



THREADS

February 5, 2024

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Message from Provost Usher

The Provost's Office and Human Resources, in collaboration with our partner Buffkin/Baker, have officially launched the searches for Deans for the *College of Nursing* and the *Davis College of Business and Economics*. We are inviting applications for candidates internally and nationally. Please encourage anyone interested in these positions to reach out for a meeting with the Buffkin/Baker representatives to talk about their candidacy, which is typical in the application process for deans. We thank our search committees who will dedicate their time this semester to finding our new deans!

[Apply with Buffkin/Baker](#)

[Position Description
Dean, College of Nursing](#)

[Position Description
Dean, Davis College of Business and Economics](#)

Virginia colleges are trying to make it easier for

community college students to transfer. Doing so may boost enrollment.

We are sharing a great article that featured Radford University in the Cardinal News on Jan 30, 2024.

At Radford University, new articulation agreements help the school anticipate transfer students' needs before they arrive because there's better communication with community colleges, said Bethany Usher, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

[Read article here](#)



HIGHLANDERS RISE TOGETHER

Join us! There are quite a few activities happening on campus and we would love to be in community with you at these events.

Black History Month: Dr. Fredrick Douglas Dixon, Director of African American Studies, has put together a wide variety of engaging events to meet the mission of “providing a safe space and pathways to generate rich and open discussions regarding the sensitive subject matter of race and racism in America”. We would like to highlight one event, a series of three lectures, based upon Martin Luther King Jr.'s last book -*Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?* Register [here](#) through CITL. A whole listing of Black history events can be provided by contacting [Dr. Dixon](#) or rise@radford.edu.

Problem-based learning workshop: Problem-based learning uses complex real-world problems as the vehicle for student learning of concepts and skills as they propose solutions to the problems. Explore this method as a possibility for your courses. This session is part of the RISE QEP Faculty Institute, but it is open to all faculty. Join facilitators, Dr. Tay Keong Tan and Dr. Paige Tan, to learn how to incorporate problem-based learning into your courses. Register [here](#) through CITL.

The graphic features the 'RISE' logo and 'HIGHLANDERS RISE TOGETHER' text on the left, and 'FOOD FOR THOUGHT Free Breakfast Weekly!' on the right. Below this is a grid of event times and locations.

Trinkle Hall Lobby	Monday 10 am-12 pm	Waldron Hall Patio	Wednesday 11 am-1 pm
Peters Hall Atrium	Tuesday 9 am-11 am	Kyle Hall 1 st Floor Entrance	Thursday 12:30 pm-2:30 pm
Hemphill Hall 1 st Floor Atrium	Tuesday 11 am-1 pm	Reed/Curie 1 st Floor Atrium	Friday 10 am-12 pm

And FREE fresh fruit at McConnell Library on the weekend!

Food For Thought: Our signature Food For Thought program is up and running. Please stop by and chat with students, faculty, and staff at these events. It's beneficial for our students to see us



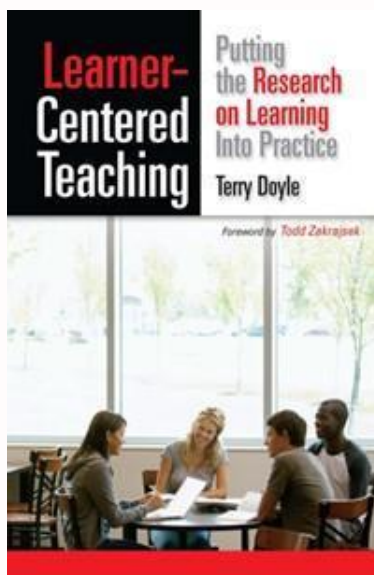
A Fresh (or first) Read: Doyle's "Learner Centered Teaching"

February 27 | March 12 | March 26 | April 9

12:00-12:50 PM (in person with Zoom option)

Join your colleagues in a multi-session discussion of this modern-classic text on teaching and learning. Whether the book already adorns your shelf -or this is your first read- the ideas presented by Doyle are sure to lead to energizing and productive discussion with your colleagues!

This book presents the research-based case that Learner Centered Teaching (LCT) offers the best means to optimize student learning in college and offers examples and ideas for putting it into practice. It starts from the premise that many faculty are much closer to being learner centered teachers than they think but benefit from reflecting on their current practices and how they align with findings from learning science research.



