



RESEARCH & CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP QUARTERLY

Welcome to the Fall 2025 Edition of Research and Creative Scholarship Quarterly!

As we enter the month of gratitude, I offer thanks and appreciation to all of the faculty, students, staff, and administrators who support the research and creative scholarship enterprise. The successes we enjoy and the advances we have made are because of many dedicated folks from across the institution investing in our shared vision.

In this issue we celebrate the work of our colleagues and students, highlight funding and professional development opportunities, offer new resources, and share upcoming research-related events. I'd like to call attention to two items of note:

A **VIVA AI Research Tool Trial** running from **November 12 to February 12**. Read more below on how you can participate and explore how AI can support your scholarly work!

I am also excited about an upcoming **Advancing the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Community of Practice** book group to foster collaboration and experimentation with new pedagogical techniques. Read more below on how you can get involved to grow your scholarly profile or contribute to best practices in teaching.

Lets continue to build a vibrant research culture together!

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

Faculty Spotlight

Project Title: Grow Your Own — Teacher Apprenticeship Program



Principal Investigators: Dr. Debora Bays Wilbon, Dr. Tamara Wallace, and Dr. Melissa Lisanti
College of Education and Human Development

Sponsor: Virginia Department of Education

Awarded Amount: \$240,000

Dr. Wilbon, Dr. Wallace, and Dr. Lisanti received a grant through the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Competitive SAEF Subgrant Request for Applications to expand the apprenticeship program model currently operating within the Southwest Virginia Teacher Apprenticeship Consortium (SVTAC). SVTAC began its apprenticeship program in January 2024 and

anticipates six apprentices will complete their programs by June 2025, earning teacher licensure in Elementary Education, PreK-6, with an add-on endorsement in Special Education, General Curriculum Elementary, K-6. Radford University is partnering with existing members of the SVTAC (Bland County Public Schools, Galax City Public Schools, Giles County Public Schools, Pulaski County Public Schools, Radford City Public Schools, Roanoke City Public Schools, and Wythe County Public Schools) as well as new members (Botetourt County Public Schools, Floyd County Public Schools, and Montgomery County Public Schools) to implement the high-quality teacher registered apprentice program model with 20 new apprentices during the 2025-2027 cycle.

The apprenticeship program model responds to the needs of the ten consortium divisions in the areas of elementary education and special education, the top two critical shortage areas for the Commonwealth. Apprentices supported through this grant will earn a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in either Elementary Education or Special Education. Apprentices may elect to pursue one of two endorsement options: 1) Elementary Education, PreK-6, with concurrent add-on endorsement in Special Education, General Curriculum Elementary K-6; or 2) Special Education, General Curriculum, K-12.

The important work being done by the College of Education and Human Development responds to the Governor's and Virginia Department of Education's goals to provide a no-cost to participant teacher preparation pathway through a registered teacher apprenticeship program. Radford University is committed to supporting up to twenty apprentices between fall 2025 and spring 2027 with a 75% tuition reduction that will be funded through federal, state, and institutional aid programs.

Congratulations to the CEHD project team in carrying out solutions to solve this very important need!

Faculty-Student Success

Art History as a Vehicle for Empowerment

Dr. Carlee Bradbury Champions Student Scholarship at Radford University

Written By: Haley Gilley

Mentoring undergraduate research is one of the great joys of Dr. Carlee Bradbury's career. As a professor of Art History, she finds deep fulfillment in guiding students through every stage of the research process: "Working with students as they move from idea to research, to writing, and finally to presenting is an exercise in empowerment," Bradbury said. "Research builds both community and confidence. It is meant to be shared, discussed, and celebrated."



Photo Credit: Cora Burt

This year has been especially exciting! On the same day Bradbury first learned about her team being accepted into the Council on Undergraduate Research's Student Transformative Research (STR) Program; she was also invited to appear on NPR's *With Good Reason* radio show. Preparing for the interview, which explored medieval princess culture, led her to make new connections with her current research on the history of spinning wheels and technology.

[Listen to her interview here: I'm Just a Girl](#)

Three of the students on the STR team recently presented at the National Undergraduate Research in Virginia (NURVA) conference as part of Bradbury's STR team. "The STR program will be a tremendous opportunity for our student researchers in art history," Bradbury said.

Her current STR team includes four students at various stages in their university careers, all united by a shared fascination with art and a relentless pursuit of discovery. Their projects highlight the diversity of art historical research, demonstrating that archives, galleries, museums, and libraries serve as vital laboratories for inquiry and innovation.

