

JMU Graduate Community News

From here, everything is possible!

January 10, 2017

Welcome back, Dukes! We hope you had a fantastic break, and we hope you are looking forward to another great semester!

What a great note to begin the semester, with JMU Football winning the national championship!

[More information](#)



Travel Grant Deadline THIS Week! Are you planning to present your scholarship or creative work at a professional conference? Graduate students who are making a presentation at a conference are eligible to apply for a travel grant from The Graduate School. These grants are competitive awards. Not only can they reduce the cost of professional travel, but you can also include this prestigious award as an accomplishment on your resume. To apply, use the application form currently available on the TGS website, and follow the instructions for submitting both electronically and in hard copy form. **The deadline is January 15.** [More information](#)

Martin Luther King Jr. Week

January 16-20

[Full Details](#)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: JMU Closed. January 16.

MLK Formal Program. Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by attending the MLK Formal Program, which will include a special dramatic expression, recognition of people in our communities, and a special guest speaker. Both the JMU and Harrisonburg communities are encouraged to attend this celebration of the passion, work, and dedication of Martin Luther King, Jr. and others who are dedicated to civil rights. **January 16, 5:30pm, Wilson Hall Auditorium.** [More Information](#)

NAACP Breakfast. As a part of MLK Celebration Week, faculty, students, and staff are invited to join the JMU chapter of the NAACP for food and conversation on **January 17, Madison Union 256, 8-10pm.** [More Information](#)

13th: Documentary. 13th is a deeply impactful documentary that explores the racial inequality that continues to be pervasive in the United States justice system. In the film, Ava DuVernay explores the effects of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution on racial minorities in modern-day America. D.E.E.P. Impact will host a viewing of the documentary, followed by a discussion, as a part of MLK Week. **January 17, 7pm, Grafton-Stovall Theatre.** [More Information](#)

From Hashtag to Action. This dialogue will highlight the importance and relevance of social media activism along with how modern social justice movements have evolved with social media. We will also discuss the idea of social media activism and how we can implement it to create movements. **January 18, 7pm, Madison Union Ballroom.** [More Information](#)

March and Speak Out. All members of the JMU community are invited to attend March & Speak Out, an event that encourages participants to reflect on the contributions of MLK Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement, as well as make connections to life today. The march will begin at the Madison Statue near Varner House and conclude at the Madison Union Ballroom. March begins **January 19, 3:50 pm,** [More Information](#)

A New Season: MLK Student Gala Banquet. To close out MLK Week, Esteem Models, NAACP, and BSA are partnering to host a gala with food, performances and entertainment. Join your fellow community in celebrating Martin Luther

King, Jr.'s work and legacy at this exciting MLK Week finale! Attire should be semi-formal. **January 20, 7-10pm.**
Madison Union Ballroom. [More Information](#)

Volunteers Needed. The Staunton-Augusta WMCA Reach & Rise program is seeking facilitators/mentors for groups of at-risk children, 8-15 years of age. These types of programs improve graduation rates, reduce illegal drug use, and improve self-esteem, decision making skills, and help participant advance their interpersonal relationship skills. You must be 21 years of age to volunteer, and you must commit to 15 hours of training and agree to lead a group for 8 or 16 weeks. [More information](#)

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 January 20th at 1:30pm in the Student Success Center, Room 4049. Please RSVP via email to civiclearning@jmu.edu by 5 pm on January 13. For more information, visit the [website](#) or email stovalak@jmu.edu.

Want to Watch a Movie? Every week that class is in session, University Program Board provides viewings of recently released films at Grafton Stovall Theatre. The movies shown at Grafton are typically films that are no longer being shown in regular theaters but have not yet been released on DVD/Blu-Ray. And the best part? Tickets are only \$3.00, and popcorn is 50 cents! Cash or FLEX only. <http://info.jmu.edu/upb/movies/>

Need a Job? Currently, there are 7 graduate assistantships, 19 student positions, as well as 9 wage positions, for which graduate students might qualify, posted on JMU's [Joblink](#).

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- **Spring semester classes begin:** January 9.
- **Physician Assistant Poster Presentations.** The JMU Physician Assistant graduate students will be presenting their capstone work on January 12th in the Ground Floor Lobby of the Health and Behavioral Science Building. Student pairs chose topics and addressed questions related to clinical uncertainty provided by health care providers in the greater Harrisonburg area. Learn about the work of our PA students **January 12, 1-3 pm**.
- **Deadline to add/drop a class for the semester without receiving a W grade:** **January 17**.
- **Phytopolitics: Four Forays into Vegetation.** As a part of The Cohen Center's visiting scholar series, Dr. Cate Sandilands will present her work entitled, "Phytopolitics – Four Forays into Vegetation." Dr. Sandilands is known for her work on the intersection of queer and feminist theory, environmental philosophy and political theory, and cultural studies. **January 18, 5pm, Festival Ballroom.** [More information](#)
- **An Evening with Pat Metheny.** If you have a passion for music, you will not want to miss this performance by the extremely talented, 20-time Grammy-winning guitarist, Pat Metheny. He will be joined on stage by other musical artists during a showcase of music from his 40-year career. **January 24, 8pm, Forbes Center Concert Hall.** [Ticket Pricing & Information](#)
- **Last day to withdraw from university with cancellation of tuition charges:** January 27.
- **The Ideal of Culture?** Author Joseph Epstein will be present his lecture entitled "The Ideal of Culture?" as a part of The Cohen Center visiting scholar series. Mr. Epstein's work has been featured in The New Yorker, Harper's Magazine, and the Atlantic Monthly, among other publications. **January 30, 5pm, Madison Union Ballroom.** [More information](#)

- **JMU Percussion Ensemble.** If you enjoy live music attend this performance! The ensemble will be holding their first concert of the spring semester at the end of the month. **January 30, 8pm, Forbes Center Concert Hall.** [Ticket Pricing & Information](#)
- **Student Assessment Day:** February 7. No classes 8 am-4 pm. [More information](#)
- **Spring Break:** March 6-10.
- **Thesis/dissertation due to The Graduate School:** April 19.
- **May Graduate Commencement:** May 4.

For additional events of possible interest, regularly check <http://www.jmu.edu/events>

Tips from TGS (The Graduate School)

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](#)

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 (Current Students)	Laura Ryman (rymanle@jmu.edu)
Initial Enrollment (Unable to Begin Program)	Sheree Will (willsa@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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