



RESEARCH & CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP QUARTERLY

Welcome to the Spring 2026 Edition of Research and Creative Scholarship Quarterly!

Spring is my favorite time of year, as our campus comes alive with opportunities to celebrate the research and creative scholarship of our students and faculty. As always, our students continue to inspire us with their curiosity, creativity, and ambition, and their work is made possible through the dedicated mentorship and guidance of our faculty, for which we are deeply grateful.

I hope you were able to attend some of last week's events, and that you'll join us for more this week — including the Academic Affairs Awards Ceremony and Reception on Friday from 2-5 in Kyle 340.

This week is also Undergraduate Research Week, Library Appreciation Week, and Faculty Flourishing Week! To help celebrate, I encourage you to make time to visit the 35th Annual Student Engagement Forum today and tomorrow to experience firsthand the depth, creativity, and impact of our students' work and join in some of the many events at the Radford University Libraries and across campus supporting our faculty. As you will read below and see on campus, there is much to celebrate!

Jeanne Mekolichick, Ph.D.
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

Faculty Spotlight

Project Title: Why is Whiskers stressed? Crossover of employees' job stress to their pet cats

Principal Investigator: Dr. Tanya Mitropoulos, Ph.D.

Department: Psychology

Awarded Amount: \$10,000

Dr. Mitropoulos recently received an internal grant through the Office of

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process by which family members, like spouses and children, catch job related stress from an employed relative. This is well established in organizational psychology and parallels the phenomenon of emotional contagion widely documented in animal behavior research.

By integrating these two fields, this study tests whether pet cats may also be susceptible to their owners' job-related stress. Although prior research shows that dogs exhibit elevated stress when their owners experience more job stress, cats remain comparatively understudied despite living in roughly one-third of U.S. households. Given that pet cats are often treated as family members and have been shown to "catch" the feelings of their owners in experimental studies, it is predicted that cats' stress levels will correspond to the degree of job stress their owners report. It is further proposed that this connection stems from more work-related rumination among job-stressed owners.



This study will test these relationships using a 10-minute online survey completed by employed cat owners, and data will be analyzed via general linear modeling and path analysis in Mplus. By testing these pathways, this study identifies a potential mechanism underlying chronic stress and compromised welfare in pet cats and highlights work-related rumination as a promising target for interventions aimed at improving companion animal well-being.

Faculty-Student Success

Amplifying Joy and Connection

Written By: Lillyan Porter

Dr. Tiesha Martin finds meaning not only in her areas of research, but also from the many undergraduates she has mentored. "Students bring an energy and enthusiasm that is contagious," she noted, adding that her mentoring relationships are often filled with joy, laughter, and genuine connection. This impact has become one of the most rewarding parts of her career and demonstrates how hands-on research strengthens student confidence, critical thinking, and professional growth.



Her research centers on using sport as a means of creating positive social impact, a focus that has been furthered through her work with students. Dr. Martin has mentored Honors Capstone and SURF projects exploring gender equity in sport, collaborated with a Research Rookie exploring the mental health of injured athletes, and supported students as they presented at conferences and competed in undergraduate case study competitions. She shared that these experiences have not only supported student growth but have also reshaped and expanded her own research agenda through the passion and motivation that students bring to their work.

She has worked closely with students navigating research for the first time and now gets to bring that same focus on mentorship, clarity, and practical support to her work in OURS as the new Associate Director. Dr. Martin shared her excitement about supporting undergraduate research across disciplines and at every stage of a student's academic journey through this new role. As she recognizes research can be a transformative experience, especially for students who may not initially see themselves as "researchers", she looks forward to helping create more accessible, inclusive, and meaningful pathways for student involvement.

