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October 21, 2024

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Greetings from Provost Usher

Radford has the honor of welcoming Frank Bruni to campus on Wednesday as a part of Dialogue Across Difference. Mr. Bruni is Eugene C. Patterson Professor of the Practice of Journalism and Public Policy at Duke University, following a career in journalism at the New York Times. I first (knowingly) encountered his writing when he was the NY Times food critic as I was developing my anthropology course in Food and Human Evolution. His perspectives of food culture went beyond traditional restaurant reviews that were so on point that I often shared his writing with my students.

He has also written a book on college admissions, *Where You Go Is Not Who You Will Be*, aimed at students (and parents) who strive to attend elite, highly-competitive colleges. Mr. Bruni argues that state universities, like Radford, give many students a much richer experience.

Mr. Bruni is the author, most recently, of *The Age of Grievance*, a book-length essay that traces America's reliance on grievance from the Declaration of Independence to the current election cycle. He points out early in the book that "we're an ingenious species with a talent for anger and with potent tribal instincts" (p41). After multiple descriptions of how grievance culture has divided us and recently even shaken the foundation of American democracy, he reinterprets the value of strong bonds. "Co-operation is humanity's greatest strength, the superpower that drives our progress" (p217).

In reading his book, I concluded that, to overcome grievance and move towards cooperation, we have to lean into teaching critical thinking. He emphasizes that “distance nurtures grievance” (p 215), so it is imperative that students see the world through the perspective of others. We need to teach and model evaluating information, balancing individual and collective good, and acting kindly. With the upcoming election and the heightened tension, Mr. Bruni’s talk will be an excellent opportunity to step back and reflect on how we can continue positive dialogue across difference.

Many thanks to Heather Keith and the members of the Radford University Civil Discourse Working Group (Geoff Pollick, Tricia Smith, Tiesha Martin, and Stephanie Robinson) for their work supporting civil discourse on campus and for bringing Mr. Bruni to campus.

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, and appreciate all you do to help weave a supportive community for each other and our students.

Bethany

Dialogue Across Differences: An Evening with Frank Bruni

The Radford University Civil Discourse Working Group invites all Highlanders to [“Dialogue Across Differences: An Evening with Frank Bruni”](#) on **Wednesday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m.** on the Artis Center main stage, followed by a reception in the lobby.

Bruni is a New York Times columnist and author of “The Age of Grievance,” which explores why Americans are so politically polarized and what we can do about it.

[Learn more about the Dialogue Across Differences event](#)

FERPA training

Radford University now has FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) training, which will be required for all employees, graduate assistants and student workers.

FERPA is a federal law outlining requirements for the privacy of student record information. Please keep an eye out for email notification within the next couple of weeks when FERPA training becomes available to you.

The deadline for training completion will be **Friday, Dec. 6**. Refresher training will be required every three years for employees and annually for graduate assistants and student workers.

[Learn more about this training on the Office of the Registrar website](#)



News from McConnell Library

Thursday, October 31

- **It's Halloween! Costume contest entries will be accepted from 11 am until 4 pm. We'll take your picture when you stop by McConnell Library. After our judges deliberate, awards will be given at 5 pm.**
- **Feed your sweet tooth by trick-or-treating throughout McConnell Library from noon until 6 pm**

News from the RUC Library

- **Tuesday, October 29, noon: Halloween/Horror themed trivia! Room 518, RUC Library, Roanoke.**
- **Thursday, October 31, 11:45 am: Strangest Travels – take a journey to lands unknown and hear spooky tales with the School of Writing, Language, and Literature. Room 517, RUC Library, Roanoke.**

Public Meeting Announcement for Reaccreditation

Radford University's Graduate Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders (M.S. and M.A. programs for speech-language pathology) invites you to an in-person public meeting with the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) on **Thursday, November 14, 2024**.

This is your opportunity to provide valuable input on our program during the accreditation process. The CAA welcomes feedback from the community as part of their commitment to maintaining the high standards of academic excellence.

How to Provide Input:

1. Submit Written Comments

Written comments must be submitted **three (3) business days prior** to the visit. Please email, fax, or mail your comments to the CAA at the details below, ensuring to include your name, address, contact information, and relationship to the program.

- Email: accreditation@asha.org

◦ Fax: 301-296-8570

◦ Mail: Accreditation Public Comment, CAA, 2200 Research Blvd., #310, Rockville, MD 20850

2. Provide Feedback at the Public Meeting

You are also welcome to attend and share your input during the scheduled meeting. All comments must relate to the program's compliance with the CAA's Standards for Accreditation.

