



ARTIS COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Preston Durrill, Emeritus Chemistry Professor at Radford University, passed away on August 3, 2021.



Dr. Durrill received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and a master's degree in nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Durrill began working at Radford University in 1965 while pursuing his Ph.D. from Virginia Tech, which he earned in 1966. He planned to return to work as a chemist for Exxon in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He fell in love with the area and continued to teach at Radford University for 39 years, retiring in 2004. From 1974 to 1983, Dr. Durrill was Dean of the Graduate College. Dr. Durrill was Dean of the College of Business and Economics from 1980 - 1981. He traveled Southwest Virginia extensively on recruiting and outreach efforts before returning to teaching chemistry in 1983. The Department of Chemistry created a scholarship in his honor in 2010.

On the Radford University Alumni Spotlight, Corey Reed, a 1998 Radford University graduate, talked about Dr. Durrill. "When I came on my recruiting trip, the coaches were smart. They knew I wanted to study chemical engineering and Radford didn't have that, so they put me in touch with [former Radford University chemistry professor] Preston Durrill," Reed remembers. "Dr. Durrill sat me down and told me I would receive a great education at Radford University and that he would make sure I would be fully prepared for a chemical engineering graduate program. That convinced me to play basketball and earn my degree at Radford University. The commitment Dr. Durrill gave me on that recruiting trip definitely turned out to be spot-on."

In 1983, while at Radford University, Dr. Durrill began teaching at Virginia Tech in the Chemical Engineering Unit Operations Laboratory, a six-week summer laboratory experience for rising seniors.

In 2004 while at Virginia Tech, he took on additional teaching with the introductory Mass and Energy Balances course in the Department of Chemical Engineering to sophomores. He also served as an undergraduate academic advisor. Additionally, Dr. Durrill also began teaching General Chemistry I and II to hundreds of freshmen in the Department of Chemistry.

During his teaching at Virginia Tech, Dr. Durrill received the Faculty Appreciation Student's Choice award, Virginia Tech's Sporn Award, and William E. Wine Award for teaching excellence. Dr. Durrill retired from Virginia Tech in 2019.

During his 54 years of teaching, he also enjoyed doing science experiments for students in local school districts and working with teachers to further their science accreditation.

He will be missed by Radford University and Virginia Tech.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

MCGLOTHLIN CENTER FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT (MCGEE)

The McGlothlin Center for Global Education and Engagement is excited to welcome 19 new international students to Radford University for the Fall 2021 semester. Of the 19 new students, 10 are degree-seeking and the remaining 9 are exchange students (meaning they are here for this Fall 2021 semester only). The new international students represent the following countries: Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, India, China, Bulgaria, The Netherlands, Japan, Canada, Italy, Germany, Spain, Pakistan, France and the United Kingdom. We also have a new Fulbright student from Palestine.

In addition to the new international students for Fall 2021, due to travel, visa and pandemic restrictions around the world, we had 5 students that deferred their admission to Spring 2022. As a result, we look forward to welcome those and other students then.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

WORD FESTIVAL

The CITL, along with campus and community partners, is pleased to invite faculty to have their students participate in the sixth annual Fall 2021 Word Festival vocabulary video competition. There will be two submission periods this fall:

* K12 students will be submitting entries during the month of September.

* Radford University students will be submitting entries during the month of October.

For more information: <https://www.radford.edu/content/CITL/home/events/WordFestival.html>

ELEVATE RESEARCH

The Elevate Research program cohort #1 officially kicked off on Friday, August 20 with a full slate of 10 Elevate Research Faculty Fellows and 12 Elevate Research Student Mentors. This grant-funded program will support the infusion of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry into first and second-year courses and create leadership, research, and professional opportunities for BIPOC students as Elevate Research mentors.

Faculty / Student Pairings

- Roann Barris (Art) Mbaida Nying
- Chet Bhatta (Biology) Rosette-Flore Nsoumbi Im
- Aysha Bodenhamer (Sociology) Sarah Claros
- Elliot Carhart (RUC-CHP Emergency Services) Brent McCarthy
- Brock Cutler (History) Michaela Baker & Tyanna Davis
- Mark Frazier (RUC-Biology) Binuk Samarasinghe
- Jaehwan Jeong (Management) Chris Ann Bryan

- Jane Machin (Marketing) Tywan Campbell & Elicia Bynum
- Tara Pelletier (Biology) Maya Banks
- Michele Ren (English) Demiah Smith

We are currently recruiting Elevate Research Faculty Fellows for our second cohort. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Jeanne Mekolichick (jmekolic@radford.edu), Joe Wirgau (jiwirgau@radford.edu), or Heather Keith (hkeith@radford.edu).

LEARNING COMMUNITIES (LCs)

We are happy to welcome first year students into our Learning Communities, bringing integrated academic experiences to 137 students . We look forward to a promising start of the academic year for all of our students, faculty, and Housing colleagues in LCs!

