Radford University | Office of the Provost

# THREADS

January 22, 2024


- Message from Provost Usher
- Director of Undergraduate Curriculum
- RISE Update
- Honors College
- Faculty Development and CITL
- OURS
- Citizen Leader
- Process for Partnerships and Agreements
- Women's and Gender Studies


## Message from Provost Usher

Welcome back to campus and the spring semester that reminded us it's really still winter!

This weekend, I met with many of our students who will be traveling later this week for Radford's Advocacy Day in Richmond. I loved talking to our students and was wowed by their stories of why they study at Radford. Radford rightfully touts our affordability, but the students described their rich academic experiences and relationships with their faculty. It reminded me that we need to communicate that we aren't cheap – we offer affordable access to high quality education for every student who enrolls.

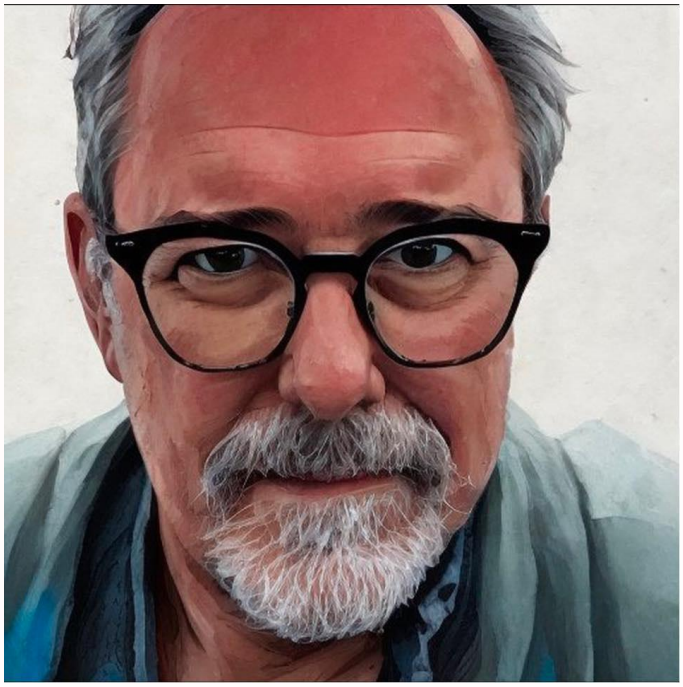
I used to work in a Center for Teaching Excellence, and I felt a little chagrined each time I announced my title. I felt we should more honestly have been the Center for Teaching Pretty Well But Always Learning to Get Better. Many aspects of teaching change, including our students (and their various strengths and gaps in preparation), technology, the economy, and the scholarship in our fields. A commitment to helping them learn and be prepared to be citizens and leaders of thriving communities does not. As we talk about building a Curriculum Lifecycle that values keeping our academic program relevant, it's not because we aren't already Pretty Excellent, but because we value always getting better.

As the students tell it, the educational experience at Radford is rich even if not all of our students are, and we are committed to continue to offer the best programs possible. Everyone who receives Threads, should take pride in your contribution to building our academic programs.

Have a terrific semester!

Bethany

# Dr. David Beach named Director of Undergraduate Curriculum



After an internal search held in October of 2023, David was named *Director of Undergraduate Curriculum.* This position reports to the *Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Improvement*. In this position, Dr. Beach will:

- Support campus wide (across all sites) department and faculty engagement with general education curriculum, including general education alignment, course designation, and assessment.
- Summer work as needed to support orientation and onboarding activities
- Chair the REAL Council and facilitate the meetings of that body.
- Provide guidance and support to the campus during the revision to gen ed
- Manage transfer petitions and VA Transfer efforts related to general education
- Collaborate with other offices on initiatives related to general education

David Beach, a professor in the English Department and affiliate faculty in Theatre and Cinema, is an educator, playwright, director, and dramaturg. In his 8th year at Radford, his mantra is: "Whatever we do, we do in service to our students." He is a faculty senator, currently serving his third term as Secretary. David served on the REAL Implementation Steering Committee, chairing the Academic Support subcommittee, the President's Task Force on Freedom of Expression and Civil Discourse, and the Academic Program Review and Enhancement Committee. He is advisor to two Highlander Student Media publications (*Exit 109* and Whim), has taught in the Governor's School, and was on the Women's and Gender Studies Advisory Board. In 2017, he received the Dorothy Golden Award for Excellence in Teaching First-Year Writing, a national award. David is currently taking courses in screenwriting at UCLA, to complement his MFA in playwriting (Hollins

