



Radford
UNIVERSITY

College of Visual and
Performing Arts



DEAN'S REPORT

2024-2025

YEAR IN REVIEW

Dr. Tim Channell, Interim Dean
College of Visual and Performing Arts

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INTRODUCTION

As the Interim Dean, I am delighted to present this report summarizing our collective efforts over the past year. In accordance with the guidelines outlined in the T & R Handbook (1.4.3.1) and referenced in the AP Handbook, it gives me great pleasure to highlight the remarkable achievements and goals realized during this timeframe. This report aims to delineate the progress made towards our college-wide objectives and my personal goals as Interim Dean.

Overview of the College and Personal Goals

The College of Visual and Performing Arts is a strong and vibrant community, both within the university and in its external engagement. When I assumed the role of Interim Dean, I was entrusted with guiding the completion of the Artis Center while also supporting the college through a period of transition. My primary focus has been advancing the College's mission, fostering a dynamic academic environment, and advocating for the growth and success of our students and faculty.

I wholeheartedly embrace our mission and vision, recognizing their significance in guiding our past, present and future endeavors:

CVPA MISSION

- **Cultivate** an artistic community of practice.
- **Expose** others to the creative process.
- **Engage** in interdisciplinary and international collaborations.
- **Lead** the institution to cultural prominence.

CVPA VISION

"The College of Visual and Performing Arts strives to reveal and harness the creative energy that drives cultural innovation, empowers leadership, and provides the inspiration to devote one's life to learning and pursuing artistic excellence."



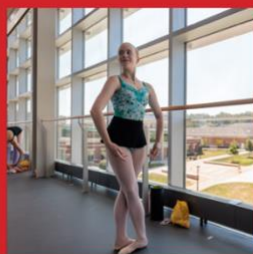
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ART



DANCE



DESIGN



MUSIC



THEATRE



These guiding principles have supported us through challenges, transitions, and new beginnings. As a college community, we continue to pursue our vision with dedication, earning recognition for enhancing the appreciation of the arts and design.

During our college meeting, we outlined the College of Visual and Performing Arts' goals for the 2024-2025 academic year, which include:

- Continue to Enhance Recruitment and Retention Initiatives
- Foster a Safe and Innovative Environment for Artistic Excellence
- Engage the Public and Foster Community Connections

In alignment with these overarching goals, I established personal objectives:

- Elevate Academic Excellence and Innovation
- Strengthen Community and Industry Partnerships
- Review and Enhance Student Belonging within the College.

Acknowledgment of Faculty's Contributions

In this Dean's report, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation to the incredible faculty of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Your dedication, expertise, and passion are truly at the heart of what makes our college such a vibrant and inspiring place.

Through innovative teaching, creative projects, and impactful research, you consistently challenge and inspire our students to reach new heights in their artistic and academic pursuits. Your commitment to mentorship and guidance has played a crucial role in shaping our students' success and strengthening the reputation of our college.

I also want to acknowledge the many hours you've devoted to academic and administrative work — from developing curriculum and advancing research to organizing performances, exhibitions, and serving on committees. Your hard work and collaborative spirit have been essential in moving our college forward.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, I offer my sincere gratitude for your dedication. Your passion for the arts, design, and education continues to inspire not only our students but also your colleagues and the broader community. Thank you for all that you do.

I. COLLEGE GOAL PROGRESS

The past year has been an incredible journey of growth and achievement. Engaging with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and donors has further deepened my appreciation for our college and the remarkable impact we have on the lives of our students. This past year has brought exciting expansion — in a new home, student enrollment, innovative programs, and enhanced opportunities for creative exploration. As a community, we have embraced this momentum, working together to elevate our college to new heights.

I'm incredibly grateful for the dedication and hard work of our faculty, staff, and students. Together, we are shaping a dynamic and inspiring environment — one that empowers our students to thrive and make meaningful contributions to the world.

I'd like to revisit our college goals and highlight how, in my capacity as interim dean, we have made significant strides in achieving these objectives and advancing our mission.

