



THREADS

September 9, 2024

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Greetings from Provost Usher

Dear Colleagues,

Congratulations on a very successful first couple of weeks of classes! The energy on campus is palpable and I appreciate all you have done to accommodate the shift in population as we have more new students, both freshmen and transfers. We have also increased retention in almost all categories, thanks to your efforts to support our students.

At the Board of Visitors meeting last week, we shared the good news about the student population and my commitment that we have the appropriate total number of faculty for a stabilizing number of students. There should be no fear of FERPs or other programs to reduce the faculty based on the budget (whew). We do need to continue to work on the Curriculum Lifecycle to offer an appropriate catalog of degree programs that together makes Radford distinctive, and is supportive of our increasing number of transfer students. I know you are working with the Assistant Provost for Faculty and Curriculum, Jessica Stowell, CITL, and others on this, and it is valued. We will continue to make sure that when there are open faculty positions, they are designed to meet our future needs in programs, aligned with updated curricula and growing programs.

This fall, we will begin the search for two new deans, in the College of Visual and Performing Arts and in the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences. Deans serve as leaders in many roles—serving their students and their faculty, as colleagues on the Academic Affairs Leadership Team, as supervisors of classified and AP staff, and as advocates for the college with alumni and community members. To do the job well, it's important that they be supported in all these roles. I am working with Faculty Senate to update the Handbook so that search committees for deans can reflect

these multiple roles, while maintaining the primary role of college faculty in helping select new deans. I look forward to all of your involvement as we choose our new leadership!

All the items in this newsletter highlight the terrific opportunities we are offering students, faculty, and staff. I continue to be grateful to work with such a terrific team across Radford, and appreciate all your thoughtful efforts to support giving our students an excellent education that prepares them to lead thriving communities.

Bethany

Women's and Gender Studies

The Women's and Gender Studies Program offers an interdisciplinary and global perspective on the roles of women in society, examining the impact of systemic inequalities on their lives and celebrating their activism in driving social change. We invite faculty and staff who are passionate about these topics to consider joining the Women's and Gender Studies Program Advisory Committee. Please reach out to Dr. Jamie McDaniel (jmcdaniel30@RADFORD.EDU) or Dr. Zehui Dai (zdai1@radford.edu) if you are interested in serving on the advisory committee.



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Department of Music

Upcoming Events



The Jazz Ensemble will perform "Step On It," a concert themed with acceleration in mind on September 24.

On September 26, Michelle Smith Johnson will present a faculty recital with special guests, [the Alma Ensemble](#) from Roanoke.

Both concerts will take place in Davis Performance Hall in the Covington Center, each beginning at 7:30.



We are excited to announce the 2025-2026 Radford University Faculty Professional Development Leave Program (FPDL). FPDL is an opportunity for faculty to broaden their professional horizons and develop new teaching and research perspectives. The application form including cover page, checklist and instructions for the 2025-2026 program are in the link below. **Please note the application deadline is Monday, November 4, 2024 by 11:59pm**

Application and more information

Career and Talent Development - Upcoming Events

We hope you will be able to join us for these exciting events!

Employer Showcase

September 17, 2024

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Kyle Hall, 340

Fall Career Expo 2024

September 18, 2024

4:00-7:00 p.m.

Kyle Hall, 340



YOUR Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning still has a few spots left in the following book discussion groups (free books!).

Read **Michael Sheldrick's From Ideas to Impact: A Playbook for Influencing and Implementing Change in a Divided World** in this CITL book group. The book will be of interest to those teaching publicly engaged problem solving, climate change, and leadership. Learn from Sheldrick, who as just a college student founded the organization that would become [Global Citizen](#) and engaged Australia's prime minister in ending polio. Over the last decade, Global Citizen has mobilized \$43 billion to end poverty, promote equity, and solve the climate crisis. Find hope that wicked problems can be solved by learning how it's being done from Australia to Barbados to South Africa

with changemakers from college students learning by doing to prime ministers whose islands may sink into the sea to rock stars who refuse to tour until their carbon footprint can be reduced.

Meeting times: 10/2, 10/30, and 11/20 from 12-12:50 p.m. on Zoom.

This fall, we will welcome New York Times columnist **Frank Bruni** as our fall civil discourse speaker at a public lecture aimed at helping us to understand and overcome our seemingly inability to speak and work across political divides. To prepare us to engage with Bruni, we invite you to read and discuss his most recent book **The Age of Grievance**. The first 24 registrants will receive a free copy (please ensure that you can attend at least two meetings before claiming a book). **Special note: Bruni will join us in person at our last meeting prior to his October 23 keynote lecture in the Artis Center Main Stage Theatre at 7 p.m.!** This reading group is brought to you by the Civil Discourse Steering Committee.

Meeting times: 10/2, 10/9, 10/23, from 3-4 p.m. in CITL and on Zoom.

Sign-up for book discussions

Highlander Success Center - Fall 2024



Save the Date for the Fall 2024
Majors & Minors Fair
Thursday, September 26th
1:00 to 4:00
Student Recreation and Wellness Center

*All academic departments and university offices,
please use the QR code to reserve your spot.*

Sponsored by the Highlander Success Center



Reserve your spot!



Want to Get Highlanders Registered and Voting?

We Can Help!

The Campus Voter Team and Highlanders Vote student organization are committed to helping get all Highlanders registered and voting. We have a variety of ways we can help you, and would love to have you join our effort.

Want to have a representative come to your class? We will present on registering and voting and sign up any eligible student that wants to register.

[Request a class visit](#)

Interested in helping register people, become a deputy registrar in the Commonwealth of Virginia, or get involved on the Campus Vote Team? Contact Chapman Rackaway at crackaway@radford.edu to sign up!

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