

TheMAGAZINEof

RADFORD

UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2015

STEPPING UP STUDENT WELLNESS

**POPULAR NEW
FACILITY OPENS**

INSIDE: SELU TURNS 25 | ARTIS LAB OPENS





Step It Up!

Members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. perform at Homecoming 2014's Step Show.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

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Penelope W. Kyle, J.D.

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The MAGAZINE of RADFORD UNIVERSITY

The Magazine of Radford University is produced collaboratively by the Division of University Advancement and the Office of University Relations.

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Cover photo by Lora Gordon



Radford University does not discriminate in the administration of its educational programs, activities, admission or employment practices.

Dear Alumni and Friends of Radford University,

Exciting, new academic programs and state-of-the-art facilities have sprouted up around Radford's campus in the recent months, and many of them are already in full bloom.

Throughout these pages you will find stories of new programs that will help meet critical needs of the Commonwealth and the nation. You will be introduced to students, faculty and staff who bring passion to discovering new knowledge in research, helping the community through outreach and providing the best living and learning environment for our students. Our main mission is education; however, education is not just about learning in the classroom – it's about doing what you love while making a difference in your discipline and the community.

If you have a chance to drive along the perimeters of campus in the coming months, you will see new buildings beautifully integrated with the traditional and much-admired look and feel of our campus. We concluded the fall semester with the opening of our new Student Recreation and Wellness Center. This state-of-the-art, 110,000-square-foot facility is spectacular in every way and offers our students a place to work off stress, have fun and stay healthy. While using the newest in exercise technology or running on the inclined track,



President Kyle, center, with John Bowles and his cousin Olga Bowles at the Selu 25th anniversary celebration

students can take in the stunning views of campus, the New River and the surrounding mountains that are truly unique to Radford. This facility is second-to-none in the Commonwealth of Virginia!

Along East Main Street, the new Center for the Sciences, located behind Curie Hall, is at the stage where you can start to envision students working diligently with their professors in the soon-to-be well-equipped laboratory spaces and classrooms. This building will also house the RU Planetarium and the RU Museum of the Earth Sciences and will provide the campus and community an outstanding learning resource to allow interest in the sciences to flourish.

Last summer, we broke ground for the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS) building between Muse Hall and McConnell Library. This 143,600-square-foot building will be the largest academic building on campus and will bring all of CHBS' academic programs under one much-needed roof. This new building will increase collaboration among disciplines and provide students and faculty the room they need to fully explore their academic interests.

During this time of renewal and growth, I am especially grateful for your support of Radford University. Many alumni and friends of the university offer their generosity in so many ways – time, expertise and financial support. You truly make a difference at RU and your support makes it possible to provide the programs and facilities you will read about in this Spring 2015 edition of The Magazine of Radford University. Through all of our dedication and work – all of us together – our university will continue to thrive and flourish for the betterment of our students and their futures. Thank you!

With my warmest regards,

Penelope W. Kyle

For online access to this edition of The Magazine of Radford University, visit www.radford.edu/magazine

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We want to hear from you!

Let us know what you think of the stories and photos you find in The Magazine of Radford University. The magazine staff welcomes readers' comments, but reserves the right to edit letters or to refuse publication of letters considered libelous or distasteful. Space availability may prevent publication of all letters in the magazine. Please send your letters to: editor@radford.edu.

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Radford University Among the Best!

ONE OF THE
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– THE PRINCETON REVIEW

ONE OF THE
"Best Regional Universities" IN THE SOUTH
– U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

"Best for VETS – 2015" AND "MILITARY FRIENDLY"
– MILITARY TIMES

NATIONAL
"BEST VALUE" recognition AS A TOP 75 U.S. PUBLIC UNIVERSITY
– THE PRINCETON REVIEW

AMONG NATION'S
"BEST BANG FOR THE BUCK" UNIVERSITIES AND THE TOP VIRGINIA INSTITUTION IN THE RANKING!
– WASHINGTON MONTHLY MAGAZINE

White Coat Ceremony Marks Inaugural Graduation by Radford University DPT Students



From left to right: Elise Loiselle, Wesley Dubose, Sarah Dunn, Sean Gorman, Chelsea Kelley, Samantha Giles, Timothy Holt, Alison Shipley, Matthew Yost, Kayla Stump, Thomas Mitchell

RADFORD UNIVERSITY'S wardrobe of academic regalia added a new item – a white coat – during the 2014 Spring Commencement Ceremonies as 11 Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students were honored at the program's inaugural White Coat and Pinning ceremony.

Sarah Dunn, a 2010 graduate of RU's Exercise, Sport and Health Education program, was the first to don the white coat and be pinned as a graduate of the program, which began in 2009 and becomes RU's third doctoral program.

"It has been a three-year process with ups and downs and great experiences. It

is exciting and overwhelming to help set a precedent," she said.

The program joins the Doctor of Nursing Practice and Doctor of Psychology programs that graduated their first classes in 2013 and 2012 respectively.

The class posted a 100 percent passing rate on the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE), administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. RU's Doctor of Physical Therapy program is also fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

CAPTE is an accrediting agency nationally recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. With CAPTE accreditation, RU DPT graduates became eligible for the NPTE and licensure by all 50 states and the District of Columbia. RU becomes the seventh university in the Commonwealth to have a CAPTE-accredited physical therapy program and is the only program serving Southwest Virginia.

“A welcoming and compassionate society”



Delegate Joseph Yost '06, M.S. '08 (right) speaks with Waldron College of Health and Human Services staff and members of the local mental health community.

Grant Funds Program to Help Meet the Need for Psychological Care in the Commonwealth

VIRGINIA DELEGATE JOSEPH YOST '06, M.S. '08, called for a new chapter in the treatment of mental illness at the “Mental Health in the New River Valley” forum last fall at RU.

The forum announced the launch of a series of Waldron College of Health and Human Services’ (WCHHS) initiatives to improve regional mental health care. Funded by a \$750,000 Advanced Nursing Education Grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the program will be dedicated to improving access to health care by strengthening the health care workforce, building healthy communities and achieving health equity.

“We must work for a welcoming and compassionate society, a society where no one is dismissed and no one is forgotten,” Yost said. “This is the great and hopeful story of our Commonwealth and nation.”

Yost congratulated Assistant Professor of Nursing Vicki Bierman '77, B.S.N. '98, M.S.N. '04, and the college on the grant and the collaborative programs that it will foster.

Through a three-year grant, titled “CARE: Collaboration, Awareness, Resources and Education,” Bierman and Assistant

Professor of Nursing Melanie Parks will lead the way in implementing an online and clinical Psychiatric Mental Health Practitioner DNP concentration program that will produce psychiatric mental health practitioners or specialists.

“There has been overwhelming interest in the program and we will meet or exceed the number of students we promised to enroll in the fall 2015,” said Bierman. Currently, DNP graduates can achieve Family Nurse Practitioner, Executive Nurse Leadership and Nurse Midwifery certification.

The program will also provide the regional health care community a psychiatric mental health certificate program and continuing education classes in this vital area.

By preparing professionals to deliver patient-centered care, RU is now addressing the dire shortage of health care providers for people with both behavioral health issues and multiple chronic diseases. According to Virginia Health Foundation data, there are only 133 licensed psychiatric nurse practitioners in the Commonwealth of Virginia and only 106 currently practicing. The shortage impairs patient outcomes and hampers integrated delivery of behavioral health services and medical care to those suffering from mental health issues or issues compounded by chronic diseases, such as diabetes.

As a result of the grant, an Interprofessional Education (IPE) consortium within the WCHHS will also be created to enhance interdisciplinary work among the college’s various specialties.

WCHHS Dean Kenneth Cox said, “We don’t work in isolation anymore; we work in teams. The programs that emerge from this exciting opportunity will help us further step out of our silos and foster true interprofessional practice and service.”

“We don’t work in isolation anymore; we work in teams.”

WCHHS Dean Kenneth Cox

RU Partners with Finance Association to Offer Professional Certification

AS DIRECTOR of financial services for the City of Lynchburg, Donna Witt requires the accounting and budget staff she supervises to complete professional certification through the Virginia Government Finance Officers Association (VGFOA).

The knowledge gained by her staff, she said, has led to the establishment of financial policies that guide important decisions made by the city's council.

"These classes have become the foundation for gaining knowledge and experience with governmental accounting," Witt said.

For the past 10 years, Radford University's Governmental and Nonprofit Assistance Center (GNAC), an outreach project for RU's College of Business and Economics, has partnered with VGFOA to provide a certificate training program for finance professionals who work or aspire to work in the Commonwealth's state and local governments.

The program provides professional training in accounting, budgeting, cash management, debt, administration, internal controls, Virginia law and emerging topics pertinent to state and local governments. RU's GNAC works with VGFOA to develop the curriculum for the program.

"The world of local government finance is extremely dynamic as the very technical rules are continuously changing," said York County Deputy Administrator Vivian McGettigan. "GNAC's model for providing educational assistance is especially beneficial to a local government finance

“These classes have become the foundation for gaining knowledge and experience with governmental accounting.”

Donna Witt

staff, because GNAC's staff seeks out experts from VGFOA's membership ranks combined with GNAC staff's technical knowledge including access to research tools to design very specialized training classes on specific new topics."

The partnership began a decade ago when VGFOA asked Bruce Chase, professor of accounting and GNAC director, to develop advanced courses for a program. Now Chase and other RU faculty members plan and teach classes in the program, many of which are offered online.

Ten classes – eight mandatory and two electives – are required to complete the program. More than 16 of these courses are offered across the state each year.

Individuals receive a certificate upon completion of the program. Nearly 200 individuals have completed the program during the 10-year partnership.

"There are events in our lives and careers that you can look back on and recognize as pivotal moments, and I fully recognize that the brief conversation with Dr. Chase in 2003 was a turning point for me and my career," McGettigan said.

In addition to its partnership with VGFOA, GNAC provides quality professional financial education and

technical assistance to governmental and not-for-profit organizations, such as the national Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and Treasurers Association of Virginia.

The purpose of these relationships is to identify educational and training needs and to provide programs to meet those needs.

"GNAC allows for a level of excellence in training and management through its certificate program that is consistent with VGFOA's mission of developing leaders with financial and management expertise to foster excellence in government," said Barbara Dameron, VGFOA president and director of finance for the City of Roanoke.

"Completion of the program is a recognized accomplishment which has become a factor for career ladders and hiring or promoting staff in numerous governments throughout the state," McGettigan said. "For more than 10 years, I have used the joint Virginia Government Finance Officers – Radford University Certificate Program as the primary source for training finance staff, as the training materials are the most relevant source for the local government finance professionals work programs."

Barbara Dameron
City of Roanoke

Bruce Chase
Radford

Donna Witt
City of Lynchburg

Vivian McGettigan
York County

Union First Market Bank Gift Supports GNAC

UNION FIRST MARKET BANK has made a generous gift to Radford University's College of Business and Economics Capital Campaign by naming the space for the Governmental and Nonprofit Assistance Center (GNAC).

The gift from the Virginia-based bank is for \$100,000 over a five-year period.

"This type of private support allows us to have top-rate facilities," said RU accounting professor Bruce Chase, who serves as the GNAC director. "It is very gratifying to have Union First Market Bank support the activities of the Governmental and Nonprofit Assistance Center. We look forward to partnering with them in offering programs to the



Bruce Chase

local government and nonprofit community."

Ed Lawhorn, New River Valley Market Executive at Union First Market Bank, said: "In working with local governments and nonprofits across Virginia, we have come to appreciate the good work being done by RU's Governmental and Nonprofit Assistance Center. Bruce Chase is a known and respected leader in the field of local-government and nonprofit training and education, and we are pleased to play a role in providing that to those organizations."

To learn more about the GNAC, contact Chase at 540-831-6734 or bchase@radford.edu.

Sharing Executive Wisdom

BEGINNING IN FALL 2014, the College of Business and Economics (COBE) created the Executive in Residence initiative, a program designed to expose COBE students and faculty to current issues affecting today's business world.

The inaugural program brings 15-20 business executives to campus each year, said COBE Dean George Low.

Participating executives are on campus for one to two days, and engage with students, faculty and the campus community through such opportunities as classroom sessions and lectures, one-on-one meetings and campus-wide forums.

Suneel Grover, a senior solutions architect at SAS Institute and a 2000 RU graduate, visited his alma mater Oct. 6-7, 2014 to engage with students, faculty and the campus community about current topics affecting today's business world.

While on campus, Grover met with faculty and undergraduate and MBA students interested in careers in analytics. During a presentation to a group of undergraduate students, Grover spoke about his time at RU and how his career has progressed.

Grover, who has 15 years of experience working in marketing, analytics and data mining said, "It's very meaningful to come back to Radford where my career started and share my story and help the students think about some of the considerations that were very difficult for me to navigate through when I was a student."

Senior marketing and management double major Sarah Ponthieux said she gained valuable insight from Grover's visit.

"I was able to learn from him numerous details about my future career field," said the senior from Yorktown, who aspires to a career in marketing analytics. "I really enjoyed talking with him about the real world applications of marketing analytics and the job possibilities that the field can offer."

Radford alumni Steve Cassaday '76 and Dale Parris '85 highlighted the program during the spring semester. Cassaday, president of Cassaday and Company Inc., was ranked as the top financial advisor in Virginia on Barron's 2014 list of "Top 1,200 Financial Advisors: State by State." Parris, vice president of Roanoke Gas Company, has two master's degrees from Radford, including an MBA.

Others who participated in the program include Ram Reddy, a vice president at Cargill Inc., Jack Regan, a certified public accountant with extensive experience working with clients in federal, state and local governments, higher education and non-profit organizations, and David Tomala, the senior director of advanced analytics of ExpressScripts.





Upside Down AND Recentered A World Turned Upside Down

By Dan Waidelich

Photos by Charlie Whitescarver

THE HUMVEE rattled across the rocks and gravel in the Afghan road. The Marines inside sweltered in the 100-degree heat, dust settling in their collars and mixing with sweat. It's just another day on patrol in the Helmand province.

