



THREADS

October 7, 2024

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Greetings from Provost Usher

Welcome to October! We are all knee-deep in the hard work of educating students, doing administrative tasks, feeling heartsick about Helene's devastation in our community, and being inundated with political rhetoric. Every time I ask someone how they are doing, they give me a deep sigh and tell me the litany of projects, grading, committees, and such that they are working on.

This weekend, the Alumni weekend and Together campaign celebration gave me a fresh perspective to help lift beyond the sighs. It reminded me again about the Tartan (not just President Bret's suit!), and the importance of how we weave together a community that is uniquely Radford. We heard that one quarter of faculty and staff gave during the campaign, and 51% percent of the gifts went directly to student scholarships. And you give, not just with money. Academic Affairs faculty and staff give your knowledge and your time and your enthusiasm and your love for your community. You bring your family and friends and come back at night for the play or the planetarium or to run the 5K. Each one of you is one of those threads, with different weights and different colors, and your unique contribution is vital to the overall strength of Radford.

So when I hear you sigh and talk about all you are doing, know that I am grateful and I'm trying my best to see you and support you. I appreciate your dedication to doing the hard things, and hope you step back to

see how collectively, we are weaving an excellent Radford community together.

For practical things, we are continuing to take comments and adding to the FAQs about the 2024-2025 academic calendar (<https://www.radford.edu/registrar/academic-calendar-updates.html>). We are reaching out to students and staff for their insight. Please use the survey linked on the website and on the banner in Radford OneCampus to share your perspectives.

Bethany

All Radford University faculty are invited to Ales, Trails and Research Tales

This social will be held at Radford University's Selu Conservancy on Friday, October 18, 2024 from 4-6pm. Take the time to learn about or get reacquainted with Selu! Enjoy snacks and drinks. Take a hike. Take a tour. Connect with colleagues. Those who RSVP will receive one free drink ticket. A cash bar will be available as well. A brief program will take place at 4:30pm and you are welcome to spend the remaining time exploring Selu Conservancy! We hope to see you there.

This event is a collaboration between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs.

RSVP

VCOM-Virginia Campus Research Day

Radford University faculty are invited to submit abstracts to the VCOM-Virginia campus Research Day hosted on VCOM campus Friday, February 14. Registration is free and opens on October 7. Poster abstracts are due November 8 by 5pm.

Learn more about this event

Department of History Center for Archives & Digital History and the Center for Gender Studies



Faculty Workshop: Training Tomorrow's Humanists: Integrating Digital Methods into the Undergraduate Curriculum

Presentation: Mapping the Margins: Gay Travel Guides, Historical Data, and the Promise of Digital History

Monday, Nov 4, 4:00pm in CHBS 4700



VGEA Updates from Kara Pfaff & Fallon Kreye

Big Wins for State Employees and Retirees: Highlights from the VGEA Annual Meeting

On Saturday, September 14, 2024, the Virginia Governmental Employees Association (VGEA) hosted its annual member meeting, where important updates and wins for state employees and retirees were celebrated. Representing our community at the event were VGEA Board members, Mrs. Kara Pfaff, Administrative Assistant in the School of Teacher Education and Leadership, and Mrs. Fallon Kreye, Procurement Specialist in Procurement and Contracts.

Virginia Retirement System Update: Confidence in Long-Term Financial Security

Trish Bishop, representing the Virginia Retirement System (VRS), addressed the overall health of the retirement system, offering a promising update: the pension plan is now over 80% funded. This strong funding status reassures current and future retirees about their financial security in the years to come.

Legislative Wins for State Employees: Pay Raises and Membership Growth

Dylan Bishop, VGEA's lobbyist, provided an in-depth briefing on the legislative achievements secured this year. One of the most notable wins was another 3% pay raise for state employees during the 2024 legislative session, adding to a cumulative 31% increase in wages since 2019—thanks to the efforts of VGEA.

However, Mr. Bishop underscored the importance of continuing to grow VGEA membership to maintain a strong advocacy voice. "We can only keep winning if we bring more voices into VGEA," he noted.

Employee Compensation and Healthcare: New Benefits for Retirees

Janet Lawson and Gary Johnston from the Virginia Department of Human Resources Management (DHRM) shared significant updates related to employee compensation and healthcare benefits. In addition to the recently secured 3% pay raise, they introduced a major improvement for retiree dental coverage. Beginning soon, major dental services for retirees will be covered at 50%, up from the previous 5%, offering a substantial benefit for current and future retirees.

