



RESEARCH & CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP QUARTERLY

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

This issue highlights the remarkable ways that Radford University faculty, staff, and students continue to advance discovery, creativity, and innovation while strengthening our culture of scholarship across disciplines. The stories featured here reflect the transformative impact of research and creative activity on our campus and beyond.

In this edition, we celebrate the artistic scholarship of faculty member SungEun Park, whose work bridges cultural identity, memory, and creative expression through internationally informed research and exhibition opportunities. We also showcase the impressive accomplishments of students and faculty mentors whose collaborative research has earned national recognition, including the continued success of undergraduate researchers in Dr. Jason Davis's laboratory and the growing impact of graduate student scholarship supported through the Office of Graduate Affairs.

This newsletter also reflects our commitment to fostering a thriving research ecosystem by connecting faculty, staff, and students with funding opportunities, professional development programs, research resources, and collaborative initiatives. I encourage you to take advantage of the many resources and opportunities highlighted throughout the newsletter from pursuing external funding, engaging in interdisciplinary collaborations, mentoring student researchers, or exploring new creative and scholarly directions.

Research and creative scholarship remain central to Radford University's mission. Through inquiry, innovation, and collaboration, we continue to create knowledge, address complex challenges, enrich our communities, and prepare students to become the next generation of leaders, scholars, and professionals. Thank you for your contributions to this important work and for helping make Radford University a vibrant community of discovery and creative excellence.

I wish you a successful and productive semester.

Faculty Spotlight

Project Title: Sculpture and Research in South Korea

Principal Investigator: SungEun Park, MFA

Department: Art



SungEun's body of work explores how an awareness of mortality shapes the way we understand and value our lives. Through objects, space, cultural memory, and personal experience, SungEun considers themes of life, death, loss, and remembrance. Since coming to Radford, she has become interested in bringing aspects of Korean cultural identity, traditional architecture, and cultural traditions into the work.

SungEun wanted the individual works to function as part of a connected environment, with each piece relating to the others like a village. Inspired by the sequential structure of the traditional Korean folding screen *Hwaseong Haenghaengdo* (The Royal Procession to Hwaseong), she developed a series of four large-scale assemblages that create immersive and surreal environments evoking separation, mourning, return, and regeneration. The series was completed this year, and the works are currently on view in a solo exhibition at Common Ground Gallery at VisArts Center in Rockville, Maryland, from July 31 through September 27, 2026. A piece of her work has also been selected for *Made in VA*, a biennial exhibition at the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), which will be on view from

This series allowed her to examine how an awareness of loss and mortality can deepen our understanding of life while bringing together Korean cultural and historical references with personal and collective memory.

With research funding from the College of Visual and Performing Arts Dean's Office, SungEun spent this summer conducting independent research in South Korea. The project included a two-week artist residency with the Park Seo-Bo Foundation in Jeju, followed by several weeks of museum and gallery research in Seoul. During the residency, she focused on field research, photography, documentation, museum visits, and conversations that could inform the next stage of the studio practice.

SungEun is currently working with the Office of Sponsored Programs in exploring both internal and external funding to continue her wonderful work and scholarship in the arts.

Faculty-Student Success

Turning Crayfish into Gold

Written By: Lillyan Porter

How does student curiosity lead to national recognition? In Dr. Jason Davis's ecophysiology lab, it begins by creating an environment where students ask their own questions, pursue ambitious ideas, and grow into independent researchers. This fall, seven students are continuing a rich history of student-driven projects in the Davis lab, with inspiration from both current researchers and the surrounding community.



Grace Parton and Trinity Roberts were named Barry Goldwater Scholars, becoming Radford's second and third recipients and its first since 2011. The award identifies them among the nation's most promising undergraduate researchers and recognizes their potential to become future research leaders.

Their research grew from questions sparked by Hurricane Helene, when millions of crayfish were washed from streams by flooding. Davis and his students began asking how crayfish adapt to such extreme and dynamic environments. Or as Davis explains, "Basically, it's not easy being a crayfish."

quality work and regularly going beyond expectations. "That drive to learn, just because it's fun and interesting, is what makes someone a scholar," Davis said. "Grace once even fractured her wrist in a stream but kept working and didn't even tell me she was hurt until the end of the day, but she is an excellent crayfish catcher (better than me)!"

Davis supported Parton and Roberts as they developed their own research ideas and prepared their Goldwater applications, encouraging them to identify and pursue the questions that interested them.

Their award reflects not only on them as incredible scholars, but also reflects our university, showing that we really are an excellent undergraduate-focused research institution that produces top-tier students," Davis said. "It shows that research is a core part of our mission."

Student Success

Graduate Research: Investing in Discovery, Scholarship, and Professional Growth

Written By: Dr. Paige Tan

Research is a cornerstone of graduate education at Radford University, and the Office of Graduate Affairs (OGA) is committed to helping students move their ideas beyond the classroom and into professional and scholarly conversations.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, OGA funded 63 graduate student research experiences, providing support for conference travel, presentations, and other opportunities that allowed students to share their work with regional, national, and international audiences.

