



**Radford**  
UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

# THREADS

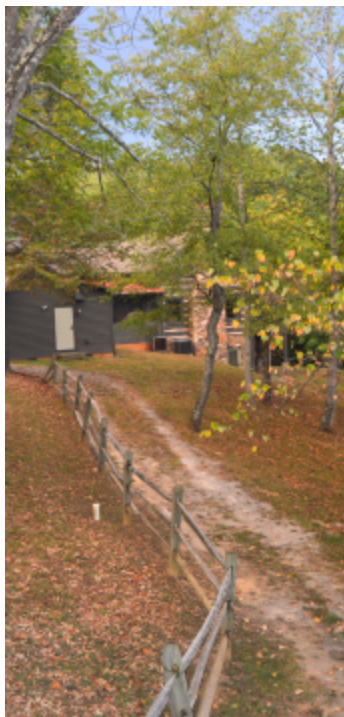
September 15, 2025

This newsletter is so full of important information that I don't want to take up too much of your time reading my comments. Instead, I encourage you to open your calendar and browser, start putting events on your calendar, and considering getting involved in the many opportunities listed! As a community, we rely on faculty and staff being active members to support the amazing array of educational opportunities we offer students. Leadership opportunities also give you the change to learn new skills and contribute in unique ways. I appreciate how everyone serves across Radford University!

As you know, we are living and teaching in politically volatile times. While it is very important to keep personal perspectives and conversations unrelated to subjects out of the classroom, it is also vitally important to educate students so that they be informed and engaged citizens. University Libraries includes information below about free access to reliable news sources you can include in your course materials, and we have opportunities for students to be involved in the Highlander Voter Corps.

Thank you for all that you are doing!

Bethany



## *September* **SOCIAL AT SELU**

All Radford University  
Faculty & Staff are invited!

Snacks, non-alcohol beverages,  
live music, and fall vibes are  
provided. Cash bar available.

3215 Dry Valley Road  
Radford, VA 24141

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2025**  
**4:30PM - 6:00PM**



All University employees are invited to the monthly Social at Selu on Thursday, September 18, 2025

from 4:30pm – 6:00pm. Snacks and drinks provided. Cash bar available. Live music and fall vibes will fill the air as we pause and enjoy community.

Need directions to Selu?

- Turn off Tyler Ave onto Lovely Mount Drive. (turn is beside the Comfort Inn, across from Tru by Hilton)
  - Proceed for 0.8 miles.
- Turn LEFT onto Dry Valley Road. (cross over a bridge)
  - Proceed for 1.4 miles.
- Turn RIGHT onto Sale-Selu Lane. Look for a small sign on a large oak tree and a large mirror. *This is a gravel road and cows may be present.*
- Continue straight until you enter Selu.



What could be better than RAD Talks with the Office of the Provost???? RAD Talks at Arabica Cafe!

Please join us on **Wednesday, September 24th, 7pm** for our exciting first speaker in the RAD Talks series for the Fall semester. We will have some delicious finger foods and tasty drinks provided by Arabica Cafe. You will also be able to order from the menu if you would like something more filling.

Watch your email for the announcement of our first speaker coming soon!



**Meet the Team:** We're excited to welcome Ashley Strawn to the Office of the Registrar as the Military Education Benefits and Compliance Manager. Ashely joined the Registrar's Office team on August 10th, and previously worked in the Bursar's Office. Ashley serves as the School Certifying Official for students utilizing military education benefits. You'll see Ashley at Highlander Day and Quest events. She can be reached at [astrawn@radford.edu](mailto:astrawn@radford.edu).



**Free personal hygiene care supplies for students at McConnell Library**

Did you know that McConnell Library offers free personal care supplies for students?

Thanks to generous donors who contributed through Highlander Giving Days, as well as the support of the Montgomery County Health Department, the library maintains a shelf stocked with personal hygiene items. Supplies include soap, deodorant, condoms and more, and are available to any student who needs them.

Additionally, period products are stocked in all of the library’s single-occupant bathrooms. The shelf is located in the McConnell Lounge near the front desk. Please let students know they may help themselves to supplies any time the library is open.

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### Break Through Paywalls: Find News Articles through Radford University Libraries

You have access to many high-quality popular sources that are paywalled on the web through Radford University Libraries’ subscription databases. Use SuperSearch on the library's homepage to find specific publications. Learn how to navigate with our [Finding News and Magazine Articles Research Guide](#). We offer access to many publications including:

- The Chronicle of Higher Education
- The New York Times Academic Pass
- The Wall Street Journal
- The Atlantic
- The National Review
- The New Yorker
- The Washington Post

Find direct links to many of the above in our [Research Guide](#). Chat with a human librarian [via Ask a Librarian 24/7 chat](#) for assistance.