Cpl. Josh Himan '06 didn't sign up for the United States Marine Corps for creature comforts; after seven months in Afghanistan he knew that dust and sweat were just part of life at the tip of the spear. No matter how taxing the environment was, Josh knew he had a job to do, a mission to accomplish and brothers at his side to protect.

In an instant, his world turned upside down. The Humvee hit an IED (improvised explosive device) in the road and was torn apart in an uproar of noise, smoke and fire. Himan, thrown from the vehicle, wanted to get up and help, to do whatever he could for his fellow Marines. But when he tried to move, nothing happened.

Josh couldn't feel anything below his chest. He couldn't feel his abdomen or his legs. He couldn't walk.



Richard Alvarez, CFO and vice president for finance and administration and retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel, and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Bill Kennan onstage with Josh during his keynote address at the 2014 Veterans Day Ceremony



The RU Women's Softball team, of which Josh's younger sister Sarah '10 is an alumna, presented Josh with a plaque commemorating his service at the Veterans Day event.

★ I was asking myself, 'when I'm gone, what did I contribute to society?' ★

MAY IN RADFORD is beautiful. The weather is warm and the hollyhocks are in bloom. The RU campus is awash in the excitement of another year completed and well done.

Josh, of Woodbridge, Virginia, knew when he walked across the stage at the 2006 Spring Commencement ceremony that the future was as bright and inviting as the spring sunshine. With a degree in finance and a long career ahead of him, he was ready to make his mark on the world.

For Josh, starting on his first day as a freshman, RU was a place where he learned who he was, surrounded by friendly faces and an atmosphere of encouragement. It was a place that prepared him to work, succeed and become a leader beyond its classrooms and quads.

"Everyday life just got better," he said. "I loved the university. There was nothing like walking across campus on a beautiful day and seeing everyone out enjoying themselves."

It wasn't long after graduation that success came calling. After only a few months in a suit and tie, Josh knew he was going places in the finance world. Projects, promotions and pay raises beckoned, but he realized that he wanted more.

"I was asking myself, 'when I'm gone, what did I contribute to society?' and it was that self-reflection that made me want a change," he said.

So, in 2007, Joshua Himan joined the United States Marine Corps in order to build a legacy of service to his country, family and friends.

"I had a great investment with my four years at Radford, so I decided to make another four-year investment in the Marines," he said.

WHEN he returned from Afghanistan, it was to a mission perhaps more difficult than any he'd faced before: to learn to live without the use of his legs and to honor those who were not fortunate enough to return home.

"I was more afraid of not doing my duty than I was of dying," he said of his time in Afghanistan. "Sixteen men in my battalion lost their lives. My sacrifice is nothing next to theirs."

Awaiting him at home was a difficult rehabilitation process, and the support of his loving family and the communities that shaped him – both at home and at RU.

"Josh is one of the fortunate ones who has a family to support him," said his mother, Pat Himan. "We're a team in everything we do."

He put in the hard work, learning to get around in a wheelchair and returning to his love of weight lifting to keep his upper body strong. In an effort to build his new,



★ I'm one of the lucky ones. I have all this incredible support, when so many veterans come home and don't get it. ★



Josh and members of the RU ROTC Color Guard during the wreath laying portion of the 2014 Veterans Day Ceremony

unexpected future he also went back to school, earning an M.S. in finance from George Washington University and an M.S. in applied economics from Johns Hopkins University. Today, he works as a financial analyst and entrepreneur.

Of course, his hard work and positive attitude win him support, even in unexpected ways. Tyler Hobson, a designer of strength training equipment who has worked with the NFL, heard about Josh and his love for weight training. Hobson wanted to build a machine Josh could use to work on his upper body, so he sat down in a wheelchair and got to work. The result was a custom machine that allows Josh to stay fit and engage in one of his favorite pastimes.

"I'm one of the lucky ones," Josh said. "I have all this incredible support, when so many veterans come home and don't get it."

IN NOVEMBER 2014, he returned to RU as the keynote speaker for the university's annual Veterans Day Ceremony. Despite some new buildings and other cosmetic changes, he knew it was the same place with which he fell in love over a decade before.

In his keynote address to the gathered RU students, faculty and staff, Josh spoke about the rewards and challenges

that come with being a Marine. He found an unshakeable brotherhood with fellow servicemen, as well as an equally demanding lifestyle.

"Boot camp was something I'm glad I did but would never want to do again," he said, smiling. "When I was there I used to think about my all-American college experience at Radford a lot. Living in a room with three other Marines ... made Muse Hall look like the Ritz-Carlton."

Josh's service in the USMC certainly changed his life and his time at RU did as well. His legacy as an excellent student has not been forgotten by his professors in the College of Business and Economics, many of whom attended the Veterans Day event to see him again. The RU Women's Softball team, of which Josh's younger sister Sarah '10 is an alumna, also attended and presented Josh with a plaque commemorating his service.

"Between Josh and Sarah we felt really plugged into RU, it having been a part of our lives for so long," said Pat Himan. "It's a really impressive community. We feel like Josh runs into Radford graduates wherever he goes."

"The people are what makes the university special," Josh said in his keynote speech. "I hope that Radford continues to be a hero at home. I'd challenge everyone at RU to continue supporting veterans by offering them the friendship you've shown me." ■



A Childhood Dream to
FINDING A

Dr. Racquel Collins-Underwood '01, a cancer researcher at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, knew she wanted to make a difference. "I knew at the age of 12 that I would be a cancer researcher at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. When Danny Thomas was alive, he would have fundraising telethons throughout the year. I was glued to the television for every one of them. When I asked my parents why these kids were dying, they couldn't answer my questions. I made it my mission to find out why. Unfortunately, big dreams like this are hard to achieve on your own," says Collins-Underwood.

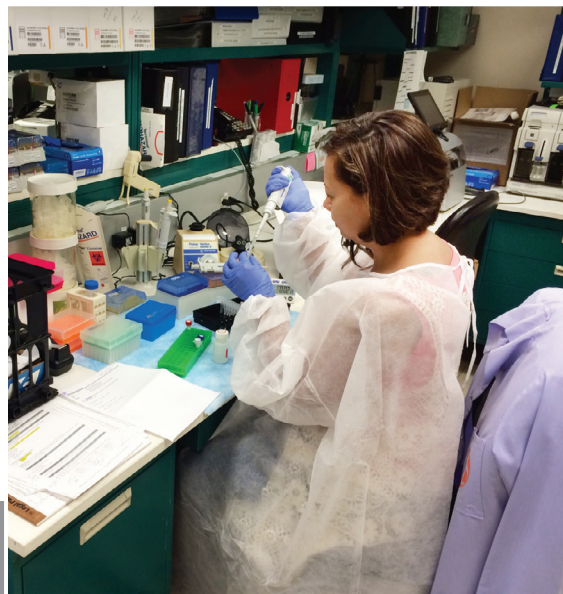
After serving in the U.S. Air Force, Collins-Underwood chose Radford University because of its low student-professor ratio, its excellent biology program and the beautiful campus. "Radford University is still one of the most picturesque campuses that I have ever seen," she says.

She chose biology because "understanding the basic molecular and cellular processes that make life possible has always intrigued me," she says. "I was talking to one of my mentors at Radford, Dr. Mary Roberts, and she knew my aspirations for cancer research. She introduced me to the medical technology program, and I immediately changed my major from biology to medical technology. I still had the opportunity to learn about molecular and cellular process but now with a clinical application."

After graduating in 2001, she served as a medical technologist in transfusion medicine at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. Later, she earned her Ph.D. at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C. "I obtained my Ph.D. in Cancer and Radiation Biology and applied for one job – at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. And I got it!"

work I've ever done and I consider myself one of the lucky few that go to a job that I love every day," she says.

She says it's special to see the fruits of her labor. "Because all of the employees and the families that are served by St. Jude share one hospital space and one cafeteria, we are constantly reminded of why our work is so important. Seeing these kids run, play and laugh is a constant source of inspiration that changes our attitude and perspective on life.



“ I ... applied for one job – at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. And I got it! ”

CURE

By Ann Brown

Courtesy photos

Currently, she is part of a team that diagnoses childhood cancers and follows patients through their treatment using molecular techniques that allow scientists to see mutations at the DNA and RNA level. In her spare time, she works with other research laboratories that are constantly looking for new mutations related to cancer. She helps to design research processes to incorporate new findings into the panels of genetic tests available to patients. "It's the most incredible

While I have seen many kids in my time here achieve remission and go on to lead healthy, cancer-free lives, we still lose patients. It's heartbreaking, but it gives me more drive and energy to continue the work so that the next child survives."

She volunteers as a member of the College of Science and Technology Advisory Council and periodically thinks back on her time at RU. "Dr. Mary Roberts and Dr. Orion Rogers were my favorite professors and my first real mentors. Dr. Gary Coté will also always stand out in my mind. What I gained from Dr. Roberts's intense labs, Dr. Coté's cell biology class, and Dr. Cindy Burkhardt's instrumental methods class is alive and well in my brain today!"

"I was blessed to find this not-so-little gem of a school in the mountains of Virginia. I am grateful beyond words for the opportunity to study at Radford University." ■

Feels Like *Home Again*

**RELIVE HOMECOMING 2014
 AND FAMILY WEEKEND**



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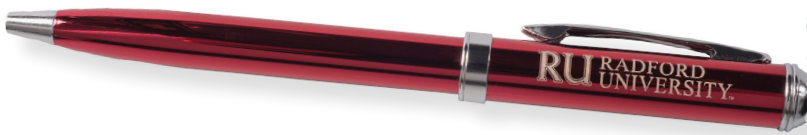
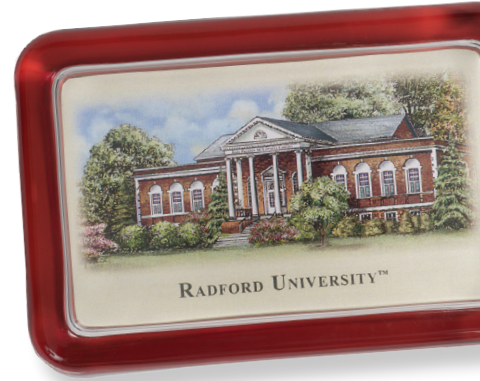


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- 1 Josie '99 and Kirk '07 Loomis at the Homecoming Weekend Dog Show
 - 2 Sophomores Destini Washington and Brionda Thornton with family members during Family Weekend
 - 3 From left: Hillary Billings '01, Holly Nester '01 and Meredith Holloway at the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders 40th Anniversary Dinner
 - 4 Freshman Kiersten Wright (middle) with her parents Jim Wright and Tammy Maitland during the Family Weekend festivities
 - 5 Former RU soccer teammates David Cossaboon '89 (left) and Dante Washington '92 share an embrace.
-



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8



9



The 2014 Fall Homecoming Weekend was October 10-12! The weekend festivities included college reunion events, the Class of 1964 Golden Reunion, the Women of Radford Luncheon, the 40th anniversary of RU's soccer program, the Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and an afternoon of excitement in the Alumni Village! So much fun in one exciting weekend!

Join us for 2015 Fall Homecoming Weekend October 16-18. Visit www.radford.edu/alumni for more information.

6 Radford University alumni participate in the Soccer Alumni Game on the RU soccer practice field.

7 Former college roommates Kathryn Oddo '82 (left) and Callie Dalton '82 together at the Women of Radford Luncheon

8 From left: Pat Owens, Ann Lumsden Hovis and Tina Moses Goode at the Class of 1964 Golden Reunion, held at the president's house

9 Adrienne Majette-Cain (right) shows off Radford spirit wear to her mother Anita Majette-Cain at the Radford University Bookstore during Family Weekend.

Historic Hospitality



GOVERNOR TYLER HOUSE BECOMES NEW PRESIDENTIAL HOME



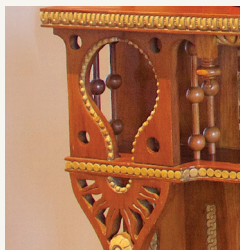
By Ann Brown

1877-79

Tyler serves in the Virginia Senate.

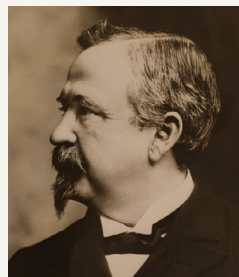
1890-94

Tyler serves as lieutenant governor of Virginia.



1892

Tyler and his wife Susan Montgomery Hammet Tyler build Halwyck, now known as the Governor Tyler House.



1898-1902

Tyler serves as governor of Virginia.

1899

Tyler makes a bid for the U.S. Senate.

THE FORMER HOME of Virginia's 43rd governor John Hoge Tyler, located on Tyler Avenue in Radford, is now the Radford University president's home.

The Governor Tyler House was a gift from two longtime friends of Radford University: Randal J. Kirk '76, former rector of the Radford University Board of Visitors (BOV), former member of the Radford University Foundation and benefactor of the Zylphia Shu-En Kirk Endowment; and Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham, current member of the BOV, current member and former president of the Radford University Foundation, and current president of the Radford University Real Estate Foundation. The property and subsequent renovations were the result of gifts to the Radford University Foundation.

"It has been a privilege to help make this special project possible for the benefit of Radford University," said Kirk. "This historically significant home will allow the university to extend a new level of hospitality to a variety of constituencies, including alumni, friends of Radford University and donors, students, faculty and staff, while also highlighting the historic ties between the region and the university."

"The renovation and restoration of Governor Tyler's former home was an honor, especially knowing that it will help preserve this special home for the long-term benefit of Radford University and the region," said Snyder-Falkinham. "This home, with both its history with Radford and the New River Valley and its beautiful and classic design, will



William Jennings Bryan (front center) with Governor John Hoge Tyler (front right) at Halwyck during Bryan's 1900 presidential campaign.

be able to welcome future visitors to both Radford University and, by extension, the community."

