



RESEARCH & CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP
QUARTERLY

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Welcome to the Fall 2024 Research and Creative Scholarship Newsletter! The 2023-2024 academic year was an exciting and productive year with the new trainings and support for research and creative productions, increases in grant engagement and awards, and new faculty and students engaging in meaningful work positively impacting our communities.

In this issue we highlight student and faculty successes, share information on upcoming trainings, resources and opportunities. I hope this newsletter sparks your creative and research interests, creates connections, and generates awareness of the many projects and programs happening at Radford University. I welcome feedback and suggestions. Please reach out at jmekolic@radford.edu

Jeanne Mekolichick, Ph.D.

Associate Provost of Research, Faculty Success & Strategic Initiatives

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Michelle Lenhart, PhD, Assistant Professor

Project Title: *Multisensory Integration Skills in Children with Communication Disorders*

Sponsor: Radford University Sponsored Programs Seed Grant Programs (submitted to the National Institutes of Health)

Purpose of the Project



Infants and toddlers learning language must be able to integrate what they see with what they hear (especially in faces and voices). They must be able to attend to both visual and auditory information as they interact with their toys, their caregivers, and their family members, all while they live and learn in a world that is full of other distractions. We know that in typically developing children, this integration skill is essential for learning new words. But we have no information on whether this skill is diminished or lacking in children with likely and/or known communication problems. This project will study children between the ages of 2 to 6 years of age who have been referred or are currently being treated for a communication disorder on their ability to integrate sounds and sights - both when viewing objects and when viewing people. This information will help us better understand whether attention problems may be playing a role in their communication difficulties. We will be measuring different aspects of their multisensory integration including how fast they can pay attention to things that match, how accurate they are in finding sources that match, and in keeping their attention on the match when other distracting events appear. Together, these measurements will give us insight into how toddlers who are experiencing challenges and delays in their communication skills integrate information from different sensory systems, with an eye towards what we can do to help them learn to become more skilled in this domain of functioning.

The aim of this project is to expand the investigation of emerging multisensory integration skills to children with known or suspected communication difficulties, such as delayed speech and language development, developmental language disorder, intellectual disability, and/or autism. Recently, Todd and Bahrnick (2022) found differences in multisensory attention skills (or MASKs) for neurotypical and neuroatypical children (e.g., autism spectrum disorder) ages 2 to 6 years even when children were matched on mental age across groups. However, similar work has not been examined in children with other communication challenges. The aim of this study is to determine if multisensory integration is a challenge for children with suspected or confined communication disorders at the level of the individual.

- **Research Question 1:** Do children ages 2 to 6 years with known or suspected communication disorders exhibit notable patterns denoting difficulty in their multi-sensory integration skills?

- **Research Question 2:** Does caregiver sensitivity moderate the relationship between multi-sensory integration skills and language skills for children ages 2 to 6?
- **Research Question 3:** Does environmental coherence moderate the relationship between multi-sensory integration skills and language skills for children ages 2 to 6?

With the hope of securing external funding in the amount of \$421,552 from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIH/NIDCD), Dr. Lenhard and her collaborator from Virginia Tech will further expand upon her current research project by using a three-year cross-sectional study design in children between the ages 2 to 6 years who are currently being assessed and/or remediated for communication disorders.

Faculty Success

Carlee Bradbury: Teacher-Scholar, from Dedmon to the Tower of London

Athletes go to Disney World after major accomplishments, Dr. Carlee Bradbury is going to the Tower of London after winning the Dedmon Distinguished Teaching Professor Award. Carlee's creative inquiry in Art History is recognized far beyond the New River Valley, and she is presenting projects from Atlanta to London next month. Through a competitive process, Dr. Bradbury was accepted to present "Dressing Eve - Unlikely Garments" in the Tower of London as part of the Association of Dress Historians Autumn International Conference. This presentation is related to her mentoring of Lou O'Neil's SURF project, "The Eternally Multitasking Woman from Eve to Priscilla Mullins."