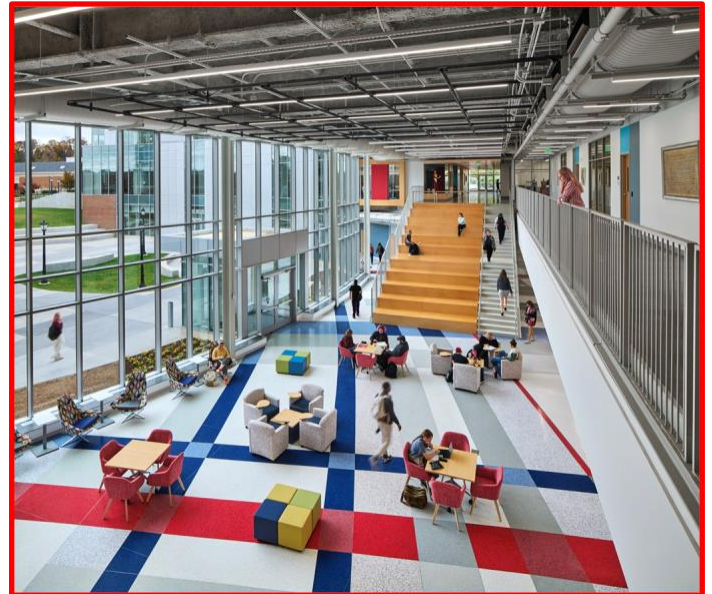
Goal 1: Continue to Enhance Recruitment and Retention Initiatives

The single largest challenge for our college continues to be enrollment and retention. However, despite this ongoing concern, I am encouraged by the significant progress we have made over the past year — progress that speaks to the dedication, strategic planning, and tireless efforts of our faculty, staff, and leadership team.

RECRUITMENT

As illustrated in Table 1, our college experienced a 15% decline in enrollment over the past six years. While this long-term trend highlights the challenges we face, the most recent year tells a much more positive story — one of remarkable growth and momentum. Over the past year alone, we achieved a 11% overall increase in enrollment, far exceeding our initial goal of a 5% increase.

Breaking down these numbers reveals additional insights. Undergraduate enrollment increased by 12% overall, with first-year enrollment seeing an impressive 21% increase. This surge in new student enrollment reflects our intentional outreach efforts, strategic partnerships, and the outstanding work of our faculty in showcasing the value of a creative, innovative education within the arts.



While graduate enrollment experienced a slight decrease of -7%, which equates to four students, it is important to note that graduate enrollment has remained relatively steady over the past six years. This stability presents an opportunity for renewed focus on graduate recruitment strategies, and I am confident that with continued effort, we can expand our graduate programs in meaningful ways.

I am extremely heartened by this positive trajectory. Achieving a 11% increase in enrollment — more than double our original goal — is a testament to the dedication and commitment of our college community. I am particularly proud of our leadership team's strategic focus on student engagement, recruitment events, and the promotion of our new facilities and resources. These collective efforts have positioned us well for sustained growth.

Looking ahead, we are on track to at least match — and more than likely surpass — last year's first-year enrollment numbers. This upward trend is an encouraging sign that our message is resonating with prospective students, and our college is becoming an even stronger destination for those seeking a vibrant, creative academic environment.

I remain grateful for the hard work, creativity, and dedication that has fueled this success, and I am excited to see the college build on this momentum as we continue to expand opportunities for students to thrive in our programs.

Table 1: Six Year Enrollment Trend

Major	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024
Art	191	172	169	166	167	196
Dance	51	41	44	43	42	47
Design	167	167	132	124	115	126
Music	132	120	84	84	88	95
Theatre	84	69	63	45	44	58
Bachelor's Degree Total	622	568	488	460	454	518
Post-Baccalaureate Certificate						
Design Thinking	0	1	5	3	1	3
Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Total	0	1	5	3	1	3
Master's Degree						
Art	40	37	35	41	45	39
Music	9	11	10	8	12	14
Master's Degree Total	49	48	45	49	57	53
College of Visual and Performing Arts Total	671	616	535	509	511	573

Source: <https://ir.radford.edu/electronic-fact-book/chart.php?chart=EN111>

FIRST YEAR RETENTION: A KEY AREA FOR CONTINUED FOCUS AND IMPROVEMENT

Retention of our first-year students remains an area of concern for our college. While some level of attrition is not uncommon in the arts and design fields, our recent retention trends suggest that additional attention is needed to better support our students in their first year. As illustrated in Table 2, our first-year retention rates have declined from 90% for the class entering in Fall 2018 to 77% for students who entered in Fall 2023. While some fluctuation is expected, this downward trend highlights the importance of developing targeted strategies to enhance student success and ensure we are providing the necessary resources for our new students to thrive.

It's important to acknowledge that some students naturally discover that their chosen major may not align with their interests or expectations, leading them to explore other programs on campus or transfer to another institution. However, given that roughly a quarter of our first-year students are leaving the college each year, this trend merits a closer look.

The leadership team is committed to identifying the underlying factors contributing to this decline and working collaboratively to implement initiatives that foster a stronger sense of belonging, engagement, and academic success. By strengthening our support systems, enhancing mentoring opportunities, and ensuring our students are well-prepared for the challenges and rewards of creative disciplines, we can make meaningful progress in improving retention.