Those investments helped students from a variety of disciplines showcase research, engage with leading professionals in their fields, and build networks that will shape their future careers. For example, Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate students Richele Henry and Sylvia Couture-Nowak presented their research poster, "Trauma-Informed Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy: Considerations for Supporting Complex Trauma," at the American Mental Health Counselors Association's 50th Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon. The experience allowed them to exchange ideas with counseling professionals from across the country while gaining valuable perspectives on research, practice, and professional development.



Pictured: Richele Henry and Sylvia Couture-Nowack, Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate students present their research in Portland, Oregon

In the humanities, English graduate student Nina Aidam shared her research at the College of English Association Conference in Philadelphia. Her presentation examined themes of freedom, cultural identity, and community in *The River Between* by Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o. Supported by an OGA Graduate Student Travel Award, Aidam returned to campus with new scholarly connections, fresh ideas for her teaching, and potential publication opportunities.

These examples represent only a small sample of the work graduate students are conducting across the university. Whether presenting original research, sharing creative scholarship, or contributing to professional practice, our graduate students are making meaningful contributions in their fields while elevating Radford University's presence on regional and national stages. The Office of Graduate Affairs is proud to invest in student success, scholarly excellence, and the development of future researchers, educators, clinicians, and leaders.

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](#)

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Library Research Workshops

Support the development of your students' information literacy and research skills and sign up your class for a library instruction workshop. We offer in-person, online synchronous, and asynchronous workshops tailored to faculty assignments course projects through our online request form. Or assign your students self-paced D2L modules on avoiding plagiarism, APA, evaluating sources, SuperSearch search strategy, and other research skills.

D2L Library Workshop Modules

We have revised our popular instruction topics webpage this summer to reflect changing needs related to credible news, AI literacy, and more, or you can reach out to Alyssa Archer, Head of Research Services at McConnell Library at aarcher2@radford.edu for Radford's main campus, or Mary Catherine Santoro at msantoro@radford.edu for library instruction at RUC.

Instruction Session Topics

AI Research Support

Support for AI-related research is available across Radford University through several campus units and initiatives. These include the **Radford University Libraries** which provides scholarly databases, research consultations, citation tools, and guidance on using and evaluating AI in the research process; 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; the **Office of Undergraduate Research**; and the **AI Sandbox** in the Davis College of Business and Economics, which supports applied AI research, human-AI collaboration, student projects, and industry-informed inquiry.

Faculty, staff, and students can also use **BoodleBox** as a research workspace. BoodleBox provides access to multiple leading generative AI models in one environment and supports research activities such as literature exploration, source synthesis, document analysis, comparing responses across models, working with uploaded research materials, developing research questions, summarizing findings, identifying themes, and creating custom AI assistants for research workflows. [Request a BoodleBox account](#) through the Radford access page. The account request link appears at the top of the page, along with on-demand training resources. Search Boodle AI in OneCampus.

Faculty and students can also pursue interdisciplinary and collaborative AI research through internal funding opportunities such as the Interdisciplinary Research Team Project Development Awards. Current areas of interest across the university include AI literacy and upskilling, human-AI collaboration, AI-supported teaching and learning, workforce and employer expectations, responsible AI use, data analytics, cybersecurity, and the use of generative AI

across disciplines. Additional professional learning and research-support resources are available through **Udemy**, accessible through OneCampus.

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

'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

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.

If you are interested, applications for the Fall 2027 through Spring 2028 leave period are now open. **The deadline to apply is 11:59pm on November 2,**

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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 internal funding opportunities available to support preliminary work leading to external funding for large research/creative projects by members of the faculty and staff.

Please use the link below to review the program's guidelines. As always, feel free to reach out to Sponsored Programs at spgm@radford.edu if you have any questions.

[More Information on Internal 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 the 4-VA Campus Coordinator, Tom Cruise at tcruise@radford.edu.

[More Information on 4-VA](#)

Need Help Finding an External Grant?

As part of **Hanover's** commitment to helping members identify well-aligned funding opportunities more quickly and access prospecting support when

they need it, we're excited to introduce a new addition to our prospecting services.

The Prospecting Consult is designed to provide rapid, expert guidance on funding opportunities for your research project or idea. Through a conversation with one of our prospecting specialists, we'll:

- Discuss your project's goals
- Identify a targeted set of well-aligned funding opportunities
- Provide a concise one-page summary memo with actionable recommendations
- With a typical turnaround of 2-3 weeks, it's our fastest prospecting option to move from idea to funding strategy more quickly.

If you have an upcoming project and aren't sure which option is the best fit, please contact the Office of Sponsored Programs & Grants Management at spgm@radford.edu for assistance.



Non-Profit Funding Database

Sponsored Programs offers our grant-writing faculty with free, unlimited access to our 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](#)

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Fulbright Program — Faculty Opportunities

Consider advancing your faculty professional development by applying to

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- 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 with any questions.

[More Information on the Fulbright Program](#)

Hanover Fall 2026 Onsite Professional Development

Friday, October 30th from 9am-12pm

In this half-day workshop, experts from Hanover will discuss **Success in Interdisciplinary Grant-Seeking** where they will provide concrete strategies for grant seeking as part of an interdisciplinary team. Topics include (1) the types of funders and programs most likely to support interdisciplinary projects, (2) hallmarks of strong interdisciplinary research projects, and (3) tools and strategies for identifying and engaging collaborators.

