



Welcome to the Hart School

MEET THE TEAM

Interim Department Head
SRM – Professor
Dr. David Shonk

- ▶ What interest you outside of the Hart School?
I enjoy horses and I work with individuals with disabilities using therapeutic horseback riding every week.
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? The service aspect of both majors and working with our great students and faculty.
- ▶ What is your favorite place on Campus? The Arboretum.
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? How to deal with change.



Interim Assistant Director
HM – Associate Professor
Dr. Tony Kim

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside of the Hart School? I am in love with Mexico and travel there often. I love the people, culture, food and architecture.
- ▶ What makes the Hart School special? Welcoming people who take care of people and who take care of business.
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? D Hall. It is a great place to see our student in action!
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? Get involved with student organizations as much as possible and take a chance to study abroad.



Professional Development and Engagement Coordinator

Lauren Wholihan Gardner, M.P.A.

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? I enjoy cooking, dancing, reading, gardening, spending time with my animals, 2 cats, 1 bunny, and chickens.
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? *These programs are filled with great people that go on to do extraordinary things in fantastic fields. I love the people I work with and I love the people I teach.*
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? The Quad. It just evokes the quintessential collegiate feeling.
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? Introduce yourself. Ask question, even if you don't know what question to ask. Take ownership of your educational journey.



Academic Advisor Donna Garber, M.A., Ed.S.

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? I love to read, travel, spend time with my family, friends, and my little rescued pug, Bella Lavina as well as enjoy watching my chickens, Lelia, Big Red, and Elphaba.
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? The people! The Hart School is home to extraordinary people who care so much for you.
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? I love to walk under the trees in front of Cleveland Hall. It is peaceful and beautiful there.
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? Your education is yours. Don't allow fear to determine your outcome.



Academic Advisor Jason Gochenour, M.Ed.

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? My free time is spent playing golfing, watching sports especially football either (live or tv/streaming) and love relaxing at the beach.
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? The students and staff in this program make it so fulfilling. They are passionate about their work and each other. There is such a desire to see students find their dreams/purpose and succeed in their endeavors.
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? The Quad.
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? Don't be afraid. Go, ask questions, be curious, explore.



Office Manager Ali Reynolds

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? I love my animals, watching "The Office", and crafting.
- ▶ What makes the Hart School special? We care and make the world a better place through the services we provide in our different areas.
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? UREC. There is always something fun and it is a great place to work out.
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? No one can be you. Never stop evolving.



HM - Lecturer Miguel Baltazar, M.B.A.

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? I enjoy traveling and teaching. I welcome the opportunity to speak in Portuguese, Spanish, French and Italian. I have 15 years of hotel and restaurant management experience and have lived in Switzerland, Puerto Rico, Portugal, and Spain.
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? The peer's spirit of collegiality and the generally excellent environment we have here is remarkable. HM students are also very respectful, service-oriented, hard-working in the industry, and happy. These two characteristics combined make it a great place to work and that's why I've been fortunate to continue contributing to its development in the last 12 years.
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? Rose Library, the smashing views.



SRM - Lecturer Alyssa Bosley, M.S.

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside of the Hart School? I am married and have two children. I'm a current PhD student at JMU. I received my bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut and a master's degree from JMU. I adopted a dog during the pandemic. This sweet, crazy pup is named Dolley after Dolley Madison
- ▶ What makes the Hart School special? The genuine, long-lasting relationships with my students. Also, the Hart School is the perfect combination of talking about the industry with college students at a wonderful university.
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? Godwin. I love being in the classroom or chatting with students in my office.
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? Take time to know your faculty, because they care about you and want to help you succeed. Take advantage of the many opportunities that are presented to you. Don't be afraid to be great.



