



Office of the Provost Newsletter

May 3, 2023

Jeff Aspelmeier and James Robey Recognized with 2023 OURS Outstanding Mentor Award

It is with great excitement that the Office on Undergraduate Research & Scholarship (OURS) recognizes **Jeff Aspelmeier, Professor of Psychology**, and **James Robey, Associate Professor of Dance**, with the 2023 OURS Outstanding Mentor Award!

This award is in recognition of the pivotal role of faculty mentors in providing transformative learning opportunities to our students through undergraduate research and creative inquiry. The award is selected by the OURS Advisory Committee based off of student nominations. The OURS Outstanding Mentor Award recognizes demonstrated excellence in mentoring and supporting undergraduate researchers through a commitment to student development, creating opportunities, dissemination, equity and inclusion, and career development.

From the student nominations it was abundantly clear that Dr. Aspelmeier has a profound impact on his research students in the Department of Psychology, forming a “team dynamic” among his mentees. “Dr. Aspelmeier wants to create an inclusive environment and show that research and academia is for anyone and everyone.”

Congratulations to Dr. Jeffery Aspelmeier on behalf of Radford University for providing inclusive and transformational research experiences for our Psychology students.

“Dr. Aspelmeier helps me grow my experience and knowledge, all to make my time at Radford worthwhile... I will truly cherish my mentee relationship with him, and know it is one of the greatest things to come out of my time at Radford University.” -Brittle Williams



Professor James Robey has also made a profound impact on the students he mentors in creative inquiry. James “encourages his students to become better dancers, educators, and choreographers.” Professor Robey has collaborated with the Department of Music on multiple performances to develop choreography and create unique experiences for all of his students. Congratulations to Professor James Robey on behalf of Radford University for providing incredible research experiences for our students



“Professor Robey is very generous and willing to provide resources for the knowledge necessary to complete my project. He constantly works to accelerate my career development by using his previous research to guide by example. Professor Robey has offered me nothing but encouragement, empathy, and crucial resources to contribute to my academic success of today.” -Meridythe Whitt

RADFORD UNIVERSITY CIRCLE OF OMICRON DELTA KAPPA (OΔK) INDUCTS 31 MEMBERS AFTER A FIVE-YEAR HITATUS

April 10th, 2023 · Radford, Virginia
Written by Jake May



Radford University students, faculty/staff, and guests had an eventful evening in the Hurlburt Student Center — Bonnie Auditorium.

Dr. Jean Mistele, Director of the Citizen Leader Program and professor in the Mathematics and Statistics Department wanted to re-start the ODK circle at Radford University (RU).

The Radford University Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa was founded on January 21, 1978. It was the 161st circle of ODK, and the corresponding nickname is Eta Pi. The founding advisors were Dean Francis Bonnie Hurlburt and Dr. Eldridge W. Roark, Jr., for whom the ODK Eldridge W. Roark, Jr. Meritorious Service Award, is named. Two of ODK's most prominent members ensured the RU circle was chartered. Dr. Eldridge Roark served as the former Vice President for Student Affairs.

In 2007, the Circle commissioned a bronze key that was embedded in the rock wall outside the Hurlburt Center. Unfortunately, in recent renovations, the key seems to have gone missing. Prior to today, the Eta Pi circle of ODK initiated 693 members. Dean Hurlburt was also an initiate of the first Radford class.

The unique mission of ODK is to recognize and encourage collaboration among collegiate leaders. Our Society seeks to identify, celebrate, and engage

collegiate and community leaders from different backgrounds, perspectives, and generations. Members enjoy scholarship opportunities, leadership development programs, access to a national network, and much more.

Dr. Mistele could have not done it alone. The team includes Dr. Timothy Reed, Vice President of Membership and Operations at ODK Headquarters, Dr. Pamela Frasier, professor in the Health and Human Performance Department, Dr. Chapman Rackaway, Chair and professor in the Political Science Department, and Jacob May, Circle Assistant, undergraduate student at RU.