Gamification Community of Practice

February 23 | March 22 | April 19 | May 17

3:00-4:00 PM (via Zoom)

Interested in gamifying part or all of a course and want some regular feedback and encouragement from colleagues (accountabili-buddies)? Join Merrie Winfrey of CITL and other colleagues for a monthly Zoom get together to discuss gamification of courses. Merrie will be working on a game for UNIV100 and would love the input of other UNIV100 instructors. This group is open to any interested parties.

Community of Practice on Teaching Constructive Dialogue

February 14 | March 13 | April 3

3:00-4:00 PM (in person with Zoom option)

Save our democracy and prepare students for work and life through teaching strong dialogue-across-difference skills! Please join Heather Keith in a community of practice on constructive dialogue in the classroom. Rather than a book study group, we will work through the faculty/teaching version of the [Constructive Dialogue Institute's](#) "Perspectives" online course (60-90 minutes of "coursework" for each meeting—definitely not onerous) and then discuss how we might teach our students (the next generation!) to engage in civil and constructive discourse about relevant, controversial, meaningful, and newsworthy topics. With next fall's general election, spring would be a good time to explore how we can engage people with different perspectives in collaborative work that lets us solve problems and move forward together. This series is sponsored by Faculty Development, CITL, and the Civil Discourse Steering Committee.

Sponsored Programs and Grants Management

Sponsored Programs is making a change to our office supports the dissemination of funding opportunities from external grants. For the past 15 years, we have leveraged the ProQuest PIVOT grant opportunity database. Effective later this spring, Sponsored Programs will no longer be supporting the PIVOT platform ; 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 deactivated. This is a strategic change as Sponsored Programs will now work with an external consulting firm, Hanover Research, to provide expanded grant prospecting and writing support services. Sponsored Programs will also take a more hands-on approach in identifying potential sponsors using other resources. While this change leads to a short-term inconvenience for current PIVOT users, Sponsored Programs feels it is necessary. Anyone with questions should contact Tom Cruise, Director of Sponsored Programs, at tcruise@radford.edu.

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Citizen Leader

Spring 2024 Workshops – Repeated 3 Times

Theme: How Your Course Can Receive Citizen Leader designation?

Session Topics

1. Describe the characteristics of a citizen leader course based on the Social Change Model

2. CL Course Designated Levels (3) – Descriptions

3. Support offered after the sessions as needed.

Dates: Mondays

February 12; 12 - 1

March 11; 12 - 1

April 15; 12 - 1

Zoom: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://radford.zoom.us/j/96607431763>

Password: 823543

Join from a Telephone : Dial +1 408 638 0968 Enter Meeting ID 96607431763 Password: 823543

Community Engagement Activity: Planting Trees

Citizen Leader is partnering with ODK and the Citizen Leaders for Tomorrow Club for a spring community engagement project: Planting Trees. Preliminary plans have just started. If you know of other organizations interested in partnering with us, please contact Dr. Jean Mistele, jmistele@radford.edu

N.E.W. Leadership: Opportunity for Women Leadership Training – Summer 2024; June 9 – 14

[NEW Leadership@ Virginia](#) is a non-partisan, six-day residential summer program that will take place from June 9 – 14, 2024 through the Gender and Policy (GAP) Center at George Mason University's (GMU's) Schar School of Policy and Government in Arlington, Virginia. The program fee, including the cost of housing and meals, is covered by the GAP Center. Applicants are asked to secure a \$500 sponsorship from their university or college to help defray costs. Application deadline March 1, 2024.



Radford University's Kara Pfaff Advocates for Virginia State Employees at the annual VGEA Legislative Day 2024

Radford University's Senior Administrative Assistant in the School of Teacher Education and

Leadership, Kara Pfaff, is set to make a significant impact as she takes on a crucial role in representing Virginia state and Radford University employees at the annual Virginia Governmental Employee Association (VGEA) Legislative Day 2024 in Richmond.

On Monday, February 19th, Kara Pfaff, also serving as a board member for the VGEA, will join the VGEA board alongside other state employees in Richmond. This significant event offers a distinctive platform for Virginia state employees to directly engage with legislators, advocating for policies that will influence both their professional and personal lives.

The focal point of this year's advocacy efforts is centered around critical issues, most notably the pursuit of improved pay and benefits. These issues directly impact the well-being of state employees and their families, making them central to the mission of the VGEA.

"We firmly believe that every state employee and retiree should be a part of the VGEA. Our strength lies in our numbers, and each member adds volume to our voice and weight to our efforts," says Kara Pfaff.

