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## Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the Research & Creative Scholarship Quarterly Newsletter for the 2023-24 academic year! We look forward to sharing more of the research, scholarship, and creative successes of our faculty and students. We also hope to introduce you to resources that will support both beginning scholars and experienced researchers.

In this issue, we highlight research that ranges from soil improvement sponsored by the USDA, to anthropological studies in collaboration with the University of Tennessee. You'll also find information on upcoming training opportunities, as well as events where faculty and students will be presenting their work and its outcomes.

I hope this newsletter sparks your creative and research interests and gives you an idea of all the exciting work being done at Radford University! I welcome your feedback on what we've presented here and how it can be improved. Email your thoughts and suggestions to [jmekolic@radford.edu](mailto:jmekolic@radford.edu).

Jeanne Mekolichick, Ph.D.

Associate Provost for Research, Faculty Success & Strategic Initiatives

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## Faculty Spotlight

**Dr. Steve McBride, Assistant Professor**

**Department of Biology**

Project Title: *The Effect of Cover Crop Volatile Organic Compounds on Soil Organic Matter Formation and Nutrient Retention for Soil Health Improvement*

Sponsor: National Institute of Food & Agriculture (USDA)

Soil organic matter (SOM) formation and nutrient retention are key indicators of soil health in agroecosystems. Globally, two-thirds of maize and wheat fields could increase yields with an increase in SOM.



While some management plans such as cover cropping have been shown to improve SOM formation and nutrient retention, it is unclear what biotic and abiotic factors drive these processes. We lack a basic understanding of volatile organic compounds (VOC) production from cover crop litter, as well as how these compounds affect SOM formation and nutrient retention in managed systems. The purpose of this project is to fill these knowledge gaps by using a stable isotope tracer approach in an experimental cropping system. The data we collect will help us develop SOM formation models that scientists can use to advance understanding of VOC and agroecology, and for managers to use for making decisions that increase crop production and minimize environmental and public health impacts.

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## Faculty-Student Success

While others went on summer vacation, Radford research never sleeps! **Dr. Cassady Urista** (*Department of Anthropological Sciences*) and **Dr. Laura Gruss** (*Department of Biology*) made significant contributions to their research field this summer. Through funding from the Radford SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship) program, Dr. Gruss and Dr. Urista traveled with two undergraduate students, **MegAnne Gilmore** (*Allied Health Science*) and **Angelina Walters** (*Bioarchaeology*) to Knoxville, TN to collaborate with the University of Tennessee's Department of Anthropology.



Pictured left to right: Dr. Cassidy Urista, Angelina Walters, Dr. Laura Gruss, MegAnne Gilmore

According to Dr. Urista and Dr. Gruss, the group set out to study “the relationship between the width of someone’s hips, the length of their legs and the angle that their femur has to the knee. We were looking at how it relates to the presence of osteoarthritis in the knee joint.” The UT collaboration allowed the Radford team to learn new techniques and methods, and stated that UT staff and resources allowed them to gain “a better understanding of the human anatomy by working hands-on with real skeletal remains.”

Congratulations to Dr. Urista, Dr. Gruss, MegAnne, and Angelina on their summer of research; you can hear about their results on October 3rd at the **Summer Research Celebration!**

You can find more information on the **SRC** in the **Upcoming Events** section of our newsletter.

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## Upcoming 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 2023-2024 program are linked below.

Note: the deadline is **5 p.m., Monday, November 13.**

We look forward to receiving your application!

[Application and instructions](#)

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## NEH Opportunities

### The Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education

Optional draft deadline **September 18**; final deadline anticipated to be **October 11**

This program supports the exploration and development of small projects that would benefit underserved populations through the teaching and study of the humanities. You may request support at one of two levels: Exploration (\$25,000) or Development (\$60,000). [Learn more and apply online.](#)

### The Dangers of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities

Deadline **October 11**

This program supports research that examines technology and its relationship to society through the lens of the humanities, with a focus on the dangers and/or opportunities presented by technology. NEH is particularly interested in projects that seek to understand and address the ethical, legal, and societal implications of artificial intelligence (A.I.). The program supports projects led by individual researchers (up to \$75K) and by collaborative teams (up to \$150K). [View the webinar recording and slides online.](#)

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### **ACLS Leading Edge Fellowships**

Deadline **October 4**

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Leading Edge Fellowship program offers recent humanities PhDs two-year fellowship positions with organizations dedicated to advancing justice and equity in their communities. The program demonstrates the capacity of those with advanced training in the humanities to contribute to timely and meaningful social justice work. Please visit their [website](#) for details.

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### **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program**

Deadline **October 16-20**

The purpose of the **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program** (GRFP) is to ensure the quality, vitality, and diversity of the scientific and engineering workforce of the United States. GRFP seeks to broaden participation in science and engineering of underrepresented groups, including women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and veterans.

Eligibility criteria for the GRFP are extensive and detailed. **Applicants are strongly advised** to proofread and upload their documents early, as they are automatically checked by the GRFP Application module and *will not be accepted* if noncompliant. [Full instructions and eligibility guidelines are online.](#)

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## **Research Resources**



## Sponsored Programs & Grants Management

### Strategies for Grant Writing Workshops

Oct. 20th

Heth Hall Room 14



**Strategies for Grant Writing Workshops** hosted by **Sponsored Programs and Grants Management**

Please join us for one session or the entire day.

