

**From:** Office of the Provost  
**To:** Academic Affairs Faculty and Staff  
**Subject:** Notes from the Provost  
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9/13/23

Hello colleagues,

I hope your semester is settling into its rhythm. Each term has its own idiosyncrasies, and Fall 2023 is no different. What's making your fall feel fun and different? While we embrace the new, enjoy reading about some of your colleagues' recent achievements.

- A group of JMU faculty have joined together to provide multiple opportunities to engage with the idea of grief, what it means, and how it's processed at the individual and collective levels. Department of English and African, African American, and Diaspora Studies Center faculty members Professor [Lauren Alleyne](#) (Director, Furious Flower Poetry Center) and [L. Renee](#) (Assistant Director, Furious Flower Poetry Center); School of Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication instructor [David Brennan](#); and School of Music Associate Professor [Bryce Hayes](#) performed at the second [Be\)Holding Love and Loss](#) event developed by Libraries Collection Administration Coordinator and Department of Philosophy instructor [Michael Trocchia](#). The series will feature transdisciplinary and creative programs that examine grief through multiple lenses.
- [Technology Today](#) recently covered JMU's receipt of a \$40,000 Commonwealth Commercialization Fund (CCF) grant from [the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation \(VIPC\)](#), featuring comments from [Mary Lou Bourne](#), Director of Technology Innovation and Economic Development. Part of [Research and Scholarship](#), this office creates partnerships with the business community and supports faculty and student research, entrepreneurship and new venture formation to foster local economic growth.
- Associate Professor of Theatre [Brian Smallwood](#) recently returned from the [Entertainment Technology New Zealand '23](#) conference, which he opened as the keynote speaker. The well-received topic focused on burnout mitigation in live entertainment, which capitalized on Brian's production management scholarship.
- All members of the May 2023 [ABA Psychological Sciences](#) cohort took and passed their board exams on the first examination, qualifying them as Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) and making them eligible for licensure in Virginia. The national pass rate is 65% on the first examination, so this is

quite an achievement for Brooklin Davis, Lindsey Hestand, Maria Leventhal and Meghan Mitchell. Congratulations to the graduates and to their adviser, [Trevor Stokes](#), for his excellent guidance.

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

Sincerely,  
Heather

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She/Her/Hers

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