Tyler was a farmer and businessman from Radford and Pulaski County who was known as "the farmer's friend" when he served in the Virginia Senate (1877-79), as lieutenant governor (1890-94) and as governor (1898-1902). He also made an unsuccessful bid for the U.S. Senate from Virginia in 1899. Among Tyler's

political contemporaries was William Jennings Bryan, three-time presidential candidate, who was photographed on the veranda of the home during Bryan's 1900 presidential campaign.

The home served as Governor Tyler's residence until his death in 1925 and remained in the family until 1981. The house was purchased from its most recent owners in January 2012 as part of a planned donation to the Radford University Foundation.

Since becoming the official residence of the president of Radford University, the Governor Tyler House has been the location for significant university gatherings, including the Golden Reunion dinner in October for the class of 1964. In December 2014, nearly 300 Radford University faculty and staff joined City of Radford community and business leaders for holiday cheer and fellowship during the first open house hosted by President Penelope Kyle at the historic Governor Tyler House, the president's new official residence. ■

1900

Tyler's political contemporary William Jennings Bryan visits Tyler at Halwyck during his presidential campaign.



2012

The Governor Tyler House is purchased as part of a planned donation to the Radford University Foundation; renovations on the home commence.




2014

The Governor Tyler House becomes the official residence of the president of Radford University.



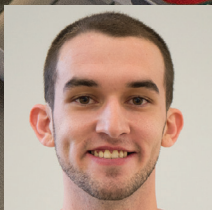
NEW CENTER ADDS



Once one of Radford University's most anticipated construction projects, the Student Recreation and Wellness Center has become one of the most popular destinations on campus.

“WOW” TO WELLNESS

By Mary Hardbarger



“Nothing compares to this place.”

Caleb Thomas '15



“It has a lot of equipment I’ve never seen before. It’s like Christmas.”

Amanda Hulver '15



“... if I was a high school senior and I saw this, I would definitely be sold on Radford.”

Alhaji Bah '16



Lora Gordon



Charlie Whitescaver



Jaslyn Gilbert



Jaslyn Gilbert

THE DOORS of the new state-of-the-art Student Recreation and Wellness Center ceremoniously flung open on December 1, 2014 with a ribbon cutting ceremony, and students have wasted no time embracing the 115,000 square-foot facility.

“We have never had a facility like this at Radford University,” said President Kyle to a crowd of students, staff and administrators gathered at the ribbon cutting the day after Thanksgiving break.

In fact, one would be hard-pressed to find such an impressive fitness center on any college campus in the Commonwealth.

“When you walk into this building today, I don’t believe that you will think of anything that we have forgotten,” Kyle continued.

The building, located beside the Hurlburt Student Center, houses more than 90 pieces of fitness equipment, a three-court gymnasium and multipurpose activity gymnasium, a fitness and wellness suite, two racquetball courts, four fitness studios and locker rooms.

On the top floor, an inclined track spans the entirety of the building. Natural light shines through floor-to-ceiling windows that provide breathtaking views of the expansive campus.

Senior Caleb Thomas of South Hill was one of the first students to take advantage of the center on opening day.

A week before tackling final exams, Thomas and his friends took to court in a spirited basketball game.

“Nothing compares to this place,” said Thomas, a communications major. “Now we have a great place to hang out outside the classroom. We can let off some stress, shoot some hoops, and then we can hit the books even harder.”

In turn, the center has transformed the Radford University recreational experience.

“Everything I could possibly want to do is here,” said senior Michelle Rawlyk of Richmond. “I think it’s an amazing addition to our university.”

SENIOR JOSH EGGLESTON of Buena Vista watched the sun set one late afternoon from the seat of an elliptical against a window in the center.

A member of RU’s Student Managed Investment Portfolio Organization (SMIPO), Eggleston said the building’s amenities help balance his demanding schedule.

“With the new equipment, I can actually check my SMIPO portfolio while working out. These machines have Internet access,” Eggleston explained.

Zoe Everard of Northern Virginia is no stranger to the gym. An early riser, Everard said the new center is also convenient to her schedule.

“I tell all my roommates they’re not going to get me out of here,” Everard said.



Lora Gordon



Lora Gordon



Lora Gordon



Charlie Whitescarver

SGA Official Wendy Viana; President Penelope W. Kyle; SGA President Colby Bender; SGA Officials Tiffany Goins, Madalyn Dunn and Shadjah Hunt; and Dean of Students Irvin Clark at the ribbon cutting

“When you walk in this building today, I don’t believe that you will think of anything that we have forgotten.”

President Kyle

Eggleston and Everard are just two of thousands of students who have made a trip to “the rec center” a part of their daily routine.

A NEED for the new fitness center arose when enrollment continued to rise, outpacing the number of spaces available to accommodate students and equipment.

President Kyle heard students’ concerns and tasked a team of RU administrators to travel to different fitness centers on college campuses to explore options for RU. Students were an integral part of the process from the beginning, Bonk said.

“They sat on planning committees, put surveys together and participated in focus groups,” said Ken Bonk, associate vice president of student affairs and director of student activities. And much of what the students asked for, they received.

Students can sweat and surf the web on the high-tech, touch-screen fitness equipment. A waterproof room is specifically designed for RU Outdoors participants to clean off their mud-caked gear. Soccer balls can fly and feet can dance the night away on the multipurpose, rubberized court. Every corner of the center was created with great detail and attention, Bonk said.

CONSTRUCTION BEGAN in fall 2012, and just after the Thanksgiving 2014 break, the center opened.

“It was like Christmas,” said senior Amanda Hulver of Winchester.

Hulver, a strength conditioning major, is proud of the center, a sentiment she shares with many in the campus community.

Bonk, who helps oversee the facility with Director of the Department of Recreation and Wellness Barry Miller, said the facility will prove a powerful retention and recruitment tool.

“When students look at a university it’s academics first. But they also look at other places – the residence halls and recreation facilities,” Bonk said. “Students spend 20 percent of their time in the classroom, and 80 percent of their time outside of it. So, if we help them maintain their health, it’s only going to benefit them in the classroom.” ■



Construction Update

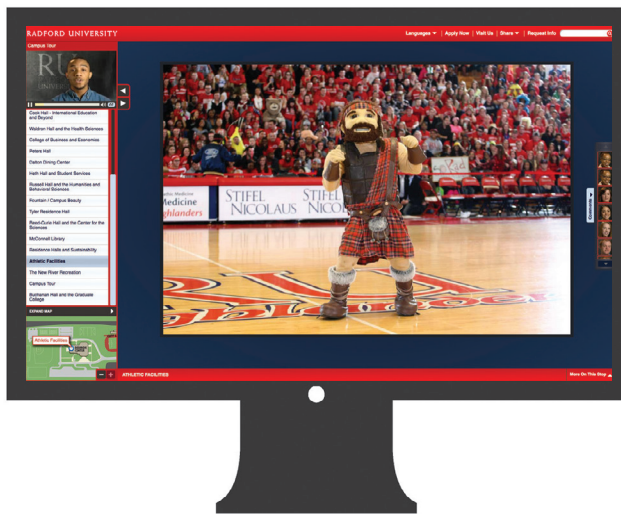
The university is continuing the transformation and enhancement of the campus's learning facilities.



Center for the Sciences rendering

Prospective Students Step Virtually Onto Campus

By Don Bowman



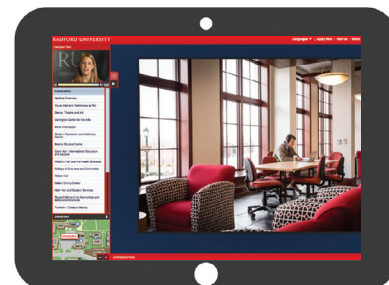
The tour, which was a collaboration between Web Strategy and Interactive Media and Undergraduate Admissions, earned a bronze medal in the “Admissions Website” category of the Higher Education Marketing Report’s annual Education Digital Marketing Awards.

Accessible at <http://virtualtour.radford.edu>, prospective students and families can visit campus by remotely using a desktop computer or an Internet-enabled mobile device. In the same way, alumni curious about modern-day RU or prospective faculty considering RU can also get a feel for the look and culture of campus.

“The main goal of the tour is to reach prospective students and entice them to make the trip to campus,” said Jaime Hunt, director of Web Strategy and Interactive Media. “Having a really robust virtual tour gives them an opportunity to see what the campus is like from the comfort of their own homes.”

AT THE CORE of Radford University’s charm are campus and community.

Visitors from across the world can now sense that charm prior to hopping a plane or braving Interstate 81 through their personal device or computer. Last summer, RU’s Division of Information Technology launched an online virtual tour to give users the opportunity to visit campus buildings inside and out, hear testimonials from students and faculty, and experience interactive features.



Currently under construction are two new academic facilities: the Center for the Sciences and the new home for the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS).

Work nears completion on the 114,000-square-foot Center for the Sciences, the future home to the College of Science and Technology's (CSAT) departments of anthropological sciences, biology, chemistry and the Forensic Sciences Institute. The \$49.5 million structure will connect with each level of Curie Hall and host teaching and research lab spaces, classrooms, faculty offices, a planetarium

and the Museum of Earth Sciences. The center is estimated to open in mid-2015.

In summer 2014, construction began on the new CHBS building, which, at 143,600 square feet, will be the largest academic building on campus. The \$52.8 million building will provide academic space including classrooms, offices, laboratories and student/faculty collaborative areas. Along with the Office of the Dean, nine programs will be housed in the new building: communication, criminal justice, psychology, sociology, political science, English, foreign languages and literatures, history and philosophy and religious studies.

Notable features of the building include TV studios, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) simulation room, and a mock trial room. The EOC simulation room will serve as the actual university EOC when needed. The project is expected to be completed in 2016.

CHBS rendering



According to data from the first four months of its implementation, the tour is viewed approximately 3,000 times a month and the average visitor visits 21 pages, which includes both stops and supplemental videos.

In addition to 20 stops at various campus locations, the virtual tour features more than 160 short video interviews with students and faculty members who reflect on campus and academic life. With a pop-out map as their guide, users may go through the stops sequentially or browse.

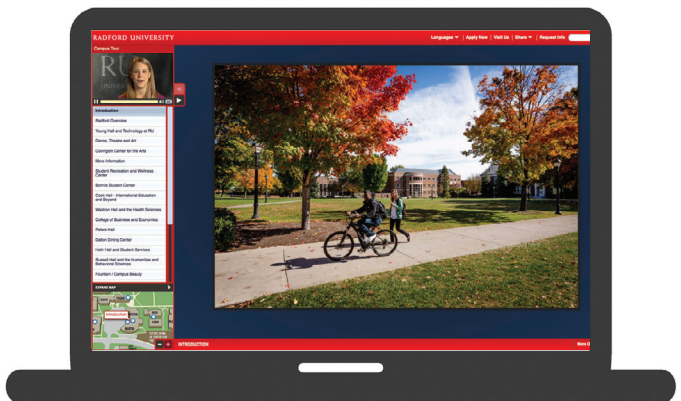
Like the RU campus, the tour is constantly improving. Additional stops are added as new construction and renovations are completed on campus, and a 3D map is under development.

The tour is a platform for a rich blend of multimedia projects – videos highlighting academic programs, faculty member interviews, student voices and research project features.

For an international audience, the tour is translated into Mandarin Chinese, Arabic and Spanish. Allison Pratt, director of operations for Enrollment Management, said the presentation in multiple languages is key to RU expanding its presence in Virginia and connecting RU with a diverse blend of students.

“The virtual tour provides the Undergraduate Admissions Office with a tool to share campus with students around the world,” Pratt noted. “We know that a prospective student who experiences the beauty and sense of community on our campus is likely to choose Radford University. This tour allows us to share on any device the beauty of campus, our students’ stories and our facilities.”

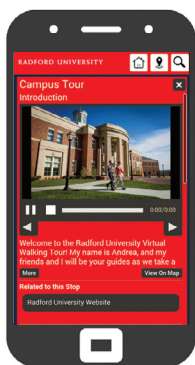
The tour also provides web links for potential students to apply and has the capability for visitors to share the tour with friends and family on social media.



“As we began our recruitment for the Class of 2019, we shared this tour with prospective students and their families, and the admissions counselors shared it with guidance counselors who have not been able to visit campus recently,” Pratt said.

The tour also is ideal for alumni unable to visit their alma mater regularly. A virtual visit to the College of Business and Economics building, the new Student Recreation and Wellness Center or a renovated residence hall emphasizes the exciting ways that RU serves the modern-day student and the Commonwealth of Virginia with impressive teaching and learning facilities. ■

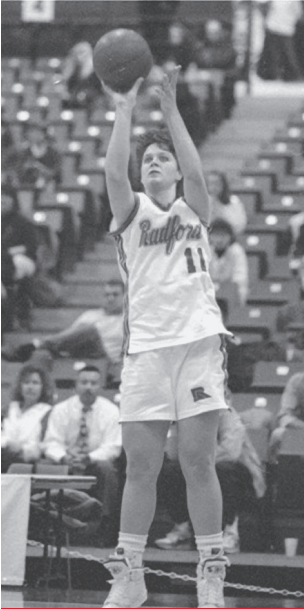
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Four Highlanders Inducted to Athletics Hall of Fame

THE RADFORD UNIVERSITY HALL OF FAME has four new members in its ranks. During ceremonies held at the Fall 2014 Homecoming, RU President Penelope Kyle and Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg formally welcomed the Class of 2014: Tammy Crown '94, Dan Grubbs '80, Tommy Lillard '79 and Laura Topolski '94.



Tammie Crown

**Women's Basketball
1989 – 1993**

Tammie Crown '94 capped a stellar career with a tremendous senior campaign that culminated with being named 1992-93 Big South Player of the Year. A first-team all-conference selection in her final season, Crown owns the mark for consecutive makes from the charity stripe with 37 (1991-92), along with the single-season records for free throw percentage (.864/121-140) and shooting percentage (.611/116-190).