They will also cover **Turning Good Ideas into Fundable Proposals** that provides a closer dive at how a good idea might be turned into a fundable opportunity. Hanover will address the process behind turning project ideas into competitive proposals and what tactics should be undertaken. Attendees will receive an overview of project design principles and best practices for achieving alignment with funders' interests. They will emphasize the importance of developing a concept paper and undertaking program officer outreach, in advance of any full proposal development, as significant elements of the grant seeking process.

Lunch and networking will be provided at the end. Don't miss out! Be on the lookout for the registration link very soon!

For questions about the upcoming site visit training, or Hanover Research in general, please contact Tom Cruise in Sponsored Programs at tcruise@radford.edu.



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AY 2026-2027 Faculty Grant Development Cohort

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Grants Management is pleased to invite early-career faculty from all academic disciplines to apply for participation in our **Faculty Grant Development Cohort**.

This professional development and collaborative opportunity is designed to equip faculty with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to become successful and competitive grant seekers. Through a collaborative cohort model, participants will receive guided instruction and hands-on support in key areas of external funding development, including but not limited to:

- Identifying funding opportunities aligned with research, scholarship, and creative activities
- Understanding sponsor priorities and proposal requirements
- Developing competitive grant proposals
- Grant writing strategies and best practices
- Proposal planning, budgeting, and project development
- Individualized feedback and mentoring throughout the proposal writing process
- Access to our partners at Hanover Research for further consultation

The Faculty Grant Development Cohort provides a supportive, collaborative environment where participants can build confidence in pursuing external funding while connecting with colleagues from across the university who share similar goals.

The Cohort should be prepared to actively participate in scheduled workshops and collaborative sessions throughout the program, which run during both Fall and Spring semesters. By the conclusion of the cohort, participants will have developed a stronger understanding of the grants process and will be well positioned to submit competitive proposals to external funding agencies.

We encourage all interested early-career faculty, regardless of discipline, to apply. Whether you are exploring grant funding for the first time or looking to strengthen your proposal development skills, this cohort offers valuable guidance and resources to support your success.

Additional information regarding the application process, cohort schedule, and deadlines can be addressed by contacting Pam Frasier at pfrasier2@radford.edu or Tom Cruise at tcruise@radford.edu.

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 Integrity and Compliance Office at emcalderon@radford.edu or 540-831-5290.

We Want to Hear From You

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

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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?

Faculty Development Supports SoTL!

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) allows you to experiment with new techniques, grow your scholarly profile, and contribute to best practices. Come by to pitch a project, brainstorm an experiment, and see our newly outfitted SoTL classroom, equipped for in-person and hybrid class formats. It is available by reservation for one day or the whole semester.

Contact Samantha Blevins, at sblevins@radford.edu to find out more ways we can help you do research on your own teaching!

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](#)

Upcoming Events

Virtual Show Up and Write

Devote an hour each month to your writing! This group will meet virtually on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 1:00pm to 2:00pm.

October 15 | November 19 | December 17

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8th Annual Winter CARD

The Office of Undergraduate Research is hosting the **Winter Creative Activities & Research Days (CARD)** at Radford University. Winter CARD showcases the academic achievement and creation of new knowledge at Radford University, our campus community's undergraduate and graduate students' creative works, scholarship, and research. It provides an opportunity for students to experience attending and presenting at a conference without the typical travel and registration costs.

- November 4, 2026: Deadline to submit presentations
- November 11, 2026: Deadline for submitting posters for printing
- December 2, 2026: Oral Presentations
- December 3, 2026: Poster Presentations

[More Information on Winter CARD](#)

The Wicked Festival

The Wicked Festival is an exposition of student problem solving convened by the **College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences**, run by the **Highlander Center for Character and Public Impact**, and supported by the **Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL)** and the office of **Undergraduate Research and Scholarship**.

The Fall 2026 Wicked Festival will be held November 5, 2026 from 5-8p.m. in the Artis Center.

Faculty, students, families and prospective Radford students may contact Jessica Mattox at jmattox3@radford.edu for more information.

Faculty Development Winter Writing Retreat

Faculty Development will host an all-day writing and creative activity retreat at **Selu on December 15**. 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.

Academic Affairs Awards Ceremony and Reception

Save the date 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 22, 2027
- **Time:** 1pm — 3pm
- **Location:** Kyle 340

Annual Summer Institute in Research and Creativity

Save the date for Faculty Development's eighth annual **Summer Institute for Research and Creativity, May 6 and 7, at Selu**, free and open to all faculty and staff.

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.

Contact Heather Keith at hkeith1@radford.edu for more information.

For a full listing of upcoming research presentations and events, please visit
Radford's 2026-2027 Events Calendar

Radford University Events Calendar



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Research and Creative
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Jeanne Mekolichick
Martin Hall 218
jmekolic@radford.edu

September 2026



801 East Main Street | Radford, VA 24142 US

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