



Spotlights

Dear colleagues,

Please join me in congratulating **Dr. Courtney Barclay**, Professor of Law and Communication and Associate Dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs for the College of Law for being named the 2024-2025 Jacksonville University Professor of the Year and the 2023-2024 Faculty Woman of the Year!

Additional faculty recognized with Excellence Awards this spring include Professor Robert (Chris) Dew for Excellence in Teaching; Dr. Sawsan Tabbaa for Excellence in Scholarship and Professional activities; Professor Dana Tupa for Excellence in University Service; Professor Shelley Grant for Excellence in Community Service; and Professor Deana Barone for outstanding adjunct faculty member.

Congratulations!

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Phin'tastic Accomplishments

Dr. Doug Johansen, Associate Professor of Marketing & International Business, presented "Another Curriculum Revision?: The Effectiveness of Curriculum Changes Based on College and Career Success" in March at the International Conference on Design Principles and Practices.

Professor Cari Freiburger, Professor of Dance, participated in a performance opportunity with world-leading Delsarte practitioner Joe Williams and Isadora Duncan expert Francesca Todesco for 10 days in April in Athens Greece. This professional development allowed her to expand research, connections, and exposure internationally and professionally in NYC and abroad in Greece with the internationally known professional company named *Dances We Dance* which preserves and performs historical modern dance.

Dr. Caitlin Sockbeson, Associate Professor of Management, is presenting "Get Real!: Sourcing Real Experiential Learning Projects" at the Management & Organizational Behavior Teaching Society conference in June.

Dr. Barbara Ritter, Dean of the Davis College of Business and Technology, was elected to the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) Board of Directors as an official of an Organization from the Americas region. Dean Ritter was among only four other individuals, who hail from universities which include North Carolina State University; University of California, San Diego; St. Mary's University and Texas Tech University, selected to the international board. She will serve a three-year term and will take office July 1.

Dr. Arpita Jadav, Clinical Assistant Professor of Decision Sciences & Information Management, presented "Stabilizing the New Mortgage Industry by Introducing a New Variable in ARM Rate" at the SEDSI (Southeast Decision Sciences Institute) conference in Charleston this past February.

College of Law Dean **Nick Allard** was invited to speak at the tribute to John Morrison, Esq. at the OBE, Oxford-Cambridge Annual Boat Race Dinner in Chicago, IL in April 2024.

This past December, **Casanna Jackson**, Director of Swisher Library, gave a presentation titled, "Your Library has What? A Digital Media Lab," at the Annual Florida Public Library Director's Meeting in Tallahassee at FSU's Conference Center.

Assistant Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling, **Dr. Michelle Ellis** authored an article entitled, "Battling Something Bigger Than Me: A Phenomenological Investigation of Generational Trauma in African American Women", in *The Journal of Counseling & Development*, a premier journal within the field of counseling. This publication has received enough downloads to rank within the top 10% of papers published.

Dr. Cathryn Meegan, Assistant Professor of Finance & Accounting, and **Dr. Jill D'Aquila**, Professor of Accounting, had an article accepted for publication this past February entitled, "Getting on Board with Certified Public Accountant Evolution: Re-evaluating a Financial Statement Analysis Project in Light of a Changing Profession", published by the *Emerald Insight* journal.

On March 22nd **Dr. Megan Bewernitz**, Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy, and **Dr. Lynna Reese Walter**, Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy, successfully completed the American Occupational Therapy Association 2023-2024 Academic Leadership Institute (ALI). The ALI is delivered by recognized experts in occupational therapy education and involves synchronous and asynchronous education sessions, individual and small group mentoring, and development of multiple action plans over the course of 8 months. Upon the completion of this institute Dr. Bewernitz and Dr. Reese Walter were conferred with the title of "Credentialed Leader in Academia".

Dr. Erik DeCicco, Associate Professor of Theatre, **Professor Valeriya Nedviga**, Assistant Professor Scenic Design & Technology, and Adjunct Professor of Theatre, **Professor Thad Walker** attended the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) in Mobile Alabama with 4 JU students. Together, they audited over 180 auditions by high school juniors and seniors and engaged in callbacks and interviews with those students. They also interviewed over 40 candidates in technical theatre, including designers, stage managers, and other allied artists. Professor Nedviga also offered workshops on Theatrical Projection and Collaboration in Technical Theatre.

