



**Radford**  
UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

# THREADS

November 4, 2024

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- Get Ready to VOTE!
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## Greetings from Provost Usher

Tomorrow is Election Day! I have voted in every election I have been eligible for, since being a 17 year old allowed to vote in a presidential primary because I turned 18 before the general election. The community spirit around elections has always buoyed me – from good neighbors with signs for opposing candidates helping each other with yard chores to the citizens who volunteer to serve as election officers. I voted early this year, since I have to be in Roanoke early and I didn't want a tie-up on I-81 to keep me from making it to the polls next Tuesday.



Chapman Rockaway, along with colleagues Jean Mistele, Melanie Fox, Heather Keith, Jason Lucas,

and David Beach, conducted a “Civic Incomes” survey in University 100 courses this fall to assess our students’ openness to civic engagement as they enter Radford. There were 684 student responses, and overall it shows that students are disposed to make a difference through community action, but they vary in experience and confidence (more to come as that team acts on the survey results).

We can act right now on one result of the survey. Some of the *lowest* overall scores came from getting news from reliable sources, including newspapers, tv, or podcasts (getting news from social media was scarily much higher). Radford University gives every member of our community a **free personal subscription** to the [New York Times](#)! Each person can make an account, read the news on your phone, and get access to the podcasts. Please take advantage of this yourself, and share it with your students. To make this work even better, walk them through setting up accounts in class, and you can assign news stories to read and discuss as appropriate in your classes.

My idealistic view of the democratic process may not be the reality in the next few days or weeks, and we may not have the results of this close election for days or even weeks. Being able to find trusted sources of news may help us find common ground as we navigate this time. I urge you to support our students and each other, as embody the threads of the tartan.

Bethany

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## General Education Professional Development Workshop, Nov. 11

As part of [General Education Improvement 2024-2025](#), Faculty Senate—together with the Office of the Provost and the Director of Undergraduate Education—invites your attendance and participation at a General Education Professional Development Workshop, to be held Monday, November 11, 2024, at 10:00–11:30 a.m., in Kyle Hall room 340 at the Radford campus site and via livestream at the Roanoke campus site, in the RUC Community Hospital third-floor boardroom.

Participation in this workshop of all T&R Faculty, AP Faculty, and Classified Staff who touch on general education is highly valued and encouraged, insofar as you are able to attend. **We are grateful for all of the ways that you support our students and General Education at Radford University.**

At this workshop, our facilitator and coach [Dr. Jennifer Hart](#) will share:

- what we have found so far about perspectives on the REAL Curriculum and General Education;
- insights about requirements for, and design and implementation of General Education models;
- and activities to help us, as a body of colleagues, think about possible modifications to the REAL Curriculum that will improve our offering of General Education.

RSVP by Nov. 8

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The inaugural Midday Music free concert series takes place in one week, **Wednesday, November 6 from 12:15-12:30** in the Artis Center. The first one features Dr. Matthew Cataldi playing piano. The mood is casual, everyone is welcome, and we hope you'll bring your lunch and enjoy something new.

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**The Radford Singers, Chorale, and University Chorus** will present a concert entitled "Fiery Essence: Songs of Resilience and Reflection" on **Monday November 11 at 7:30 p.m.** in Davis Performance Hall in the Covington Center. Come hear moving and inspirational songs to lift and fortify your heart. Admission is free.

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**"Electric Counterpoint: Guitar Ensemble and Video Animation"** will take place in the Artis Center Performance Hub at **7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 15**. The Guitar Ensemble and ensemble alumni collaborate with video animation of Prof. Eloise Philpot and her video students to create an immersive environment of sound and video. It's the first interdepartmental collaborative event in the building whose philosophy and purpose is collaboration, the Artis Center for Adaptive and Innovation and Creativity. The performance is free.

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The tradition of Theatre for Young Audiences continues this year with *Judy Moody & Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt*. The play is Adapted by Allison Gregory from the books by Megan McDonald and will have only two public performances. Join us in the Main Stage Theater on **Saturday, November 16 at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.** Get tickets online or by calling 540-831-5484, or during the week of the show, at the Theatre and Cinema Box Office, 252 Artis Center.