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP (OURS)

The Radford University Office of Undergraduate Research & Scholarship (OURS) requests applications from faculty interested in serving as Associate Director. The Associate Director will play a key role in ongoing enhancements to the program. The Associate Director will work on tasks assigned by the Director, which generally include:

- Organizing the Student Engagement Forum and Winter CARD
- Supervising students in work study and graduate assistant positions
- Co-developing and delivering URSCI workshops for student and faculty professional development
- Evaluating performance data for markers of inequality and acting on opportunities to advance inclusivity
- Overseeing the OURS poster printing activities
- Participating in admissions and recruitment processes
- Representing OURS on university committees
- Advocating on campus for URSCI
- Promoting CUR benefits across campus representing OURS at campus events

The Associate Director will receive a three course reassignment during the academic year (1 fall and 2 spring) and an annual \$10,000 stipend that includes expectations for summer work such as support for Quest, SURF program, etc. It is understood due to the hiring timeline that assignments and responsibilities for this coming spring will need to be negotiated with the successful candidate and their academic department. Backfill funds will be supported to the faculty member's home department from the Office of the Provost. The Associate Director will remain a member of their academic department and will be evaluated by the Department's Chair or Director. The OURS Director will provide the Associate Director with written documentation of his or her contributions to the Office of Undergraduate Research & Scholarship.

Candidates for Associate Director are expected to have the following qualifications:

- Tenured or tenure-track faculty status
- Demonstrated success in mentoring of students in undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry
- Documented experience planning and organizing events

Ability to successfully interact with a broad spectrum of stakeholders (students, faculty, administration, staff, prospective students and their families, and alumni)

Those interested in applying to be associate director are encouraged to review the [OURS website](#) and CUR's [Characteristics of Excellence in Undergraduate Research](#). Any questions about the position should be directed to Joe Wirgau (jiwirgau@radford.edu). Application materials should include the following components:

- A cover letter that addresses the applicant's:
 - *Experience with and interest in undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry (URSCI)
 - *Goals for contributing to OURS
 - *Evidence of positive academic experiences with undergraduate research students (inside or outside of the classroom)
- Curriculum vitae
- Memos from one's department chair and college dean supporting the application

Applications should be **received by October 1st with appointments to begin January 2021.**

Submit applications to:

Dr. Joe Wirgau, Director—jiwirgau@radford.edu

Radford University Office of Undergraduate Research & Scholarship

HIGHLANDER RESEARCH ROOKIES CLASS OF 2021

It is with great excitement the Office of Undergraduate Research & Scholarship (OURS) announces the 4th cohort of Highlander Research Rookies! These 15 outstanding underclassmen and 16 faculty represent 14 different majors and all six undergraduate colleges. The Highlander Research Rookies program provides apprenticeships each year to high-achieving and highly-motivated first and second year students.

Faculty / Student Pairings

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| • Melissa Grim (HHP) | Leah Ellis |
| • Shawn Smith (Criminal Justice) | Lauren Griffin |
| • Ali-Sha Alleman (Social Work) | Skylar Gudmundsson |
| • Julie Temple (Design) | Serena Keith |
| • Margaret Carneal (Design) | Owen Tidd |
| • James Robey (Dance) | Meridythe Witt |
| • Steve Owen (Criminal Justice) | James Wallace |
| • Hwajung Lee (Computing and Info Science) | Sam Williams |
| • Anja Whittington (Rec, Parks, and Tourism) | Jeremy Armentrout |

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| • Pei-Chun Tsai (Psychology) | Stephanie Annis |
| • Maggie Pate & Rachel Santos (Criminal Justice) | Dana Ours |
| • Dave Sallee (HHP) | Skylar Roberson |
| • Rhett Herman (Physics) | Julia Buccola |
| • Aysha Bodenhamer (Sociology) | Maia Grove |
| • Pam Richardson (Marketing) | Jayla Robinson |

“The Highlander Research Rookie Program helped put together my future. I now have connections at the university, research skills, and a great program to put on my resume.” - Melissa W, ‘21

Students are selected through a competitive process and paired with a faculty mentor. Working along our faculty maximizes opportunities for research-based engagement and learning. The students gain career readiness skills through weekly professional and personal development workshops provided by OURS and present their original discoveries at the Student Engagement Forum. More information on the program can be found on the web at www.radford.edu/rookies and questions or interest in participating in the future can be directed to ours@radford.edu.

“I’m glad I get to work with someone who cares about my success, both in the research program and in the classroom.” -Julia B, ‘23

CITIZEN LEADER

Looking Ahead: Citizen Leader Course Applications for 2022-2023

We are closing out the Citizen Leader Course designated courses for the 2021-2022 academic year. If you have courses that you wish to be designated as Citizen Leader for Spring 2022, please fill out the application form online, see link below.

We are turning our attention to the 2022-2023 academic year. We invite faculty to join us. We recognize that many of you currently teach courses that have a strong civic engagement and/or a leadership focus. We encourage you to consider having your course Citizen Leader designated. If you would like to learn how to get your course designed as Citizen Leader, please contact me. I am happy to work with you as much as you need (jmistele@radford.edu)

Citizen Leader designated courses provide you access to funds that can help you purchase materials for your course. Contact Dr. Jean Mistele, jmistele@radford.edu at any time to ask questions or to set up a zoom meeting – I am more than happy to help!

- * Please click on one of the following links to the application forms.
- * New course application link: [course designation form](#).
- * Renewal course application link: <https://radford.campuslabs.com/engage/forms>;
(8th on the list)
- * Please have your administrators identify your course as Citizen Leader for the Attribute Code.

Citizen Leader and Fall 2021 Events

We are now planning for fall 2021 events and activities. We will host our 3rd annual Constitution and Citizenship Week – September 13 – 17. Please contact us for events you would like to include in this week-long celebration. In addition, if you have an idea for a speaker or activity that is aligned with civic engagement for a class that we can extend to students across campus, please contact us so we can determine if we can help you financially. Contact Dr. Jean Mistele, jmistele@radford.edu.