



RESEARCH & CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP  
**QUARTERLY**

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Welcome back! We're thrilled to kick off the new academic year and welcome everyone back to campus. We hope you had a restorative and productive summer and are ready for a year filled with discovery, creativity, and innovation. This past year was one of growth and achievement for our research and creative scholarship community. We celebrated numerous grant awards totaling more than \$8 million in new external funding, presented and published papers, and saw our work make a real-world impact. As we look ahead, we are excited to see what new ideas will emerge and what challenges we will overcome together. Be sure to check out all the current and upcoming resources highlighted below. As always, reach out with questions and ideas. We look forward to a productive and inspiring year ahead.

Jeanne Mekolichick, Ph.D.

Associate Provost of Academic Affairs & Professor of Sociology

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## Faculty Spotlight

**Dr. Naveen Joseph, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, Assistant Professor, Geospatial Science**

**Project Title:** *Geospatial Analysis of Food Insecurity and Adverse Human Health Outcomes in the United States*

## About Dr. Naveen Joseph

Dr. Naveen Joseph is an Assistant Professor of Geospatial Science at Radford University. He did his Masters in Hydraulics and Water Resources Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India, and his Ph.D. in Environmental Hydrology and Water Resources from the University of Melbourne, Australia. He also worked at the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute, University of Idaho as a postdoctoral research fellow. Dr. Joseph's research interests focus on understanding the interactions among humans, the geospatial environment in which they live, time, and public health. He primarily uses geospatial datasets, statistical tools, and hydrological models to address the water resources issues both at regional and nationwide scales.

"Geospatial analysis of food insecurity and adverse human health outcomes in the United States"



## Abstract

Dr. Joseph successfully won a Seed Grant aimed to evaluate the associations between environmental contaminants, socioeconomic factors (including food insecurity), and climate variables with adverse human health outcomes (diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease) across the contiguous United States. The specific objectives outlined in the original proposal were: a) Aim 1: Compile datasets on food security, pesticide usage, climate variables, and health outcomes. b) Aim 2: Develop consolidated indices of environmental, socioeconomic, and climate factors using multivariate statistical techniques. c) Aim 3: Quantify associations between these indices and adverse human health outcomes at county and state scales. After completing his project, Dr. Joseph was able to publish his data in a scientific journal.

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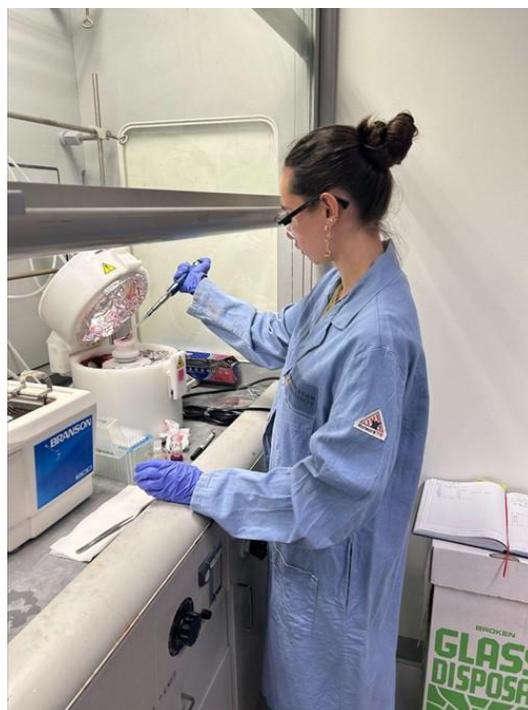
## Student Success

### Student Research Sparks a Summer of Discovery at Princeton

By Haley Gilley and Joe Wirgau

Chemistry Professor, Tim Fuhrer had a summer to remember after securing both internal and external funding for four research students across two states. As Fuhrer discussed managing the projects with half of his team working remotely, he shared, "Amelia Naegele and Morgan Buskill were supported by a Radford University SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship) and worked out the predictive computational models that supported our cavity quantum

electrodynamics experimental work". He then had the other half joining him at Princeton to perform the theoretical work that would ideally validate the computational modeling being done back at Radford University. "Athena Smith and Fiona Steinour were immersed in the experimental work of mirror cavity fabrication as well as spectroscopic data collection and analysis", Fuhrer said.



