

## 2/14/25 Academic Affairs Highlights

Dear Colleagues,

It has been an eventful week at JMU, and I appreciate the support, flexibility and grace you've shown to students and each other.

Hopefully these highlights from your peers will help us end the week on an up note.

- Department of Biology Professor Dr. [Mark Gabriele](#)'s work with JMU's newest renovated space was featured in the DNR Online's "[Serenity Center offers James Madison University students a space to breathe.](#)" If you haven't yet seen the [Serenity Center](#) in Warren Hall, which is open to students, faculty and staff, it is worth checking out.
- Research coming out of the Department of Health Sciences is providing valuable insights internationally. Assistant Professors Dr. [Sojib Zaman](#) and Dr. [Raihan Khan](#)'s article, "[Assessing the risk of antibiotic resistance in childhood pneumonia: A hospital-based study in Bangladesh,](#)" addresses the growing concern of antibiotic resistance in pediatric health.
- Dog lovers may be particularly interested in a new article – "[Rapid evolution of prehistoric dogs from wolves by natural and sexual selection emerges from an agent-based model](#)" – published in [Proceedings of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences](#) by Department of Mathematics and Statistics Associate Professor Dr. [Alex Capaldi](#). The paper has already received press recognition in sources including [National Geographic](#).
- Ever wonder what drives students choose their major? Dr. [Carl Larsson](#), Associate Professor of Finance, and Dr. [Gizem Atav](#), Associate Professor of Marketing, have some insight. Their paper, "[How does stereotypic thinking affect the choice of a major for undergraduate business students?,"](#) which was developed with Finance and Accounting graduate Caley Zack ('24) through the [COB Research Experience for Undergraduates \(REU\) program](#), identifies common personality stereotypes and examines how such patterns of thinking can affect a student's choice of a major.
- Department of Art, Design and Art History Professor Dr. [John Ott](#) received a competitive [publication grant](#) from The Leonard A. Lauder Research Center for Modern Art at the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) in New York. His book, [Mixed Media: The Visual Cultures of Racial Integration, 1931–54](#), is forthcoming from the University of California Press in Fall 2025.

You are our best source for recognizing the good work of your peers, so keep sending those teaching, scholarship and award highlights and other accomplishments for them (and yourself!) to [provost@jmu.edu](mailto:provost@jmu.edu). I look forward to sharing more good news next week.

Sincerely,

Bob