Dan Grubbs

**Men's Basketball
1978 – 1980**

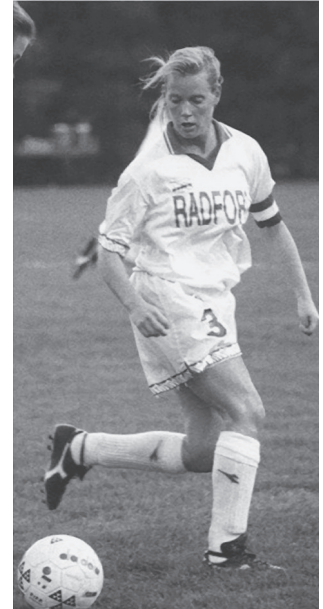
In 1978-79, Dan Grubbs '80 set the single-season rebounding mark with 269 caroms and finished his career with 511 rebounds, which was second all-time upon his graduation. Part of RU's first scholarship class, Grubbs, a two-year captain, was a key cog on the 1978-79 squad that went 23-4, which remains a benchmark for wins.



Tommy Lillard

**Men's Soccer
1974 – 1977**

From his start as a student-athlete through his role as an administrator, Tommy Lillard '79 made numerous contributions to Radford Athletics. A member of the inaugural men's soccer team, he continued on as an assistant and served as the head coach for six seasons (1980-85). Instrumental in the men's program evolving from NAIA to NCAA Division I status, he was also a driving force behind the formation of women's soccer in 1981, being named VISA Coach of the Year. In his final season, he guided the Highlanders to a 5-1 Big South regular season finish and their first league championship game appearance. Lillard continued to stay involved in Radford Athletics serving various roles until 2008.



Laura Topolski

**Women's Soccer
1990 – 1993**

A Big South First Team selection in 1993, Laura Topolski '94 is touted as one of the best defensive players in program history. Making 74 appearances and 71 starts, Topolski's four-year defensive presence in the back attributed to the program's 31 shutouts and 54 victories.



New Locker Rooms are "Home Away from Home"



THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S basketball locker rooms inside the Dedmon Center underwent substantial renovations prior to the beginning of the 2014-15 seasons.

The new facilities provide student-athletes with lounges, new lockers and benches, and an updated design to the decades-old facility.

Women's basketball player Ayana Avery says, "It's nice to be able to have a second home away from home because we spend the majority of our time at the gym," said the senior from Cleveland, North Carolina.

To make the renovations possible, RU Athletics embarked on a campaign to raise \$150,000. Alumni Michael Williams '93 and Tom Gallaher '93 jump-started the efforts by contributing \$50,000 and \$25,000 in leadership gifts to the campaign, respectively.

"We really wanted to support the men's basketball program, and we really believe in what Coach (Mike) Jones is doing there," said Williams, who made the gift along with his wife, Patti. "What the men's program can do for the university, by taking that next step forward, can be beneficial for all of the sports at Radford University as well as the entire university."

The women's basketball program is also seeing the benefits of the renovated locker rooms. Women's basketball coach Mike McGuire says that these spaces will definitely make an impact on the players and the program. "The locker room project is huge. It sends a major message about the importance of basketball to our campus and community," says McGuire.

The renovated locker rooms are a signature piece for the recruitment of the best and brightest prospective students-athletes for both the men's and women's basketball teams.

"It gives our coaches more of a pull with recruiting because they will be able to show them what a beautiful locker room we have," said senior men's basketball player R.J. Price of Richmond.

Both programs are enjoying some of the best spaces for team meetings and comradery thanks to private support.

Students Celebrate Their BIGGEST FAN

A COACH'S DREAM is a team that does good things on and off the field together.

On behalf of Leon Mosley, a dedicated fan and friend of the team, Radford University Softball Coach Maggie Johnson's 2014 team came together in an impromptu act of student philanthropy. They pitched in \$250 to name a seat for Mosley at the RU Softball Stadium.

"That is why we do what we do," said Johnson. "Sure, we want to win games, but we are trying to send young women out into the world prepared to be successful and to contribute. The players' effort on Leon's behalf made me think they are on track and ready."

Utility player Jessie Hutchens '14, was the catalyst to accord their No. 1 fan a place of honor.

"During my four years at RU, Leon has always been there for us. He is at every game, at practices and even helps by shagging balls during practice," said Hutchens from her home in Berwyn, Illinois, where she is continuing her love of the game as a coach. Hutchens said it was a unanimous team decision.

The way her teammates rallied on behalf of Leon is a singular memory for Hutchens. "We all love Leon and to know he will always have a place at the stadium is special," she said.

To learn how you can name a seat in the softball or baseball stadium, call the RU Advancement Office at 540-831-5407.

Leon
#1 Fan
Radford Softball '14



A Historic Win



RUAthleticsPhotos.com

Javonte Green '15 drives to the basket during RU's historic win against Virginia Tech.

THE HIGHLANDER men's basketball team took to the boards for an exciting matchup against Virginia Tech on December 7, 2014, bringing home the 68-66 win. Entering the game, Radford was 0-24 all-time against the ACC. RU's earlier win over Tech came in 1999 when the Hokies were a member of the Atlantic 10.

The Radford University versus Virginia Tech game is always an alumni favorite. Following an alumni social prior to the game in Lane Stadium's South End Zone, hundreds of Radford University alumni and friends wearing Radford red loudly cheered for their favorite team. The excitement on the court did not disappoint.

"I thought our effort was extraordinary for 40 minutes,"

Head Men's Basketball Coach Mike Jones said of his team's second all-time win over their New River rivals. "When they got momentum we still played really hard. We had some incredible multiple effort plays, including the last play with a blocked shot and guys getting on the floor to keep the ball in-bounds as time ran out. That play epitomized the game as a whole."

The game was a nail-biter all the way through the final seconds when a Virginia Tech three-pointer to win was blocked, but the Hokies kept possession with eight seconds remaining. The last RU shot of the game, its block by Virginia Tech and RU's Ya Ya Anderson's dive to the floor kept the ball in-bounds. The clock kept ticking to expiration to secure one of the biggest victories in Radford basketball history.

Baseball Bird Dogs Finding Diamond Talent at RU

FOR THOSE seeking baseball talent, Radford University and RU Baseball Park are regular destinations.

In October 2014, the Radford baseball program hosted its annual fall professional scout day, bringing to campus representatives from nearly every Major League Baseball franchise to evaluate current RU players.

At Scout Day, RU Baseball Head Coach Joe Raccuia's Highlanders participated in a full batting practice and scrimmaged in front of the sharp-eyed, stopwatch- and radar gun-toting evaluators looking for the next Eddie Butler or Phil Leftwich — RU's ranking baseball high-achievers.

Highlanders

30

EDDIE BUTLER

P

EDDIE BUTLER
PITCHER • 30

Highlanders

- Highest draft pick in RU baseball history
- 46th overall selection in the first compensatory round of the 2012 First Year Player Draft by the Colorado Rockies
- Will compete this spring for a regular spot in the Rockies' pitching rotation

ALEXANDER LEE
FIRST BASE • 33

Highlanders

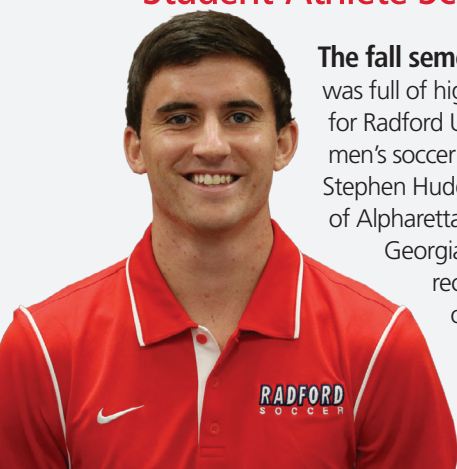
- Second-team All-Big South selection during 2014 senior season at RU
- .318 career batting average with 62 RBI, five homeruns and a career .403 on-base percentage at RU
- Drafted in 2014 by the Baltimore Orioles

Highlanders

ALEXANDER LEE

1B

Student-Athlete Scores High Marks in Competition and the Classroom



The fall semester was full of high scores for Radford University men's soccer player Stephen Hudgens '15, of Alpharetta, Georgia. In recognition of his

exceptional performance both on the soccer field and in the classroom, Hudgens received the Big South Scholar-Athlete of the Year award.

Hudgens was also named a first team Capital One Academic All-America selection for his performance on the soccer field. Each year, the Capital One Academic All-America program selects

816 distinguished student-athletes from across the nation to become part of an honorary team in their respective sports.

Stephen led the Highlanders to a historic season on the field and a Big South regular season championship while maintaining a 4.0 grade point average with a double major in accounting and finance.



Laken Cooper '13 at the aviary



25 Years

Student Research Blooms at Nature Conservancy

By Don Bowman

Throughout the year, students make the 20-minute drive to a 380-acre nature conservancy along the banks of the Little River to conduct original undergraduate research in the natural environment. Students from a variety of programs across campus take full advantage of this “outdoor laboratory.”

For 25 years, Selu Conservancy has been a unique academic resource that augments the rich variety of teaching and learning underway at Radford University.

As the main campus is transformed by modern facilities, the conservancy is also evolving into a versatile resource that supports a rich variety of projects from across disciplines.

For 15 weeks in the summer of 2014, senior biology major Matti Hamed performed a herpetofaunal survey of the property. While Hamed was focused on counting and

cataloguing the amphibian and reptile population living there, Selu’s value and beauty were constant presences.

“I was digging away, setting traps to monitor the site and regularly I stood up to enjoy the sun shining through the trees and bask in the exquisite beauty,” she said. “Being able to work at Selu daily deepened my appreciation of it as a habitat and ecosystem, and as a place.”

With faculty mentor Assistant Biology Professor Matt Close, Hamed, who wants to be a teacher, established a sampling method for determining the species diversity of local amphibians and reptiles that inhabit the Selu Conservancy and make it and the region special. She also organized an educational outreach workshop to teach the public about the importance of maintaining the diversity of amphibians and reptile life as well as how to find and



Lora Gordon

identify them. Toward that goal, Close and Hamed also organized the Selu Reptile and Amphibian Workshop and Survey in conjunction with the Virginia Herpetological Society that brought additional volunteer help to assess one aspect of Selu's health and biodiversity.

AT HOMECOMING 2014, the university hosted a 25th Anniversary Celebration to honor the history and support the future of this unique academic resource. At this event President Penelope W. Kyle outlined the educational value of this natural resource.

"There are many examples of outstanding undergraduate and graduate research happening at Selu. I need to stress this undergraduate research, in many cases, is graduate-caliber research. Because of this property, our students gain experience that makes them stand out from the rest when they apply for their first job or for graduate school."

President Kyle recounted the research assets that Selu provides: an aviary, a teaching and research reptile collection, an observatory and The Farm at Selu that gives visitors a glimpse of farming life in the 1930s through guided tours, interactive demonstrations and exhibits.

In the summer of 2014, Selu hosted a grassroots initiative – the formation of the Selu Garden and Service Club and its subsequent garden project. RU students and friends built,

planted seeds donated by the Virginia Master Gardeners, and harvested a 100-foot by 60-foot, 10-bed garden to generate produce for area fresh food pantries and club members. The Selu Garden and Service Club, begun in 2013, hopes to engage the student community in Selu Conservancy's future, said founding president Will Dowd, a senior geospatial major.

The club's effort at returning Selu to production culminated with a fall harvest festival. More than 100 pounds of Selu-



Lora Gordon

John Bowles presents President Kyle with a necklace at the Selu 25th Anniversary Celebration.



Lora Gordon

Selu 25th Anniversary Celebration

grown produce – corn, tomatoes, squash, zucchini, cucumber, green beans, eggplant, watermelon, cantaloupe, rosemary, thyme, sage and lavender – were donated to the Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread and the Meals-On-Wheels program.

“Radford is fortunate to have this resource convenient to our classrooms to make research and learning come together. Selu is a treasure for both teacher and learner,” said Close.

RU uses the conservancy to reach beyond its own campus and engage the community. To share the region’s unique culture, volunteers and friends of the Appalachian Studies program interpret farm and home life for students in the region and community residents. Volunteers conduct tours to several stations in and outside the farmhouse. Visitors “hear,” as well as see, what life was like for a typical 1930s family, thanks to volunteers who helped restore an antique radio and produce a CD featuring music, commercials and speeches of that era.

IN THE SPRING, more than 30 guests joined the RU student chapter of The Wildlife Society (RUTWS) at

Selu for its annual Bioblitz to highlight the region’s native animal populations.

The university utilizes Selu across disciplines among many colleges. As a relatively unspoiled habitat or ecosystem, ongoing assessments by undergraduate researchers from the biology and geospatial science departments take place on the health and behavior of birds and Selu’s tree and plant inventories. From the observatory, physics students use the light pollution-free night skies to monitor the heavens. Students in the Recreation, Parks and Tourism department use the grounds as a way to learn and then teach outdoor survival and team building. Nutrition students use the conservancy to study organic and natural food production.

Selu’s versatility is highlighted by its use as a site where New River Valley emergency responders volunteer their time to train senior nursing students. RU nursing students have also completed projects about the history of healthcare during the 1930s. Their interpretation about the era’s primitive health care is displayed at the Farm as are typical home remedies and plants from the Selu property that were used to keep residents healthy.

Before the Radford Amazonian Research Expedition takes off this summer for its three-week laboratory experience in the high mountain jungles, the team will use Selu as its training ground for sharpening their scientific research and outdoor survival skills and team building.

As the conservancy comes of age, many are dedicated to the future of this outdoor laboratory and classroom. A five-year

“The brick and mortar is in place now and the challenge is to develop the academic programs that will make Selu a living classroom for the university.”

Jeff Armistead



Courtesy photo



Jaelyn Gilbert

Clockwise from top left: Selu Farmhouse; Elementary school students from Montgomery County visit the farmhouse; Kristy Galloway '14 participates in a controlled burn; Student and faculty volunteers prepare garden beds.

initiative is underway to increase the conservancy's current endowment to \$3 million and make Selu self-sufficient. The property was a gift to RU from John Bowles who in 1989 donated 185 acres of his ancestral land to RU. Named for the mythical Cherokee grandmother corn spirit by poet Marilou Awiatka, the property was expanded with a subsequent gift from the family to its present acreage.