Congratulations to **Dr. Michelle Ellis**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling, who was named to the 2024 Jacksonville Business Journal's 40 Under 40! For over 20 years, the Jacksonville Business Journal has sought to honor young professionals with the 40 Under 40 award. This award recognizes up-and-coming leaders who have helped their companies grow and are shaping the future of the First Coast.

Dr. Bryan Franks, Associate Professor of Biology & Marine Science, published an article in October 2023 with JU graduate student, Andrew Lyons, entitled "Insights into the Nuclear and Mitochondrial Genome of the Lemon Shark Negaprion brevirostris using Low-coverage Sequencing: Genome Size, Repetitive Elements, Mitochondrial Genome, and Phylogenetic Placement" in *Gene*, Vol. 894.

Dr. Erik DeCicco, Associate Professor of Theatre, and **Dr. Sarah Parker**, Professor of English, authored an essay focused on the intersection of Shakespeare, leadership studies, and collegiate interdisciplinarity. This essay is part of a collection that is being submitted for publication through Routledge.

Congratulations to **Dr. Wayne Mier**, Clinical Assistant Professor; Master of Science in Medical Sciences Program Coordinator; and Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences Program Coordinator and **Professor Vickie Bell**, Clinical Associate Professor of Respiratory Care, who were elected for the Tobacco-Free Jacksonville Board of Directors they were inducted on Wednesday, April 17th, 2024.

Dr. Guangyao Chen, Assistant Professor of Physics, presented: "Overview of Basis Light-front Quantization" on May 16, 2024, at the Center for Frontiers in Nuclear Science (established by Stony Brook University and Brookhaven National Laboratory).

Dr. Irina Toteva, Assistant Professor of Marketing, presented "Motivations and Perceptions of the Use of AI Platforms for Productive Tasks" at the Association of Marketing Theory & Practice Conference this past March 13-16, 2024.

Dr. Timothy Snyder, Dean, Linda Berry Stein College of Fine Arts & Humanities, was named to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville and appointed by the Jacksonville City Council to a second term on the Cultural Service Grant Program committee, the volunteer body responsible for determining funding allocations from the City of Jacksonville to arts and cultural organizations.

Dr. Andrew Ju, Assistant Professor of Economics, published his paper entitled: "Collective Bargaining Laws and Returns to STEM Majors in the Labor Market for Teachers" in *Education Economics* December 2023.

Dr. Maggie Foley, Associate Professor of Finance, has published two papers. The first, "Cross-Shareholding, Managerial Capabilities, and Strategic Risk-Taking in Enterprises: A Game or a Win-Win," was published in *Finance Research Letters* in March 2024. The second, "How to Deter Earnings Manipulation in Chinese Banks?: A Study From the Combined Effects of Corporate Governance, Enterprise Resources, and Supervisory Mechanisms, was published in the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology* in April 2024. A third paper, "An Enhanced Refresher on Discounted Net Present Value Computations with an Additional Focus on Risk and Uncertainty", was accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*.

Under the leadership of **Dr. Mini Zeng**, Assistant Professor of Computing Science, the Davis College of Business & Technology at Jacksonville University was recognized by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CD) through academic year 2029.

Professor Shelley Grant, Assistant Professor of Sociology, published her article entitled, "The Fairy Godmother to Teaching" in *The Southern Sociologist* Spring 2024 newsletter.

Assistant Professor of Nursing, **Dr. Lila de Tantillo** recently had her publication accepted into the peer reviewed journal, *Hispanic Care International* entitled, "Implementing Strategies to Recruit and Retain a Diverse Sample of Heart Failure Patients."

Dr. Maggie Foley, Associate Professor of Finance, and **Dr. Doug Johansen**, Associate Professor of Marketing & International Business, published an article this past February entitled, "Examining Small Bank Failures in the United States: An Analysis Using CEM (coarsened exact matching)" in the *Journal of Financial Economic Policy*, 16(2), 162-175.

