



THREADS

April 22, 2024

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Message from Provost Usher

It's been an amazing few weeks as I've been seeing the culminating projects and events of the semester. Early on, many of you told me that Radford takes ordinary students and makes them extraordinary. I'm seeing that goes beyond just students. We are, in many ways, an "ordinary" regional public university, facing many of the same challenges as our sister institutions across Virginia and across the country. But, because of your thoughtful teaching, research, and support, we are really an extraordinary institution.

Even though the semester is wrapping up, Academic Affairs, many academic units, and the university will stay busy in the next few months, with year-round programs, on-going searches, and events. We welcome your input and engagement as much as possible, while also recognizing the value of faculty turning their attention to other activities during the summer.

Good luck with end of the semester projects, exams, grading, planning, advising, and celebrating!

Bethany

Stay up-to-date with all the Spring
Commencement Campus Events [here](#)



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Davis College of
Business and Economics

Congratulations Seife Dendir - Best Paper Award



Many outstanding submissions were received. Dr. Dendir's, entitled, "Intergenerational Education Mobility in Sub-Saharan Africa" has been selected as a winner for the 2023 IPUMS Research Awards.

This paper uses census data from 22 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), available through IPUMS International. The author applies the intergenerational correlation method (IGC) to investigate the relationship between parents' and children's educational attainment across six cohorts born between the mid-1950s and early 1990s. As a whole, the SSA region had medium to high levels of educational mobility during the latter half of the twentieth century, but with worsening mobility over time. The degree of educational mobility varies widely across countries in the region, but with a narrowing gender gap across many countries. The paper demonstrates the power of census data from IPUMS International for cross-national and cross-temporal analysis. This paper is significant in its examination of developing countries that have not been studied extensively compared to their developing counterparts, and more particularly in SSA from which very little educational mobility evidence comes.



Financial Aid needs your help!

Financial Aid would like to ask for your help. If students earn a 0.0 GPA for the semester, Radford U needs to know if and when the student last attended class so they can appropriately award support for that semester. If you have one of these students in your class this spring, you may receive a message asking about attendance or participation (in person or virtual) after grades are posted. Please help by responding to this email with the last known date that the student attended and/or participated in classes. Even if you do not keep role or don't have a record of the student in your class, please respond to the letter with that information. The students' cases cannot be resolved until a majority of their instructors have responded, so your prompt response is really valuable.



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College of Visual and
Performing Arts

Guitar Ensemble Concert: April 22

Free Admission 7:30 p.m. Davis Performance Hall in the Covington Center

University Community Orchestra Concert: April 23

Free Admission 7:30 p.m. Davis Performance Hall in the Covington Center

IBLA Prize Winners Concert: April 25

Free Admission 7:30 p.m. Davis Performance Hall in the Covington Center

ART: www.radford.edu/art

ART MUSEUMS: www.radford.edu/artmuseum

BFA Graphic Design Show: April 19 - April 27

Covington Gallery

BFA Studio Show: April 19 - April 27

The Tyler Gallery (214 Tyler Ave.)

THEATRE: www.radford.edu/theatre

Directing II: Making a Scene: April 24-27 @ 7:00 p.m.

Trinkle Hall, Free Admission



2024 Course Development Grant Opportunity

The Davis College of Business and Economics is excited to announce the 2024 Truist Leadership Course Development Grant, an opportunity for faculty to receive support for the development of new courses or modification of existing ones, particularly focusing on interdisciplinary leadership development with an emphasis on social or ethical leadership. This initiative is a great chance to innovate the curriculum and contribute to the leadership development of our students.

Grant Details:

Amount: The grant offers \$1,000 to the instructor for course development and an additional \$1,000 to the faculty member department's foundation funds. Funds will be disbursed from the DCOBE Dean's office in Spring 2025

Course Offering Requirement: The developed or modified course must be offered no later than Fall 2025 and at least twice in the subsequent five semesters.

Disbursement: Funds will be disbursed from the DCOBE Dean's office in Spring of 2025.

Eligibility: Open to all Radford University teaching faculty.

Course Requirements:

- Must focus on social or ethical leadership.
- Can be face-to-face, online, or hybrid.
- Must be available to all qualified Radford University students.
- A brief overview of the course's impact is required after the first year of offering.

Application Process:

Submit your proposal (as a Microsoft Word document) to Dr. Ben Biermeier-Hanson at bbiermeierhan@radford.edu by 5 p.m. on May 16th, 2024.

Your proposal should include:

- Course department and title of the course
- Instructor contact information
- Department approval and agreement that the course will be offered at least two times over the following semester (Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Fall 2026, Spring 2027, Fall 2027)
- The name of the degree/program/certificate to which the course would apply and the importance of the course including a description of the audience and the expressed need for the course
- A 1-2 paragraph description of how the proposed course meets the stated requirements.

