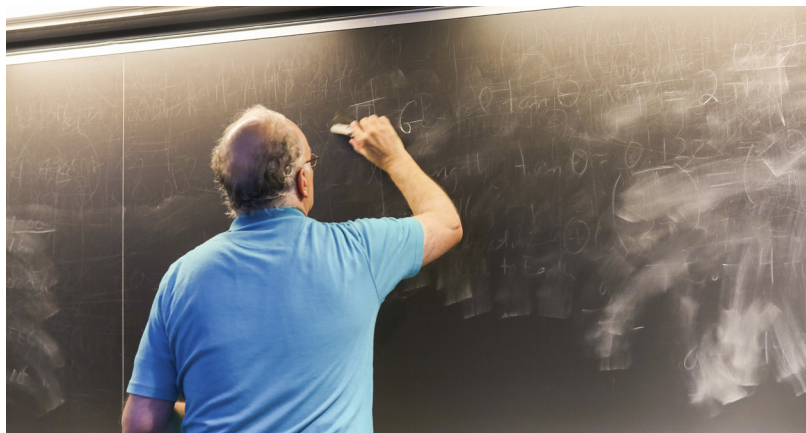**FAR BOTTOM:** A snowy campus is viewed from the air. Winter session took place before the Spring 2020 semester began.

BOTTOM: Professor Harold Butner writes on the board. He taught a class about exploring the night sky in the Planetarium.

RIGHT: Seth Walker, Morgan Collins, and Julia Schloman time the swinging of a pendulum to calculate the acceleration of gravity. They earned a credit for their course.

Most JMU students were familiar with the required general education courses necessary to graduate. One such course had to be a one credit lab. Fortunately, JMU offered a way for students to complete this requirement quickly and without it potentially intruding upon the other classes they had to take throughout the semester.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, JMU brought back Winter Session, a one-week session held during the first week of January prior to the start of the Spring Semester. This meant participating students had to come back to campus a week early.

"I definitely think a winter session is beneficial. I think that it allows students to get their requirements out of the way so that they can take more or other classes during the main semesters," said Peyton Upshaw, a senior philosophy and religion major.

Not only was the winter session brought back for the 2019-2020 academic year, but it was also approved to run for years following, to the satisfaction of the students who participated.

"I hope they continue offering winter sessions. I am almost certain that everyone in my class was happy to take the course, and happy that they did not have to with a full workload," Upshaw said.

The Winter Session allowed students to get their requirements out of the way, enabling them to take more classes during the longer semesters. Participating students felt this was an ideal way to fulfill requirements and explore academic interests.

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WINTER SESSION

JMU'S FIRST CLASSES DURING WINTER BREAK