The eligibility requirements for ODK includes:

1. Two semesters (one year) as a full-time student at Radford University.
2. Sophomore, junior, or senior standing.
3. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.4 (sophomores), 3.5 (juniors), or 3.6 (seniors).
4. Exemplary character as evident by the submission of a resume and character references.
5. Achievement of special distinction in leadership.

Students were not the only ones inducted that evening. Three faculty/staff members were also initiated due to ODK national requirements and stand-

ards. These faculty/staff members are:

Dr. Jean Mistele, Circle Coordinator, Dr. Pamela Frasier, Faculty Advisor, and Dr. Chapman Rackaway, Faculty Advisor.



The ceremony started at 5:00 p.m., Radford University's eighth president, Dr. Bret S. Danilowicz, said a few opening remarks to the initiates. President Danilowicz shared how he is an active member in ODK and his daughter, at Florida State University, was recently inducted this semester in their circle.

The ceremony was recorded and broadcasted on Zoom for the few initiates who attend Radford University Carillion (RUC) and could not attend the ceremony on main campus.

The Spring 2023 Radford University OΔK Circle Initiates:

SOPHOMORES

Hope Marie Ellison
Alexis Nicole Gunnell
Kara Harvey
Emily Nicole Saunders
Joshua R. Shimp

JUNIORS

Zora Grace Comer
Kristen Renee Edwards
Ayah O. Elalfy

Morgan Harris
Lauren Elizabeth Luther
Alexis Catherine Ridgway
Abigail Elaine Ridpath
Lillian Faye Ruble
Lora Ellen Robinson Starr

SENIORS

Samuel Alleman
Rory Anne Croke
Kaitlyn Lemon Faircloth
Nicole Elaine Hankins
Allison Noelle Jones
Donna Khademi
Michelle Labrecque
Claire Martin
Lucas C. Messer
Bethany Celeste Mills
Skyla Casey Pollard
Madison Kathleen Rose
Whitney Nicole West
Emily A. Woods

The Radford University Circle of ODK would like to thank the following for making this possible: Dr. Timothy Reed, Vice President for Membership and Operations at ODK Headquarters, the Radford University Scheduling Office, Dining Services—Catering, Office of the President, the Citizen Leader Program, Dr. Jeanne Mekolichick, Associate Provost for Research, Faculty Success and Strategic Initiatives, and Debbie Fenderson, Office Manager in Undergraduate Education.

Citizen Leader

Radford University circle of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) inducts 31 members after five-year hiatus

Students, faculty, staff, and guests were invited to a ceremony to celebrate the newest members of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) after a five-year hiatus. On April 10, attendees gathered in the Bonnie Auditorium in Hurlburt Student Center as 31 sophomores, juniors, and seniors joined the Radford University circle of ODK. **Dr. Jean Mistele**, Circle Coordinator and Director of the Citizen Leader program, led the reinstatement of Radford's ODK circle, which was founded in 1978. **President Bret Danilowicz**, himself an active ODK member, offered opening remarks to the new initiates, consisting of the following students:



SOPHOMORES

Hope Marie Ellison, Alexis Nicole Gunnell, Kara Harvey, Emily Nicole Saunders, and Joshua R. Shimp

JUNIORS

Zora Grace Comer, Kristen Renee Edwards, Ayah O. Elalfy, Morgan Harris, Lauren Elizabeth Luther, Alexis Catherine Ridgway, Abigail Elaine Ridpath, Lillian Faye Ruble, and Lora Ellen Robinson Starr

SENIORS

Samuel Alleman, Rory Anne Croke, Kaitlyn Lemon Faircloth, Nicole Elaine Hankins, Allison Noelle Jones, Donna Khademi, Michelle Labrecque, Claire Martin, Lucas C. Messer, Bethany Celeste Mills, Skyla Casey Pollard, Madison Kathleen Rose, Whitney Nicole West, and Emily A. Woods

