

JMU Graduate Community News

From here, everything is possible!

November 29, 2020



WE HOPE YOU HAD A RELAXING HOLIDAY WEEK, and that you are staying healthy and prepared to complete the semester with renewed self-confidence and optimism about the future.

PARICIPATE IN THE 4TH ANNUAL THREE MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION (3MT). Graduate students will share their research during high impact 3-minute presentations and compete for cash prizes and a chance to participate in the regional competition. **1st place winner - \$750, 2nd place - \$500, 3rd place - \$250**. The audience will also select a winner for the People's Choice Award, sponsored by the Graduate Student Association. The first place winner will participate in the regional competition at the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (online). There will be virtual preliminary rounds culminating in in-person final presentations on **Friday, January 22 at 6:00 pm in Madison Hall**. [More information](#)

ATTEND 3MT WORKSHOPS to practice and learn how to prepare an effective “elevator pitch” about your scholarship—an essential skill that will be very useful during professional interviews or when explaining what you are doing to your family and friends. Learn how to be more competitive during the 3MT competition. **December 2 at 3:30 pm and December 3 at 12:30 pm**. [Register for a workshop](#)

THRIVE EVENTS Stay up to date on **THRIVE** meetings and events on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) or email us at thrive@jmu.edu.

PARTICIPATE IN THE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION:

- **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.
- **CONNECT TO GSA** You may find information for events and participation on our social media pages: [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#).

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 until **November 30**. [More information](#)

NOMINATE A GRADUATE FACULTY ADVISER for The Provost Award in recognition of significant contributions and superlative achievement in the delivery of quality academic advising. **Deadline: December 4, 2020**. Questions: Marquis at mcgee2mx@jmu.edu. [More information](#) [Nomination Form](#)

VIRGINIA SEA GRANT GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS are open to full-time graduate students in any discipline who are addressing issues relevant to Virginia communities related to coastal and marine resources. Graduate students studying natural or social sciences, engineering and design, policy and legal analysis, architecture, business, education, or arts and humanities are encouraged to apply. Fellowship provides up to \$40,000 per year for two years and professional development opportunities. **Application deadline: December 16, 2020 at 5:00 pm.** [More information](#)

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 these challenging times! [More Information](#)

LOOKING FOR A CAMPUS JOB? Thirty-One student positions and six wage positions are currently posted on [Joblink](#).

Upcoming Events

TWILIGHT OF DEMOCRACY? The “Democracy in Peril” will host Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Anne Applebaum will discuss her recent book, “Twilight of Democracy,” in which she discusses how many of her friends and family embrace extreme nationalism, conspiracy theories and authoritarianism. Where are we and where are we going? **Tuesday, December 1, 12 noon- 1:30 pm via Zoom.** Register [here](#). You must have an active Zoom account to register. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information on how to join the meeting.

IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE. Take a break from studying and come enjoy a movie in the Lower Drum at Festival! LiveSafe app and masks are required to enter. **Tuesday, December 8, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.** Festival Lower Drum. Contact Emilee Jones at jones2es@jmu.edu or 540-568-7892.

ELF MOVIE. Take a break enjoy a movie in the Lower Drum at Festival! LiveSafe app and masks are required to enter. **Tuesday, December 9, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.** Festival Lower Drum. Contact Emilee Jones at jones2es@jmu.edu or 540-568-7892.

TRY WHITEWATER KYAKING AT UREC! This is your chance to try out a whitewater kayak in the UREC pool! No previous experience is necessary. Our instructors will introduce you to kayak strokes and teach you how to exit the kayak if you flip over. If you have experience and want to practice your kayak roll, they can assist you with that as well. Registration for this program closes 1 hour before the start time. **Thursday, December 10, 8:00-9:45 pm.** Learn more and sign up on URECregister.jmu.edu! Contact Guy de Brun at debrunb@jmu.edu or 540-568-8713.

ANNUAL AAD CONFERENCE JMU’s African, African American, and Diaspora Studies program hosts its annual interdisciplinary conference, to be held as a virtual webinar **Wednesday, February 17 - Saturday, February 20, 2021.** This year’s theme is “**Movement, Collectives, and Collectivity.**” Ranging across topics from archival practices to Black Lives Matter, the conference will bring together a group of scholars and archivists from a wide variety of fields. The conference will feature a keynote presentation by poet and scholar-activist [Claudia Rankine](#) (*Citizen, Don’t Let Me Be Lonely*, co-founder of [The Racial Imaginary Institute](#)). [More information](#)

[More on-campus events](#)

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. [Governor Northam announced new measures to contain COVID-19 on November 13.](#) [Harrisonburg's restrictions were updated on November 18.](#) Check events in advance as restrictions or cancellations are possible.

TACKY CHRISTMAS SWEATER WHODUNNIT! Join Jump into Mystery on December 5, at 7:00 pm for a virtual murder mystery evening you will never forget! Everyone will get a character role ahead of time and is encouraged to wear their favorite tacky Christmas sweater! This event will last approx. 2.5 hours and will be played on Zoom. \$20 registration fee. [More information](#)

Graduate School Dates & Deadlines

Withdraw with "W" Grade or Change a Course Credit Option Student will receive a "W" if they withdraw between last day to add/drop and this date. After this date they will receive the grade earned unless other arrangements made with the professor. Withdrawal from a class will not change the tuition charge.	Semester/2nd Block 12/09/20
Final Exams	Semester/2nd Block 12/11/20-12/18/20
Course Completion Deadline	12/19/20 at 10 a.m.
December Commencement Virtual Ceremony (jmu.edu)	12/18/20 at 7 p.m.
Semester and 2nd Block (8W2) Grading Deadline for Faculty	12/21/20 at 3 p.m.
See the Office of the Registrar for Winter Session 2021 dates and deadlines	
See the Office of the Registrar for Spring Semester 2021 dates and deadlines	

[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 (rymanle@jmu.edu)
Assistantships/Scholarships	Boris Escalona (escalobd@jmu.edu)
Graduation/Commencement/Transfer of Credit	Kathryn Brown (wendelkt@jmu.edu)
Continuous Enrollment (Current Students)	Laura Ryman (rymanle@jmu.edu)
Initial Enrollment (Unable to Begin Program)	Sheree Will (willsa@jmu.edu)
General Questions	Pamela Bell (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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