[For more information and to get tickets](#)

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## It's Time to Make Your Voting Plan!

### *Election Day*

The polls will open at 6 a.m. and stay open until 7 p.m. For everyone voting on Election Day, there are four locations here in the City of Radford.

The polling places in Radford are:

- New River Precinct, 1020 Tyler Avenue
  - Grove United Methodist Church
- West Precinct, 1229 Second Street
  - Carter Street United Methodist Church
- Central Precinct, 555 Rock Road West
  - First Baptist Church

- East Precinct, 200 George Street
  - Radford Recreation Center

Confirm Your Polling Place

### **Getting There**

If you are registered at the Grove UMC polling place, you have the option of using the Highlanders Vote Election Day Shuttle to go vote. We have volunteers driving two cars from 9am to 6pm. Go to the clocks outside Dalton Hall to take the shuttle. The shuttle only goes to Grove UMC, so you will need to find another way to get to any of the other polling places.

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## **Highlanders Vote: Road to the Ballot Box**

**Tuesday- November 5th, 2024**

**Interactive Wellness Session:** De-Stress for Democracy with Yoga, Therapy Dogs, and Mindful Voting

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. | HH 1016

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**Workshop: The Art of Civic Engagement** - Debate, Understanding, and Campaigning with Heart

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. | HH 1016

Arguing for Understanding: Hear the Biography, Not the Ideology: Dr. Sandy French, Professor, School of Communication, Riley Willis and Grace Herritage, Department of Political Science, and Keiko Klisiewicz, Department of Biology (Biomedical Sciences)

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**Panel Discussion #3:** Foundations of Democracy - Voting Rights and Campaign Tactics Through American History

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. | HH 3013

Histories and Realities of the 15th Amendment: Dr. Fredrick Douglas Dixon, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology

Barbecue, Baseball Bats, and Kissing Babies: The Evolution of the American Political Campaign: Dr. Matthew Oyos, Professor, Department of History

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**Panel Discussion #4:** Beyond Election Night - From Early Calls to Post-Election Strategy

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. | HH 3021-3023

Counting the Votes: Unraveling the Mysteries Behind Early State Calls and Election Night Projections: Dr. Scott Dunn, Professor, School of Communication

Is the Election the End or Just the Beginning? Getting What You Want Over the Finish Line in Politics: Dr. Paige Tan, Professor, Department of Political Science

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**Panel Discussion #5:** Global Perspectives on Democracy - Gen Z, Social Media, and International Insights on Elections

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. | HH 1016

Gen Z and the Future of Democracy: Navigating Social Media, Representation, and Political Polarization: Mackenzie Wallace, Andrew Walls, Kirsten Cecil, and Maddison Griffith

Leslie Knope for President! Campaigning the Knope Way, with Waffles and Heart: Dr. Jenny Walton, Director and Professor, School of Communication

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**Highlanders Vote: Ballot Box Block Party**

8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. | Muse Hall Basement

*Prepare for the most thrilling election night experience at Radford! The Highlanders Vote: Ballot Box Block Party is where fun and democracy meet. With live music from a DJ, exciting games, tasty snacks, and real-time election results pouring in from local precincts and across the nation, this event is designed to keep the energy high.*

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## Black Studies Institute

RU Black Studies Institute presents "Courageous Conversation", Lunch and Learn Series Part II:

How Soon We Forget: Revisiting the 'Negro Problem/Question' on the Fifth Anniversary of George Floyd's Assassination with Critical Reflections by Ms. Jael Kerandi, Former Student Body President of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

November 12, 2024

2 pm

Davis Hall Room 151

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## New Access to Gale's Indigenous People of North America Collection

VIVA, the Virtual Library of Virginia, purchases and licenses shared collections across the state in order to ensure that all students have access to the same critical core resources, regardless of what institution they attend. Through the SCHEV fund for Excellence and Innovation as well as state funding provided by the General Assembly, VIVA has purchased more exciting resources that are focused on equity, diversity, and inclusion in order to help support research and explore diverse perspectives.

