

# Faculty Spotlights

Welcome back and *welcome* our new faculty and staff! We hope that you had a restful summer that included travel, gatherings, and events.

Our STEAM Institute renovations are underway overseen by Professor Bill Hill, Dean Tim Snyder, and Dean Barb Ritter. The grand opening is targeted for January (spring semester start). Along with our Marine Science Institute and Public Policy Institute, our STEAM institute represents an entity of accessible student learning spaces fostering a creative, scientific, interactive environment for our students and faculty.

Our new Center for Gender & Sexuality will be led by **Dr. Sarah Parker**. The Center will report to Academic Affairs, and we look forward to rich programming that engages our entire JU community amplifying the voices of women, the LGBTQIA+ communities, and intersecting identities in a safe, comfortable, and inviting place. Contact the center at [cgs@ju.edu](mailto:cgs@ju.edu).



The Office of Academic Affairs recognizes **Dean Tim Snyder** for *Outstanding Service to Jacksonville University* for his service as interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dean Snyder's consistent leadership, open communication, and diligence in recruiting new faculty to Arts and Sciences units allowed the College to progress forward while achieving a successful search for incoming Dean, Dr. Christopher Corbo.

On your walks, please visit our Swisher Library and check out the upgrades to the space and furniture and say hello to our great Librarians! The Academic Support Center also has a modern new look promoting a better environment for our students. While walking around campus you will also see upgrades to the outside of the Arts Research Complex – beautifully done.

We look forward to seeing you, listening to your ideas, and working with you during this academic year.

-Chris & Sherri

# Phin'tastic Accomplishments

**Dr. Tim Snyder**, Dean of the Linda Berry Stein College of Fine Arts & Humanities, was appointed by the Jacksonville City Council to the Cultural Service Grant Program Committee (CSGP). Administered by the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, the CSGP annually appropriates over 2 million dollars in grants to Duval County arts and cultural organizations.

**Dr. Michelle Mitchell, Dr. Ne'Shaun Borden, and Dr. Latonya Summers**, Assistant Professors of Clinical Mental Health Counseling, were awarded the 2022 JU Summer of Scholarship (SOS) grant (funding \$3,000) for the study entitled, *Content Analysis of Tenure and Promotion Requirements at CACREP Accredited Institutions*.

Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities **Dr. Julian Bryson** directed the Duval County Middle School Honor Choir hosted by First Coast High School. Sixty-four students from five middle schools came together on JU's campus for two days to prepare and present a concert of diverse music.

**Dr. Courtney Barclay**, Associate Professor of Communications, achieved Accreditation in Public Relations with high proficiency certified by the Universal Accrediting Board.

**Dr. Jay Ivey**, Associate Professor of Voice and Director of Vocal Studies, recorded "Dialogue of Self and Soul" by composer Thomas Harrison with artists Jeremy Hunt, Yoon Ju Hwang, Nora Lee Garcia, and Benjamin Leiser. The work will be released on Cheepy Chappy Records later in 2022. Dr. Ivey's book *Feuer und Eis* was added to the recommended reading list on [winnterreise.net](http://winnterreise.net), and he was commissioned to write a piece for the International Women's Brass Conference in May 2022.

**Dr. Nisse Goldberg, Professor and Chair, Biology & Marine Science** and J. Schlieper published "Seasonal and Annual Abundance and Distribution of the Avian Community in Huguenot Memorial Park", Florida, from 2017 to 2020. *Florida Field Naturalist*, 49, 110-124.

Assistant Professor of Political Science **Dr. Nevena Trajkov** served as a panelist for BridgeJacksonville on the Ukrainian crisis.

Congratulations to **Dr. Julius Demps**, Professor of Management, who was recognized as the Jacksonville University 2022-2023 Professor of the Year.

**Professor John Ricci** was recently featured in a promotional video featuring the JU Jazz Program along with current and former students of the Jazz & Commercial Music degree, filmed and produced by JU alum Patrick Farrell '20. Professor Ricci worked directly with Mr. Farrell to showcase the uniqueness of the course offerings and highlight aspects of the personalized instruction that sets our jazz program – and JU music program - apart from other programs.