The VGEA serves as a voluntary, nonpartisan advocacy organization dedicated to representing the interests of current, retired, and future public employees in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The organization stands behind solutions that promote individual dignity, equitable compensation, professionalism, and safe working conditions.

Through the VGEA, state employees and retirees unite in a shared commitment to improving working conditions, enhancing benefits, and influencing meaningful legislative changes. The organization ensures that the needs and concerns of Virginia's state workforce are heard and addressed effectively in the General Assembly.

For those interested in joining or learning more about the VGEA, the organization's website, vgea.org, provides comprehensive information on membership and the advocacy initiatives undertaken by the association.

As Kara Pfaff prepares to represent Radford University and the Virginia state workforce, the VGEA Legislative Day 2024 stands as a powerful opportunity for state employees to come together, amplify their voices, and shape policies that will have a lasting impact on their professional and personal lives.



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University Libraries

Spring semester is overflowing with activities at McConnell Library!

Music Mondays: every Monday from noon - 1 pm in the library's Bird Room. Stop by and enjoy some live music. Bring your lunch if you'd like! The next few weeks will bring John Hildreth on February 5, Jon Benfield on February 12, and Marshall Page on February 19.

Yappy Hour: thanks to Tartan Tails, a friendly furry face will visit the library's Bird Room every Tuesday from 2:30 - 3:30 pm. Take a break and enjoy time with a therapy dog!

Game Night: Tuesday nights are for games! From 6 - 8:30 pm every Tuesday, try the BEAM interactive projector, Nintendo Switch, or one of our board games. Or, bring your own favorites.

Free Fresh Fruit: need that Vitamin C boost? The library offers free fresh fruit every Saturday and Sunday from 11 am until the supply runs out.

Book Groups: we have two student book groups! If you want to talk about your current read and hear other people's ideas about what to read next, try "Book Talk," meeting next on February 11 at 5 pm. If you like for everyone to read the same book and then discuss it together, "Bookworms" is for you - meeting next on February 12 at 5 pm. Or why not check out both groups? For information on upcoming "Bookworms" titles, contact Erica Looney, blooney1@radford.edu.

CrafTea: feeling crafty? Join our monthly craft event and make new friends while sipping hot tea. Our February 13 program will be held from 11 am - noon and will show you how to make easy fleece toys for dogs and cats.

Kindness Day: coming soon on February 14. Be kind to yourself and stop by McConnell Library for a little treat.

Mini Museum opening: the tiny art in the library's Mini Museum is changing! The Graduate Art Student Association's new little exhibit, Paradox, will open on February 26, with a reception being held at 4 pm in the library's Reading Room. Refreshments will be served.

Research Help at the Bonnie

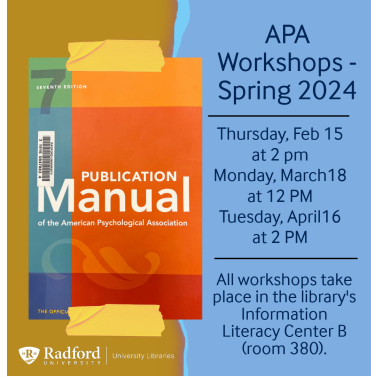
If you need help finding articles/books/other sources for your assignments, have questions about citations, or just have general questions, visit a Librarian at the Bonnie every Wednesday this Spring from noon - 2 pm. Stop by anytime! We're happy to help.

McConnell Library's Newly Expanded Young Adult Collection

Check out McConnell Library's newly expanded young adult collection and discover exciting new releases as well as familiar classics. This newly expanded collection has been moved and is now located in the Library Commons on the third floor. This freshly updated space has new shelving and comfortable seating that is perfect for reading and long study sessions alike.

This growing collection includes both a permanent collection of over 200 fiction and nonfiction books as well as a rotating collection of new popular reading with new books being added regularly. Enjoy the comfortable seating and refreshed look in this newly updated space while browsing books from popular authors.

APA Workshops



Thursday, February 15th from 2 – 2:50 pm

McConnell Library Information Literacy Center B (ILC B/Room 380)

In this session, students will get hands-on practice using our color-coded APA guide to create references and in-text citations following the APA citation style. The instructing librarian will take attendance and email the participant names to professors who offer extra credit. If you cannot attend, please consider enrolling in the APA online workshop via Desire2Learn (D2L).

Questions? Contact Lisa Dinkle, ldinkle@radford.edu.

