

# RADFORD

The Magazine of Radford University

Spring 2016

BUILDING ON  
**KNOWLEDGE**  
AND **COMMUNITY**



**Commemorating  
the Leadership of  
President Kyle**



**INSIDE** THE "BONNIE" TURNS 10 | THE ROAD TO LINCOLN CENTER





DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
**DAY OF  
SERVICE**  
RADFORD UNIVERSITY

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
**DAY OF  
SERVICE**  
RADFORD UNIVERSITY

BLODGETT





### SERVING OTHERS

More than 250 students, faculty and staff volunteered at 22 different locations, including area churches, food and clothing banks, and nonprofit organizations, as part of the university's second annual recognition of the national Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Monday, Jan. 18. Deonaa Guy, Michael Facey and Sierra Richardson (left to right) served food at Pulaski Daily Bread.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Alumni and Friends,

For the past 11 years, I have had the honor and privilege of serving as the sixth and first female president of this very special university. When I accepted this position in the spring of 2005, it was an opportunity for me to come home to Southwest Virginia where I grew up and to participate in and contribute to a growing interest in preparing Radford University for the changing landscape of higher education. I am grateful for the opportunity I had to participate in the efforts to further enhance all that is so special about this place.

Little did I know how much we would undertake and achieve together during these 11 years! We celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of Radford University. We constructed new facilities to house our academic programs in more appropriate teaching and learning environments. We built new student-life facilities to provide students improved venues to meet and socialize, to exercise, to play intramural and club sports and to participate in NCAA Division I athletics. We renovated our on-campus residential environments so that our students now have more energy-efficient and technically advanced living and learning spaces.

We introduced new degree programs, both graduate and undergraduate, which are in high-demand fields and offer our graduates enhanced career opportunities. We increased both the size and diversity of our student body so that our students now have

the opportunity to be educated in an environment that more closely resembles the diverse workforce in which they will be employed. And we focused on becoming a more inclusive and caring community with our efforts in community service, in supporting equality and acceptance, and in combating sexual violence on our campus and in our community.

Together, we have made great progress. But, there is one unique and overarching characteristic about Radford University that needed no updating or improvement. That characteristic is the special relationship that exists, and has existed for many years, among our students, alumni, faculty, administrators

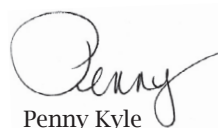


On Jan. 25, 2016, President Kyle was honored with a center aisle presentation of House Joint Resolution No. 126, presented by Radford University alumnus Del. Joseph Yost '06, M.A. '08 (left), commending her service as president of Radford University since 2005.

and staff. It has been inspiring to hear from both current students and alumni that these interactions - these relationships - are the most distinguishing characteristic of the "Radford experience" — the very essence of what a Radford education is all about. As I have traveled around the Commonwealth and beyond, alumni have passionately expressed their appreciation for the mentoring they received from faculty and staff, and for the impact it had on their successful careers and meaningful lives.

There can be no greater reward to those of us in higher education than to know that we made a difference in our students' lives. These bonds among our students, alumni, faculty and staff are so very special - not always a common occurrence in higher education - and are an invaluable asset for our institution. The opportunity to study and work in such an environment deserves to be celebrated. Because this relationship is so meaningful and defines Radford University, we share it with prospective students and their families as they make the all-important decision on where to attend college. And just as this environment existed long before I arrived, I feel certain that Radford will continue to cultivate and nourish this exceptional and special characteristic of a Radford education for the next 100 years.

With my deepest appreciation to all of you for the opportunity to serve Radford University these past 11 years,

  
Penny Kyle

## RADFORD UNIVERSITY

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Penelope W. Kyle, J.D.

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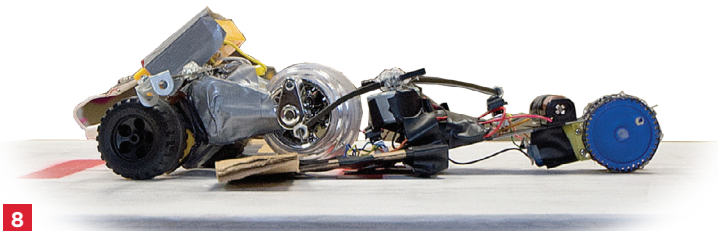
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# Inside



You can now catch up and enjoy all of the news, views and exciting happenings from your alma mater wherever you are ... on the road, at the beach or in your easy chair. Visit [www.radford.edu/magazine](http://www.radford.edu/magazine).

Your edition of The Magazine of Radford University is digital on a variety of platforms. Visit the iTunes app store to download the RU Magazine application for your iPad or iPhone, or Google Play for the Android app.

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# RU DNP Program Marks Five-Year Anniversary



**AS IT** celebrates its fifth anniversary, Radford University's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program has secured a place at the forefront of nursing education.

In September 2015, the program welcomed its sixth cohort. In its first six years, 55 graduates have achieved the top level of education available to nursing professionals, including four in May 2016.

More than 50 working nurses are now in the doctoral program. The program will add a third designation in August 2016 when the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program is introduced.

"The program's growth shows how nursing is evolving into a leadership trajectory by which nursing professionals advance health care

in the community, Commonwealth of Virginia and United States," said Virginia Burggraf, graduate program director for the School of Nursing (SON) and the Marcella J. Griggs Distinguished Professor in Gerontological Nursing.

Targeted at registered nurses with a bachelor's degree in nursing science (B.S.N.), a master's degree (M.S.), or a master's degree in nursing science (M.S.N.) for advanced nursing practice, the rigorous practice-oriented terminal degree program prepares working nurses with between 30 and 81 credit hours of online instruction. It further requires up to 1,080 clinical practice hours and a capstone project. Graduates of the program then take one of two national board certification tests on which Radford University DNP graduates had a 100 percent pass rate since the DNP program's inception.

Laura LaRue, assistant professor and coordinator of the FNP concentration, has been with the program since its inception. "These are experienced professionals who are responding to the rapidly changing health care environment by expanding their skills and abilities to integrate the latest evidence-based knowledge in their treatment of the whole patient," said LaRue.

David Mercer, DNP '15 is director of the Department of Wound, Ostomy and Continence for the University of Virginia Health System in Charlottesville. He said the program enabled him "to branch out and network anew" and added, "I loved the program and can't speak enough about how positive it was ... all at my pace and all supported through levels of compassion." -Don Bowman

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## A Passion to Teach

Lora Gordon



Kimberly Gentry, from Albemarle County Public Schools, practices one of the many greetings she learned from Candy during his workshop.

**YOU MAY** never see grownups have more fun than the day the VAHPERD workshop comes to campus.

VAHPERD, the Virginia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, has been bringing its annual fall workshop to Radford University for the past seven years. This past September, about 130 health and physical education professionals from regional K-12 schools and a group of RU physical

and health education teaching majors participated in the seminar.

They play games - while learning new techniques for teaching health and physical education. They chase each other around the Peters Hall gymnasium, giggling and grinning the whole time.

Most of the participants were teaching professionals - many were repeat attendees - who came to the workshop to learn additional practices to install into their daily classroom curricula.

"Coming here rejuvenates you and gives you new ideas," said Jason Murray '06, who teaches at Masons Cove Elementary in Salem. "I get a lot of great ideas, and you know it's a success when you teach these ideas to your kids and they are begging to do it again and again."

Sadie Steele, a senior physical education major from Stuart, attended the conference - not only because the \$15 she paid gets her a one-year membership into VAHPERD, but also to soak in some insightful teacher

education instruction as she prepares for student teaching and a career as a physical education teacher.

"This is a great way to get teaching ideas," Steele said. "It's cool to see everyone come together and have a passion to teach."

Nationally known educator Chip Candy led the daylong workshop. Candy has been teaching K-8 health, wellness and physical education in New Jersey's Medford Township School District for more than 36 years.

"Our students get excited about the workshop because they walk into the gym and see someone who's been teaching 36 years crawling across the floor pretending to be an animal - because that's a cool way to teach a particular skill," said Radford University Health and Human Performance Instructor Steve Shelton, the event's organizer. "That teaching veteran is just as enthusiastic about it as they were in their first year. Our students get to see teachers of all experience levels and get great ideas for teaching." -Chad Osborne



## Radford University Impresses

### Radford ranks high in The Economist's first-ever college ratings

The magazine analyzed alumni earnings and named Radford University one of the top 10 most valuable educations in Virginia, and no. 154 out of more than 1,300 institutions nationally.

### The Princeton Review "Best Colleges and Universities in the Southeast"

The university has been a fixture on the list since 2008, making it one of RU's most consistent accolades.

### The Princeton Review "Best 295 Business Schools"

Radford University's College of Business and Economics received this honor again for 2016, the fifth straight year it has done so.

### The Princeton Review "Top Green Colleges in the Nation"

Radford has made the cut on this crucial list every year since 2010. Every new construction project on campus is initiated with care and concern for sustainability and green living.

### U.S. News & World Report "Best Regional Universities - South"

The list includes both public and private universities, and Radford is ranked 15th of public universities. Radford has appeared on the list every year since 2013.

### U.S. News & World Report "Best Colleges for Veterans - South"

Radford University is sixth among Virginia universities on the 2016 listing.

### Niche "Best Dorms in Virginia"

The ranking indicates that Radford offers a safe, healthy living environment that is reasonably priced and that students are very satisfied with housing quality, cleanliness and amenities. Radford ranked no. 3 in the state and among the top 100 nationwide.

-Dan Waidelich



## The Flexibility to Excel: Radford University's MBA

**CHRIS WICKLINE** is digging his managerial accounting class.

"My friends think I'm crazy," he said.

But after a full day at work, he goes home, cooks - his wife, Melissa, loves that - spends a few precious hours with his family - there are four boys: Landon, Gavin, Ethan and Austin - and then he logs onto his laptop and topics like variance analysis and cost behavior take over his brain.

"I love it," he said.

Wickline, who's 40, began working on an MBA degree last fall through the College of Business and Economics' (COBE) online program, a necessary step, he said, to get him to the job and lifestyle he wants.

In the summer, he completed two foundation classes, accounting and finance, and in the fall 2015 he was accepted into the MBA online program. Managerial accounting with COBE Associate Professor Mike Chatham was his first class.

"Everything in that class relates to what I do every day at work," Wickline said. "I'm getting the academic foundation I didn't have before, and I'm really starting to understand the business behind everything I do in my job."

After working in engineering for years, Wickline got an opportunity about five years ago to serve as a technical production manager. "It mixed production and engineering," he explained. "Through that, I became a lot more involved in how the business runs."

Wickline found himself responsible for about \$1 million worth of product each month. "And I started learning," he said. "When that happened, I said 'I really enjoy this, and this is what I want to do.'"

To move into upper-level management positions - operations management is his goal - Wickline realized he "needed that next level of education."

"The Radford MBA program gave me more flexibility to set my own schedule," he said. "That was one of the most attractive aspects of the program. Radford University was a really good option for me."

Wickline loves the MBA online program, and it's telling in his work.

"Chris Wickline might be the single best student a professor could ever hope for in an online course," Chatham said. "He not only understands the material at a level that few even aspire to, but he assists his classmates,

through the D2L discussion boards, with their questions with more timeliness, and usually with more accuracy, than my typical responses provide. Please send me at least one of him every semester!"

The Radford University MBA program provides busy professionals a broad-based, cross-functional education in core business areas and is designed to prepare students for advanced leadership roles in both private and public sectors of the global economy.

Wickline's motivations for working toward an MBA are rooted in his desire to grow his career options for the future, but the first class he took in the program began paying dividends immediately.

"I can go in and have intelligent conversations with the accountants, who are really instrumental to understanding the health of the business and what needs to be done to make the business better," Wickline said. "Being able to talk with those guys is great. I get it. I can have conversations that I couldn't have had six months ago. It's terrific."

-Chad Osborne



# Scholarships Honor Dunn and Jones

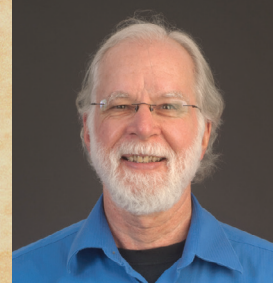
By Chad Osborne



Donna Dunn

*"This memorial scholarship ... allows for her great legacy to live on."*

Dean Kenna Colley, College of Education and Human Development.



Joe Jones

*"The life [Joe] chose to live is an example that should inspire us all."*

Dean Kate Hawkins, College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY** established scholarships last year to honor two beloved members of the university community who passed away in 2015: Donna Dunn and Joe Jones.

The Donna Dunn Memorial Scholarship was created in memory of Dunn, who served 28 years as the advising coordinator in the Center for Advising and Licensure for College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1973 and Master of Science degree in 1990 in business education from Radford University.

The memorial scholarship is given to a deserving education major from Southwest Virginia with financial need.

The first scholarship was awarded in spring 2016.

"Donna Dunn was a beloved colleague and mentor here in the College of Education and Human Development. She provided generous and helpful guidance to both faculty and students," said CEHD Dean Kenna Colley. "This memorial scholarship is a great tribute to who she was as a person and allows for her great legacy to live on."

Steve Lerch, RU's coordinator of retention, said Dunn "taught the college's faculty - and indeed, all of us who are part of the Radford University advising community - that the best academic advisors forge relationships with students: relationships built upon shared responsibility, mutual respect, trust, honesty

and compassion."

Jones was a philosophy professor and chair of RU's Philosophy and Religious Studies Department. Shortly after a scholarship was created in his name, it was awarded to philosophy major Billy Bright '15, who turned around his academic career after meeting and befriending Jones.

"Joe altered students' lives," said Carter Turner, associate professor of religion and chair of the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department. "He made a real difference."

Kate Hawkins, dean of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, said Jones was a visionary academic leader at Radford University.

"His pursuit of the ideal of truth and beauty in all of humanity was not only an expression of his academic discipline of philosophy, but was also a consequence of his choice to lead a life filled with intellectual curiosity and spontaneous joy," Hawkins said. "The life he chose to live is an example that should inspire us all." ■

For more information about the Donna Dunn Memorial Scholarship or the Joe Jones Scholarship, please call the Radford University Office of University Advancement at 540-831-5407.



# GLOBAL TRAINER

By Chad Osborne

When health care professionals in South America needed training to assess power soccer athletes, J.P. Barfield, an associate professor in Radford University's Department of Health and Human Performance, answered the call.

**IT'S NO SECRET** soccer is the world's most popular sport. The beautiful game, as it's often called, is played by many people, from young children to adults, with varying ranges of abilities.

Power soccer, which is played by individuals with disabilities using power wheelchairs, is gaining in popularity. There are international competitions and a World Cup every four years.

To ensure fairness in Paralympic competitions, athletes must first be evaluated for physical function.

Last summer, when health care professionals in South America needed training to assess power soccer athletes, J.P. Barfield answered the call.

Barfield, an associate professor in Radford University's Department of Health and Human Performance, serves as an international competition classifier for Powerchair Football, or soccer, athletes.

In August 2015, he traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, to train 37 health care professionals, including occupational and physical therapists and physicians, to classify athletes with physical disabilities for competition.

"Organizers of the sport want to ensure everybody can play. A player's function is assessed so you don't have only high-functioning players," said Barfield, a member of the Research and Sports Science Consortium, the research branch of the U.S. Paralympic Committee. "Every athlete gets a different score based on their function, and each

team puts together a roster with the same score. That way, people with high and low function get to participate. It balances it out."

In his training, Barfield taught the professionals to distinguish an athlete's playing ability and function and how to administer technical tests to distinguish the

function rate among athletes with the same disability.

"For example, with cerebral palsy, we look at muscle function tests and specific tests for spinal cord injuries, voluntary function, muscular dystrophy, muscle strength and balance," Barfield explained. "We talk about the benchmarks that distinguish the disabilities and those with more function and those with less. All these players have severe disabilities and you have to have an awareness of those populations."

Power soccer is played indoors on a basketball court. All players use power wheelchairs.

"These are people with the most severe physical impairments. It's a unique sport because a lot of people who have to use a power wheelchair can't play other wheelchair sports that require a manual wheelchair," Barfield said. "Soccer is a little different because people with all sorts of disabilities play. So, we have to determine how to distinguish the athletes based on their abilities and decide what gives one player an advantage and another player a disadvantage." ■



J.P. Barfield, back row, third from left, with health care professionals and Powerchair Football athletes

Submitted photo



# TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND BATTLEBOTS

By Don Bowman Photos by Lora Gordon

**LAST FALL** Radford University and the City of Radford Schools hosted the second BattleBots competition in which high school and middle school students got creative with robots.

Led by Professor of Biology Jeremy Wojdak and Dalton Intermediate School teacher Jennifer Eller, the Battlebots competition was a collaborative effort by the RU Makers initiative, its Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, and the City of Radford Schools.

Battlebots brought together almost 30 middle and high schools students with graduate education students for a unique problem-solving and technology competition.

"There was a lot of tearing up, cutting, burning, taping and gluing at the build sessions," said Eller '99, M.S. '12 of the work that



culminated in the 13-team single elimination battle tournament with robots built from cannibalized household items and toys.