I am confident that with focused effort and continued collaboration, the college can better support our students and create an environment where they feel empowered to succeed and grow.

Table 2: Retention percentages for First Year Students—6-year trend

Major	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023
Art	81%	76%	71%	74%	72%	87%
Dance	100%	92%	80%	70%	100%	90%
Design	83%	90%	62%	81%	66%	62%
Music	91%	82%	77%	86%	69%	79%
Theatre	95%	69%	89%	64%	82%	67%
College of Visual and Performing Arts Total	90%	82%	76%	75%	78%	77%

SOURCE: [HTTPS://IR.RADFORD.EDU/ELECTRONIC-FACT-BOOK/CHART.PHP?CHART=RT04](https://ir.radford.edu/electronic-fact-book/chart.php?chart=RT04)

Goal 2: Foster a Safe and Innovative Environment for Artistic Excellence

Creating an environment that nurtures both artistic exploration and well-being is essential to our mission. This year, we took important steps toward establishing two new initiatives — the Creativity and Innovation Lab and the Center for Arts & Wellness — both of which are currently being researched for a possible launch in Fall 2025, pending the approval of the incoming dean and available financial resources.

Creativity and Innovation Lab

The Creativity and Innovation Lab has been envisioned as a hub for faculty and students to engage in groundbreaking creative research and interdisciplinary exploration. The lab is guided by three core pillars — Emerging Technologies, Collaboration, and Wellness — and aims to foster innovative artistic practices through hands-on experimentation. This expanded resource base will enhance the Creativity and Innovation Lab's ability to support forward-thinking projects that integrate technology and artistic expression. The pilot faculty fellowship program associated with the lab is scheduled to begin in Fall 2025, again, pending the incoming dean's approval and support, with selected fellows actively contributing to the lab's creative environment through research, workshops, performances, and exhibitions. Thank you to Prof. James Robey for taking the lead on this initiative.

Center for Arts & Wellness

The Center for Arts & Wellness has been envisioned as a dynamic and inspiring space where faculty, students, and community partners can explore the vital connections between the arts and overall well-being. With a focus on nurturing mental, emotional, and physical health, the center will serve as a platform for innovative research and practical applications of wellness-based practices across Art, Dance, Design, Music, and Theatre. Prof. Robyn Berg is to be acknowledged and commended for her leadership on this effort.

By fostering interdisciplinary partnerships and engaging with external wellness professionals, the center aims to develop transformative approaches that support artists throughout their creative journeys. This holistic approach will empower individuals to maintain their well-being while pursuing artistic excellence.

While the formal launch of the center is targeted for Fall 2025, its development is contingent upon the approval and support of the incoming dean. In preparation, we have taken meaningful steps this year to introduce wellness initiatives that align with the center's mission. Regular wellness activities have been incorporated into the performance hub and courtyard, providing accessible opportunities for students to decompress and recharge. Additionally, we supported a special project featuring guest speakers and a powerful song cycle performance centered on mental health awareness.

These efforts reflect our commitment to building a supportive environment that acknowledges the unique pressures of creative disciplines while equipping our students with strategies to maintain balance, resilience, and overall well-being. With continued planning and the backing of the new dean, the Center for Arts & Wellness has the potential to become a transformative resource for our college community.

These two initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to fostering an environment where students and faculty are empowered to innovate, create, and thrive. With a focus on both artistic excellence and personal well-being, these programs will provide essential resources to help our students flourish in their academic and creative endeavors.

Goal 3: Engage the Public and Foster Community Connections

Engaging with the public and strengthening connections within our community has been a central focus for the College of Visual and Performing Arts. This year, we have taken meaningful steps to expand our outreach efforts, create accessible opportunities for engagement, and celebrate the arts as a vital force for community building.

EXPANDING OUR AUDIENCE AND IMPACT

Over the past year, our college attracted nearly 17,000 patrons, visitors, and audience members to our performances, exhibitions, and events. This remarkable level of engagement reflects the dedication of our faculty, staff, and students in creating vibrant and impactful artistic experiences. These events not only showcased the extraordinary talent within our college but also reinforced the value of the arts as a means of fostering dialogue, connection, and cultural enrichment.

ENHANCING AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH NEW SPACES

A significant factor in expanding our audience has been the opening of our new Main Stage Theatre, the Black Box Theatre, and the Dance studio in the Artis Center. These dynamic spaces have provided exciting opportunities for our Theatre, Dance and Music programs to stage innovative productions that highlight student talent and creative exploration. By welcoming new audiences into these purpose-built spaces, we have expanded our reach to include members of the Radford community and beyond. The versatility of the Black Box Theatre and Dance Studio have allowed us to present intimate performances, experimental works, and student-driven projects that invite deeper engagement with our audiences.