Review Process:

Applications will be reviewed upon submission. Decisions will be communicated within two weeks of submission. A formal memo of understanding will be established with the academic department and faculty for each accepted proposal. Priority will be given to faculty who have not previously received this grant, although past recipients are welcome to apply.

We encourage all interested faculty to consider this opportunity to enhance our course offerings and make a meaningful impact on our students' educational journey. Your innovative ideas and dedication to fostering leadership skills are invaluable to our university community.



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Sponsored Programs and
Grants Management

Update on Finding Funding Opportunities from Sponsored Programs and Grants Management

Sponsored Programs would like to inform our research community of a change being made with how our office supports the dissemination of funding opportunities from external grants. As many of you know, the office has used the ProQuest PIVOT database for the last 15 years as our primary source for finding funding opportunities. Effective later this spring, Sponsored Programs will no longer be supporting the PIVOT platform so we will be terminating our contract. You can still use PIVOT's search engine on their main home page to find funding; however, all accounts in PIVOT will

be terminated. This is a strategic change made by the office, as we now have an enhanced support structure with Hanover Research, our external consulting firm.

Hanover will gladly support faculty with both grant prospecting and/or grant writing. We are excited about these expanded services as they will be extremely integral in supporting the needs of our grant writers. In addition to Hanover's support, Sponsored Programs will be taking on a more tailored, hands-on approach in our support for identifying potential sponsors leveraging other resources. While we feel this change was necessary, we would like to apologize to our current PIVOT users for this short-term inconvenience.

If you have any questions concerning this change, or how Sponsored Programs can best support your needs, please feel free to reach out to Tom Cruise, Director of Sponsored Programs, at tcruise@radford.edu



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Faculty Development

Faculty Development Proudly Presents...The Fifth Annual Summer Institute in Research and Creativity!

Save the date for the fifth annual **Summer Institute for Research and Creativity, May 13-17**, free and open to all faculty and staff.

Do you have a dissertation chapter that wants to be an article? Do you have an idea for a textbook? Would your research benefit from support for grant writing? Do you just need a kick in the pants (i.e., productivity, creativity, and accountability coaching)?

Outside expertise this year will include publishing OER books and materials and using informal writing, like blogging, both to spark your academic writing and to get your ideas out to the public. Presentations will include campus superstars and outside experts, and you will leave the institute with tools (drafts, new contacts, timelines, research journals, etc.) that will help you accomplish your summer research and creativity goals. The Institute includes synchronous workshops (in person and on zoom), specialized tracks, time to work on your project, and asynchronous resources on D2L.

Participants will receive a certificate of completion for attending the workshops. Contact hkeith1@radford.edu for more information.



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University Libraries

STRESS BUSTER #36

**WHO NEEDS A STRESS BUSTER?
PUT YOUR HANDS & PAWS UP!**

Petting Zoo 10 am - noon
Button making 10 am - 8 pm
Treasure Quest 11 am - 8 pm
Yappy Hour 2-3 pm
Game Night 6-8:30 pm
Refreshments
Giveaways

new time for petting zoo!

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024
MCCONNELL LIBRARY**

Radford UNIVERSITY | McConnell Library



**HIGHLANDERS
RISE TOGETHER**

The RISE program is excited to announce the onboarding of Dr. Susan Schoppelrey as our new RISE Assessment Director!

Susan is excited to join the Realizing Inclusive Student Excellence (RISE) program because:

Organizational culture and climate fundamentally shape the work we do and how we do that work. I like that Radford University values diversity in its many forms—diversity of thought, diversity of

lived experience, diversity of identity—and I believe the RISE program enhances a culture that welcomes students and faculty "as they are."

Professor Susan Schoppelrey has been with the School of Social Work at Radford University since 2007. Before coming to Radford, she was Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Dr. Schoppelrey earned the Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, the MSW from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, and the BA in Psychology from Angelo State University (San Angelo, Texas). Her practice experience includes research and evaluation of publicly-funded substance use treatment and prevention programs in Texas. Dr. Schoppelrey enjoys teaching about the history and trajectory of social welfare policy, especially how social, economic, and political forces shape the policies in place today. She also teaches policy analysis, policy advocacy, statistics, basic and advanced research methods, and substance use treatment and policy. Her research interests include disparities in health and mental health outcomes among minoritized populations and people with disabilities. Her hobbies include traveling, reading, and playing games (video, tabletop, role-playing).

A huge THANKS to Allison Wisecup who has worked tirelessly to collaboratively build the RISE program and will continue to serve in the assessment role until her May retirement!

You can always reach us at rise@radford.edu.

In other news: we are still openly recruiting for the RISE Faculty Institute.

[Apply Here](#)

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