The robot Dark Train - conceived, engineered and built by Radford High School (RHS) seniors Caleb Fuhrer and Isaac Blair - stymied The Grey Merchant robot, built by RHS freshmen Sam Dent, Nick Hastings-Crowey and Sage King in the title bout to win the Grand Champion Award.

"We spent 11 hours and went through three different designs," said Fuhrer of the effort he and Blair invested in their winning robot.

Rebekah Curtis, a graduate early childhood education student, was one of five Radford University students from the EDET 620 Education Technology class who volunteered to mentor the teams.

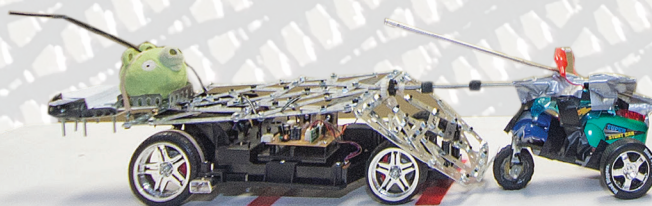
"I loved their passion and excitement," Curtis said. "Education is discovery. They, and I, discovered plenty ... like how to solder, build robots, solve problems and

work together."

Amidst the sound of cheers, whirring motors and snapping plastic, Wojdak, who started the event last year, reflected on the barriers being broken.

"It is really about giving those who don't yet think of themselves as engineers or scientists or technologically savvy a chance to grow, build and be creative in a fun, unintimidating way," said Wojdak of the event that brought student families, faculty, students, alumni and staff together on behalf of the community and Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Mathematics (STEAM) education. ■

City of Radford Schools students compete in the second BattleBots competition.





# Innovation is BUSINESS UNUSUAL

By Chad Osborne

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY** students are creative and innovative.

This became evident during the 2015 fall semester as 51 teams – that adds up to close to 220 students – competed in the inaugural College of Business and Economics (COBE) BB&T Innovation Competition, a new endeavor by the college to spark creative and innovative thinking in the university’s student community.

The idea was for students to develop new business ideas “that are lean start-ups,” said COBE Dean George Low, “where a small amount of capital will get them off the ground.”

Many enterprising students answered the



Students make their case in the inaugural College of Business and Economics (COBE) BB&T Innovation Competition.

challenge. To enter, teams submitted a video, no longer than six minutes, that clearly stated an opportunity or problem and explained how their product or service could help. Teams also submitted a one-page budget showing how their business could be launched with \$500 or less.

Students were required to build prototypes, such as mobile apps.

“That’s not easy, and some of the entries were pretty impressive,” Low said.

Teams competing in the inaugural event had no shortage of creativity, as was displayed on Nov. 13, when the final 12 teams presented their ideas in front of a live audience, many of whom were tweeting the event at #RadfordInnovates, and six business-savvy judges.

Five teams were declared winners later that night at a ceremony to honor their hard work and discipline.

A mobile app for finding tutors, called Pomoc, created by Amanuel Dereb, Sarah Eckenrode and Olivia Fitzgibbon, took the Best Project award.

“It means so much to my team and me that

we were recognized,” said Fitzgibbon, a junior accounting and finance double major from Fairfax. “We put a lot of effort into this project and were ecstatic to see all of our hard work pay off. I believe the future for Pomoc is very bright and am so excited to be along for the ride.”

Cash prizes ranged from \$350 to \$500, said Gary Schirr, who along with fellow marketing faculty member Maneesh Thakkar, helped organize and run the competition.

Other winners were:

**Most Creative Idea:** Pet Alert, a mobile app for finding lost pets

**Best Graduate Entry:** VAST, a social app for Appalachian Trail hikers

**Best Social:** Let’s Get Moving, a two-week summer program to encourage kids to be active

**Judges Award for Best Presentation:** Radford Grub Grab, an app to make ordering food at campus restaurants more convenient

The new competition, which is to be an annual event, “fits right in line with COBE’s strategy of innovation, analytics and applied learning,” Low said.

“This competition is all three of those. It’s a great experience for our students because innovation is required to develop a new business idea,” the dean said.

“Analytics are required to support the idea with marketing data, customer demand data and financial data. They have to ask: Will this make money? How much money do we need? Will this be attractive to investors?”

Beginning next year, the dean wants a requirement in the competition rules stating each team must have a student who is not a business major. This year, teams received extra credit for having a non-COBE student on their rosters.

Eckenrode, one-third of Team Pomoc, agrees.

“I think the fact that we all had different majors really helped fuel the ideas behind Pomoc,” said the senior from Williamsburg, who is majoring in marketing and minoring in psychology.

“Amanuel Dereb is an information systems major, who helped us visualize our app and figure out the technology behind it all. Olivia Fitzgibbon is an accounting major who helped us understand costs involved and the best approaches to take. Finally, as a marketing major, I helped our team understand how to promote our product and how to make it aesthetically pleasing.” ■



## THE BIG READ

# CREATING MEANING

By Dan Waidelich

Photos by Lora Gordon

### I WRITE for Radford.

My job is to find and tell the university's stories, so you can see them in magazines, newsletters, advertisements and other publications.

It's the best job ever.

I come to work every day carrying the tools of my trade.

I carry pens and a reporter's notebook. I carry a smartphone with a voice recorder and a camera. I carry these things in a khaki messenger bag that I've had since I was a college student.

Above all, I carry the hopes and expectations of the students, faculty, staff and alumni who trust me to tell their stories well.



**LISA VASSADY**, an instruction librarian at McConnell Library, called me in spring 2015 with some news. After an almost yearlong application process, the library had been given a major grant to host The Big Read, a program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts.

I asked Lisa for more information. My jaw dropped when she gave me the numbers.

As it turned out, Radford was one of only 75 communities to get a 2015-16 Big Read grant. Radford received \$15,000, one of the largest grants in the country. That meant

McConnell Library and its community partners could buy 900 books to distribute for free in the New River Valley.

And, best of all, it highlighted a great book: Tim O'Brien's classic, "The Things They Carried," a foremost piece of literature about the Vietnam War.

"We wanted to create dialogue around critical social and historical issues linked to our country being at war, both past and present," Lisa said. "We hoped our Big Read program would open up that discussion."



"**THE THINGS They Carried**" is a collection of short stories about the buddies that Tim had during the war. The soldiers' names aren't real, but the terror, adrenaline and black humor they felt still resonates anyway.

The community read the book in October and November 2015. Lisa asked me to contact the media and



O'Brien during his keynote address to the New River Valley community

let them know about all the events - discussions, art events, speakers and more - being held for The Big Read. She also gave me my own copy.

I tore through the book in one sitting, stunned. So, I read it again. Immediately, I started making calls to try and get The Big Read in the news. The McConnell team had picked a winner.

The crowd at the kickoff event for The Big Read knew it too. An auditorium of readers showed up to hear Alex Vernon, an O'Brien scholar from Hendrix College in Arkansas. Vernon walked us through O'Brien's writing, helping us figure out what really happened all those years ago, in jungles half a world away, and why it continues to matter.

"I've had veterans tell me they worry that Vietnam is passing out of memory," Vernon said. "Books and events like this are important to keep it alive, especially given how much it resonates with the situations of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans coming home."



**AS THE BIG READ** continued, all of us involved learned an important lesson: how we remember our veterans - and our friends carrying any kind of turmoil - matters.

Amy VanKirk, assistant professor of dance, wanted to remember her uncle Daniel, a Vietnam veteran, in the way she knew best: through movement.

"I was never able to talk about war with my uncle, but through letters and stories I am now able to imagine what his life was like during those difficult times," she said.

Amy - along with her students, who brought their families' own stories of war - created an original dance performance, "Elegy," that honors everything veterans carried in war and still carry in their lives, just as O'Brien does in his writing.

"I think it is important to keep the stories of those we have lost alive," she said.



**I'M HONORED** to have played even a small part in The Big Read, but the credit must go to so many others.

It should go to library staff members such as Lisa and Alyssa and Jennifer, who brought this experience to our community. To voices like Alex and Amy, who took a great text and elevated it into something for everyone.

The Big Read ended last November with a visit by Tim O'Brien. Community members, students and faculty, veterans and others heard from the author about what his book might mean.

But even that incredible experience was only part of a larger whole.

We had all created the meaning together, just by reading a book. ■



# ING TOGETHER



McConnell Library's Alyssa Archer, Lisa Vassady and Jennifer Whicker proudly display the book that united the New River Valley this past fall.





By Dan Waidelich

**MATEUS ALVES GOMES** has enjoyed living and studying in Radford over the past year, but there's just one problem.

Despite keeping an eye out, Gomes has not found any pão de queijo, the snack he misses most from his home in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

"It is cheese and bread and it is delicious," Gomes said, "but the food here is very good also."

Gomes is one of 13 students attending Radford University as part of the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program (BSMP), a one-year program that matches Brazilian students with American universities and funds a comprehensive study abroad experience. BSMP is part of a larger initiative to grant 100,000 Brazilian university students the opportunity to study abroad at the world's best colleges and universities.

"We don't choose the university, just the country we want to go to," Gomes said. "We send in our grades and essays and they find the university that will fit us best."

The chance involved explains how a student from Belo Horizonte - population: 2,491,109 - ends up in a rural town in Virginia, with no pão de queijo stands on the street.

"Radford has been very good," the information systems student said. "Everyone here is so supportive and kind, especially the staff from the university. They help us any way they can."

Diego Vitoriano da Silva, a computer science student, is from Fortaleza, Brazil, nearly 1,500 miles from Mateus' hometown.

"It is different here than in Brazil, where most students study close to home or even live with their family," he said. "American students will travel to attend school."

Because Brazilians tend to stick close to home for college, the government supports many federally funded exchange programs.

That means exposing students to many different learning styles.

"At home, professors are not as easy to talk to," da Silva said. "There is more homework and more assignments at Radford University, but I always feel like I can talk to my professors. They really help us."

Gomes, da Silva and the other BSMP students are assisted in their studies by Radford University's Language and Cultural Institute, which provides language-related programs and services for academic and professional development.

The LCI also runs an Intensive English Program, which offers full-time language training to international students. Instruction is available from beginning through advanced proficiency levels. Upon completion of the program, students can matriculate into a university program.

Several Brazilian students found themselves brushing up on their English before courses started in fall 2015.

For Gomes, it was a chance to immerse himself in the customs of an American college before classes started. The work paid off.

"I've made a lot of friends - including my roommate, who is American, and a lot of international friends," Gomes said. "This whole experience of traveling to another culture is amazing. But I wish I knew how to cook pão de queijo." ■



Lora Gordon

Mateus Alves Gomes is one of 13 students attending Radford University as part of the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program (BSMP).

“Everyone here is so supportive and kind.”

Mateus Alves Gomes



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO

# RADFORD

The Magazine of Radford University

Spring 2016



**An Agent of  
Change.  
An Era of  
Progress.**

**Commemorating  
the Leadership of  
President Penelope  
“Penny” W. Kyle  
*Sixth President of  
Radford University***



# Thank You, President Penelope W. Kyle, J.D.

## Colleague, Friend and Advocate for Radford University

By Mary Ann Jennings Hovis '65



Looking back to the start of Penny Kyle's tenure as president of Radford University in 2005, it was unimaginable then to consider the changes that would take place on campus over the next 11 years. Penny will retire this June as Radford's sixth—and first female—president, and it is important to recognize the distinguished record of accomplishments she is leaving behind that will benefit Radford for future generations.

I served as rector of the Board of Visitors and a member of the search committee that recommended hiring Penny, and I'm both proud of and grateful for the vision, passion and tireless energy she gave to the university. Not long after Penny became president, she had to navigate the challenges shared by higher education leaders across the nation, including increasing competition for students, declining governmental support for public universities, and the changing educational needs in the workforce.

She faced those challenges by immersing herself in the academic mission and the business of the university. I saw firsthand how energized she became putting a team together to develop strategies and plans that would move the university forward.

(Above) Del. Joseph Yost '06, M.A. '08, presents House Joint Resolution No. 126 to President Penelope W. Kyle honoring her service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and Radford University during the 2016 General Assembly session at the State Capitol in Richmond.

(Left) Mary Ann Hovis and President Penelope W. Kyle at the dedication of Kyle Hall



Her ability to improve facilities and academic programs is meaningful and visible, but I will most remember Penny's easy laugh and infectious energy when interacting with a room full of students. I believe that those candid, spirited and personal conversations she had with students became the most rewarding aspect of her position.

This commemorative publication highlights her accomplishments and tributes to her service from faculty, staff and friends of the university. The words of others best demonstrate the positive and lasting change she brought to Radford.

*Mary Ann Hovis '65 is currently a member of the Radford University Board of Visitors, and she formerly served on the Board from 2002 to 2010 and as rector for two terms from 2005 to 2007.*

“ She faced those challenges by immersing herself in the academic mission and the business of the university. ”

Mary Ann Hovis '65



# An Agent of Change. An Era of Progress.

Alumni visiting Radford University after being away for a number of years are surprised by the vast changes in nearly every corner of the campus. When asked to reflect on those improvements as she wraps up her service as Radford's sixth president, Penelope "Penny" W. Kyle, J.D., downplays the physical improvements. She focuses instead on the overall changes across the university and their impact on students.

"Everything you do at a university affects the students," President Kyle responded with her trademark quick smile and attentive gaze on the interviewer, "and I've had the privilege of seeing what the changes in the Radford experience, in and outside the classroom, mean to students. You can't get that feeling anywhere else, and it is what I will miss the most."

Even though she deflected recognition for the campus improvements, evidence of her lasting effect on Radford permeates throughout the campus community. She answered the Radford University Board of Visitors' charge to be an agent of change when she was hired in 2005 by expanding academic programs, boosting academic standing, improving Division I athletic programs, and securing more than \$330 million to build new and to renovate existing facilities. The combination of those initiatives led by President Kyle helped Radford adapt to the rapidly changing landscape of higher education, putting the university on a path to further successes in the future.

## Leadership, Willpower and Homegrown Values

When she accepted her position as president, it was an opportunity to come home to Southwest Virginia and be a part of the efforts to prepare Radford University for the challenges that higher education was beginning to face. After more than a decade of leading a public university with nearly 10,000 students and 1,597 faculty and staff, she leaves behind a financially stable institution and growing interest among prospective students and their families.



President Penelope W. Kyle, J.D.  
Sixth President of  
Radford University

Recent tributes from students, colleagues and friends near and far reveal admiration for her leadership experience, her strength and her willpower to bring about change. They also describe a committed, down-to-earth woman who is willing to openly share her personal and professional story to help others along their way. The picture that quickly emerges is of a leader shaped not only by exceptional educational and professional accomplishments, but also by the values of her small-town upbringing in Galax, Virginia, less than an hour drive from the Radford campus.

The sentiments of many are best summed up by the Honorable Anne Holton, Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia: "President Kyle's tenure at Radford was one of innovation, transformation, and accomplishment. As Radford's first female president, Penny proved to be a strong and capable leader, devoted to students, faculty, and the belief that constant improvement is essential to the success of any higher education institution.

"Penny's commitment to excellence was a hallmark of her presidency," continued Secretary Holton. "And while we will miss her steadfast leadership, we know that she has left an indelible mark on the university community."

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## A Roadmap for Change

From the moment she accepted her position, President Kyle focused on improving the university's learning environment and academic programs. One of her first major initiatives as president was to create the Commission for the Future of Radford University, comprised of Board of Visitors members, faculty, staff, students, alumni and business leaders. This led to the creation of a new strategic plan, 7-17, **Forging a Bold New Future**. That was followed closely by the **2008–2018 Campus Master Plan** that became the blueprint for the building effort that has transformed the campus beyond expectations.

"Strategy work done well is all about change," observed Dr. Kate Hawkins, dean of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, "and that was challenging for everyone involved because change is risky. Risk is scary, because you might fail. Also, what if the promised change for the better turns out to be change for the worse? That can make people anxious.

"There can be no doubt that all of the changes during the past 11 years have made Radford University a stronger and more effective institution," asserted Dr. Hawkins. "We are fortunate that President Kyle not only had clarity of vision, tremendous energy and personal determination, but she also had enormous courage to be a person who leads transformational change."

## A Glowing Campus and Learning Environment

Throughout Kyle's presidency, members of the Board of Visitors were committed to enhancing the university's reputation. During her early planning efforts, academic and administrative leaders across campus and alumni emphasized that the academic environment was tied closely to the school's built environment, underscoring the need to modernize facilities. And while the campus setting has always been one of Radford's most distinguishing assets, there was a pent-up demand for refreshing existing spaces and creating new ones. Administrators and faculty were passionate that an improved infrastructure was essential to providing a place of learning that would attract students and faculty, while best preparing students for the workplace.

President Kyle and her leadership team embarked on an aggressive campus improvement planning process. The plan they developed won strong support from the Virginia General Assembly. President Kyle's legal background, knowledge of state government and trusted relationships with governmental leaders were essential to gaining state support for significant financial assistance for capital projects.

“There can be no doubt that all of the changes during the past 11 years have made Radford University a stronger and more effective institution.”

Dr. Kate Hawkins, dean of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences



(Above) President Kyle, Board of Visitors members Mary Ann Hovis and Callie Dalton, and students with Governor Terry McAuliffe during Radford University Advocacy Day 2016.



President Kyle and Blake Mycoskie, founder of Toms Shoes, prepare for the Charter Day celebration in 2010.

