

3/28/25 Academic Affairs Highlights

Dear Colleagues,

I hope everyone had a chance to rest and recharge over Spring Break. I was able to join CVPA students and faculty in New York for JMU's debut at Carnegie Hall in front of a very enthusiastic audience. It was an amazing performance by the Carnegie Hall Collective singers, dancers and musicians, led by [Dr. Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy](#) and choreographed by [Dean Rubén Graciani](#). Bravo! Thanks also to the village that made a performance like this possible.

Who knew that the least impactful thing this week would be the Okta transition! Thanks to JMU IT, the transition was remarkably smooth.

You've certainly heard the announcement about our new president, [Dr. James Schmidt](#). He is excited to join JMU and hear more about our academics and the work that you do. I had a chance to spend a little time with him this week, and he's excited to get to campus and start getting to know us. I look forward to sharing more of your accomplishments with him, starting with this email.

- JMU's [Center for International Stability and Recovery](#) (CISR) has named Department of Philosophy and Religion Associate Professor and Associate AUH [Dr. Christie Kilby](#) as their new executive director. CISR works to connect people, research and resources to support post-conflict recovery around the globe while providing rich opportunities for JMU students and faculty to engage in the humanitarian field.
- Just in time for spring, Department of Biology Assistant Professor [Dr. Andrea Berardi](#) and colleagues recently published "Delayed Flowering Phenology of Red-Flowering Plants in Response to Hummingbird Migration." You can read it in the open access journal [Current Biology](#).
- Department of Physics and Astronomy [Dr. Adriana Banu](#) is in demand! She was recently invited to serve on two international physics conference committees. She'll participate in the development of 18th International Symposium on Capture Gamma-Ray Spectroscopy and Related Topics, which is being organized by Berkeley National Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. She'll also be involved in planning the African Nuclear Physics Conference series, which combines a topical nuclear physics conference with workshop sessions aimed at discussions on select open questions.

Thanks for sending those teaching and scholarship highlights, awards, and other accomplishments for you and your colleagues to provost@jmu.edu.

Sincerely,
Bob