

JMU Graduate Community News

From here, everything is possible!

January 18, 2021



IT'S A NEW YEAR, A NEW SEMESTER, AND A TIME FOR NEW BEGINNINGS. Let's start 2021 with an optimistic spirit and hope for a resolution of the pandemic, reduced unemployment, improved social justice for all, and the peaceful resolution of political differences. Through our individual efforts and collaboration as a university community, we will learn from each other, and take individual and collective actions that will help make our world a better place.

MOST CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 19. Spring semester will begin one week later than originally planned, with classes starting on **Tuesday, January 19**. Classes will begin virtually and be offered online through **January 29**. On **February 1**, all courses will be offered according to the pre-planned delivery mode, which may include in person, hybrid, or online instruction. Plans for individual graduate classes may vary so if you have any questions, direct them to your instructor. [More information about JMU's return for the Spring Semester.](#)

2021 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION. Participate in activities throughout the week starting with Keynote Speaker Michelle Montgomery, Activist, Author, and Associate Professor at the University of Washington, Tacoma, **Monday January 18, 7 pm** via Zoom. Additional panel discussions and student dialogs will be held on **Tuesday, January 19** and **Wednesday January 20**. Sponsored by the Center for Multicultural Student Services. [More information and Registration](#)

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY. Participate in an online discussion with Robert H. Gillette on the courageous actions of Richmond-based department store owner William B. Thalheimer, who established a safe haven in rural Virginia for Jewish teenagers trying to escape from Nazi Germany in the 1930's. **Tuesday, January 26, 7 pm.** [More information](#) [Register](#)

ENJOY JMU'S 4TH ANNUAL THREE-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION (3MT) ONLINE. 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. 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). You may join the audience for this competition on **Friday, January 22 at 6:00 pm via Zoom**. The link for viewing will be available at 5:00 pm, Friday, January 22 [here](#).

APPLICATIONS FOR GSA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS can be submitted starting February 1. These grants of up to \$200 will be awarded to students to join professional societies, attend

workshops that will benefit their academic career, or to permit other creative learning opportunities that are not funded through academic departments of The Graduate School. [More information.](#)

THRIVE EVENTS Learn about **THRIVE** meetings and events on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) or email us at thrive@jmu.edu.

PARTICIPATE IN THE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION:

- **JOIN THE GSA!** The GSA meets 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](#).

THOUSANDS OF DOCUMENTARIES AND FILMS AVAILABLE ONLINE. JMU Libraries announces new options for streaming videos. Visit the JMU Libraries website to learn more about [streaming video resources](#).

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP OPPORTUNITY. Professional & Continuing Education (PCE) at James Madison University invites students to apply for a 20 hour/week Marketing & Communications Graduate Assistantship to support their unit's marketing efforts. PCE responds to individual, business, and community needs through transformative educational programs and experiences. [This position](#) will work directly with all departmental programs and staff plus external consultants. To view this and other job opportunities, go to JMU [JobLink](#).

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. The Centennial Scholars Program (CSP) is seeking graduate students to serve as Mentors and Program Assistants. Graduate Assistants help ensure the academic success of first-year and transfer students who receive financial support as Centennial Scholars. These, and other graduate assistantship opportunities are posted on JMU [JobLink](#).

INTERNSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. Educational Testing Service (ETS), Research & Development (R&D) Division, is now accepting applications for their Summer 2021 [Remote Internship and Fellowship Programs](#). They value students who join them in their commitment to research, innovation, diversity, equity and inclusion.

HONE YOUR INTERVIEW SKILLS. The University Career Center is offering opportunities to practice and improve your interview skills. Among the options are practice sessions with **University Career Advisors**, **InterviewStream**, an online tool for practicing alone with a webcam, and **SAP Brilliant Hire**. [More Information](#)

GRADUATE SCHOOL DATES AND DEADLINES. For upcoming dates and deadlines please refer to this [link](#).

Upcoming Events

NEW SHOW AT DUKE GALLERY. The Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art welcomes multidisciplinary artist Skeena Reece for her exhibition **Honey and Sweetgrass**, which will run from **Jan. 25 – March 7**. Based in British Columbia, Reece is of Tsimshian/Gitksan and Cree descent. Her performances combine indigenous culture, myth and humor to address racial stereotypes and the effects of colonization. In **Honey and Sweetgrass**, Reece will exhibit a range of performance art, videos, photography and installation works. [More Information](#)

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** through

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](#)

LEADING CHANGE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE. The School of Strategic Leadership Studies will be hosting this conference **February 18-19, 2021**. Register online through February 5. [More information](#)

JMU DIVERSITY CONFERENCE. Mark your calendars now for the week of **March 15, 2021**. This year, we are offering an exciting new format, featuring a week of mostly online programming. More information forthcoming.

[More on-campus events](#)

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 .

The Graduate School (TGS)

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