



Radford
UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

THREADS

May 4, 2026



Message from Provost Usher

As I said at Commencement, everyone on the platform recognizes the value of the faculty and staff in the success of all those happy and accomplished students launching themselves into the next step in their lives.

Thank you for the work that you are doing to wrap up the spring semester, and for many of you, to prep for summer teaching and research. I appreciate the many of you are also in the CITL-organized May Our Turn and all the other activities we have to support you. We'll also continue to move forward this summer with some of our major initiatives: the Roanoke Building, EAB Navigate implementation, the Learning Management System RFP, General Education updates - some of you will participate, and we'll have lots of opportunities for you to weigh in when you return in the fall.

This summer, I'd like to continue the summer reading list. I've just finished *Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men* by Caroline Criado-Perez. The book was published in 2019 - while not too long ago, it's also a lifetime away. Since publication, we've experienced the pandemic and the AI-revolution. It made me be much more cognizant of how the questions we ask and the way we structure and interpret the answers (especially re-using that data in AI-models) can amplify biases of many kinds.

With gratitude and admiration!

Bethany

Faculty Award Winners:

- **Distinguished Service Award** – Dr. Paige Tan, Professor of Political Science, Faculty Fellow for Graduate Affairs
- **Distinguished Faculty Advising Award** – Dr. Shannon Dechant, Assistant Professor, Department of Graduate Nursing
- **Distinguished Creative Scholar Award** – Dr. Zachary Collier, Assistant Professor of Management, Director of the Center for Applied Analytics
- **Award for Administrative and Professional Excellence** – Dr. Aysha Bodenhamer, Manager of Sustainability
- **Anna Lee Stewart Award for Contributions to Faculty Development** – Dr. Joseph Wirgau, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Professor of Chemistry
- **Donald N. Dedmon Distinguished Teaching Professional Award** – Dr. Sandra French, Professor of Communications
- **Dalton Eminent Scholars, Rising Star** – Dr. Young-Kook Moon, Assistant Professor of Psychology
- **Dalton Eminent Scholars, Senior Scholar** – Dr. Jerry Kopf, Professor and Chair of Management
- **Dalton Eminent Scholars, Senior Scholar** – Dr. Thomas Duncan, Professor and Chair of Economics

[See full list of awards and winners](#)

Career Champions:

As we close out the year, we want to give a shout out to all the faculty who became Career Champions! These faculty and staff participated in career-connected professional development and implemented their learnings into classes and advising, creating a culture where every student can plan, prepare, and confidently pursue opportunities.

[See the full list here!](#)

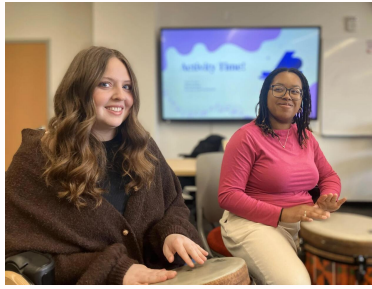
Planning for Radford University’s new Academic Health Sciences Building in Roanoke continues, and your engagement is essential.

Updates:

- The Perkins & Will design team will return to campus **May 6–7** for additional tours and engagement sessions.
- Join us on **May 6th from 2-3 PM in Room 617 at RUC** or via [Zoom](#) (Passcode 934315) for an information session. The design team will lead us through a workshop sharing feedback around space types (simulation, skills training, research, student and public spaces, classrooms, and individual workspace) and characteristics that may be desired in the new building.
- A short [survey](#) (*less than 10 minutes*) is open until **May 10th** to gather feedback on current space use, satisfaction, and priorities to help shape the building’s vision and guiding principles.

[Find updates on our dedicated webpage](#)

Radford Music Therapy in the Spotlight



Radford students Cailyn Wilson and Ashley Glover practice leading a drum circle during a music therapy club meeting, an intervention used in therapeutic settings. Photo credit: Roxy Todd/WVTF

Our local NPR affiliate, WVTF, recently featured our students and faculty in a look at music therapy and the Radford program, one of the oldest in the nation. Reporter Roxy Todd highlighted the program through student and faculty perspectives, showing how training, hands-on experience, and community engagement prepare students to use music as a clinical tool in diverse care settings. It also places the program within broader changes in Virginia, where new licensure efforts are working to formalize and expand recognition of music therapy as a professional practice.

The Highland Summer Conference returns to Radford University this summer, during the week of July 20-24.

The Highland Summer Conference, established at Radford University in 1978, celebrates education, creative writing, regional music, and Appalachian culture. This year's guest instructor is Marianne Worthington, teacher, widely published writer, editor, and founder of *Still: The Journal*. Her latest book, *The Girl Singer*, explores country music, Appalachian culture, and feminism in her unique voice. The Highland Summer Conference offers course credit for Radford University students. Students who enroll in the course can earn credit in English or Appalachian Studies, for graduate or undergraduate credit. Other participants may enroll for the experience itself, with a conference discount for students and seniors.

Radford in Taiwan Study Abroad Program

The long running and successful Radford in Taiwan Study Abroad Program will embark this summer on another adventure! This year, the program will include time in both Taiwan and South Korea. Students will build their skill and fluency in Mandarin while exploring historic sites, visiting national museums, practicing calligraphy and ceramics, and participating in cultural events and hands on activities like k-pop dance classes, stone carving, and cooking classes. Students return from this experience with improved language skills, an appreciation for the rich history and culture of South Korea and Taiwan, and a better understanding of global travel. Dr. I-Ping Fu creates a unique itinerary every summer, so no two Study Abroad experiences are the same. She takes great care to customize each trip to focus on the interests and career plans of students, often including

visits to industry, education, and entertainment centers that allow students to meet professionals in their chosen field. Returning student Nettie Reed offered her perspective on Radford in Taiwan 2025: *"The overall experience I had in Taiwan was once in a lifetime. Throughout the trip, there were many places and activities that introduced Taiwanese culture. I study abroad often and this was the best program I have participated in. This program has greatly increased my knowledge of Chinese culture and language and take what I have learned and apply it to my daily life. This program has also given many Radford University students employment opportunities. It is a unique trip that allows people of all majors to understand and appreciate other cultures. Upon returning, I immediately knew I wanted to participate in the program the following year and was excited to see another country being added."*



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Reach out to the Office of Sponsored Programs to learn more about the resources provided by Hanover and hear how Sponsored Program can help assist you in these efforts!

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Extension: 5479



Upcoming Faculty & Staff Workshops from the University Libraries

Our librarians are offering several sessions during the **[CITL-organized May Our Turn.](#)**

- Learn faster, easier ways to locate library sources in **Finding & Accessing Full Text Library**

Resources Using Google Scholar & LibKey Nomad on Tuesday, May 5th from 11 am - 11:50 am with Barbara Tait and Lisa Vassady.

- Find out more about the university's **Syllabus and Scholars' Repositories** with Elizabeth McCormick on Monday, May 4th from 10 - 10:50 am.
-

\$200 Stipends: Affordable Course Materials Zoom Workshop from the University Libraries and OEN

Wednesday, May 20th from 1 - 2 pm by our Open Education Network Campus Leaders, Dr. Dan Farhat, Professor of Economics, and Prof. Alyssa Archer, Head of Research Services at University Libraries.

Open to any teaching faculty wanting to learn more about [Open Educational Resources \[OER\]](#). VIVA offers a \$200 stipend per calendar year to faculty members who first attend this session, THEN review a textbook in the [Open Textbook Library](#) by Friday, August 7th (all stipends will be paid after the due date).

Sign up to receive Zoom invite

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