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April 2023

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April is always a time of celebration in academic life. As we approach the end of the 2022-23 school year, we are excited to present the final installment in our inaugural series of Research & Creative Scholarship Quarterly Newsletters. This month we celebrate our **32nd Annual Student Engagement Forum April 18-20**, highlight faculty research into the use of Virtual Reality in continuing Social Work education, shine light on a student's exploration of the interplay between music and performance, grant-writing support, and much more. As we look to the summer months be sure to mark your calendars for the **Summer Institute in Research and Creativity May 15-19** for a week-long series of workshops and dedicated writing time to jumpstart your summer project! I also welcome your feedback on how we can evolve and improve on this endeavor. Please let me know what you think at jmekolic@radford.edu.

Jeanne Mekolichick, Ph.D.

Associate Provost for Research, Faculty Success & Strategic Initiatives



Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Mingyang Zheng, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work

Project Title: *Enhancing Geriatric Care Competency: A Virtual Reality Continuing Education Program for Social Workers*

Sponsor: *The Virginia Center on Aging, Geriatric Training and Education Initiative*

The United States has experienced a workforce shortage in the care of its aging population. Overall, 4% of social workers, 2.6% of advanced practice registered nurses, and less than 1% of registered nurses, physician assistants, and pharmacists are certified in geriatrics. This shortage of the geriatric workforce is attributed to healthcare workers being overwhelmed by the poor health and high number of medical problems among older adults, a lack of confidence in workers' knowledge and skills, and a shortage of gerontological faculty.

One strategy suggested for educating healthcare workers involves the use of Virtual Reality (VR) simulations, providing a rich, interactive context that supports experiential learning-by-doing. VR simulation can contribute to raise interest and motivation in adult learners. However, a shortage of research on the use of virtual simulations in social work currently exists. To address this gap in practice, a one-year pilot project offers an innovative continuing education program using VR simulation to increase knowledge about specific diseases, change attitudes toward aging, and build confidence in interactions with older individuals. Simply stated, VR is an immersive experience where the participant sees through the lens of an older adult. This four-credit continuing education program includes three simulations relevant to an aging population: Alzheimer's Disease, Lewy Body Dementia and Parkinson's Disease, and End-of-Life Conversations.

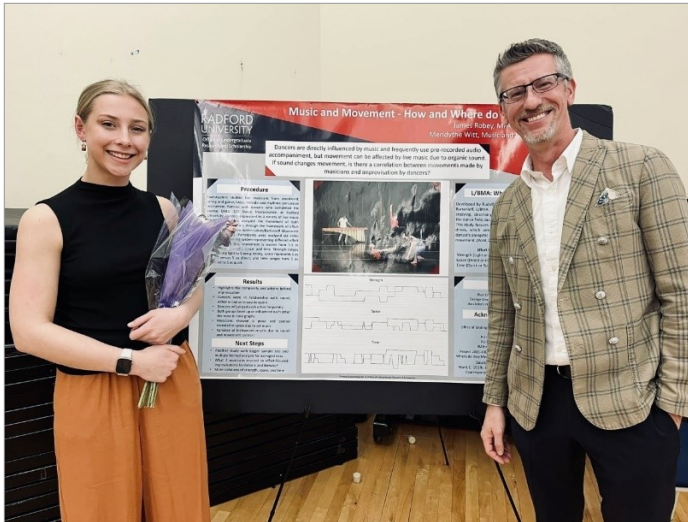
Dr. Mingyeng Zheng received his M.S.W. from Boston University in 2013 and his Ph.D. in Social Work with a minor in Biostatistics from the University of Minnesota in 2021. He has experience in practicing social work in the U.S. and China. His research interests include long-term services and supports in community settings, mental health among older adults, and program evaluation and assessment.

Faculty–Student Success

Meridythe Whitt, a double major in Percussion and Dance and **Highlander Research Rookie**, hosted a show in April in Peters Hall Auditorium titled “Music and Movement: How and Where do they Meet?”, that analyzed and expressed “who takes the lead” in a performance including music and dancers.