With support from the Commonwealth, President Kyle led the most comprehensive campus improvement effort in Radford's history, highlighted by new buildings for the College of Business and Economics, the College of Science and Technology, the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, and the Student Recreation and Wellness Center, and construction/renovations of other facilities across campus (see sidebar story for the complete listing). New construction has renewed appreciation for the campus environment and has proven energizing for faculty, staff, and both current and prospective students.

In recognition of these infrastructure accomplishments, the Board of Visitors in February 2016 voted to name the College of Business and Economics building Kyle Hall. This



signature building frames the entrance to campus and is home to approximately 1,600 business majors.

## The Pursuit of Continuous Improvement

Radford has a long tradition of strong academics in programs such as education, nursing, psychology and business. However, at the outset of President Kyle's tenure, the Board of Visitors identified academic improvement as one of her primary goals. Mary Ann Hovis '65, who served as rector and a member of the search committee when President Kyle was hired, remembered the clear directive from the Board for the new president.

"The Board talked at length with Penny about the importance of improving academic recognition of the school," stated Ms. Hovis. "It was easy to identify where we had the best track record, and she used her position as president to provide support for new initiatives and innovations within those programs."

The first of several new initiatives was within the department of psychology, which was formed more than 70 years ago and has developed an outstanding reputation, with areas of concentration in clinical psychology, experimental psychology and industrial-organizational psychology. That success provided the foundation for the department leadership to develop plans to propose a doctoral degree of psychology to the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia (SCHEV), which was approved as the first doctoral degree in the school's history in 2008. That was followed by state approval for a Master of Occupational Therapy in 2008, the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree later in 2008 and the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in 2009. These three new degrees were within the Waldron College of Health and Human Services. In addition, an M.F.A. in design thinking in the College of Visual and Performing Arts was established in 2012, and a master's degree in data and information management was approved in 2015 within the College of Science and Technology—the first such degree in the Commonwealth.

"President Kyle's leadership style is one of careful deliberation and swift execution," recalled Dr. Raymond Linville, the former Dean of the Waldron College of Health and Human Services and currently a professor in the department of physical therapy and the department of communication sciences and disorders. "She is what many have described as a 'quick study.' She immediately grasps the major issues and asks probing questions to get to the heart of the matter. And once she has made a cogent decision, she moves quickly to authorize action.

"This was evident when I was asked to make a detailed proposal about developing three new graduate programs," Dr. Linville recalled. "I had prepared detailed budgets, personnel, accreditations, curricula and challenges ahead. During the presentation, President Kyle stopped me and said to the others in the room, 'Let's make this happen.' From that moment forward, the projects literally moved at light speed. And all have become highly successful."

Every new idea, however, did not come to fruition without first going through what Dr. Joe Scartelli, interim provost, described as "a rigorous process of thinking,

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# ENROLLMENT

## Total Student Body and Diversity Records

### RECORD ENROLLMENT, FALL 2013

9,928 

Undergraduate record of 8,913 students, Fall 2013

Largest freshman class in history, nearly 2,100 students, Fall 2012

Current total enrollment 9,743

## 2015 Student Body the Most Diverse in RU's History



### Fall 2015 Freshman Class

- Comprised of 32.5 percent who identified themselves as ethnic minorities, compared with 12 percent in 2005
- Nearly threefold increase in African American students from six percent in 2005 to 17 percent in 2015
- 38 percent first-generation students





discussion and planning. All new programs and curricula would undergo a careful vetting and review by other faculty and the college leadership to ensure the new degree programs would be valuable additions to the university offerings. This process also allowed us to optimize successful approvals going forward, particularly with our Board of Visitors and SCHEV.

“To be certain,” Dr. Scartelli continued, “President Kyle supported this important responsibility of university leaders to prudently prepare an educational curriculum that will retain its value and viability now and into the future.”

Roanoke business leader and SCHEV Vice Chair Heywood Fralin added that “the advanced-degree programs are just a part of what Penny did to leave the school in a better place than when she arrived. Leadership matters, and she has done a great job making Radford University a destination college for undergraduate and now graduate students.”

## Academic Prestige from Advanced Degrees

Dr. Niels Christensen, professor of psychology and director of Radford’s Honors Academy, echoed Dr. Linville’s and Mr. Fralin’s comments when describing President Kyle’s impact on the school’s reputation: “The new academic programs have radically changed the university. The prestige of the advanced degrees makes Radford more attractive to prospective students and faculty, and raises recognition of other outstanding programs that have been in place for a long time.”

Dr. Christensen also pointed to President Kyle’s position on the board of the Fulbright-sponsored Foundation for Educational Exchange between Canada and the United States as an accomplishment that brings positive international attention to Radford. This program is part of a Fulbright initiative to promote cultural understanding



U.S. News & World Report has named Radford University one of the Top Up-and-Coming Schools in the U.S. and one of the Best Regional Universities in the South.



around the world through academic exchange between countries. According to Dr. Christensen, this is the first time a Radford president has served in such a prestigious role.

Outsiders have noticed changes at Radford, too, with external agencies and media recognizing academic excellence in a number of areas (see sidebar story on national recognition). The respected Princeton Review, which ranks colleges and universities in categories ranging from academics to extracurricular activities, included Radford among the “Best Colleges and Universities in the Southeast,” the “Best Business Schools” and the “Best Value Colleges.”

“In years to come, the history of Radford University will be marked by each of our illustrious presidents,” predicted Dr. Linville. “President Kyle’s legacy will be noted foremost for transforming RU into a comprehensive institution offering rigorous graduate programs and



**President Kyle meets with Quest Assistants Kevon Dupree and Sidney Green during the Summer 2014 session.**

challenging undergraduate offerings housed in state-of-the-art facilities. In this sense, I think her presidency will be one remembered as the Radford Renaissance.”

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Members of the SGA presented President Kyle with farewell flowers following the 2016 Spring State of the Student Body Address.



(Above) President Kyle and former Dean of Students Bonnie Hurlburt meet with SGA members Victoria Crespo, Jesus Martinez and Colby Bender.



(Left) President Kyle and Rosemary Triple are joined by Radford University students in support of the Fear 2 Freedom initiative.



(Left) President Kyle and Crasha Townsend, director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, are joined by Tavis Smiley and Dr. Cornell West, 2013 MLK Day speakers.

## Diversity Plans and Experiences

One of the goals identified in Radford's 7-17 strategic plan, which was created early in President Kyle's tenure, was to focus recruitment efforts on expanding the pool of potential students from underrepresented populations. The fall 2015 freshman class demonstrated the outcome of that effort: 32.5 percent of the class identified themselves as ethnic minorities, compared to 12 percent in 2005. And the class included a nearly threefold increase in African American students, growing from 6 percent in 2005 to 17 percent in 2015. The 2015 freshman class also included 38 percent first-generation students.

"We too often focus on what separates us," observed President Kyle, "but sharing experiences with diverse groups of people—whether in the classroom, in university-sponsored activities, in clubs or in athletics—allows us to focus on attitudes and values that bind us together. I strongly believe that the changing makeup of our student body provides positive, lifelong lessons among people with different backgrounds and/or orientations."

One important aspect of diversity is gender equality, which remains a topical issue on college campuses. At the invitation of Dr. Moira Baker, director of Women's Studies and professor of English, President Kyle was an active participant in discussions about gender issues in both large forums and small group settings with students and faculty.

**In October 2006, then-Governor Tim Kaine installed Penelope Kyle as the sixth president during her inauguration ceremony and presented her with a presidential medallion created for the occasion.**

"President Kyle was fully engaged in discussions on sensitive and very personal topics," reported Dr. Baker. "She shared her own really intimate experiences, and it was so meaningful to hear a president who can identify with women's issues.

"But it was more than just about women," Dr. Baker continued. "She led a concerted effort to attract a more diverse student body and create a place that is more welcoming for all students. She is so gracious, with such down-to-earth humor and no pretense or sense of entitlement. She can be intensely serious, but a lot of humanity there, and I feel fortunate I got to work so closely with her."

Dr. Baker went on to describe how President Kyle's commitment to women and diversity was recognized by her appointment to Governor Terry McAuliffe's Task Force on Combating Campus Sexual Violence. According to Dr. Baker, President Kyle contributed to policy-making at the state level and brought back best practices to Radford.





In order to ensure a safe and inclusive campus, Radford has adopted a number of practices, including campus-wide education and awareness, training for victim-centered responses, and police procedures to make certain that offenders are held accountable.

"I hoped that by openly sharing my experiences with women's issues, I would be helpful to others," reflected President Kyle. "The reality is that I was the one who learned the most, especially from hearing about the trauma many women have endured. Those interactions are invaluable for a college president or for anyone in a leadership position in higher education, and they will be among the most memorable experiences for me."

## Leadership Skills to Create Change

Managerial agility is a key attribute for leaders in higher education today, and President Kyle honed that skill and others through varied and exceptional executive positions over her career. She came to Radford with more than 30 years of experience in the legal, corporate, and government worlds—a career that coincidentally began as a teacher at a community college. After earning a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Virginia Law School, she practiced law at the prestigious Richmond-based firm of McGuireWoods. She then moved to the legal department of CSX Corporation, where then-CEO Hays T. Watkins, former Rector of the College of William & Mary, encouraged her to enroll in the executive MBA program at William & Mary. In a short while, she became the first female officer of CSX.

"I've always been drawn to new challenges," said President Kyle. "I've been fortunate to work in some wonderful organizations, but I've been excited about moving if I thought I could both have a positive impact at a new place and continue to grow as a person."

President Kyle faced a change of course in her career in 1994 when then-Governor George Allen asked her to serve as executive director of the Virginia State Lottery. She headed one of the most successful state lottery organizations in the nation for 11 years, and was reappointed to the position by both Governor Jim Gilmore and Governor Mark Warner. Warner later supported her decision to accept Radford's invitation to be president.

Now serving as the senior United States senator from Virginia, Senator Warner personally recognized President Kyle's accomplishments in his remarks on campus as Radford's May 2016 commencement speaker: "Penny Kyle has overseen remarkable growth in Radford's academic program, its campus facilities, and in its educational reputation. Her energetic and persistent leadership has had a positive impact on the lives of thousands of people who have earned a Radford University degree."

Nancy Agee, president and chief executive officer of Carilion Clinic and a former Vice Rector of the Radford University Board of Visitors, echoed the senator's remarks: "Throughout her career, Penny has been a role model for



President Kyle joins an incoming freshman class for the annual class photo on Heth lawn.

leaders. Whether it's encouraging young woman and men to pursue careers in science or technology, athletics, or business and so on, she's shown us all what it means to lead and what it means to serve as a catalyst for change, even when it's hard. So many times, Penny has boldly gone where no woman has gone before."

## Storyteller-in-Chief

While the university surged ahead on multiple fronts, it became clear to President Kyle and other campus leaders that external perceptions did not match the reality of the new Radford. To close that gap in perception, President Kyle worked closely with the university's leaders in communications and marketing to develop a brand renewal effort that would support student and faculty recruitment, alumni relations and fundraising. One of the guiding principles in the branding campaign was to combine both the current changes and innovations at Radford with the values that have long been a part of the university.

"The rebranding is an example of President Kyle's attention to detail," concluded Dr. Christensen. "It is a challenge to bring together the diversity of views and experiences of a college campus community, and it took her leadership to coalesce a coherent, consistent and authentic message to our varied audiences.

"The university's identity is an extension of her passion about the campus culture, where students can be mentored and grow. She helped us understand that building the campus environment intentionally is at the core of our identity and allows our students the best chance for success."

The story continues to unfold with a promising future for Radford University, which Dr. Dennis Grady, dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, credits largely to President Kyle's leadership: "The new academic programs and campus improvements created under President Kyle's watch added luster to the reputation of our university, and met specific and dire needs in our region's health care and educational delivery systems. All of these, I remind you, occurred during the greatest recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Imagine what President Kyle could have done during normal economic times!" ■



# Placemaking

## Campus Environment Improvements

Student Recreation and Wellness Center with Hurlburt Hall at right



Kyle Hall



The Radford campus architecture, landscaping and classic quadrangle are an essential part of the student experience and alumni memories. During the past 10 years, \$330 million in new construction and renovations have paid homage to the past while making the campus an even better place for learning today.

- **Covington Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 2008**  
One of the most technologically advanced venues for the arts in the Southeast
- **Kyle Hall, formerly College of Business and Economics (COBE) Building, 2012**  
\$44 million complex, featuring laboratories and classrooms equipped with technological and financial research capabilities for Radford's 1,500 business majors
- **Student Recreation and Wellness Center, 2014**  
\$32 million, 110,000-square-foot facility, indoor graded track, a multiple activity court, racquetball courts and classrooms
- **Center for the Sciences, 2015**  
\$49 million, 115,000-square-foot complex with faculty and staff offices, teaching and research laboratories, the Museum of the Earth Sciences and the RU Planetarium
- **College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences Building, Fall 2016**  
\$52 million, 143,600-square-foot facility (under construction) to include a 90-seat tiered classroom, multiple collaborative learning spaces, integrated inquiry environments, mock trial/moot courtroom, television studio and forensic laboratory; will be the largest academic building on campus



# Campus Construction Summary: 2005-2016

## New Construction

Hurlburt Hall .....	\$8,272,228
Covington Center for the Visual and Performing Arts ..	22,266,283
College of Business and Economics (Kyle Hall) .....	41,355,830
Center for the Sciences .....	49,530,522
Student Recreation and Wellness Center .....	32,000,000
College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences .....	52,829,305
Student Outdoor Recreation Complex .....	6,927,000
Outdoor Volleyball & Basketball Courts .....	291,300
Baseball and Softball Hitting Practice Facility .....	1,480,000

## Renovations

Trinkle Hall .....	\$2,970,977
Russell Hall .....	6,289,807
Young Hall .....	6,681,213
Heth Hall .....	8,045,756
Davis Hall .....	1,812,417
Dedmon Center .....	15,621,656

Madison and Jefferson Halls .....	9,568,970
Moffett Hall .....	11,661,538
Washington Hall .....	8,945,600
Pocahontas, Bolling and Draper Halls .....	21,335,000

## Additional Renovation Projects

Bondurant Auditorium	
– Preston Hall Multiphase Project .....	\$1,397,645
Preston-Building Systems-Multiphase Project .....	397,981
Art Annex Renovation .....	83,381
Reed-Curie Renovations-Multiphase Project .....	828,176
McConnell Library-Multiphase Project .....	1,052,041
Porterfield East & West-Multiphase Project .....	2,787,847
Dalton & Muse Dining-Multiphase Project .....	7,000,000
Muse Hall-Lounges/Kitchens .....	268,765
Baseball Stadium Renovation	
– Multiphase Project .....	1,685,000
Softball Stadium Renovation .....	920,000
Dedmon Center Multiple Projects .....	1,066,670

College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences



Center for the Sciences





# Board of Visitors Dedicates Kyle Hall

One of the hallmarks of President Kyle's tenure at Radford was the transformation of facilities across campus. To honor that accomplishment and other achievements during her service to Radford as president, the Board of Visitors voted in February 2016 to name the College of Business and Economics building Kyle Hall. President Kyle was recognized at a special dedication of the building in April 2016, which was attended by Board members, faculty, staff and special guests Virginia Secretary of Education Anne Holton, Del. Joseph Yost and Radford City Mayor Bruce Brown.

A signature university building, Kyle Hall serves as the gateway to campus with 110,000 square feet of auditorium-style classrooms, conference rooms and gathering spaces that support collaboration. It also features the latest in educational technology and financial research capabilities, including a trading room.



(Right) President Kyle expresses her appreciation to the audience following the unveiling of the plaque naming Kyle Hall.



Keynote speaker Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia Anne Holton with President Kyle



President Kyle, her family and the platform party following the plaque unveiling

## Academic Programs National Recognition Widens

The decade of change at Radford hasn't gone unnoticed by leading external agencies and media, who have consistently recognized the university's academic excellence and improvement in a number of areas.

"Top Up-and-Coming Schools in the U.S." (#8 master's universities in the South)  
- *U.S. News & World Report*, 2010

"Best Colleges and Universities in the Southeast"  
- *The Princeton Review*, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

"Best Regional Universities" in the South  
- *U.S. News & World Report*, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

"Best 295 Business Schools"  
- *The Princeton Review*, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

"Top Public Master's Universities in the South"  
- *U.S. News & World Report*, 2010, 2011, 2012

"Best Bang for the Buck" Universities  
- *Washington Monthly Magazine*, 2013, 2014, 2015

"Best Value Colleges"  
- *The Princeton Review*, 2013, 2014

"Best for Vets"  
- *Military Times*, 2015

"Top Online Education Programs" (Doctor of Nursing Practice)  
- *U.S. News & World Report*, 2012

"Top Public Master's Universities in the South"  
- *U.S. News & World Report*, 2010, 2011, 2012

"Top Interior Design Schools in the South"  
- *DesignIntelligence*, 2014

"Top 10 Interior Design Programs in the Nation"  
- *DesignIntelligence*, 2011



# BUILDING ON KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNITY

By Izzie Tavares '17

Photos by Lora Gordon

**T**he Center for the Sciences, the new home of Radford University's College of Science and Technology, is a premier campus destination for serious student scientists.

