



THREADS

March 11, 2024

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Message from Provost Usher

Welcome back from Spring Break! I hope it was enjoyable, whether you got time away or just time to catch up on your to-do list. To me, Spring Break and daffodils signal the exciting start to all the culminating events of the year.

I wanted to highlight how we are creating a campus where students feel at home and we celebrate the diversity of our community. We just celebrated Black History month with an exciting series of events at Main and Roanoke campuses, and we are continuing that spirit with events for [Women's History Month](#) (see below for more info).

In March and April, many major religions are observing significant holidays that may impact student classroom engagement, and may be particularly sensitive given global tensions. Please be supportive of your students.

Christian students may be observing Lent, which started on February 14, and continues until Easter on March 31.

Ramadam starts today in most of the world (Ramadan Mubarak to those who celebrate), and will end with Eid-ul-Fitr on April 9. Please note that observant students will be fasting from dawn to sundown.

Purim (March 23-24) and Passover (April 22-30) are celebrated by the Jewish community with events beginning at sundown.

Please join me in welcoming two new members of the Academic Affairs staff (see more information below). Jessica Stowell moved into the Assistant Provost for Faculty and Curriculum role in late February, and Adam Neal joins us today as Director of Finance and Administration. I'm excited to have them both in roles supporting your work! Their offices are in the 2nd floor suite in Martin Hall - please stop by, say hi, take them to lunch, and invite them to your meetings.

We are considering how to implement an annual calendar that will seamlessly integrate our traditional semesters with our 7 week terms (now separated into "part of terms" and "Fast-track terms"). In Spring 2025 we will begin this adjustment by aligning the semester and Spring A and B terms (using the planned January 21st start date) , and will maintain winterim and the summer schedule. We will continue to work towards implementing the full annual calendar starting in Fall 2025, with three full years planned out. We will have campus conversations about semester start dates, program impacts (positive and negative), and other impacts.

With appreciation for all of your work and your collaboration as we continue to enrich Radford's thriving learning and working community.

Bethany



Jessica has over 17 years' experience in the field of Institutional Effectiveness, Institutional Research, and Accreditation at public and private institutions. She has led four successful reaffirmations, the most recent three with no IE findings and in addition to serving as an IE evaluator, has served as a committee chair for SACSCOC visiting committees for over 10 years. Her Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology with an emphasis on Industrial Organizational Psychology provided her with a background and expertise in leadership, organizational cultures, assessment, psychometrics, and data analysis. She has experience in working collaboratively with faculty and staff to develop curriculum, improve assessment practices and breaking down the walls between student learning and assessment. Her leadership skills are known for transforming the places where she works.

Adam has over 15 years of experience in higher education and most recently, served as the Associate Vice President of Finance and Administration at Roanoke College. Native to the New River Valley, Adam is an alumnus of Radford's MBA program and previously worked at Radford for 9 years. We are excited to welcome him back into this role.



Governor's School News

With the support of Provost Usher and VP Danette Gomez Beane, Dean Tim Channel and I are pleased to announce a new structure and new leaders for the Summer Residential Governor's School for Visual & Performing Arts and Humanities hosted by Radford University.

The Governor's School will be led by co-directors for the summer of 2024, each with an emphasis on one of two aspects of the program. With a focus on the academic experience, the Faculty Co-director will be Dr. Tay Keong Tan, and with a focus on the residential experience, the Program Co-director will be Mrs. Cris Thompson.



Tay Keong Tan, Ph.D., is Director of Leadership Studies and International Studies and Professor of Political Science at Radford University. He teaches leadership, global issues, and public administration at RU. His research is focused on global sustainability; he is author and editor of five recent books on sustainable development and global corruption. He served as the Chief of Staff of the Office of Internal Oversight Services at the United Nations, Executive Director of the Singapore International Foundation, and Assistant Superintendent in the Singapore Police Force. For more than a decade, Tay Keong worked in the field of public governance, anti-corruption, and public management in more than two dozen countries, including Armenia, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Lebanon, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Dr. Tan has a doctorate in Public Policy from Harvard University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and a master's degree in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Cris Thompson is a doctoral candidate in leadership education at Virginia Tech and holds more than two decades of higher education experience in student life-cycle enrollment administration, recruitment, and leadership and program development. Certified as an MBTI practitioner, Mrs. Thompson is dedicated to guiding and supporting others through effective coaching and leadership strategies. Recognized as a 2023 Emerging Engagement Scholar by the Engagement Scholarship Consortium, Mrs. Thompson demonstrates a strong commitment to community engagement and empowerment. With a Master's in Agriculture and Life Sciences from Virginia Tech and a Bachelors from Old Dominion University, Mrs. Thompson's research focuses on utilizing

personality-based interventions to enhance leadership development within community-engaged practice.



