>
<b>Deadline for Graduate and Doctoral Students apply for May or August 2021 Graduation</b>	<b>10/15/2020</b>
<b>Classes Begin (2<sup>nd</sup> Block)</b>	<b>10/15/2020</b>
<b>Deadline to Add or Drop a 2nd Block Class</b> Withdrawing from a class after the drop deadline results in a “W” grade and corresponding tuition charges, if applicable.	<b>10/26/2020</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Block (8W1) Grading Deadline for Faculty</b>	<b>10/27/2020</b>
<b>Withdraw with “W” Grade or Change a Course Credit Option</b> Student will receive a “W” if they withdraw between last day to add/drop and this date. After this date they will receive an “F” unless other arrangements made with professor.	<b>Semester 10/28/2020</b>

	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Block</b> 11/17/2020
<b>Deadline to Add with Departmental Permission - 2<sup>nd</sup> Block</b>	<b>11/03/2020</b>
<b>Registration for Spring 2021 Semester Begins</b>	<b>11/9/2020</b>
<b>Comprehensive Assessment Results &amp; Scholarly Document Submissions Due for Dec. 2020 Graduation Candidates</b>	<b>11/20/2020</b>
<b>Thanksgiving Break (No Classes Meet)</b>	<b>11/23/2020-11/27/2020</b>

[More Dates and Deadlines](#)

## Tips from TGS (The Graduate School)

**The Student Handbook.** It is the responsibility of every student to know and follow the policies outlined in the JMU Student Handbook along with federal, state, and local laws. [Student Handbook](#)

**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](#). Some temporary policies are currently in force due to COVID-19. [Temporary Policies](#)

**Approval of a Thesis or Dissertation Committee.** Students who are completing these sorts of projects 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 Catalog with Graduate Policies](#)
- [JMU Student Handbook](#)
- [Forms for Graduate Students](#)
- [Thesis Guidelines](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)

**Have Questions?** Please contact the following person if you have questions regarding:

Thesis/Dissertations	Laura Ryman ( <a href="mailto:rymanle@jmu.edu">rymanle@jmu.edu</a> )
Assistantships/Scholarships	Boris Escalona ( <a href="mailto:escalobd@jmu.edu">escalobd@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	Pamela Bell ( <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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The Graduate School (TGS)

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