



**Radford**  
UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

# THREADS

January 13, 2025

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## A Message from Provost Usher

Winter has arrived to liven up the end of break! I hope that you had a chance to relax, recharge, and enjoy the weather. For me, that's sometimes meant walking Harper in the snow, and other times drinking coffee and working on my computer while watching the snow fall outside the window. I loved spending time with my family, too, although that already seems like a long time ago.

Next week, we will have the largest spring cohort of students in years, with at least 7000 students already registered for classes! That number includes a larger number of returning students, and several hundred new freshmen and transfer students. This newsletter is full of important information as we prepare for them. I hope that you will join at least a few of the sessions at Our Turn, which I know is one of the best peer-to-peer teaching and learning professional development events I've seen.



Before break, I met with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to talk about concerns about the academic calendar. I heard them, and you, clearly.

To address concerns about the changes to scheduling the last week of classes and exams (starting in Fall 2025), I have asked Katie Piper (University Registrar), Heather Keith (Faculty Development), Charley Cosmato (CITL) and Eric Choate (Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee) to meet regularly and bring updates to the Academic Policies and Procedures Committee and/or the Faculty Senate as needed. In addition to the resources in the CITL D2L space on student assessment, CITL is available for consultation and will offer additional support if you need to revise your end of semester assessments. The Registrar's Office is creating a new template for longer alternative exam periods (see their update, below).

I heard that faculty who teach in year-round programs (whether you are 12-month faculty or 9-month who also teach in the summer) are concerned about workload, vacation time, and course preparation time. I have asked each of the deans to address these concerns with their faculty and department chairs, as the specific issues vary from college to college. I have let them know that we need to make sure that we build course preparation and professional development time into faculty workloads for those of you who are in year-round programs. Deans will also work with faculty and chairs to support the transition to the Summer/Summer A/Summer B pattern (starting summer 2026) with maximum flexibility.

The [Calendar Updates website](#) will continue to be refreshed with additional information for the remainder of the year. The Registrar's Office has a [permanent website](#) for the current and next three year's academic calendars, for your planning.

Radford University will continue to evolve and adapt, and through this calendar discussion, Faculty Senate and Academic Affairs Leadership are learning how to work together on "wicked" university issues. I will consult with the appropriate committees and constituents to make collaborative and creative solutions. I appreciate everyone's thoughtful input through this initial process.

My best wishes as you balance cramming in fun and semester preparation over the next week as we welcome this large cohort! Thanks, as always, for your partnership and your excellent work.

Bethany

## Fall 2025 Final Exam Schedule

Starting in the Fall 2025 semester, classes will be scheduled for their normal meeting pattern through the end of the semester without a separate final exam week schedule. This update is part of Radford's newly adopted academic calendar model for 2025-2026 academic year and beyond. For classes that need an exception to the regularly scheduled class period for finals, an alternative evening final exam schedule during the last week of the semester is in development. A cross-functional team is currently developing resources and support through CITL, a process for exceptions to the final exam schedule, and reviewing faculty handbook final exam language. Academic calendars through 2027-2028 academic year are available on the [University website](#).

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## FERPA Training Reminder

### **Reminder that FERPA training was due for all current employees by December 6, 2024.**

FERPA is a Federal Law outlining requirements for the privacy of student record information. Access to systems containing student record information (Banner, D2L, Degree Works, etc.) will be revoked for employees who do not complete FERPA training.

If you have not yet completed FERPA training, please access the training in OneCampus by following these steps:

Go to <https://onecampus.radford.edu/>.

In the search bar type in "Security Awareness Training" and click the tile with the light gray subtitle "SANS".

Login and access the training. Important note, your username will be [USERNAME]@radford.edu (eg. [bgburton1@radford.edu](mailto:bgburton1@radford.edu)).

If you are a first-time user please search your Radford email for an email from Radford IT Security [itsecurity@radford.edu](mailto:itsecurity@radford.edu) with the subject "Radford University Security Awareness Training - Login Information". This email will help you create your account used to access the training. If you have forgotten your password, click the "I've forgotten my username/password" link. Follow the directions it gives to complete the reset of your password.

If you have challenges accessing the training, please get in touch with the Technology Assistance Center at <https://radford.service-now.com/itonestop> or call 540-831-7500.

[Find out more about FERPA](#)

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## Curriculum & Catalog Project Update

A project is currently underway to combine the undergraduate and graduate catalogs into one university catalog in academic year 25-26, and to improve curriculum and catalog processes. This project is a partnership between the Office of the Registrar and the Vice Provost for Faculty and Curriculum, with input from the Curriculum Cycle and Process Flow Task Force. Outcomes of this project include integration of undergraduate and graduate catalogs into a unified university catalog, systems improvements to streamline curriculum and catalog processes, and improvements to curriculum forms. In the coming months, please expect information on the rollout of updated curriculum forms, 25-26 catalog edit and publication timeframes, and training.

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# General Education Improvement Task Force

Since our charge meeting in mid-December, the General Education Improvement Task Force has been working with the data collected during the Fall 2024 semester listening tours and the November 11 workshop, along with the feedback from faculty and students collected through Qualtrics surveys.