Sharon Roller, a senior anthropology major, basked in her discipline's increased elbow room and work space when the new building opened its doors.

"We used to have shared classrooms and tiny lab spaces," Roller said. "Now we have dedicated classrooms and lab spaces."

The new 114,000-square-foot building is an exciting platform for scientific discovery and is home to teaching spaces, laboratory spaces, offices and outreach facilities. The departments of biology, anthropological sciences and the Radford University Forensic Science Institute have completely relocated

there. The department of chemistry has expanded into some of the new offices and laboratories, and the RU Planetarium and Museum of the Earth Sciences will soon unveil their modern, upgraded venues.

This means the relocation of the geology and physics departments into Reed-Curie Hall, which will be repurposed accordingly with planned renovations funded by \$1.7 million of support from the Virginia General Assembly.

In addition to the improved research space and technological advances the Center for the Sciences boasts, it has heightened the sense of community among student researchers since it opened for use this spring.

Science faculty members have also acknowledged the building's strong potential to bolster Radford's scientific community, especially in enhancing the student-faculty bond that lies at the core of undergraduate research opportunities.

"Before, I never really had contact with other research students ... This new building makes doing my research so much easier. There's more space and easier access to professors."

– *Marisa Dameron,*  
*senior biology major*

"The research labs being together in one building can influence more collaboration between disciplines and departments."

– *Nathan Poole,*  
*senior biology major*

"It is nice for me as a faculty member to be able to interact with students more frequently and individually. There's so much space available now to students, they will be drawn here."

– *Matt Close,*  
*professor of biology*



# PUTTING THE MODERN IN MODERN SCIENCE

RADFORD UNIVERSITY'S CENTER FOR THE SCIENCES

By Don Bowman

**THE CENTER FOR THE SCIENCES** is the place for serious students interested in conducting original research with faculty mentors. They will learn to use the 21st century research equipment and techniques to seek solutions to problems affecting our community, Commonwealth, nation and world. The building's unique outreach facilities for science education will be a boon to the Commonwealth's science teachers and citizens.

The opportunities to explore science and enhance science education in the center are attracting critical support from philanthropic alumni, organizations and businesses.

Most recently, the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation has issued a challenge grant that will, when completed, generate over \$1 million for the building's interior capital needs. The grant is a matching \$350,000, 2-for-1 grant. Radford University's friends and alumni have one year to rally in support of the initiative that will fill the Center for the Sciences with equipment, furnishings and resources to support 21st century science education.

A unique \$10,000 gift from chemistry alumnus Mark Hanna '84 will adorn the chemistry floor along with laboratories, teaching spaces and study locations. Groups of chemists and aspiring chemists can talk shop and science at a full-size table featuring the periodic table, a tabular arrangement of the chemical elements ordered by their atomic number, electron configurations and recurring chemical properties.

The honor roll of corporate partners investing in Summer Bridge and Science Days, the College of Science and Technology's (CSAT) key outreach initiatives, keeps growing.

BAE Systems gave \$12,000 to underwrite scholarships to the Summer Bridge program.

Now in its 11th year, Summer Bridge is a residential program of science, technology and mathematics

Jaslyn Gilbert



Students in Donna Boyd's human osteology class look at various bones and remains.

exploration. Last year, Summer Bridge hosted its largest-ever class of 83 high school women at Radford.

CSAT's Science Days, a series of interactive days filled with science activities for K-12 students from across the Southwest Virginia region, is the beneficiary of a \$10,000 gift from the AEP Foundation. During Science Days, the guests experiment with chemistry, biology, geology, forensic science and physics; and tour the RU Museum of the Earth Sciences and RU Planetarium.

The AEP gift will provide a robust and engaging experience through new planetarium shows, renew equipment and facilitate new exhibits throughout the center.

Science Days and Summer Bridge are central to the CSAT efforts to demonstrate to young scientists the alluring world of "undergraduate research" awaiting them as college students at Radford University.

They join Areva Nuclear Power, Cliff and Donna Boyd, Dominion Resources, the Jessie Ball DuPont Fund, the Lynchburg Community Trust, Novozymes Biologicals, Orbital-ATK, Dale Parris MBA '85 and M.S. '12, Harry and Zoe Poole Foundation and Upward Bound Martinsville in support of Radford University's science outreach initiatives.

For more information about how you can support the Center for the Sciences and its mission, contact the Office of University Advancement at 540-831-5407. ■



Collaboration among student researchers is a frequent occurrence in the laboratories of the new Center for the Sciences.



# MUSEUM OF THE EARTH SCIENCES ROARS TO LIFE

By Don Bowman

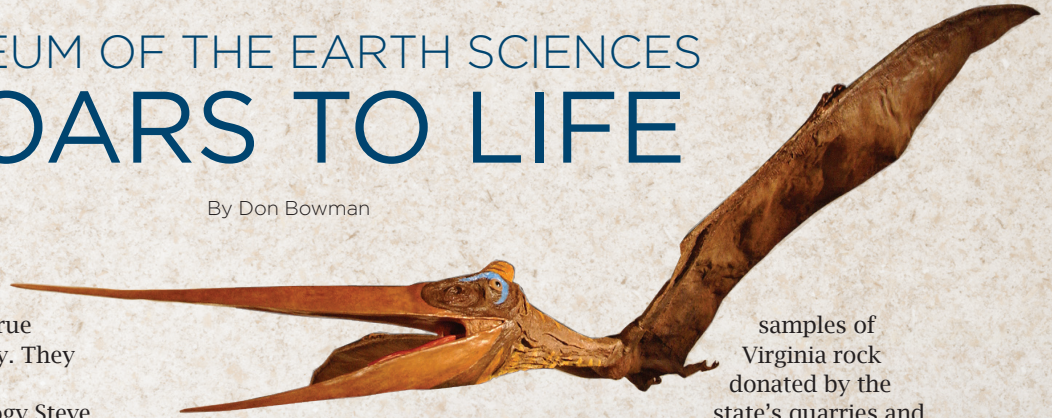
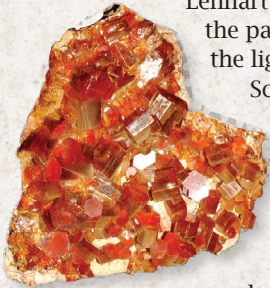
**IN SO** many ways, dreams come true for students at Radford University. They do as well for faculty.

Associate Professor of Geology Steve Lenhart's dream was realized when

the paper was removed from the windows and the lights went on in the Museum of the Earth Sciences (MES) in the newly opened Center for the Sciences at Radford University.

The Museum of the Earth Sciences tripled in size to over 1,500 square feet and is an oval-shaped setting for display of the products from his lifetime of field collecting, networking and sharing the mystery and beauty of the Earth.

"I am grateful for the support from so many here at Radford University and across the state," said Lenhart who created the Museum of the Earth Sciences in 2005.



samples of Virginia rock donated by the state's quarries and

fashioned by supportive stone finishers.

To greet the visitors in their freshly designed, built and organized home, old favorites – like the MES skeletal replicas of an extinct cave bear and Tyrannosaurus rex and a life-like model of Pteranodon, an extinct flying reptile – are joined by new replica skeletons of a saber tooth tiger and a large extinct armored fish that terrorized the oceans 380 million years ago.

Some of the MES inventory that was closeted for lack of space are prominently displayed. There are fossils, gems, minerals and an 8-foot by 9-foot display of a famous quarrying operation that was created and shown at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History.

"The model is spectacular," Lenhart said. "I saw it as a child and I can not wait to see the eyes of this generation of children as they gaze on it." ■

“ Societies, quarries, geologists, individuals and alumni have helped make this dream a reality. ”

Steve Lenhart, associate professor of geology

The museum enhances the classroom activities of Radford University students and whets the scientific curiosity of the community as an educational resource for Earth science-related themes. In the museum's previous Curie Hall location, thousands of K-12 students from Southwest Virginia and community members have learned about geology, archaeology and other Earth sciences through the museum's innovative and creative displays. The MES has welcomed more than 25,000 guests.

Along with supervising each detail of the museum's look and feel, Lenhart has been a man on a mission to connect with the Earth sciences community on behalf of the MES.

"The state's geology community has been so enthusiastic," said Lenhart. "Societies, quarries, geologists, individuals and alumni have helped make this dream a reality."

An example of the geology community's largess will be the alcove sills that are made of





# REACHING FOR THE STARS

By Don Bowman

**AT THE** apex of the new Center for the Sciences on its main street level will be the new Radford University Planetarium.

Josh Carroll is part of the team, led by Planetarium Director and Professor of Physics Rhett Herman, who will make the Radford University Planetarium a gateway to the stars and science for the university and community.

The senior physics major from Blacksburg was drawn into Radford University's orbit in a decidedly non-traditional and honorable way.

After nine-and-a-half years in the U.S. Army as a combat infantryman in Charlie Company, 1-116th Infantry, 29th Infantry Division – including three tours in Iraq, Carroll embarked on the quest he knew was his since he drew a self-portrait in the second grade that featured him in a lab coat and surrounded by scientific equipment.

"I read 'A Brief History of Time' by Steven Hawking, and I knew I had to get on with it," said Carroll.

At Radford University, Carroll has found an environment to keep him advancing. "If I am putting my money into education, I want to get my money's worth. I wanted to know that I could go to my professors for help when I needed it. Here they do," he said. "Just the other day, Dr. Shawn Huston, assistant professor of physics, helped me with a derivation of an equation and he isn't even one of my professors. He gladly helped me. He even checked my math multiple times to ensure I understood what the point of the problem was. I got the problem correct because of him helping me. Radford University is great for aspiring physicists."

Carroll and Jordan Eagle, a senior physics major, are immersed in making cool things happen in the new planetarium. As the centerpiece of the College of Science

“Radford University has a lot to offer scientifically and the depth of its offerings is surprising. There is cool stuff happening here.”

Josh Carroll

and Technology's "Science on Display" initiative, the planetarium will have 54 new theater-style seats, all digital projection and surround-sound systems and a full catalog of shows and educational presentations.

"The planetarium has lights, sound, music that will give us the chance to reach that child who might be the first boots on the ground on Mars," said Carroll, who is now coding the Digistar projection system, an advanced full-dome digital theater system that facilitates flexible storytelling and customized presentations.

"I look at things from the cosmic perspective," said Carroll. "The future of humanity is in the stars. For humans to continue, we have to spread out. Math and physics are the groundwork."

Until the aspiring astrophysicist got involved with the planetarium, he had never done coding. That challenge has engaged him as intensely as the challenge to prepare himself with the mathematic fundamentals for a career in physics. He faced an early challenge when he needed to build the math skillset needed to earn his Associate of Arts degree from New River Community College.

Carroll taught himself the fundamentals of calculus and then talked to the math department at New River. After proving to the instructors that he did indeed teach himself calculus, he excelled in his courses. At Radford University, he needed to know trigonometry in order to take the required math classes, so over the winter break before starting the spring semester, Carroll taught himself trig and then earned an "A" in his first calculus class here.

"I was trusted by the department heads to teach myself what I needed to know, and I proved that I could do it," said Carroll, a lover of both learning and challenges.

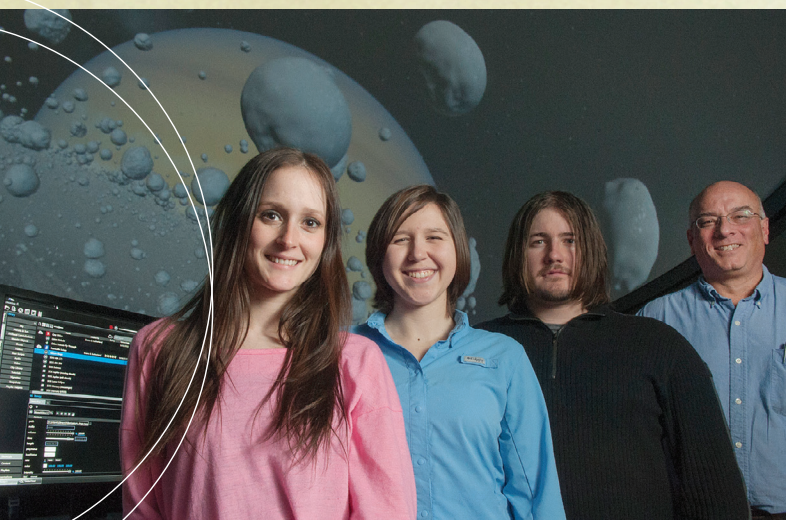
He is working on a minor in math and has published four articles about math and basic astrophysics in the online scientific journal *Universe Today*, including one titled "Mathematics, the Beautiful Language of the Universe."

As a combat soldier, Carroll was part of a team that had to develop a strong sense of trust and camaraderie for survival. He has found the same sense as a student at Radford University.

"We physics students are a pretty connected group," Carroll said. "The faculty and students have helped me."

Carroll said his Radford experience has been enlightening.

"I have been shocked at my level of math achievement. I now look at math and physics and can understand the deeper 'whys,'" Carroll said. "Radford University has a lot to offer scientifically and the depth of its offerings is surprising. There is cool stuff happening here." ■



Jordan Eagle, Jessi Basham, Joshua Carroll and Professor Rhett Herman



# GROWTH AND CHANGE

*The new College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences building*

By Dan Waidelich

Photo by Lora Gordon

**A**s seasons and semesters change, so too does the Radford University campus. Now nearing completion is the new College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS) building, the university's largest academic building. The \$52.8 million building will provide academic space, including classrooms, offices, laboratories and student/faculty collaborative areas. For the past 18 months, crews have worked steadily to transform the space between Muse Hall and McConnell Library into a 143,600-square-foot hall of learning. When it opens later this year, it will be the first time that CHBS is under one roof.

Along with the Office of the Dean, nine divisions will be housed in the new building: the School of Communication and the departments of criminal justice, psychology, sociology, political science, English, foreign languages and literatures, history, and philosophy and religious studies.

The building was also designed to support experiential learning opportunities that will give students the chance to apply their skills in a real world setting. Experiential facilities in the building will include a television studio, 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 CHBS building will open later this year. ■





# "THE BONNIE" TURNS

Chris Henry



Jaslyn Gilbert



Richard Boyd



Richard Boyd



By Mary Hardbarger

Jaslyn Gilbert



Richard Boyd





## THE POPULAR GATHERING PLACE IS NAMED FOR FORMER DEAN OF STUDENTS BONNIE HURLBURT '58.

**WHEN THE** Hurlburt Student Center first opened in 2005, students quickly were attached to its abbreviated nickname.

“‘The Bonnie.’ That’s what we called it from the very beginning, and it fit perfectly,” recalled Alice Coughlin, Radford University’s associate director of operations.

Today, the name still echoes throughout the university at which Bonnie Hurlburt '58 served for more than 40 years as dean of students. During her tenure, Hurlburt helped usher Radford University into a new era. When hired as dean of students, Bonnie Hurlburt was 27 years old, and at the time, the youngest dean in the country. She also played a critical role as Radford University transitioned to a coeducational institution. Through student government leadership, she taught many students true life lessons on how to be successful. Even today, our alumni still talk about the leadership skills they learned through their work with her.

Retired in 2002, Hurlburt remains an active presence on campus and continues to mentor students, just as she did during her 41-year tenure as dean of students.

At the 10-year anniversary celebration of the building last fall, Hurlburt was greeted by a group of students excited to meet the woman whose name has infiltrated their daily conversations: “Let’s meet at the Bonnie.” “Want to grab coffee at the Bonnie?” “Bowling tonight, at the Bonnie?”

**PLANS** for the Hurlburt Student Center first materialized in the early 2000s.

Construction began in 2002 and the 45,000-square-foot center opened in fall 2005 as the first project of a \$330 million campus transformation that has included updated and renovated student housing, revamped food service

and student life facilities as well as many new or updated academic buildings.

Since then, the Bonnie has evolved into a university gathering place that is constantly buzzing with activity as students swing through its doors and relax on rocking chairs that line the front of the building. It houses a number of eateries, several student-centric departments, a computer lab, club and student organization offices and a favorite hangout spot – the bowling alley. Movie screenings, lectures and campus programs are regularly held in its

250-seat auditorium.

Stephanie Harmon Winebrenner '06 was a senior when the center first opened. As president of the Student Government Association, she did a lot of business in the Bonnie.

“The student organizations really needed and appreciated the office space,” Winebrenner said. “For those of us who were involved, we lived in those offices.”

The center also offered space for student collaboration, Winebrenner said, and provided a sense of community.

“It was the beginning of a transformation,” she said. “It had a different type of atmosphere and up-to-date technology, food options and recreation. So, students naturally gravitated toward the building immediately. We were all excited.”

**BEFORE** the Bonnie was built, Winebrenner and her classmates hung out at Heth Hall, the former student center. Heth was once considered the heart of campus, said Coughlin, who has worked at Radford University for almost 30 years.

“But that all changed with the Bonnie,” she continued.

Student activity soon shifted toward the perimeter of campus when the Bonnie was opened on Jefferson Street. The opening of the popular Student Recreation and Wellness Center in fall 2014 solidified the Bonnie as the new center of campus. The two buildings, which sit side by side, are the places to go when classes let out.

