

# JMU Graduate Community News

*From here, everything is possible!*

August 24, 2020



**WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!** Welcome Back! To make in-person experiences possible this fall, every one of us will need to make good decisions and look out for each other. Critical to our ability to open—and stay open—is our unwavering commitment to take actions that will STOP the Spread of COVID-19.

JMU has spent the summer preparing for your arrival to implement plans that should keep all Dukes healthy. We have implemented:

- Mask wearing is now JMU's new "holding doors" tradition [Video](#)
- Hand sanitizer stations and Plexiglas screens are located throughout campus
- Larger class rooms will accommodate social distancing
- Mobile ordering and delivery options for on-campus dining
- Telehealth options for the University Health Center, Counseling Center and The Well
- Signs to help direct the community
- A designated respiratory clinic at the University Health Center

For more information visit our [STOP The Spread pages for graduate students](#).

## **GREETINGS FROM THE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GSA) PRESIDENT**

My name is Aaron Elder, I am a second-year graduate student in the Sport & Recreation Leadership Program. It is my pleasure to congratulate you all in embarking on, or continuing, a graduate program at JMU! As the GSA President, I will advocate for graduate students in all available channels, aim to ensure that graduate students are geared for success in their programs, and have the resources to network confidently in their careers. Even through these tough times, the structure of graduate student life can present itself with unique challenges and through the use of social and practical-themed events, we aim to support students in navigating throughout graduate school. Feel free to email us at [gsa@jmu.edu](mailto:gsa@jmu.edu) with any questions you may have or if you just want to say hello! I look forward to connecting with each of you and hope to see you all at upcoming GSA events, as well as our monthly meetings. Stay tuned to our social media accounts for details! GO DUKES! Find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

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**PARTICIPATE IN THRIVE.** THRIVE was started last year out of the recognition that minority graduate students were feeling especially siloed in their experience at JMU. THRIVE is an organization that is led by graduate students for other graduate students. Our goal is to provide an inclusive community, sense of belonging, and safe space for students who too often feel invalidated and overlooked. Throughout the academic year, we plan to provide support to students through mentorship, student run affinity groups, workshops, speaker series, and culturally relevant programming. We strive to ensure that students are growing both academically and personally in an authentic and brave space.

THRIVE is also currently looking for individuals to join our Student Advisory Board. This Board will work closely with the coordinator of THRIVE and operate as leaders within the organization and the Graduate school. Please email [thrive@jmu.edu](mailto:thrive@jmu.edu) to learn more.

Join us for our first **THRIVE Meet and Greet** on **Thursday, September 3, 7:00-8:00 pm**. This meeting will be held virtually via WebEX. Please e-mail [thrive@jmu.edu](mailto:thrive@jmu.edu) to receive the link. Also consider joining us for the following Affinity Group Meetings (virtually, via the same process):

- **Monday, September 7, 6:00 - 7:00** - Asian American Students
- **Monday, September 7, 7:00 - 8:00** - LGBTQ + Students
- **Tuesday, September 8, 7:00 - 8:00** - International Students
- **Wednesday, September 9, 11:00 - 12:00** - African American Students
- **Wednesday, September 9, 12:00 - 1:00** - Hispanic American Students
- **Thursday, September 10, 1:00 - 2:00** - Bi-racial/ Multi-racial Students



[www.jmu.edu/grad/thrive](http://www.jmu.edu/grad/thrive)

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**MISSED ORIENTATION?** A new graduate student checklist is available [here](#).

**NEED A PLACE TO STUDY?** The Graduate Lounge in Madison Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> floor can currently accommodate 25 students. The Graduate Lounge hours are: Monday-Thursday: 7:45 am to 9:00 pm, Friday: 7:45 am to 5:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday: 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Other study spaces can be found [here](#).

