

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 all,

With so much amazing work going on throughout our division, I want to again pass along some updates that have been shared with me lately.

- Professor of Saxophone David Pope has been bragging about his student Haven Kahn's achievements, which included winning the grand prize in the [Petrichor International Music Competition](#) and placing second in the [Vandoren Emerging Artist competition](#). These are huge accomplishments for Haven, but I think his adviser deserves some of the credit!
- Assistant Professor Sombo Muzata, in the Department of Political Science, was awarded a [Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship](#) for her project "Collaborative Research in [anti-]Corruption and Public Debt, Research Capacity and Mentor Graduate Students in Political Science and International Relations." Her host will be Dr. Christopher Nshimbi from the University of Pretoria.
- ISAT associate professors Shannon Conley and Emily York are overseeing a fantastic undergraduate research assistant, Meghan Gelerman. She is working with them on their project "Ethical Reasoning in STEM and Collaborative Teaching in Higher Education." Meghan spent the summer as a [manufacturing engineer intern for AccuRounds](#), an opportunity for which she credits her ISAT faculty.
- Art Education Assistant Professor Hannah Sions' article "[Looking Back, Looking Forward: Resisting the White Gaze in Historical Narratives and Future Possibilities of Art Education](#)," featured in the [Journal of Social Theory in Art Education](#), was nominated by the journal editors and accepted for the second annual VCU Publishing Awards. These awards recognize scholarship and creativity from VCU Publishing's journal partners.

I've continued my visits to colleges and other areas within Academic Affairs. Hearing about the events and scholarship going on in CVPA last week was fascinating, and I look forward to upcoming conversations.

This week's "Ask the Provost" question may be of particular interest to instructional faculty.

Q: *What supports and resources exist for teaching, now that we're an R2 and the administrative landscape is changing? I've been at JMU for many years, serving in the more recent years as a teaching mentor to dozens of junior faculty. With the CFI no longer offering regular or substantial teaching programs as they did before Covid, what supports are available for tenure-seeking professors... or just faculty wanting to continually improve? I would not have survived tenure had it not been for things like JMUDESIGN and TAPS. Is there a reason why these things aren't offered anymore?*

A: The [Center for Faculty Innovation](#) still offers a wide variety of resources for teaching faculty! Some of their signature programs were postponed or modified in response to COVID. For example, Teaching Analysis Polls ([TAPs](#)) will return next academic year, and [jmUDESIGN](#) is now offered virtually. CFI also offers a broad range of programming to assist faculty not just with teaching but also with their scholarship and career planning. On Monday mornings, you'll receive a weekly digest listing their upcoming events and standing resources – there is a lot to choose from. If you aren't receiving this update, contact [CFI](#).

And be sure to check out [JMU Libraries' Faculty Services](#). They offer a variety of workshops, classes and collections to support your teaching.

Please keep your questions coming! 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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