University) and his PhD in education with a focus on composition and rhetoric (George Mason University). As a playwright, he has won several awards for his work, notably the Kennedy Center's John Cauble Award for Outstanding Short Play for *Mothers and Terrorists*. He currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the National Playwriting Program through the Kennedy Center's Education Division. As a director, he has collaborated with a writer/performer on a solo show, *H5,* an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Henry V.* This show is currently on tour and will be featured in the Fringe Festival at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in March.

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As President Bret Danilowicz communicated in his campus-wide December 18th email, the Realizing Inclusive Student Excellence Quality Enhancement Plan (RISE QEP) was officially approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) as part of Radford's accreditation reaffirmation. This gives us the "green light" for implementing the RISE program at Radford! We will be kicking off our inaugural Faculty Institute on January 11 with 16 faculty who have committed to a year-long intensive effort to improve student success outcomes in their courses. This spring, we will also be continuing to work with RISE Community Action Teams (RCATs) as they develop targeted programming to build community in their respective colleges. One of the first RCAT events this semester is the Black History 101 Mobile Museum visiting Radford on January 29, brought to campus by Dr. Fredrick Douglas Dixon and a collaborative campus effort through African American Studies. Please plan to come check it out yourself and encourage your students to participate! https://www.blackhistorymobilemuseum.com/. This is one of several campus events for Black History Month.

Stay tuned to *Threads* to get RISE updates throughout the semester! And, as always, reach out with questions and ideas to rise@radford.edu.

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**RISE Needs YOU!**

Are you interested in being part of a program that will have a lasting impact on Radford University Students? Are you proficient at data analysis and using data to guide data-driven program and policy decisions? If so, the RISE Assessment Director is the position for you!

As the RISE Assessment Director, you will work closely with the RISE Leadership (Program Director and Faculty Institute Director), Institutional Research, and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Improvement to ensure the timely collection of RISE outcome data, analyze the data and produce requisite reports for the RISE program, and develop data collection protocols and instruments, as needed. The position comes with reassigned time (2 courses) and an annual stipend (summer compensation).

From Dr. Allison Wisecup, current Assessment Director (who is retiring at end of spring 24):

"Working with the RISE Program has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my career at Radford University. I really enjoy being a part of a programmatic and systematic effort to reduce racial inequities in student success and use data to assist faculty and administrators to identify

opportunities for improvement. I think anyone who is interested in the success of our students and data analysis skills would find this work very fulfilling."

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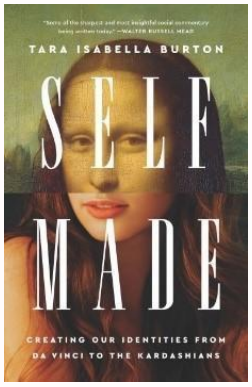
Radford University | Honors College

**2024 Honors Lecture: "Curation vs. Creation: Making and Unmaking Our Selves in the Internet Age"**




The Honors College is delighted to host author Tara Isabella Burton for a university-wide talk on Wednesday, January 24th at 4pm in the Bonnie Auditorium. A visiting fellow at the Mercatus Center, Dr. Burton will discuss her new book *Self-Made: From Da Vinci to the Kardashians*. Interweaving psychology, sociology, history, politics, and media, her Honors Lecture will explore the myths and realities of self-creation in contemporary life. This event is free and open to the entire campus community.

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# Faculty Development & CITL

**Book Group: A Fresh (or first) read of Doyle's "Learner Centered Teaching"**

Join your colleagues in a multi-session discussion of this modern-classic text on teaching and learning. Whether the book already adorns your shelf -or this is your first read, the ideas presented by Doyle are sure to lead to energizing and productive discussion with your colleagues! Register here.

