

From: [Office of the Provost](#)
To: STAFF-CLASSIFIED-AA-L@LISTSERV.JMU.EDU
Subject: Notes from the Provost
Date: Thursday, February 29, 2024 9:33:34 AM

Dear Colleagues,

I'm sure I'm not the only person well aware that spring break, while rapidly approaching, is still over a week away. As much as I love our academic environment, I'm looking forward to some spring break travel: I find that a change in scenery helps me to disconnect and relax before jumping into the remainder of the semester. I hope you are planning some downtime for yourself. As several of your colleagues remind us in this piece on [mental health days](#), we must be intentional in finding ways to recharge because this will help us nurture both our professional and personal selves. As we prep to find that balance, take some time now to share in your colleagues' successes.

- Thanks and congratulations go to faculty members [George Vidal](#) (Biology), [Corey Cleland](#) (Biology) and [Eric Pyle](#) (Geology and Environmental Science), along with several biology students, for their participation in the successful sixth annual [Brain Bee](#). In conjunction with the [Center for STEM Education & Outreach](#), they worked to create an engaging experience for the participants – 40 high school students from Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. – to test their knowledge of the human brain in a welcoming, low-stakes environment.
- Instructor of Music Education [Alice Hammel](#) recently published a chapter entitled "[The Intersectionality of Social Emotional Learning and Students with Disabilities](#)," which is part of a larger anthology entitled, [Portraits of Social Emotional Learning in Music Teacher Education: Teaching Music with Heart](#). Edited by Scott N. Edgar and Kathleen Melago, the collection delves into the experiences of music educators who incorporated embedding Social Emotional Learning (SEL) into their curricula and support programs.
- Just in time for the Super Tuesday presidential primaries, the [Madison Center for Civic Engagement](#) is hosting a faculty panel to help us better understand how those races will shape the upcoming 2024 election cycle. Panelists will include [David Jones](#) (Political Science), [Ryan Alessi](#) (School of Media Arts and Design), [Marty Cohen](#) (Political Science) and [Kara Dillard](#) (School of Communication Studies). The event will run from [4:30-5:30 p.m. in SSC 1075 on Monday, March 4](#).
- Associate Director for Undergraduate Programs [Jamie Robinson](#) (Nursing) and RN/BSN Program Coordinator [Karen Jagiello](#) (Nursing) recently co-authored an article, "[Competency-Based Education in RN to BSN Programs](#)," in *Nurse Educator*, a peer-reviewed journal focused on the scholarship of teaching and learning related to nursing praxis. The article outlines measures taken by the School of Nursing to add competency-based education (CBE) strategies to better meet the needs of changing healthcare landscape.

Please keep submitting accomplishments by you and your colleagues, as well as

comments and inquiries. You can email provost@jmu.edu or submit a question anonymously through the [Ask the Provost](#) option online.

Sincerely,
Heather

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