HOSTING SIGNATURE EVENTS IN THE ARTIS CENTER

In addition to theatrical performances, the Artis Center has quickly become a central gathering place for both university and external events. By hosting the Provost's Speaker Series, we have invited prominent scholars and experts to engage with our campus and community, fostering thought-provoking dialogue within the arts and beyond. The Artis Center has also welcomed numerous external meetings, gatherings, and galas, helping to introduce the broader community to the new facility and showcase its potential as a vibrant venue for cultural and intellectual engagement. These events have strengthened awareness of the Artis Center and highlighted the opportunities it provides for collaboration, creativity, and connection.



PUBLIC ART AND COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES

The continued outstanding work of the Public Arts Committee has played a vital role in amplifying our outreach efforts by ensuring the care, maintenance, and acquisition of public art on campus. This dedicated group, composed of members from across the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the broader university community, and the City of Radford, has been instrumental in enhancing the visibility of visual art throughout our campus.

Through their thoughtful curation and planning, the committee has expanded the presence of visual art in key spaces, creating engaging environments that invite reflection, dialogue, and appreciation for creative expression. These installations provide meaningful opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors to connect with the arts in their everyday experiences.



Looking ahead, we are excited to expand these efforts with the installation of outdoor sculptures across campus. These sculptures will serve as powerful visual landmarks, enriching our outdoor spaces while reinforcing the college's commitment to integrating art into the campus landscape. By activating outdoor areas with inspiring works of art, we are creating opportunities for students and visitors to engage with creativity in new and unexpected ways.

The public arts initiative has been transformative in cultivating spaces that bring the arts to life for our campus community. Whether through permanent installations, rotating exhibitions, or collaborative projects, this initiative continues to foster a vibrant visual presence that reflects the creativity and innovation that define our college.

REIMAGINING THE UNIVERSITY PERFORMANCE SERIES



Our efforts to reimagine the University Performance Series have successfully drawn new audiences to our campus, enriching the cultural landscape of both the university and the surrounding community. By blending traditional performances with innovative presentations, we have broadened our programming to appeal to a more diverse audience while expanding the creative experiences available to our region.

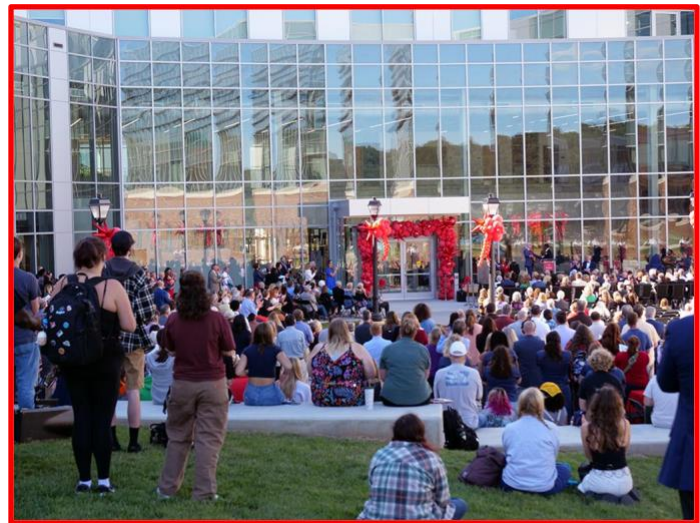
A significant highlight of this year's series was the performance by Artrageous, which marked the first external performance to take place in our new Main Stage Theatre. This dynamic and engaging show combined art, music, comedy, and arts advocacy, captivating the audience with its unique blend of interactive creativity. The performance drew a near-capacity crowd, demonstrating the strong community interest in immersive and unconventional artistic experiences. Artrageous not only entertained but also underscored the power of the arts to inspire and connect people of all backgrounds.

Additionally, the series welcomed Catapult, a mesmerizing dance company known for its innovative shadow performances. This visually stunning production enthralled the audience, showcasing the creative possibilities of movement, storytelling, and illusion. Catapult's performance brought a fresh and imaginative energy to the Bondurant stage, further reinforcing our commitment to offering diverse and engaging programming.

