

December 8, 2021



DAVIS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS



Congratulations to

Joseph Kuppich

Economics Student of the Semester—Fall 2021

The Student for the Semester is Joseph Kuppich. Joe is a senior and will graduate in the Spring with an Econ B.S. degree. He is currently President of the Economic Students Association and President of the Honor Society - ODE. Joe also served as the team leader for this year's Fed College Challenge Team. We're lucky to have Joe with us for another semester and wish him the best for all his endeavors after graduation!

What has been your favorite economics class at Radford? ECON 295, topics in Economics, this class was extremely interesting because you study a current Economic issue, for our class we did the Cost/Benefit analysis of COVID-19. It was extremely fulfilling to base our assignments, lessons, and readings on a real, current issue which had everyone in the world perplexed.

Which professors have you enjoyed and why? They are all amazing and care deeply about the department and their students! For me, Dr. Carlos Elias was very involved in my academics, we have built a genuine relationship throughout my 4 years at Radford! He has helped me strengthen my knowledge as well as further my interest in Economics.

What are some skills that you have learned at Radford that will help you in the future? It is not all about your grade point average, you can reach your goals without a 4.0 gpa. For me, communication with my professors, hard work, and persistence has helped me grow in my studies and also in my personal life.

What can we do better as a department? We need more Economists in this world! Recruit!

What are your plans for the future? I hope to attend graduate school down the road, but for now, I am planning on doing a post-graduate internship with Northwestern Mutual learning the ins and outs of personal investing!

Any advice for current students? Do not give up on yourself and enjoy your time in school, it does not last forever. You should always put your best foot forward, never sell yourself short for any reason, and be persistent in your endeavors. Failure always precedes success.



Radford University Team Competes in the 2021 College Fed Challenge

Sponsored by the Economic Student Association Joe Kuppich, Jessica Nelson, Riley Cox and Taylor Nguyen represented RU in the 2021 College Fed Challenge. This is a national annual competition in which undergraduate students role-play the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) decision making process and make a monetary policy recommendation.

The team strategy was to analyze the dual goals of the Fed: to maximize broad-based and inclusive employment and to maintain inflation low and stable. Are current high inflation rates transitory? The team noted the positive macroeconomic impact of current expansionary fiscal and monetary policy acting together to promote growth. They also noted that these policies come at a cost: US inflation measured by the PCE is at the highest level since 1991. And everything in the context of the unprecedented distortions caused by covid downturn and recovery in 2020 and 2021, including the impact on logistical channels. The team noted that for the first time in decades supply was a binding constraint for production. But inflation is not the only concern, employment is the other pillar of the Fed policy framework and in spite of low unemployment rates the labor participation rate is too low and there are pockets of high unemployment in some segments of the labor force. Not since 2007 has the Fed had to choose between a monetary policy that focuses on taming inflation or promoting employment.

Based on their analysis of current macroeconomic conditions, the RU team recommended slowing quantitative easing. The team recommended reducing the monthly amount of purchases of US Treasuries and Mortgage Backed Securities (this is called tapering in reference to quantitative easing) to \$100 billion from current \$120 billion and to maintain the federal funds rate at current levels of 0-25 basis points. The Fed FOMC announced on November 4th its intention to reduce monthly purchases to \$105 billion and to maintain the federal funds rate at current levels. The RU team arrived at the same conclusion as the Fed!

Finally, we recognize the strong effort of the team and their advisors, Jennifer Sobotka and Carlos Elias. The purpose of this exercise is for a group of students to learn applied macroeconomics. This goal was met. Unfortunately the RU team was not selected for the final round of the competition in 2021--the winner will be announced on November 19, 2021. However, the team added RU to the select list of colleges in the country that have the capacity to participate in the College Fed Challenge. We look forward to next year's participation in the 2022 Fed College Challenge. [More information on the Fed College Challenge may be found by visiting the Federal Reserve [website](#).

[Click here](#) to watch The 2021 Radford University Fed Challenge Team.



As part of our Truist Impact Leadership Program, we held a symposium on Thursday December 2. Our guest speaker was Mr. Michael Pirron, the founder and CEO of Impact Makers, which is the first certified B-Corp IT company in Virginia.

The symposium was conducted in the format of a Zoom webinar. We invited constituents within and outside of RU and had an attendance of 24 people. Upon introducing his background, the speaker presented his company with special emphasis on the socially oriented actions and policies which earned it the certification of a B-Corp.

The speaker insisted on accommodating questions and comments throughout the event. Indeed, the audience was very intrigued by the idea of a for-profit IT company which is so heavily oriented towards doing good for the community, and comments and questions began to surface shortly after the talk had begun. The result was a very interactive and lively presentation which exceeded the time allotted. Since the presentation we received several requests for the recording of the symposium from individuals who could not attend. We are grateful for the opportunity to engage our community in such a meaningful manner.

Faculty Development

SAVE the DATE for Our Turn: January 5-7. Check your email for the call for proposals, or email sblevins@radford.edu for more information.

Citizen Leader

Designated Events for Fall 2021:

The following are Designated Citizen Leader Events. This means, students who attend these events are fulfilling requirements for the Citizen Leader Distinction Program. We welcome other events that have a focus on community/civic engagement and/or leadership. If you have an idea for an event or activity that aligns with our mission, please contact us so we can determine if we can help you financially and/or help you with promotion. Contact Dr. Jean Mistele, jmistele@radford.edu, [if you have any questions.](#)

Events and Activities for Spring 2022

We are beginning to build our Event and Activity calendar for Spring 2022. If you have an event that aligns with Citizen Leader, please contact me so we help you via funding and/or promotion. If you are unsure, please contact me and I would be happy to discuss it with you, jmistele@radford.edu .

Looking Ahead to 2022-2023 Year

Citizen Leader Courses for 2022-2023

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/community engagement and/or a leadership focus. We believe your course may be a good fit for the Citizen Leader Program.

This spring we begin to offer Citizen Leader designated minors. We hope this alignment with the REAL Gen. Ed. Program adds value for our students. The first minor is Women and Gender Studies. We welcome an opportunity to designate many more minors as Citizen Leader so that students can fulfil the academic component of the program while they complete their general education requirements. If your minor focuses on Leadership and/or Civic Engagement and/or Community Engagement and/or culture that includes high impact practices, please contact me (Dr. Jean Mistele, jmistele@radford.edu) so we can determine if your minor is a good fit. If your minor is designated as a Citizen Leader minor, we will promote your minor among our Citizen Leader participants and potential provide funding support for classroom materials.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Jean Mistele, jmistele@radford.edu *at any time* – I am happy to help you!

Honors College

The Honors College is excited to announce the planning stage of its 2022 symposium: “Mountains, Rivers and Roads: Interdisciplinary Appalachia.” This two-day event, open to faculty, students and the public, will be held in late October of 2022 and will feature speakers, workshops, panels and posters from a range of disciplines. Its overarching goal is to bring together people from a wide range of academic and non-academic backgrounds, to create a showcase that highlights the unique nature, possibilities and challenges of the Appalachian region, and foster an environment where people can learn, talk and discover unanticipated connections.

If you are interested in participating in any way – as a presenter, panelist, incorporating the symposium into your courses, encouraging student researchers to present a poster, or really anything else – please contact Jason Davis (jdavis319@radford.edu), Associate Director of the Honors College. All ideas and interests are welcome and encouraged!

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Governor Northam visited Westside Elementary in Roanoke today and Radford University Student intern Miranda Edmondson, got to meet him! He visited Miranda’s 4th grade classroom. Her CT is Mrs. Martin.

