

Notes from the Provost

Office of the Provost <provost@jmu.edu>

Thu 4/20/2023 1:34 PM

To: FAC-AA-RESPONSE-L@LISTSERV.JMU.EDU <FAC-AA-RESPONSE-L@LISTSERV.JMU.EDU>;'pt-fac-response-l@listserv.jmu.edu' <pt-fac-response-l@listserv.jmu.edu>;'Staff Classified (Staff-Classified-AA-L@listserv.jmu.edu)' <Staff-Classified-AA-L@listserv.jmu.edu>;'AA-Wage (Staff-Wage-AA-L@listserv.jmu.edu)' <Staff-Wage-AA-L@listserv.jmu.edu>

4/20/23

Hello colleagues,

I'm delighted to once again share some updates on your colleagues' recent achievements.

- Congratulations to [#NEHgrant](#) recipients Mollie Godfrey, associate professor in [JMU English](#), and Steven Reich, professor in the Department of History. Godfrey's project title is "Black Women's Writing, the Fictions of Segregation, and the Human." Reich's project is entitled "The Story of Sandy Beulah, Texas: Race, Violence, and the Search for Justice in the Jim Crow South." I'm looking forward to seeing the final [#JMUResearch](#) products supported by these grants!
- Assistant Professor in the Department of Geology and Environmental Science Bill Lukens published, with coauthors, two papers in Science last week: "The evolution of hominoid locomotor versatility: Evidence from Moroto, a 21 Ma site in Uganda" and "Oldest evidence of abundant C4 grasses and habitat heterogeneity in eastern Africa." The lead authors of these papers summarized the group's work in [The Conversation](#).
- Yasmeen Shorish, faculty member in JMU Libraries, is co-hosting an international summit, [Collections as Data: State of the Field and Future Directions](#), at Internet Archive Canada in late April. Made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, [Collections as Data: Part to Whole](#) aims to foster responsible implementation and use of [collections as data](#). The summit will provide an opportunity to assess the state of the field on an international level, as well as directly inform the production of a white paper and subsequent initiatives that drive future community work.
- Our faculty continue to find ways to innovate in the interdisciplinary space. Here is a [great article](#) about the work students in Professor of Marketing Steve Kozak's MKTG 380 course did in collaboration with Health Services Administration faculty member Katherine Harrison to create marketing plan for the Great Community Give, a local event promoting charitable giving to nonprofits in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.
- There has been a lot of valuable conversation within our community about student evaluations of teaching (SET). I'm appreciative of the [faculty who have agreed to serve on a committee](#) looking more deeply into the use of student evaluations at JMU. This is in addition to a [working group](#) focused on the TFRE recommendation related to SETs.

Please keep submitting questions and comments! You can email 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

(540) 568-3429

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She/Her/Hers