If you are teaching a class in which your students have an assignment to find and use a variety of sources, including news and other popular and/or scholarly sources, we offer [course-integrated workshops on relevant information literacy skills](#) as well as a self-paced D2L module on [Identifying and Evaluating Sources](#) that anyone may enroll in.



Fellow Highlanders,

Highlanders Vote is looking for people who are passionate about helping every Highlander register and vote. Along with the Campus Voter Team, we table at events and visit UNIV 100 classes to help register people to vote.

Would you like to help us in our mission to register every Highlander? We want you to join us as part of the Highlander Voter Corps.

If you have any questions, please contact Malcolm Chrepta at [ychrepta@radford.edu](mailto:ychrepta@radford.edu) or Chapman Rackaway at [crackaway@radford.edu](mailto:crackaway@radford.edu).

It's easy to sign up



**New Gallery Officially Opened:** Gallery 302 in the Artis Center (located across from the dean's office, officially opened on Thursday, September 11. This space will house small, unique exhibitions from various artists working in a variety of media. Currently, needlework artist Becca Foster's exhibition *Thimbles in Thread: Embroidered Wonders* is on public display through October 22 when there will be a public reception for the artist beginning at 3 p.m. Regular gallery hours are noon to 4 p.m. every Thursday through Saturday. All exhibitions are free and open to the public.

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## Brown Bag Discussion with Provost Bethany Usher

~Lunch and Learn~

Drop in to ask questions and engage in conversation about University initiatives and national conversations.

We will provide a comfortable setting and dessert. Feel free to bring your own lunch and questions/topics for discussion.

No registration or RSVP needed

- **Main Campus McConnell 270 (CITL, 2nd floor) | October 20 | Noon - 1**
  - **Main Campus McConnell 270 (CITL, 2nd floor) | November 18 | Noon - 1**
  - **RUC Room 1021 | December 2 | Noon - 1**
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## Exploring AI in Higher Education - Fall 2025 Discussion Series

This fall, join Radford faculty and professionals for a series of Zoom presentations and discussions on the opportunities, challenges, and future of AI in higher education. Each session highlights a different perspective—from practical teaching strategies to broader questions of ethics, literacy, and human-centered learning.

- **Tuesday, Sept 16, 1:00 p.m.**

[Zoom-based Article Discussion](#)

Facilitated by David Anderson, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropological Sciences

**Article link:**

[The LLMentalist Effect: How Chat-Based Large Language Models Replicate the Mechanisms of a Psychic's Con](#)

- **Tuesday, Oct 7, 3:30 p.m.**

[AI in Teaching: Practical, Ethical, and Effective Strategies](#)

Presentation by Court Bosworth, Associate Professor, School of Communication

- **Tuesday, Oct 14, 9:00 a.m.**

[Using the AI Explainpaper to Help Students Better Understand Journal Articles](#)

Facilitated by Mark Burnette, Writing Specialist, Highlander Success Center, RU Carilion

- **Wednesday, Oct 29, 9:00 a.m.**

[The Future of Artificial Intelligence in Education](#)

Facilitated by Boyoung Park, Professor, School of Teacher Education and Leadership



## New Staff

The Office of Graduate Affairs is excited to welcome **Dr. Paige Tan** as our new Faculty Fellow! A professor of political science, Dr. Tan has founded Model UN at Radford, co-created the Wicked Festival, led career-focused initiatives, and co-PI'd a \$604,000 grant from the *Educating Character Initiative*. She is passionate about mentoring students and advancing policies and procedures that can strengthen graduate education. We are thrilled to have her join our team!

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to **Dr. Jean Mistele** for her outstanding service as Faculty Fellow over the past eight months. Her dedication and leadership have greatly strengthened graduate education at Radford, and we deeply appreciate her many contributions.

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## Important Dates – Fall 2025

**Withdrawal Deadlines:** (*Withdraw by the deadline receive "W" on transcript*)

- Fall A 2025 Course Withdrawal (Fast Track): September 26th, 2025
- Fall A 2025 University Withdrawal (Fast Track): October 2nd, 2025
- Fall 2025 Course Withdrawal: October 31st, 2025
- Fall 2025 University Withdrawal: November 14th, 2025
- Fall B 2025 Course Withdrawal (Fast Track): November 25th, 2025
- Fall B 2025 University Withdrawal (Fast Track): December 1st, 2025

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## Degree/Certificate Deadlines:

- Fall B 2025 (Fast Track): October 27th, 2025

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## Outstanding Graduate Student Awards

The Office of Graduate Affairs is accepting nominations for the Graduate Student Awards, recognizing outstanding achievement in academics, research, teaching, and professional development.