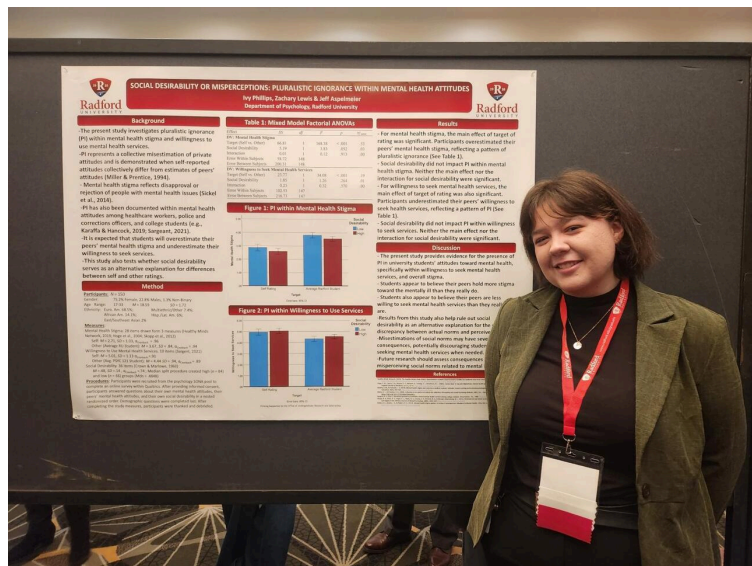
Student Success

Psychology Graduate Students Highlight the Value of Research Across Disciplines

Written By: Dr. Paige Tan

Psychology graduate students represented Radford University at several major conferences across the country over the last year, gaining valuable experience presenting their research, engaging with scholars, and deepening their understanding of the field. While this story highlights psychology, students across a wide range of disciplines at Radford are similarly engaged in research and conference participation — experiences that are central to graduate education and professional development.

In February, a group of students traveled to Boston for the Eastern Psychological Association Conference, where they explored a wide range of topics and connected with peers and faculty from across the discipline. For many, the conference provided an opportunity not only to attend sessions on subjects such as mental health stigma, social development, and behavioral neuroscience, but also to strengthen relationships within their own graduate cohort.



Pictured: Ivy Phillips at the Eastern Psychological Association Conference

Several students presented their research, gaining experience communicating their work to broader academic audiences. One student shared her master's thesis on the "Alzheimer's Disease Model in Rats: The Impact of Microplastics on Working Memory," drawing strong interest and thoughtful questions that pushed her to consider future directions for her research. Others described the experience of presenting as an important step in building confidence and refining their ability to explain complex ideas clearly.

Another psychology graduate student traveled to Chicago to present at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, an international conference bringing together scholars from around the world. Her thesis research examined how social goals may shape the relationship between mindfulness, compassion, and prosocial behavior. Presenting at this level allowed her to share the results of her work while also engaging with new perspectives and emerging research in the field.

Across both conferences, students emphasized the value of interacting with other researchers, attending specialized sessions, and seeing the breadth of current work in psychology. These experiences not only expanded their academic knowledge but also helped them develop professional skills — from presenting and networking to thinking more broadly about future research possibilities.

Together, these opportunities highlight the important role that research and conference participation play not only in psychology, but across disciplines at Radford — enabling graduate students to contribute to ongoing scholarly conversations while preparing for careers as researchers and practitioners.

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)

The Office of Undergraduate Research (OURS) is thrilled to announce this year's **Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship** winners! OURS was able to fund 20 different students to conduct research throughout the summer months, representing 13 majors across 6 colleges.

Research Resources

Need Authorship Ethics Support?

The Authorship Project has resources for faculty, staff and students on responsible authorship practices.

[More Information on the Authorship Project](#)

New Funding Database in Sponsored Programs!

Sponsored Programs is pleased to offer our grant-writing faculty with free, unlimited access to our new funding database powered by **Candid**.

Candid provides high-quality data on over 1.9 million nonprofits across the United States, making it a valuable resource for identifying funding opportunities to support your next big idea.

If you are interested in learning more about how Candid can assist with your funding search, please contact Tom Cruise in Sponsored Programs at tcruise@radford.edu.

Candid search marketing materials include how to guides on searching for prospects, evaluating a grant-maker's fit, building connections with funders, etc.

[Candid's 'How-to' Guides](#)

Schedule a Research Consultation with a Librarian!

Radford University Libraries provide research consultations in Zoom and in-person to help faculty, staff, and students reach their research goals and complete projects. We help along every step of the way, from topic development, to identifying appropriate sources for a research question, navigating databases and optimizing AI research tools, to synthesizing sources, and ethical source use through appropriate citation.

[Schedule a Time to Meet with a Librarian](#)

AI SoTL Opportunities

Faculty interested in exploring AI are encouraged to connect with campus

(CITL) offers multiple entry points, including the **Artificial Intelligence Community of Practice and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Community of Practice**, which is actively engaging questions about AI in teaching and learning.