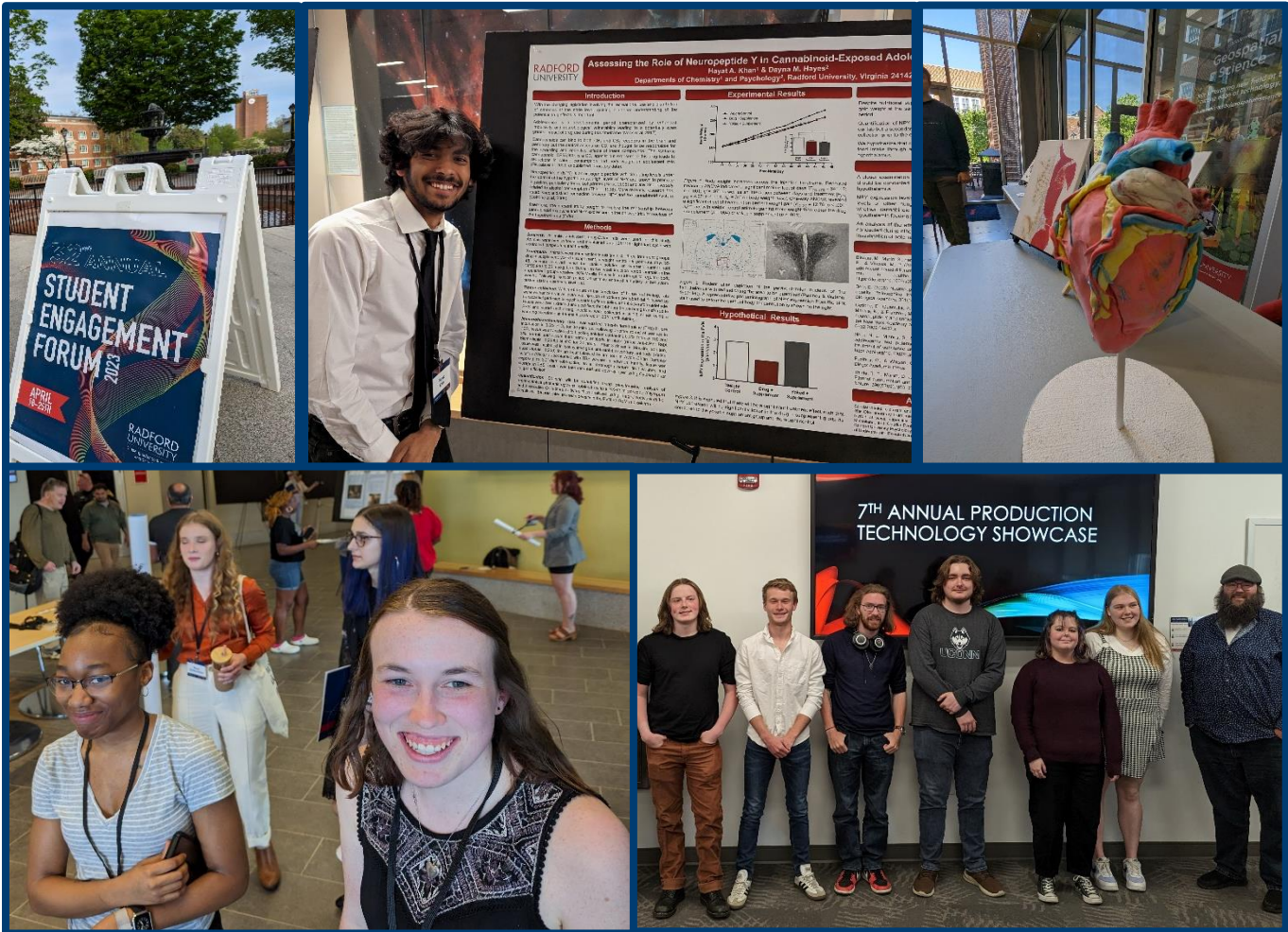


The unique mission of OΔK is to recognize and encourage collaboration among collegiate leaders. The Society seeks to identify, celebrate, and engage collegiate and community leaders from different backgrounds, perspectives, and generations. Members enjoy scholarship opportunities, leadership development programs, access to a national network, and much more. In addition to Dr. Mistele, **Dr. Pamela Frasier** and **Dr. Chapman Rackaway** serve as faculty advisors to the group. Dr. Frasier is a Professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance, and Dr. Rackaway is Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science.

Please join us in recognizing these students...welcome to Omicron Delta Kappa!



32nd Radford University Student Engagement Forum a Success!



Radford University hosted its 32nd Annual Student Engagement Forum starting April 16th. The Forum, as it's colloquially known, showcased hundreds of student research and creative inquiry presentations in a variety of formats and representing dozens of disciplines across campus. "We get to see the tangible results of our faculty's high level of engagement with students, investing in them as future colleagues in various forms of experiential learning, research and creative inquiry," said Joe Wirgau, Ph.D., director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (OURS.) "It is inspiring to see students rise to the occasion when given the chance for leadership roles, to represent the university and departments with their work."

Sophomore Statistics major and biocomputational researcher Abbi Green summed up the student experience "Presenting at Student Engagement Forum is something I have been looking forward to for much of the semester. Talking to people who are interested in my work is an incredibly gratifying experience that makes the challenges along the way worth it. I also loved connecting with other student researchers and learning about projects outside of my discipline. The Student

Engagement Forum is the perfect place for students to practice their dissemination skills in a welcoming and supportive environment.”

Elevate Research Student Mentor Networking Event



The evening of April 19th Student research mentors in the Elevate Research program met with RU alumni who volunteered their time to share how their experiences at Radford shaped their career trajectory. The alumni panel answered pre-written questions posed by the student research mentors and shared wonderful conversation.