"The brick and mortar is in place now and the challenge is to develop the academic programs that will make Selu a living classroom for the university," said Jeff Armistead, the conservancy's director for 18 years. Armistead, along with former Vice President of Academic Affairs and Professor of Biology Dave Moore, has been instrumental in positioning Selu for the next stage of its development.

THE SELU INFRASTRUCTURE includes The Farm at Selu Conservancy, which features a representative farmhouse as well as original and restored outbuildings used by a family of that era. A retreat center features a wraparound porch with views of the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains and multiple meeting rooms for campus and community meetings and conferences. The Barn is a multi-functional building that serves as both a conference/event center and an educational building. The exterior of the facility replicates vintage

agricultural appearance and conforms to the Selu property's period look. The Barn is attached to the Selu Observatory. Selu also has a boat landing on the Little River, canoe livery and ropes course that can be reserved for private and university groups.

Whether it is researching habitat or human health, scientific exploration or historical interpretation, Selu Conservancy is a jewel reflecting RU's many facets.

"To me Selu has been invaluable," said Hamed. "It has provided me a place to explore my interests and deepen a personal avenue of discovery." ■

Continue the legacy of high-caliber hands-on undergraduate research and scholarship

at Selu Conservancy by contributing to the Selu Endowment Fund to help sustain, enhance and improve the conservancy for future generations. To give online, visit giveto.radford.edu, click on Give Today and designate your gift to the Selu Endowment Fund. You will make a difference for our students and this incredible resource!

Community-Based Research Boosts Career Prospects

The Center for Cultural and Social Research

Upon its founding, the Center for Social and Cultural Research (CSCR) was just a room, a computer and an idea. The tools were simple, but the idea was aspirational: connect Radford students to their campus, their communities and their future careers.

Since its creation in 2009, the center has grown from those humble origins into one of the most dynamic and viable research facilities on the RU campus. Today, it offers students opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills attained in their sociology classes to meaningful, original research that serves the community and campus.

“We have been doing community-based research for years,” said Jeanne Mekolichick, founder of CSCR and interim assistant vice provost for High Impact Practices at RU. It was her desire to connect that community research to student education, a common facet of the RU experience. “What we are doing as an institution, a college, and a program is intentionally taking steps to prepare our students to be future leaders, to be viable in the marketplace, to get outside of the classroom and to understand what it’s like to go to work with clients and to negotiate with others outside of our circle.”

Those clients include non-profits, university departments and local businesses. They approach the CSCR to conduct research on their areas of need. The CSCR puts together the right team of sociology students and faculty advisors to meet those needs and solve clients’ problems through applied research programs.

The longest running relationship in the CSCR is with the Women’s Resource Center (WRC) of the New River Valley. In a notable early collaboration, the WRC requested an evaluation of their Cornerstone program, a two-year transitional housing facility. The CSCR team successfully analyzed the facility’s needs and offered suggestions that led to the hiring of a dedicated substance abuse counselor. More recently, the CSCR received a \$20,000 Verizon grant to support the center’s assessment on WRC’s Peaceline Plus program, a community outreach and prevention initiative.

In another of the center’s longest running programs, CSCR student researchers, supervised by Emerita Professor of Anthropology and Appalachian Studies Melinda Wagner, have collaborated with high school students from Floyd, Virginia and the Floyd Story Center in a program called Roots With Wings. The program is an oral history initiative



“Everybody learns; everybody wins.”

Jeanne Mekolichick

where the CSCR team trains high school students on interviewing techniques and video production. The Floyd students then reach out to local World War II veterans and capture their oral histories.

Heather Wright ’13 spent time as a CSCR student learning sociological research techniques and gaining valuable field experience. Now she is a research associate at the Center for Evaluating the Research Pipeline at Computing Research Association in Washington, D.C.

“My involvement in the CSCR ... shaped my perspective of professional relationships, the importance of research, and the worth of professionalism,” Wright said.

The incredible effects the center can have on students and communities have inspired plenty of support. Carole Seyfrit, RU Emerita Professor of Sociology, is one of those supporters.

Upon her retirement from RU, Seyfrit gifted \$16,000 to the center to be used in support of student research.

“I knew I wanted to do something before I left and research has always been a passion of mine,” she said. “One of the most marketable skills is the ability to do and understand research.”

“Some students might go into a job interview and say, ‘I had a class in research,’” she said. “Our students go in and say, ‘I did research.’”

“Everybody learns; everybody wins,” Mekolichick said. ■

Technology Canvas: The ARTIS Lab

By Don Bowman
Photos by Lora Gordon



“I am a member of the 9-11 generation and I want to be a cyber soldier.”

Danielle Capezzuto
Senior computer science major

The monitors and screens in the Applied Research in Technology and Information Science Laboratory (ARTIS) flared to life as President Penelope W. Kyle and Nancy '73 and H. Pat Artis pushed the button that transformed a room in Davis Hall into a unique learning space.

At the ceremonial opening of the laboratory, they were joined by Michael Wray, rector of the RU Board of Visitors (BOV); Jeff Pittges, chair of the Department of Information Technology; more than 70 students, faculty members and business leaders; BOV members Matthew Crisp '04 and Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham; and former BOV Rector Mary Ann Hovis '65.

Danielle Capezzuto, a senior computer science major from Manassas and the president of the Radford University chapter of the computer science honor society Upsilon Pi Epsilon, is very excited about the project possibilities the lab will provide to students like her.

“This is more than a workplace; the ARTIS Lab is a stage where we can showcase our expertise to clients and potential clients,” Capezzuto said.

To Capezzuto, the technology of databases, software and cyber security featured in the ARTIS Lab transcends binary code and processes.

“I have always felt that technology is art and that what I am doing is making a masterpiece. Instead of paints, words or images, I am using strokes, code and creativity to give users an inspiring experience,” she said.

Before graduating in spring 2015, Capezzuto has already plied her skills – and art – on behalf of a pair of Northern Virginia companies. In consecutive summers, she interned with AOL and Exelis Geospatial Systems. At AOL, she helped save the company \$70,000 by optimizing an asset management database. At Exelis, she helped build an application that gives users a three-dimensional representation of a landscape using point cloud data. Both internship supervisors said, “Please, come back,” Capezzuto said proudly.

The opportunities this laboratory offers students like Capezzuto will propel current and future information

technology students to success in solving some of the most important business and information technology problems of our time.

“Nancy and Pat solve problems with technological and educational solutions and only they could pull this off. Their investment means the university can prepare the next generation of ‘solutions providers,’” said President Kyle. “Once more, the Artises have recognized the ways RU and its faculty are transforming the campus and the programs by which we serve our students.”

The ARTIS Lab is an advanced and collaborative workspace. Students will work with faculty and industry partners to solve real problems. RU students will gain technical and professional experience, distinctive for undergraduate students in the information management and assurance fields. The ARTIS Lab will support RU’s proposed Data and Information Management graduate program, the first of its type in Virginia. The lab will also house RU’s Small Project Support Center, a management organization for large on-campus technology application projects. The lab will also be home to RU’s award-winning Cyber Security Team.



Members of RU's award-winning Cyber Security Team



Flanking Nancy '73 and H. Pat Artis, namesakes of the ARTIS Lab, are students from RU's Information Technology department and Professor Joseph Chase, far right.

The ARTIS Lab helps prepare RU students for roles as developers, administrators and architects of databases, and information managers.

“Professional skills can’t be taught; they must be experienced. Here the faculty will have a professional environment and challenges to engage our students and help them develop the soft skills to match their technical skills,” Pittges said.

The ARTIS Lab is the latest in a series of philanthropic initiatives at the university by the Pagosa Springs, Colorado couple. Their commitment to RU students spans the campus, President Kyle said. She pointed out that students work in the Artis Centennial Early Career Development Program. They study in the Janice Eisenhart MBA Library in the College of Business and Economics (COBE), named for Nancy Artis’ late sister, a 1970 alumna of Radford. COBE faculty and its leadership team also meet in the Nancy Eisenhart Artis Executive Conference Room. Upon completion of the new Center for the Sciences, the Artis Computing Laboratory for Biological Sciences will be a platform for student research. The Artises also provide scholarships and underwrite unique learning opportunities for fashion design students. Nancy Artis also served a seven-year

“Professional skills can’t be taught; they must be experienced.”

Jeff Pittges, chair of the Department of Information Technology

tenure on the Board of Visitors, including terms as vice rector and chair of four committees.

Kyle said, “We treasure this, the most recent addition to the Artis’ philanthropic portfolio on behalf of Radford students. We are excited about the potential that this

valuable teaching and learning resource has for our students.”

H. Pat Artis dedicated the facility and spoke about inspiration.

“Nancy and I would like to inspire every one of you to become more involved with higher education,” said Pat Artis. “For more than 100 years, Radford has been an inspiration to students

from Southwest Virginia and the state as a whole. The students you meet today are likely to be first-generation college students and the education they receive today will forever change their lives.”

Capezzuto said that the ARTIS Lab will help her make a difference.

“I am a member of the 9-11 generation and I want to be a cyber soldier. I guess you could say I did my basic training at RU,” Capezzuto said. “I look forward to focusing on protecting and developing mission-critical systems for the government or military. I would like to contribute to the country through my intelligence and the experiences and the tools that I learned here at RU.” ■

Teachers *Helping* Teachers

Jennifer Jones and Katie Hilden co-direct a project using a \$92,000 grant they received from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV).

By Chad Osborne

For the 2013-2014 school year, two faculty members in Radford University's School of Teacher Education and Leadership (STEL) have been working with teachers at Riverlawn Elementary in Pulaski County on a new program aimed toward improving and integrating new teaching techniques in science and literacy.

Associate Professor Jennifer Jones, recipient of the 2015 State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) Outstanding Faculty Award, and Associate Professor Katie Hilden, both literacy faculty members at RU, co-directed the project using a grant they received from the State Council

of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). The \$92,000 grant provided funding for the project, titled Integration Station, which focuses on the integration of science and literacy instruction in grades pre-kindergarten through fifth.

In the summer of 2014, Jones and Hilden were awarded an additional grant from SCHEV that ensures the project will continue for another year.

Jones and Hilden began working with Riverlawn teachers at the beginning of the 2013 school year to apply the best practices in science and literacy. Their initial grant focused on high-quality and continuous professional development

for the teachers with the goal of improving teacher knowledge and student achievement.

The second year of the project, which began in August 2014, is offering a professional development opportunity to teachers across all elementary schools in Pulaski County Public Schools. Also, participating teachers

will earn graduate course credit from RU and be encouraged to publish their research in journals or present at professional conferences.

The educators' first grant was designed for professional development for the teachers, and Jones and Hilden followed a model to gradually release responsibility with the teachers. "We started with a typical workshop, but then we followed it up by going into the classrooms and modeling the lessons with the kids, while the teachers observed," Jones explained. "And then we told the teachers to try it for a little while. We returned and watched them and provided detailed feedback."

As the project progressed, Jones and Hilden asked teachers to analyze their student data and determine areas of need and then to try a new strategy toward integrating science and literacy and to collect pre- and post-data in the hopes of showing student knowledge gain.

Hilden said expectations of the project continue to focus on improved teacher and student knowledge. "Strong professional development just doesn't change the way teachers are teaching; it also leads to student gains," she said. ■



Associate Professor Jennifer Jones works with school children in Malawi.

By Dan Waidelich
Photographs by Lora Gordon

In classrooms, rehearsals and performances, Radford University's dance majors use movement to voice incredible stories. For years, the Department of Dance has shared those stories with the campus, community and world.

The drive to share emotion through art is strong among the dancers who choose to study their craft at Radford University. One of the most recognizable aspects of dance at the university, however, is a commitment by faculty and students to involve communities beyond campus in the creative life of the Department of Dance.

"All of our performances are community events," said danah bella, interim chair of the Department of Dance. "A lot of our dance majors also teach in local studios."

Outside experiences like these create a vivid culture of sharing and outreach in the arts. The RU College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) readily engages in this outreach as a whole and the Department of Dance shares that mission.

"We feel that outside experiences inform our choices as artists and citizens," bella said.

In addition to her duties in dance, bella runs

ON POINTE



d a n a h b e l l a DanceWorks (dbDW), a professional dance company based in Radford that recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. Throughout its history, bella and the dancers in the company – some of whom are students and alumni of RU – have performed around the country, in cities such as New York, Boston, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

A professional company so closely associated with the Department of Dance teaches students and the community more about the dance profession.