A recent expansion of the Bonnie plaza has drawn even more activity. Concerts, fairs, dances and club gatherings are a common occurrence. At the 10-year celebration in September 2015, Hurlburt posed for selfies on the plaza with students.

“It is a wonderful facility,” Hurlburt said. “I’ve been so impressed [with the building] since day one.” ■



Years after her 41-year tenure as dean of students, Hurlburt - seen here with J'Meek Austin at the 10th anniversary celebration - remains an active presence on campus.

Loia Gordon

“‘The Bonnie.’ That’s what we called it from the very beginning, and it fit perfectly.”

Alice Coughlin, associate director of operations





# HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND 2015

By Chad Osborne

Photos by Lora Gordon

## IT HAPPENS EVERY FALL.

Members of the Radford University community - past and present - gather on campus for Homecoming and Family Weekend to reconnect with old friends and faculty, to meet new people, and to build relationships that will last through future generations of Radford alumni.

The university celebrated its annual Homecoming and Family Weekend Oct. 16-18 with special events to engage current and former students and their families with the Radford University community. Visitors witnessed and experienced the vast changes around campus and explored the new facilities and offerings while sharing memories of the past.

The Alumni and Family Village, Women of Radford Luncheon, an alumni lacrosse game, and tours of the new Student Wellness and Recreation Center and Student Outdoor Recreation Complex were among the Homecoming highlights.

Family Weekend featured a range of cultural and educational events, such as dance and theatre performances, the Appalachian Folk Arts Festival and planetarium shows. Sports fans cheered on the Highlanders at volleyball and soccer games.

Radford University President Penelope W. Kyle hosted parents and families for the "Conversation with the President" in the Covington Center. The president provided updates about the university in her address, which was followed by a question-and-answer session and a light breakfast.

Jennifer and Joe Brady of Virginia Beach attended the conversation to learn about the institution where their son, Jordan, is a freshman.

"You can tell the president and the administration really do care about what they're doing here with the students," Joe Brady said.

As part of the weekend festivities, the Class of 1965 celebrated its Golden Reunion at the Governor Tyler House, the president's official residence, on Saturday evening.

Classmates from the then all-female institution, Radford College, gathered for a special reunion dinner. Forty-eight people attended the event, including alumnae who had in previous years celebrated the 50-year milestone.

Inside the house, classmates reminisced and shared fond memories of their alma mater. For some, the recent visit to campus was their first since graduating half a century ago.

"When did they start calling us women?" joked Emogene Dellinger Adkins '65, who recalled a different title assigned to the female students in the 1960s. "We were ladies."

Earlier that day, more than 100 women of all ages gathered at the third annual Women of Radford Luncheon, remembering Radford's history and celebrating all the women who make up today's campus community.

"We're all women of Radford, but in our history there have been some very extraordinary women," President Kyle said. "These women and many more broke the glass ceiling in business, technology and other fields to pave the way for future generations. Every one of them is a Radford University treasure."

Edna Osborne '65, a member of the Golden Reunion, returned to the campus from Warner-Robins, Georgia, and talked about the campus and the current generation.

"It has been magnificent. The campus is very appealing," Osborne said. "You can tell the students have pride in their school." ■

SAVE THE DATE  
OCTOBER 14-16, 2016  
HOMECOMING AND  
FAMILY WEEKEND 2016



# Partners in Excellence

Luncheon event unites scholarship recipients and their benefactors

By Jeremy Norman

Photo by Lora Gordon

**"I AM** a graduate of Radford and darn proud of it!" said guest speaker Karol Willis Hull '62, benefactor of the Karol Willis Hull Scholarship for Carroll County, Virginia, Students, at the Partners in Excellence Celebration. During the annual luncheon, held in October in Kyle Hall, scholarship recipients met their benefactors and personally thanked them for their support.

In her speech to the nearly 200 guests, Hull was able to succinctly stress the importance of every endowed scholarship.

Hull attended Radford University - then Radford College - with scholarship help. "Without a scholarship, I could not have come to Radford," she said.

Brittany Willard, a junior elementary education major and the 2015-16 recipient of Hull's award, spoke on behalf of this year's scholarship recipients.

"Thank you for your generosity and trusting your gift to a total stranger," Willard said.

"Today we are celebrating you - the benefactors of more than 500 scholarship awards and your hardworking scholarship recipients," said President Penelope W. Kyle at the luncheon. "We are here today for many reasons. But the first reason is to say 'Thank you!' Thank you for caring about RU, thank you for caring about our students and thank you for your support."

Lena Gunville, a recreation, parks, and tourism major and recipient of the A. Victor Thomas Recreation & Leisure Services Scholarship, said that the scholarship went beyond financial benefits.

"It's amazing, not only financially, but it's also touching knowing someone else is rooting for you to succeed," Gunville said.

It was not just the students who were excited



From left, scholarship benefactors Genevieve Johnson and Andrew Johnson with scholarship recipients Lena Gunville and Bianca Billings

about the opportunities offered by the luncheon, as scholarship benefactors also looked forward to being able to meet the recipients of their gifts.

"I am so excited to meet them," said Genevieve Johnson, benefactor of the A. Victor Thomas Recreation & Leisure Services Scholarship. "Their journeys are so inspiring."

For Bianca Billings, a senior recreation, parks and tourism major, the scholarship helps

inspire her toward success.

"It was the motivation for me to do better. It helped keep me on track," she said.

For some students, such as sophomore Lizzie Kunde, the scholarships offered educational opportunities they would never have been able to experience otherwise.

"I will be able to study abroad in Finland," said Kunde, a music therapy major and recipient of the Bethany Lorraine Rooker Dance Scholarship.

Troy and Clare Levison, benefactors of the Alliant Techsystems at RFAAP Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund, stressed the importance of events like the Partners in Excellence Celebration.

"It's great to meet the recipients. It is good to see that the money donated is going to a good cause - to help meet the needs of the student," Troy Levison said.

Brandon Dunford, a Spanish and religious studies major who was seated next to his benefactors, added, "It's an investment in education. It shows that I have the support of others." ■



# Making a Difference by Remembering the Past

By Dan Waidelich

Photo by Joe Mahoney



Ted Shealy '95 is lead representative, docent and educator at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. His grandfather's Dachau concentration camp number can be seen on the breast pocket of his suit jacket as a reminder to museum patrons of the reality of the Holocaust and its atrocities against humanity.



# H

istory shows us that the enormity of a tragedy can quickly become incomprehensible.

When millions of lives are lost due to hate, oppression and injustice, as they were in the

Holocaust, two words escape the lips of an entire world: “never again.”

For Ted Shealy '95, those words are emblematic of a personal quest to do his part to make a better world and to honor his own family's history.

Since his graduation from Radford University, Shealy has worked at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., as a museum services lead representative, docent and educator.

Shealy's responsibilities include the management of museum volunteer and tour programs, and advocacy for the museum.

The museum itself hosts citizens, foreign visitors and world leaders in an effort to educate all about just how quickly hatred and violence can destroy human dignity.

“We use our exhibits about the Holocaust, and other genocides, to educate and protect people around the world,” said Shealy, who is himself descended from Holocaust survivors.

Shealy's grandfather was a survivor of Dachau, one of the earliest Nazi concentration camps. Tens of thousands lost their lives at the camp, and survivors, like Shealy's grandfather, were forced to learn to live with the cruelty they endured therein.

During his time at Radford University, Shealy chose to

study abroad. While pursuing courses at Middlesex College in London, he took a trip to the camp outside Munich where his grandfather was confined.

“It was only 50 years ago at that point,” Shealy said. “This was not ancient history. This really happened and it could happen again.”

To remind himself, and those he meets, of that sobering fact, Shealy keeps a tangible piece of history at hand: his grandfather's camp number - 25191 - which Shealy wears on his clothes.

The history major was a keen student, but the experience in Germany helped cement his desire to make a difference.

“I always treasured students like Ted,” said Kenneth Werrell, retired Radford University professor of history. “He asked substantial questions in my class and showed real interest in our topics. I was not surprised to hear that he took the position that he did.”

For Werrell, the Holocaust Memorial Museum showcases the importance of historical literacy.

“If we don't pay attention to the lessons of the past, we are going to make the same

mistakes,” he said. “I admire those that are able to take their study of the past and help change the present, like Ted.”

Shealy is not the only Radford University alumnus working to improve the world around him, but he serves as an example of the level to which they are doing so.

History shows us that even a small tragedy can affect many. It also shows us that the actions of a few can help save a multitude. ■



Ted Shealy '95, dressed as a soldier next to a young well-wisher during a WWII reenactment in France and Belgium in 2004

Submitted photo

“If we don't pay attention to the lessons of the past, we are going to make the same mistakes.”

Kenneth Werrell, retired Radford University professor of history





Nathan Taylor '04



Rob Barrett '07

## SCHOLARSHIP Offers LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES

By Mary Hardbarger

Photos by Lora Gordon



In 2004, Nathan Taylor '04 stepped foot on a plane to China and never looked back.

Taylor, a sculpture major, had just graduated from Radford University and was traveling with a group of students who, like him, were scholarship recipients of the Kirk Scholars Program.

The Zylphia Shu-En Kirk Endowment was established in 1999 by Radford University alumnus and former university Board of Visitors Rector R.J. Kirk '76. The program, named in honor of Kirk's daughter, enables selected students to travel to China and study the culture while continuing their Mandarin studies.

Guided by Associate Professor I-Ping Fu, Kirk Scholars travel to different cities, eat local cuisine and interact with students at other universities. For Taylor, the journey was also the start of his job search.

"The Kirk Scholars Program literally opened up a world of opportunities for me," Taylor said.

“The Kirk Scholars Program literally opened up a world of opportunities for me.”

Nathan Taylor '04

Taylor said he fell in love with the country, so much so he decided to make it his home.

When he returned to his Roanoke, Virginia, hometown, he packed his bags and moved to China just months later. Today, he is thriving there, personally and professionally.

"It was an exciting time for me," Taylor said. "I began training teachers and learning about management within training schools. Most recently, I was granted a full scholarship by the Chinese government and was accepted into a Master of Architecture program at Nanjing University."

Taylor also found companionship. He met his future wife in China, and they currently live in the city of Nanjing.

Rob Barrett '07, who earned both his B.B.A. in economics and B.A. in German at Radford University, says that being a Kirk Scholar helped him obtain his first job in Global Sourcing at Advance Auto Parts in Roanoke, Virginia. Currently, Barrett is a corporate attorney for the company, but his experiences and knowledge of China gave him an advantage to get his foot in the door.



"I was a Kirk Scholar for my junior and senior years at Radford University. This program gave me an amazing look at China's economy and culture. It was really great to be a part of a program like this to learn the culture and business of China," said Barrett.

To be eligible for the program, students must take two Mandarin Chinese courses and a Chinese culture class. If they maintain a B average in each class, they can embark on the life-changing study abroad experience. Students are only responsible for a small portion of their travel expenses; the rest of the cost is covered by the Kirk endowment.

The trip usually begins in Shanghai where students get to stay with different host families. Students cook, participate in a tea ceremony, practice calligraphy writing and engage in other activities with families. Students can also experience day-to-day shopping at the supermarket. In Beijing, the group travels to famous sites, such as Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace.

On future trips, Fu is working to arrange that each student stays for a few days with a host family to truly experience what day-to-day life is like.

"It is my desire that American students can really enter into the Chinese world and have firsthand observation and participation with the Chinese students and their families," Fu said.

That interaction is the aspect senior Jasmine Torres most enjoyed about the program. Torres, of Hampton Roads, traveled to China last summer. The graphic design major said she still keeps in contact with many of the students she met at the Chinese universities.

"Meeting them was my absolute favorite part of the trip," Torres said. "They were so friendly and open."

Torres also bonded with her Radford University classmates as they navigated unknown territory.

"We were able to work together to make it those three weeks in a country very different from our own," she said. "I think that is what I gained from this experience: a better understanding of myself and those around me." ■

## THE AGENT OF EDUCATION ABROAD

By Mary Hardbarger



Paul Currant

### OVERSEEING RADFORD

University's international initiatives is London-native Paul Currant.

Currant was hired in 2014 as director of the International Education Center (IEC). Having spent the past 21 years working and living overseas, he brings a wealth of global knowledge to the department that is taking strategic steps to increase the number of students studying abroad, attract more international students, offer faculty rich international experiences and internationalize the university.

Currant estimates about 150 students will study abroad this year. Radford University has signed a pledge with the Institution of International Education to double that number over the next five years. To do that, Currant said, "We have to keep reminding parents and their students how important studying abroad really is."

"Academically, students who study abroad have a higher grade point average," said Currant, referencing a study by the Georgia Learning Outcomes of Students

Studying Abroad Research Initiative. "Students come back more motivated and often go on to graduate school. Personally, you're going to find that you will become better at handling life. You'll be better at handling risks, more confident and more passionate and understanding. Professionally, it's proven that students who study abroad get jobs earlier. They get higher-paying jobs, and over their whole career, they will earn half a million dollars more than someone who has not studied abroad."

Radford University offers several faculty-led study abroad programs that last two to four weeks. Currant is partnering with overseas universities to increase the number of semester-long programs.

This spring, Currant will travel throughout Europe to market Radford University. He says that attracting international students to the university - who represent less than one percent of enrollment - is key to a rich educational experience for Radford University's students.

"To enroll students from different cultures will help students here on our campus think in different ways," he explained. "It will help the faculty think about the way that they're teaching, and it will help the community. You have to do things in different ways, because that is what the world is like."

Exposing the university to the world beyond the confines of campus - an effort Currant calls internationalization - is at the core of the IEC's mission.

"If you're going to teach anything from business to the arts to biochemistry, you have to look at these things globally," he said. ■





By Dan Waidelich

**T**his is a story of two classrooms, as different as can be.

One is not a room at all. It is a digital course for graduate students at a state university, where they can conduct research and explore questions. The other is a space for learning in a juvenile detention center, where residents are

asked to take on the responsibility for themselves, fix their mistakes and learn about the world outside.

Not all classrooms are created equal, nor are the lessons learned in them. Yet, they combine to become something more.

When Nicole Hendrix, associate professor of criminal justice, began preparing her Criminal Justice Research Methods course, she knew she wanted to get her enrolled graduate students' heads out of their books and into the community.

During a meeting with staff at the New River Valley Juvenile Detention Home (NRVJDH) about her own research at the facility, she realized she had her opportunity.

"I need to make research real so my students can see that challenging academic material has a purpose," Hendrix said. "I want to show them we can use our research in a real setting. We can solve problems in our community."

NRVJDH is a secure detention facility that serves the City of Radford and the counties of Montgomery, Giles and Pulaski. The jurisdictions pool their resources to provide care, and an education, for the juveniles who find themselves inside.

The mission of the center is not to write off juveniles who have made serious mistakes, but to provide them guidance and rehabilitation so they may leave as responsible members of the community.

Volunteers, like the six criminal justice graduate students in Hendrix's class, are an important part of that process.

"We have a strong volunteer program here," said NRVJDH Superintendent Joseph W. Young '98. "Talk is cheap, but being here and sitting next to a kid and talking is worth millions. It connects our kids back to their community."

For the students, their ultimate goal in working at the home was to develop a research question about juveniles in the criminal justice system and design a study based on it. Step one, however, was meeting the residents and getting to know them.

"All those things that we read about? Well, we witnessed and engaged with them when we met the kids at the home," said graduate student Ashley Hobbs '14.

Hendrix required the student-volunteers to keep journals of their experiences in the home. Hobbs' are filled with the interactions she had with residents and the myriad ways they link back to what she has learned at Radford University.

"I've studied peer pressure, the connection between delinquent peers and juvenile delinquency," Hobbs said. "And then I was in the home talking with a girl who really wants to do better, but is concerned about the peer pressure on the outside."

In the broadest sense, the line juvenile detainees walk is a fine one. They have made mistakes, but their future remains undecided. Facilities like the NRVJDH strive to provide the education and social skills necessary to righten their ship.

According to Hobbs, that is not always simple. Many juvenile detainees have suffered serious trauma in their lives, affecting their brain functions. Juvenile detainees have been shown to be at greater risk for emotional disorders and learning disabilities. This can make their education a challenging ordeal.

Hobbs met youths at NRVJDH who wanted to turn their lives around, but faced these significant hurdles. It moved her enough to begin her research: an examination of the relationship between trauma and its effects and the education that juvenile detainees need and receive.

"There are things you learn in theory and things you can only learn in the real world, and this is the melding of the two," she said.

Melding the real world and the academic environment is crucial in the eyes of all involved, from Hendrix and her fellow Radford University faculty members to Young and his staff.

"What better way is there to learn about a profession than to be dropped in the middle of it?" Young said. "Being able to experience lecturers and attend workshops are great things, but to be able to get in at ground zero – there's no comparison."

According to Hendrix, this is a program that needs to continue. She has already talked to Young about bringing students back, something the home residents have already asked about.

For Hobbs, the experience won't soon be forgotten.

"We have had an effect on the residents in the facility," Hobbs said. "And they understood that we were invested." ■







# On the Hunt

## A MASTER FALCONER WORKS TO MASTER SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

By Don Bowman

**AT RADFORD UNIVERSITY,** opportunities have opened up new potential, passion and confidence for Shane Brandes.

The former Florida butcher relocated to Radford to reunite with his childhood sweetheart. In the process, his love of the outdoors and hunting have merged with a burgeoning passion for learning and scientific research.