Alumni Roger Epps ('04), Darrell Hairston ('92), and Tammy Walton ('98) traveled from Virginia and North Carolina for the event; RU personnel Crystal Hubbard, Quiana Mizell, and DJ Preston also attended and spoke with the students.

McGlothlin Center for Global Education and Engagement

We're pleased to announce that Radford University has received re-designation (re-approval) from the US Department of State to continue receiving exchange visitors (J-visa holders). Re-designation is done every two years.

Welcome Erin Carney!

Erin Carney will be joining the McGlothlin Center for Global Education and Engagement as the International Student and Scholar Services Coordinator. In this position, she will be responsible for working with all international students regarding their immigration matters. We are happy to welcome Erin to the MCGEE team!

Sponsored Programs and Grants Management

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Please contact Tom Cruise (tcruise@radford.edu) if you are interested in applying.

Grant Name:	Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants: Capital Projects (NEH)
Summary:	Capital Projects support the purchase, design, construction, restoration, or renovation of facilities for humanities activities. This includes costs related to planning as well as the purchase and installation of related moveable and permanently affixed equipment for exhibiting, maintaining, monitoring, and protecting collections (whether on exhibit or in storage), and for critical building systems, such as electrical, heating ventilation and air conditioning, security, life safety, lighting, utilities, telecommunications, and energy management.

Eligibility:	IHEs are eligible to apply.
Dates:	Proposals are due by May 17, 2023.

Honors College

Honors Capstone Showcase

Most Honors College seniors presented their capstone projects on Sunday, April 16th to a large gathering of faculty, students, and family in Kyle Hall. Presentations included over twenty posters and five podium presentations. Several of these students applied for the King Award, which goes to the most outstanding capstone project. The King Award winner will be named at the Spring 2023 Honors College Medallion Ceremony, which will be held at 11am on Friday, April 5th in Covington Center.