Another exciting resource that is now available to Radford University users through VIVA is the *Indigenous Peoples of North America* collection from Gale. This resource is a comprehensive collection of primary source documents from American and Canadian government sources and institutions, tribal publications, and documents from Indian-related organizations, including a selection of indigenous-language materials. The collection covers topics such as Indian removal, Indian wars and the frontier army, treaty policies, government boarding and missionary schools, Indian languages and linguistics, water and fishing rights, and more. Together, these primary sources enable in-depth study of the political, social, and cultural history of native peoples from the sixteenth century well into the twentieth century.

See VIVA's full press release about this and other exciting resources at [https://vivalib.org/ld.php?content\\_id=61841044](https://vivalib.org/ld.php?content_id=61841044). You can access this Gale collection by visiting VIVA's list of databases at <https://vivalib.org/az.php>.

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We invite all students, faculty, and staff to a Common Grounds discussion:

Thursday, November 7, 4-5pm

Information Literacy Classroom B of McConnell Library (3rd floor).

The topic for this open conversation is:

### **What Now?**

Now that the election is over, how do we move forward together for the good of our communities and country? Debrief the election and look forward with us.

*Free coffee and bakery items will be available*

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## Apply for Undergraduate Research Showcase at the Capital

The Network for Undergraduate Research in Virginia (NURVa) announced the creation of an Undergraduate Research Showcase at the Capitol. Radford University is invited to submit up to five poster proposals. Radford University can then have up to two selected for the event by NURVa. This event will take place in **Richmond, Virginia, at the General Assembly Building on Thursday, February 6, 2025, from 3-5pm.**

All applications submitted by midnight November 15th will be evaluated by the OURS advisory committee according to the NURVa criteria. NURVa will make the ultimate decisions by December 16th. Please contact the Office of Undergraduate Research at [ours@radford.edu](mailto:ours@radford.edu) with any questions.

[Learn more and fill out an application](#)

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## Citizen Leader

Hold the Date: ***Citizen Leader Dissemination and Celebration***, December 2, 5 – 7 pm. Heth 014

We will hear from the students graduating from the Citizen Leader Program with distinction as they share their Citizen Leader story. We will hear from other Citizen Leader students as they share their progress in the Citizen Leader Program. The students enrolled in CLEA 200/HNRS 310 will share their class project, Foster Care and Aging Out. Hear what they learned and the action they took to support the community.

### Faculty: Looking Forward to Spring 2025

- Spring 2025 – Please contact me if you have plans for events or activities that could receive Citizen Leader designation. This designation allows the Citizen Leader student to complete requirements in the Citizen Leader Program. We are willing to join forces with you to help make your event or activity a success.
- Fall 2025 – Please consider having your course designated as Citizen Leader for the next academic year, 2025-2026. Suitable courses focus on:
  - Community Engagement/Civic Engagement
  - Social/Economic/Political/Ethnic Issues within communities
  - Leadership: historical leaders, contemporary leaders, theories, practice
  - Leader Development: ethical/professional skills of effective leaders

Contact Jean Mistele at [jmistele@radford.edu](mailto:jmistele@radford.edu) for questions or to discuss a partnership.

## Career and Talent Development

### Life Sciences Intern Night

November 14, 2024  
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm  
The Quarters in Downtown Roanoke

Pre-Registration is required

### Walk-In Resume Reviews

Monday-Friday  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Career and Talent Development, Russell Hall, 3rd Floor



Are you planning to integrate content or discussions about the election in your classes? Are you concerned about discussions that might come up in class, or about students' or your own ability to carry on after what might be a contentious (and ongoing) election? Check out our **"Teaching Through the Election" toolkit on D2L!** It's self-enrolling (click "Discover" to search for it) and has a number of resources from CITL and other teaching centers on how to manage class discussion, introduce the election into your content, and even a sample statement for the day after the election if you choose NOT to include it in class. Contact [hkeith1@radford.edu](mailto:hkeith1@radford.edu) or [ccosmato@radford.edu](mailto:ccosmato@radford.edu) for more information or to reach out to YOUR Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning.

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