The next APA Workshop will be held Monday, March 18th, at noon, and the final workshop of the semester will take place Tuesday, April 16th at 2 pm.

Events at RUC Library in February

Wednesday, 2/7: Lunch with the Librarians

Noon - 1:00 p.m. in the RUC Library

Thursday, 2/8: Yappy Hour with Riley from Tartan Tails

Noon - 1:00 p.m. in Room 520

Tuesday, 2/13: Smartie Gras with the English Department

Noon - 1:00 p.m. in Room 518

Tuesday, 2/20: Trivia, Song Titles

Noon in Room 518

Wednesday, 2/21: Murder Mystery Dinner with RUC Student Affairs

5:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Patrick Henry Lobby

Thursday, 2/22: Yappy Hour with Riley from Tartan Tails

Noon - 1:00 p.m. in Room 520

Week of February 26: Spring Fling with a Book

RUC Library during opening hours

Thursday, 2/29: Leap Day with SOTA

Noon -1:00 p.m. in the RUC Library

BHM Events on Campus

February 9, 2024

Black History Month Student Research Conference

Collaborators: RUBSC, CHUBS, McConnell Library, Sociology, and the Christiansburg Institute

Hybrid

10:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M. HH 4700

Opening Remarks: Dr. Beth Lyman

February 13, 2024

Lunch and Learn, Let Freedom Ring Lecture Series

Selective Outrage: The (Un) American Way

Mark C. Granenreed, Ph.D. Candidate, Southern Methodist University

Collaborators: RUBSC

Hybrid

12:30- 1:30 HH 4700

February 20, 2024

Panel Discussion: The Complexities and Realities of Drill Music

Collaborators: RUBSC and Virginia Tech Africana Studies Department, and the Christiansburg Institute

In-person

5:00-7:00 HH 4700

College of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

Title: **Mindfulness Meditation**

Description: When was the last time you took some time for yourself, for your own happiness and well-being? Graduate programs seldom encourage students to do this, and as a result, grad students often feel exhausted and overwhelmed. Mindfulness meditation invites us to break the cycle of running from one problem to the next, and it instead invites us to just be where we are without judgment. Why not take 30 minutes to learn about how you can develop a meditation practice that helps you navigate the stresses of graduate school?

Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Title: **Afternoon Coffee at the Highlander Hotel**

Description: Join fellow graduate students for a leisure cup of coffee and conversations provided by the graduate college.

Highlander Research Blitz

On April 3rd, 2024, the College of Graduate Studies and OURS will host the first annual Highlander Research Blitz competition for students enrolled in graduate and undergraduate programs through Radford University (main campus, RUC, RHEC, SVHEC). **The applications are due on February 19th.**

In the Highlander Research Blitz competition, contestants will have three minutes to describe their original research, creative work, or capstone experience sponsored by their academic programs of study. Aided by a single PowerPoint slide, participants will compete to see who can best communicate their work and its significance to a non-specialist (layperson) audience.

Competitors will submit their **three-minute pre-recorded video** presentation to be considered as a part of the application process. Submissions will be evaluated based on the delivery and communication of the content and not the quality of the video. Selected students will be invited to participate in the live in-person competition on April 3, 2024. For more information on the Highlander Research Blitz, visit the [Graduate College Website](#)

[Click here to fill out an application before February 19, 2024](#)



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College of Visual and
Performing Arts

ART MUSEUMS: www.radford.edu/artmuseum

Ben Duke: A Situation of Meanings: Jan. 24 - Feb. 23

Artist's Talk: Friday, February 23, 2024 at 4 pm.

Closing reception: Friday, February 23, 2024 at 5 pm.

The Art Museum at the Covington Center

[Ben Duke's abstract realism arrives in January | Radford University](#)

High School Art Show: Feb. 3 - Feb 17

Opening reception: Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 1 pm.

The Art Museum on Tyler

Juried Student Art Show: Feb. 28 - March 29

Opening reception: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 5 pm.

The Art Museum on Tyler

MUSIC: www.radford.edu/music

Recent News

[Music Therapy Professor and Students Reflect to Refine](#)

University Band Concert: Feb. 27

Free Admission 7:30 P.M.

Davis Performance Hall in the Covington Center

THEATRE: www.radford.edu/theatre

The Aliens: Feb. 14 - Feb 18

February 14 - February 17 at 7:30 pm

February 18 at 2:00 pm

Bondurant Auditorium

Office of the Provost
Radford University
Martin Hall 331
540-831-5404



801 East Main Street | Radford, VA 24142 US

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