In their STR application, the team wrote: "We aim to present our varied and unique projects and perspectives to a larger audience to highlight the many opportunities for undergraduate research in Southwest Virginia. Traveling to Washington, D.C. will benefit our team in numerous ways. Speaking to delegates about research will build confidence and awareness — especially as they prepare for graduate study in art history and museum studies. Art History may not be the first discipline that comes to mind when thinking about undergraduate research, yet in-depth primary source scholarship is essential to our field."

"Our team will represent Radford University to the best of their ability," Bradbury said. "This is their time to shine. They are engaged in experimental and active art history, and each project depends on meaningful engagement with primary sources."

Through mentorship, collaboration, and curiosity, Dr. Carlee Bradbury continues to cultivate a vibrant culture of research at Radford University — one that demonstrates the power of art history to inspire inquiry, creativity, and confidence in the next generation of scholars.



Pictured from left to right: Patrick Kielawa, Abby Craig and Lou O'Neil at a NURVa Conference (photo by Joe Wirgau)

[More on Dr. Carlee Bradbury](#)

Student Success

Graduate Research in Action: Exploring Freedom and Belonging through Literature

Written By: Dr. Paige Tan

With support from the Office of Graduate Affairs (OGA), English graduate student Nina Aidam traveled to Philadelphia this spring to present her research at the 2025 College English Association Conference. Her presentation, "Freedom and Cultural Fragmentation in *The River Between*," examined how colonial education and mission politics disrupted indigenous leadership and community ties in Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's classic novel — and how loyal voices strive to rebuild identity and belonging.

"I wanted to explore how literature helps us think about freedom in the contact of cultural conflict," she explained. "The audience asked great questions about classroom texts, community agency, and the role of literature in shaping ethical understanding."

The \$500 Graduate Student Travel Award from OGA made her participation possible, covering registration fees, travel, and materials for her presentation. The experience not only deepened her scholarly connections — through feedback from senior researchers and potential publication opportunities — but also enriched her teaching at Radford University.

"I came back energized," she said. "The conversations I had at the conference helped me bring new ideas about culture and identity into my ENGL 111 classroom."



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](#)

What are Research Agreements?

A research agreement is a legally binding set of promises outlining the obligations, rights, and responsibilities of each party involved in a collaboration. These agreements specify the scope of work, performance expectations, and ownership of resulting materials or data.

Common types of collaborative research agreements include:

- **Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs):** Protect confidential information shared between parties.
- **Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs):** Governs the transfer of tangible research materials to others.
- **Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs):** Facilitate collaboration between entities.
- **Data Use Agreements (DUAs):** Define how data can be shared, accessed, and used.

How can SPGM and RICO assist?

Sponsored Programs and the Research Integrity and Compliance Office can assist with which type of research agreement is most appropriate for the work you plan to conduct. We will help ensure agreements protect Radford University and our researchers by addressing key aspects like the scope of work, intellectual property, data use, liability, and publication rights. Services can also include managing the submission process, tracking agreement progress, and facilitating collaboration between researchers.

For more information or questions about how we can help assist you, please reach out to Tom Cruise, Director of Sponsored Programs at 540-831-5479 or by email at tcruise@radford.edu.

Faculty Collaborative Research Agreements

As Radford University continues to advance its research efforts through interdisciplinary initiatives, expanded student engagement, and partnerships with community organizations to address critical needs, the **Office of Sponsored Programs** (SPGM) and the **Research Integrity & Compliance Office** (RICO) are here to support your collaborative research activities. We can provide research agreement templates tailored to your specific project needs.

[More Information on SPGM's Resources](#)

Student-Mentor Agreement

Set the stage for a great research partnership! Our new template **Student-Mentor Agreement** helps clarify expectations, communication, and shared goals from the start — making mentoring smoother and more rewarding for both you and your students.

[Find It All Here](#)

Council on Undergraduate Research

Remember, anyone with a Radford email can join the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) for free! Click [here](#) to activate your memberships. CUR is a great source for:

- Professional Development - Workshops, webinars, and leadership training
- Publication & Presentation Opportunities - Venues for showcasing student research
- Networking & Collaboration - Connect with peers and potential research partners
- Advocacy & Resources - Tools to integrate research into teaching and secure institutional support



Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Faculty Funding

The Interdisciplinary Research Team Project Development Award

The Office of Sponsored Programs has announced a call for proposals for The Interdisciplinary Research Team Project Development Award. Which aims to foster collaborative, cross-discipline research and scholarly activity in the following focus areas: Healthcare (e.g., health disparities, rural health, mental health, healthcare education), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Community workforce

training that boosts economic development and community engagement promoting cultural heritage, tourism, and the arts.

