Chet Bhatta Recognized with 2022 OURS Outstanding Mentor Award

It is with great excitement that the Office on Undergraduate Research & Scholarship (OURS) recognizes the pivotal role of faculty mentors in providing transformative learning opportunities to our students through undergraduate research and creative inquiry. The OURS Outstanding Mentor Award recognizes demonstrated excellence in mentoring and supporting undergraduate researchers through a commitment to student development, creating opportunities, dissemination, equity and inclusion, and career development.

Dr. Chet Bhatta was selected by the OURS Advisory Committee for an OURS Outstanding Mentor Award based on student nominations. From the student nominations it was abundantly clear that this year’s winner Dr. Chet Bhatta embodies all of these traits and more in working with his insect ecology research students on the RUC campus. It was repeatedly mentioned the welcoming, safe environment he creates. This environment’s impact was summarized well by Christopher B. who shared that “Dr. Bhatta’s comfort with students and ability to connect with them makes him a great mentor and catalyst for students to become the best version of themselves.” Congratulations to Dr. Chet Bhatta on behalf of Radford University for providing transformative research experiences for our students.

“Dr. Bhatta is the best advisor and mentor throughout my years of being an international student. I am glad that I found someone who is always understanding, encouraging and supportive to me.”

– Kaung Sett L.

“Dr. Bhatta creates a very inclusive, safe, and engaging environment for all students with diverse backgrounds and experiences in his lab.”

– Binuk S.
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Dr. Dave Sallee was selected by the OURS Advisory Committee for an OURS Outstanding Mentor Award based on student nominations. From the student nominations it was abundantly clear that Dr. Sallee has a profound impact on his students in the Biomechanics lab in Peters Hall that goes beyond content expertise. Emma B. spoke eloquently to the impact mentors have in sharing that “Dr. Sallee motivated me and aided my career development. I was able to gain admission into grad school, learn how to be caring and kind to all people, and how to be professional in a health setting.”

Congratulations to Dr. Dave Sallee on behalf of Radford University!

“He has greatly impacted my personal development as I have become involved in research, and he has helped me to build confidence in myself.”
– Megan H.

“Dr. Sallee has demonstrated what it means to be successful in academics, a career, and as a person. He is kind, compassionate, ready to learn no matter how many trials the task may require.”
– Kirbie C.

My experience at Radford would be completely different if I had not had the honor of being one of his students. I am so grateful for every lesson that I have learned from him and I know I will carry these lessons with me into my personal and professional life.”
– Skylar R.
The Engaging Differences Program, funded by a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Faculty Forums on Race grant, held our second virtual workshop with Crossroads Antiracism on May 13. We were excited to welcome 39 faculty and academic leaders for the “CAPACITY BUILDING: Expanding / Deepening Antiracism Work at Radford” event. Data from the workshop demonstrate continued value and growth in our institutional efforts toward inclusive excellence and belonging. We look forward to continuing our work in the fall!

Sponsored Programs and Grants Management

**Do you need grant-writing resources supporting research and scholarship?**
If so, please sign up for the Research and Grant Writing Newsletter from our patterns at Academic Research Funding Strategies, LLC.

Topics for this month include:

- **Select List of Humanities, HSS, and Arts Opportunities & News** – We list funding opportunities for scholars in the humanities, social sciences and the arts.
- **USDA Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2022-2026** – We summarize the recently released 52-page report, which can help researchers map their capacities to USDA’s funding landscape.
- **Planning Your CAREER Education Component** – PIs often struggle to develop their NSF CAREER education components. We discuss key steps and best practices.
- **What Does A Successful ERC Proposal Look Like?** – We discuss the characteristics that successful ERC proposals share and what you can learn from them.
- **DOEnergy Funding Directions 2023** – We discuss 2023 budget requests for DOE’s Office of Science and funding opportunities.
- **How a Good Website Can Help Faculty Win Grants** – We discuss why it’s important for faculty researchers to maintain a good website (reprinted from May 2018).

**External Proposals submitted through Sponsored Programs for May**

**Office of the Provost:**
Nicole Hendrix and Corey Cassidy received a grant award in the amount of $80,000 from the State Council of Higher Education to understand the needs and challenges of Rural Students.

**Vinod Chachra IMPACT Lab:**
Matt Dunleavy submitted a grant proposal for $725,642 to the US Department of Agriculture Rural Economic Development Programs for the Professional Accelerated Cyber Education (PACE).

**School of Teacher Education and Leadership:**
Sharon Gilbert and Kathleen Pierson were awarded a grant in the amount of $48,068 from the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services for the Infant and Toddler Connection program (ITC).

Sharon Gilbert was awarded a grant in the amount of $60,000 from the Virginia Department of Education for the Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Early Childhood Special Education.

**Department of Political Science:**
Chapman Rackaway submitted a grant proposal in the amount of $1,789 to Course Hero under the 2022 Course Hero Teacher Grant.

Department Occupational Therapy:

Sarah Smidl received a grant award in the amount of $12,885 from the Radford University Foundation to study Occupational Therapy with Substance Use Disorders.

**CITL/Faculty Development**

**Save the dates!**
New Faculty Orientation August 10-11
New Chairs Leadership Institute August 12
Our Turn August 16-17

**Did you know?**
The Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning offers facilitated strategic planning workshops for departments using an appreciative inquiry methodology that emphasizes shared values and community building. Contact Charley Cosmato for more information (ccosmato@radford.edu)

**McGlothlin Global Center for Education and Enhancement**

MCGEE is pleased to announce that two students have been selected to receive the US Department of State’s Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. Recipients Lucas White and Te’ana Schmitt will receive $5,000 to apply towards their study abroad program in France this summer and fall, respectively. The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program is a US Department of State grant program enabling students of limited financial means and underrepresented students to study or intern abroad. The selection process is competitive, requiring multiple essays and a service project proposal. To learn more about this scholarship, visit the Gilman Scholarship website at https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/