



# CHBS Canopy

Inclusive Excellence

Volume 2 | Issue 3 – September 18, 2023

## CHBS IE Highlight

### Be A Part of the Change Event.

CHBS welcomed LaToya Roberts, a doctoral candidate from Louisiana State University, who presented her early dissertation research and planned scholarly pursuits in speech and persons with a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. The title of her presentation was "***Analysis of prosodic abnormalities in Individual with Parkinson's Disease (IwPD) in Connected Speech***". Ms. Roberts' presentation was supported by a warm welcome from CSD faculty and students who participated in her presentation and shared professional insights related to her research. While receiving this support, Ms. Robert's inspirational highlight was meeting Dr. Christina Kuo, whose scholarly work is foundational for Ms. Robert's research.



[According to the NIH](#), Parkinson's disease's early and prominent signs occur when nerve cells in the basal ganglia, the part of the brain that controls movement, become impaired or die. Ms. Roberts is on the cutting edge of new research in this area.

Additionally, Ms. Roberts is well-known in her professional circles for speaking on inclusive efforts for working with diverse communities and encouraging diverse young people to pursue the profession. As a Mississippi native, Ms. Roberts expresses the importance of diverse young people seeing others like themselves and being encouraged in fields that may not be known or popular.

The *Be A Part of the Change* event was initiated by Dr. Sparkman-Key's office and coordinated by Dr. Courtney Hope, who recently joined the university from Merck. Five scholars were hosted by different colleges, met with administrators who shared stories of their professional journeys and spent time with faculty and students in units that included a focus on their areas of expertise and research.



As Ms. Roberts's time with JMU ended, she expressed special appreciation for Drs. Rout and Kuo for professional conversations and showing lab spaces, and to the outstanding welcome by the CSD faculty and students. Additionally, she was grateful for comments by all who helped her add critical dimensions to her research, for comments from those impacted by Parkinson's Disease, and for the kindness and care of CHBS community members during her time in our college.

## Learning Access Through Universal Design (LAUD) Receives State Award

Last week, Dr. Christie Liu attended the Commonwealth of Virginia Information Technology Summit and accepted the Commonwealth Technology Awards 2023 in the Best Customer Initiative Experience – Education category for the Learning Access Through Universal Design. She represented the team of now 30 professionals who have worked on this project over several years. “The Commonwealth Technology Awards recognize public sector information technology projects that improve government service delivery and efficiency. Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin, Secretary of Administration Lyn McDermid and Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth Robert Osmond now invite entries to the 2023 awards program.” ([Award site](#))

LAUD was envisioned as part of CHBS’s inclusive excellence efforts, partially in response to needs related to our return from the pandemic, but also – and more importantly - for being responsive to current students’ diverse learning perspectives and needs for flexibility in course content delivery. This encourages a perspective of seeing an increased variety of students in every major and profession with adequate support.

Vision is best when actualized by skill. LAUD started as a collaboration between some CHBS faculty and JMU Libraries with coordination by Drs. Christie Liu and BJ Bryson. The first team included CHBS faculty members Lesley Lemons (Health Sciences), Lori Gano-Overway (Kinesiology), and Amy Russell (Health Professions), working with JMU Libraries’ design specialist team under the leadership of Dr. Christie Liu. Over the first summer, many JMU individuals, including Provost Coltman and Dean Lovell, as well as diverse students, participated in the creation of a video about the importance of universal design as a strategy for addressing and improving the student learning experience. Dayna Henry (Health Sciences), later joined the design team to support this effort.

In addition to this award, the LAUD [Project](#) team has a published book chapter (cite). The team wishes to thank the projects’ advocates, content contributors, asynchronous course developers, media producers, communication advocates, and PLC facilitators, and the many faculty participants who have used the LAUD Canvas site to improve inclusion and the student learning experience. If you want to know more, link to the Canvas site [here](#).



[National Suicide Prevention Week](#) just passed. Most people have moments of feeling overwhelmed and may not ask for help. The [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) is available to anyone, 24 hours every day, through your cellphone, and their web page or chat function. Funded through SAMHSA, it has a unique capacity for veterans, and LGBTQI+ callers and more than 240 languages supported through a Tele-Interpreters service.

*Written in memory of Mike and all of our alums, colleagues, students, friends, & family who did not have this resource.*

**Where were you the morning of 9/11?** In acknowledging the events and tragedies of that morning, let's also remember that 2,977 known people perished, and 67 of those people were undocumented immigrants. They represented the many invisible workers who were doing dishes or cleaning spaces. [Learn more](#) with these videos.

## Are You Approachable?

Students seeking support is an issue for CHBS faculty and staff. How any of us engage with students may impact their perceptions of worthiness, value, and sense of belonging. Staff meet students seeking help in a variety of ways – help with registration and overrides into courses, looking for absent faculty, directions, and confirming basic information about processes.

University policy states that faculty should post five office hours per week where students may come for additional support. Do you give off an “I’m busy” vibe?