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## Professional Development

### Character Building for Aspiring Leaders – Dr. Tay Keong Tan

September 18th, 2025 | 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM | HH 3016

RSVP

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### Ethical Leadership Workshop – Dr. Timothy Reed, ODK VP for Membership & Operations

September 18th, 2025 | 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM | HH 1016

RSVP



## Highlander Success Center Kudos!

The Highlander Success Center Advising team went above and beyond to kick off the fall semester! Between August 22nd and August 29th, our dedicated academic advisors met with an incredible 857 students during drop-in hours.

From schedule adjustments to ensuring students started the term on the right track, our advisors worked tirelessly to provide personalized support, guidance, and encouragement. Their commitment has helped set the tone for a successful semester, ensuring every Highlander has the tools they need to thrive.

Thank you to our amazing advising team for your hard work, energy, and dedication to student success!

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## 4th Week Progress Report

The Week 4 Progress Report, facilitated through Starfish, allows faculty to quickly raise Academic Performance Flags and submit referrals to campus support services. These flags enable early intervention for students facing academic challenges. Referrals connect students with vital campus resources and support.

The Week 4 Progress Report will include students in all 100- and 200-level courses. By prioritizing these foundational courses, we can strategically provide support to strengthen students' academic

success during a pivotal time in the semester. However, instructors of any course can manually raise flags and submit referrals at any time during the semester.

*Report Opens in Starfish:* Monday, September 15

*Report Closes in Starfish:* Monday, September 22, 5:00 PM

If you have questions about the Week 4 Progress Report or Starfish, please contact Susan Hudson at [smhill@radford.edu](mailto:smhill@radford.edu) or (540) 831-6735.

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## Faculty Fellow for Nationally Competitive Awards

The Honors College invites faculty applications for a new opportunity supporting all Radford University students pursuing nationally competitive awards (e.g., Goldwater, Udall, Gaither). The faculty member in this role will serve as a central point of contact and build a strategic plan to identify, mentor, and prepare both honors and non-honors students to apply for these awards. Reporting through the Honors College, the position is supported through funding for reassigned time, professional development, and a \$2500 stipend summer stipend. Inquiries are welcome and should be directed to Niels Christensen, Director of the Honors College ([pchristen@radford.edu](mailto:pchristen@radford.edu), x6125). A current CV and letter of interest addressing the position should be emailed to [pchristen@radford.edu](mailto:pchristen@radford.edu) by **October 18th, 2025**. Candidates considered for this position will need approval from their chair/director and dean prior to appointment.

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## Honors Faculty Fellows

The Honors College invites applications from tenured or tenure-track faculty to serve 3-year terms as Honors Faculty Fellows. Two appointments are anticipated to begin in May 2026. 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](mailto:pchristen@radford.edu), x6125).

**Honors Faculty Fellow Information and Application**

Application deadline **November 1st, 2025**

New Fellow terms begin May, 2026

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**Capturing Research Expenditures at Radford University**

Radford University actively participates in several national surveys and reports that track research and development (R&D) expenditures. These efforts help ensure that both internally and externally funded research is properly recognized and counted. Research and development is a vital part of supporting innovation, enhancing teaching, and preparing students to meet today's workforce needs. Participating in these surveys not only allows us to benchmark our performance against peer institutions, but also highlights program achievements. To qualify as a research expenditure, the activity must stem from creative and systematic work undertaken with the goal of acquiring new knowledge or applying existing knowledge to develop or improve products, processes, or systems. With your help, we can ensure that all qualifying activities—whether it's research-related travel, student stipends, or internally funded projects—are accurately captured.

Here's how you can help assist:

- Properly code research expenditures in the Enburse travel system when faculty or students are traveling for research related purposes – this includes presenting at conferences.
- If students (undergraduate or graduate) are being paid for participating in research activities, please communicate with the Office of Sponsored Programs at [tcruise@radford.edu](mailto:tcruise@radford.edu) so that their office has this information on file.



## 2025 Fall Career Fair

September 18, 2025

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Kyle Hall 340

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## Career Closet

Students are invited to stop by the Career Closet located in Russell Hall 3rd floor, Monday-Friday from 9:00 am-5:00 pm to browse, try on, and **keep** business clothing for interviews, career fairs, and other career-oriented activities and occasions. No appointment necessary.

## Donations

We need new and gently used suits, pants, blazers, dress shirts, blouses, skirts, dresses, belts, ties, and professional shoes (new or clean, gently worn). Used clothing should be dry-cleaned or pre-washed, ready-to-wear, and appropriate for interviews, networking events, etc. We are also accepting monetary gifts that will be used to purchase clothing for the closet. Clothing donations can be dropped off in Russell Hall, 3rd floor, Monday-Friday from 9:00 am-5:00 pm. Monetary gifts can be made via this link: [Monetary Gift](#)

For more information, please contact Debbie Fenderson at [dfenderson@radford.edu](mailto:dfenderson@radford.edu) or 540-831-6167. Thank you for supporting the Career Closet and our students!