CITL has also developed an **AI Commons** intranet site that has a growing collection of resources to support learning, spark research ideas, and connect with others doing this work. Use your Radford login to check out what AI resources could be beneficial to you!

[AI Commons](#)

Faculty may also be interested in joining a new SoTL research initiative that aims to explore the use of AI agents to support teaching and learning. Led by Charles Cosmato and drawing on principles from *The Opposite of Cheating: Teaching for Integrity in the Age of AI* by Tricia Bertram Gallant and David A. Rettinger (2025), the Own Your Paper (OYP) agent is a conversational, bounded/semi-autonomous agent (agentic AI) that helps students test and strengthen their ownership of their written work before submission. It is designed to “raise the cost of cheating” by helping students strengthen their connection to their own writing through guided, reflective questioning.

Faculty collaborators are invited to provide formative feedback on Cosmato's version 0.5 in Summer/Fall 2026 and to participate in a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning study in Spring 2027 examining its impact on student writing and engagement. Co-authorship opportunities available!

Contact Charley Cosmato (ccosmato@radford.edu) with any questions or if you would like additional information.

AI Research Support

Support for AI-related research is available through campus units such as the **Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship**; the **AI Sandbox** and the **Center for Applied Analytics** in the Davis College of Business and Economics; the **Social Media Analytics and Research Technology (SMART) Lab** in the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences; the **Center for Information Security (CIS)** in the Artis College of Science and Technology; and the **Radford University Libraries**, as well as through internal funding opportunities like the Interdisciplinary Research Team Project Development Awards. Resources are also available via **Udemy** (accessible via One Campus).

Council on Undergraduate Research Resources + Publications

'Where Career Readiness + Undergraduate Research Intersect' explores the powerful framework that connects research experiences to the top competencies employers and graduate schools seek.

[Where Career Readiness + Undergraduate Research Intersect](#)

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'AI Anxiety in Higher Education: How Undergraduate Research Can Help'

As AI continues to shape how knowledge is created, analyzed, and applied, CUR recognizes undergraduate research as a powerful framework for helping students engage with AI responsibly, ethically, and critically.

AI Anxiety in Higher Education: How Undergraduate Research Can Help

Download these new, free CUR members-only resources and check out everything else CUR has to offer!



Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Radford University's Partnership with 4-VA

4-VA is a partnership between nine Virginia universities, created to foster collaborations that leverage the strengths of each university and improve efficiencies in education across the commonwealth. Thanks to 4-VA, unprecedented alliances between schools, departments, faculty, and students generate significant, innovative solutions to educational and real-world challenges. 4-VA has pioneered a broad range of advancements in education that includes research, pilot courses, redesigned courses, shared courses, online programs, STEM education, industry-focused adult degrees, new technologies, interventions, workshops, conferences, as well as paths to degree completion.

Radford University, which recently began participating in 4-VA, seeks to advance both the 4-VA goals as well as our own by fostering pedagogical and research collaborations with partner schools through course sharing, course redesign grants, and collaborative ventures between 4-VA institutions. Radford University participates in complementary funding up to \$5,000 as funds are available. Radford faculty named as a collaborator in a proposal funded by another 4-VA institution are eligible for complementary funding. Awards up to \$5,000 will be disbursed after the primary 4-VA institution notifies Radford University once the award has been funded. For more information about 4-VA projects and sources of support for planned or ongoing initiatives, email [Dr. Jeanne Mekolichick](#), 4-VA Campus Coordinator, or [Tom Cruise](#), 4-VA Deputy Campus Coordinator.

More Information on 4-VA

Faculty looking for financial support for international research/creative scholarship projects are encouraged to apply to the **McGlothlin International Education Fund**. These funds are available to Radford University full-time faculty systemwide interested in conducting research or other scholarly initiatives of a global nature. For more information on how to apply, please visit the McGlothlin International Education Fund webpage.

McGlothlin International Education Fund

Need to Find Funding for the Next Big Idea?

With an increasing number of applicants competing for fewer grant dollars, every higher education institution is looking for an edge in its grant strategy. **Our research consultants at Hanover** supports colleges and universities with expert research development, grant writing, and strategic advising. Their professionals deliver customized proposal review, revision, and production support, while also helping to align strategic priorities to funding trends and opportunities across the grants landscape.

