

# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

## Office of the Provost Newsletter

November 3, 2021



COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES



### The Center for Social and Cultural Research Speaker Series Fall 2021



Dr. Jennifer Walton

Professor & Director, School of Communication

The Dying Art of the Daytime Drama: Why Soaps Shouldn't be  
Scrubbed



November 15, 2021

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Heth 043

Light refreshments provided



The Center for Social and Cultural Research in the Department of Sociology is excited to announce the return of the CSCR Speaker Series. The second speaker this semester will be another one of our new CHBS colleagues, Dr. Jennifer Walton in the School of Communication.

Dr. Walton's talk,

**"The Dying Art of the Daytime Drama: Why Soaps Shouldn't be Scrubbed"**

will be given in Heth 43 on Monday, November 15th, from 1-2 pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

All faculty, students, and staff are welcome to attend the event and a sign-in sheet for students will be available if faculty would like to incentivize student participation. If you make this event available to students and would like attendance information, please reach out to Allison Wisecup ([awisecup@radford.edu](mailto:awisecup@radford.edu)).

# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

## Women's and Gender Studies



The College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences is pleased to announce that **Dr. Zehui Dai** will serve as the next **Associate Director of the Women's and Gender Studies** Program beginning January 2022.

Dr. Dai is an Assistant Professor in the School of Communication where she has been a faculty member since 2018. She conducts research on Media Studies and Women's Health (pregnancy, doula, reproductive rights, and family/relational communication). She has served on the Advisory Board for the Center of Gender Studies and the SMART Lab (Social Media Analytics and Research Technology). She has skills in website design, social media, and event planning which will be very applicable to the Associate Director position. She brings a cultural perspective and a strong passion for issues related to women's development to her new role.

Please welcome Dr. Dai to her new role as Associate Director of the Women's and Gender Studies program.



The Davis College hosted the **Fall 21 Truist Global Capitalism Lecture** on October 26, 2021. The invited keynote speaker was Mr. Kent Greenawalt, Chairman and CEO of Foot Levelers based in Roanoke, Virginia. Mr. Greenawalt first spoke to students in a senior-level Entrepreneurship class on starting and managing a new venture. Thereafter, he delivered the keynote speech on the topic of "Capitalism, Profit and Stewardship - Having It All". 65 students, faculty, staff, university administrators and invited members from the community attended in person, including representatives from Truist Financial Corporation. 42 others joined via Zoom. Mr. Greenawalt's lecture was enthusiastically received by the audience and followed by an extensive and engaging Q&A session.

The Department of Economics hosted its **"Economics Is Everywhere"** lecture on October 28, 2021. The lecture title was "Sanctions and the Labor Markets of Iran" and it was delivered by Dr. Javad Nosratabadi, Assistant Professor in the department. This lecture examined the effects of trade sanctions on employment, demand for skilled labor, and wages by using Iranian industrial manufacturing data covering 10 years before and 5 years after economic sanctions on Iran were set. The impacts on skilled versus unskilled labor, exporter versus non-exporter firms, total factor productivity and wages were analyzed. 10 undergraduate students, 1 MBA student and 7 faculty attended this event. This event reached out to mostly non-ECON majors (90% of the students attending were non-ECON majors) and illustrated what economics research is like.



As part of **Davis College's Truist Leadership Program**, Dr. Tal Zarankin (Truist Leadership Faculty in the Davis College) invited Mr. Michael Pirron, the founder and CEO of *Impact Makers* to interact with our students. The visit took place on October 28. *Impact Makers* is one of the largest B-Corporations in the country, similar to *Newman's Own*, works in Information Technology sector.

As part of the visit, Mr. Pirron visited Dr. Collier's MGNT 357 (Operations Management) and Dr. Lollars's COBE 150 (Davis College Fellows) class. A Darden Business School case about Impact Makers was assigned to guide the discussion and students were instructed to prepare questions. The format of the presentation included a short minute introduction by Mr. Pirron followed by a Q&A session which was facilitated by Dr. Zarankin. The students had excellent interaction with Mr. Pirron and he left impressed with our student quality, offering voluntarily to be a guest speaker in the Davis College again.

In a few weeks, Mr. Pirron will also deliver via Zoom, the Truist Leadership Symposium lecture that will be open to all Radford University faculty, staff and students as well as members of the community. Announcement in that regard is forthcoming.