These performances exemplify our commitment to redefining the University Performance Series as a dynamic platform for creativity and cultural engagement. By featuring bold and innovative presentations like Artrageous and Catapult, we have successfully attracted new audiences while continuing to serve our loyal patrons. Future series should continue to feature traditional arts presentations, ensuring a balanced and enriched program that honors classic artistic forms while embracing innovative performances. Moving forward, the committee is encouraged to continue to explore creative programming that enriches our campus community, engages the public, and solidifies the Artis Center as a regional destination for vibrant arts experiences.

STRENGTHENING DONOR ENGAGEMENT AND CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

Through enhanced donor engagement strategies, we held the Arts Society Reception before a University Performance Series event, providing a meaningful opportunity to connect with supporters and strengthen their ties to the college. This initiative has created an inviting space to celebrate the generosity of our donors while also showcasing the outstanding achievements of our students and faculty. These receptions have fostered personal connections, offering a chance to express gratitude for the impact our donors have on the lives of our students.



In addition to strengthening relationships with existing supporters, we welcomed several new donors this year, expanding our network of individuals committed to advancing the arts. This growing base of support reflects a continued belief in the mission and work of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Our fundraising efforts have yielded significant results this year, with a total of \$250,250 in gifts, including a naming opportunity that marks a lasting contribution to the Artis Center. These generous contributions have directly supported our students, with \$267,000 awarded in CVPA-specific scholarships — an increase from the previous year. This enhanced scholarship support is making a meaningful difference in the lives of our students, helping to reduce financial barriers and ensuring that talented artists, designers, musicians, dancers, therapists, and performers can pursue their educational goals. Additionally, we have our first named CVPA space for the Artis Center with an announcement to be forthcoming.



I consider it a privilege to share our college's story with alumni and donors while also listening to their experiences as former students and supporters of our institution. We are fortunate to build on the legacy of leaders before me who diligently worked to secure one of the largest, if not the largest, endowment on campus. Carrying forward this legacy has been both an honor and a responsibility in which I have deeply appreciated. There is capacity in this area that our new dean will be able to build upon.

It is important to note that our advancement efforts are currently in transition, as we await the appointment of a new CVPA Advancement Officer. During this time, we will actively work to maintain momentum in donor engagement, ensuring our supporters continue to feel valued and connected. While this period of transition presents challenges, I remain confident that with continued focus and collaboration, we will sustain the progress we have achieved and build upon it once the new advancement officer is in place.

While we have made tremendous progress, there is still work to do. The college should look forward to expanding our outreach, connecting with more alumni and friends of the college, and continuing to build a culture of philanthropy that sustains and strengthens the creative excellence of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

TRANSITIONING INTO THE ARTIS CENTER: EMBRACING CHANGE AND INNOVATION

The transition into the Artis Center has been a defining moment for the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Moving into this extraordinary space has brought both exciting opportunities and inevitable challenges. Through it all, our faculty and staff have demonstrated remarkable dedication, flexibility, and collaboration — qualities that have been instrumental in making this transition a success.



From the earliest stages of the move, faculty and staff across all departments worked collaboratively to ensure that the Artis Center would provide the best possible learning environment for our students. This spirit of teamwork was evident in every aspect of the process — from preparing classrooms and studio spaces with only three weeks remaining before the start of classes to adjusting equipment needs and addressing unexpected issues. Faculty displayed exceptional open-mindedness as we explored creative solutions to meet the needs of their programs, often compromising and adapting to ensure we could provide the most functional and inspiring spaces possible.



Like any significant transition, we encountered challenges along the way. Budgetary constraints and building limitations required difficult decisions, and in some cases, we had to say “no” to important equipment, space, and technology that would have enhanced our creative places. While these limitations were disappointing, faculty and staff remained resourceful, finding alternative solutions that allowed us to continue supporting high-quality instruction and artistic exploration. Their willingness to collaborate and think creatively has been crucial in overcoming these obstacles.

One of the most exciting aspects of this transition has been the emergence of new opportunities that were not originally part of the building’s design. For example, a large classroom was reimagined and converted into a dedicated acting studio, providing theatre students with a versatile and spacious environment for rehearsals and skill development. Additionally, several discipline-specific classrooms were strategically relocated within the building to better serve faculty and student needs. These thoughtful changes have already had a positive impact, fostering enhanced learning environments and greater flexibility for students and faculty alike. This year, we fully staffed the Makers Space, adding new equipment such as four small 3-D printers and a variety of state-of-the-art tools.

While much has been accomplished, there is still important work to be done. Final orders for select equipment and furniture are underway, and we continue to assess ways to maximize the functionality of this remarkable facility. Despite these remaining tasks, the Artis Center is already living up to its promise — serving as an inspiring space that encourages collaboration, creativity, and innovation.