"Because of the life and work thing when I was younger, I never got to college. But now, I am doing scientific research, a priceless opportunity. It is a tremendous experience," said Brandes, who earned his Associate of Arts degree at New River Community College before enrolling at Radford University.

For two years, the senior biology major has been a contributor to the research into parental involvement of eastern bluebirds that Biology Professor Judy Guinan, a behavioral ecologist, and Associate Professor of Biology Jason Davis, an ecophysiologicalist, have been conducting since 2008.

Brandes brought unique qualifications and experience to the project. Not only is he an experienced outdoorsman, hunter and birder, he is also a master falconer, licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"Basically, I flush and he hunts," said Brandes of his hunting partner, Lew, a red-tailed hawk. "From 500 or 1,000 feet in the sky, he swoops. It is exhilarating to watch him fly as well as hunt."

Central to his work are the bluebirds that inhabit Radford University's Selu Conservancy and Bisset Park in Radford. He got to know the birds, and research protocols, working with Guinan and Davis. His experience and enthusiasm put him on the fast track. Brandes was able to

draw blood samples and apply bands as part of Guinan's and Davis' project more quickly than most because of his experience with birds.

From there, Brandes designed, proposed and executed his own study in which a merlin, a bluebird predator, was harmlessly introduced to the bluebirds' environment. He studied the response to such a powerful stimulus. Brandes observed how long it took the bluebird parents to return after the merlin's appearance. He wanted to find out if there were sex-based differences in the way parents responded behaviorally.



Shane Brandes and his red-tailed hunting partner, Lew

Brandes hypothesizes that females are more willing than males to subject themselves to risk to care for their young because females have more invested in the offspring than males do.

"The opportunity to do research as an undergraduate is so unique to Radford University," said Brandes, who is planning to present his findings this spring at The Wildlife Society state meeting and perhaps at an upcoming Virginia Society of Ornithology event. He has his first professional presentation under his belt, having presented at the Summer Undergraduate Research Forum in the fall.

"The research complements what I am learning in the classroom, and I

am getting invaluable experience that will set me apart," Brandes said. "I am in awe of being able to do this as an undergraduate. It will be a huge leg up to say and show that I have done research."

Brandes is working through the grind of data collection in preparation for his presentation, titled "Sex Based Differences in Parental Care in Response to Predation Risk in Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*)."

In his work, he has observed, banded, drawn blood samples, recorded, transcribed and entered data; he has helped interpret findings; and he has communicated his research to expand his scientific repertoire.

"I have been surprised at the level of details. I have had to really extend myself," he said.

The process is exciting and the potential inspiring.

"Science doesn't end. As scientists, we keep moving to the next question," he said. "Hopefully, I can add to the body of knowledge as I grow as a researcher and scientist."

Guinan reflected on the fortunate circumstances that brought Brandes to the research team and on the path toward work as a scientist.

"He came to me after an intro biology class and said 'I'm interested' - the critical first step," she said. "The light bulb really went off when we were talking and he saw potential for his own project."

Guinan expanded upon the value of undergraduate research such as that done by Brandes.

"These students take charge. We help mentor them through the process while they grow. It is a pleasure to see how they contribute to the faculty and their fellow students' projects," said Guinan. "It is really research leadership experience, mastering scientific inquiry and following where their curiosity takes them." ■





Lora Gordon

“ At Radford, I have found a place to do my own research project, I have leadership opportunities and I have connected with teachers who have helped me grow and learn. ”

Hanna Mitchell

# ON THE DOUBLE

SENIOR DOUBLE-MAJOR  
HANNA MITCHELL IS  
MAKING THE MOST OF HER  
RADFORD EDUCATION

By Don Bowman





**HANNA MITCHELL** is maxing out her Radford experience.

The senior from Vienna is double-majoring in applied mathematics and biology, serves as a resident assistant in Norwood Hall, is president of both the Math and STEM clubs and is doing an undergraduate research project. In her time at Radford University, she traveled to the Amazon with the Radford Amazon Research Expedition (RARE) during Maymester 2015 and worked as a math tutor in the Learning Assistance and Resource Center. She recently pledged the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority as well.

In a classic understatement, she said, "I like being busy and am interested in a lot of different things. I am curious and excited to be learning because the value of knowledge is applying it."

When she began her academic career at Radford, she promised herself she would make the most of what Radford University had to offer. Her first step was to visit the Study Abroad Fair on the Bonnie Plaza where she heard of the impending RARE trip to Peru, organized by biology faculty members Jason Davis and Joy Caughron. Central to the trip was an individual research project at Las Piedras Biodiversity Research Station.

"I just knew I had to be part of it," said Mitchell, who embarked on figuring out just how her mathematics passion and studies could be developed into a project that would be accepted. "But I had no sense of what a research project was, nor what I might be able to do."

Conversations with Davis and math instructor John

McGee led her to develop a project that works to identify and catalog fungi, a kingdom of life that is not regularly studied in depth, but one that is vital to ecosystems for its role in the decomposition of organic matter. By creating software to categorize groups of fungi using multiple variables, Mitchell hopes to solve this problem. She is DNA-sampling unknown fungal species from the Peruvian Amazon and comparing them to known species that are used as parameters in order to find the closest species or genus.

"At Radford, I have found a place to do my own research project, I have leadership opportunities and I have connected with teachers who have helped me grow and learn," she said. "Most importantly, I am around so many people who are doing what I want to do - make a spectacular academic career."

Mitchell recounts an anecdote from Move-In Weekend 2015 when she spoke with a freshman who was nervous about her first year at Radford University.

"I told her that Radford is an incredible school. There are so many opportunities here for you. It is filled with hidden gems."

To Mitchell, the faculty is the crown jewel of the Radford educational experience.

"They are supportive and challenging at the same time," she said. "They got me to think above and beyond. They didn't hold my hand, but they encouraged me to work and learn on my own and that is an incredible life lesson." ■



# The Fourth R of Education

# RIVER

By Chad Osborne

Photo by Lora Gordon

*When three faculty members and six students embarked on an eight-day journey on the New River, they made one rule: no complaining.*

It wasn't easy.

There were flips, spills and splashes. There was canoeing across the river in the dark. There was a mile-and-a-half stretch of river that was nearly dry, forcing the adventurers to drag, tug and pull over rugged rocks and through mud, their red canoes and rafts containing hundreds of pounds of equipment - food, tents, sleeping bags, et cetera.

Still, no one complained. That was the rule.

"There were plenty of things to complain about, like the weather, minor injuries and how tired we all were. No one did, though," said student participant Lindsey Faulkner.

"Dragging the raft through shallow areas was very hard and strenuous, but everyone throughout the whole trip had the notion that this was going to be a good week whether we pulled the raft the whole 70 miles or not."

In September, Radford University parks, recreation and tourism Assistant Professor Josh Carroll and English Professor Rick Van Noy led a small group of students through the Semester on the New course, a newly created educational expedition in which the New River, from Radford to (almost) West Virginia, became the classroom.

"The course is an interdisciplinary field experience where students get to learn and live what we're teaching in the classrooms," Carroll explained. "It's an exceptional

collaborative effort between the faculty and the students. They have to give a lot for this. They leave everything behind, and we're all just a unit floating down the river for eight days."

Most of the six participating students - Richard Nielsen, Patrick Schrader, Makayla Beckner, Lindsay Stansfield,

Lindsay Thompson and Lindsey Faulkner - were enrolled in a fall semester cluster of five classes that included critical thinking; religion; biology; Appalachian studies; and recreation, parks and tourism.

Students ditched pens for paddles, and doing homework meant setting up a campsite and cooking food for everyone.

"You get to know these students on such a different level than you do in the classroom," said Van Noy, an English professor. "Normally, I'm this guy in front of the classroom. But out there on the river, I'm paddling next to my students in a canoe. They were freer out there, and they asked questions. And, whatever curiosity they had, just came out. Whereas in the classroom they might think, 'OK, is this the appropriate time to ask that question?' Things became a lot more real."

Being out on the river, however, did not put the brakes on classroom responsibilities. One morning, biology Instructor Anthony Curtis met the group at their campsite for "water quality testing in the freezing cold water,"

“You get to know these students on such a different level than you do in the classroom.”

Rick Van Noy, English professor







recalled Patrick Schrader, a sophomore geospatial sciences major from Stephens City. “This experience was not what I was expecting. It was much better.”

The travelers met their share of adversity on the river, but they learned, gained confidence and bonded through the chaos. But, living on the water for a week wasn’t all hard times; there were plenty of fun and interesting times, too.

For example, they spent the night on an island inhabited by goats; crossed the river in the dark; went fishing and observed eagles and osprey; participated in a drum circle with another group of college students they encountered on the river; and dined on locally sourced foods at an autumn harvest fest, where – ahem – goat was an appetizer.

“It’s that kind of stuff that made it so cool,” Carroll said. “You’re never going to get anything like that in a regular classroom. You’re never going to have those experiences with your student or your professor in a classroom.”

The trip may have been a life-changer for some students, Van Noy said.

It was for Lindsay Stansfield. She was unsure about coming back to Radford for the 2015-16 school year until,

she said, “I received a slip of paper in the mail” about Semester on the New.

“I never thought that the river along the campus would have provided me with the journey I have always longed for, a journey of a lifetime on a beautiful river,” Stansfield said. “It was a trip that I would have loved to last longer. I wouldn’t have had it any other way, even with our struggles.”

For Schrader, the experience was unlike any he’d had in a classroom.

“This trip really opened my eyes to how important it is for people, of any kind, to stop and appreciate life,” he said. “That’s what this trip was for me, an appreciation.”

Carroll plans to offer Semester on the New again in the fall of 2017. Would these students do it again?

“Of course,” Faulkner said.

“Every part of it,” Schrader confirmed. “From hurting my leg dragging the raft on Tuesday and having problems with it for the rest of the time, to climbing a tree that had fallen in the middle of the river to its highest point and seeing one of the most breathtaking views I have had the privilege to see.”

Yep, they would sign up again ... with no complaints. ■



# Field Research

## CHELSE PRATHER'S LAB FINDS ANSWERS IN TALL GRASS

By Don Bowman

Photos by Lora Gordon

**A MYRIAD OF** complex relationships make up the world in which we live.

Assistant Professor of Biology Chelse Prather and her team of students are working on two research projects aimed at understanding some of these unstudied relationships that form a unique ecosystem.

The research team's central questions are: Does the population of invertebrate species in an ecosystem affect that ecosystem's health? What factors affect the ecosystem's population and diversity of invertebrates?

Recently, Prather's lab began studying the ubiquitous grasshoppers and the endangered coastal tallgrass prairies of East Texas. Among the variables being studied are the micronutrient compositions of the plants upon which the grasshoppers feed. In the lab, Prather and her team are also beginning to conduct similar studies at the Radford University Selu Conservancy to see if the restored

prairie at this site and those across the nation operate in similar ways.

The increasing rapid extinction of insect species adds a sense of urgency. According to recent studies, although insect species are going extinct extremely quickly, most of their extinctions are not documented.

"The basic science is lacking and the question is 'does diversity matter to how ecosystems operate,'" said Prather. "There has been a lot of work on plant diversity in the ecosystem, little on the role of the insects."

Joining Prather on the projects are five Radford University students:

**Jalynn Best**, a sophomore biology and psychology major from Leesburg

**Megan Collier**, a senior biology major from Lynchburg

**Marisa Dameron**, a junior biology major from Roanoke

**Zach Pillis**, a senior biology major from Salem

**Annie Rudasill**, a junior biology major from Blacksburg

Last summer, Prather and two students - Dameron and Ashley Sheretz of Roanoke, both senior biology majors - joined colleagues from the University of Houston (UH) to set up a series of large fertilization plots and collect soil, plant and insect samples to serve as pre-treatment data to determine if calcium, potassium and sodium affect plant and insect communities. The site of the study is at the UH Coastal Center, an environmental research and educational center that contains about 300 acres of endangered coastal tallgrass prairie.

Upon their return, Dameron and Sheretz spent the rest of the summer in laboratories in Radford's Reed and



Marisa Dameron is part of a team of student researchers, led by professor Chelse Prather, investigating how grasshoppers affect the health of the endangered coastal tallgrass prairies of East Texas.



Curie Halls peering into microscopes to sort through and identify the resident insects swept from the prairie tallgrass. Their tedious, but vital, contribution to science was the beginning of an inventory of the insect population for this ecosystem.

Despite grasshoppers' bad rap that harkens back to the plagues of the Old Testament, Prather said they play important roles in sustaining a healthy ecosystem. Grasshoppers can help native plants through both their selective feeding and the sometimes fertilizing effects of their feces.

Heretofore, Prather said the insect communities have been managed indiscriminately, generally with pesticides. The Prather Lab and collaborators from the University of Houston will also begin an experiment to determine if the number of species of grasshoppers affects how grasslands function, resulting in more plants and a more sustainable system.

Prather and her colleagues hope that their research may help to find a way to manage an insect community that is compatible, not competitive, with cattle - an industry central to the Texas economy. A sustainable ecosystem rich in plants and insects is vital to the health of the rangeland, a food source for cattle. The coastal tallgrass prairie is the forerunner of today's rangelands where insects like grasshoppers compete with cattle for plants to eat.

Prather is the primary investigator on the research project, underwritten by the National Science Foundation for more than \$500,000. The project's scientific aspect is complemented by the opportunity to engage young scientists in the process of fieldwork, according to Prather.

"One of my favorite parts of being an ecology faculty member is doing research with students out in the field. The students will see a unique environment, an ecosystem that



Prather's (center) research team includes Marisa Dameron (bottom left) Jalyynn Best (top left), Annie Rudisill (top right), Megan Collier (bottom right) and Zach Pillis (not pictured).

is severely endangered, of which only one tenth of one percent of the original remains," said Prather. "In the process, they gain valuable experience."

Prather and her team of Radford students will return periodically to the site during the three-year grant's duration to advance the study. In

the new Center for the Sciences, the team will raise grasshoppers as well by manipulating the micronutrient content of their feed. They will also create a database to enrich the knowledge of the complexity of the tallgrass prairie's ecosystem by identifying the ecosystem's resident insects. ■



Megan Collier advances the Prather Lab's research efforts.





# HOMEGROWN TALENT

By Asyia Mitchell '16

Photos by Dyann Busse, Richard Shumaker and Savannah Wood



From left to right, Hannah Duff, Lexi Denny, Jessi Wollmann and Jane Everett are all smiles as they pose for a picture inside their locker room.

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY** Women's Soccer draws talent from across the nation. It also features some of the best players in the New River Valley.

Meet Jessi Wollmann, Jane Everett, Hannah Duff and Lexi Denny — the “locals” of Radford University’s women’s soccer team. Common to all four growing up were neighboring hometowns – Radford (Denny), Christiansburg (Duff) and Blacksburg (Wollmann and Everett) – and their determination to play Division I soccer, a goal they knew would be difficult to score.

“We knew the amount of hard work and dedication it would take to stand out in our small area,” explained Duff.

But these four young women were ready for the challenge.

Growing up in the New River Valley, they played both with and against one another, taking inspiration from each other’s determination and talent. When they got to Radford, each one saw what the other three would bring to the team.

## MEN'S SOCCER HIGHLIGHTS



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1. Unbeaten at home in 2015 (8-0-1)
2. Secured program's sixth Big South regular-season championship
3. Head Coach Marc Reeves guided the Highlanders to the third-most single-season wins (14) in program history
4. Sivert Daehlie led RU in goals scored (13) en route to being named Big South Freshman of the Year
5. Radford climbed to as high as No. 20 in the national RPI—a program record



This familiarity didn't just pay off on the soccer field — it also helped them transition into other aspects of college life. Both Wollmann and Everett say they felt a sense of “relief” seeing the familiar faces of Denny and Duff on the same side of the playing field upon entering Radford University as freshmen.

These fortunate circumstances aren't the mere by-product of a lucky bounce. Myriad reasons informed the decisions of these four young women to attend Radford University.

“I actually chose Radford, initially, because of the academic aspect ... Soccer was just an added bonus for me,” explained Wollmann, who also cited free laundry at her parents' house as part of Radford's allure.

Maintaining close ties to family and friends in the area is, of course, another benefit of staying local.

As a self-declared homebody, Everett says Radford University has been a wonderful fit. And, according to

Denny — who “always thought I was going to go [to college] away from home” — being able to grab a home-cooked meal between classes is a huge plus.

Duff echoes her teammates' appreciation of Radford University, and has a positive view of going to college in the next town over, saying she has access to “a great support system that just adds to the happiness Radford University has provided me.”

This homegrown subdivision of Radford University Women's Soccer adds something few Division I teams at mid-size universities can offer.

Happy to share their insider's perspective on Radford with their teammates — some of

whom are decidedly less local with hometowns in Florida, California and Canada — Wollmann, Everett, Duff and Denny make Radford University and the surrounding region a place cherished by both those who've arrived from faraway places and those who've come from right down the road. ■

“I actually chose Radford, initially, because of the academic aspect ... Soccer was just an added bonus for me.”

