

From: [Office of the Provost](#)
To: [Academic Affairs Faculty and Staff](#)
Subject: Notes from the Provost
Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 1:09:53 PM

10/25/2023

Hello colleagues,

As I sift through faculty and staff accomplishments each week, I'm struck by the broad range of research areas and thought-provoking topics you investigate. The varying types of accomplishments - papers published, grants awarded and accolades received - are exceptional. Coupled with your efforts to support students, it is easy to see why JMU moved up eight places in the latest [U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges](#) report. I'm delighted to share more stories of faculty and staff success.

- Professor and academic unit head for Engineering [Bayo Ogundipe](#) was recently recognized for his work teaching his students an innovative, collaborative mindset to develop climate solutions. He partnered with a team that received a [Course & Program Grant](#) from [VentureWell](#), which supported the [multidisciplinary course Peace Lab Studio](#). As part of the course, students from the U.S. and Kenya work together to develop climate solutions for the Global South.
- Earlier this year, Professor of Saxophone in the School of Music [David Pope](#) spent a week in Colorado as a guest of his former student and JMU alumnus, Dr. Matt Smiley (BM 2007). While he was a student, Matt performed weekly in downtown Harrisonburg as a member of [David's trio](#). After co-presenting at CU Boulder and Denver's Nocturne jazz club, Drs. Pope and Smiley recorded a double album, [Binnen Buiton](#), including selections ranging from abstractions of jazz standards to free improvisation and ambient noise art.
- Associate Professor of Middle, Secondary and Mathematics Education [Angela Webb](#) served as a facilitator to NASA's inaugural East Coast [Student Airborne Research Program](#) (SARP), an eight-week summer internship program in which students acquire hands-on research experience in all aspects of a scientific campaign using one or more NASA Airborne Science Program flying science laboratories. Learn [more in this article](#), authored by College of Education graduate assistant Sarah Frasso.
- When you see the striking [logo for Harrisonburg's new Rocktown High School](#), you'll have Assistant Professor of Media Arts and Design [Adrienne Hooker](#) to thank. Turning the branding process into a means to articulate the new school's institutional identity, her visual design class, in collaboration with students from Harrisonburg City Public Schools, created the graphic image and associated logo system, which was unveiled earlier this month.
- [Dr. Geralyn Timler](#), Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders and Program Director of the Speech-Language Pathology graduate program, was

selected as a Fellow of the [American Speech-Language and Hearing Association](#) (ASHA) in recognition of her remarkable career. To be awarded the Fellowship of the Association, a practitioner must contribute demonstrate three of six qualities at an outstanding level: clinical service, clinical education/academic teaching, research/publications, administrative services, service to ASHA and service to other professional organizations. This is among the highest honors bestowed by ASHA, which has over 228,000 members.

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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She/Her/Hers
