

RADFORD



The Magazine of Radford University

Spring 2018

HIGHLANDERS

soar into
the spotlight

INSIDE Making an IMPACT

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

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Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Fellow Highlanders!

As this edition of *The Magazine of Radford University* arrives, summer is in full swing on campus, in the New River Valley and across the Commonwealth of Virginia. As such, it is a perfect time to look back on our many accomplishments of the past, while also making exciting plans for the future. In the spirit of recognizing the past and preparing for the future, this edition focuses on the many ways in which our campus and our community are expanding opportunities for our students as they pursue their academic passions and fulfilling the University's mission to serve current and future generations of Highlanders.

Within these pages, you will meet talented students, world-class faculty, dedicated staff and passionate alumni who are providing critical knowledge, diversity of thought and personal commitment to the Radford family. I can think of no better example of the Radford University pride and passion that we feel for our beautiful campus, our close-knit community and our fellow Highlanders than Mary Ann Jennings Hovis '65. Mary Ann was a devoted member of the Radford family and a sitting member of the Board of Visitors upon her passing last August. Mary Ann is memorialized in this edition with the recent dedication of the Mary Ann Jennings Hovis Memorial Board Room. The Radford family will always remember Mary Ann for her boundless energy and limitless enthusiasm for Radford University, as well as her lasting legacy of supporting Radford students in pursuing their hopes and dreams of achieving a college degree. In accordance with the Highlander values embodied by Mary Ann and so many other members of the Radford family, our institution is fulfilling its vision of being an innovative, premier university in the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond with a keen focus on teaching, research and service.

At Radford University, we provide experiences and opportunities that are second to none. In this edition, you will read about a few of the individuals and initiatives where tradition meets innovation and history is being made each and every day. With the ongoing implementation of our recently adopted, five-year strategic plan, we are *Embracing the Tradition and Envisioning the Future* through a detailed plan setting forth our strategic priorities and our collective efforts through 2023. The visionary document is the product of Task Force Co-Chairs Jack Call and Kenna Colley and Task Force members, as well as subgroup co-chairs and subgroup members, including students, faculty, staff and alumni. Their dedication to detailed discussions, in-depth planning and careful analysis will define Radford University well into the future. The strategic plan, like this edition of the magazine, contains exciting initiatives and innovative programs. The Student Venture Lab, the Appalachian Community Outreach Institute and the Enrollment Data Council are just a few of the plan's transformative features. In concert with the University's pioneering competency-based education IMPACT program, the Radford family is embracing innovation. And, through the merger of the Jefferson College of Health Sciences into the Radford University family of colleges and departments, we are also enhancing and expanding academic offerings and our long-standing commitment to health sciences.

With the help of our friends and supporters in the New River and Roanoke valleys, throughout the Commonwealth and across the globe, the principles of excellence, accountability, transparency and student-centeredness are guiding the Radford family each and every day. Indeed, the pages of this edition are a showcase of our University and those who make it so very special. Please enjoy the latest edition of *The Magazine of Radford University*, and GO HIGHLANDERS!

With Highlander Pride,

Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.
President



We want to hear from you!

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

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.

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Center for Career and Talent Development

“Our ultimate goal is setting our students up to be successful and prepared for the workforce once they leave Radford.”

Angela Joyner
Executive Director

As the job market continues to diversify and employee recruitment becomes more competitive, Radford University's Center for Career and Talent Development staff remains dedicated to equipping students with the skills and experiences they need to stand out.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Angela Joyner, the center is focused on engaging students early about their career paths, offering them more opportunities to grow their skills, leveraging alumni and identifying industry experts who will provide a strong network of support.

At Highlander Days and Quest, staffers are on hand to guide prospective and new students toward career services resources. Joyner said the staff has revamped the career development plan to incorporate six signature workshops throughout the academic year that focus on the specific skills and knowledge that employers are looking for in job candidates. What students learn in these workshops is supplemented by classroom presentations as well as group and one-on-one coaching.

“We are very intentional about reiterating the importance of internships, providing career development guides and helping students customize their career development plans,” Joyner said.

Joyner used the fall 2017 JumpStart Conference as an example of students networking with alumni and community partners, who are valuable resources to students as they begin building their resumes and applying for internships.

The center's largest goal, Joyner said, is for 75 percent of Radford University's student body to obtain at least one internship by 2023.

This type of experiential learning is critically important because many companies are targeting interns to eventually become full-time employees, Joyner explained.

For more information about how you can help Highlanders become successful through internship and employment opportunities, please contact Joyner at ajoyner9@radford.edu or call 540-831-5373.



High-tech simulator gives criminal justice students next-level training

A newly acquired simulator, not often used at the university level, gives Radford University criminal justice students training on how best to react to hostile situations they may encounter as police officers in the future.