College of Law Dean **Nick Allard** gave the keynote, "Navigating the New World of AI and the Law: Tool or Terminator" for the Northeast Florida Joint Inns of Court Panel on AI at University of North Florida, March 2024.

Dr. Dillon Hanson, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, published, "Invariant Differential Derivations for Reflection Groups in Positive Characteristic," in *Advances in Applied Mathematics*, 156, 2024.

Dr. John Shaw, Associate Professor of Management, is presenting "Unveiling the Creativity of The Beatles: "I Get By With A Little Help From My Friends"" and "Moody National Bank" at the Management & Organizational Behavior Teaching Society conference this June.

Dr. Abdallah Alsammani, Assistant Professor of Data Science, recently published his article entitled, "Estimation of Circular Statistics in the Presence of Measurement Bias," in *IEEE Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics*, 28(2), 1089-1100.

Dr. Marie-Laure Bougnol Potter, Professor of Decision Sciences & Information Management, had her article published in February 2024 entitled, "The Recommender Problem with Convex Hulls" in *INFOR: Information Systems and Operational Research*.

Dr. Sarah Parker, Professor of English, attended the 2024 annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America where she presented a paper on "Timucua Political and Social Networks: Laudonnière's Trois Voyages Reconsidered" and chaired a panel on The Many Lives of the English Paratext. She is also the recipient of a travel grant from Duke University's Rubenstein Library to conduct research in their History of Medicine collection this summer. Additionally, she has co-authored, with **Dr. Erik DeCicco**, Associate Professor of Theatre, a book chapter that has been accepted for the volume *Applied Shakespeare* (Routledge): "Thy Friendship Makes Us Fresh: Shakespeare and Interdisciplinary Leadership."

Dr. Mary Grace Galinato, Associate Professor of Chemistry, presented "Characterizing the Structure of Hemoprotein-Inspired Catalysts in Solution and Sol-gel Environments," at a virtual talk presented at the American Chemical Society National Meeting in New Orleans, LA on March 21, 2024.

Professor Colleen Skinner, Director of the Law Library and Assistant Professor of Law, was a panelist for the AALL Coffee Chat: Generative AI in Legal Research: Your Next Professional Obsession, in March 2024.

Dr. Julian Bryson, Assistant Professor of Music, conducted the St. Johns County SATB and TeBa Honor Choirs, hosted by Beachside and Toco Creek High Schools on January 18-19. Over 100 students from five high schools converged to rehearse for two days and present a concert of music. The program included a performance of...*with music...*, a mash-up of two previously unpublished songs by John Jacob Niles, arranged by Dr. Bryson.

Associate Professor of Law, **Professor Matthew Reiber** published "Cost Shifting for E-Discovery: A Suggested Reform", in *30 Richmond Journal of Law and Technology* 274 (2024).

Dr. Scott DeVito, Associate Professor of Law, has published three papers: "A Return to Rationality: Restoring the Rule of Law After Daubert's Disastrous U-Turn", *New Mexico Law Review* (co-author Andrew Jurs) (2024) "Anti-abortion Statutes as Religious Beliefs", *American University Journal Of Gender, Social Policy & The Law* (2023) and lastly, "The Kids Are Definitely Not Alright: An Empirical Study Establishing a Statistically Significant Negative Relationship Between Receiving Accommodations in Law School and Passing the Bar Exam", *Oregon Law Review* (2023).

Professor Ted Shistle, Assistant Professor of Music, conducted the Florida Music Education Association/Florida Bandmasters Association High School Honor Band at the FMEA Convention in Tampa, FL. The ensemble was comprised of high school students throughout the state who auditioned for Florida All-State ensembles and were nominated by their directors.

Dr. Jeremy Stalker, Associate Professor of Marine Science, and **Dr. Ashley Johnson**, Associate Professor of Geography and Sustainability, were principle authors of the *FDEP Vulnerability Assessment for Panama Beach* in conjunction with Gemini Engineering this past Spring 2024.

