



Radford
UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

THREADS

June 15, 2026

Message from Provost Usher

In early June, we held another successful Radford University Board of Visitors meeting! We joked that success could just mean not being on the news, but one of the BOV members pointed out that right now, even that is a high bar. Luckily, we launched well over that.

I lead the Academic Excellence and Student Success committee meeting which I organize around our Strategic Priorities (see below). Dean Donna McCloskey gave a short presentation highlighting the partnerships growing in the the College of Business and Economics, including the New River Community Action Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, the nascent Virginia Credit Union Financial Success Center, and the potential to add a Saxby's Coffee in Kyle Hall.

Academic Affairs Strategic Priorities



**Develop a
Strategic
Curricular
Portfolio**



**Improve
Student
Success**



**Ensure
Experiential and
Work-based
Learning
Opportunities**



**Foster Multi-
Disciplinary and
Community
Collaboration**



**Support Thriving
Faculty and Staff**

Use technology and data wisely to improve outcomes

We highlighted the continuing work around the Curriculum Portfolio, including our progress on the General Education program and new graduate certificate programs. The committee and the BOV voted to close the MS programs in Athletic Training and the Data and Information Management, as passed by Faculty Senate. We showed strong numbers for summer Quest and the early positive indicators for fall retention, with a prediction of a total student population for next year being about the same as this year (as we had planned). We also showed that 85% of 2025 graduates participated in Experiential Learning, and 92% of graduates were employed, in graduate school, or the in military 6 months after graduations. Those are all stellar numbers and showcase the excellent work of our Academic Affairs faculty and staff.

In staff items, we welcomed new members of the Academic Affairs Leadership Team: Christine Small as the Interim Dean of the Artis College of Business and Economics and Adam Barger as the new Assistant Vice President for Radford Online (digital strategy). We celebrated that Dr. Ashley Wells has accepted our offer to be the new Assistant Vice President for Health Sciences, starting in August. Note that none of these are additional positions - they are newly designed positions from existing lines that will support Academic Affairs (and you) in meeting our goals.

The BOV recognized Matt Close for his two years of service on the board with a lovely [resolution](#) about his impact on the Radford University community, and they welcomed incoming Faculty Senate President Courtney Watson as the faculty representative for the upcoming year.

Finally, we recognized five new emeritus faculty (Associate Professor, Elizabeth Altieri, Associate Professor, Carol Bland, Associate Professor, Sarah Brown, Professor Kristan Morrison and Professor Bruce Mahin, who have made significant contributions to Radford University.

Information Item: 2026-2027 Faculty Emeriti



Associate Professor Elizabeth Altieri
School of Teacher Education & Leadership, College of Education and Human Development



Associate Professor Carol Bland
School of Teacher Education & Leadership, College of Education and Human Development



Associate Professor Sarah Brown
Graduate Nursing, College of Nursing



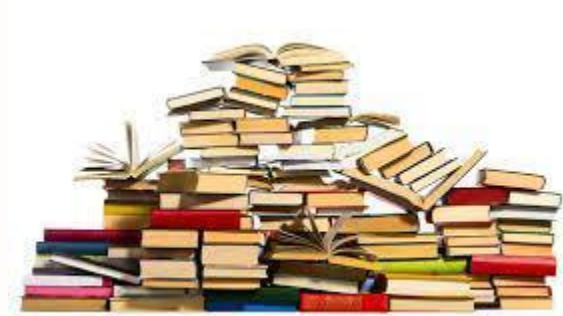
Professor Kristan Morrison
School of Teacher Education & Leadership, College of Education and Human Development



Professor Bruce Mahin
Department of Music, College of Visual and Performing Arts

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer, with a good balance of engaged work and happy recharging!

Bethany



What are you reading this summer?

Bethany has embraced summer, reading the thrilling *Heartwood* by Amity Gage about a finding a missing hiker on the Appalachian Trail; relieving her Arizona hiking days through *A Walk in the Park* by Kevin Federako (although her hikes were much less treacherous); and preparing for the fall by re-reading *The Caring University* by Kevin McClure.

Karen Montgomery (Executive Administrative Assistant-Office of the Provost) suggests... *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein

The book explores the history of housing segregation in America, arguing that modern racial division is not the result of personal preferences or income gaps (*de facto* segregation). Instead, it is the direct result of decades of explicit, government-sponsored policies (*de jure* segregation).

Interested in a book club? Alison Armstrong, *Collections Management Librarian*, hosts a 'Bookish' faculty/staff book club. Bookish meets at McConnell Library every Thursday from 2:00pm-4:00pm. Share your thoughts about your current reading and get ideas to add to your TBR pile! If you have questions, contact amarmstro@radford.edu

Suggested Summer Reading

- Perkins&Will will be onsite June 16-17 for Workshop 3. This workshop will build on prior discussions with academic units and support service departments.
- The design team continues to assess and validate:
 - Current and future cohort projections
 - Staffing needs
 - Space requirements
 - Adjacency needs
- Meetings, both in-person and virtual, will focus on:
 - Reviewing curriculum analysis
 - Evaluating space utilization data
 - Confirming future program and operational needs



Congratulations to Professor Laura Link, program director of the Medical Sciences Laboratory program, for being selected as this year's Libraries Champion during the annual Winesett Awards! We are extremely grateful for Laura's lifelong dedication to libraries, especially the Radford University Libraries, and are delighted to recognize her commitment and enthusiasm. The libraries thank you, Laura, for always championing us!

Discover, explore, and engage with history, anytime, anywhere, through the rich digital resources offered by Radford University Archives & Special Collections.

Our [Digital Archives](#) provide online access to a growing collection of photographs, documents, oral histories, and audiovisual materials that highlight the history of Radford University and the surrounding Appalachian region. Whether you are conducting research, preparing coursework, or simply exploring local history, these digitized materials bring the past directly to you.

For those seeking deeper context, our [online finding aids](#), available on our website, serve as detailed guides to our all of our archival collections. These tools help students, faculty, and researchers identify relevant materials and better understand the scope and significance of our holdings before visiting in person or requesting assistance.

We also extend our reach through engaging and informative online content. The [McConnell Library Archives Blog](#) features collection highlights, historical essays, and behind-the-scenes insights into archival work, offering a closer look at the stories preserved in our collections. Complementing this is our [Appalachian Music and Culture Blog](#), which celebrates the rich traditions, artistry, and lived experiences of the region through curated content drawn from our unique holdings.

Together, these digital resources ensure that Radford University Archives & Special Collections remains accessible, dynamic, and connected to a wide audience, supporting scholarship, inspiring curiosity, and preserving stories for future generations. For questions or to contact the Radford University Archives & Special Collections, send us an email: archives@radford.edu



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McConnell Library
Radford University

Archives and Special Collections

The McConnell Library Archives and Special Collections supports the teaching, research and public service missions of McConnell Library by collecting, preserving, organizing, and making accessible unique primary source materials that document the history of Radford University, Southwest Virginia, and Appalachia



Radford
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Office of Undergraduate
Research and Scholarship

Office of Undergraduate Research

8th Winter CARD - December 2-3, 2026

Please add the following Winter CARD dates to your fall syllabus and planning calendar. Winter CARD provides undergraduate and graduate students an opportunity to present research, creative works, and other academic projects in a conference-style setting on campus.

- **Presentation titles and authors due:** November 4, 2026 (midnight)
- **Poster printing deadline:** November 11, 2026
- **Oral presentations:** December 2, 2026
- **Poster presentations:** December 3, 2026, 11:00 a.m.-6:15 p.m.

Faculty are encouraged to identify courses, mentored projects, and other student work that may be appropriate for presentation.

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