Meridythe worked with her mentor, **Dr. James Robey**, **Chair of the Department of Dance**, to explore the question

of “who leads who” and understanding the phenomenon that occurs between performers and music, and how that phenomenon enhances the quality of an entire performance. The performance was comprised of “12 minutes of choreography set to jazz music from three live musicians...where both parties were doing both set and improvised work.” Meridythe and Dr. Robey, we thank you for sharing your research and changing the perspective of research surrounding the performing arts!



Upcoming Funding Opportunities

The **SEED Grant Program** is available for faculty who are interested in internal funding. We are accepting applications through **April 15, 2023**. Please visit our website for more info: <https://www.radford.edu/content/sponsored-programs/home/internal-funding.html>

Humanities Initiatives (NEH) Humanities Initiatives strengthen the teaching and study of the humanities at institutions of higher education by developing new or enhancing existing programs, resources (including those in digital format), or courses that explore, interpret, and preserve the diversity of human cultures, ideas, and practices, past and present. Projects must address a core topic or set of themes drawn from humanities areas such as history, philosophy, religion, literature, or humanities-informed composition and writing skills. Proposals are due by **May 9, 2023**. Please visit <https://www.neh.gov/program/humanities-initiatives-colleges-and-universities> for further details on the grant and how to apply.

The **Instrumentation Grant Program for Resource-Limited Institutions (S10) (NIH)** supports the purchase of state-of-the-art scientific instruments to enhance the research and educational missions of resource-limited institutions. Requested instruments may support biomedical research and education in basic, translational, biomedically-related behavioral or clinical fields. Click [here](#) for complete details on eligibility and application requirements. Proposals are due in **June 2023** and in June annually through 2025.

Research Resources

Join us for the **Summer Institute in Research and Creativity, May 15-19**, for a week-long series of workshops and dedicated writing time to jumpstart your summer project! This year's theme is grant-writing. We will have workshops with internal and external experts on prospecting, getting, and managing grant funds; workshops on project planning and productivity; and dedicated time to write, make plans, and commune and collaborate with colleagues. Register [here](#) and save your seat!

NSF Virtual Grants Conference: Join the National Science Foundation for the Spring 2023 NSF Virtual Grants Conference **June 5 through June 8**. The virtual conference is designed to give new faculty, researchers, and administrators key insights into a wide range of current issues at NSF. Highlights include:

- New programs and initiatives
- Proposal preparation
- NSF's merit review process
- NSF directorate sessions
- Award management topics
- Conflict of interest policies
- NSF systems updates

Registration will open on **Wednesday, May 10 at 12:00pm**. Click [here](#) for more info!

Did you know...

Funding Searches Using Pivot Pivot is a leading funding search database used by many colleges and universities throughout the U.S. Because Radford University is a registered subscriber, each RU faculty member and student can sign up for an individual account. To sign up for an account of ProQuest Pivot and learn more about personalizing your profile, please contact **Tom Cruise, Director of Sponsored Programs and Grants Management** at 831-5479.

Sponsored Programs and Grants Management (SPGM) offers a series of grant-writing training modules to help support your needs as you begin the grant seeking process. Please visit their [online training page](#) for a series of webinars created by our corporate partner **Hanover Research**, or contact our office to schedule an individual training appointment at tcruise@radford.edu.

Upcoming Events



Research and Creativity Connections: Faculty Meet-Up All faculty are invited on *Friday, April 14, 3:00-4:00pm* in 118 Whitt Hall for an informal meet-and-greet to learn about student-faculty research and creative inquiry, with assistance from the **Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (OURS)**, and **Dr. Joe Wirgau, Director of OURS**. A Zoom option is also available for those who cannot attend in person: <https://radford.zoom.us/j/9548725526>. This is the fourth event in an ongoing series of meet-ups to discuss research and creative scholarship, opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations, and learn about institutional resources and support. Please make plans to join us!

The **College of Visual & Performing Arts** is pleased to announce its **Spring 2023 Performance and Exhibit Season!** The work of the students, faculty, and guest artists combine to make CVPA the artistic and cultural center of this region of the Commonwealth and beyond. To see the full schedule of events, please click on the image below:



For a full listing of upcoming research presentations and events, please visit Radford's Events Calendar:

<https://calendar.radford.edu/all/categories/Academics>

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Research and Creative Scholarship

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