The goal of the RFP is to offer:

- Support for the formation and development of diverse, interdisciplinary teams across departments, colleges and administrative units at Radford University
- Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and generation of innovative research and creative activities
- Enable teams to conduct smaller projects/studies that may impact the university and/or aid the community, collect preliminary data/information for external funding proposals, federal earmark proposals, or other allied initiatives and
- Promote community impact and engagement

Sponsored Programs Internal Funding

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

Sponsored Programs Seed Grant Program

The Office of Sponsored Programs would like to remind you about our Seed Grant Program. Seed Grants are one-year grants to fund pilot or preliminary work leading to external funding for larger research/creative projects by members of the faculty and staff.

We are also pleased to announce that effective, 11/1/25, all new SPGM Seed Grant applications will now be submitted using Kualu. SPGM has partnered with IT to create a Kualu form that will hopefully provide a better, streamlined process.

New Seed Grant Proposal Form

All other requirements of the Seed Grant remain unchanged! However, if you have questions concerning this change please contact Tom Cruise, Director of Sponsored Programs, at

Applications are **accepted on a rolling basis until April 15, 2026**.

If you are considering applying for a Seed Grant, we encourage you to make an appointment with our office to discuss your project ideas and explore how we can support your efforts.

Student Funding

Highlander Works Grant Program

Radford University is excited to offer the Highlander Works Grant Program in Spring 2026. The program offers undergraduate students an opportunity to apply for funding to help reduce the financial barriers associated with work-based learning opportunities, including internships, field placements, clinicals, etc.

Application submission for Spring 2026 is open from **November 1 to November 30, 2025**.

[Highlander Works Grant Program Details and Application](#)

OURS Student Seed Grant

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships (OURS) is excited has announced the addition of a new program supporting early-stage student research and creative inquiry projects. The OURS Student Seed Grant provides up to \$500 to help undergraduate students launch new research projects. This small grant is designed to help you take those first steps to exploring a new research question.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and can be submitted by students with faculty or staff support.

[OURS Student Seed Grant Application](#)

Explore Internship Opportunities with Archives & Special Collections!

Are you passionate about history, storytelling, or digital media? Archives & Special Collections at Radford University offers hands-on internships for students of all degree programs. Gain valuable experience in:

- **Digital Archiving:** Digitize archival materials and create metadata for the RU Digital Archive
- **Archival Processing:** Rehouse historic documents, create inventories, and learn arrangement & description techniques
- **Audio/Visual Projects:** Transcribe recordings, edit videos, and contribute to social media outreach

Whether you're studying history, media, museum studies, or just curious about archival work, this is a great opportunity to build skills and contribute to preserving university heritage. Reach out to archives@radford.edu for more information.

Graduate Student Travel Award

Through strategic investments like the Graduate Student Travel Award, the Office of Graduate Affairs (OGA) empowers Radford graduate students to share their research, expand professional

networks, and bring new insights back to campus. Students presenting at conferences and participating in research activities are encouraged to apply. This award can help cover costs related to travel, registration, or accommodations up to \$500 per student, per year.

In 2024-2025, OGA supported 53 graduate students in sharing their research with national and international audiences, representing an important investment in their professional growth and future success.

Interested students should apply with the support of their program director and chair/school director at least **four weeks** before the first date of travel.

[Graduate Student Travel Award Details and Application](#)

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Join us in the Elevate Research Program!

Are you interested in incorporating an undergraduate research experience in your course with the help of a student leader to mentor your students? Do you have a student who will benefit from receiving great leadership experience? Consider partnering with a student and joining the Elevate Research Program!

Thanks to two grants from the Jessie Ball duPont foundation since 2021, the Elevate Research Program has provided hundreds of Radford University students with high-impact undergraduate research experiences, enhancing student success and retention and preparing them for further study and careers. It has also provided upper-level undergraduate peer research mentors with opportunities that poise them for future leadership positions in their fields.

- Faculty fellows benefit from a course development institute designed to incorporate research projects.
- Student fellows benefit from career and professional development workshops in addition to their experience as research mentors

Faculty fellows benefit from a course development institute designed to incorporate research projects. Student fellows benefit from career and professional development workshops in addition to their experience as research mentors.