**Undergraduate Researcher: Athena Smith**

As part of this work, Athena was challenged with finding ways to collect data that only lasted for as little as 7 nanoseconds! Reflecting on the experience, Athena added, "Being part of a lab at Princeton gave me the chance to learn techniques that I had only read about before. It was exciting to not only gain new skills but also contribute meaningful results to an ongoing research project."

Her mentor, Tim Fuhrer, was equally positive reflecting on the summer "Their curiosity, persistence, and creativity push the project forward in ways that are both rewarding and inspiring as a faculty mentor. Watching Athena and her peers immerse themselves in the experimental work reminded me why I love guiding students through research - because I learn just as much from them as they do from me."

Fuhrer summarized the importance of these opportunities by sharing "I learned more this summer working with these four students than I did in any semester of college or graduate school, so I can only imagine how much my students learned, not only about our own project, but about how science is done in the best cases!"

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## **Research Resources**

### **Open Article Publishing without the Author Publishing Costs (APCs)**

Publishing in open access journals helps you reach a broader audience by eliminating paywalls to support open science. However, the author publishing costs (APCs) for many Gold and Hybrid open journal types can be prohibitively expensive unless you've rolled funding the APCs into a successful grant.

Fortunately, there is another way to get your APCs covered. Check if Radford University Libraries has a publisher agreement with the journal before submitting. If you follow guidelines, you may be able to publish open access with no APCs in gold open journals by many of the following publishers:

- American Chemical Society (ACS)
- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
- Cambridge University Press (CUP)
- Institute of Physics (IOP)
- International Water Association (IWA)
- PLOS
- Rockefeller University Press (RUP)
- Springer Nature
- Wiley

This is possible through our Libraries membership in VIVA, the Virginia Academic Libraries Consortium. We have Research Librarians available to help you find out if the journal you're submitting to qualifies, and if so, to make sure that you are submitting the paper according to the guidelines VIVA has set out. This ensures that your work will be published open wherever possible. VIVA prioritizes Gold journals over Hybrid, but will fund Hybrid as funds permit.

[Contact a Research Librarian Here](#)

## Archives & Special Collections Services

**Reading Room:** Starting September 16th! Drop in anytime on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am-11am and 2pm-4pm or contact us to set up an appointment outside of the posted hours to get research help or look at archival materials.

**Digital Archive:** Need to look at some archival material but don't want to come into the reading room or can't make it in during open hours? Never fear! We have an online repository of digitized materials from our collections.

Please note that not every item in our extensive collection is available online.

[Radford University Digital Archive](#)

**Class Visits:** Attention Faculty and Student Groups! You can request a class visit or a specialized field trip to Archives & Special Collections. You can request to view a variety of materials from the Archives with your class or group.

**Digitization Services:** Do you have some cool family history materials or maybe you found a cool old document at the antique store? We can digitize those materials for you!

We do ask that you limit your documentation to 25 pages or less per visit unless you receive special permission from staff. *We reserve the right to deny any digitization requests.*

[To make an appointment or reservation with us email archives@radford.edu or call 540-831-5691](#)

## Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR)

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



## Looking for authorship ethics support?

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

[More information on the Authorship Project](#)

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## Upcoming Funding Opportunities

### Faculty Professional Development Leave Program

The Radford University Faculty Professional Development Leave Program provides tenured faculty an opportunity to engage in advanced study, research, and/or other scholarly and creative activities that will enhance their competencies as teachers/scholars and better prepare them to fulfill their teaching and other professional obligations to the university. This program supports traditional forms of professional development as well as alternative opportunities that would enable a faculty member to intern with a company, agency, school, or other such entity in order to enhance, reestablish, or re-energize their research, scholarship, or creative activity in their area of professional practice. Leave may be requested at full pay for one semester or at one-half pay for two semesters, according to the terms specified in the Faculty Handbook.