## Fulbright Program – Faculty Opportunities

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program's 2026-2027 competition is now open! Consider advancing your



faculty professional development by applying to one of the many prestigious Fulbright opportunities. Types of awards include:

- [Fulbright Scholar Awards](#)
- [Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Awards](#)
- [Fulbright Postdoctoral Awards](#) (for recently graduated scholars)
- [Fulbright International Education Administrator Awards](#)

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program offers over 400 awards in more than 135 countries for U.S. citizens to teach, conduct research and carry out professional projects around the world. College and university faculty, as well as artists and professionals from a wide range of fields can join over 400,000 Fulbrighters who have come away with enhanced skills, new connections, and greater mutual understanding.

Please contact Dr. Ismael Betancourt, Assistant Provost for Global Education and Engagement, at [ibetancourtvelez@radford.edu](mailto:ibetancourtvelez@radford.edu) with any questions.

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## Fulbright Program – Student Opportunity

The McGlothlin Center for Global Education and Engagement is looking for professors and advisors who are interested in promoting the **Fulbright Student Scholarship** program to their classes and advisees. This is an excellent opportunity for rising Seniors to apply for a world-renowned program to either conduct a research project or teach English in a foreign country after graduation. If you would be interested in promoting the Fulbright program by having someone come present to your class, please contact Colleen Choate ([cchoate1@radford.edu](mailto:cchoate1@radford.edu)).

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## Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities:



The Council on Undergraduate Research

## URP Exchange: Vertically Integrated Programs

September 16 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Hosted by the CUR Undergraduate Research Program Division, these 50-minute Zoom sessions are monthly facilitated exchanges of ideas and information on a variety of topics and issues related to undergraduate research programs. Sessions will be recorded and posted to the URP page.

This month's topic is Vertically Integrated Programs and will feature representatives from Kennesaw State University, Rice University, and the University of Arizona.

[Register Here!](#)

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## Hanover Webinar: Developing Relationships with Private Foundations

*In this one-hour session, Cultivating Foundation Relationships, the presenter will discuss key differences between foundation and federal funders, introduce a foundation taxonomy to help participants quickly categorize foundation funders during the prospecting process, and offer a*

*networking strategy to guide outreach to foundations. The presentation will emphasize the importance of internal coordination prior to engaging foundation funders and the benefits of a long-term relational approach. Time will be allotted to consider as a group participants' planned foundation outreach and existing foundation relationships.*

Register Here!

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## Radford University Partnership with [4-VA](#)

4-VA is a partnership between nine Virginia universities, created to foster collaborations that leverage the strengths of each university and improve efficiencies in education across the commonwealth. Thanks to 4-VA, unprecedented alliances between schools, departments, faculty, and students generate significant, innovative solutions to educational and real-world challenges. 4-VA has pioneered a broad range of advancements in education that includes research, pilot courses, redesigned courses, shared courses, online programs, STEM education, industry-focused adult degrees, new technologies, interventions, workshops, conferences, as well as paths to degree completion.

Radford University, which recently began participating in 4-VA, seeks to advance both the 4-VA goals as well as our own by fostering pedagogical and research collaborations with partner schools through course sharing, course redesign grants, and collaborative ventures between 4-VA institutions. **Radford University participates in complementary funding up to \$5,000 as funds are available.** Radford faculty named as a collaborator in a proposal funded [by another 4-VA Institution are eligible for complementary funding](#). Awards up to \$5,000 will be disbursed after the primary 4-VA institution notifies Radford University once the award has been funded. For more information about 4-VA projects and sources of support for planned or ongoing initiatives, email [Dr. Jeanne Mekolichick](#), Virginia Tech 4-VA Campus Coordinator, or [Tom Cruise](#), Virginia Tech 4-VA Deputy Campus Coordinator.

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## COMING SOON.....

The Office of Sponsored Programs will be announcing a call for proposals for *our The Interdisciplinary Research Team Project Development Award* which aims to foster collaborative, cross-discipline research and scholarly activity in the following focus areas: Healthcare (e.g., health disparities, rural health, mental health, healthcare education), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Community workforce training that boots economic development and Community engagement promoting cultural heritage, tourism, and the arts.

The goal of the RFP is to offer:

- Support for the formation and development of diverse, interdisciplinary teams across departments, colleges and administrative units at Radford University;
- Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and generation of innovative research and creative activities;
- Enable teams to conduct smaller projects/studies that may impact the university and/or aid the community, collect preliminary data/ information for external funding proposals, Federal earmark proposals, or other allied initiatives; and
- Promote community impact and engagement.

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