Dr. Steven Davis, Associate Professor of Education, presented on a paper in March 2024 that he is preparing for publication, focusing on partnerships between universities, K-12 school districts, and corporate stakeholders. The presentation was held at the Association of Teacher Educators National Conference in Anaheim, CA.

Dr. Scott DeVito, Associate Professor of Law, had a paper accepted for publication: "Machines Like Me: A Proposal on the Admissibility of Artificially Intelligent Expert Testimony," *Pepperdine Law Review* (co-author Andrew Jurs) (forthcoming).

Professor Zakriya Rabani, Adjunct Instructor of Art and Alexander Brest Gallery Director, exhibited RELICS at the Jacksonville International Airport.

Dr. Ray Clines, Professor of English, appeared in the television series NFL Films Presents - HIGHLIGHTS FOR HIGHBROWS which aired nationally last month on FOX Sports. The segment was filmed at JU and the university appeared prominently in it. He was asked to comment on the linguistic variations for the pronunciation of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Associate Professor of Law, **Professor Latisha Nixon-Jones** moderated a panel at the University of Florida titled "A.I. in the Law—Future of Florida" in January 2024. In addition, she was a panelist at the inaugural JU Law Symposium in March 2024.

Professor Hillary Jones, Assistant Professor of Photography, has had an original work selected for the cover of the book *Unmade Hearts: My Sor Juana* by July Westhale, published by Small Harbor Publishing, and she attended the Society for Photographic Education National Conference in St. Louis, MO.

Professors of Art, **Professor Tiffany Leach** and **Professor Dana Tupa**, were invited to attend and exhibit alongside their students and other top ceramic programs in the southeast at the Southern Synergy Exhibition as part of the 39th annual Alabama Clay Conference. Leach and Tupa also attended the National Conference of Education in Ceramic Arts conference, hosting a Jacksonville University reunion meet and greet event for alumni, and led the JU Object Design ceramics program participation in the Empty Bowls project in partnership with the Barnabas Center.

Assistant Professor of Law, **Professor Alexandra Yelderman** published “Danger as Deterrent, which explores instances in which the law makes crime more dangerous in order to reduce its prevalence”, in the *Boston College Law Review*, January 2024.

Professor of Law, **Professor Nathan Richardson** presented at the 2024 Florida Conference of Historians, Annual Meeting, “Energy, Climate, and the Growth of Environmental Concern: A History of the St. Johns River Power Park” (with Charles Closmann, University of North Florida.) and presented at the 2024 Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Symposium, “Getting a Seat at the Table: Environmentalism and Coal-Fired Power in Florida, 1975 to 1990” (with Charles Closmann, University of North Florida.)

Professor Jason Perry, Instructor of Music Technology, worked with student-led Dolphinium Records to produce a record of student music with national distribution company Distrokid, allowing Dolphinium to be distributed to major streaming platforms including Apple music, Spotify, and Amazon. Music Tech students under Professor Perry’s direction are recording a bimonthly podcast for our university Admissions team to highlight their process and guide future students on how to apply to JU.

College of Law Dean **Nick Allard**, was a special speaking guest at a debate with Lord David Pannick, King's Court Barrister: “The Psychology of Persuasion in Law, English versus American Perspectives.” In London, England. Nov. 2023.

Dr. Julian Bryson, Assistant Professor of Music, and Director of Choral Activities was awarded a \$5,000 grant through the ArtVentures initiative of the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida.

Professor Tiffany Leach, Professor of Visual Arts, and **Professor Madeleine Peck Wagner**, Assistant Professor of Art, exhibited *Hearth & Hyena*; *Service & Surly*: Imagined responses at FSCJ Kent Campus.

In March, College of Law Dean **Nick Allard** was reappointed by ABA President Mary Smith as Chair of the ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress.

