

# 10/4/24 Academic Affairs Highlights

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you enjoy wrapping up the (finally sunny!) week with news of your peers' achievements as much as I do. You've got interesting stories to tell and highlights to share, and I appreciate that you have passed them on so you can be recognized.

- If you'd like to learn more about electoral college, [The Great Experiment: Redebating the Electoral College in Virtual Reality](#), hosted by [Shenandoah University](#), is the right place. JMU Department of History Professor [Dr. Kevin Hardwick](#) collaborated with faculty at SU on this this immersive, educational virtual reality experience that places you in Philadelphia during the debates that led to the creation of the Electoral College during the Constitutional Convention of 1787.
- Interested in more politics? Dr. Sombo Muzata, Assistant Professor of Political Science, was featured in a piece on the [Voice of America Africa channel](#). In it, she talks about [politics and civic engagement](#) in the 2024 elections and how that is playing out in the classroom.
- Art History Professor Dr. Maureen Shanahan recently published the single-authored, peer-reviewed, university press book: [Machine Modernisms, Masculinity, and the Trauma of War: The Art of Fernand Léger](#) with [Penn State University Press](#). She was invited to Jagiellonian University, Kraków, to give a talk based on her book. "The French Purists' Battle Against Neurasthenia and Death" was welcomed at the ninth annual [European Network for Avant-garde and Modernism Studies](#).
- Congratulations to [Dr. Kirk Armstrong](#), Health Professions AUH and Health Sciences Interim AUH, who received the [National Athletic Trainers' Association's Athletic Trainer Service Award](#) this year. The [Athletic Trainer Service Award](#) recognizes NATA members for their commitment to leadership, volunteer service, advocacy and professional activities at the local and state levels.

This weekend, JMU will face off against the [University of Louisiana at Monroe](#). Biology Assistant Professor [Dr. Bryan Cage](#) will have to choose whether to cheer for JMU or his alma mater. Since joining JMU in 2015, he has taught a variety of classes, with a focus on BIO 270. Human Physiology and BIO 290. Human Anatomy. While his research interests include development and deployment of sensory networks and biofeedback systems and swimming physiology and feeding ecology of the American Paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*), his collaboration with Biology Associate Professor [Dr. Katrin Gobetz](#) to create an [Animal Monitoring Station](#) received [a patent](#) in 2021. The device, a unit equipped with a video camera and instruments for weighing and measuring small animals, allows researchers to studying

small animals in the field without injuring or stressing them.

I look forward to recognizing more of your successes throughout the year. Please submit items for yourself or your colleagues by emailing [provost@jmu.edu](mailto:provost@jmu.edu).

Sincerely,

Bob