This new home has transformed the way our college community interacts. The Artis Center is providing fresh opportunities for faculty to collaborate with students, faculty to collaborate with one another, and students to collaborate across disciplines. This spirit of connection is strengthening our creative environment and encouraging artistic exploration in new and exciting ways.

I am incredibly proud of the work we have done together and to the adaptability, resilience, and forward-thinking mindset demonstrated by our faculty and staff throughout this transition. While the journey is not yet complete, we are firmly on track to fulfill the vision of the Artis Center for Adaptive Innovation and Creativity — a space that empowers students and faculty to imagine, create, and inspire.

II. PERSONAL GOAL PROGRESS

As previously mentioned, I outlined three primary personal goals for this year as Interim Dean. Recognizing that many of these goals intersect in scope, I am pleased to categorize them into four distinct areas: Advancement, College Leadership, University Service, and Professional Contributions.

Advancement

I consider it a privilege to share the remarkable story of our college with alumni and donors but also to hear their personal experiences and reflections as former students and dedicated supporters. These conversations are a powerful reminder of the lasting impact our college has had on so many lives.

We are fortunate to build upon the strong foundation laid by leaders before me, who worked diligently to secure one of the largest — if not the largest — endowments on campus. Carrying forward this legacy has been both an honor and a responsibility that I deeply valued.

This year, I am proud to report that contributions to the College of Visual and Performing Arts totaled \$250,250 and included several new donors. While these numbers reflect a slightly lower total than the previous year, they signify continued dedication from our supporters and the promising potential for growth in the future.

Importantly, we were able to provide an impressive \$267,000 in CVPA-specific scholarships to support our students — a notable increase from the previous year. This enhanced scholarship support is making a tangible difference in the lives of our students, helping to reduce financial barriers and ensure they have the resources needed to thrive in their academic and creative pursuits.

REFLECTING ON ENGAGEMENT

Over the past year, I had the privilege of meeting with several exceptional donors, as well as the talented students who have directly benefited from their generosity. These conversations were more than just moments of gratitude — they were meaningful opportunities to connect individuals who care deeply about our college with the students whose lives they are transforming.



Some of these encounters opened doors to exciting new possibilities for the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Discussions inspired ideas for an interdisciplinary art exhibition and showcase, sparked conversations about offering transformative summer experiences for students, and created momentum for expanding and enhancing our art collection. These emerging opportunities reflect the positive impact of building strong relationships with those who share our vision for the arts.



In addition to these donor connections, I welcomed the chance to engage with alumni groups, sharing insights about our college's progress and highlighting the new opportunities provided by the Artis Center. These conversations not only celebrated the achievements of our college but also strengthened the network of alumni who continue to support and advocate for our programs.

As we look forward, the transition to new leadership in the College of Visual and Performing Arts presents exciting opportunities to build on these foundations. With fresh perspectives and renewed energy, our new dean will have the opportunity to further expand these relationships — both internally within the university community and externally with alumni, donors, and partners. The momentum we have created provides a strong starting point, and I am confident that this next chapter will bring even greater opportunities for growth, collaboration, and success.

REFLECTIONS ON LEADERSHIP AND LOOKING AHEAD

Serving as the Interim Dean for the College of Visual and Performing Arts over the past two years has been a privilege, pleasure, and deeply rewarding experience, made possible by the dedication and collaboration of our faculty, staff, and students. My role has centered on providing leadership that builds on our college's strengths while embracing new opportunities for growth.

Despite my 17-year tenure within this remarkable college, these past two years have been invaluable in expanding my understanding of our programs, people, and potential. I prioritized being **visible, engaged, and committed to listening** — practices that informed decision-making and fostered meaningful dialogue. Through these efforts, I gained deeper insights into the expertise of our faculty, the aspirations of our students, and the challenges we face as a college.

As the primary storyteller for the College, I take immense pride in sharing the outstanding achievements of our faculty and students with others. Looking ahead, I am confident that new leadership will build upon this foundation, representing the College both within the university and in the broader arts community with distinction.

Key Accomplishments and Efforts

STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

- Throughout the year, I maintained biweekly meetings with each department chair to stay informed about challenges, opportunities, and goals. These conversations provided valuable insights and reinforced my confidence in our strong and committed leadership team.
- To foster ongoing collaboration, we refined our weekly leadership meetings to focus more intentionally on college-wide initiatives, addressing shared concerns, and celebrating faculty achievements. I believe strongly in empowering the leadership team to speak openly and collaboratively, which led to thoughtful discussions and productive solutions.
- I engaged directly with faculty in each department, providing a platform for open dialogue, questions, and concerns. These conversations played a crucial role in identifying opportunities to improve both curricular and co-curricular student experiences.
- I met weekly with our Communications Officer and two Technical Directors to coordinate building operations, events, and communication strategies.
- In September 2024 and January 2025, we hosted focused Leadership Retreats to assess goals, evaluate progress, and develop strategies for the College's future.

UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

- I held monthly meetings with the provost to discuss opportunities and challenges facing our college. These meetings were vital in advocating for our needs, sharing progress updates, and strategizing for the future.
- A significant outcome of these discussions was the successful approval to **replace a retiring faculty position** and hire two **Full-Time Temporary faculty positions** to fill vacant roles. This decision was crucial in maintaining the strength of our academic programs and ensuring students continue to receive high-quality instruction and mentorship.
- Another important outcome was the development of plans for a half-time **Associate Dean position**, pending budget approval. This role is designed to expand leadership capacity, better support faculty initiatives, and strengthen student success efforts.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- The **Public Art Committee** played a key role in enhancing the visual presence of artwork throughout the Artis Center and across campus. I was especially proud that we used pieces from our permanent collection to fill the Artis Center walls, ensuring the space reflects the creativity and identity of our college. Special thanks to **Theresa Rykaczewski**, Art Museum Manager and Museum Studies Instructor, for her exceptional work in curating and displaying these pieces.
- We proudly awarded the first **CVPA Distinguished Faculty Award** to **Dr. Meredith Bowen**, Associate Professor of Music. Recognizing faculty excellence is vital, and I am grateful to the CVPA Awards Committee for their efforts in creating this meaningful recognition.
- We successfully reimagined the **Research, Scholarly, and Creative Project Grants** program by investing \$10,000 from the Dean's budget to support individual faculty projects and expand professional development opportunities.
- Working with Marketing and Communications, we developed a **strategic marketing plan** to better promote our programs and creative events. This plan serves as a blueprint for future outreach efforts.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Recognizing the importance of maintaining our resources, I successfully lobbied for additional funding to support two critical initiatives:
 - **Upkeep and maintenance** of our new equipment.
 - **Programming support** for the Artis Center.

These funds have been pivotal in ensuring our equipment is well-maintained and that we can continue offering meaningful programming for students, faculty, and staff.

- This year, the Dean's Office was proud to support a wide range of **external guest artist events** that enriched learning experiences for students across all five disciplines in the College of Visual and Performing Arts — Art, Dance, Design, Music, and Theatre. These guest artist engagements brought invaluable expertise, fresh perspectives, and inspiring creative insights to our students and faculty.

From masterclasses and workshops to performances, lectures, and exhibitions, these events created meaningful opportunities for students to connect directly with accomplished artists and industry professionals. By facilitating these interactions, we provided students with real-world insights into their fields, expanding their artistic vision and fostering new ideas.

CVPA remains committed to this important investment, recognizing the powerful impact that guest artists have in inspiring creativity, enhancing learning, and building connections between our students and the broader arts community.

SUMMER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

- A major success this year was the hiring of a full-time Executive Director and a CVPA Associate Director for the Summer Residential Governor's School. I worked closely with the new leadership to support the program's success. This important outreach program will now be housed in the Artis Center, providing a wonderful opportunity to showcase our facilities and world-renowned faculty.

ACCREDITATION AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- I am pleased to celebrate the successful **reaccreditation of the Department of Music** by the **National Association of Schools of Music**. This accomplishment reflects the dedication and expertise of **Dr. Wayne Gallops** and the Music faculty.

ARTIS CENTER: TRANSITION AND OPPORTUNITIES

- The opening of the Artis Center in August 2024 was a major milestone for our college. I commend the faculty for their hard work and adaptability throughout the transition. While some building projects remain ongoing, I am proud of how we navigated the challenges of moving into a space that was not fully complete. By late summer, we expect all remaining equipment and furniture to be in place.
- We successfully hosted a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony, welcoming dignitaries, alumni, and community members to celebrate the Artis Center's opening.
- The Office of Advancement's Campaign Gala Celebration further highlighted the potential of the new center, showcasing its versatility as a venue for major events.
- A special Artis Center Magazine was developed to celebrate the building's history, highlight its features, and showcase the College's achievements.

- To build community within the building, we introduced **monthly lunchtime concerts** in the Performance Hub, thanks to the outstanding efforts of **Dr. Matt Cataldi** and the Music faculty.
- We partnered with the **Tartan Tails Program** to provide weekly therapy dog visits to support student wellness.
- Additionally, we hosted social events, such as cookie socials, to encourage student connection and foster a sense of community.