In the spring 2024 semester, **Professor Matthew Reiber**, Associate Professor of Law, created a chatbot using OpenAI’s platform that allows users to test their understanding of the doctrine covered in the previous semester civil procedure course. The chatbot has access to the text of his lectures, open-ended and multiple-choice questions (along with the corresponding answers and explanations), and certain cases. The chatbot’s responses are therefore augmented by course-specific information that improves its reliability and accuracy. The chatbot can generate text in the form of questions: based on the content of his lectures; randomly selected from those covered during the semester; drawn from its pre-trained information or based on the text of cases. The chatbot can review users’ answers and provide feedback regarding accuracy and completeness (and engage in follow-up discussions as necessary to eliminate potential misunderstandings). Because the chatbot has access to the internet, users can direct it to specific websites to retrieve information that may be relevant to their inquiries.

Professor of Art, **Professor Tiffany Leach** is co-curator and exhibitor of *Animal Attraction* at the Florida CraftArt Gallery.

Director of the Law Library and Assistant Professor of Law, **Professor Colleen Skinner** presented at the 2024 NEFLIN Hot Topics Conference on Friday, April 26. Her presentation is titled, “Other Duties as Required, Be Better, Not Bitter.”

Dr. Scott DeVito, Associate Professor of Law, will serve as a panelist at the American Association of Academic Support Educators Annual Conference speaking on Strategies for Bar Exam Success for Students from Communities of Color in May 2024.

College of Law Dean **Nick Allard** was invited for Keynote Remarks, Exhibit on “The Pursuit of Voting rights in the 100 Years After Passage of the Indian Citizenship Act” at the ABA Equal Justice Conference in Detroit Michigan, May 2024.

Professor Valeriya Nedviga, Assistant Professor of Scenic Design, has had a robust schedule of work with professional theatre companies, including scenic design for *Nunsense* (Three Brothers Theatre, Chicago, IL), *Silent Sky* (Waterloo Community Playhouse, IA), *The Play that Goes Wrong* (Three Brothers Theatre, Chicago, IL), *The Little Mermaid* (Buffalo Community Theatre, MN), *A Little Night Music* (Indianapolis Opera, IN), *Enchanted April* (Buffalo Community Theatre, MN) *Beauty & The Beast* (Bravo Performance Arts Center, Chicago, IL), and sound design for *Constellations* (The Chain Theatre, NYC). Professor Nedviga adjudicated technical work and presented workshops on scenic design, sound design, and stage management at the New York State Thespian Festival in March.

Professor Ted Shistle, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Bands had an active schedule of guest conducting during spring semester that included: conductor/clinician for North Florida Honor Band; Conductor/clinician at the University of South Carolina Honor Band Invitational; and guest conductor with bands and wind ensembles at Sandalwood and Providence High Schools; Douglas Anderson School of the Arts; Bayside High School in Brevard County; Dr. Phillips High School in Orange County; Harmony High School in Osceola County; DeLand High School in Volusia County; and Bartram Trail High School in St. John's County. Prof. Shistle performed with the Orlando Philharmonic in March, and in numerous performances with the Jacksonville Symphony.

Dr. Erich Freiburger, Professor of Philosophy, was reappointed to a second 3-year term on the Ethics Commission of the City of Jacksonville. He currently serves as the Commission's Vice-Chair.

Associate Professor of Law, **Professor Latisha Nixon-Jones** was accepted into the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Disaster Recovery and Preparedness in December 2023. She was also a candidate for the EPA Science Advisory Board Review Panel.

Led by **Dr. Brian Luckett**, Adjunct Instructor of Classical Guitar, the music department's guitar program worked in collaboration with Douglas Anderson School of the Arts to bring internationally renowned Spanish classical guitarist Rafael Aguirre to the university for a performance in Terry Concert Hall. This performance was the Florida debut of this highly sought-after artist and among his first performances in the Southeastern U.S.

Professor Bill Hill, Professor of Media Arts, presented "Empathic Convergence" to AAC&U's 2023 Conference on Transforming STEM Higher Education in Washington, DC; "INNOVATIONAL CONVERGENCE EDUCATIONAL MODELS" at the 16th annual International Conference of Education, Research and Innovation in Seville, Spain; will present "Convergence Models in STEAM" at AMPS (Architecture, Media, Politics, Society) at California Institute of Integral Studies, Learning. Life. Work. Conference, part of the Focus on Pedagogy Series in San Francisco in June. Prof. Hill will exhibit his work at the International Digital Media and Arts Association: WILD MEDIA Conference and Exhibition in June at Winona State University, Winona, Minnesota.