Hanover also supports faculty by providing an avenue to find potential funders who may be interested in your idea. Whether that be through their prospecting reports, forecast of upcoming grant opportunities, or through their funding opportunity database, they offer a wealth of resources to help you get started. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities and to get signed up, please contact Tom Cruise in Sponsored Programs at tcruise@radford.edu

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Fulbright Program — Faculty Opportunities

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program's 2026-2027 competition is now open! Consider advancing your faculty professional development by applying to one of the many prestigious Fulbright opportunities. Types of awards include:

- Fulbright Scholar Awards
- Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Awards
- Fulbright Postdoctoral Awards (for recently graduated scholars)
- Fulbright International Education Administrator Awards

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program offers over 400 awards in more than 135 countries for U.S. citizens to teach, conduct research and carry out professional projects around the world. College and university faculty, as well as artists and professionals from a wide range of fields can join over 400,000 Fulbrighters who have come away with enhanced skills, new connections,

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Please contact Dr. Ismael Betancourt, Assistant Provost for Global Education and Engagement, at ibetancourtvelez@radford.edu with any questions.

[More Information on the Fulbright Program](#)

Fulbright Program — Student Opportunity

The McGlothlin Center for Global Education and Engagement is looking for professors and advisors who are interested in promoting the Fulbright Student Scholarship program to their classes and advisees. This is an excellent opportunity for rising Seniors to apply for a world-renowned program to either conduct a research project or teach English in a foreign country after graduation. If you would be interested in promoting the Fulbright program by having someone come present to your class, please contact Colleen Choate, at cchoate1@radford.edu.



FULBRIGHT Scholar Program

CITI Research Training

Did you know that CITI Research Training educational and training materials is not just for IRB or IACUC research?

CITI's focus areas also include courses in ethics, research, meeting regulatory requirements, responsible conduct of research, research administration and other topics pertinent to the interests of member organizations, individual learners, and society.

Please take advantage of other training materials offered to you through our CITI program.

- Responsible Conduct of Research (based on research discipline)
- Getting started with Grant Writing: An Introduction
- Data Management for SBE Research

If you are interested in learning more about the training opportunities provided by CITI, please contact Ricky Calderon in the Research Compliance Office at emcalderon@radford.edu or 540-831-5290.

We Want to Hear From You

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Research Integrity and Compliance Office Improvement Survey

The Research Integrity and Compliance Office has launched an **Improvement Survey**! This short survey is designed to take no more than five minutes and invites you to provide candid feedback about your experiences with the RIC Office.

All members of the Radford University community, including students, faculty, staff, and non-affiliated individuals, are encouraged to participate. Your input plays an important role in helping us better understand what we're doing well and how we can continue to improve our services. Ultimately, our goal is to strengthen the support we provide and foster a culture of integrity, collaboration, and excellence in research across the community.

[Complete the Survey Here](#)

International Activities Survey

The McGlothlin Center for Global Education and Engagement, in collaboration with the **Office of Sponsored Programs and Grants Management**, cordially invite you to participate in a campus-wide survey to capture all faculty international engagement in the last 5 years. All types of international activities are welcome, including presentations, research, faculty-led programs, sabbaticals, etc., but of particular interest are international scholarship and research activities.

- What types of international research are you currently conducting or are you interested in conducting in the next 5 years?
- Have you participated in any type of international activity in the last 5 years?
- Would you like to collaborate with other faculty around campus?

We would love your input and insight to help capture what we are already engaged in, how we can expand our footprint globally, and how we may be able to connect you with others on campus to collaborate more efficiently.

Click on the link below to start this brief survey and please feel free to reach out to us with any thoughts or questions.

[Faculty Survey](#)

Did You Know?

Thermo Scientific Delta Q

The Biology Department recently acquired a **Thermo Scientific Delta Q**

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IRMS). While that name may sound complicated, what it can do is actually pretty remarkable. Have you ever wondered whether an ancient culture relied on marine versus terrestrial food sources? This instrument can help answer that. Want to know where an organism sits in a food web, or how carbon and nitrogen move through ecosystems? It can do that too. More broadly, it can be used to trace the origins of materials, understand environmental change, and study processes across fields such as biology, chemistry, geology, anthropology, and environmental science.