“For surrounding dance studios, they have more access to see how a professional dance company

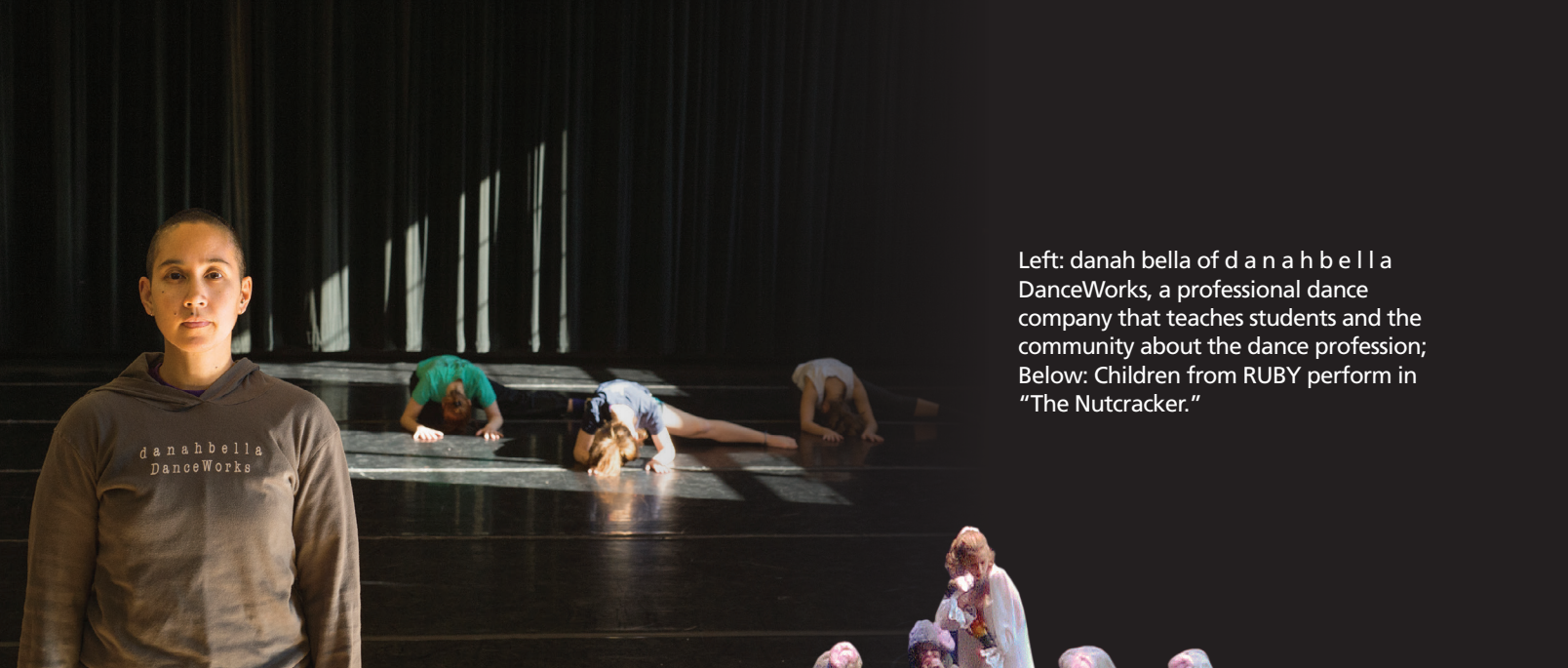
works,” bella said. “Access to a professional dance company like this is rare and wonderful for a community, dancer or not, to be a part of.”

Radford University students benefit from faculty who are renowned professional dancers. “The department prepares students for company work,” said senior Marcus Wooling, a Lewisburg, West Virginia native. “The program produces professional dancers and teachers. I can truly say that I would not be the dancer I am today without the department.”

Wooling, who took time off from his studies to

FOR OUTREACH





Left: danah bella of d a n a h b e l l a DanceWorks, a professional dance company that teaches students and the community about the dance profession; Below: Children from RUBY perform in "The Nutcracker."

dance professionally, said that another strength of the Radford dance culture is a commitment to sharing art outside of classrooms.

"Engaging in community service is essential," he said. "Providing an outlet for creativity and growth is essential. Programs such as RUBY and the Nutcracker enable the community to become involved in dance."

RUBY, short for the Radford University Ballet Youth, is the department's outlet to provide ballet training to aspiring dancers ages 3-18 from the local region. RUBY dancers work with RU faculty members and students in a safe and encouraging environment with a dance curriculum based on that of the world-renowned Vaganova Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia, which has produced dancers such as Rudolph Nureyev, Mikhail Baryshnikov, George Balanchine and Natalia Makarova.

"The Nutcracker" has been a beloved Radford tradition for more than 30 years. While the Department of Dance and the RUBY program are cornerstones of the performance, collaborators also include CVPA's art, music and theatre departments. Members of the community attend in earnest and local dance talent appears on stage as well.

Grace Smiley, a junior majoring in dance and sports medicine, is a RUBY student teacher and administrative assistant and a "Nutcracker" crewmember.



“Engaging in community service ...and providing an outlet for creative growth is essential.”

Marcus Wooling

"The RUBY program is special because we offer dance in a nice location, with great teachers, at an affordable price," the Cross Lanes, West Virginia native said. "I have seen children have dance opportunities through our annual RUBY show and 'The Nutcracker.' Bringing dance into the community allows the children to find a sense of identity and self-expression."

One local RUBY dancer, Ruthie Brown, 11, recalls being part of RUBY and the "Nutcracker" cast when she was preschool age.

"I remember being up on the big stage in the lights," Brown said. "I was a little nervous about having all of those people watching us, but it was my first experience onstage. It gave me confidence for the other times when

I performed in community theatre or spoke in front of my class at school."

Experiences like Ruthie's are part and parcel of the RU dance outreach ethos. The goal is to provide communities with top-notch artistic experiences.

"Access to high quality professional dance training and dance performances is hard to find in this region of the state," said Margaret Devaney, CVPA dean and former chair of the Department of Dance. "As part of its community outreach mission, the Department of Dance serves as the vehicle in which to offer these opportunities to the population in this region."

"Exposing people of all ages to the arts can create an appreciation of the arts that remains with them through their lives," she said. "And that speaks to quality of life as well." ■

Designing Success

By Dan Waidelich

From color to typography, from print to digital, graphic designers use shape and form to engage the world. Radford University graphic design students explore every facet of the art of design in order to understand the profound ways their work can impact modern life.

Skilled designers who can produce excellent work in multiple mediums are in demand. It's the mission of graphic design faculty members Ken Smith and John O'Connor to make sure their students become those designers.

In the B.F.A. in graphic design program at RU, students tackle basic concepts of composition and layout, they learn to design for print and electronic media in a high-tech, digitally-based environment.

An M.F.A. in studio art, with a concentration in graphic design, is also available at RU, preparing designers for the next step of their careers as professionals or academics.

The focus on producing graduates who can think on their feet has led to success. Trina Lambert '00 is a graphic designer for Red Orange Design in Richmond, Virginia. While at RU, she found her niche in graphic design. "I actually started out as an undecided student at Radford. When I discovered graphic design, I found my passion. It allows me to be innovative and

“Pay attention to the world around you. One day soon your hands and mind will start shaping it.”

Trina Lambert '00

think creatively every day. It never feels like work,” she says. She credits the design department and the university for her opportunities to explore her passion.

“As a student I worked in the Radford University Office of University Relations, and spent most of my time with designers in that office's Creative Services area. After I graduated, the office hired me as a graphic designer,” says Lambert.

After working at RU, Lambert landed a job at VCU which served as the biggest milestone for her career where she was promoted to art director. While at VCU, Lambert received numerous awards for her work. Some of the awards were the CASE Award of Excellence in 2006 and 2011, and the 2006, 2007 and 2008 Merit Award for total recruitment, annual report and brochure.

RU graphic design faculty members know how to prepare students for success. “If you want to have the greatest chance of success at finding a job, you have to be just short of being an expert in a lot of things,” O'Connor said. So, students learn by creating real-world projects.

“We get a chance to do projects for real clients who come in looking for posters or logos,” said M.F.A. student Ashley Marlowe. “It's nice to get a little real world experience within the safety of the classroom.”

Marlowe is an example of success in the department. In 2014, her whimsical digital portrait of a classy octopus led to regional and district (gold and silver awards, respectively) Student American Advertising Awards (ADDY) contests and a National Student Silver ADDY.

In many ways, design is a part of life for students. “We see a sense of community among our students. Well after graduation, it's still there. They're very tight knit, very close,” says O'Connor.

Lambert fondly remembers her time in the design department learning her passion. She says students should take advantage of every minute. “Eat, sleep and breath it. Make it your life. Be a sponge — absorbing as much as you can soak in while you are young. Pay attention to the world around you. One day soon your hands and mind will start shaping it,” she says. ■

ADDY winner
Ashley Marlowe

Lora Gordon





Don Petersen

Winter Commencement, 2014

The Pipes are Calling

By Dan Waidelich



Campus, 1958



Philadelphia, 1976



STUDENTS have picked up the pipes again and renewed the tradition of the Radford University Highlanders Pipes and Drums.

In fall of 2013, with the support from then College of Visual and Performing Arts Dean Joseph Scartelli, Associate Professor of Music Tim Channell has reestablished an ensemble of RU student bagpipers and drummers, the Highlanders Pipes and Drums, who will play at RU ceremonial events, local happenings and competitions.

The reestablishment started in the fall of 2013 with an interest meeting and auditions. It took seven months for the group to learn their new instruments and Scottish pipe band traditions.

The original core group includes: senior computer science major Jake Moles of Roanoke, pipe sergeant; pipers sophomore music business major Alyssa Klinksiek of Alexandria, senior criminal justice major Brian Orcutt of Leesburg and sophomore recreation parks and tourism major Michael Stump of Vinton; music business major Jeremy Marks of Leesburg, drum sergeant; and drummers junior computer science major Peter Forney of Radford, senior music education major Jesse Lykins of Chilhowie, and junior music education major Coleman Gilleland of Front Royal, Virginia.

“I became interested in the pipe band through my interest in all things related to rudimental snare drumming,” said Marks. “It was a style I had yet to explore, so I jumped on the opportunity.”

Bringing back the RU Highlanders Pipes and Drums has its share of challenges. The first is finding time to practice as a group, which becomes more difficult as the ensemble expands. This also leads to the second challenge – funding.

Instruments and uniforms can range more than \$1,800 per person.

“The University was very generous to provide the initial funds to purchase the equipment and uniforms, but in order to grow and, more importantly, to maintain the equipment we have will take more resources,” Channell said.

The band’s first public performance was at the 2014 Radford Highlander Festival. The Pipes and Drums also took part in 2014 RU Homecoming Festivities and lead the processional and recessional for the Winter 2014 Commencement ceremonies. They will continue to make appearances at RU events, bringing the music of the Highlands back to campus.

If you would like more information regarding how you can support the future of the Radford University Highlanders Pipes and Drums, please call the RU Office of University Advancement at 540-831-5407. ■



The Total College Experience

By Mary Hardbarger Photos by Lora Gordon

“I’ve developed meaningful connections between my academic experiences and personal, professional and civic life.”

Tiffany Goins, Senior



Senior Tiffany Goins of Chesterfield, Virginia, has immersed herself in involvement opportunities at RU since her freshman year. “I have always had a heart and passion for helping people,” Goins said. “And by being involved in various student organizations at RU, I am able to make a difference and positive impact on the Radford community.”

Goins’ desire to serve her campus community shines in her leadership roles as SGA vice president, a member of the Scholar-Citizen Initiative Club

and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

A double major in sociology and political science, Goins is also shining in the classroom, which she credits, in part, to her involvement.

“I’ve developed meaningful connections between my academic experiences and personal, professional and civic life,” she said. “I’ve made wonderful friendships and sisterhood.”

At Radford University, the importance of a well-rounded college experience is reflected in the more than 250 clubs and organizations, representing the student body’s diverse social, spiritual, educational and

recreational interests. There are dozens of sororities and fraternities and several sports interest groups, such as the Men’s Volleyball Club and Women’s Ultimate Frisbee.

Students with an affinity for the outdoors can retreat to the New River with the Fly Fishing Club or to the woods with The Wildlife Society. Those more interested in the indoors can hit the airwaves with the Radio Broadcasting Club or cuddle up with a furry critter with the Friends of Pound Pals.

And the list of activities grows and evolves to meet student interests.

Fourteen new groups were added to the roster in the fall 2014 semester, including a school spirit club called the Radford Rowdies.

And participation is growing, too.

At one point during the 2013-14 academic year, more than 4,000 RU students identified with at least one club – that is equivalent to more than a third of the campus.

“You talk about robust. There is really a lot going on at Radford University,”

“ In 20 years, they’ll look back, and their real memories will be with friends they’ve made by being involved in different organizations. ”

John Leonard, Assistant Director of Student Activities/Involvement



Courtesy photo

said Director of Student Involvement Robert Bedford.

Bedford joined RU’s student affairs/activities staff in the summer 2014 to foster the university’s growing engagement opportunities. With more than 25 years of higher education experience, he recognizes the value involvement has in a student’s collegiate career as well as future employment.

“Involvement teaches students about time management, interpersonal relationships and being a team player,” Bedford said. “Those skills help our students become more prepared for their careers.”

Bedford is among a dynamic group of RU administrators dedicated to helping students succeed inside and outside of the classroom.

Assistant Director of Student Activities/Involvement John Leonard organizes dozens of events conducted by RU’s student clubs and organizations.

The annual Club Fair saw its largest attendance to date in August 2014, as thousands of new and returning students explored the 200-plus club tents and tables on Heth Lawn. Just months later, more than 1,100 tickets were sold by R-SPaCE (Radford Student Programming and Campus Events) for

the All Time Low concert, making it one of the best-attended campus events.

“Statistics show students who are involved are more likely to perform better in school, graduate and land better jobs. I think that information is spreading, and I think students are realizing the long-term benefits,” said Leonard.

Goins, along with other club members, has been busy celebrating monumental RU club achievements and recognitions.

Radford’s Student Government Association and Student Media recently celebrated centennial anniversaries. RU’s Greek Life community turned 85.

Assistant Director of Student Activities – Greek Life Robert Marias has helped grow RU’s Greek Life community from about 800 students when he arrived in 2011 to more than 1,000.

“We’ve done this by helping to engage the students in what I believe are more meaningful activities and programs, and getting them in touch with the true nature of what Greek Life is about,” Marias said. “It’s about service, academics, leadership and encouraging students to become engaged beyond their membership.”

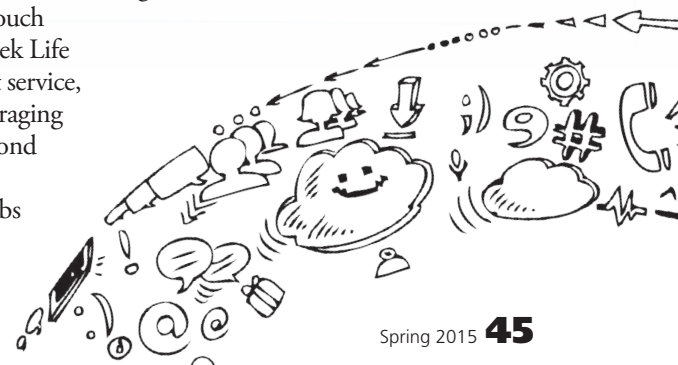
Collaboration among the clubs

is essential to members’ growth and development. That’s why, with help from students, Bedford, Leonard and Marias established the Student Leadership Executive Council last year. Representatives from multiple campus clubs form the council, which meets monthly to address ways to collaborate on events and learn leadership skills and financial responsibility.