Professor and Chair of Philosophy, **Dr. Erich Freiburger**, presented a paper on "The Platonic Politics in Hamlet" at the 22nd Biennial New College Conference on Medieval and Renaissance thought in Sarasota. He also presented a paper to the South Central Renaissance Conference that was hosted virtually by the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, and he participated in a Seminar, "Shakespeare Past and Present" at the 50th annual Shakespeare Association of America conference held in Jacksonville.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Visual Arts, **Professor Madeline Wagner** recently adjudicated for the Jacksonville Dance Theatre Dance Film Festival.

Jacksonville University announces **Founding Dean** of the new College of Law, **Nicholas W. Allard, Esq.**

Assistant Professor and Chair of Theatre **Dr. Erik DeCicco** completed and successfully defended his dissertation at the University of New England: *Exploring Shakespearean Influence On Executive Leadership In Finance: A Qualitative Narrative Inquiry*.

**Dr. Michelle Mitchell** won the 2022 AMCD Professional Development Award. This honors an AMCD member who has created original models or techniques that have shed new light on multicultural counseling and development.

**Dr. DeCicco** also attended the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Memphis with JU theatre students and attended the Florida State Thespian Festival with over 8,000 high school theatre students, teachers, and guest artists. He provided critical feedback on productions and presented the workshop *Double Function: The Application of Stanislavski's System to Musical Theatre*. Dr. DeCicco attended the National Association of Schools of Theatre's annual meeting in Baltimore, MD.

Jacksonville University announces the new **Dean** of the College of Arts & Sciences, **Dr. Christopher Corbo**.

**Professor John Ricci** with adjunct faculty members **David Champagne** (jazz trumpet), **Scott Giddens** (piano), **Stan Piper** (bass), and **Ricky Kirkland** (drum set) performed original music, provided individualized instruction, conducted jazz clinics, and rehearsed the high school jazz ensembles to help prepare them for their Music Performance Assessments. Professor Ricci also actively recruited for the JU Jazz Program, supplying students with info about the music offerings at JU with invitations to audition for the Linda Berry Stein College of Fine Arts & Humanities.

**Dr. Laura Atkins**, Associate Professor of Sociology & Associate Dean, and **Professor Shelley Grant**, Assistant Professor of Sociology published “Diverse Applications of Sociological Imagination: A Qualitative Study of Service-Learning Mentoring” in the *Journal of Applied Social Science*, 16.

Assistant Professor of Mathematics **Dr. Daniel Franz**, Assistant Professor of Psychology **Dr. Amanda McGraw**, and former Associate Professor and Chair of Mathematics **Dr. Erika Ward** gave a talk at the Florida Section Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America titled Supplemental and Collaboration: Just in Time Interventions in Mathematics Across Campus.

Professor of Marine Science & Biology and Marine Science Research Institute Executive Director **Dr. Quinton White** and Associate Professor of Biology & Marine Science **Dr. Bryan Franks** attended the Southeastern Estuarine Research Society (SEERS) conference in Jekyll Island Florida with a delegation of JU graduate and undergraduate students. Dr. White and Warner Buchman, MPP and MA in MSC graduate student were asked to appear on a Career Panel for the meeting’s opening session.

**Dr. Michelle D. Mitchell** authored a chapter within a textbook that won 2022 Most Promising New Textbook from the Textbook & Academic Authors Association. Introduction to 21st Century Counseling: A Multicultural and Social Justice Approach (First Edition) Chapter number: Chapter 9: Multicultural Techniques in Counseling.

**Dr. Barbara Ritter**, Dean of the Davis College of Business & Technology, was invited to be part of an AACSB video with SAGE publications where she was interviewed by their CEO. During the interview she focused on how the JU Davis College of Business & Technology has addressed the new standards in terms of societal impact. The video is on the AACSB website.

**Dr. Gretchen Bielmyer-Fraser**, Professor of Chemistry, coauthored with undergraduate and graduate students, “Metal analysis of submerged aquatic vegetation in the lower St. Johns River, Florida. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment.” 194: 492, pp.12.

Associate Professor and Chair of Visual Arts, **Professor Tiffany Leach** exhibited work in the *SAY SOMETHING: Tactile Voices in Clay* exhibition at the Saratoga Clay Art Center, New York April 30-June 11, 2022.