The instrument works by measuring the ratio of light and heavy isotopes of elements like carbon and nitrogen, for example, distinguishing between carbon with 6 neutrons and carbon with 7, or nitrogen with 7 versus 8. These small differences provide powerful insight into biological, chemical, and environmental processes. Students will have the opportunity to learn how to use this instrument in mentored research projects, and Dr. Steve McBride will incorporate this state-of-the-art technology into BIOL 407 (Microbial Ecology) beginning in Fall 2026. Faculty and students across disciplines who are interested in using the instrument are encouraged to reach out to Dr. McBride at smcbride@radford.edu for access and collaboration.

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research

Radford University is a member of the **Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, or ICPSR**. As such, you have broad access to "raw data about individuals and organizations on a wide range of topics representing current and historical research in the social and behavioral sciences. Data are primarily quantitative (numeric), although mixed-method and qualitative work is becoming more common." From off-campus, authenticate through the [Libraries A-Z Databases](#) to get full access. ICPSR offers data storage for social sciences-related research projects, if you are searching for an [open data repository](#). Questions? Contact our representatives, [Alyssa Archer](#) with RadfordU Libraries for tips on searching ICPSR and [Merrie Winfrey](#) with the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning for using ICPSR data and resources in teaching.

[ICPSR Data and Resources](#)

New Additions to Archives & Special Collections

Archives & Special Collections is pleased to announce two significant additions that further enrich our documentation of Radford University's history and the scholarly work of our community

Frances "Bonnie" Hurlburt Academic Regalia — Historic Garments and Memorabilia Collection (RU 8.3)

We are honored to preserve the academic regalia of Frances "Bonnie" Hurlburt, Class of 1958 and longtime Dean of Students. Hurlburt's decades of service helped shape the student experience at Radford University, and the inclusion of her regalia in the Historic Garments and Memorabilia Collection provides a tangible link to her leadership, legacy, and impact on campus life.

A huge thank you to the Office of Alumni Relations for this amazing donation of Radford University history!

[Check out the collection's finding aid here](#)

Additional Accrual to the James A. Organ Collection (SC 2016)

A new accrual to the James A. Organ Collection expands our holdings of Organ's research, teaching, and personal files. This addition offers deeper insight into his academic work, professional contributions, and intellectual life. Scholars, students, and community researchers will find enhanced opportunities to explore Organ's scholarship and the broader contexts in which he worked.

[Check out the collection's finding aid here](#)

These new materials are now available for research in Archives & Special Collections. We invite the campus community to explore these collections and discover the stories they help preserve.

Upcoming Events

35th Annual Student Engagement Forum

Radford University will once again celebrate the longest continuous campus-wide research event in Virginia with the **35th Student Engagement Forum**. Come hear from more than 400 students presenting the new knowledge they created over the past academic year. The event is open to the public and features interdisciplinary poster sessions, oral presentations, performances, and exhibitions across campus from **April 21-24**.

Tuesday, April 21 features poster sessions from 11:00am to 6:15pm in the **Artis Center Performance Hub**, with an additional session at 5:00pm in the **Center for the Sciences**. Wednesday includes a variety of oral and poster sessions across campus, and creative works will be on display throughout the week in multiple locations.

Academic Affairs Awards Ceremony and Reception

We hope you are able to join us for the **Academic Affairs Awards Ceremony & Reception**, celebrating the outstanding achievements of our colleagues! This special event will honor T&R and AP faculty members who this year were awarded external funding, internal SEED grants, Faculty Professional Development Leave, University Awards, Dalton Eminent Scholars, Undergraduate Research Mentor Awards, and those who submitted external awards.

- **Date: April 24, 2026**

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- Location: Kyle 340

The reception will begin at 2pm. Award recognition will begin at 3pm with President Danilowicz and Provost Usher.

Summer Faculty Institute in Research and Creativity at Selu

Please join us for the **Summer Faculty Institute in Research and Creativity at Selu, taking place May 7 and 8**. The institute will consist of two days of writing time and support aimed at launching your summer work in research and creativity. We will have a few structured programs on campus resources for supporting your work, ample unstructured writing and thinking time, lunch and snacks, and optional recreational activities.

Bring your laptop to our research porch at Selu!

[Register Here](#)

For a full listing of upcoming research presentations and events, please visit Radford's 2025-2026 Events Calendar

[Radford University Events Calendar](#)



Radford
UNIVERSITY

Research and Creative
Scholarship

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February 2026



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