LOOKING FORWARD

I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together. More importantly, I am grateful for the dedication, creativity, and resilience of our faculty and staff. Together, we have faced challenges, embraced opportunities, and positioned the College for a vibrant and inspiring future.

As we prepare for new leadership in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, I am confident that the foundation we have built will continue to serve our students, faculty, and community well. The incoming dean will have the opportunity to build on these successes, advocate for the College's continued growth, and lead us forward with fresh ideas and renewed energy.

University Service

Internal governance plays a pivotal role in the success of any academic institution, serving as the cornerstone for effective decision-making and accountability. The inherent checks and balances provided by robust governance structures ensure transparency, fairness, and ultimately, better outcomes for all stakeholders. I am honored to contribute to this essential aspect of our college's operations by actively participating in various committees and assuming leadership roles where necessary. This year I have been involved in the following committees, to name a few:

- Academic Affairs Leadership Team
- President's Leadership Council
- Dean's Council
- Member of the Academic Policies and Procedures Committee
- Member of the Online Advisory Committee
- Member of the Program Review and Evaluation Committee
- College of Visual and Performing Arts Leadership Team (Chair)
- Member of the Campaign Celebration Committee
- Member of the Radford/Radford University Amphitheater Project Committee
- Member of the Design Committee for a Year-Round Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities

As well as representing the college at Highlander Days, Quest, Faculty Fall Convocation, Homecoming, Partners in Excellence Luncheon, Board of Visitors meetings, Campus receptions, Graduate Hooding and Commencement exercises, and Open House events.

Through active involvement in these committees, and other opportunities to represent our college, I remained committed to fostering a culture of collaboration, transparency, and excellence within our college, ultimately contributing to our collective success.

Professional Contributions

I firmly believe that remaining active in one's own academic discipline is essential for personal growth and for maintaining relevance in the field. Here are some examples of my continued commitment to my discipline and professional development:

- Member of the Music and Entertainment Industry Educators Association
- Music and Entertainment Industry Educators Association Journal, Editorial Board member
- Attended an American Council on Education webinar— “Chaos in Congress and Higher Education.”
- Member of the College Music Society
- Attended the College Music Society Conference, Washington, DC
- Member of the College Music Society Foundation Board
- Member of the Association of Performing Arts Professionals
- Member of the International Entertainment Buyers Association
- Attended the International Entertainment Buyers Association meeting, Nashville, TN
- Member of the International Council for Arts Deans (ICAD)
- Attended the ICAD International Conference, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- Attended the American Council on Education meetings, Washington, DC
- Webinars attended: Towards Better Tools: Shaping the Future of AI for the Arts and Design in Higher Education, College Partnerships to Fuel Rural Development, and others from ICFAD.
- Continue to play professionally as a piper in the region
- Serve on the board for the Alma Ensemble
- Serve on the board of the New River Valley Friends of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra

By remaining active in my discipline, I aim to stay at the forefront of developments in the field, contribute to knowledge generation and dissemination, and serve as a role model and mentor for the next generation of scholars and practitioners.

III. CONCLUSION

As I reflect on the past two years serving as Interim Dean for the College of Visual and Performing Arts, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude. This has been a time of growth, innovation, and resilience for the college—a testament to the unwavering dedication of our faculty, staff, and students. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones, from the successful transition into the Artis Center for Adaptive Innovation and Creativity to increased scholarship support for our students, expanded community engagement, and strengthened partnerships both within the university and beyond.

I am particularly proud of the collaborative spirit that has defined our work. Whether overcoming challenges, embracing new opportunities, or celebrating achievements, the success we have achieved has been the result of thoughtful teamwork and a shared commitment to advancing the arts.

Looking ahead, I am confident that the College of Visual and Performing Arts is well-positioned for continued growth and success. With new leadership on the horizon, I am excited to see the fresh perspectives and new ideas that the incoming dean will bring to guide our college forward. This transition presents an opportunity to build upon our strong foundation, expand innovative programs, and continue to inspire students to excel in their creative pursuits.

Serving as Interim Dean has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. It has been an incredible honor to lead this remarkable college—a place defined by exceptional artistry, scholarship, and dedication. I remain deeply grateful for the trust and support of our faculty, staff, students, and university leadership throughout this journey.

The College of Visual and Performing Arts is a vibrant and dynamic community—one that empowers students to imagine, create, and inspire. I look forward to seeing its continued success under the capable leadership of our next dean and will remain a steadfast advocate for the arts and design, our faculty, and, most importantly, our students.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this incredible community. It has been both a privilege and a joy.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy L. Channell, Ed.D., MBA



YEAR IN REVIEW





Radford
UNIVERSITY

College of Visual and
Performing Arts