To RSVP, please contact **Dr. Lauren Flora** at lflora2@radford.edu.

Your participation helps ensure the continued success and improvement of our program!

Highlander Success Center

ThinkingStorm is our new supplemental tutoring program. This is in addition to our peer tutoring services. ThinkingStorm can be accessed on OneCampus. Please note that there are several types of categories in ThinkingStorm —Drop-In Tutoring, Writing Center Tutoring, Reserve an Appointment, and Start Online Appointment. Some tutoring appointments are not drop-in, but must be scheduled. All is free to our students.

[Access ThinkingStorm](#)

School of Communication News

The School of Communication is excited to announce that the Radford University Public Relations Concentration has officially been recertified with the Certification in Education for Public Relations (CEPR). This is the highest and most prestigious certification granted to undergraduate programs in the discipline of Public Relations. The Public Relations Concentration at Radford was first certified in 2004 and must undergo a rigorous recertification process every seven years.

As one of only two schools in the state of Virginia and with only forty-six universities from five continents currently holding the Certification for Education in Public Relations designation, the Public Relations Concentration is honored to receive this endorsement. Through the PRSA [Educational Affairs Committee](#), a certification review process is administered by two PRSA members, a full-time educator and an APR-credentialed practicing professional who examine the school's curriculum, resources, facilities and university support of its programs. This certification offers academic programs the opportunity to have an outside evaluation team review and endorse undergraduate and master's level programs for meeting eight standards in curriculum, faculty, students, resources and facilities, assessment, professional affiliations, relationships with the total unit and the university, and diversity and global perspectives.

Of note is the department's efforts to increase faculty diversity since the previous report. In addition, the program demonstrated a strong assessment program with a good success rate for realizing program learning outcomes. The Public Relations program was also complemented by the impressive responses from alumni, the technology and facilities available to students, and the overall support from other departments throughout Radford University.

To commemorate the recertification, Dr. Jenny Walton, Dr. Lisa Baker Webster, Dr. John Brummette, and Professor Kim Herbert will be in attendance for the 2024 CEPR Virtual Conferral Program on Tuesday, November 19th (location TBA). All faculty and staff are welcome to attend the ceremony and celebrate this outstanding achievement with the School of Communication.



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Honors College

Applications for Honors Faculty Fellows

The Honors College invites applications from tenured or tenure-track faculty to serve 3-year terms as Honors Faculty Fellows. These faculty invest additional time with honors students through teaching (typically one honors course per year), honors advising, and participating in honors events. Fellows are supported with funds for one-course reassigned time and a \$2500 stipend per year. Additional details can be found at the link below. Inquiries are welcome and should be directed to Niels Christensen, Director of the Honors College (pchristen@radford.edu, x6125).

[Honors Faculty Fellow Information and Application](#)

Application deadline November 4th, 2024

New Fellow terms begin May, 2025

The McGlothlin Center for Global Engagement

The McGlothlin Center for Global Education and Engagement (MCGEE) support faculty and staff interested in pursuing international initiatives. Encouraging anything from individual research to study-abroad experiences, the MCGEE is proud to offer funding for a variety of engagements that support the internationalization of Radford University.

There are two types of funding available to faculty and staff in the McGlothlin International Education fund: (1) Global/Travel Funding, and (2) Programming Funding. All applications must be submitted by deadlines and need to be submitted 30 days prior to the start date of the project or activity. Late applications will be reviewed and accepted depending on availability of funds.

All questions and applications should be directed to Dr. Ismael Betancourt, Assistant Provost for Global Education and Engagement, at ibetancourtvelez@radford.edu.

[Learn more about Global Education
And
Submit Applications](#)

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Sponsored Programs is pleased to offer a one-hour training session, via Zoom, which focuses on how to successfully manage your grants. This first training will kick-off a series of one-hour trainings throughout the semester. This training will address components many of you have asked about, such as: 1) hiring individuals to work on your grants, 2) purchasing supplies, 3) traveling, 4) paying human subjects, and many other day-to-day tasks we often face with grant management.

If you are interested in attending this one-hour training, please see the Zoom link below. If you cannot attend the session, no worries! Reach out to me and I can provide you with a recording of the training. If you would like Sponsored Programs to come to your departmental meetings to share this information, we are more than happy to do that as well.

When: October 25, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Zoom: <https://radford.zoom.us/j/92193284689>

(There is no password. Login with your Radford credentials)

4VA Curriculum grant

Radford is now part of 4VA (a Virginia higher education collaboration) and eligible for a new inter-institution grant initiative. Details are attached. This is a great opportunity for faculty to collaborate across member institutions on some innovative pedagogy

The proposal deadline is November 1, 2024. All proposals will be submitted via a JMU Qualtrics form.