Look for more information about this summer's Governor's School in the weeks ahead and learn more about the program at <https://www.radford.edu/content/gov-school/home.html>.



HIGHLANDERS
RISE TOGETHER

Did you know that there is a RISE Community Action Team positively influencing YOUR college?

RISE Community Action Teams (RCATs) are groups of faculty and students working together to build community and belonging within each academic college on campus. These collaborative groups think about tough questions, such as:

Why don't our students have equitable outcomes in their rates of successful course completion?

How can we reach our vulnerable students and create community with them?

How can we, as faculty, build relationships with each other and support each other in this critical and challenging work?

If you are looking for a collaborative community, with a focus on student success, please consider participating in your College RCAT. Reach out to us at rise@radford.edu for more information!

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." – **Coretta Scott King**

Women's History Month 2024

March 21st (Thursday)

9:30 – 10:20 am. **Murder-Suicide Warning: Women Watch Out.**

Presenter: Dr. Wendy Eckenrod-Green, School of Teacher Education and Leadership.

Location: McConnell Library, Andrew W. Ross Student Art Gallery.

10:45 - 11:45 am. **Making Work: Gender and Creativity in Contemporary Art**

Presenters: Dr. Carlee Bradbury, Department of Art; and Graduate MFA Students

Location: McConnell Library, Andrew W. Ross Student Art Gallery.

12:00 - 1:00 pm. **Crafting the Spinster: Research Presentation and Demonstration**

Presenters: Dr. Carlee Bradbury, Department of Art; Lou O'Neil (undergraduate student); Sara Thompson (undergraduate student)

Location: McConnell Library, Andrew W. Ross Student Art Gallery.

2:00 - 3:00 pm. **Sexism in Search Engines & AI**

Presenters: Alyssa Archer and Lisa Dinkle (Library Faculty)

Location: McConnell Library, Information Literacy Center B (Room 380).

March 22nd (Friday)

10:00 - 10:50 am. **Where The Roots Wind About the Heart—Contemporary Voices in Appalachian Women’s Poetry.**

Presenters: April J. Asbury, Department of English; Annie Woodford, Wilkes Community College

Location: Hemphill Hall 4700

11:00 - 11:50 am. **Insight of Chinese Women**

Presenters: Dr. I-Ping Fu and her class, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

Location: Hemphill Hall 4700

1:30 - 3:00 pm. **Women's History Month Final Celebration**

Please join us as we celebrate the conclusion of Women’s History Month events. We will recognize our Lifetime Achievement Award winners Dr. Ann Elliott and Dr. Anja Whittington, offer a donation to the Women’s Resource Center of the New River Valley, and celebrate our students. Light refreshments will be served.

Location: Hemphill Hall 4700

[More information about Women's History Month 2024](#)

Women's and Gender Studies Lifetime Achievement Award

The Women’s Studies Club is calling for donations to honor this year’s Women's and Gender Studies Lifetime Achievement Award recipients, Dr. Ann Elliott and Dr. Anja Whittington. The items collected from this fundraiser will be donated to the Women’s Resource Center of New River Valley in honor of Dr. Ann Elliott and Dr. Anja Whittington. The donation boxes will be available from now until March 15th (Friday). The list of items accepted for donation can be found next to the donation boxes.

Our donation boxes have been placed in various locations, including Safe Zone Office (HH 4801),

CHBS Dean's Office (HH 3401), Psychology Department Main Office (HH 5801), McConnell Library Front Desk, Criminal Justice Department Main Office (HH 5402), Department of Theatre & Cinema Main Office (Walker 245), Young Hall Highlander Success Table (2nd Floor, just inside the entrance), and Teaching Resources Center in Peters Hall (Peters C109).