*Inside Higher Ed* highlighted the Faculty Approachability Project, designed to provide actionable ways to create relationships with students. Actions are ways to break down barriers to positively make the learning community part of the student's community, as a circle of support. The idea is that people seek help from their community before they move externally for assistance. Here are some suggestions:

- Build your active listening skills;
- When approached, stop and look at the student talking;
- For short informal talks with students, show up early for class or speak with students in the elevator, stairwell, or hallways;
- Demystify yourself by sharing appropriate stories related to course content or your professional journey;
- Create new ways of student engagement – run with your students (go graduate psychology) or engage in walking career advisement;
- Use an automatic scheduler with open times students can sign up, (sometimes easier for students who feel embarrassed to ask for help or who think about classwork in the evening following paid work); and/or
- Meet students in their own spaces, like the library or coffee/dining spaces.

Remember, one of our best skills is triaging care. We do not need to be everything to students. Providing information on JMU resources for students can make a difference for a student who is thinking about graduate school, going for a professional interview, or needing basic life supports like food or a few dollars to assist with emergencies. Most links can be posted on Canvas course sites in announcements and left there for the term.

[The Student Hub](#) is a great place for the CHBS community to refer students as is the [University Career Center](#) or [Counseling Center](#). We don't need to have an answer for all student needs. Listening is key, a skill most of us continue to grow over our careers.

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**Remember:** Sixty years ago, on September 15, 1963, Carole, Addie Mae, Denise, and Cynthia (ages 14 and younger) lost their young lives in the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama. This was two weeks after the March on Washington. Three of the four bombers were convicted years later, but one was never charged or arrested. You can check out the Spike Lee documentary [4 Little Girls](#).

## Rising Harm and Hate Crimes to Jewish People

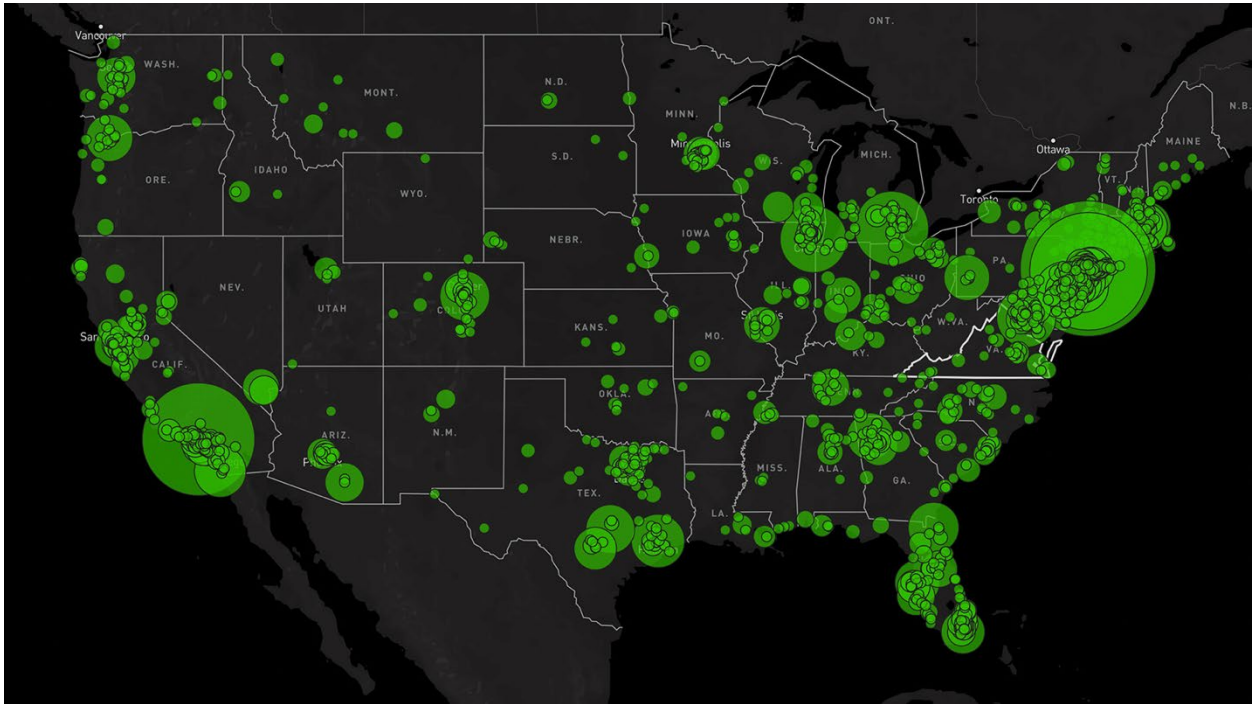
Jewish religious observances occurring this September provide an opportunity to recognize the rise in harm to this community. Since 1979, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has tracked incidents of antisemitic harassment, vandalism, and assault in the United States. [In 2022](#), there was a 36% increase in antisemitic incidents reported. In the major audit categories, antisemitic harassment increased 29%, antisemitic vandalism increased 51%, and antisemitic assaults increased 26%. The recent report identifies a 41% increase in white supremacist propaganda activity on college campuses, and incidents on college campuses also increased, by 41%.

A typical definition of antisemitism is hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance defines antisemitism below.

*Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.*

When asked how to stop the rise in hate directed at Jewish people in an interview by media, Jonathan Greenblatt, ADL CEO and National Director, stated, “Clear consistent call outs of hate”. ADL provides resources to [promote conversations](#) and how to fight [antisemitism](#).

[Check out ADL’s interactive map of harm](#)



Note: A previous issue did a deeper dive into antisemitism.

The Center for Disease Control [Report on Black maternal health](#) supports last year’s Viewpoints on Health speaker. Another study and report on Black families’ unfair medical treatment is [here](#).

## Events

### 30+30 Tour Topics and Dates

*Virginia Native Nations Higher Education Recap*

- Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

*Pipeline Program From Four-Year HBCU Graduates Into the Graduate School*

- Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

*Graduate Students DEI Programming*

- Friday, September 22, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

*Advancing Equity and Student Learning*

- Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

### **Latinx Faculty Panel with Madison Hispanic Caucus**

Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Hispanic Student Lounge

Sponsored by: Center for Multicultural Student Services

### **The Frasure-Kruzel-Drew Memorial Fellowship Panel | International Week**

Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM, Festival Highlands Room

Sponsored by: Center for Global Engagement

### **Grief & Belief: Talks on Love and Loss with JMU Faculty**

Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., The Golden Pony

Sponsored by: Office of Creative Propulsion

### **Gandhi Center Open House Breakfast**

Thursday, September 21, 2023, 10:00 a.m., Darcus Johnson Hall

Event commemorates the International Day of Peace

### **Gbenga Adesina: Poetry Reading**

Thursday, September 21, 2023, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m., Festival Highlands Room

Sponsored by: Furious Flower Poetry Center

### **Bisexual Pride Awareness Day**

Friday, September 22, 2023, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Warner Commons

Sponsored by: SOGIE

### **DEEP Impact Dialogue: Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month**

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Success Center 1075

Sponsored by: Center for Multicultural Student Services

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# Learning Opportunities for Everyone

Staff and Faculty

## International Week

September 18th – 22nd  
Sponsored by: *The Center for Global Engagement*

### **Opening Doors: The Art of Inclusion**

Have you noticed art installed around the community? Arts Council of the Valley (ACV) and The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham (The Arc) commissioned 20 artists to use doors as canvases for celebrating inclusion. Doors will be on display in Downtown Harrisonburg through September 2023. Finale Celebration on Sunday, October 1, 4:00 p.m. at Court Square Theater. [Find out more.](#)

### Queer Teach-In

October 4, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., Union 256  
All are welcome to learn and share.

### **Armor Built from Legacy**

Annual Black Women in Academia Conference  
October 5, 2023, 8:30 - 2:00 p.m.  
Highlands Room, Festival Conference Center  
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tynisha Willingham, Provost, EMU  
[Registration Open](#)  
Sponsored by the [Sisters in Session Caucus](#)

### **Dia De los Muertos**

Thursday, October 5, 2023, 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
The Union Ballroom  
Sponsored by the Honors College



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## **Quick Bits**

### **JMU**

[JMU VALOR Resource Center](#) opened to support veteran students, military-connected students, faculty, and staff and serve community members as well. The resource center is open 24/7 at Taylor Down Under in Madison Hall.

### **Local Community**

[Shenandoah Valley Pride](#) was observed on Saturday, September 16, in downtown Harrisonburg.

## For Faculty

Professional Learning Community Sessions information is [here](#)

### International Faculty Recruitment and Hiring



Presenters: Jonathan Kratz, Sherry Lu, Dr. Ayasakanta Rout  
**September 19, 2023 [Date changed]**  
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Learn about strategies for international faculty recruitment to add to your unit recruitment plan. Basic VISA and immigration status information, with financial implications discussed to foster richer understanding shared. *Staff may benefit from this session as they assist with this process.*

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### The Neurodiverse Student and the Important Role of Faculty

Presenter: [Nathan Selove](#), Assistant Professor, Communication Studies  
October 4, 2023  
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.



Many neurodiverse students may not have ODS accommodations but could use compassion and care for their learning differences. Learn the benefits of Universal Design perspectives in creating a positive experience for all students.

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### Developing an Inclusive Learning Environment with UDL-informed Design (Hybrid)



JMU Instructional Design Team  
November 7, 2023, 1:45 – 2:30 p.m.  
HBS 5040

The session will provide a basic introduction to the LAUD self-paced Canvas site. Participants will be provided examples of universal design strategies and tools developed by the JMU Instructional Design Team to illustrate use in faculty efforts.

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### **From CFI –**

#### **Using Neuroscience to Understand Best Practices in Teaching (Scholarly Talk).**

Monday, 9/25, 11:45 AM-1:15 PM in Rose 5211.  
Facilitated by Emily Gravett, CFI & CAL, and Dayna Henry, CFI & CHBS

#### **Universal Design and Pedagogy of Care(taking) (Roundtable).**

Monday, 10/30, 2-3:15 PM in-person and via Zoom.

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#### **Reimagining Technical Standards for Inclusive Medical Education: [A Workshop Webinar](#)**

October 4th, 3:30-5:00 pm EST  
Sponsored by Docs with Disabilities and AAMC  
[Register now](#)