Jessi Wollmann



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6. Daniel O'Keefe became the first Highlander to earn Big South Defensive Player of the Year
7. Twenty-eight of Radford's Big South-best 44 goals were scored by underclassmen
8. Aitor Pouseu Blanco and the Highlanders combined for nine shutouts in 2015, which ranked second in the Big South
9. Fraser Colmer became the second straight Radford men's soccer player to be named an Academic All-American
10. Radford qualified for its third NCAA postseason appearance in program history





## DOUG DAY '93

# MORE THAN A SHOOTER

By Jeff Fife '92

**SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA** has a strong history of cultivating star-talent basketball players, including J.J. Redick, Curtis Staples and last year's NBA MVP Stephen Curry.

Before all of these great players, though, there was Radford Athletics and Big South Conference Hall of Famer Doug Day '93, whose No. 20 jersey was honored prior to the tipoff of the Dec. 9, 2015 showdown between Radford University and Virginia Tech.

Day is the first Radford University Men's Basketball player to be recognized in this manner, a fitting testament to his myriad accomplishments during his playing career.

A fiery competitor who had the perfect blend of dead-aim accuracy and a blistering-fast release, the 6-foot-1 shooting guard was the first-ever college player to hit 400 three-pointers. Put simply, Day is the Neil Armstrong of college basketball long ball.

In his junior season, Day led the nation with 117 threes, averaging over four three-point field goals a game, leading the Highlanders to a Big South Conference championship and a second consecutive 20-win season along the way.

Each game, the home of the Highlanders was a frenzied circus of celebration. For a Radford student and basketball fan, it was the perfect storm, with Head Coach Oliver Purnell pushing a fast tempo, a surrounding cast of penetrators and passers, and a local establishment offering free waffle fries for every ticket holder after a 100-point output.

In a small and intimate climate, with the stands looming over the court, chants of WAFTOS vibrated off the cloth ceiling of the Dedmon Center whenever Radford University got over 90 points. Day and his teammates were always happy to oblige the fans and push the offense for 40 minutes.

Day finished his college career with 401 three-pointers, which ranks him 12th all-time. He remains Radford's all-time leading scorer with 2,027 career points, averaging 17.3 points per game for his career — statistics that garnered him All-Big South honors each of his four seasons at Radford University.

It's appropriate that his recognition this past December came with the hometown Hokies in the house, as the New River Valley has been a significant part of Day's upbringing and impact.

Currently the head coach of the Blacksburg High School boys' basketball team, Day — who attributes much of his success to his parents — grew up in Blacksburg playing in recreation leagues under his father's coaching and tutelage.

"I'd spend hours and hours in the gym with my father. Shoot. Shoot. Come off screens and shoot. Come off the dribble and





shoot. Dad would put me through drills ... It paid off."

Day's hard work didn't go unnoticed. He became an All-Group AA basketball high school player and caught the eye of Purnell and his assistant, Dr. Ron Bradley.

"Purnell sold me on the opportunity to play at a Division I school," said Day. "I could play right away, play close to home, and have my parents see my games. I could get a great education and play basketball at the highest level. It was a win-win situation."

The impact of his parents continued through his college career. Growing up, his parents instilled in him and his two sisters the drive to set goals and work hard. As a college athlete, that drive was kicking in hard.

"I continued to set goals in college. I'd write them on my wall. I had goals on the court and in the classroom. My junior year I was

shooting well and climbing the chain of the three-point champions and thought I might be able to obtain the top spot, and I did. My senior year, I decided I wanted to get 400 threes. I was blessed with good health and blessed to be able to do that."

Fast-forward 20 years later and Day is instilling the same drive for success, on and off the court, in his players at Blacksburg High School. Taking over the coaching reigns in 2002, Day even invited his father to join his staff after his dad's retirement from the Radford Armory.

"It's the simple things to be successful," Day urges. "There is no quick fix; you have to work for it. We put the emphasis on the small things, the fundamentals. It's important to be successful in the short term and the long term in sports and in life. I still love the sport and try to influence the kids in a positive way and give back to them like it was taught to me."


Although Day's father passed away three years ago, Day says he knows he was with him in spirit during the ceremony that honored his impressive accomplishments.

"I've felt overwhelmed, honored, blessed and humbled," Day said of the honor. "There have been a lot of great players before me and after me at Radford. To have my jersey retired is special and I appreciate the honor and experience."

After all the excitement and ceremony, Day returns to what is most important in his life: instilling leadership in his student-athletes and spending time with his wife Dana '94, his kids Rachel (13) and Ella (8), and his mother Betty.

"Sports are a great avenue to accomplish what you want to accomplish, but it's important to be a great person to your friends, family and community." ■





“My professors prepared me by expecting excellence.”

Penelope Shumate '93

The Road to Lincoln Center  
Penelope Shumate takes the stage

By Leslie King

Standing on stage at New York's Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center, alumna Penelope Shumate '93 had a moment of realization.

**AS A PROFESSIONAL** vocalist who had performed at numerous impressive venues – including the legendary Carnegie Hall 11 times – it was during this concert that Shumate became aware she had accomplished a major goal set during her student years at Radford University.

Originally pursuing a degree in radio and television broadcasting, everything changed during a class with Professor Emeritus Clarity James. They watched a video of the opera “Carmen.”

“I could not believe that people could make such beautiful and large sounds without amplification,” Shumate said. “That was it for me!” Thus, Shumate graduated in 1993 with two Bachelor of Science degrees – one in radio and television broadcasting, the other in vocal performance.

Alice Stout



While at Radford, James took the opera workshop class to the Avery Fisher Hall to see a concert. It was this moment that Shumate recalled as she stood on the very same stage.

“During my recent debut there, I looked up into the audience where I remember sitting and realized I had come full circle,” Shumate said. She was the successful vocal performer she had set out to become.

Her recent soloist engagements include returns to Carnegie Hall with Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) and to Avery Fisher Hall. She also debuted with the Quincy Symphony Orchestra of Illinois, the Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra in Virginia, and the Rapides Symphony Orchestra and the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra, both in Louisiana.

Shumate was also recently recognized by The American Prize for “Excellence in the Performance of Oratorio” for her work as the soprano soloist in Handel’s “Messiah” at Avery Fisher Hall presented by DCINY.

Such prestige increases her engagements with operatic and orchestral organizations, which are the two types of performances she undertakes. Companies hire Shumate based on her professional credentials, recommendations or reengagements, though sometimes she will travel to a company’s auditions.

For her opera roles, she rehearses two to four weeks as she delves into character development and tries out artistic ideas. These rehearsals also provide opportunities to work with other opera singers and directors.

“I also enjoy the singer/conductor relationship in live opera performance,” she said. “When I work with a great conductor who really cares about singers, it feels like a synergistic partnership.”

Performing as a soloist with an orchestra is different. The rehearsals are limited to one or two prior to the performance. Though exhilarating, she must have complete command of the music and remain flexible enough to make any quick changes the conductor may ask of her.

With the orchestra behind her, she relishes the wall of sound it produces.

“I enjoy the fact that all of the artists onstage work as one to make a beautiful expression of the music,” she said. “Most of the time the lights are bright enough to see the faces in the audience, and I enjoy communicating with them through my singing.”

Shumate credits Radford University for providing her with the skills she uses to communicate.

“My professors prepared me by expecting excellence,” she said. “They set the bar very high and their challenges made me a better musician.”

When she is not performing, Shumate carries these lessons forward to her students at Western Illinois University, where she serves as assistant professor of voice. ■

Submitted photos



A class with Professor Emeritus Clarity James inspired Penelope Shumate '93 to pursue opera. Since graduating from Radford 13 years ago, her beautiful voice has filled Carnegie Hall 11 times.



# The Return of the

By Leslie King

Photos by Leslie King



**INSULTS FLY** across the stage, going from modern jest to something more Shakespearean. And when these stop, the theatre majors – senior Zak Bacon and sophomore Amanda Barr – look smug. The audience is enlightened by the sparring of Renaissance English.

The students are part of the Porterfield Ensemble, a traveling Radford University Department of Theatre and Cinema program. The play is an adaptation of Tina Turley's "Brush Up Your Shakespeare," which is a light, informative look at the work and times of the great writer.

The ensemble is a project of Wesley Young, professor of theatre. It originated from former theatre Chair Dr. Roberto Pomo. When Young started at the university in 2000, he was asked to take on the ensemble and have a show ready to travel by fall 2001.

"Originally, the [Porterfield Ensemble] was structured to rehearse for an entire semester and then tour the next," Young said. "Being young and naïve – perhaps even a bit foolhardy – I thought since a whole semester seemed like a long time to rehearse that we should do two shows."

So they did. They performed Young's adaptation of "Spoon River Anthology" as well as a show for younger audiences focusing on the Cinderella story in various cultures.

Young directed the ensemble another year until a curriculum revamping in the theatre department signaled its end. His faculty hours were needed for upper-level performance classes instead.

However, with additional faculty meeting the needs of the aforementioned classes, Young began discussions with Carl Lefko, chair of the department, to bring back the ensemble.






# Porterfield Ensemble

"We had some room in our class schedule and decided to bring back the Porterfield Ensemble," Lefko said. "It provides an excellent experiential opportunity for our majors to engage the community with their art beyond the walls of Radford University. We are also able to demonstrate to area high school students the high quality of our theatre training program."

This quality was on display during a performance for Appalachian Arts and Studies in the Schools (AASIS) scholars. AASIS provides students with opportunities to learn about Appalachian culture and encourages promising young Southwest Virginia students to pursue higher education.

"The ensemble Shakespeare performance was well-received by the AASIS scholars as was evident by their attentiveness and the wealth of questions they posed in the talkback," said Ruth Derrick, AASIS coordinator. "Further confirmation showed up in the scholar evaluations. The play received the number one mention as their favorite part of the RU visit."

In addition to Bacon and Barr, the remaining ensemble members are all sophomores from Virginia and include Rebecca Haas, Kyle North and Becca Redifer. The stage manager is senior Kyle Gillikin. Their semester-long class, which meets for three hours two days a week, helps the ensemble with their professionalism, focusing on rehearsal habits and practices.




Scenes from the Porterfield Ensemble's performance of "Brush Up Your Shakespeare"

"Folks just start doing theatre, usually in high school, and they 'go with the flow,'" Young said. His goal is to have students make rehearsal as productive and creative as possible. They discuss concepts such as etiquette and memorization. In addition, each member keeps a journal of their experiences and is responsible for supplying props or other production needs.

In past years, students were required to audition for a spot in the class. However, this year's group auditioned for specific roles in the production.

After finishing their season in early 2016, the department plans to continue the Porterfield Ensemble tradition of providing a touring company to regional schools. ■



Ensemble members and mentor Wesley Young answer questions during an after-show talkback.





# Keeping Up with the YOUNG GUNS from Graphic Design

By Leslie King

**THEY ARE** creatives shaping the world with good design and they represent recent graphic design alumni from Radford University. These young guns are Sarah Barton '12, Derick Anies '13, Sandi Deitrich '13, Andrew Beaver '14 and Elizabeth Dreher '14.

Barton is an associate art director at Richmond magazine and managing art director for Richmond Bride magazine. She designs layouts and assigns photographers and illustrators to create artwork for stories. For Richmond Bride, Barton oversees the design by helping conceptualize fashion shoots, and hiring models and stylists.

## SARAH BARTON '12



Anies is a designer at Weebly in New York, an online platform for clients' websites, blogs and online stores. He designs user experiences and interfaces, with an emphasis on desktop and mobile products.

The Charlotte design firm, BOLTgroup, is Deitrich's employer. As a graphic designer, she works on packaging and advertisements as well as resizing and retouching images.

Beaver designs for the Blacksburg-based Uncork-It Inc., an advertising and marketing company. He creates mailers, websites and posters in addition to doing motion graphics, illustration and video editing.

Dreher works for Advance Auto Parts in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she is a production artist. She creates designs for bimonthly promotional material distributed to commercial customers.

All five began working in design shortly after graduating.

Though Barton knew she wanted to be a designer, finding her exact niche was hard.

"It was really a process of elimination that led me to where I am now," she said. "Once I came back to Richmond magazine and designed my first feature, I realized this was the creative outlet I was craving."

Anies worked as a graphic designer for an online grocer before Weebly.

"One of the best things about working at Weebly is the curated culture," he explained. "When we hire people, our decision weighs heavily on their talent and whether or not they fit within the culture."

For these alumni to find their success, the university's graphic design program played an important role for all.

Barton credits the broad design education, which gave her confidence to go into every job and say, "Yes, I've done that before." She also says New



## DERICK ANIES '13





SANDI DEITRICH '13



Student Programs and Greek Life helped her polish her communication skills.

Anies praises the program for providing both a solid education as well as networking opportunities with alumni, which helped him land his first job.

Deitrich echoes this sentiment, referencing her involvement with the Radford AIGA student group (a national graphic design association), where she

ANDREW BEAVER '14



met her future employer during a portfolio review. They kept in touch and Deitrich was eventually offered a position.

Though Beaver had prior design experience, he says the program helped him hone his skills. He learned about the complexity of the profession and the reasons why visual elements work together.

For Dreher, she credits her success to personal interaction with faculty and her employment as a student designer with the College of Visual and Performing Arts. That experience helped her feel as though she could take on the world outside of college.

After completing her first project at Advance Auto Parts, Dreher knew she was ready. "Seeing the finished product and looking back at the whole process, I realized that even if things get tough, this is what I love to do," she said.

When asked if they saw themselves in their current positions while Radford University students, Deitrich summed it up best. "I'm definitely not where I thought I would be after I graduated, but I'm exactly where I hoped to be." ■

ELIZABETH DREHER '14





# REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

## *with RU Outdoors*

By Mary Hardbarger

Photos by Andrew Borak



**I**t's no secret that Southwest Virginia is home to some of the nation's greatest outdoor treasures. From the pristine New River - one of the world's oldest tributaries - to the rolling Appalachian Mountains, the area is truly representative of nature's bounty. Situated in the heart of it all is Radford University, a prime higher-education destination for students seeking adventure.

"From the rivers to the rocks, this area is the outdoor hub of the East Coast," said Andrew Borak '08.

Borak is the assistant director for the Student Recreation and Wellness Department and oversees all of the outdoor programs, which offer a wide range of activities designed to thrill. Rock climbing, mountain biking, skydiving and kayaking are among the heart-racing activities students can explore. At the RU Outdoors office, located inside the new Student Recreation and Wellness Center, students have access to a variety of outdoor accessories, such as camping equipment, canoes and mountain bikes.

"Anything you need to go outside, you can get it with us," Borak said.

Locally, students enjoy tubing down the New River and traversing the abundant hiking and biking trails. Just hours away in West Virginia and North Carolina are world-class whitewater rapids. Grayson Highlands State Park in Mouth of Wilson, Virginia - about 90 miles south of Radford - is one of the most beautiful spots on the Appalachian Trail, Borak said. The park, where wild ponies roam freely, is a favorite of senior Derek Stokes of Woodbridge.

Stokes is a student-worker employed by RU Outdoors. Students apply each semester for positions within the program that prepare them for real-world challenges and teach leadership skills. In order to qualify, students must undergo rigorous testing, training and skill evaluations, including the facilitation of a trip from start to finish.

"Students are really vested in this program," said Director of Student Recreation and Wellness Barry Miller. "And I think that adds to its quality."

Stokes took his first trip with RU Outdoors his freshman year.



“Through RU Outdoors, I found my spot at Radford University and a great group of friends who are looking to better themselves.”

Derek Stokes



RU Outdoors fosters a “challenge-by-choice” environment in its activities. Whether caving, paddleboarding, hiking or rafting, all participants have a hand in establishing group expectations.

“The experience really inspired me,” he said. “To see a student just two years older than me leading a full trip by himself made me want to get involved and be in that same situation.”

Stokes became an RU Outdoors volunteer as a sophomore and scaled his way up to his current title of rock-climbing leader.

“This has been a highlight of my college career,” he said. “Through RU Outdoors, I found my spot at Radford University and a great group of friends who are looking to better themselves.”

Among Stokes’ group of outdoor companions is Sophie Knudsen ’15, a former rock-climbing leader.

Knudsen recalled being a young teen when her cousin, also a Radford University alumna, would share stories of her trips with RU Outdoors and take her on similar adventures.

“From those experiences with her, I chose to go to Radford,” Knudsen said.

The most life-changing trip Knudsen took with the program was a two-week summer excursion to the

Colorado Rockies. There, she and eight others rock climbed and hiked with the goal of reaching a 14,000-foot peak.

“We never reached the peak. We were about 2,000 feet away when conditions dictated that we turn around,” she said. “It was pretty disappointing, but exhilarating at the same time. It taught me a lot about myself; to be more self-sufficient and independent.”

On that trip, she formed friendships she may have never enjoyed without RU Outdoors.

