

From: [Office of the Provost](#)
To: [Academic Affairs Faculty and Staff](#)
Subject: Notes from the Provost
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10/11/23

Hello colleagues,

Not that I'm biased, but there really is nothing like the Shenandoah Valley in the autumn. The trees are flaunting some rather spectacular colors in spite of the recent drought. We're headed into peak leaf-peeping season, so if you want to track the foliage in Harrisonburg or other parts of the Commonwealth, head over to the [Virginia Department of Forestry's website](#) for more information. In the meantime, I'm delighted to share more stories of faculty and staff success.

- Congratulations to School of Integrated Sciences Associate Professor [Stephen Marrin](#), director of the Intelligence Analysis program and editor of the Taylor & Francis journal [Intelligence and National Security](#), who will be the 2024 recipient of the Intelligence Studies Section's Distinguished Scholar Award at the 2024 [International Studies Association](#) annual conference. This award recognizes a scholar whose distinguished record in publishing and service to ISA has made a substantial contribution to the field of intelligence studies. This recognition has only been awarded 10 times over the past 25 years.
- "[Incorporating ChatGPT into a Financial Data Science Course with Python Programming](#)" was cited as the best pedagogy-themed paper at the annual meeting of the [Financial Education Association](#). Co-authors Executive Director of the Learning Centers [Laura Miller](#), Assistant Professor of Finance [Xu Niu](#) and Peer Assisted Study Sessions Coordinator for the Learning Center [Yang Liu](#) summarized the paper as "a first attempt at welcoming ChatGPT into financial education." Forward-thinking work!
- [L. Renee](#), Assistant Director of the [Furious Flower Poetry Center](#) and Assistant Professor of English, was awarded a Black Appalachian Storytellers Fellowship to represent the Commonwealth of Virginia by the [National Association of Black Storytellers](#). The fellowship is supported by major arts funders South Arts and Mid-Atlantic Arts. You can learn more about her work in this [Daily News Record article](#) and this [WHSV TV3 segment](#).
- Service Recognition Awards were held this week to acknowledge employee years of service to JMU. Academic Affairs proudly recognized 210 staff members who have spent a combined 660 years at the university. Tammy Crawford, Assistant to the Dean in the College of Health and Behavioral Studies, received her 30-year pin! I was honored to also recognize 210 faculty members who have contributed a total of 2,790 years of service. Faculty acknowledged for serving 30 years included Sharon Babcock (Pre-professional Health Advising), Joanne Doyle (Economics), Bill Hartman (Libraries), Laurie Kutchins (English), William Tate (Art,

Design and Art History) and Ping Wang (Computer Information Systems and Business Analytics). Thank you all for your selfless dedication to JMU.

Please keep submitting your accomplishments, 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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