

**From:** [Office of the Provost](#)  
**To:** [STAFF-CLASSIFIED-AA-L@LISTSERV.JMU.EDU](mailto:STAFF-CLASSIFIED-AA-L@LISTSERV.JMU.EDU)  
**Subject:** Notes from the Provost  
**Date:** Friday, March 8, 2024 8:10:55 AM

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Dear Colleagues,

While a hush will fall over campus when our population dramatically drops during Spring Break next week, JMU was buzzing with potential new students last weekend. Over 1,600 admitted students (and their 3,208 guests) attended [CHOICES](#) to learn about JMU, making it the most well attended CHOICES ever. Many thanks to the faculty, staff and administrators who gave their time and energy to help these Dukes fully appreciate our outstanding academic programs. Let's keep that verve going by reading about your colleagues' exciting projects:

- Thanks to the good work of the [Computer Science](#) department, the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security have designated JMU a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cyber Defense, noting that the [cybersecurity graduate program's](#) "ability to meet the increasing demands of the program criteria will serve the nation well in contributing to the protection of the National Information Infrastructure." Visit the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (NCAE-C) website to learn more about the program's [selection criteria](#).
- Professor of Music Education, [William Dabback](#), and Assistant Professor of Music Education, [Rachel Grimsby](#), have been invited to present their research at the [International Society for Music Education](#) (ISME) in Helsinki, Finland. Dr. Dabback will share his study "Reclamation, Revision and Construction of Senior Adult Women's Musical Identities," in addition to presenting a research poster entitled, "Recraft and Expertise." Dr. Grimsby will share two papers: "PMEs Confidence in Teaching SwD following Special Education Coursework: A Comparative Mixed-Methods Study" and "Research with Children with Disabilities: Ethics, Queries, and Activism." She will also participate in a panel on ungrading in music education.
- Congratulations to [Prajakta Belsare](#) (Information Technology), [Jonathan Jones](#) (History) and [Qingsheng Liu](#) (Chemistry and Biochemistry), who were recently awarded [Open Adopt Grants](#) from [VIVA, Virginia's Academic Library Consortium](#). Due to their upcoming efforts funded by this grant, over 2,000 JMU students will avoid spending an estimated \$102,056 on textbooks over the next five years, including students taking classes in their major, minor or the general education program. You can [learn more here](#).
- Assistant Professor of Marketing [Carissa Kim](#) recently [presented her co-authored research](#), "The Role of Ambivalence in Frontline Employee-Customer Interactions," as a poster at the [2024 Winter American Marketing Association \(AMA\) conference](#) in St. Pete Beach, Florida. Over multiple studies, Dr. Kim's

research explores frontline employee performance while dealing with challenging customers. She suggests avenues for future inquiry, as well as management techniques that can be implemented by supervisors.

Please keep submitting the accomplishments you and your colleagues have achieved! You can also send comments and inquiries via email ([provost@jmu.edu](mailto:provost@jmu.edu)) or submit a question anonymously through the [Ask the Provost](#) option online.

Have a wonderful break!

Sincerely,  
Heather

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She/Her/Hers

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