**RESEARCH CONTINUES DURING THE PANDEMIC** JMU's Institutional Review Board (IRB) is reviewing new protocols for in-person research. New protocols must include a plan for how procedures will be modified should schools go fully online (for research on student populations) and/or for foreseeable limitations imposed by local, state or federal agencies. New protocols should explain plans for masking, social distancing, and disinfecting, as appropriate. Ongoing protocols can be resumed but the IRB would like investigators to file a brief amendment specifying plan for modifying procedures in response to COVID. [More information](#)

**NEED A GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP OR A JOB?** There is currently 1 graduate assistantship, 45 student positions and 4 wage positions posted on JMU [Joblink](#). Note that all of these positions, including the graduate assistantships are open to full-time graduate students from all programs who have appropriate experience and interest. Additional positions are posted continuously.

**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 with new guidance for the US Department of Education.

**UNIVERSITY RECREATION (UREC) REOPENS AUGUST 26!** Advanced registration is required to participate at UREC. [More information](#)

**JMU HAS MANY DINING OPTIONS.** [Browse JMU's Dining Options](#)

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## Upcoming Events

**WE HART RACIAL EQUALITY VIRTUAL 5K.** There is no better time to take action and support racial equality. Join in “Being the Change”. On the anniversary of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech, the We Hart Racial Equality Virtual 5K will begin. All proceeds will be used to help endow a scholarship for underrepresented students studying Sport and Recreation Management at JMU. This is a **virtual event**, in which people can run/walk/roll 3.1 miles on their own, at any time, in any place, from **August 28 - September 7**. This fundraiser sponsored by Women in Sport and Recreation Management, a student organization within the Hart School. [More information](#)

**DUKE HALL GALLERY OF ART.** MFA graduates address ecology and gender stereotypes in a new exhibition, available online and in person. The Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art presents exhibitions by Mallory Burrell and Danielle Romagno, two recent MFA graduates of the School of Art, Design, and Art History at James Madison University. Visit the Exhibition **August 31 – September 19**. Attend the online conversation with the artists **September 2, 6-7 pm**. [More information](#)

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## Downtown/Local 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 permit 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](#)

**RUN, SWEAT, AND BEERS. Brothers Craft Brewing** hosts the 2020 event brought to you by VA Momentum. No advance registration required, 100% free other than discounted beer by Brothers Craft Brewing, after running/walking. Meet at 800 N. Main Street, Harrisonburg at 5 pm for registration. **Friday, August 28, 5-8:30 pm. Event starts at 5:30.** [More information](#)

**JIMMY O AT THE PURPLE WOLF.** Visit the **White Oak lavender Farm & The Purple Wolf Tasting Room**, as we welcome local musician Jimmy O. He will play music from the 50s to the 90s. **Sunday, August 30, 2-5 pm.** [More information](#)

**FIRST FRIDAYS DOWNTOWN.** During the first Friday of every month, downtown venues host art exhibitions, local music, and various arts events. **Friday, September 4, 5-8 pm.** [More information](#)

**NIGHT SKIES.** Join amateur astronomers as they present a provocative presentation on controlling light pollution as you gaze at the stars through telescopes. Held at **Big Meadows – Skyline Drive, Friday, September 11, 7:30 pm.** [More information](#)

**DANCE CLASSES AND MORE.** Line and Country Western Dance. Leather N’ Lace Dance club, at the **Friendly City Dance Room, 34 South Main St., Harrisonburg. Friday, September 18, 8-10 pm.** [More information](#)

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## Graduate School Dates & Deadlines

<b>Classes Begin</b> (semester/1 <sup>st</sup> block)	<b>8/26/2020</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> block <b>10/15/2020</b>
<b>Deadline to Add or Drop a Class</b> (semester/1 <sup>st</sup> block) Withdrawing from a class after the drop deadline results in a “W” grade and corresponding tuition charges, if applicable.	<b>9/04/2020</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> block <b>10/26/2020</b>

<b>Deadline to Add with Departmental Permission</b> The student must register for the course on <a href="#">MyMadison</a> . A permission only saves a seat.	9/14/2020	2 <sup>nd</sup> block 11/03/2020
<b>Deadline to Withdraw from University with Cancellation of Tuition Charges and Refund</b> The student must submit a Non-returning/LOA Note to be eligible.	9/15/2020	
<b>Graduate Application Submissions Open in <a href="#">MyMadison</a> for May and August 2021 Graduation</b>	9/15/2020	

[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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