SRM - Associate Professor and SRL Program Director Dr. Ben Carr

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? Reading, doing logic and brain-exercising puzzles, collecting stuff, spending time with wife, trying to call my son who is in college even though he ignores my calls and won't call back, self-educating about anything related to why we do what we do, and generally just being a life-long learner.
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? Easy question, easy answer, the people: the faculty, the staff and the students.
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? I don't spend a lot of time on campus, but everywhere on campus is special.
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? You absolutely will fail, and often. But those failures are opportunities to learn what you need to do to get better. If you instead see those failures as setbacks, you are completely missing opportunities. The fear of failure is the biggest obstacle to your success.



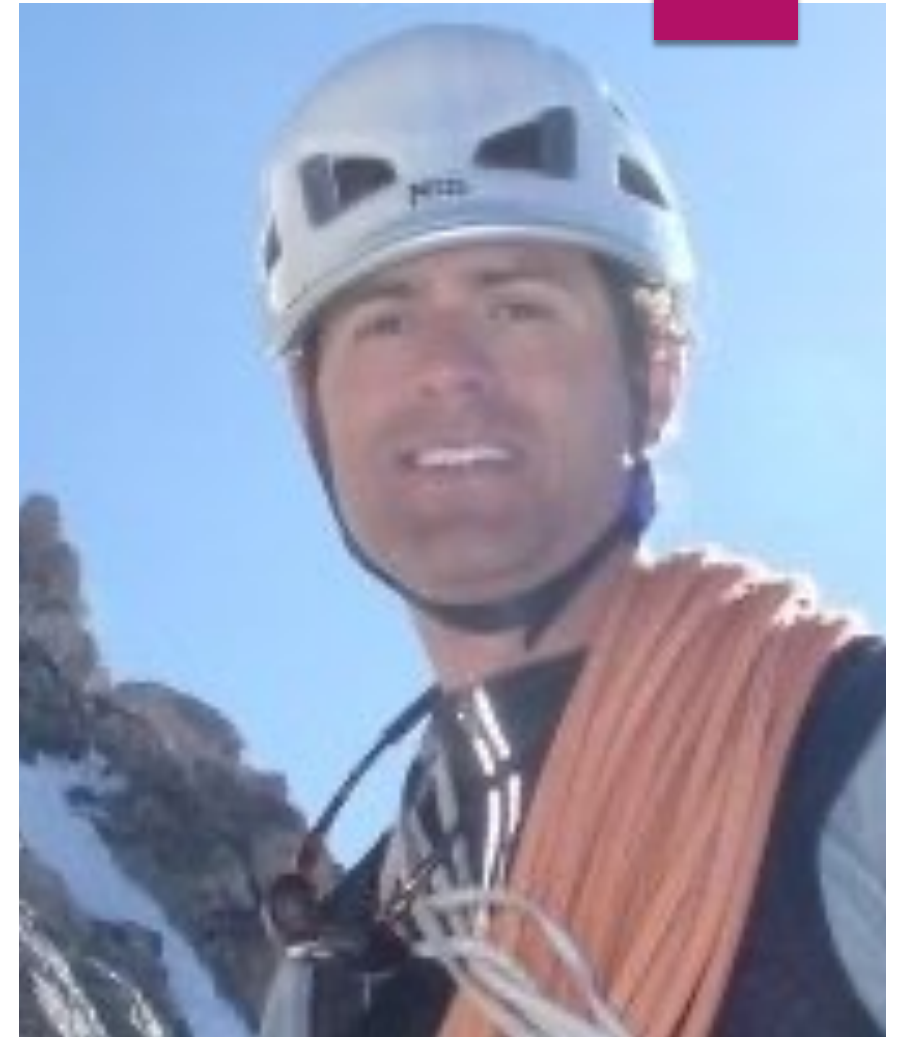
SRM - Professor and SRL Assistant Director Dr. Julia Wallace Carr

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? Spending time with Ben and Brody, Skiing, Watching JMU Sports and movies
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? Our students!
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? Mt husband would say my favorite place is D-Hall, because I love to eat, but it is UREC.
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? Be more than just present, participate and show you have a strong work ethic. Enjoy your time at JMU!!! Do not get so caught up in what is next, but while you are enjoying yourself, put in the work to be successful when you graduate. Network, volunteer, get a summer job in your SRM industry of choice.