Dr. Tam Caudill, Associate Professor of French, signed a contract for a piece of flash fiction co-authored with Kathy Krause of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. It will appear in a collection entitled *Fast Historical Women* (ed. Gina Barreca), from Woodhall Press.

Professor Lana Heylock, Associate Professor of Dance, planned and orchestrated a New York City memorial tribute to honor the legacy and creative methodology of Jennifer Muller and The Works Dance Company, at the Joyce Theater. Heylock directed the Muller Polarity Technique Symposium at the Gibney Dance Studios in Lower Manhattan where she taught sixty dancers about Muller's methodologies. The initial four-month project concluded with a shared Celebration of Life event and its core principles have since been ongoing additions to Heylock's pedagogy.

In April Dean **Nick Allard** was re-elected as Secretary of the Association of American Rhodes Scholars, re-elected as President and Trustee of the Merton College (Oxford) Charitable Corporation, and continues to be on the Board of the Merton College Council, the Advisory Board of Lucy Cavendish College at Cambridge University, and is a Bodley Fellow at Merton College, Oxford University.

Associate Professor of Law, **Professor Latisha Nixon-Jones** authored the article: "How to Get Federal Disaster Aid: FEMA is Running Out of Money, But These Strategies Can Help Survivors of Hurricane Idalia and the Maui Fires Get Aid Faster" this past spring. She was also interviewed on the following platforms; "Across 10" podcast, CBS Austin: FAFSA woes could shrink the incoming freshman class, and The Indicator from Planet Money: speaking on "Profiting Off Greater Risk: The Reinsurance Game."

Dr. Erik DeCicco, Associate Professor of Theatre, accompanied honors students to the annual Florida Collegiate Honors conference in Tampa, FL, where faculty and students participated in workshops, symposia, and other activities to exchange, catalyze, and fortify ideas on Honors education, programming, and planning. JU students were also honored with awards for their writing, artwork, and research.

Dr. Julian Bryson, Assistant Professor of Music, presented "Crossing Over: Notes from the Piano Bench" at the Florida Music Educators Conference in Tampa. He shared his experiences moving from a pianist and percussionist into the vocal world including several techniques and strategies for instrumentalists in a similar situation.

Dr. Wenying Xu, Professor of English, published her essay "Food and Multiethnic Literature in the United States" as chapter 25 of the 2023 Wiley-Blackwell edited volume *A Companion to Multiethnic Literature of the United States*. Dr. Xu's book *The Rise of Chinese American Leaders in U.S. Higher Education: Stories and Roadmaps* was published in 2023 by Springer.

Dr. Christina Mann, Assistant Professor of Dance, will present research on embodied creativity at the Southern Oregon University (SOU) Creativity Conference in Ashland Oregon in May 2024. Creativity scholars from various fields of study including psychology, philosophy, performing arts, mathematics, engineering, and design regularly attend this conference. She finds her research on embodied creativity in dance as an opportunity to advocate for embodied cognition in creative processes across many disciplines.

In an April news post on Action News Jax, **Dr. Jim Farah**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Management, weighed in on inflation in the 5 Points Riverside area.

In an online article posted by The Florida Times-Union on March 12, 2024, **Dr. James Simak**, Assistant Professor of Management & Entrepreneurship, commented on the importance of good entrepreneurship highlighting the 2023 Dolphin Pitch winner, Emmy James.

Congratulations to **Dr. Paul Dinius**, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, for being named the Faculty/Staff Veteran of the Year at the Student Veterans Appreciation Dinner hosted by the JU Veterans & Military Resource Center on April 17, 2024.

Dr. Sarah Parker, Professor of English, received a grant to research at the Duke University Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library during summer 2024.

Professor Eric Kunzendorf, Professor of Animation, had his original work *eternityintheirhearts* selected for inclusion in the Columbus International Film and Animation Festival.

College of Law Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, **Dr. Courtney Barclay** published the column "Jacksonville University College of Law Will Fulfill its Resolutions" in the Jacksonville Daily Record's March Bar Bulletin.