The Task Force held a two-day retreat to develop drafts of Mission and Values statements, General Education Program goals and learning outcomes, and a structure for the General Education Program.

Starting on Tuesday, January 14, each College representative to the Task Force will send the draft material to their faculty for review and feedback. Please take some time, individually and within your department/school, to discuss the drafts; your Task Force representative will also send a QR code/link to a Qualtrics survey where you can provide feedback.

The Task Force is charged with providing recommendations to the Provost and the Faculty Senate by February 21. We will meet on the following dates to accomplish various tasks.

- Jan 17 – develop assessment architecture
- Jan 27 – implementation timeline
- Jan 31 – review structure, assessment, and implementation considering feedback from faculty
- Feb 10 – prepare final recommendations

The Task Force would like to thank Dr. Jennifer Hart, Senior Scholar in the Office of Curricular and Pedagogical Innovation at the American Association of Colleges and University, for her expertise as coach and facilitator, and Dr. Geoff Pollick, Faculty Senate Secretary, for coordinating the Fall 2024 General Education Improvement activities

David Beach, Chair, General Education Improvement Task Force

Find out more about the General Education  
Improvement Task Force

## Provost Speaker Series

The Inaugural Provost Speaker Series is scheduled to begin on January 28, 2025 at 7pm. This series will take place at the Performance Hub in the Artis Center (On April 22, the event will be held in Roanoke). These presentations will take a format similar to TED Talks, and a small reception will take place after each event.

- |               |                                  |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| • January 28  | Luke Liska                       |
| • February 18 | Roberto and Rachel Santos        |
| • March 18    | Jennifer McDonel                 |
| • April 22    | Sallie Beth Johnson (In Roanoke) |

# News from the Office of Graduate Affairs

## Increased Graduate Assistant Pay

We are excited to announce a 13% increase in stipends for all Graduate Assistants, Graduate Research Assistants, Graduate Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Teaching Fellows. The increased stipend amount will be reflected in payments issued by January 15th, ensuring our graduate team can continue to focus on their important work with added financial support.

## Graduate Student Travel Awards

Amount: Up to \$500 per student, per year

Eligibility: Graduate students presenting at conferences and participating in research activities are encouraged to apply. The Graduate Student Travel Award can help cover costs related to travel, registration, or accommodations. Submit [applications](#) to [gradaffairs@radford.edu](mailto:gradaffairs@radford.edu).

## Self-Care Series: Graduate Student Book Club

Date: January 29

Kick off the new year with our Self-Care Book Club, a supportive space to connect over inspiring reads, starting with *Daring Greatly* by Brené Brown. Join us on Zoom or in person to unwind, share insights, and explore meaningful topics that promote well-being.

## Tailor Your Resume

Offered By: Career and Talent Development

Availability: By Appointment

<https://www.radford.edu/career/index.html>

Personalized support to help you craft a strong, tailored resume for your career path. Schedule an appointment to work one-on-one with a career advisor and ensure your resume stands out.

For additional information or if you have any questions please reach out to [gradaffairs@radford.edu](mailto:gradaffairs@radford.edu).

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# New Faculty Orientation

CITL, ITS, and Student Affairs are once again offering a **new faculty orientation next Thursday, January 16, from 5-7 p.m. via Zoom (link below)**. We have no way of contacting all of our new adjunct faculty colleagues, so we'd appreciate it if you could ask chairs to share with their new folks. If anyone has full-time faculty members starting in January, this would be a great event for them to attend as well.

Zoom info:

Topic: New Faculty Orientation

Time: Jan 16, 2025 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://radford.zoom.us/j/99402233759>

Join from a Telephone :

Dial +1 408 638 0968

Enter Meeting ID 99402233759

International numbers available: <https://radford.zoom.us/j/99402233759>

Join from a Room Systems: [99402233759@zoomcrc.com](mailto:99402233759@zoomcrc.com)

To download the zoom client, go to <https://zoom.us/download>

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**Radford**  
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University Libraries

## Library News

McConnell Library and Radford University in Roanoke Library will be closed on **Tuesday, Jan 14** for staff development. However, our electronic resources and online chat service are always available at [library.radford.edu](http://library.radford.edu)

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### Library Instruction for Spring 2025

Remember to [schedule library instruction for your classes](#) that incorporate information literacy and research skills: e.g. [searching for, evaluating, and using sources](#). If you have questions or would like to discuss ideas, contact Alyssa Archer, Head of Research Services for McConnell Library, at [aarcher2@radford.edu](mailto:aarcher2@radford.edu).

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## Headshot photos for employees on main campus will be offered on Jan. 16, 23, 24

The Office of Marketing and Communication will take headshot photos for any new employees on main campus who need one for the website directory, as well as for returning employees who would like a more current photo for the directory. If you are interested in having your photo taken, please come to the Photo Studio (adjacent to the Marketing and Communication suite 115 on the first floor of Martin Hall) during one of the following times:

- **Thursday, Jan. 16, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.**
- **Thursday, Jan. 23, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.**
- **Friday, Jan. 24, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.**

An announcement for dates and times for Roanoke headshots is forthcoming.

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