## Live Saving Data Engineering Project Presented At SEINFORMS Conference

Data Engineering can help save lives. Tracy Dudding, a student in Radford University's Data and Information Management (DAIM) program is pioneering a program to optimize blood bank inventories using machine learning, thus helping to match need and supply in critical life challenging situations.

Recently Tracy presented her plan at the South-Eastern Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (SEINFORMS) conference held in Myrtle Beach South Carolina. "I found that this chapter was supportive and provides knowledgeable feedback to strengthen my work" stated Tracy. She added "The biggest takeaway from my experience is a boost in confidence in my ability to logically present new ideas to individual's non-domain specific to the industry at hand."

Tracy is working over the course of the 2021-2022 to expand and explore her idea as a capstone project to her DAIM experience. It is hoped that upon completion, it will be a working tool that hospitals, clinics, and blood banks can use to maximize the donations they have and to further facilitate utilization with patients. An initial component will be presented in December with the final project completed by April, 2022.



# DIVERSITY IN STEM SERIES

A panel of diverse people doing diverse science.

Chat with our panelists and hear their stories.

Gather in Center for Sciences M73

November 10th at 8 pm

Brought to you by:



## Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship

### Undergraduate Researcher Recognized by NSF

How does anyone ever stand out enough to get selected to a program with a less than 3 % acceptance rate? Luc White knows the answer to that question, as they received a National Science Foundation- Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF-REU) award this past summer to study paleobotany at the Chicago Botanic Garden. This summer Luc White spent their time researching Carboniferous (350-million-year-old!) lycophyte roots and how paleobotanists can 3D render fossil samples that are encased or inaccessible, unless using destructive methods. This type of modeling was with a technique that has never been applied before. By working on the project and applying this new modeling technique, they hope that other researchers will use this technique to answer new questions in plant physiology and evolution.



In reflecting on where the confidence came from to even apply to a program with an acceptance rate significantly lower than Harvard's Medical School, Luc said that undoubtedly their experience from the Highlander Research Rookies Program was the reason. **"The Highlander Research Rookies program has truly given me a gift that will last me my entire career. It set me up to**



**dare.** It set me up to see something I wanted and to try with all the grit in my bones. It gave me the ability to say, I know I can do this." Even with this the experience was still "very nerve-wracking and I felt like I was preparing for a marathon race after only just running a mile."

Luc questioned themselves and asked "did I really do that?" at the end of the experience and the answer is an emphatic yes, yes you did Luc, bravo.

-- Written by Maia Grove and Joe Wirgau.

## Undergraduate Research Scholar Transcript Designation

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship is requesting applications for transcript designation for students who have been actively involved in research, scholarship and creative inquiries (URSCI) throughout their undergraduate studies.

The Radford University Research Scholar transcript designation is in recognition of the accomplishment of undergraduate students who have contributed to the knowledge base within a field of study through active research outside the classroom. The Undergraduate Research Scholar designation will be specific to the field in which the student conducted research. For instance, if a student meets the requirements for URSCI in Dance, the designation would read, "Dance Research Scholar." The designation is determined by the nature of the project and the department of the faculty mentor.

To qualify for the Undergraduate Research Scholar designation, the student must demonstrate the following:

- Completion of a minimum of two semesters of research, scholarship, or creative inquiry supervised by a faculty mentor.
- Dissemination of the results of their research or creative project.
- Endorsement by the faculty mentor(s) and the Department Chair of the faculty mentor.
- Written reflection by the student that addresses how their work contributed to the field of study and how the experience has impacted their intellectual and professional growth.

[Click here](#) for a more detailed explanation of the requirements for the Research Scholar designation.

If you are interested in applying for the Research Scholar transcript designation, please fill out the [Undergraduate Research Scholar Transcript Designation application](#).

Dr. Joe Wirgau, Director  
Dr. Margaret Pate, Associate Director  
Whitt Hall, Suite 111  
540-831-7203  
[ours@radford.edu](mailto:ours@radford.edu)



The Honors College students are celebrating the fall season. Honors Faculty Fellow Dr. Laura Gruss (Biology) guided her students for a nature walk at the Mountain Lake Resort. Students shared outside time and a picnic lunch. Back on campus, honors student leaders held their annual Nerd-o-ween party, an escape room, and a gift-bag giveaway.