The Importance of VGEA Membership: Strength in Numbers

The VGEA continues to emphasize that every state employee and retiree should consider joining. VGEA is not just an advocacy group—it's a community dedicated to ensuring every voice is heard. Together, we can continue to achieve wins, improve benefits, and protect the futures of public servants across Virginia.

About VGEA

The Virginia Governmental Employees Association (VGEA) is a voluntary, nonpartisan advocacy organization representing the interests of current, retired, and future public employees in the Commonwealth of Virginia. VGEA is committed to promoting equitable compensation, safe working conditions, and the dignity of all public servants.

[To join or learn more about VGEA](#)



Fall into a Good Book

Fall into a Good Book returns to the RUC Library the week of October 7. Stop by the RUC Library to take your choice from more than 100 mystery wrapped books just in time for Fall Break. Yours to keep or pass along - no need to return it to us.

Happy Anniversary to VIVA!

The Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year! VIVA is the academic library consortium in the Commonwealth of Virginia. All 39 state-assisted nonprofit public universities in Virginia are members along with 31 nonprofit private universities and the Library of Virginia. VIVA's mission: "As Virginia's academic library consortium, VIVA builds an equitable, accessible, and robust infrastructure of library resources and services for Virginia higher education students and faculty." It does this by using state funding to enable equitable access to resources and services across institutions as well as providing networking opportunities, training, and expertise sharing. VIVA supports both students and faculty by providing a wide variety of resources. Radford University Libraries benefit from VIVA in a wide array of ways with e-resources being the most prominent but also through resources sharing (Interlibrary Loan), and open and affordable initiatives such as the Curriculum Driven Acquisition (CDA) Program.

Assistant Provost for Faculty and Curriculum

-Good news from Dr. Jessica Stowell

I am happy to report that we have launched the temporary curriculog forms for the year (Yes, they are available now). These forms should look and function as they did last year. There may be a few periods of time where curriculog is down for a day or two while we work on improvements in the background. We will announce these in advance. In approximately mid-February the improved process should launch and training

will be provided for this. We appreciate your patience as we work to improve the system and experience for curriculum management. If you experience any issues with forms or access, please reach out to me and I will endeavor to respond within 2 business days.

VOTING INFORMATION

Please share this information!

BUSY ON ELECTION DAY?
VOTE EARLY!

Find your location & times with the QR code

VOTE

ABSENTEE VOTING IS OPEN!

Students, if you're registered to vote in another community, you'll need to request an absentee ballot. The Campus Voter Team offers a helpful guide on how and where to make your request.

VOTE



YOUR Center for Teaching and Learning has created a "Teaching Through and Beyond the Election" toolkit available to all faculty and staff. It includes some do/don't tips for classes, some internal and external resources for incorporating difficult discussions into class content, and thoughts for holistic student and faculty/staff wellness in what may be a tense time. The toolkit is self-enrolling in D2L, and can be found by clicking "discover" and searching for "election." Please reach out to hkeith1@radford.edu with any questions or if you'd like a consultation with CITL professionals.



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Honors College

Applications for Honors Faculty Fellows

The Honors College invites applications from tenured or tenure-track faculty to serve 3-year terms as Honors Faculty Fellows. These faculty invest additional time with honors students through teaching (typically one honors course per year), honors advising, and participating in honors events. Fellows are supported with funds for one-course reassigned time and a \$2500 stipend per year. Additional details can be found at the link below. Inquiries are welcome and should be directed to Niels Christensen, Director of the Honors College (pchristen@radford.edu, x6125).

[Honors Faculty Fellow Information and Application](#)

Application deadline November 4th, 2024

New Fellow terms begin May, 2025

Citizen Leader

Leadership Summit - October 14 - 19

Planning is underway for the Second Annual Leadership Summit. We are partnering with the City of Radford's Mayor to learn about leadership on a local level and with non-profit leaders. Sessions include the Truist Innovation Leadership Workshop offered by the Davis College. We have faculty preparing to share leadership perspectives in their classes, which are open to a few additional non-enrolled students.

Spring 2025 Citizen Leader Designated Courses

Time to consider if you wish to have your course Citizen Leader Designated.