SRM - Lecturer Dr. Guy deBrun

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? I enjoy rock climbing, mountain biking, hiking and reading in my spare time. I volunteer at Eastside Church as an usher on Sunday's and small group coordinator.
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? The field of SRM provides personal growth opportunities for students/clients. I value preparing students to provide these opportunities for people.
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? UREC
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? Learn to cook



HJM - Lecturer Dr. Donna Fickes

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? I have two dogs, a Bassett Hound named Scully and an English Bulldog names Ruckus. I love to read and cook, and I am looking forward to some fall hiking in the Shenandoah Valley! I moved to Texas from Virginia 25 years ago and I've been trying to get back ever since!
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? I love serving others, and the field of hospitality provides that opportunity. My background is in restaurants, which are loud, messy, fast-paced, and filled with chances to change someone's day for the better!
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? I'm still new, so I haven't been everywhere on campus...yet. I do love the Godwin kitchen, though 😊
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? Get to know your faculty! Stop in during office hours just to say hello so that it's easier to stop in when you need help.



HM - Professor Dr. Reg Foucar-Szocki

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? I enjoy travel, finding deals at hotels and with airlines
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? Hart School is an extraordinary blend of exceptional educators, fantastic students, and Alums being involved. I enjoy helping people see things from a new point of view and am very excited about Gen Z and Gen Alpha running the world!
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? Dunkin Donuts at SSC.
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? Get involved and give back!



HM – Visiting Lecturer Jai Girard, M.S., C.H.S.

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? I have been the Executive Director of a nonprofit neonatal kitten rescue since 2018. Personally, my wife and I have 4 dogs and 3 kitties.
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? HM is important to me because I love the hospitality industry and am always very excited to share it with students.
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? Taylor Downunder
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? Something I wish I was told in college is getting A's isn't important. What is important is how you use the knowledge you learn.



SRM - Assistant Professor Dr. Augustus (Gus) Hallmon

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? My hobbies include playing chess, Chicago sport teams, WWE, and connecting with my friends and family.
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? It is an industry that people enjoy going to work each day because there is always something new to learn and be involved in. Another reason I like this industry is that if done right there is an opportunity to go to work each day and have a healthy work/life balance.
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? The SSC because that is where Dunkin Donuts is located.
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? It is ok to make mistakes as long as we learn from them.



SRM - Lecturer Angela Hayslett, J.D., M.S.

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? I am in the process of completing my second degree from JMU. Go Dukes!
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? Sports and recreation have always played a significant role in my life, and I hope to prepare students to make their own meaningful impact in the SRM industry
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? JMU's arboretum is a nice place to walk trails and enjoy nature. I love that it is so close to Godwin!
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? You might want to get a graduate degree at some point so set the stage now for a later opportunity. However, it's always a good idea to get some work experience before graduate school because you can apply that knowledge to your learning.



HM - Assistant Professor Dr. Yuan (Pam) Li

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? I enjoy watching movies and hiking.
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? The people - supportive colleagues and friendly students!
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? The dining halls.
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? Try different things and explore different options.



HM - Lecturer Theresa Lind, M.Ed.

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? I love all sports, watching and playing! I played basketball, volleyball, soccer, golf and softball growing up. Now I really enjoy watching my daughters play volleyball, softball, wakeboarding and snow skiing! I have two dogs, a cat and a bearded dragon. I love to be outside. My dream home would be a small house on a large lake to share with my family and friends.
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? The people I work with and for. I work with my colleagues (other Hart School faculty and staff); and I work for my students!
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? Rose Library, 5th floor, beautiful views.
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? *You are going to make so, so many mistakes in college.* That is a perfectly normal part of life. Learn from your mistakes, but do not dwell on them. A failed exam or a fight with your friend/partner is not a reflection on your worth as human being.



SRM - Assistant Professor
Sandhya (Sandy) Manjunath, M.S.

▶ Coming Soon...



