

From: [Office of the Provost](#)
To: [AA Faculty and Staff](#) Notes from the
Subject: Provost
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Hello colleagues,

We've reached Fall Break, and while we faculty and staff don't enjoy the same respite as our students, I hope you find a way to renew yourself in the next few days.

Earlier today, I was honored to attend the Madison Celebration of Research and Scholarship, hosted by [Research, Economic Development and Innovation](#), where we heard invigorating lightning talks from the 2023 Provost Award Winners for Excellence in Research and Scholarship. We learned more about the inquiry being explored by:

- Tobias Gerken, Assistant Professor in the School of Integrated Sciences, College of Integrated Science and Engineering
- Jessica Lantz, Assistant Professor of Instructional Design, JMU Libraries
- Sarah Lupo, Assistant Professor of Middle, Secondary, and Mathematics Education, College of Education
- Tobias Reynolds-Tylus, Assistant Professor in the School of Communication Studies, College of Arts and Letters
- Hannah Sions, Assistant Professor of Art Education, College of Visual and Performing Arts
- Nathan Wright, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Science and Mathematics
- Nara Yoon, Assistant Professor in the School of Strategic Leadership Studies, College of Business
- Emily Zane, Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Health and Behavioral Studies

This award recognizes early career, tenure-track faculty members who have demonstrated significant achievement in research, scholarship and/or creative work, and their work really is exciting. Gaining insights into the brilliant ways our up-and-coming colleagues think about the work in their field truly was the best way to kick off the break.

Keep reading for more on your colleagues' research and achievements.

- Professor of Biology [Bruce Wiggins](#), along with Biology MS alum J.M. Portmann, recently published "Assessing Biological Condition of Restored Streams in an Agriculturally Impaired Chesapeake Bay Sub-Watershed" in *Ecological Restoration*. Providing this opportunity for collaboration and co-authorship is so important for our graduate students.
- The [Undergraduate Primary Care and Rural Education \(UPCARE\)](#) Project Team, which consists of nursing professors [Erika Metzler Sawin](#) (Project Director), [Deborah Elkins](#), [Melody Eaton](#), [Christina Lam](#), [Jamie Robinson](#) and [Tina Switzer](#), recently completed a five-year, \$2.7 million Health Resources and Services

Administration (HRSA)-funded project. The UPCARE Team led a collaborative, academic-practice partnership between the Valley Health system and JMU Counseling and Psychological Services. Focusing on mental health, substance-use disorders, population health, and chronic disease prevention and management in rural primary care settings in Page County, the project affected health access and quality communitywide. The team and undergraduate UPCARE student scholars have disseminated their work internationally, nationally and throughout Virginia through 15 presentations, five webinars and 11 publications.

- JMU Libraries Humanities Librarian [Brian Flota](#) and Head of Special Collections [Kate Morris](#) will soon publish their co-edited essay collection [Comic Books, Special Collections, and the Academic Library](#) with ACRL Publications. The edition highlights best practices for building a diverse institutional comic collection and how to effectively incorporate the collection into research and instruction.

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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