“We want to bring student organizations together to be more unified and do more programming together,” Bedford said.

The council, Leonard added, is just another highlight of student involvement and Radford University’s commitment to its students’ total success.

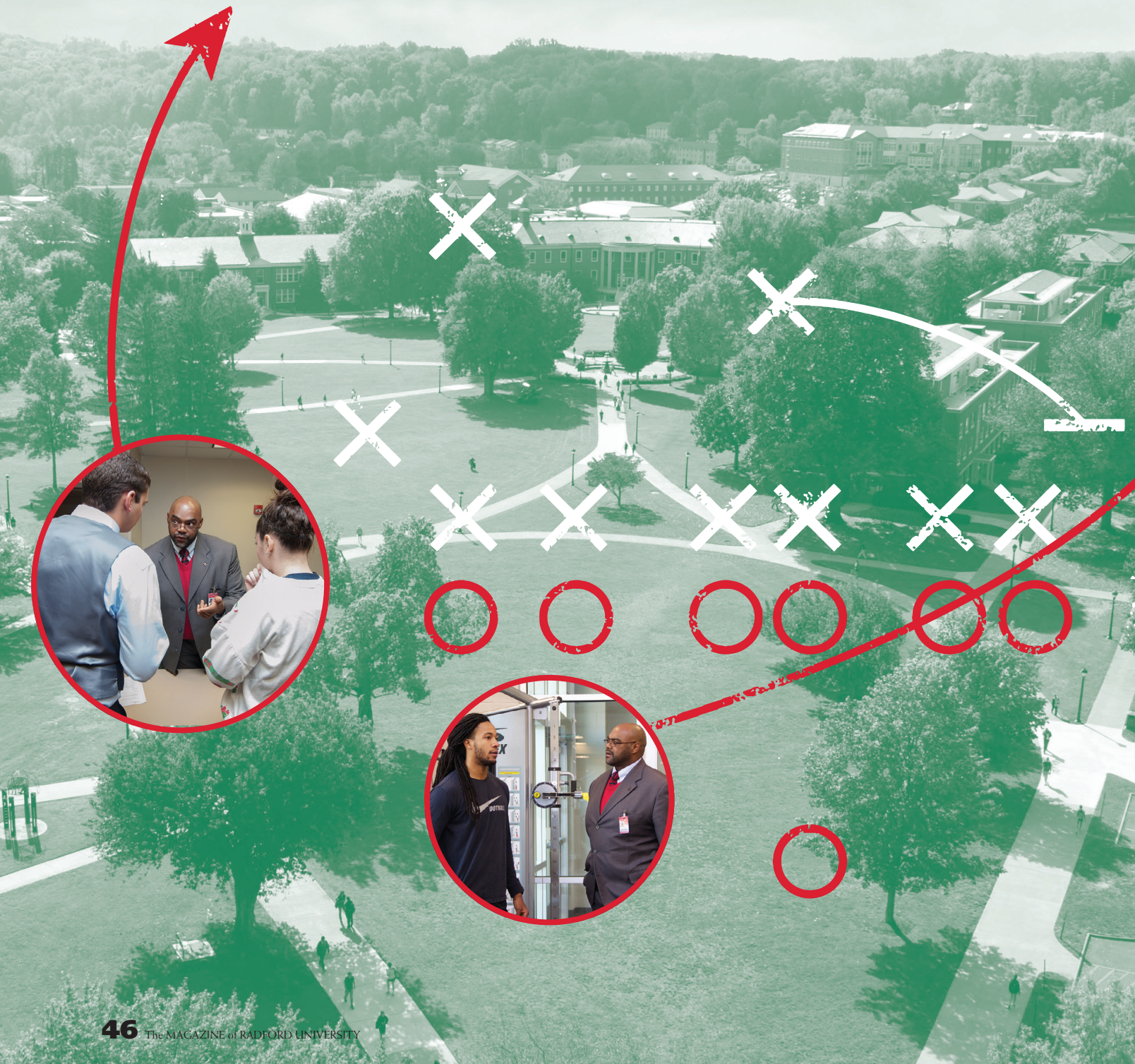
“It’s a great way to enhance the life experience,” Leonard said. “In 20 years, they’ll look back, and their real memories will be with friends they’ve made by being involved in different organizations.” ■



Awareness, Advocacy, Accountability!

GAME PLAN

Former pro-football player, Dean of Students Irvin Clark, has big plans for Student Affairs.



By Mary Hardbarger

Photos by Lora Gordon and
Charlie Whitescarver

LONG BEFORE Dean of Students Irvin Clark proudly donned Radford University red ball caps and T-shirts, he suited up in helmets and padding.

The Florida native is a former defensive lineman with the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Before that, Clark packed his suitcases with pressed navy blue and white uniforms as he traveled the country with the United States Navy.

A half decade prior, he dressed in weathered clothing to harvest the tobacco fields farmed by his grandfather.

“I’ll walk into his office, and even if he’s working on the computer or on the phone, he’ll stop everything and talk to me. And he’d do that for anyone.”

Colby Bender, Student Government Association President

CLARK, 49, has carved out a colorful career path, one that eventually led to Radford in fall 2013, where, as a dean and associate vice president for Student Affairs, he is making a lasting impact on students’ lives.

As a mentor, Clark often gives “carte blanche” to his students, granting them complete freedom to act as they think is best.

“His door is always open,” said Student Government Association (SGA) President Colby Bender. “I’ll walk into his office, and even if he’s working on the computer or on the phone, he’ll stop everything and talk to me. And he’d do that for anyone.”

Clark’s open-door philosophy is just one method he has adopted to change the way his office is viewed.

“The perception from students is that coming to the Dean of Students Office is like coming to the principal’s office,” Clark said. “Instead, I think that this office should be a place where people feel good about coming.”

Students’ attitudes are also changing, Clark said, evident in an encounter he had last semester.

One fall afternoon, as the frigid wind whipped through campus, Clark hurried into his office after a meeting. Another event would soon follow, but he allowed enough time in his busy schedule for an interview. Halfway through the list of questions, a student appeared at his door.

She needed to talk.

So the interview was halted and rescheduled, and the student was ushered into his office. Clark makes students his first priority.

DR. IRVIN R. CLARK grew up on the outskirts of Quincy, Florida, a small city about 25 miles northwest of Tallahassee.



In the rural, “sawdust” community, he found solace on the back of a motorcycle winding down country roads. The bike rides were a much-needed break from the 65 acres of farmland on which his grandfather raised tobacco, tomatoes, sugarcane, squash and “pretty much anything that grew up out of the ground,” Clark said.

“I hated the summers because there was always something you had to do,” he said. “In fact, one of the local farmers said ‘Irvin, you gonna give me one more summer?’ And I said ‘No way.’”

He meant what he said.

Clark graduated from high school that week, and the following Monday, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

Clark’s four-year service was highlighted with duties on the Navy Drill Team and the Navy Presidential Honor Guard.

In 1987, the 6-foot-2, 275-pound veteran, enrolled at Florida A&M University, where he excelled in the classroom and on the football field. Upon graduating in 1991, he was drafted as a free agent by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. During preseason play, the linebacker’s football career was cut short following an ACL injury. He spent the entire regular season on injured reserve and would never play professionally again.

Clark carried on and coached football at Florida A&M University and later at Savannah State University where, thus far, he has spent the majority of his higher education career.

At Savannah State, Clark climbed the ranks for 20 years, from residence director to vice president of student affairs.

During his tenure, he championed better living conditions for students. His efforts resulted in new on-campus apartments, renovated dormitories, new and updated athletic facilities and a transit operation.

His resume chronicles a long list of additional accolades and degrees. But it was more than the lengthy list of qualifications that attracted RU administrators to Clark.

Clark has a vision for the Dean of Students Office that impressed the group. He says that the office should be centered on the three concepts of “Awareness, Advocacy, Accountability!”

The office provides information and education to students and their family members to make them aware of university policies, happenings and opportunities



Courtesy photo



“He is always looking out for everyone’s best interest, especially the students’.”

Senior Nathan Pool

for students to succeed from pre-matriculation through graduation.

The Dean of Students Office is an advocate for students and supports students in developing their self-advocacy skills.

Clark also encourages students to take responsibility for their behavior and decisions. He says personal accountability is an essential component of the growth and development of RU students in preparing them to achieve their life goals.

UPON ARRIVAL at Radford University, Clark immediately made his presence known.

During lunchtime, you can find him dining with students or chatting with colleagues. After hours, he’s lifting weights at the gym. In between, he’s in his office with the door flung open.

“Irvin acts with integrity,” said Mark Shanley, vice president for Student Affairs. “He has established his office as a safe place for students.”

You can’t miss him seated in the stands at athletic events because Clark strongly believes in supporting all student organizations.

“You have to go to their programs to see how they’re doing and to show that high level of support,” Clark said.

Senior Nathan Pool of Reston, Virginia, met Clark

while training to become a residential advisor. A double major in music and biology, Pool would often invite Clark to his concerts.

“He would always try to be there,” Pool said. “He is always looking out for everyone’s best interest, especially the students.”

Clark is also looking out for students’ well-being and academic opportunities.

As an advisor to the SGA, he has headed multiple campus safety, sexual assault awareness and suicide prevention campaigns to shine light on important initiatives.

He was instrumental in launching a residential learning community, “Biology Connections,” at the beginning of the fall 2014 semester.

He is approachable at all hours. “He’s there for us, day and night,” said Bender, recalling an urgent late-night text he sent to his advisor. “And he texted right back.”

Clark believes in getting to work early and “staying as long as possible, until the job is done,” he said.

But maybe his most poignant belief:

“I’ve always been willing to go above and beyond to help people,” Clark said. “I’m going to see the best in someone before I see the worst.” ■

85

Greek Life

Radford University's Greek Life community is celebrating its 85th anniversary. Its philanthropy efforts were highlighted during Homecoming and Family Weekend with the Greek Giving Challenge on Oct. 11.

100

Alma Mater Song

RU's "Alma Mater" turned 100 in 2014. The song was written by music education faculty member Florence Campbell Baird in 1914. The Alma Mater was a common bond among graduates for many years. In 1999, President Douglas Covington revived the Alma Mater for the 2000 Founders Day celebration.

RU Beehive

Radford University's beloved yearbook, The Beehive, celebrated 100 years in 2014. The Beehive was first published in 1914 as The Radnor and gained its current name in 1925.

SGA

The Student Government Association celebrated a century of student leadership on Aug. 26 at Radford University's Centennial Student Government Association (SGA) Kickoff Dinner.

40

Department of Criminal Justice

RU's Department of Criminal Justice celebrated 40 years at the University in 2014. The criminal justice program began at Radford University in 1974. In 1982, the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia gave its approval for the graduate degree, making RU's criminal justice graduate program the second oldest in the state of Virginia. In 2004, an "accelerated" bachelor's/master's program allowed undergraduates to complete both a bachelor's degree and a Master of Science degree in five years.

Soccer Program

In its 40th season of men's soccer, RU showed no signs of a mid-life crisis. RU celebrated turning the big 4-0 by winning the Big South Conference regular-season championship and receiving a bevy of post-season conference honors, including Coach of the Year (Marc Reeves) and Scholar-Athlete of the Year (Stephen Hudgens). Jo Vetle Rimstad, Krzysztof Nalborski and Aitor Pouseu Blanco each were named first team all-conference.

Happy Birthday to US!

25

School of Nursing

Joined by alumni and friends, RU and Carilion Clinic marked the 25th anniversary of their partnership to train and educate nursing professionals at the Roanoke Higher Education Center.

20

Department of Counselor Education

RU's Department of Counselor Education is celebrating 20 years of providing a master's degree in counseling at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon. The program's mission is to prepare highly trained and competent school counselors to effectively serve the K-12 population.

HONORING A LASTING

Legacy

In 1911, Dr. John Preston McConnell, a Scott County, Virginia native, was appointed the first president of the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Radford, now known as Radford University. He was a tireless advocate for the education of women, and his tenure at Radford was marked by efforts to ensure equal access to information, courses and materials for female students. The university's library is named in honor of Dr. McConnell.

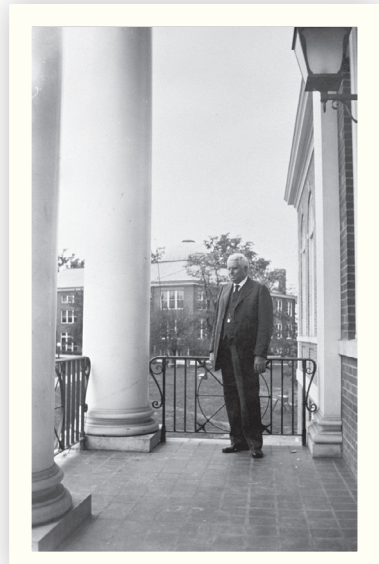
More than 100 years later, McConnell's legacy lives on as members of the McConnell and Related Families Clan (MFRC) have created a scholarship in his name to further his mission. The John Preston McConnell Memorial Scholarship Endowment was established through the generosity of more than 100 direct descendants of Dr. McConnell.

Bobby McConnell, their Clan Grandmaster, says the scholarship is a fitting way to honor the McConnell heritage as well as the university to which many family members have ties. Family member Barnett McConnell Jr.'s mother also attended Radford. "When my mother, Georgia Hartsock, arrived on the Radford campus in the late 1930s, she, like many other Scott County students, had little or no money.

Dr. McConnell gave her temporary lodging in his own home and helped her find a job on campus that allowed her to pay her college expenses and receive her teaching certificate in 1939. So this endowment is important to me because I know it will help deserving students, like my mother, obtain an excellent education," says Barnett McConnell Jr.