More information about the
Women's Gender Studies Lifetime Achievement Award 2024

Center for Career and Talent Development

Etiquette Dinner - Encourage your students to sign up.

March 18, 2024

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Kyle Hall 340

Enjoy a **FREE three-course meal** while you learn how to interact with others in a professional setting. Hosted by the Career and Talent Development Center.

Sign up for the Etiquette Dinner

Internships With Impact – Share with your students. Regional employers are seeking interns.

4-7 p.m., Tuesday, March 19, 2024

CrossPointe Foursquare Conference Center, 890 Life Drive, Christiansburg, Virginia

A sample of participating employers include State Farm, Carilion Clinic, Sinkland Farms, Montgomery Chamber of Commerce and more!

Internships with Impact will be held at the Bridge Sanctuary meeting space at CrossPointe. Members of the Blacksburg Young Professionals and Pulaski County's Empower and Engage will share why they chose to live in the New River Valley and how they found their career path.

Learn more and register

Students in need of transportation are encouraged to contact Lee Svete in Career & Talent Development at lsvete@radford.edu

The Region 2 Internship Collaborative is an initiative of the Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership (V-TOP). Collaborative partners for the event are the Blacksburg Young Professionals, New River Community College, Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, Radford University, Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council, Virginia's New River Valley, Virginia Tech, and the Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership.

Radford Student Chosen to Lead National Conversation

Last week on Feb. 20th, sophomore art education student, Cora Burt, and Director of OURS, Joe Wirgau, kicked off the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Conversations webinar series with a national discussion on communicating research. The pair was invited by CUR to lead a discussion on best practices for designing impactful posters, and create flyers and a [video](#) to summarize their tips:



As a current sophomore, Cora impressed everyone involved with the webinar. As Todd Waggoner, Communication and Content Manager for CUR, put it, "Working with Cora was a dream come true... She brought an energy and authority that was truly impressive."

While reflecting on the event Cora said, "As a current undergraduate research student, I never envisioned myself in a leadership role or as an 'expert' at such a prestigious event! This experience offered an invaluable opportunity for personal growth in communication and design skills, which are essential in my field of study."

Wanting to keep the spotlight on Cora, Joe Wirgau said, "Seeing Cora deftly respond to faculty and administrators' questions from across the country was a reminder of why we go into education in the first place and how transformative research experiences are. It was clear the impact Cora's research experiences have had as she shared her experiences coming to Radford University as an artist, who would never be a researcher like her sister and now as a sophomore art student was not only a researcher, but she had valuable information to share with the CUR community."

-Abbi Green, February 26, 2024



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University Libraries

Winesett Awards for Library Research now accepting submissions

Please encourage your students who used library services and resources in their course-based research within the past 12 months to apply! **Applications are due by Sunday, March 24th at 11:59 p.m. EST**

The [Winesett Awards for Library Research](#) recognize creative and original library research completed by Radford University students. Six \$800 awards are split evenly between three categories: undergraduates in upper and lower level divisions, and graduate students. Course-related projects undertaken at Radford anytime in the past 12 months are eligible: Spring 2023, Summer 2023, Fall 2023, Wintermester, and in-progress projects during the Spring 2024 semester. Winners will be announced during the awards ceremony on Friday, April 12th from 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m., and their works will be published in the [Archives of the Winesett Scholars](#).

Completed applications will include:

A draft or final version of the student's research project, in Word, PowerPoint, or PDF format. The project must include a bibliography of sources used in its creation.

[A Statement of Support](#) completed by the student's class instructor. This is a separate form your professor must fill out in order for your application to be considered complete.

An essay describing the following related to the student's research project:

Research strategies

Use of any library services and resources

Evidence of personal learning and development of your research skills.

This essay is given the greatest weight in the judging process, see [the rubric for details](#). Essay should be between 400 and 600 words.

Faculty members with questions may contact the Library Research Awards Committee Co-Chairs, [Alyssa Archer](#) and [Mary Catherine Santoro](#). Many thanks to this year's judging panel: Dr. David Anderson from Anthropological Sciences, Dr. Andrea Barrick from Social Work, and Ms. Erica Looney from RadfordU Libraries.