By Grace Bryant and Joe Wirgau

Carlee has a long history (pun intended) of mentoring student projects and speaks effusively about her role in developing the next generation of scholars. "I have seen student confidence levels rocket as they undertake a research project. The whole endeavor of finding a topic, crafting questions, delving into primary source material, writing, and refining is all an exercise in trusting one's thought process and giving voice to something that may be very personal or even esoteric." In response to her research students' questions about being a Professor and going to conferences,

Carlee summed up how she feels about the experiences with a simple, "Yeah, it's pretty great!" And it also describes how campus sees Dr. Bradbury's creative scholarship and impact on students.

Research Resources

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research

Radford University is a member of the **Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)** who is hosting their 2024 Data Fair: Anchored in Reality this week, September 14-19. All sessions are free, virtual and we encourage your attendance!

[Details on ICPSR's Data Fair Sessions and Registration Info](#)

ICPSR offers faculty and students access to different databases, teaching resources, and training in data access, curation and methods of analysis. If you're interested, check out the new and updated data collection to the ICPSR data archive. Check out these new releases:

- 38960 [National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey_\(NISVS\): General Population Survey Raw Data, 2016/2017](#)
 - 39203 [The Family Life Project, Phase I, United States, September 2003-January 2008](#)
 - 36873 [The Family Life Project, Phase I, United States, September 2003-January 2008](#)
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Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Faculty Professional Development Leave Program

The Radford University Faculty Professional Development Leave Program (FPDL) is an opportunity for you to broaden your professional horizons and develop new teaching and research perspectives. The application form and instructions for the 2024-2025 program are linked below.

We look forward to receiving your application!

[Application and Instructions](#)

SEED Grant Program

Sponsored Programs and Grants Management (SPGM) would like to remind all faculty who are interested in internal funding to be sure to check out our SEED Grant Program. We are accepting applications from September 15th through April 15, 2025. If you have questions about the internal grant program please contact Tom Cruise at tcruise@radford.edu. Please visit SPGM's website for more details.

[SEED Grant Application and Guidelines](#)

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

How to successfully manage your grant award

- When: October 25th 1:00pm -2:00pm
- Where: Zoom <https://radford.zoom.us/j/92193284689>

Grant Writing 101 for new faculty

- When: November 8th 1:00pm-2:00pm
- Where: Zoom <https://radford.zoom.us/j/95196751661>

All-day Writing Workshop presented by Hanover Research

- When: February 7, 2025
- Where: Heth 014
- More information to come about the workshop!

Did you know?

Highlander Works Grant Program

Radford University is excited to provide an update about the Highlander Works Internship Grant program to support students participating in unpaid or lower paid internships. The program was developed as a result of a SCHEV grant of \$100,000 as part to the V-TOP initiative, and has been administered through the Center for Career and Talent Development Office. Thus far, 32 students have received Grant funding totaling \$85,158 which will go directly toward removing financial barriers to their participation. A sample of internship placements include AutoZone HQ, Palo Alto Networks, Surry Arts Council, Radford University History Department, OMNIBUILD, Sheltering Arms, Regal Rexnord, Durham Public Schools Business Office and many others.

Upcoming Events

12th Summer Research Celebration

All day October 8th in the Ross Art Gallery in McConnell Library

The Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship awardees will share their stories and accomplishments from a summer of research.

6th Annual Winter CARD (Creative Activities and Research Days)

Oral presentations December 4th in the Ross Art Gallery in McConnell Library and poster presentations December 5th in the atrium of the Artis Center for Adaptive Innovation and Creativity.

The Radford University Winter CARD showcases the academic achievement and creation of new knowledge at Radford University. Submissions are due November 1st and posters are due to the OURS office by November 13th.

The Sixth Annual Summer Institute in Research and Creativity

Save the date for the sixth annual **Summer Institute for Research and Creativity, May 14-16**, free and open to all faculty and staff.

Do you have a dissertation chapter that wants to be an article? Do you have an idea for a textbook? Would your research benefit from support for grant writing? Do you just need a kick in the pants (i.e., productivity, creativity, and accountability coaching)?

Participants will receive a certificate of completion for attending the workshops. Contact hkeith1@radford.edu for more information.

For a full listing of upcoming research presentations and events, please visit Radford's 2024-2025 Events Calendar

[Radford University Events Calendar](#)

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