“The thing that’s great about this program is that we’re all from different walks of life,” Knudsen said. “We all have different interests, but it is here where our passion for the outdoors collides. And that’s true for student-leaders and participants alike. I think that plays a huge role in people finding their niche and drive at Radford University.” ■







**RADFORD**  
**HIGHLAND**  
ESTABLISHED



**RADFORD**  
UNIVERSITY

**RADFORD**

**THE NORTH FACE**



# OWN IT

## A DISABLED VETERAN REDISCOVERS MOTIVATION TO SUCCEED

By Mary Hardbarger

Photo by Lora Gordon

**HELEN CURRANT** is no stranger to setbacks.

At age 19, the Georgia-born daughter of a London native and an American woman was 30-percent disabled, walking on crutches and medically retired from the United States Army.

The normally free-spirited and fit teen had a choice to make: let the injury own her, or own the injury. It was a no-brainer. Currant is resilient.

"It took me a while to rediscover that motivation to want to succeed," Currant said. "Bad things happen. You just have to overcome them like anything else."

Fast-forward four years later, the 23-year-old is now 100-percent motivated, competing in triathlons and on track to graduate from Radford University with a B.S. in criminal justice.

In addition to personal willpower, Currant credits her future alma mater on her road to recovery.

"Radford has given me so many opportunities," she said. "So many people have helped me along the way, and here, I'm able to give back."

**CURRANT'S** positive mindset can be traced to her transient and active lifestyle. She lived in five states and two countries before moving to Virginia in December 2014. As a child, she swam, played tennis and practiced gymnastics. She also volunteered.

"I'm someone who has always liked the aspect of helping people," Currant said. "It was kind of engrained in me."

Also engrained was a fascination with law enforcement. When she graduated high school, she joined the Army. Stationed in Fort Hood, Texas, she served as a volunteer firefighter. In 2011, she was deployed to Iraq where an accident would soon dictate her fate.

Currant was climbing down a rope when she fell and broke her right kneecap in half. Doctors told her she would never fully recover, so she was medically retired.

"I think the injury was definitely life-changing," Currant said. "I've always been very athletic, and then all of a sudden I couldn't walk. That was really hard."

After months of rehabilitation, she slowly regained mobility.

In Florida, she joined the police academy and completed an EMT program. Overseas, her father, Paul Currant, had learned of a thriving, mid-size school in Virginia. Radford University was searching for a new director of international education, and Currant was a perfect fit. Both father and daughter had found their new home.

Currant enrolled in spring 2015 with help from the university's Military Resource Center (MRC).

"Being able to interact with other veterans was so important," Currant said. "That brotherhood never leaves you, even after you leave the military. Veterans face a lot of challenges coming back to school and transitioning to a whole new world they're not used to. So, it's really nice to have that resource available."

Currant now works at the MRC and mentors fellow veterans.

Aside from her job, she is president of three campus organizations, including a triathlon club she founded last fall. She retains a 4.0 GPA and follows a regimented workout routine and diet. This summer she'll travel to China as part of the Kirk Scholars Program.

"I feel like I've accomplished a lot at Radford," Currant said. "I'm someone who wants to do everything, and Radford has so much to offer. You just have to seek out those opportunities."

After graduation, Currant plans to pursue a master's degree and her dream job: an FBI agent. ■

Currant (front center) enjoys the camaraderie of fellow members of the triathlon club she founded last fall.



# Calling all Creativity!

We invite alumni to send us original creative works! Express your creativity with words, paintbrushes and any other medium that lends to presentation in the magazine. Send submissions to [editor@radford.edu](mailto: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 to the magazine.

## Alumni Artistry

### Summoning

By Jeanne Shannon (Velma Jean Boyd Shannon '56)

There's nobody here from the long ago.  
It's summer, and I'm alone in the apple orchard.

The Starks are ripe, and the Roman Beauties,  
but no one comes  
to gather the rosy windfall.

I look out through the leaves and the waist-high horseweed,  
and see the old schoolyard,  
where, after the chalk dust and paper of lessons,  
we played London Bridge and Red Rover.

But no one arrives from those childhood mornings,  
when all the world lay before us,  
young, and dappled in April light,

the Northern Spy in first flower,  
and playmates calling my name.

Calling, calling,

*Red Rover, Red Rover,  
come over, come over.*

This poem is an excerpt from Shannon's book "The Summoning," a collection of poems about her "early life in the heart of Appalachia." It can be found on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

She says: "The poem 'Summoning' is about my memories of an apple orchard that was next door to the elementary school I attended near Wise, Virginia. That area of Wise County was known for its apple orchards." -*Jeanne Shannon*



## Weddings, Births & More

### 1950s

**Betty Black '58** and her husband Lewis celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on Sept. 26, 2015.

### 1960s

**Claire (Cole) Curcio '64, '67** recently published a novel, "The Death Law."

### 1980s

**Cindy Beamon '81**, an award-winning reporter and editor, has been named editor of the Albemarle Life section of The Daily Advance.

**Matt Donlon '82**, is a partner in Richmond-area startup Uzurv, a reservation app for users of tech-driven car services.

**William S. Kidd '86** is a board member of Wythe County School Board and was named president of the Virginia School Boards Association.

**Lisa Wilkes '87** was named associate vice president for administration at Virginia Tech.

**Perry Hughes '89** was named director of Workforce Development by Wytheville Community College.

### 1990s

**Christopher M. Shockley '92** was selected as the President/CEO of Virginia Credit Union. With 26 years of experience in the financial industry, Shockley has been Executive Vice President at Virginia Credit Union since 2007.

**Steve Fifield '93** was awarded Business Leader of the Year by the Utah Association for Career and Technical Education. He is the vice president of branches, sales and service for Cyprus Credit Union in West Jordan, Utah.

**Jeff Tunstall '95** is the new owner of CraftMaster Homes Inc., a

Chesterfield County-based home-building business.



**Amy Stanley Prock '96**, above, has been selected as the Myrtle Beach Police Department's new assistant police chief. She will be the first officer to hold this position since the late 1980s.

**Douglas Saunders '97** received the VSTE technology teacher of the year award for the state of Virginia.

### 2000s

**Donnie Brooks '02** was recognized as a Professional of the Year for 2015 by Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide for his outstanding contributions and achievements in the field of law.

**Father Remi Sojka, MBA '04** was profiled in the January edition of The Catholic Virginian.

**Lee Nelson '04** and Brook Powell were married on May 30, 2015 in South Boston, Va. Lee is employed by Nelson Automotive Family.

**Noah Ashbrook '06** won the 2015 Virginia Association of Science Teachers RISE Outstanding Earth Science Teacher award. He is a science teacher for the Bristol Virginia Public School system.

**Adam G. Giangreco '07** has joined Goldberg Segalla as an associate in its General Liability and Workers' Compensation practice groups in Albany.

**Martin Mash '07** formerly worked as an aide to U.S. Senator Jim Webb and is now Department of Elections – Confidential Policy Analyst.

**Kari Thornton '07** and Seth Wright married on Nov. 1, 2014 in Roanoke. Kari currently works as an Occupational Therapist at Bridgewater Retirement Community.



**Amanda Mooney '10** and **Brian Taugher '09**, above, married on 5/23/2015 in Fairfax. Amanda is a registered dietitian and Brian works for Child Protective Services.

### 2010s



**Kristin Gregory '10**, above, has joined the New England Foundation for Arts as program coordinator for the National Dance Project.

**Tanya Catron '12** was recently appointed internal auditor by Administrator Thomas Gates, of Roanoke County.

**Jason Storey '12** was recently named store manager of U.S. Cellular for the Salem and Electric Road store in Roanoke.

**Angelia McClanahan '12** passed her Licensed Clinical Social Worker exam and was recently elected to her county school board.

## Please join us

as we welcome Radford University's seventh president  
Dr. Brian O. Hemphill to the Highlander Family.

Visit [www.radford.edu/hemphill-tour](http://www.radford.edu/hemphill-tour) to learn more!

To submit a class note, please visit [www.radford.edu/alumniupdate](http://www.radford.edu/alumniupdate) or call 1-888-4RU-GRAD. Photographs may be submitted as .jpg files 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.



# Plan for the Future and Make a Difference!

Many of us live for the moment and also plan for the future. For some, it's important to make a difference with the time, talent and treasure that we gain throughout our personal and professional experiences. Radford University alumni and friends have many options for supporting students and programs at their university. One avenue of support is called Charitable Gift Planning.

**Bruce Cunningham, CIC**, is the director of Planned Giving for University Advancement at Radford University. He has seen firsthand what the university means to the community, students and alumni, and the Commonwealth. You could say pride in Radford University is a family tradition. Cunningham is the grandson of Radford University's second president Dr. David W. Peters (1938-1951); his mother Mary Peters Cunningham graduated from Radford in 1944; his wife Bonnie Baker Cunningham graduated from Radford in 1980; and their daughter Mary Barrett Cunningham is a current Radford University student. Bruce and Bonnie are also financial supporters of Radford University, its students and its programs.

"To me, it's very important to take a proactive approach to financial planning and that also means finding ways to make a difference for those who can benefit from it the most. Students at Radford University are hardworking and entrepreneurial. They deserve the best opportunities available at Radford University," says Cunningham.

Private support is used to fund initiatives such as scholarships, hands-on learning opportunities, the best technology in laboratories and classrooms, special educational programs and athletic initiatives.

"I think one of the most exciting planned giving opportunities available is our Gift Annuity Program," says Cunningham.

Cunningham explains why the Gift Annuity Program is an option to consider.

## Q What is the Gift Annuity Program?

**Cunningham** This is a secure gift that is easily created to provide you or a designee a predictable income stream for your lifetime. A charitable gift annuity also saves the donor income, estate and capital gains taxes.

## Q Who would benefit by creating a charitable gift annuity?

**Cunningham** Retirees or others who would like to increase their net cash flow, save on taxes, create IRA withdrawal strategies and increase their charitable deductions. This program offers the security of guaranteed payments



Bruce Cunningham attends a fundraising event with his wife, Bonnie Baker Cunningham '80.

unaffected by interest rates and stock prices that would continue to spouses without the delays of probate. Radford University and its deserving students would also benefit as the future beneficiary of your gift!

## Q How much are the guaranteed payments?

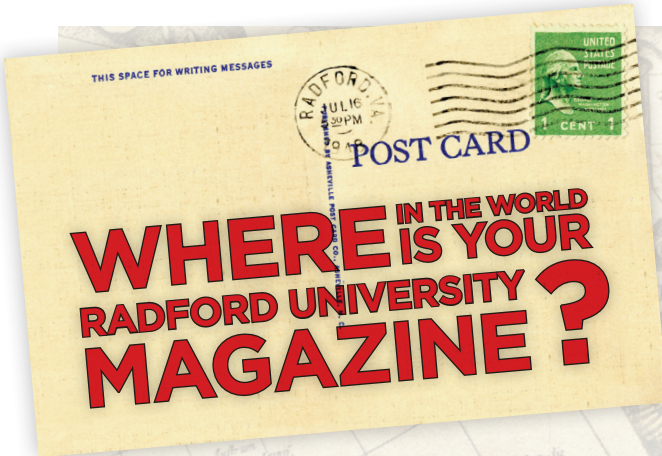
**Cunningham** Gift annuity payments are based on the age of annuitants, up to nine percent. Timing of payments can be immediate based on the current gift amount, or higher payments could be based on a deferred or flexible annuity, after a one-year holding period.

## Q Why consider a charitable gift annuity?

**Cunningham** A charitable gift annuity is a great way to benefit you now by increasing your net income and receiving a charitable tax deduction. It is also a great way to support future Radford University students!

For more information about creating a charitable gift annuity, contact Bruce Cunningham at 540-831-2009 or [rcunningh5@radford.edu](mailto:rcunningh5@radford.edu). More information can also be found online by visiting [giveto.radford.edu](http://giveto.radford.edu) and selecting "Ways to Give."





On a plane across the Pacific? On a train during your commute to work? In your car on a family vacation? Where do you read The Magazine of Radford University?

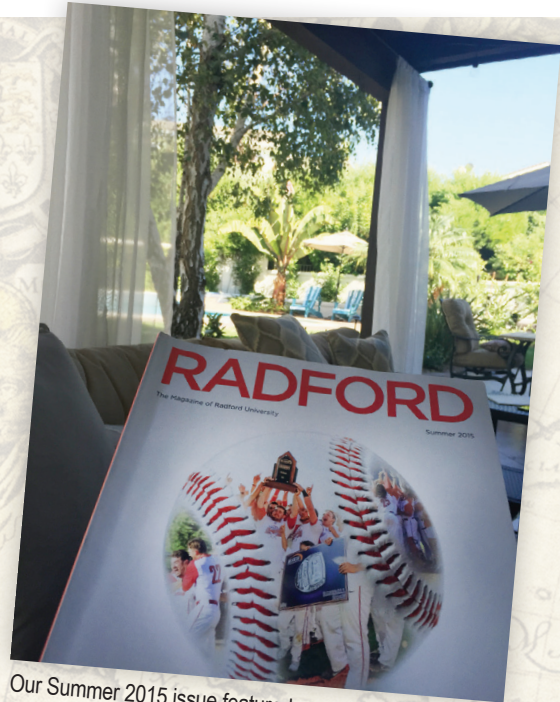
Radford University sends more than 80,000 magazines to alumni, supporters, friends and parents who live across the nation.

Earlier this year, we asked you to submit pictures of you reading your Radford University Magazine. If you missed your chance, there's still time to impress us with your dazzling smile.

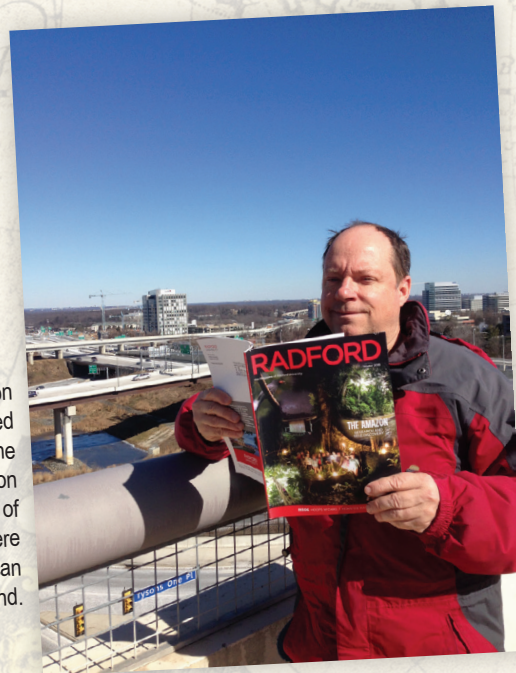
If you have submitted a photo and it does not appear in this issue, please look for it in the next one.

So, pick up your camera, grab your magazine, take a selfie, send us a picture and share your story at [editor@radford.edu](mailto:editor@radford.edu).

Mike Salmon '85 is a transportation communications specialist who has worked on both the Dulles Metrorail's Silver Line and the 495 Express Lanes construction projects. He flips through his Magazine of Radford University in Tysons Corner, where his professional accomplishments can be seen in the background.



Our Summer 2015 issue featured some hot topics; Michelle Stead Morgan '91 found the best place to enjoy it was in the shade.



**The Radford University Office of Alumni Relations is accepting nominations of Radford University alumni who have made significant contributions to their professions, communities and Radford University. Recipients will be recognized at the fall Homecoming Volunteer Leadership Lunch October 14, 2016.**

All nominations must be submitted by August 15, 2016. Nominations may be received from classmates, colleagues, family, faculty or self-nomination.

For more information, visit [www.radford.edu/alumni](http://www.radford.edu/alumni) or call 540-831-5248.



## Obituaries

### 1940s

**Helen Webb McGrady '44**, of Hillsville, 11/18/15

### 1950s

**Beverly Ann Tudor Diaz '58**, of Miami, Fla., 8/18/15

### 1970s

**Lynn Nystrom '72**, of Blacksburg, 12/3/15

**Roland Malone '73**, of Roanoke, 11/3/15

### Faculty/Staff

**Mary Jane Morris**, of Roanoke, 12/1/15

**Burton Marsh**, of Pulaski, 12/1/15

### Non-Degreed

**Jack Paul Bess**, of Linden, 10/3/15

**Christy Macaulay**, of Floyd, 10/9/15

## IN MEMORIUM



**RADFORD UNIVERSITY** lost a friend and supporter with the passing of former state Senator Madison Marye on February 23, 2016. He was known and respected for serving our country in the U.S. Army during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, retiring as major. In his community, he was an avid farmer who raised beef cattle in Shawsville, Virginia. We best knew him for his service to the region in the Senate of Virginia from 1973 to 2002.

In 1979, Senator Marye sponsored the bill that would grant Radford College university status. Photographed celebrating the signing of the bill are former Governor John Dalton (seated) and, standing left to right, former Radford University President Donald Dedmon and the bill patrons: former Delegate Jerry Geisler, former Senator Madison Marye and former Delegate Ward Teel.





### **Branching Out**

Two students from 1977 take an upside-down approach to meeting new friends.





# HOMECOMING 2016

October 14-16

Reminisce with friends and enjoy Homecoming activities such as the Alumni and Family Village, Women of Radford Luncheon, class reunions and a full schedule of sporting events.

Visit [www.radford.edu/homecoming](http://www.radford.edu/homecoming) for more information and stay tuned to the Radford University Alumni Association Facebook page. Follow #RadfordHC2016 on Twitter for the latest developments.

Questions? Call the Alumni Relations Office at 540-831-5248 or toll-free number at 1-888-478-4723.