Hello colleagues,

As I write to you today, it certainly feels like the end of the fall semester – the air is brisk, the wind is blustery and a few snowflakes have been spotted. While it's tempting to curl up with a cup of something hot and nest under a blanket, we must persevere; as soon as exam week concludes and grades are submitted, you can enjoy a well-earned rest. I'm looking forward to doing a deep dive into your scholarship and creative work; Associate Professor of Communication Studies Matt Brigham has given me the perfect excuse to watch *Ted Lasso* – his paper, "Utilizing the Current to Navigate the Currents, Or, Everything I needed to Know about [about Doing and Teaching] Rhetorical Criticism, I Learned from *Ted Lasso*" was recently accepted for publication by the Eastern Communication Association, so my viewing will prepare me for reading his analysis. In the meantime, here's a sampling of your peers' accomplishments:

- Co-authored by Nicole Wilson, Associate Professor of Instructional Design, Learning Innovations and Design; Elaine Kaye, Assistant Professor of Instructional Design, Learning Innovations and Design; and Liz Chenevey, Associate Professor and Health and Behavioral Studies Librarian, *Opening Up: A Fellowship for Open Pedagogy* was a key text in the formal instructional component of the recent Open Pedagogy Fellowship at JMU. A faculty participant stated the course "has been the best designed and executed course I have ever taken… these faculty members have made an enormous contribution to the Open Pedagogy movement with this book, which is also a gift to educators (and their students), because it is openly licensed and available to others to use for free."

- Pianist Anna Showalter, Doctor of Musical Arts candidate, recently presented "Listen to the Birds," the final solo recital of their program. The concert included compositions based on transcriptions of birdsong, as well as compositions that interacted with recordings of several bird species. This project builds on ongoing collaborative work between Showalter and Assistant Professor of Biology Dana Moseley. The JMU community previously learned about sound ecology from this duo during their multimodal Litten Lecture in February. Anna is from the studios of music professors Lori Piitz and Gabriel Dobner.

- Students in the Integrated Science and Technology (ISAT) program have launched a new venture, the ISAT Podcast. The show's inaugural episode, featuring guests Associate Professor Emily York and Assistant Professor Raafat Zaini, explores their experiences as faculty members and researchers. It also provides audience members who may not be JMU or program insiders with ISAT background information. The music you hear throughout the episode is provided by Professor and Program Director Chris Bachmann – what a delightful addition!

- Congratulations to Vice Provost for Research, Economic Development and

Innovation [Anthony Tongen](#) on his appointment to the [Commonwealth Cyber Initiative's Technical Advisory Board](#) and election to the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities [Council on Research Leadership](#). These roles will elevate JMU's research and economic development profile across the Commonwealth and the country, providing greater faculty and student opportunities for scholarship, entrepreneurship and industry relationship-building.

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

I wish you and your loved ones togetherness, warmth, kindness and joy, now and in the coming year.

Sincerely,
Heather

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