## Citizen Leader

### Designated Events for Fall 2021:

Please see upcoming events on page 10. The Designated Citizen Leader Events are highlighted yellow. 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 engagement. If you have an idea for an event or activity that is aligned with civic engagement or leadership for a class that we can extend to students across campus, please contact us so we can determine if we can help you financially and help with promotion.

Contact Dr. Jean Mistele, [jmistele@radford.edu](mailto:jmistele@radford.edu), [if you have any questions.](#)

### Looking Ahead to Next 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 engagement and/or a leadership focus.

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 as they complete their general education requirements through REAL. If your minor focuses on Leadership and/or Civic Engagement and/or Culture that includes high impact practices, please contact me (Dr. Jean Mistele, [jmistele@radford.edu](mailto: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.

#### Next Week: Training Sessions

Training sessions for course designation will begin, online via Zoom. The first one hour session focuses on *level 1* and your access to funding for your course. *Level 1* is designed for novices who wish to engage in the Citizen Leader Program without the burden of assessing students.

Link for **November 4 training session at 3 pm:** <https://radford.zoom.us/j/94745408237>

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

# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning

Keep an eye on your email for details about Radford University's annual

## **Faculty Wellness Week, November 15-19, 2021**

brought to you by Faculty Development and the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning! Take a deep breath on a greenhouse tour; enjoy bagels and conversation at

RUC with faculty development professionals; enjoy a fitness class or a community walk/run; do some crafting or bullet journaling with CITL.

The full schedule will appear soon in your email.

## WICKED FESTIVAL

- Join us November 11, 2021 for the first annual *Wicked Festival: Students Solving Persistent Public Problems Conference*.
- The Wicked Festival is an opportunity for students to dig in on tough-to-solve public problems; develop their research and public presentation skills; and propose solutions to make the world a better place.
- Participating disciplines/programs this year include Appalachian Studies, Honors, International Studies, Peace Studies, Philosophy, and Political Science.
- Contact Dr. Paige Tan at [etan3@radford.edu](mailto:etan3@radford.edu) with any questions about the Festival.
- All members of the Radford community are invited to attend.



- WICKED FESTIVAL
- November 11, 2021
- 5-7 pm
- Heth Hall Basement.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Citizen Leader Course Designation Training	Zoom <a href="https://radford.zoom.us/j/94745408237">https://radford.zoom.us/j/94745408237</a>	11-4-2021	3:00pm	
Center for Diversity and Inclusion: Lunch and Learn: Native/ Indigenous Awareness Month	Heth 157	11-10-2021	11:30am-1:30pm	
Presentations: Who Needs Ethics?	Bonnie Auditorium	11-10-2021	7:00-9:00pm	Sponsored by Criminal Justice
Diversity in STEM Panel	CS M73	11-10-2021	8:00pm	REALISE
Wicked Festival: Students Solving Persistent Public Problems Conference	Heth Hall Basement	11-11-2021	5:00-7:00pm	Contact Dr. Paige Tan at etan3@radford.edu with any questions about the Festival
"The Dying Art of the Daytime Drama: Why Soaps Shouldn't be Scrubbed"	Heth 43	11-15-2021	1:00-2:00pm	The Center for Social and Cultural Research in the Department of Sociology
DARTS (Davis Activities in Research & Teaching Seminars) ECON Javad Nosratabadi The Impact of Trade Sanctions on Employment, Skill Upgrading, and Wages: Evidence from Iran	Zoom Link: <a href="https://radford.zoom.us/j/95520297054">https://radford.zoom.us/j/95520297054</a> Zoom Password: DARTS	11.19.2021	2:00-3:00pm	DCOBE
Citizen Leader Dissemination— Winter Card	TBD	TBD	TBD	
DARTS (Davis Activities in Research & Teaching Seminars) MKTG Luke Liska Product-Environment Congruence in Online Product Displays	Zoom Link <a href="https://radford.zoom.us/j/98520603086">https://radford.zoom.us/j/98520603086</a> Zoom Password: DARTS	12.3.2021	2:00-3:00pm	DCOBE
Cocoa and Cram	TBD	12.7.2021	6:00-8:00pm	