Watch for an Our Turn in January about the application process for 2026-27. The (mostly asynchronous) faculty institute will occur in May-June. Contact [Jeanne Mekolichick](#), [Heather Keith](#) or [Joe Wirgau](#) for more information.

"It has been great working with Elevate. Students have been inspired to pursue potential research projects and I know of at least one student who is now looking at graduate programs to pursue research and professorship. Our student mentors have been able to effectively share both leadership and research experiences with other students and are exemplary in setting high standards for newer students to aspire toward." Dr. Josh Roe said.

[More Information on Elevate Research](#)

Hanover Research Grant Webinars: Save the Dates!



GRANTS WEBINAR SERIES

We are excited to announce two upcoming Zoom webinars presented by Hanover Research on **Friday, January 6, 2026**.

These sessions will provide valuable insights into successful grant writing, including:

- How to identify and pursue funding opportunities
- How to communicate effectively with potential sponsors
- Networking strategies and other insider tips of the trade

Registration details and session times are below — you won't want to miss these informative events!

Webinar #1: The Art of Prospecting

Presented by Hanover Grants Consultant Dr. Joyce Belcher

Friday, January 6, 2026 @ 11 a.m. Eastern

This one-hour session will focus on the art of "prospecting" or identifying funding opportunities that align with your project. We will include an overview of funding entities and their grant-making programs in addition to a discussion of the different resources available to find opportunities.

[Register to Attend Here](#)

Webinar 2: Program Officer Engagement

Presented by Hanover Grants Consultant Paul Tuttle

Friday, January 6, 2026 @ 1 p.m. Eastern

Program Officers (POs) can act as assets and resources throughout your grant-seeking career. The one-hour training will provide you with information and resources to help you navigate PO outreach and the feedback process more effectively, helping you to develop relationships that will last throughout your research career.

[Register to Attend Here](#)

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.

Other Professional Development Opportunities and Resources

We are pleased to offer training resources to all faculty, students and staff who are interested in grant writing, as well as managing grants. Please take advantage of our videos and other resources. As always, if you have any questions please reach out to Tom Cruise, Director of Sponsored Programs, at tcruise@radford.edu or by calling 540-831-5479.

Did you know?

VIVA AI Research Tool Trials

VIVA has launched trials of two AI research tools: Consensus and Scite. The trials are available to all VIVA member institutions from November 12 to February 12. This includes Radford University!

Consensus

Scite

The Office of Undergraduate Research & Scholarship Support

All of OURS support can now be found in one place! Students and faculty can find everything you need to apply for OURS programs — from poster printing to presenting your work and beyond.

Support Your Research

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.

Check out ICPSR

Coming Soon

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning: YOUR Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning supports SoTL (Scholarship of Teaching and Learning)

Be on the lookout for more information about a SoTL Community of Practice that will kick off in Spring 2026 with a book group. You can experiment with new techniques, grow your scholarly profile, and contribute to best practices! Contact CITL@radford.edu to find out ways we can help you do research on your own teaching!

Upcoming Events

7th Annual Winter CARD

The Office of Undergraduate Research has scheduled the **Winter Creative Activities & Research Days (CARD)** at Radford University. Over the course of these events, there will be numerous displays of student presentations encompassing the vast research and knowledge they have acquired while working closely with Radford University faculty to solve the issues we face in our society. It is our hope that you will join us for a fascinating event at which the outstanding work of Radford University students and faculty will be on full display!

- **December 3:** Oral Presentations
- **December 4:** Poster Presentations

Winter Writing Retreat

Faculty Development will host an all-day writing and creative activity retreat **at Selu on December 16**. Wear your coziest sweater and make some progress on that article, novel, poem, play, grant proposal, etc. before the break! We will provide a quiet space, optional restorative activities, breakfast and lunch, and a hot chocolate bar.

The Seventh Annual Summer Institute in Research and Creativity

Save the date for the seventh annual Summer Institute for Research and Creativity, **May 14 and 15, at Selu, free and open to all faculty and staff.**

Do you have a dissertation chapter that wants to be an article? Do you have an idea for a textbook? Would your research benefit from support for grant writing? Do you just need a kick in the pants (i.e., productivity, creativity, and accountability coaching)?

Participants will receive a certificate of completion for attending the workshops. Contact hkeith1@radford.edu for more information.

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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November, 2025



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