

**From:** [Office of the Provost](#)  
**To:** [AA Faculty and Staff](#)  
**Subject:** Notes from the Provost  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:18:56 AM

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Hello colleagues,

Welcome back from what I hope was a rejuvenating break. With only a few weeks left in the semester, look for moments that replenish you. While our colleagues in the [Counseling Center](#) and other areas on campus are supporting our students with plenty of programming as we head toward finals, make space to care for yourself as well. The [Center for Faculty Innovation](#) has organized faculty-only [break spots](#) and [designated grading areas](#) during exam week, while [JMU Libraries](#) has workshops offering both personal and professional enrichment [scheduled for December](#). As you prepare to finish the term, may your peers' good news have a renewing effect on your spirits:

- Associate Professor of Media Arts and Design [Imelda O'Reilly](#) was recognized with a [New York State Council of the Arts](#) grant in Media and Film. Part of a \$10,000 grant awarded to the Composers Concordance, the funding will go to the organization's showing of her project, [We're the Kids in America](#). This grant was part of over \$46M in [new arts and culture grant awards](#) announced by New York Governor Kathy Hochul.
- Professor of Biology [Rocky Parker](#) collaborated with biology students Lauren Nazarian, Megan Barlowe, Julianna Lincoln and other coauthors on "[Skin lipids alone enable conspecific tracking in an invasive reptile, the Argentine black and white tegu \(\*Salvator merianae\*\)](#)" in [PLoS ONE](#), an open access journal that publishes peer reviewed articles from a variety of disciplines. Since current wildlife management techniques haven't fully addressed the spread of the species, Parker's team examined tegus' use of scent trails and mate tracking behavior, which could aid population control efforts.
- Collaboration continues to flourish in the School of Music. Professors [Beth Chandler Cahill](#), [Carl Donakowski](#) and [Paulo Steinberg](#) recently participated in the [100<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#) of the [Wednesday Music Club](#), a music advocacy group that promotes music education and program funding throughout Central Virginia. The program, entitled "[Song, Dance, and Poetry](#)," featured selections by Astor Piazzolla, Robert Schumann, Beth Denisch, Heitor Villa-Lobos and Valerie Coleman.
- [Financial Leadership for the Arts](#), a new textbook designed to "prepare leaders in the arts to make the best possible decisions for the financial sustainability of their organizations," is available for pre-order from the University of North Carolina Press. The book, meant to guide those without prior on-the-job experience or formal training in accounting or non-profit management, was co-authored by Director of the School of Leadership Studies and Professor [Margaret Sloan](#).

Please keep submitting accomplishments by you and your colleagues, as well as 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

Heather J. Coltman, D.M.A.  
Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs  
James Madison University  
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She/Her/Hers

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