For more information about 4-VA

Research Days (CARD)

OURS is pleased to announce that the 6th Annual Winter CARD (Creative Activities and Research Days) will be held on December 4th and 5th, 2024.

It provides an opportunity for students to experience attending and presenting at a conference without the typical travel and registration costs. OURS is accepting submissions through November 1st. [Apply here!](#)

The event is open to all and there will be refreshments! Stay tuned for the schedule of presentations. For any questions or additional information about Winter CARD visit www.radford.edu/wintercard, or contact OURS at ours@radford.edu.

OURS: Research Ready Series

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (OURS) is excited to announce the creation of a regular faculty and student support seminar series the first and third week of each month. All seminars are open to Radford University students, faculty, and staff. The meeting the first week of the month will be focused on faculty support and the meeting the third week of the semester will be focused on providing student support. The meetings will be hybrid through zoom and in person at the Center for Innovation Teaching and Learning (CITL, McConnell Library 270). May through July are in support of the SURF program and will be marketed to all students and faculty.

Creating Audience Centered Posters for Winter CARD and Beyond

3:30 pm November 5th in CITL: McConnell 270 or <https://radford.zoom.us/j/94626734421>

Applying to Graduate School

12:30 pm November 19th in CITL: McConnell 270 or <https://radford.zoom.us/j/98753750336>

Helping Your Research Student Write a Successful SURF Grant

Our Turn Tentatively January 15th

Preparing a Successful Student SURF Grant

3:30 pm January 28th in CITL: McConnell 270 or <https://radford.zoom.us/j/92078929951>

OURS can also run workshops on various professional development areas for your class or even research team. Contact us at ours@radford.edu, 831-7203, or in Whitt 118-126.



HIGHLANDERS RISE TOGETHER

What is the impact of the RISE Food For Thought program? Here are some student perspectives:

"I don't skip classes on Tuesdays just because of this [Food for Thought]"

"Students are not going to initiate conversation, practically ever. Everyone in my age group avoids conversation with people they don't know like they'll get sick if they start talking. Having some type of middle ground that promotes conversation, and connectivity is what's bringing students to interact with the volunteers [at the Food For Thought table]. Students will see the table for one week and wonder what it's there for, and then see it the next week with a whiteboard asking questions and people talking, then the next week they may muster up the courage to begin interacting."

The RISE Food For Thought program is being led by faculty, students, and staff volunteers who believe that connecting with student by providing free food and low barrier interactions can bring about sense of belonging. It's working! Please encourage your students to come get a bite to eat and have conversation. Please consider stopping by the table in your college. When students see us faculty outside of the classroom and in an informal setting, they become more comfortable with us and willing to come to class and seek us outside of class for help.

Here are the weekly times for RISE Food For Thought:

- Monday 10-12 CVPA-Performance hub of Artis Center
- Tuesday 9-11 CEHD-Peters Hall main entrance
- Wednesday 9:30-11:30 WCHHS-Waldron Hall patio
- Wednesday 11:30-1 pm DCOBE-Kyle Hall 1st floor
- Thursday 10-11:45 CHBS-Hemphill Hall 1st floor lobby
- Friday 10-12 ACSAT-Reed Hall atrium



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College of Visual and
Performing Arts

FALL DANCE FESTIVAL: The Fall Dance Festival arrives Oct. 17 & 18, 7:30 p.m. & Oct. 19, 2:00 p.m. in the Main Stage Theatre, Artis Center! The concert incorporates a wide spectrum of movement styles featuring original choreography. Adults \$10; Children \$6; RU ID Free. Call 540-831-5420 for more info.

[Get Tickets](#)

FACULTY SHOWCASE EXHIBITION: The Faculty Showcase Exhibition opened October 16 in the Tyler Gallery next to BT's. Come see artwork from faculty across the campus through Nov. 20. The closing reception will be Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 5 p.m. and include refreshments.



HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR 5: INVASION OF THE STUDENT BODY SNATCHERS: The 5th annual Halloween Spooktacular takes place at Radford University on Thursday, October 24 in the Covington Center (corner of Jefferson and East Main St). This FREE event combines music, dance, art, design, video, trivia and is a fun show for the Halloween season. This year, the theme is alien invasion. Parking is FREE too! Doors open at 6:45 and the main show starts at 7:30 pm. Please note, the event features loud music and horror movie clips, so it may not be suitable for youngsters or sensitive audience members.

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