If you have any questions, please contact me, Dr. Jean Mistele, jmistele@radford.edu

[Course Designation \(New or Renewal\)](#)

The McGlothlin Center for Global Engagement

International Coffee & Tea Hours

The McGlothlin Center for Global Education and Engagement invites all students, faculty and staff you to join us for our upcoming International Coffee and Tea Hour events! Come and enjoy an afternoon of cultural exchange, and delicious refreshments from countries represented by our Radford University international students.

International Tea Hour featuring Bangladesh, India and Nepal

Date: Tuesday, October 15

Time: 3-5pm

Location: Cook Hall 105 Lobby

International Coffee Hour featuring Brazil

Date: Wednesday, November 20

Time: 3-5pm

Location: Cook Hall 105 Lobby

More International Coffee and Tea Hours will be held in the Spring, so stay tuned!

Questions? Please contact the McGlothlin Center for Global Education and Engagement at globaled@radford.edu or 831-6575.

International Education Week

International Education Week (November 14-18, 2022) is a national week of the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Education that celebrates the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide.

The McGlothlin Center for Global Education and Engagement invites proposals for events and workshops from students, faculty and staff interested in celebrating International Education week this upcoming November. There are many events that are welcome, including cultural performances, global art expositions, guest speakers, global trivia night, and more!

To participate, please complete the International
Education Week Interest Form

If you have any questions regarding International Education Week, please contact:

Emily Jerves

International Student and Scholar Services Coordinator

ejerves@radford.edu

Phone: (+1) (540) 831-6574

Career and Talent Development

The Career and Talent Development Career Closet is accepting donations of professional business attire for Radford University students. Clothing should be pre-washed, ready-to-wear, and appropriate for interviews,

networking events, and other career opportunities. We accept suits, pants, blazers, dress shirts, blouses, skirts, dresses, belts, and ties. Donations can be dropped off in Russell Hall, 3rd floor, Monday-Friday from 8:00 am-5:00 pm. For more information, please contact Debbie Fenderson at dfenderson@radford.edu or 540-831-6167.



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Sponsored Programs and
Grants Management

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities for the Fall Semester

- *How to successfully manage your grant award*
 - When: October 25th 1:00pm - 2:00pm
 - Where: Zoom <https://radford.zoom.us/j/92193284689>
- *Grant Writing 101 for new faculty*
 - When: November 8th 1:00pm - 2:00pm
 - Where: Zoom <https://radford.zoom.us/j/95196751661>
- *SAVE the DATE!!! All-day Grant Writing Workshop present by Hanover Research*
 - When: February 7, 2025
 - Where: Heth 014

**** Stay tuned for more information about the workshop! ****

If you are interested in attending any of the workshops, please contact Tom Cruise at tcruise@radford.edu

Internal Funding Opportunities

Faculty Professional Development Leave Program

The Radford University Faculty Professional Development Leave Program (FPDL) is an opportunity for you to broaden your professional horizons and develop new teaching and research perspectives. The application form and instructions for the 2024-2025 program are linked below.

We look forward to receiving your application!

[Application and Instructions for FPDL](#)

Seed Grant Program

Seed Grants are one-year grants to fund pilot or preliminary work leading to external funding for large research/creative projects by members of the faculty and staff.

Radford Proposes New River Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities

Radford University is proposing to be the home for the Commonwealth's 20th Academic-Year Governor's School, the New River Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. This school would start operating in AY 2026-27 with a sophomore class of 40 drawing from nine eligible high schools:

- Auburn High School
- Blacksburg High School
- Christiansburg High School
- Eastern Montgomery High School
- Floyd County High School
- Giles High School
- Narrows High School
- Pulaski County High School
- Radford High School

The school would add a junior class in AY 2027-28, and a senior class the following year. Projected revenue is expected to come from the schools (60.6%) and the Commonwealth (39.4%).

The Planning Committee, headed by President Danilowicz, includes superintendents of five school boards, parents from the five school districts, and the Deans of the Colleges of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences and Visual and Performing Arts. The Committee has reviewed admission criteria, a sophomore course of study, likely Humanities and Arts courses, and a three-year proposed budget.

The proposal for the New River Governor's School will be submitted to the Virginia Department of Education in December.

For further information, please contact Dr. David Beach, Director of Undergraduate Curriculum, at dbeach6@radford.edu.



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Department of Music

DAVIS PERFORMANCE HALL CONCERTS, EVENTS & MEETINGS THIS WEEK

October 8, Tuesday @ 11am DPH

Guest Pianist Masterclass- Lior Leigh

October 8, Tuesday @ 7:30pm DPH

Guest Pianist - Lior Leigh

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