

# Office of the Provost Newsletter

March 3, 2021

## Academic Affairs Leadership Team (AALT) Reports

### Artis College of Science and Technology

#### GEOSPATIAL SCIENCE STUDENTS PUBLISH RESEARCH PROVIDING ADDITIONAL CLARITY ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

The annual rings of trees in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem (GYE) may hold valuable data to help us have a greater understanding of the impact of climate change from one of the most important areas of biodiversity on Earth. Dr. Stockton Maxwell, Associate Professor of Geospatial Science, at Radford University along with a team of students and colleagues from around the nation have been exploring this area and recently co-authored a paper published in a national, peer-reviewed journal.

What is unique about this publication is the fact that the Radford University students, Brittany Rinaldi '20 and Thomas Callahan '19, helped lead both the research and the publication of their findings. "Brittany and Thomas first began this research at the 2018 North American Dendroecological Fieldweek - a professional training workshop on tree-ring analysis funded by the National Science Foundation and co-organized by me and my colleagues from around the country" stated Dr. Maxwell. Because of their strong research at the workshop, Brittany and Thomas were awarded fellowships to present and submit their work for publication. Some of the core findings of their research were that:

- Tree rings provide a long-term perspective on forests' response to disturbances and climate changes.
- Engelmann spruce and Douglas fir growing in the GYE are sensitive to both summer temperature and precipitation.
- Shift in the correlation between ring width and monthly climate variables appear to be related to regime shifts in climate.
- Forest disturbances recorded as growth releases can be linked to wildfire and insect outbreak activities.
- Annual growth of Engelmann spruce and Douglas fir in the GYE are greatly influenced by climate and forest disturbance.

"Brittany and Thomas presented their research at the 2019 American Association of Geographers Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. and received some great feedback on their project" recalled Dr. Maxwell. He added "Then, over the next year Brittany and I honed the analysis and she drafted a manuscript for publication in the journal *Tree, Forests, and People*."

Brittany stated "I think the most challenging part of this process was comparing my results with similar studies to draw conclusions on how climate and ecological disturbances are impacting tree growth specifically at the study site and in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem." The publication is culmination of two years of research, analysis, and writing. "I couldn't be prouder of Brittany and Thomas for their work" stated Dr. Maxwell. "This is the pinnacle of the experience we provide students in the Department of Geospatial Science." To explore the article, please visit: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666719320300534>

## College of Humanities & Behavioral Sciences

### **After January 6: A Discussion about Pursuing Deliberative Democracy**

Wednesday, March 3 @ 4:00 p.m. on Zoom

ID 933 293 990 14

Password: Democracy

Facilitated by Dr. Steven Fesmire (PHIL) and Dr. Eric Williams (CRJU)

Sponsored by the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences

The events of January 6 in our nation's capital have left us all shaken and searching for an understanding of how democracy can not only survive but thrive in the future. This forum is a participatory discussion about our reactions to that day and the ways that we can educate ourselves going forward to help live into--and live up to--what democracy requires.

## Academic Programs

### **Citizen Leader**

**A three-part webinar series focused on: Developing an Online Experiential Learning Course**

**Session 1:** [developing an online/remote learning experiential education course](#) Password: 2Z!5.2?8.

This session helps you get started with designing a course. The experiential focus is on mainly on service learning.

**Session 2:** [embedding remote SL experiences that are responsive to community needs;](#)

Password: 7w%x4.5^

This session focuses on enhancing the online learning experience by including the experiences, such as project based or service learning virtually.

**Session 3:** [designing critical reflection activities in virtual learning settings](#) Password: 4u&L4BoL

This last session focuses on including critical reflective practice in the virtual learning environment.

**Series Panelists:** Kevin Kelly (moderator), SF State; Leticia Márquez-Magaña, SF State; Annie White, CSU Channel Islands; Mike Willard, Cal State LA; Del Bharath, CSUDH; Steven Brownson, CSUDH & LA; Paul Fornelli, CSUDH; Tania Mitchell, U of MN; Helen L. Chen, Stanford

**Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Quality Improvement**

**Radford University QEP Pre-Proposal Summaries**

As part of Radford University’s SACSCOC reaffirmation process, the university is expected to develop and implement a new Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to support our commitment to continuous improvement. Based on identified needs of an institution, the QEP is a five-year initiative that focuses on improving student learning and/or success and offers the opportunity to make a difference through accreditation by enhancing the university’s educational quality. The SACSCOC guidelines for the QEP are that it must be:

- Tied to Radford University’s Strategic Plan
- Identified through Radford University’s ongoing, comprehensive planning and evaluation processes
- Have broad-based support across the university’s stakeholders
- Focus on improving student learning and/or student success
- Guided by institutional data in the selection, development, and implementation of the program
- Possess the needed resources to initiate and implement the program

As a first step in the QEP process, the QEP Topic Identification Committee is seeking pre-proposal summaries for topics that fulfill all of the above requirements. The QEP Topic Identification Committee will review and select the top three pre-proposals for further development. The selected pre-proposal teams will be asked to submit a full, data-driven proposal and the team will be provided with \$2,000 for expenses and/or possible stipend at the time of submission.

Pre-proposal forms are available by contacting Dr. Sandra Baker ([sbaker10@radford.edu](mailto:sbaker10@radford.edu)).

***Pre-proposals are due to Dr. Sandra Baker ([sbaker10@radford.edu](mailto:sbaker10@radford.edu)) by 5:00 pm, March 15, 2021.***

**Upcoming Events**

Event	Location	Date	Time	Sponsors
<p><b>ARTGAWK: Choice Pickings from the Radford University Permanent Collection.</b>                      For more information visit the <a href="http://www.radford.edu/artmuseum">www.radford.edu/artmuseum</a></p> 	Covington Center	Jan 27-April 17, 2021	Mon-Fri 10am-5pm Sat 12pm-4pm Sunday Closed	CVPA Art Museum

<b>The Essential Department Chair Reading Group</b>  Registration can be found here:  <a href="https://rucitl.com/registration/events/the-essential-department-chair-reading-group/">https://rucitl.com/registration/events/the-essential-department-chair-reading-group/</a>	Zoom (Information located on the registration Link)	<b>Bi Weekly</b> March 5, 2021 March 19, 2021 April 2, 2021 April 16, 2021	12:00-1:00pm	Faculty Development and the Office of Academic Programs
<b>After January 6: A Discussion about Pursuing Deliberative Democracy</b>	Zoom ID 933 293 990 14 Password: Democracy	Wednesday March 3, 2021	4:00pm	CHBS
<b>“Born to Be Raised”</b>	Webinar Meeting ID: 91905835504	Thursday March 4, 2021	6:00pm	Citizen Leader
<b>Radford University QEP Pre-Proposal Summaries are due to Dr. Sandra Baker</b> ( <a href="mailto:sbaker10@radford.edu">sbaker10@radford.edu</a> )		Monday March 15, 2021	5:00pm	