**Faculty Discussion Group: Constructive Dialogue Institute**

Engage in discussion with other faculty as we "read" the Constructive Dialogue Institute's "Perspectives" course. This course is available to the RU community and facilitates skill-building in having difficult dialogue across divides. We'll explore our own perspectives and discuss how we might use the CDI modules and ideas in our courses. Register here.

**Congrats** to the following faculty members for being awarded CITL mini-grants for teaching innovations: Molly Hood, Tay Keong Tan, Paige Johnson Tan, Jenny Hall, Karen Powers, Steven McBride, Ken Smith, Jamie Lau, Melissa DeBiasse, Matthew Close, and Margaret Konkel.

Proposals covered a broad range of practices and topics such as: Shorter Reads for Long-Term Impact; Students Solving Wicked Problems; Enhancing Problem-Solving Skills for Wicked Teaching; and Undergraduate research on the local environment with a professional certification in aquatic insect taxonomy, to name just a few!

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# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

## Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship

**Calling all faculty! Do you incorporate undergraduate research or creative inquiry in a course?** Would you like to? Would you like to work with a BIPOC student who can serve as a research mentor to your students?

**Consider applying for the Elevate Research Program in which faculty and student mentors can receive stipends to incorporate a course-based research experience for undergraduate students.** You can apply here with any undergraduate course in mind, but the program prioritizes lower-level courses. An application for potential BIPOC student research mentors will be available soon.

**The Elevate Research program** is funded through the generosity of the Jessie Ball DuPont Foundation. Please contact Dr. Joe Wirgau, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship: jwirgau@radford.edu

The Office of Undergraduate Research & Scholarship (OURS) has many ways to support and facilitate your research, scholarship, and creative inquiry. Below is information and dates for our main programs this spring and all of the information may be accessed through the OURS website (www.radford.edu/ours).

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**Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF)** - $3400 awards are made to undergraduate students and their faculty mentors. The goal of the SURF program is to foster a community of undergraduate research and engaged scholarship during the summer months at Radford University. This program will fund a variety of projects where students mentored by faculty engage in an original, intellectual or creative contribution to a discipline. Applications are due in February 9th. www.radford.edu/surf

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**Highlander Research Blitz:** April 3rd, 2024, OURS and the College of Graduate Studies will host the first annual Highlander Research Blitz Competition for students enrolled in graduate and undergraduate programs through Radford University (main campus, RUC, RHEC, SVHEC). Contestants will have three minutes to describe their original mentored research or creative inquiry. Aided by a single image or graphic on a PowerPoint slide, participants compete to see who can best communicate their work and its significance to a non-specialist (layperson) audience.

Competitors will submit their three-minute pre-recorded video presentation to be considered as a part of the application process by February 19, 2024.

Submissions will be evaluated based on the delivery and communication of the content and not the quality of the video. Selected students will be invited to participate in the in-person, live competition on April 3, 2024 in Kyle Hall from 5 to 7 pm.

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**33rd Student Engagement Forum**: 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. www.radford.edu/sef

Submission deadline March 15th (note: we are no longer asking for an abstract)

Poster submission for printing is April 3rd.

Wednesday April 17th will be oral presentations (and other formats that typically occur in a classroom setting) in McConnell Library Ross Art Gallery.

Thursday April 18th poster presentations (and other formats suitable for individual interactions in a larger space) in the Reed-Curie and Center for the Sciences atriums.

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RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Citizen Leader

**Citizen Leader Faculty: Connect with Community Partners**

**Need a partner for internships?** The Community Foundation of the New River Valley has an opening. Contact: Jessica Wirgau, jessicawirgau@cfnrv.org, or Dr. Jean Mistele, jmistele@radford.edu.

Coming this Spring: Citizen Leader Designated Courses Workshops

Want a community engagement focus in your Fall 2024 course? We have several community partners that may be willing to work with you.

Don't know how to include a community engagement component in your course?

I will provide workshop sessions to help you incorporate community engagement into your courses for Fall 2024 or Spring 2025. We will discuss levels of engagement and I help you create engagement experiences that best suits your course goals and objectives. Time/Location/Dated to be determined. Please contact Dr. Jean Mistele, jmistele@radford.edu, if you are interested in this support.

