



Greetings, Jaguar Nation,

This is a special time of year as we close out the spring semester and the 2022-23 academic year, with our [commencement exercises](#) occurring this week marking the conclusion of this chapter for many of our students. As we look back on the year, I am reminded of what makes Augusta University such a special place.

I am moved by how impactful working in higher education can be as we see undergraduate, graduate, professional and postdoctoral students all celebrating their accomplishments. We will be sending Jaguars out to every corner of the globe, whether into the workforce or on to further their education, and we wish you all well.

One of the things that I thoroughly enjoy most as part of my job as provost is having opportunities to spend time with so many of our students, faculty, staff and alumni at numerous events throughout the year. Recently, I had the joy of serving as the reader for [Raphael Agbali](#) as he defended his PhD dissertation ([Gianluca De Leo](#), PhD, was his supervisor). I may be partial because he is a fellow pharmacist, but he developed a new tool to assess the quality of telemedicine from the patient's perspective – something I believe is vital as we work to bolster telehealth throughout Georgia and beyond.



Neil MacKinnon
@aug_provost

Congrats to DR Raphael Agball (center, in the white coat) on defending his PhD dissertation this afternoon. I had the joy of serving as the Reader for his thesis. A fellow pharmacist, he developed a new tool to assess the quality of telemedicine from the patient's perspective.



I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate our [Converge](#) international rural health [grant recipients](#). Converge has grown more than I ever could have imagined. To see both repeat submitters and new ideas coming out of the initiative, I am excited for where this can go and all the people we will positively impact. I continue to be impressed and inspired by our faculty and research partners across the globe. Our unique and strong partnerships with the University of Aberdeen, Robert Gordon University, the University of Georgia and beyond continue to produce innovative results and will offer new and exciting ways for our students to positively affect the world for years to come.

Recently, we announced our new [Jags4Jags Mentorship Program](#), which was kick-started by [Amy Abdulovic-Cui](#), PhD, one of the first [Provost Faculty Fellows](#) at the university, with help from [Susan Davies](#), PhD, vice president for [enrollment and student affairs](#), and many others. This one-stop-shop for mentors and those looking for mentors will enhance the entire student experience here at Augusta University by instilling more of a sense of community and family, and that in turn will help with retention as we aim to strengthen our student population. Our first-year students will benefit from having a mentor, and our older students will find value in the training they will receive and the experiences they will share with first-year students.

I hope you will join [President Keel](#) and me on May 24 for the State of the University address. I know this will be a strong way to end the academic year and set our eyes on the future.

Good luck on your final exams, and I hope you have a restful summer that brings you back ready for a new year in the fall.

Sincerely,



Neil J. MacKinnon, PhD
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

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Thank you to Inside Higher Ed for this story on our new peer mentoring program for students, Jags4Jags. Thanks to M... <https://t.co/gA57lknmS>
6 days ago · reply

Endorsed by my mom. <https://t.co/nmDTyTzc3d>
8 days ago · reply

It was wonderful to welcome Star Mitchell (center), the new Associate Dean of the College of Nursing, to Augusta an... <https://t.co/ED4RuulFro>
18 days ago · reply



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