Radford University Author Celebrations: We want to hear about your publications

Have you published something in 2023? [Please tell us using this link](#), then join us to celebrate your achievements! McConnell Library will host a drop-in Radford University Author Reception between **3 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16th** in your honor in the Ross Gallery. Please contact [Alyssa Archer](#) with questions. A joint program from Collection Development and Faculty Outreach.

The RUC library will hold an author reception for the Roanoke campus on **Tuesday, March 26th from Noon to 1 p.m.**, please contact [Mary Catherine Santoro](#) with questions.

Our library will do our best to add copies of any monographs or other stand-alone works published in 2023 to our collection prior to the reception: please complete the form by Friday, March 8th to give us time for purchasing. Many thanks and congratulations on your achievements!

Virginia National History Day

Volunteer to Judge for the Virginia National History Day event at Radford University

Please consider volunteering to be a judge for [Virginia National History Day](#) on our Radford campus, Friday, March 15th from 8:15 am – 12:30 pm. Snacks and lunch provided. This yearly event gives 5th – 12th grade students the opportunity to look at a theme in History on a deeper level. The strength of District Three’s competition, is our commitment to make sure each student gets meaningful motivating feedback as a reward for their hard work. The judging process is vital to the success of this worthy event. In a team of three, you will be asked to judge 5-10 students in a specific category (exhibits, documentaries, websites, performance, paper). New judges will be in a group with veteran judges so you will have a lot of support: you do not have to have a history background to participate. There will also be a judges training that we ask you to attend via Zoom. Please contact [Dr. Ann Roberts](#) with questions or to volunteer.

Quest 2024

As we embark on another exciting journey with Quest 2024, we wanted to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering dedication and tireless efforts in welcoming our incoming students and families into the Highlander family.

Your commitment to providing the very best orientation experience for our new Highlanders has not gone unnoticed. Your hard work, passion, and enthusiasm shine through in every interaction, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere that sets the tone for their entire university experience.

We recognize the countless hours you've devoted to ensuring that every detail of Quest is meticulously planned and executed, and we truly appreciate all that you do. Your contributions are invaluable, and we are immensely grateful for the vital role you play in shaping the Highlander community.

As we prepare for Quest 2024, we are excited to continue this important partnership. Your involvement is crucial to the success of our orientation program, and we are confident that together, we will create an unforgettable experience for our new Highlanders.

We ask that you please mark your calendars for the following Quest dates:

Quest Session Date 8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Pre-Quest Session Date 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm (includes on-campus housing)	Session Description
Monday, June 10, 2024	Not Applicable	Carilion Campus Transfer Quest #1
Tuesday, June 11, 2024	Not Applicable	Carilion Campus Freshman Quest #1
Thursday, June 13, 2024	Wednesday, June 12, 2024	Radford Campus Transfer Quest #1
Saturday, June 15, 2024	Friday, June 14, 2024	Radford Campus Transfer Quest #2
Tuesday, June 18, 2024	Not Applicable	Virtual Radford and Carilion Campus Transfer Quest
<i>Friday, June 21, 2024</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Please hold for Virtual Quest if needed</i>
Tuesday, June 25, 2024	Monday, June 24, 2024	Radford Campus Freshman Quest #1
Saturday, June 29, 2024	Friday, June 28, 2024	Radford Campus Freshman Quest #2
Tuesday, July 9, 2024	Monday, July 8, 2024	Radford Campus Freshman Quest #3
Wednesday, July 10, 2024	Not Applicable	Carilion Freshman Quest #2
Thursday, July 11, 2024	Not Applicable	Carilion Transfer Quest #2
Saturday, July 13, 2024	Friday, July 12, 2024	Radford Campus Freshman Quest #4
Tuesday, July 16, 2024	Not Applicable	Virtual Radford and Carilion Campus Freshman Quest
<i>Friday, July 26, 2024</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Please hold for Virtual Quest if needed</i>
Friday, August 23, 2024	Not Applicable	Radford Campus Fall Quest

We look forward to working alongside you once again and making Quest 2024 a resounding

success. Thank you for your continued dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to our students and the Highlander community.

Find out more about Quest here!

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To Learn More about the Venture Lab
and to Register for the Truist Challenge

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