**Dr. Bryan Franks**, Associate Professor of Biology & Marine Science served on the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) Science Committee.

Professor of Piano **Dr. Scott Watkins** was soloist with the Jacksonville University Orchestra, conducted by **Dr. Marguerite Richardson**, in Beethoven’s Fourth Piano Concerto and harpsichordist for four performances of Vivaldi’s “The Four Seasons” with violinist Jeffrey Multer and the Florida Orchestra in Tampa.

**Professor Deborah Jordan and Dr. Scott Watkins** collaborated on two performances of “Dracula”. Dr. Watkins directed music that he composed, which was played by the JU orchestra.

**Dr. Scott Watkins** was also soloist with the Sherman Symphony Orchestra in a performance of the Bach Fourth Concerto and William Grant Still’s “Four Transcendencies.” The next day he made his Dallas recital debut performing works by Mozart, Beethoven, Debussy, and Hanson. While at The University of Nebraska he gave a presentation to the Graduate Piano Literature Seminar on the piano music of Howard Hanson, followed by a solo recital in Wahoo, Nebraska – Hanson’s hometown – on what would have been the composer’s 125<sup>th</sup> birthday. Watkins was guest of honor at a special event at the Hanson House, to honor Hanson. At this event, a recently discovered photograph was unveiled, and a copy of this photo was given to Watkins to thank him for his work on Hanson’s legacy. This photograph now hangs proudly in Watkins’ office.

Assistant Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling **Dr. Michelle Mitchell** spoke on Feb. 22 as part of Jacksonville University’s Black History Month’s “Diversity & Discussion” speaker series. Her speech titled “Losing it! Mental Health and Pandemic Related Stress Among the Black Community” focuses on mental health issues caused by the pandemic and how to care for yourself in times of stress, and daily life.

**Professor Alex Willemin**, Assistant Professor of Film & Media Art, directed another great film festival. In addition to Fiat Lux, the AIGA student folio event was a huge hit, organized by **Professor Ron Edelen**. A total of 76 participants from all over the region came to converge on JU's campus to facilitate students' portfolio development, career advice, and job-specific networking.

Executive Director of Healthcare Simulation Center **Dr. Kathleen Kavanagh**, recently developed Jacksonville University's first practical nurse program, which launches this fall.

In March as part of Women's History Month, Clinical Associate Professor of Orthodontics, **Dr. Sawsan Tabbaa** was invited to speak in Conversations about the Middle East: How Women Can Be Vital Agents of Peace & Change.

Congratulations to **Dr. Megan Bewernitz**, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, who was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award for Community Service.

The Brooks Rehabilitation College of Healthcare Sciences had their initial site visit with two members of CoARC, (Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care). The visit was led by Program Director, **Amanda Dexter**, and Director of Clinical Education, **David Wheeler**. In total 5 comprehensive academic standards were assessed and there were no citations and no changes suggested. They noted impressive support from the Administration, a very involved Medical Director, **Dr. Danny Pulido**, impressive facilities, and great opportunities for interprofessional education.

Congratulations to **Dr. Tamara Bentley Caudill**, Assistant Professor of French, who was recognized as the 2022 Faculty Woman of the Year.

Congratulations to **Dr. Sandra Brown**, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, who was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching.

Congratulations to the Jacksonville University **Public Policy Institute**, directed by **Rick Mullaney** for celebrating 10 years of educating, training, and preparing a new generation of leaders in public policy, politics, and leadership.

In association with the Director of Nursing Education from the Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance, the **Keigwin School of Nursing** has received board approval for Palm Coast's ABSN program.

Congratulations to **Dr. Erik DeCicco**, Associate Professor of Theatre Art, who was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award for University Service.

Assistant Professor and Chair of Theatre **Dr. Erik DeCicco** completed and successfully defended his dissertation at the University of New England: *Exploring Shakespearean Influence On Executive Leadership In Finance: A Qualitative Narrative Inquiry*.

The recording of the music for **Professor Alex Willemin's** amazing film, "Albert & Claude" was a large collaborative project which was enhanced and supported by the contributions of time and artistry from colleagues: **Dr. Marguerite Richardson, Dr. Shannon Lockwood, Tony Steve, and Dr. Jianjun He**.

