

10/11/24 Academic Affairs Highlights

Dear Colleagues,

As we wrap up the eighth week of the semester, I am once again happy to share highlights of your colleagues' work. Keep them coming! You can submit items to highlight for yourself or your colleagues by emailing provost@jmu.edu.

- [Dr. Juhong Christie Liu](#), Associate Professor and JMU Libraries Director of Instructional Design, served as a guest co-editor for a [special issue](#) of [Educational Technology & Society](#), an open access journal. The October 2024 special issue, with the theme of "Educational design research for digital learning technologies to promote inclusion, equity, and accessibility," features 12 articles and a [guest editorial](#) co-authored by Dr. Liu.
- Associate Professor of English [Dr. Sofia Samatar](#) just published a new epistolary compilation, her first with [Soft Skull Press](#). [Opacities: On Writing and the Writing Life](#) comprises a series of meditations on writing, publishing and friendship.
- Over the summer, Chemistry Professor [Dr. Barbara Reisner](#) was honored with the 2024 [James Flack Norris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Teaching of Chemistry](#). The award, presented by the [Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society](#), is designed to recognize individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the teaching of chemistry.
- [Dr. Jonathan Jones](#), Assistant Professor of History appeared as an expert commentator in "New York City's Opioid Drug History: A Relentless Cycle," a recent PBS documentary. The documentary, which was released by NYC's PBS station in September, is now widely [available online](#). His appearance was filmed on campus last fall with the assistance of Jenna Polk, JMU Libraries; Eric Gorton, University Communications, facilitated the interview.

We were privileged to host the leadership of Coastal Carolina University for a visit this week, including their President and Provost. It was really interesting to hear about their successes and challenges, and to share what we're doing (they got a tour of the HBS Building and the Forbes Center). I think the only thing they missed taking home was a football win, but we can only push being good hosts so far...

I look forward to sharing more of your stories after Fall Break.

Sincerely,

Bob