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**To:** [STAFF-CLASSIFIED-AA-L@LISTSERV.JMU.EDU](mailto:STAFF-CLASSIFIED-AA-L@LISTSERV.JMU.EDU)  
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Dear Colleagues,

We're more than halfway through the semester as we enter Homecoming weekend, and I hope your fall break energized you for a strong second half of the semester. Let's jump right into your highlights.

- [Dr. Samantha Yaussy](#), Assistant Professor of Anthropology, made headlines recently as part of an international research team researchers for their findings about trends in survival and mortality in Milan, which were published in [Nature Scientific Reports](#). "[Unveiling the Female Experience through Adult Mortality and Survivorship in Milan Over the Last 2000 Years](#)" used data collected from 492 skeletons to understand differences in survivorship and mortality risk between estimated males and females throughout the city's history.
- Congratulations to [Dr. Ben Blankenship](#), Assistant Professor of Psychology, for receiving the [Society for Personality and Social Psychology's SAGE Early Career Trajectory Award](#) for excellence in teaching, research or service to the field.
- Integrating students into study opportunities is one way Chemistry faculty [Dr. Gretchen Peters](#) and [Dr. Brycelyn Boardman](#) exemplify their roles as teacher-scholars. They recently published "[Importance of Primary and Secondary Hydrogen Bonding Interactions of Polyols on the Plasticization of Chitosan](#)" in [ACS Omega](#), co-authored with three undergraduate chemistry majors.

I enjoy wrapping up the week with examples of your excellent work, so please continue to submit items for yourself or your peers to [provost@jmu.edu](mailto:provost@jmu.edu).

Sincerely,

Bob

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