There will only be one call for applications. If you are interested in applying by the **November 3, 2025** deadline, please visit SPGM's website for the application guidelines.

### Sponsored Programs Seed Grant Program

As you begin planning for funding in the upcoming academic year, 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 will once again be accepting applications on a rolling basis, beginning **September 15 through 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. Please visit SPGM's website for more details.

### The Interdisciplinary Research Team Project Development Award

The Office of Sponsored Programs is announcing 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 and Grants Management Internal Funding

## **OURS Student Seed Grant**

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships (OURS) is excited to announce 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

## **Graduate Student Travel Awards**

Graduate students presenting at conferences and participating in research activities are encouraged to apply. The Graduate Student Travel Award can help cover costs related to travel, registration, or accommodations up \$500 per student, per year. Submit applications to [gradaffairs@radford.edu](mailto:gradaffairs@radford.edu)

Graduate Student Travel Awards Application

## **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](mailto:Dr.Jeanne.Mekolichick@radford.edu), 4-VA Campus Coordinator, or [Tom Cruise](mailto:Tom.Cruise@radford.edu), 4-VA Deputy Campus Coordinator.

[More Information on 4-VA](#)

## Celebrating Recent Funding Success

**The Office of Sponsored Programs and Grants Management (SPGM)** successfully secured a total of **48 new external grants and contracts** throughout Fiscal Year 2025, totaling **\$8,172,048**. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our faculty - and their commitment to supporting students, collaborating with community partners, and advancing intellectual discovery - this achievement represents a **13% increase in total funding** compared to last year!

**Congratulations** to everyone who successfully secured funding, and sincere appreciation to those who devoted long hours to developing and submitting external proposals. **Well done!**

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## Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

### The Council of Undergraduate Research: URP Exchange, Vertically Integrated Programs

**Tuesday, September 16, 12 - 1 PM**

Hosted by the CUR Undergraduate Research Program Division, these 50-minute Zoom sessions are monthly facilitated exchanges of ideas and information on a variety of topics and issues related to undergraduate research programs. Sessions will be recorded and posted to the URP page.

This month's topic is Vertically Integrated Programs and will feature representatives from Kennesaw State University, Rice University, and the University of Arizona.

[Register Here](#)

### Hanover Webinar: Developing Relationships with Private Foundations

Led by **Rob Guroff**, a Managing Grants Consultant with Hanover Research



# GRANTS WEBINAR SERIES

**Friday, October 3, 11:00 AM**

In this one-hour session, Cultivating Foundation Relationships, the presenter will discuss key differences between foundation and federal funders, introduce a foundation taxonomy to help participants quickly categorize foundation funders during the prospecting process, and offer a networking strategy to guide outreach to foundations. The presentation will emphasize the importance of internal coordination prior to engaging foundation funders and the benefits of a long-term relational approach. Time will be allotted to consider as a group participants' planned foundation outreach and existing foundation relationships.

[Register Here](#)

## **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, and greater mutual understanding.

Please contact Dr. Ismael Betancourt, Assistant Provost for Global Education and Engagement, at [ibetancourtvelez@radford.edu](mailto:ibetancourtvelez@radford.edu) with any questions.

## **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](mailto:emcalderon@radford.edu) or 540-831-5290.

## **Institutional Review Board (IRB) - SoTL Expertise Needed**

Radford University, like many institutions across the U.S., actively supports and engages in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) - a systemic inquiry into teaching and learning in higher education. These research efforts often yield valuable insights, leading to scholarly publications and contributing to the broader academic community. Because SoTL research frequently involves human participants (e.g., students), it requires approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) to ensure ethical and responsible research practices.

The IRB is currently seeking a **faculty member** - either tenure-track (T/R) or administrative/professional (AP) - with experience in SoTL research to join the committee. This individual would provide valuable insights and help guide the review of SoTL-related protocols, sharing best practices to support ethical conduct of educational research.