In 2014, members of the Clan gathered to celebrate McConnell Day at RU's McConnell Library, where they presented \$40,000

toward the endowment. "When I give to this endowment I know I'm not only honoring the memory of Dr. John Preston McConnell, but also the memory of my mother and all the young women from Scott County for whom he so generously helped obtain a college degree," says Barnett McConnell Jr. ■



Colton McConnell, great-great-grandson of John Preston McConnell, helps re-create the dedication of the library by pouring water down its front steps.

Lora Gordon



"Down and Out"
Bill Fisher, M.F.A. '90

Calling all creativity!

We invite all alumni to send us original creative works! Express your creativity with words, paintbrushes and anything in between that lends toward its presentation in the magazine. Send submissions to editor@radford.edu or The Magazine of Radford University, P.O. Box 6916, Radford University, Radford, VA, 24142. The magazine staff reserves the right to not publish works considered distasteful. Space availability may prevent publication of all submissions in the magazine.

Weddings, Births & More



Nancy Smith '71, of Culpeper, retired 6/12/14 from teaching in the Culpeper County Public Schools after 41 years.

Phyllis Newman Eastridge '71, of Stuart, is currently serving as president of Virginia Retired Teachers Association.

Carolyn Bruce Carney '72, M.S. '76, of Fairfax, retired as a colonel after serving 28 years in the U.S. Air Force in 2005.

Martha Lalka '72, of Roanoke, watched her only son Robert Lalka and Lynn Austin marry on 8/30/14 in Cleveland, S.C.

Diana L. Schumaker '73, of Hampton City, retired from government employment after 40 years of service.

Barbara Tilley Griffin '71, M.S. '81, of Brunswick, N.C., and husband James Griffin celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, 5/30/14.

R. Thomas "Tommy" Slusser Jr. '79, of Clifton Forge, funeral director, owner and manager of Nicely Funeral Home Inc., was appointed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe to the Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, 6/20/14.

1980s

Rita Davis '80 completed her master's in organizational leadership through Gonzaga University, 12/2013.

Mary Watts Duncan '81, of Roanoke Rapids, N.C., was recently promoted to finance director for the County of Halifax, N.C., 5/1/2014.

Douglas W. Fender '83, M.S. '85, of Wytheville, was inducted into the Wytheville Community College Hall of Honor, 6/11/14.

Daniel Hempey '85, of Kapaa, Hawaii, was sworn in as a per diem judge for the district court for the State of Hawaii's Fifth Circuit.

Maryllynn Magar '85, of Jupiter, Fla., was re-elected as Representative, 82nd District, Florida House of Representatives.

Barry Ratcliffe '85, of Franklin, Pa., joins the cast of Fox 2000's "The Longest Ride," directed by George Tillman Jr., based on Nicholas Sparks bestselling novel of the same name.

June Westfall Jennings '86, of Midlothian, was appointed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe as the State Inspector General, 6/27/14.

John Gossner '86, of Williamsport, Pa., has been elected president of the Williamsport Education Association.

We want to hear from you!

Let us know what you think of the stories and photos you find in The Magazine of Radford University. The magazine staff welcomes readers' comments, but reserves the right to edit letters or to refuse publication of letters considered libelous or distasteful. Space availability may prevent publication of all letters in the magazine. Send us your letters to the editor at editor@radford.edu.

John Lyle Woodyatt '86 recently relocated to Northern Virginia after living in Raleigh, N.C. He won gold and silver medals in two events during the NOVA Senior Olympics, 9/14.

Cindy Chace '86, of Broward, Fla., was chosen as an honoree for the American Institute of Diversity and Commerce 2014 WBE Hall of Fame Award.

Mike Donnelly '88 was honored at the Professional Association of Georgia Educators for his exemplary support for public school improvement. Donnelly is currently Wells Fargo Atlantic region president.

Robin Keener '89, of Radford, now serves as principal of Critzer Elementary School in Pulaski.



Hope Pomeroy Smithwick '89, M.S. '03, of Salem, became the library media specialist for Craig County, middle and high school, 8/14. Hope and husband Sam Smithwick announced the birth of Samantha Hope on 2/20/04 and Noah Levi on 8/3/07.

Adam Joyce '90, M.S. '09, of Hillsville, now serves as principal of Dublin Middle School in Pulaski, 6/4/14.

Thomas Brewster '91, of Tazewell, was appointed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe to the Board of Visitors for the Virginia Community College System, 6/9/14.

Robert Edward Reams Jr. '91, from Milwaukee, was promoted to news director at the ABC affiliate in Madison, Wis.

Dawn Eischen '92, of Colonial Heights, now serves as the public affairs director for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, 2/1/14.

Heather Dawson '92 married Todd Newcomb on 12/23/13.

Tina Turner Chelgre '93, of Newport News, received "Teacher of the Year" at Kiln Creek Elementary School and shared "Top 10 Things She Wished She had Known as a Teacher."

Steven Plaatsman '93, of Midlothian, joined PNC Bank as senior vice president and senior commercial banking relationship manager.

David Butts '96, of Chicago, Ill., was hired by Atlantic Trust as managing director and senior relationship manager, 6/17/14.

Laura Ann Anglin '96, of Norfolk, married Brian Kane in Virginia Beach, 9/9/12.

To submit a class note, please visit www.radford.edu/alumniupdate or call 1-888-4RUGRAD. Photographs may be submitted as a .jpg with a resolution of at least 300 dpi. If you submitted a class note and it does not appear in this issue, please look for it in the next magazine.

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Coralyn "Shay" Carson Onorio '99, of Ashburn, now serves as president of Red Thinking, a digital brand strategy and design firm in Washington, D.C., 6/4/14.

2000s

Angie Crutchley '00 is currently the accounts manager at Eastern Shore Post. She married Douglas William Crutchley on 7/7/07 and has one step-daughter, Devon Nicole Crutchley.

Jared Schweitzer '01, of Boones Mill, earned his MAI Designation from the Appraisal Institute.

Rebecah Smith '02, of Roanoke, now serves as principal of Pulaski Elementary School in Pulaski, 6/4/14.

Sandra Wynn-Griffith '02 was promoted to associate professor at Bluefield State College in 2014.

Mike Dorsey '02, of Arlington, was promoted to senior director of industrial relations and development at the National Maintenance Agreement Policy Committee Inc. in Arlington.

Keri Leigh Jones '05, of Washington, D.C., married Justin Harris-Shaw in Duck, N.C., 7/12/14.

Graham Cawthon '05, of Shelby, N.C., is news editor at the Star newspaper.

Courtney Ahren Vengrin '06, of Radford, married Stephen Douglas Kelley in Radford, 5/23/14.

Matthew C.E. Hubbard '06, of Roanoke, is currently AVP, commercial banking officer at Hometown Bank. Hubbard married **Erica L. Frith '08** in Franklin County, on 10/12/12; they announce the birth of their daughter Harper Lynn Hubbard, 1/31/14.

Jennifer Lukas '07 married Todd Lukas Jr. in Naples, Fla., 5/10/14.

Jessica Rosenberg Stenstrom '07 married **Michael Stenstrom '04**, both of Middleburg, in Middleburg, 9/14/08. Stenstrom earned her M.S.N. degree as a family nurse practitioner in May 2014.

Ashleigh Trent Currin '08, of Roanoke, married Benjamin Aaron Dull in Penhook, 5/11/13.

Elizabeth Foster '08, of Portsmouth, married Graham Clark 5/13.

Lauren McMillan '08, of Roanoke, moved from Q99 (promotions director) to an ad agency in downtown Roanoke, B2C Enterprises, serving as a project manager.

Michael Grim '09, of Dublin, now serves as principal of Pulaski County High School.

Amanda Koerner '09, of Enola, Pa., is the project coordinator at Franklin and Marshall College. She also married Jeromen Koerner in Harrisburg, Pa., 10/12/13.

Elizabeth Smith Wotring '09, of Martinsville, is Lead Clinic Nurse at Moses Cone Family Practice in Greensboro, N.C.



Lauren Elizabeth Davis '09 married **Nathan Bryce '13** in Richmond, 8/23/14.

Alice Reynolds '09 earned a doctorate degree in pharmacy from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy in 2014.

2010s

Orrin Heath '10 and **Joy Close Heath '08**, of Maizuru Shi, Japan, announce the birth of Orrin Jacob Heath, 5/11/14.

Ashley Poage Nader '10, of Roanoke, and husband Matt announce the birth of daughter Adalyn Faith, 3/15/14.

Jaleh Jaboori '10, of Virginia Beach, married **Brett Shell '08** in Cape Charles, 5/17/14.

Leanna (Allen) Collins '10, of North Tazewell, and husband Dave Collins announce the birth of their son, David Blake Collins, 8/14/14.

Caroline Elizabeth Hodnett '11, of Bristow, married **Joshua Alan Wittenberg '12** in Bristow, 10/26/13.



Kallen Harcourt '11 and **Kyle Carlson '10**, of Virginia Beach, married in Virginia Beach, on 9/6/14.

Allison Barham '11 and Ben Fuentes, both of Atlanta, married on 1/5/13.

Emily Marie Gorja '12, of Roanoke, married Charles Rock Johnson at Sheraton Roanoke Hotel, 9/6/14.

Renee Spangler Slusser '12, of Bedford, owner and director of Children's Nest Learning Center, married Travis Slusser in Bedford, 9/10/11.

Jessie McGraw '13, of Blacksburg, is currently head coach at TriAdventure Multisport Coaching and Fitness and administrative assistant at the Department of Human Resources at Virginia Tech.

Ioana Corneanu '13, of Charlotte, N.C., is currently vice president at Bank of America. She married Logan Shortridge, 12/2013.

Justin Galen Matthews '13, of Rocky Mount, married Adrienne Michelle Watts at Wisteria Ridge Event Center in Callaway, 8/30/14.

Glen Luke Flanagan '14, of Hillsville, was recently awarded a post-baccalaureate training experience at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University, 5/10/14.

Heather Manias '14 and **Ian Chilton '13**, both of Bedford, married in Bedford, 8/9/14.

Faculty

Mary Atwell was named Professor Emerita of Criminal Justice.

Nitza Kats was named Professor Emerita of Music.

Judy Niehaus was named Professor Emerita of Biology.

Carole Seyfrit was named Professor Emerita of Sociology.

Melinda Wagner was named Professor Emerita of Anthropology.

Obituaries 1920s

Nancy Dickerson Semones '27, of Radford, 8/6/14

1940s

Janet Angeline Jamison Sanders '42, of Bristol, 4/25/14

Ella Mae Lindamood '46, of Ohio, 7/24/14

Virginia Flinchum Webber '47, of Roanoke, 4/1/14

Hyler Newman Tramel '49, of Blackstone, 12/22/13

1950s

Ruth Ann Slusher '53, of Willis, 6/12/14

Betty Jean Horne Swisher '53, of Amherst, 8/13/14

Betty Lou Greenword Wilson '53, of Montgomery County, 11/30/14

Oma June Amburgey DeHart '54, of McCoy, 4/26/14

Sue Bryant '55, of Grayson County, 11/20/14

Norris Hurst Ebbets '57, of Glen Allen, 7/13/14

Mabel Jean Branham Akers '58, of Williamsburg, Md., 5/28/14

Elizabeth DeLancey Cole '59, of New Castle, Del., 2/4/14

1960s

Mary Clara Maier '64, M.S. '67, of Roanoke, 6/5/14

Mary F. Brooks '64, of Roanoke, 8/30/14

Ruth Alice Hallman '65, of Richmond, 11/8/14

Mary Sue Middleton Willis '66, of North Carolina, 9/29/14



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Obituaries

Continued

1970s

Donna Oakley Hitt '70, of Chesapeake, 6/10/14

Martha Rae Mitchell '73, of Wilmington, Del., 5/23/14

Jerry Bachara '74, of Barren Springs, 5/21/14

William Lewis Richardson '77, of Cana, 8/18/14

Marcia Stewart Moss '77, of Roanoke, 10/20/14

Jeanetta Marie Cramer '78, of Hampton, 4/10/06

1980s

Douglas Kelly Eads '82, of Draper, 5/3/14

Kevin Dale Adams '85, of Norfolk, 4/13/14

Teresa Crawley O'Neill '86, of Richmond, 5/9/14

John Davidson McDonald '89, of Salem, 8/25/14

James Kirkwood Penn '93, of Roanoke, 8/2013

Vanessa Marie Thitoff '95, of Dumfries, 5/4/14

Malcolm A. Rash '97, of Dublin, 3/19/14

2000s

Elizabeth Jane Clagett '06, of Henrico, 5/6/14

Leigh Evans Barnes '06, of Richmond, 5/30/14

Renee Saunders '06, of Mechanicsville, 7/14/14

Samantha Rahn Bedell '08, of Fairfax, 1/25/15

2010s

Patricia Anne McMurray '10, of Blacksburg, 7/31/14

Faculty and Staff

Harvey Daniel (Danny) Shelburne Jr. '78, of Radford, employee of RU Facilities Department, 5/20/14

Dr. Gary Fetter, of Valparaiso, Ind., former associate professor in the Department of Management, 10/16/14

Dr. Don Aaron Cunningham, of Radford, retired associate professor in the Department of English, 11/28/14



Dr. Paul Lang, of Marquette, Mich., former chair of the Department of Criminal Justice (1991-1997), 1/9/15

Dr. Paul Lang came to Radford University in 1988 as one of three faculty members in the criminal justice program. In 1991 he became chair of the department, a position he held until 1997, when he left to become chair of Northern Michigan University's Department of Criminal Justice. Most recently, he served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Northern Michigan University.

Non-Degreed Alumni

Laura A. Krewatch Likshis, of Bridgton, Maine, 4/19/14

Aaron Robert Kovac, of Martinsville, 5/31/14

Kristin E. Green, of Ashburn, 10/22/14

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Must be the '80s ...

Students show off feathered bangs, stonewashed jeans and muscle shirts at the fountain.

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