Professor Brian Palmer, Professor of Dance, performed with the Florida Ballet in their full-length production of *Romeo & Juliet* in the role of Lord Capulet at the UNF Performing Arts Center in May 2024.

Dr. Shannon Lockwood, Associate Professor of Music, and Coordinator of Strings presented "Finding Joy and Creativity in an Effective Warmup" at the Florida Music Educators Conference in Tampa in January. The presentation focused on how an imaginative and mindful routine can benefit mental well-being for string instrument performers of all abilities.

College of Law Dean **Nick Allard** was nominated and profiled in *National Jurist Magazine* as one of the most influential people in legal education in the U.S.

The Department of Music Vocal Studies hosted the National Association of Teachers of Singing North Florida Chapter Auditions on January 27th. JU students competed with students from across North Florida in classical and musical theatre categories. Faculty members served as judges for this annual event. BFA MT Senior and RiverTones member, Ariana Fitzgerald, won the overall Judge's Choice at the final recital that afternoon.



DOLPHIN SIGHTINGS

This past March the Jacksonville University College of Law was granted provisional accreditation by the American Bar Association (ABA). Achieving this major milestone means the law school now possesses “all the rights of a fully approved ABA law school,” and its students are eligible to take the Bar examination, become members of the Bar, and qualify for jobs and clerkships only open to students graduating from ABA accredited schools.

The clinical mental health counseling programs at Jacksonville University and the University of North Florida co-hosted a Practicum and Internship Fair March 29th at JU. Dr. Kassie Terrell (UNF) provided a training titled "The Intersection between Inclusive Supervision and Advocacy" during the lunch hour and first year CMHC students brought their resumes to interview with potential clinical sites where they will practice their counseling skills during year two of the CMHC program. **Drs. Ne’Shaun Borden** and **Michelle Ellis**, Assistant Professors of Clinical Mental Health Counseling, organized the event.

Dr. Marguerite Richardson, Professor of Music, and Director of Orchestral Studies hosted a visit from the orchestras of Leon High School (Tallahassee, FL) to the campus of Jacksonville University in mid-January. During the two-day trip, students participated in master classes led by JU faculty and Jacksonville Symphony members, enjoyed on-campus dining and took a tour of the campus. Students also enjoyed an afternoon orchestra clinic with Dr. Richardson, who worked with each orchestra in putting the finishing touches on their music for an upcoming regional assessment event. Earlier in January, Dr. Richardson served as a Session Coordinator for the Florida Orchestra Association at the Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA) State Conference in Tampa, FL.

The Jacksonville University Department of Clinical Mental Health Counseling was recently awarded the 2024 Innovation in Counseling: Counselor Education Community Engagement Award from the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), a leading organization for professional development in the field of counseling. The award was presented to **Dr. Bradley McKibben**, Associate Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling, at the 2024 NBCC Foundation Bridging the Gap Symposium in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes the department's community engagement and reciprocity across the curriculum, through direct engagement and collaborative scholarship.

Under the guidance of **Professor Abdel Missa**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Finance, the Dolphin Student Investment Fund (DSIF) at Jacksonville University closed above the \$1 million mark for the first time in Davis College history.

Dr. Jeremy Stalker, Associate Professor of Marine Science, and **Dr. Gerry Pinto**, Associate Research Scientist for the Marine Science Research Institute, secured a grant for a three-year assessment and analysis of shoaling around Blount Island terminal by the City of Jacksonville Department of Defense in January 2024.

Professor John Ricci, Director of Jazz Studies, travelled with the JU Jazz Faculty to clinic and perform for the Titusville High School and Timber Creek High School jazz band students in January. Performing standard and original works, Prof. Ricci was accompanied by adjunct professors David Champagne (trumpet), Scott Giddens (piano), Stan Piper (bass) and Ricky Kirkland (drums) to demonstrate the concepts associated with musical communication in a chamber jazz format. They then worked with the students individually and in their respective groups with their ensemble repertoire. The faculty also represented JU Fine Arts Music in recruitment for students to consider JU Music and Jazz Studies as a pursuit for their college careers.

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."

– John Dewey