



JMU Research, Scholarship & Creative Endeavors

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Greetings from the Shenandoah Valley!

A quick reminder for those already in and traveling to Harrisonburg this week. JMU's Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR) will host Post-Conflict Recovery Week this Tuesday through Friday (March 14-17). The CISR team and their many campus partners have pulled together some incredible speakers and activities. Follow this [link](#) for the full schedule. We hope you will join us to learn how JMU engages around the world to foster peace and stability in some of our most vulnerable regions.

Please join me in congratulating Professor of Marketing Theresa Clarke and Professor of Mathematics and Statistics Caroline Lubert, who were recognized as State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) Outstanding Faculty Award Winners. According to SCHEV, these awards "are the Commonwealth's highest honor for faculty at Virginia's public and private colleges and universities... [and] recognizes superior accomplishments in teaching, research and public service." When taking into account how many faculty across the Commonwealth are eligible for this award, it is truly inspiring to see two JMU faculty members recognized for their hard work.

Speaking of congratulations, I would like to acknowledge the incredible success of the JMU football team and athletics department during the 2016 season. In their first year working together, Coach Mike Houston and Athletic Director Jeff Bourne ensured that the JMU Dukes football team had the necessary support to deliver a national championship victory on January 7th. We at JMU are very proud of all our student-athletes.

The results of our 2016 food drive in support of the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank are in! Partnering with student organizations and departments across campus, we collected 1051 lbs. of food and \$461. In the nine-year history of this annual event, we have encouraged enough donations to feed approximately 16,969 meals. Thank you to all those who have and continue to contribute to this worthy cause.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Harris

Yvonne Harris, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Research & Scholarship

RALLY

AT THE

RACEWAY

JMU's alternative fuel vehicle outreach partner, Virginia Clean Cities, will host its annual Rally at the Raceway event on April 6th at the Richmond International Raceway. This half-day event supports clean, alternative fuel vehicle programs in Virginia and will include vendor booths, an awards ceremony, and the opportunity for a Ride & Drive on the race track. [Click here for more information and to register](#)

JMU Advances Drone Technology Programs



Governor McAuliffe speaking at VIRTUES II .
[Watch his address courtesy of WHSV TV-3](#)



Computer Science senior Dustin Hux discusses his team's project during a UAV showcase.

Richmond Times-Dispatch Feature on JMU UAV Efforts

The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* published a front-page story on the work of JMU students Dustin Hux and Stephanie Luginbill. The piece focused on their participation in the Virginia Drones Project, a program sponsored by the 4-VA initiative to encourage collaboration among Virginia's universities. The Virginia Drones Project brought together teams of cross-disciplinary students and faculty from JMU, George Mason University, and Old Dominion University to adapt drone technology to address real-world issues. For example, Hux's team used a drone to survey the historic walls of Cartagena to support preservation efforts and Luginbill's team used a drone to track how climate may be affecting the spread of diseases within bee communities. [Read more](#)

JMU Hosts Second Robotics and Unmanned Systems Summit

JMU 4-VA hosted the 2017 Virginia Robotics and Unmanned Systems Education Summit (VIRTUES II) on February 9th and 10th. Governor McAuliffe and Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran were among the many community and state leaders in attendance. The summit brought together faculty,

students, legislators, and industry professionals to develop plans to ensure that Virginia continues to be a top provider of education and development within the unmanned systems field. VIRTUES II expanded on a key issue identified during the August 2016 summit: the need for strategic coordination between academia and industry. [Read more](#)



MBA Students Receive Virginia's First Public Service Cybersecurity Scholarships

JMU graduate students Toby Whitesell (left) and Josh Fitzpatrick (right), both enrolled in the Information Security MBA Program, were each selected to receive Virginia's inaugural Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Award. Established by the General Assembly in 2016, the scholarship provides up to \$20,000 in tuition assistance to full-time students pursuing cybersecurity degrees in exchange for one year of public service. Whitesell and Fitzpatrick are among 25 graduate and undergraduate students from seven institutions who were chosen to receive the award. [Read more](#)

JMU Theatre Students Thrive at Kennedy Center Festival



Sky Wilson, Sierra Carlson, and Casey Martin Klein

Twenty-four theatre students and four faculty members from the James Madison University School of Theatre and Dance attended the Region II Kennedy Center American College Theatre on January 3-7. Senior Casey Martin Klein won the Musical Theatre Initiative competition, sophomore Sky Wilson won the O'Neill Critics Institute competition for critical response, junior Sierra Carlson won the Dramaturgy competition, and junior Diego Salinas earned a certificate of merit in the 10-Minute Play competition. [Read more](#)



School of Communication Studies (SCOM) Students Participate in National Public Relations Competition

A group of four JMU SCOM students recently entered the Bateman Case Study Competition, a nationwide contest sponsored by the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). The Bateman event is the PRSSA's premier national case study competition and simulates the real-world relationship between public relations professionals and their clients. Split into two senior-led teams, the four SCOM students are the first JMU group to participate in this prestigious event. [Read more](#)

Brainstorm Conference 2017: Future Ready Students

On Friday, April 7th, the JMU College of Education will host the PreK-12 technology conference, "Brainstorm 2017: Future Ready Students." This annual event attracts hundreds of educators from around the Shenandoah Valley, throughout the Commonwealth, and in surrounding regions. Through hands-on workshops, innovative demonstrations, and interactive presentations, educators develop awareness and engage and inspire other educators to help students thrive in a connected, digital world. [Click here for more information and to register](#)

JMU Engineering Joins KEEN

JMU signed on to the Kern Entrepreneurial Engineering Network (KEEN) in November, becoming the first institution in Virginia to participate. Supported by the Kern Family Foundation, KEEN is a coalition of engineering programs from across the U.S., designed to enable students and faculty to develop and share best practices in engineering education. By promoting curiosity, connections, and meaningful work, KEEN helps students create personal, economic, and societal value. [Read more](#)



JMU Participates in AIBS Congressional Visits Day



State Senator Mark Obenshain with JMU students, faculty, and administrators in the Bioscience Building.

During the 2016 fall semester, JMU participated in the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) Congressional Visits Day by inviting Virginia State Senator Mark Obenshain to tour JMU's five-year-old Bioscience building. Congressional Visits day is an annual initiative sponsored by AIBS in order to "allow policymakers to learn first-hand about the science and research facilities in their district." Senator Obenshain received presentations by both faculty members and students that showcased the many different research projects happening in the Bioscience building. The tour also provided the opportunity to observe student research in action during a lab session.



Senator Obenshain visits a student lab led by Biology Assistant Professor Ray Enke.

Communication Sciences and Disorders Student Presents Research at National Conference

Senior Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) major Casey Behre was recently featured as one of a handful of undergraduate students to present research at the 2016 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention.



Studying under CSD Assistant Professor Christina Kuo, Casey's research focuses on speech acoustics, analyzing the relationship between fundamental frequency and articulation in healthy speech production. Behre remarked, "It's been such a great opportunity to get to work with Dr. Kuo. This work has shown me that I really love research and I want to keep doing research in the future." [Read more](#)



What Sustains Me: Dr. John Almarode

Dr. John Almarode, Associate Professor in the Department of Early, Elementary, and Reading Education and Co-Director of James Madison University's Center for STEM Education and Outreach, shares what motivates him to be an impactful educator.

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