**Professor Debi Jordan**, Professor of Theatre, was awarded a Summer of Scholarship grant from the JU ORSP to continue her scholarship in spirituality and art, which started as a creative exploration with The Monastery of St. Gertrude in Idaho during the pandemic. Professor Jordan conducted an interactive presentation with **Professor Bethany Walker's** students in Applied Health Sciences about the complexities of parenting a child with health needs in ASD/neurodivergence areas.

Congratulations to **Dr. Lila de Tantillo**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, who was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award for Scholarship and Professional Studies.

Congratulations to sociologist and criminal justice expert **Professor Shelley Grant** for connecting the first JU graduate to the internship at Operation New Hope.

Associate Professor of Communications **Dr. Courtney Barclay's** Phin Communications students created and implemented a strategic awareness public relations campaign for Dreams Come True of Jacksonville, Inc., a nonprofit that helps children with life-threatening illnesses achieve their dreams.

Following the community service portion of Charter Day, the Linda Berry Stein College of Fine Arts & Humanities hosted the Festival of the Arts, featuring student, alumni, faculty, and staff work. Brought to life by approval from **Dean Tim Snyder** and **Professor Kimberly Beasley**, Associate Professor of Voice, along with support from the ORSP and the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation.



# DOLPHIN

# SIGHTINGS

Director of Jazz Studies **Professor John Ricci** led a performance tour with the JU jazz faculty to four preeminent arts high schools in Flagler and Broward County Florida early in 2022.

Biology Professor **Dr. Dan McCarthy** and his students waded through the tall grassy banks and into the St. Johns River just outside the Marine Science Research Institute to make shelters. The project, part of a cross-listed graduate and undergraduate class on reef ecology and management, is designed to see what organisms in the river are attracted to the shelters and what type of shelter they prefer.

On April 13, the **Davis College of Business & Technology** hosted Dolphin Pitch for Jacksonville University business students to compete for a chance to win a \$3,500 prize for their business proposal. Dolphin Pitch was first introduced to Jacksonville University in 2019. It combines the formats of reality television shows “The Voice” and “Shark Tank” to create a new hands-on experience for business students to present their business plans to a panel of esteemed judges.

The University Singers, directed by **Dr. Julian Bryson**, presented a featured concert on the St. John's Episcopal Cathedral concert series, and provided service music for The Order of Malta Mass of Anointing. Both events were well-attended, and the students represented Jacksonville University with excellence.

JU hosted the sixth Jacksonville University Chamber Music Intensive. The seven-day summer camp was available to current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students through class of 2022 high school seniors who play piano and string instruments. Activities included chamber music rehearsals, coachings, and more. Distinguished faculty, co-directors **Dr. Shannon Lockwood**, and **Dr. Marguerite Richardson**, performed recitals and provided instruction. As well as, **Dr. Scott Watkins**, and adjunct **Professor Todd Lockwood**.

Professors **Shelley Grant**, **Dr. Ashley Johnson**, and **Dr. Ray Oldakowski** combined their GIS and Writing in the Social Sciences courses to offer students an opportunity to research, analyze, and present a current issue through the use of maps. Student-led, and made possible through I-DID grant funding and support from Gemini Engineering, Jacksonville University hosted its first regional GIS conference this past April.

**Dr. Stephanie James**, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, launched a new concentration of the Master of Science in Leadership and Learning degree. The Student Affairs in Higher Education concentration is designed to do just that: prepare students to advance and take on leadership roles in postsecondary education.

**Jacksonville University** programs in business and nursing have again landed on three prestigious lists from the Princeton Review and CEO Magazine, ranking them amongst the best programs of their kind. The **Davis College of Business & Technology** appeared on both lists. CEO Magazine ranked the Master of Business Administration, Executive MBA, online MBA and Doctor of Business Administration on its lists of best programs, which incorporates colleges and universities from across the world. This marks the 10th time Jacksonville University has been on the CEO Magazine lists, demonstrating the long-standing quality of its programs within the Davis College of Business & Technology.

**John Heine** and **Dr. Nisse Goldberg** from the Marine Science Research Institute, along with colleagues from other institutions, have been awarded a prestigious research grant from the National Science Foundation to work at McMurdo Station, in the Ross Sea, Antarctica.

**The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles but to irrigate deserts.”**