**October 20**  
**Heth Hall Room 14**

- 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast and Networking
- 9:30 a.m. - Grant-Seeking for Early Career Faculty
- 11 a.m. - Success in Interdisciplinary Grant-Seeking
- Noon - Lunch provided
- 1 p.m. - Funding Landscapes for the Social Sciences
- 2:30 p.m. Internal Process for Proposal Submission

Register for Grant Writing Sessions

### Grant-Writing Online Training

The **Office of Sponsored Programs and Grants Management (SPGM)** is pleased to offer a series of grant-writing training modules to help support your needs as you begin the grant seeking process. If you would like individual training, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office to schedule an appointment at [tcruise@radford.edu](mailto:tcruise@radford.edu).

- [Hanover Webinar: Grants 101-So You Want to Write a Grant \[mp4\]](#)
- [Hanover Webinar: Prospecting and Alignment \[mp4\]](#)
- [Hanover Webinar: Resubmissions \[mp4\]](#)
- [Hanover Webinar: Looking Beyond the NIH \[mp4\]](#)

- [Hanover Webinar: Early to Mid-Career Faculty Grant-Seeking \[mp4\]](#)
  - [Hanover Webinar: Building Strong Collaborations \[mp4\]](#)
  - [CITI training](#)
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## Carilion Clinic TriNetX Virtual Training Schedule

Carilion offers instructor-led, focused training for an in-depth, step-by-step learning experience building patient cohorts and delving into Analytics. The facilitator will be Dee Myers. Please get in touch with [HART@carilionclinic.org](mailto:HART@carilionclinic.org) with the subject of 'TriNetX Training' for training outside of the scheduled sessions. If you haven't taken a class or need a refresher, this is your opportunity to do so! Let Dee Myers know which date you prefer and she will send a meeting invitation.

- Oct 12 from 10:30 a.m. – noon
- Oct 25 from 1:30 – 3 p.m.
- Nov 15 from 10:30 a.m. – noon

[Learn more about the Health Analytics Research Team training.](#)

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## Funding Searches Using PIVOT

Pivot is a leading funding search database used by many colleges and universities throughout the United States. Because Radford University is a registered subscriber, **each RU faculty member and student can sign up for an individual account.**

To sign up for an account on [ProQuest Pivot](#) please contact **Tom Cruise** at 540-831-5479 or [tcruise@radford.edu](mailto:tcruise@radford.edu).

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## Did you know?

### 2023-2024 Early Career Grant Writing Cohort

The **Early Career Research Scholars Initiative**, led by **Dr. Pam Frasier, Faculty Proposal Development Mentor**, provides research support to scholars in the early stages of their grant-writing career. We are pleased to announce this year's cohort team:

- **Dr. Mingyang Zheng**, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
- **Dr. Tiesha Martin**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Health & Human Performance
- **Mr. Charlie Jewell**, Director, Economic Development & Community Engagement
- **Dr. Sarah Knoeckel**, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing
- **Dr. Michelle Lenhart**, Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences & Disorders
- **Dr. Amanda Baldwin-Estep**, RU Site Coordinator, SW VA Higher Education Center



If you are interested in learning more about our cohort program, please contact Tom Cruise at [tcruise@radford.edu](mailto:tcruise@radford.edu).

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# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

## Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship

**Undergraduate Research Travel Awards** - The **Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (OURS)** supports student travel to present original work at conferences. The maximum award is \$750. Applications are due through the **OURS** website four weeks before departure and reviewed on a rolling basis while funding lasts. [www.radford.edu/ours-travel](http://www.radford.edu/ours-travel)

**Poster Printing** - large scale posters for the use in disseminating original work in all disciplines of undergraduate students, graduate students, or faculty are printed by **OURS** free of charge. Please provide at least 1-week notice (we can often turn posters around in a day or two if needed) and pdf submissions are open all year long. To submit a poster to be printed or for help designing your poster visit: [www.radford.edu/ours-posters](http://www.radford.edu/ours-posters)

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### Upcoming Events



## The College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences

September Series  
Fall 2023

Wednesday, September 27 at noon

**Dr. Michael Marberry, Assistant Professor of English**

*Play: A Series of Videogame-Inspired Poems*

As videogames continue to evolve as an art form, the potential for gaming as an opportunity for poetic ekphrasis, narrative experimentation, and lyrical exploration also grows. This presentation will feature a reading from a series of videogame-inspired poems with brief commentary about some of their formal constraints, gaming contexts, and autobiographical influences.

11th Annual  
**SUMMER  
RESEARCH  
CELEBRATION**  
October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023  
McConnell Library, Ross Gallery

### Summer Research Celebration

**OURS** is pleased to announce the schedule for the **11th Annual Summer Research Celebration**. The Summer Research Celebration will have presentations on **October 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the McConnell Library Ross Art Gallery**. The event is open to all and there will be refreshments! [The full schedule of presentations is available on our website.](#)

**Winter CARD** (Creative Activities and Research Days) provides an opportunity for students to experience attending and presenting at a conference without the typical travel and registration costs. [www.radford.edu/wintercard](http://www.radford.edu/wintercard)

### Dates to Remember:

- Submission deadline **November 1** (now open)
- Poster submission for printing is **November 10**.



- **Wednesday, November 29** will be oral presentations (and other formats that typically occur in a classroom setting) in McConnell Library Ross Art Gallery.
  - **Thursday, November 30** poster presentations (and other formats suitable for individual interactions in a larger space) in the Reed-Curie and Center for the Sciences atriums.
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For a full listing of upcoming research presentations and events, please visit Radford's 2023-2024 Events Calendar.

[Radford University Events Calendar](#)

801 East Main Street | Radford, VA 24142 US

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.