

11/8/24 Academic Affairs Highlights

Dear Colleagues,

I don't know about you, but my Vermont upbringing is at odds with the spate of beautiful weather of late – it seems just a tad warm for November! As we enter the final month of the semester, I want to thank each of you for your efforts to date (and to come).

We've just completed our second [Board of Visitors](#) (BoV) meeting of the year, and it's always a pleasure to share a few of the great things happening in Academic Affairs, from the [Lab School](#) and [Young Children's Program](#) in the College of Education to [work-based learning experiences](#) across campus to [international internships](#) organized by the Center for Global Engagement.

- Putting the teacher-scholar model into action: Second year physician assistant studies student Jordan Andre and [Dr. Sharon Maiewski](#), Associate Professor in the Department of Health Professions, received a [2024 IMPACT Grant](#) from the PA Foundation, a subsidiary of the [American Academy of Physician Assistants](#). The \$10,000 award will allow the [Suitcase Clinic](#) to [expand its services](#).
- Associate Professor of SMAD [Imelda O'Reilly](#) recently performed *Under the Wolf's Cloak*, a rewritten feminist version of Little Red Riding Hood, that can now be streamed and purchased on [Composers Concordance Records](#). This project was initiated by Professor O'Reilly and coproducer Joe Foley and brings together over 30 JMU student dancers, Choreographer and Assistant Professor of Theatre and Dance [Tara Lee Burns](#), Department of English Instructor [Molly O'Donnell](#) and artists from New York City.

Ties between our faculty and faculty from other Sun Belt Conference institutions remain strong. One of these collaborations is housed in the Department of Management. Assistant Professor [Dr. Kira Haensel](#) regularly works with Assistant Professor Daniel Andrews, a colleague at Georgia State. Since Dr. Haensel and Dr. Andrews graduated together from the same Ph.D. program with the same dissertation supervisor, Stav Fainshmidt, the three have co-authored three articles ([2021](#), [2022](#), [2023](#)).

Another JMU/Georgia State collaboration focuses on college student mental health. Assistant Professor of Health Sciences Duke Biber co-authored "[A Positive Psychology Intervention for College Student Mental Health and Health Behaviors](#)" in [Mental Health and Digital Technologies](#) with Dr. Ashlee Davis of the [Georgia Health Policy Center at Georgia State University](#).

Please continue to email provost@jmu.edu with teaching and scholarship highlights for you and your colleagues so we can continue to showcase your innovative teaching and research.

Sincerely,
Bob