

Notes from the Provost

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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>

Hello Colleagues,

I continue to hear from faculty, staff and students about the outstanding scholarship and teaching that happens across campus. While this is just a small sample of the many activities going on, I wanted to pass along some updates that were recently shared with me.

- The College of Education has 16 faculty representing JMU at the [American Educational Research Association Annual Conference](#) (AERA). The conference is considered the most prestigious conference in the field of education for Research 1 and Research 2 institutions.
- The JMU STEM Center and Department of Biology faculty member George Vidal hosted the state-wide [Brain Bee](#) event earlier this month with nearly 50 13 to 19-year-old students. The Bee provides hands-on neuroscience related demos, lab visits and interaction with JMU faculty and students, as well as a neuroscience competition for high schoolers, the winner of which will go on to compete at the national Bee at UC Irvine in April.
- Associate Professor of History [Rebecca Brannon](#) recently received a fellowship grant from the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) (NEH) for her project “Old Age in the Wake of the American Revolution.” These grants are designed to support advanced research and writing projects by humanities scholars.
- [Gina MacDonald](#), Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, was named a 2022 [American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow](#), one of the scientific community’s most distinguished honors. This year, only 505 new fellows were selected worldwide.
- [Diana Galarreta-Aima](#), Associate Professor of Spanish, partnered with JMU Libraries and received a \$30K VIVA Open Course Grant to create [a no-cost, open textbook for intermediate medical Spanish](#). “Language and culture are so important in providing better healthcare for these communities,” said Dr. Galarreta-Aima. “And we were like, ‘Okay, let’s make it free!’”

It was great to see faculty and staff from the College of Science and Mathematics when I dropped by EnGEO last week. I heard about their four – four! – REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) programs. Our students are so lucky to work with such involved faculty.

I hope that you will attend – and encourage your students to attend – the upcoming talk [“Engaging with the Past to Embrace the Future: Indigenous Communities,”](#) presented by the Senior Advisor to the President for Native American Affairs at the University of Minnesota, Karen Diver. Academic Affairs supports the advancement of inclusive excellence, and we’re proud to sponsor this exciting speaker.

I always want to hear from Academic Affairs faculty and staff that have questions or want to learn more about how the division operates. You can email provost@jmu.edu or submit a

question anonymously through the [Ask the Provost](#) option online. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,
Heather

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