



THREADS

August 12, 2024

- Greetings from Provost Usher
- Congratulations-Welcome to our TEAM
- The New York Times
- Citizen Leader
- Sponsored Programs & Grants Management
- Career and Talent Development
- McConnell Library Events

Greetings from Provost Usher

Welcome back to the 2024-2025 academic year! If you are like me, time during the summer seems to defy physics- it both crawls lazily and speeds by much too fast. But one of the joys of spending a lifetime in education is that August and the school year come with such a sense of anticipation, and we get to experience that every year.

Radford has still been a busy place over the summer. Academic Affairs has supported another successful series of Quest orientations, and we successfully recruited several new leaders on campus.

We are enrolling one of the largest classes of new students in many years, with (as of this writing) over 2400 new undergraduate students (about 600 more than last year, evenly split between freshmen and transfer). It was a pleasure meeting many of them at Quest this summer. Thanks to all of you for the work we have done to encourage students to come and stay! To keep this momentum, we'll all need to continue to work together to make sure that we offer relevant programs and a supportive environment that attracts and retains students.

We've also filled several positions over the summer (see below to learn about our new and new-in-role colleagues). I am thrilled with this team, and I look forward to you meeting and working with these new colleagues. Many thanks to the faculty and staff who have served on the many search committees or participated in search events over the last year, and especially this summer.

With the beginning of classes around the corner, I know you are writing and checking off items related to your course planning, service and committee work, and your scholarly projects. I encourage you to fully engage with Our Turn and your department and college events, too. We have a dedicated community and I look forward to seeing you at Convocation and around campus in the coming weeks.

I hope that everyone had a chance to relax and be productive in the right mix for you over the past few months, and you are as excited as I am to return to our re-energized campuses.

Bethany

Welcome to our TEAM!



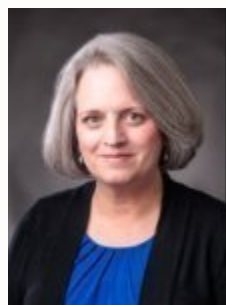
Jeffery Aspelmeier, Ph.D., has been appointed to serve as interim dean of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences. This search took place over the summer and his duties began on Aug 1.

Dr. Aspelmeier is a professor of psychology. His past experience leading a large academic department will be a benefit to the faculty and students of the college, as well as the entire Radford University community.



Dr. Jerel Benton was welcomed over the summer to serve as Assistant Provost for Student Success. He hit the ground running with great ideas!

Dr. Benton will oversee the communities of the Highlander Success Center, University Libraries and Harvey Center/Tutoring as they all work together for student success.



Dr. Wendy Downey, who has been serving as the interim dean of the College of Nursing, has

accepted the offer to become the full-time dean of the College of Nursing at Radford University. Wendy brings over 35 years of invaluable experience in healthcare, leadership and academia.



Agida Manizade, Ph.D., professor of mathematics and statistics, has been appointed as the interim assistant provost for the Office of Graduate Affairs. Agida has served as the interim associate dean of the College of Graduate Studies and will help navigate the transition.



Donna Weaver McCloskey, Ph.D., joined us as the new dean of the Davis College of Business and Economics on July 10, 24. Donna also joined the faculty in the Department of Management as a tenured professor.



Jennifer Resor-Whicker has been appointed our University Librarian, effective June 24. Her experience in Research Services and Library Instruction, as well as her leadership of the Virginia Library Association, have prepared her for this important position.



DID YOU KNOW...

...that every student, faculty and staff member at Radford University has free and full online access to the **New York Times**? Radford University participates in the New York Times College Network, and so every Highlander can sign up for a free account and access all the benefits of the New York Times on a web browser or the NYT app. To find out more and sign up for your free access account, use the LibGuide from McConnell Library, <https://radford.libanswers.com/faq/376738>.

To find out more and sign up for your free access account

Questions? Contact Chapman Rackaway at crackaway@radford.edu

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Citizen Leader

Citizen Leader Fall Events Planning:

[Citizen Leader Welcome Back with New Members September 9, 7 – 8 pm, Heth 044.](#)

We begin our fall planning with our welcome back and embrace our new members. Every Monday, 7 – 8 we alternate our meeting locations to on campus and off campus at the Radford City Town Council Meetings to learn about community engagement, civic responsibility, and leadership. These activities will be led by Senior, Riley Petroski.

[Constitution and Citizenship Week – September 16 – 20.](#)

Plans are in full swing for our Sixth Annual Constitution and Citizenship Week. This year we are partnering with community organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Faculty in the Political Science and Criminal Justice departments are offering sessions. This is open to all faculty in all departments who wish to share with students about important current, historical or lived experiences that align with engaged citizenship that can make a difference. Please contact Jean Mistele, jmistele@radford.edu for more information. More to come as planning continues.

[Leadership Summit – October 14 – 19](#)

Planning is underway for the Second Annual Leadership Summit. We are partnering with the City of Radford's Mayor to learn about leadership on a local level. Other sessions in development include the Truist Innovation Leadership Workshop offered by the Davis College. We have faculty preparing

to share leadership that aligns with their discipline. If you would like to join us, please contact Jean Mistele, jmistele@radford.edu.

Sponsored Programs & Grants Management



It's Almost Here! Join Us at the 2024 ICPSR Data Fair

When: Sept. 16-20, 2024

What: Ahoy! Join us as we set sail on a voyage of discovery during the 2024 Data Fair, brought to you by ICPSR. This year's theme is "Anchored in Data Reality." We will navigate the waves of statistical analysis, chart the currents of data visualization, and steer a course toward actionable insights. Whether you're a seasoned mariner or just dipping your toes into the waters of data, hoist your sails and join us for a journey that promises to leave you anchored firmly in the reality of data!

Where: All sessions are virtual, free, and open to the public. You must register (button below) for each session you want to attend. Organizations are allowed (and encouraged!) to broadcast these sessions to groups or classes. Times are listed in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

[More information and Register](https://myum.lch/ICPSRDataFair2024)

Career and Talent Development

Radford University Fall Student Employment Fair 2024

- Friday, August 30th 2024, 11:00 am - 1:30 pm EDT
- Russell Hall, 3rd Floor, Radford, VA 24141

Looking for an on-campus work study position, off-campus part-time local position, or a virtual micro internship? Then this is the employment fair that you need to attend!



Radford
UNIVERSITY

University Libraries

Visit McConnell Library and check out our expanded collection of Graphic Novels and Manga, now moved to its new home in the Library Commons on the third floor. This new and expanding collection includes a permanent collection of over 200 books, as well as rotating collection of new popular reading books being added regularly. Find everything from familiar classics like Art Spiegelman's Maus, Neil Gaiman's Sandman series, and Alison Bechdel's Fun Home, to graphic novel versions of Allen Ginsberg's Howl and Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales, as well as popular and new series such as Full Metal Alchemist and Ms. Marvel.

Know of a book that would be perfect for this or any other of the Library's collections?

Submit a request through the Library's website!

We're accepting library instruction requests for Fall 2024, here to support your course-integrated information literacy and library research learning objectives! Please contact Alyssa Archer, Acting Head of Research Services, at aarcher2@radford.edu or 540-831-5688, with questions, comments, or suggestions.

Online session request form

Office of the Provost
Radford University
Martin Hall 331
540-831-5404



Radford
UNIVERSITY

801 East Main Street | Radford, VA 24142 US

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.