If you are interested in serving on the IRB and contributing your expertise in SoTL, please contact Ricky Calderon at [irb-iacuc@radford.edu](mailto:irb-iacuc@radford.edu)

## **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](mailto:tcruise@radford.edu) or by calling 540-831-5479.

Sponsored Programs Training Resources

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## **Did you know?**

### **Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)**

Radford University is a member of ICPSR (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research), a leading resource for social science data. It houses a vast collection of datasets, making it a valuable tool for researchers across various disciplines. ICPSR also provides classroom exercises, resources for students, as well as training and support for data analysis and research methods, helping researchers to make the most of the data. Check out everything ICPSR has to offer!

ICPSR's Newly Released Data

Subscribe to ICPSR's email updates

### **The SMART Lab: Where Curiosity Is Transformed into Discovery**

*Guiding Radford students and faculty with the resources and training to turn questions into impressive*

research.

The Social Media Analytics & Research Technology (SMART) Lab at Radford University provides a dedicated space for student and faculty researchers to bring ideas to life. Whether beginning a class project or preparing a conference presentation, the lab offers the tools, training, and support to move work forward.

Researchers have access to advanced programs, including Meltwater, NVivo, NodeXL, Qualtrics, Tableau, SPSS, Mentimeter, LIWC-22, and MindMeister. These resources enable the collection of large datasets from online and traditional media, the analysis and visualization of results, and the application of advanced techniques such as social network and semantic network analysis. The SMART Lab supports both quantitative and qualitative research, with consultations available for brainstorming, research design, data collection, and analysis. Training also extends to emerging areas such as prompt engineering and the ethical use of AI. Faculty are encouraged to schedule full-class demonstrations to introduce students to the lab's resources.

Located in Hemphill Hall 3021, the SMART Lab is directed by Dr. John Brummette with graduate assistants, Kirsten Cecil, Hanna Phipps, and Constance Olle. Open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the lab is ready to help you take your research to the next level!

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## Coming Soon

### Data Management Plan

Sponsored Programs is in the process of updating our website to provide helpful resources for researchers who need assistance with the development of a **data management plan (DMP)**. Included on our website will be access to a SMP Tool which is free, open-source, online application that helps researchers create DMPs. The DMP Tool provides a click-through wizard for creating a data plan that complies with funders' requirements.

Many funding agencies require data management plans as part of a grant proposal application. Even if you are not seeking funding for your research, documenting a plan for your data is always the best practice so Sponsored Programs will soon have valuable resources on our website at your disposal!

### Research Fellow Opportunity

Radford University is a recipient of a three-year grant with the **Educating Character Initiative** (funded by Lilly Endowment). Stay tuned for more information on being a research fellow if you have an interest in exploring educating character and/or wicked problems and public impact in your scholarly work.

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## Upcoming Events

### 13th Annual Summer Research Celebration

#### Geospatial Oral Presentations

Wednesday, September 17th, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., Center for the Sciences M073

## Unraveling the Complex: Exploring Wicked Problems that Spark Student

### Passion

Tuesday, October 7th, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m., Heth Hall 014

### Lecture-Recital

Tuesday, October 14th, 11:00 - 11:30 a.m., Covington Center Davis Performance Hall

### Chemistry Oral Presentations

Tuesday, October 21st, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., Center for the Sciences M073

### Psychology Summer Undergraduate Research Oral Presentations

Wednesday, October 27th, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m., Hemphill Hall 1016

### Interdisciplinary Oral Presentations

Tuesday, October 28th, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., Center for the Sciences M065

### Interdisciplinary Poster Presentations

Tuesday, October 28th, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., Center for the Sciences, Main Street Lobby

### Wicked Festival IX

November 6th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Artis Center

### 7th Winter CARD

- November 4, 2025: Deadline to submit presentations
- November 10, 2025: Soft deadline for submitting posters for printing
- December 3, 2025: Oral and other presentation styles fit for a classroom
- December 4, 2025: Poster and other presentation styles fit for an atrium

### 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](mailto:hkeith1@radford.edu) for more information.

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For a full listing of upcoming research presentations and events, please visit Radford's 2024-2025 Events Calendar

[Radford University Events Calendar](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.