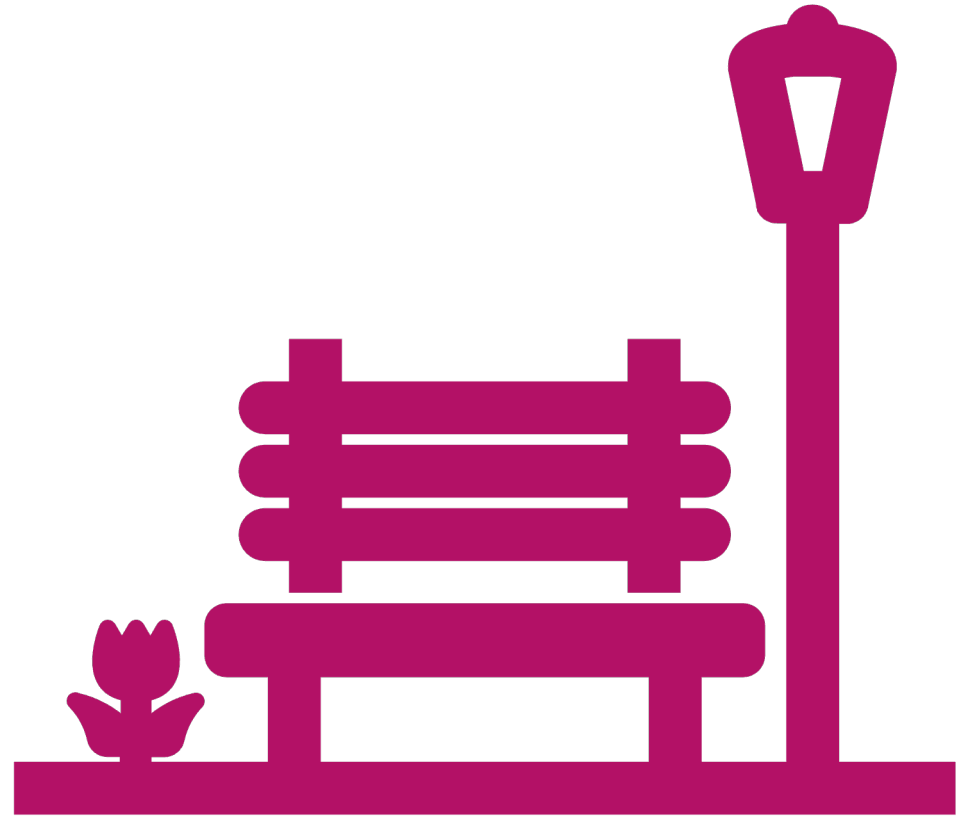
SRM - Lecturer Dr. Katja Sonkeng

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? You most likely find me on a basketball or tennis court. As an educator and scholar, I am passionate about fostering inclusive, diverse, and equitable learning environments, sport settings, and communities.
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? SRM is important to me, as I believe in the transcending power of sport and recreation to bring people together and to overcome socially constructed differences despite its flaws and being a microcosm of society.
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? UREC
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? Learn how to network and build sustainable and meaningful relationships.



SRM - Lecturer
Ben Swartz, M.S.

► Coming Soon...



SRM - Professor Dr. Stephanie West

- ▶ What do you enjoy outside the Hart School? When not working, I'm usually traveling, biking, or watching SEC/Sunbelt College Football.
- ▶ What makes the Hart School so special? I believe strongly in the value of recreation to improve the quality of life of individuals, families, groups and communities. Recreation can have a positive impact on the economy, as well as people's physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being. Simply put, parks make life better.
- ▶ What is your favorite place on campus? Definitely the Student Recreation Center. I once worked full-time in campus recreation, and I can tell you it is the finest campus rec center in the country for a school our size.
- ▶ What advice do you wish you had received as an undergrad? Get involved. In your classes. At work. With student organizations. If you want to be a leader, that has to start now. Begin by showing up. Then look for ways to contribute. That will naturally lead to you being asked to help lead. But being a leader takes time. First, you have to show up.