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**Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK): Honor Leadership Society - Circle at Radford**

This is an intergenerational organization that helps students/faculty/staff and community leaders develop leadership skills and give back to the community. It is NOT a fraternity or club. If you are an ODK member that was initiated at another university, please know that you are welcome to participate in our circle. We initiate faculty and staff as well as undergraduate and graduate

students. If you are interested in becoming a member of ODK, please contact me, Dr. Jean Mistele, jmistele@radford.edu.

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# NEW Academic Affairs Internal Process for Partnerships and Agreements

Beginning January 1, 2024, the Office of the Provost is pleased to announce a new website and procedure for establishing academic related partnerships and agreements. We are grateful to the Office of Procurement and Contracts for their continued outstanding support of our work to build relationships that grow opportunities for our faculty and students.

All information, including process documents and templates can be found here

For questions on topics not listed on the website or for further guidance, please contact the Provost designee, Nicole Hendrix, by email at pnhendrix@RADFORD.EDU or by phone at 540-831-6161.

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RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Women's and Gender Studies

## Women's History Month 2024 Call for Proposals

Thank you for your interest in presenting at the Women's History Month 2024 event. The Women's and Gender Studies Program at Radford University is excited to have some significant changes to this year's event schedule. We plan to host the Women's History Month events on **March 21 (Thursday) and 22 (Friday) 2024, at Hemphill Hall 4700**.

Please submit your proposals through Women's History Month Proposals 2024 Form. **The applications are due by February 16 (Friday), 2024.**

Please note that all presentations, creative works, workshops, posters (etc.) will occur on these two days. The only exceptions will be month-long activities, book clubs, and special events. Please make yourself and your students available during this timeframe.

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## Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination 2024

Women's and Gender Studies (WGST) at Radford University is honored to announce the call for nominations for the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award. This year, we aim to honor an individual whose work significantly impacted the Women's and Gender Studies Program at Radford University, the broader field of Women's and Gender Studies, or the advocacy for women's rights and social justice within the Radford community.

We welcome and encourage both self-nomination and the nomination of others. Please submit your nominations through the Award Nomination Form by February 16th (Friday), 2024. We look forward to receiving your submission and are excited to celebrate the remarkable achievements of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient

The honoree will be recognized at the Women's History Month Celebration event in March 2024.

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## Radford University Women's and Gender Studies, Director of Women's and Gender Studies Application Portal

The Radford University Women's and Gender Studies Program is seeking applicants for the position of Director. The Women's and Gender Studies Program offers an interdisciplinary minor, currently enrolling 33 students and graduating an average of 12 students per year. The Program aspires to create a learning community of students, faculty, and staff dedicated to exploring how conceptions of gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, age, physical ability, and nation intersect and impinge upon the lives of individuals across the globe.

**Responsibilities:** The Director of Women's and Gender Studies will 1) coordinate the development and revision of curriculum; 2) coordinate assessment and submit assessment data for the Minor and for all sections of WGST 200; 3) schedule sections of WGST 200, 400, 290 and 490; 4) hire, train, assign and evaluate adjunct faculty; 5) oversee the operating budget; 6) submit periodic program review documents; 7) advise all students in the WGST Minor; 8) supervise internships; 9) work with the Associate Director to plan co-curricular programming throughout the year and particularly during Women's History Month; 10) work with WGST Affiliated Faculty from across the University to improve and expand the program.

**Compensation:** Compensation for the stipend and course reassignments is subject to approval by the applicant's department chair/school director, as well as the dean.
**Qualifications:** Ph.D. or terminal degree in an appropriate discipline; Tenure or tenure-track faculty status, tenure preferred; Demonstrated expertise in Women's and Gender Studies; Demonstrated commitment to the field of Women's and Gender Studies.

**Application Materials:** 1) A cover letter that explains the applicant's reasons for seeking this position, prior experience, and expertise in Women's and Gender Studies, and demonstrated commitment to the field of Women's and Gender Studies; 2) Curriculum vitae; 3) A memo from the department chair or school director supporting the application.

Application should be submitted to the **Application Portal** by February 7th (Wednesday), 2024. Appointments will begin in August 2024. If you have any questions or problems, please contact Dr. Zehui Dai (zdai1@radford.edu). Thank you for your application.

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