Criminal Justice faculty members Eric Snow and Roberto Santos run the MILO Range simulator, commonly used by police departments, to involve students in various scenarios that force the students to respond to a multitude of situations. “We're able to put students into a scenario and have them make those split-second decisions on what level of force may be justified,” Snow said. “They have also found that verbal de-escalation, in a lot of cases, will work.”

Students respond to the simulations with their voices and actions, which can involve artificial weapons. The professor in charge of the system is in control of how the simulation responds to the students' decisions.

The scenarios aim to put participants through positive threat identification. During some simulations, students will have to make split-second decisions on who is or isn't a threat. To further increase the realism of the scenario, Snow and Santos are able to make their own simulations in the MILO system.

In addition to using this technology in criminal justice classes, the Radford University Police Department uses the MILO System to train its officers.



A new place to call home #OwnYourColors

Radford University alumni have a new place to call home on campus — the recently renovated Russell Hall.

Previously a residence hall, home of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS) and the Radford University Police Department, the first floor of Russell Hall is now transformed into the Alumni Center.

The new Alumni Center features impressive spaces to host alumni-centered events, including Alumni Board of Directors meetings, special events, reunion activities and the Radford University Ambassador group meetings.

As visitors enter, they are greeted by fashion display cases maintained and created by Department of Design students. While stopping by, guests can utilize the Visitor's Office, a space designed for visiting alumni who are on campus guest speaking, meeting with students or otherwise engaged with the university community.

The Alumni Center is located in the heart of campus with views of the entire campus. Alumni are welcome to stop by for a cup of coffee, said Sandra Bond '97, MBA '00, director of alumni relations operations.

“This is truly the welcome center for the University. Whether you are a prospective student, alumnus or a business that is looking to hire our students, we are the front door for the University.”

Laura Turk '87, M.S. '90
Executive director for Alumni Relations

WAY TO GO!

Radford University continues to earn national recognition for its outstanding academic programs, talented faculty and staff, quality student services, affordability and outstanding efforts to maintain a clean and sustainable campus.

The Princeton Review “Guide to 361 Green Colleges” 2010-2017

For the eighth consecutive year, the guide recognized Radford University for its commitment to building and maintaining a sustainable, environmentally friendly campus.

The Princeton Review “Best in the Southeast” 2004-2017

Radford University has earned this prestigious accolade for 14 straight years.

U.S. News & World Report “Top Public Schools in the South” 2018

For the sixth consecutive year, Radford University has been recognized as a best regional public university by U.S. News & World Report. Radford University was ranked at No. 15 in the publication's listing, up from No. 17 the year before.

Washington Monthly Magazine “Best Bang for the Buck” 2013-2017

Radford University ranked No. 27 out of 100 schools in the “Southeast” category of the magazine's rankings, which assess affordability, access and student outcomes.

MONEY “Best College for Your Money” 2017

Radford University ranked in the top 10 of Virginia public and private higher education institutions listed in MONEY's 2017 “Best Colleges for Your Money.”

District judge shares knowledge with prelaw students

The Prewlaw Society at Radford University hosted James P. Jones, a U.S. District Court Judge for the Western District of Virginia, last September.

"I'm so excited to be here," Jones said. "My mother went to Radford, but she didn't graduate. It was during the Depression and she was needed back on the farm. She always spoke of her fond memories at Radford University."

Criminal Justice Assistant Professor and Prewlaw Advisor Luke William Hunt served as a law clerk for Jones prior to working as a FBI special agent. The standing-room-only event had Jones discussing his experience as a judge in the Western District of Virginia, plea agreements and his experience on the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISA Court) in Washington, D.C. The FISA Court is composed of 11 district judges and receives requests for surveillance relating to international terrorism and foreign intelligence activities.

Clerking for a federal judge gave Jones the inspiration and desire to become a federal judge someday, he said. "There's no easy path to becoming a federal judge," Jones said. "You have to be in the right place at the right time."

Kelvin Gravely Jr., a senior from Martinsville, appreciated hearing the perspective of someone on the FISA Court. "With a secret court, especially in the news media, you hear lots of different angles," Gravely said. "Hearing from someone on the court himself was really beneficial."

Questions asked by the students covered the topics of recommendations for law school, types of work undertaken by Jones, ethnic and racial disparity in prisons, wiretapping under the Patriot Act and percentage of denied FISA applications.

Hunt believed that the students enjoyed hearing from a current FISA judge.



“ I thought the question regarding balancing civil liberties and national security was excellent. In a world in which deadly terrorist attacks seem to occur with increasing frequency, there is often a temptation to depart from constitutional norms that protect civil liberties. But departing from those norms risks losing our country's identity. Judge Jones helped students understand that the FISA Court represents an attempt to strike a balance in terms of protecting both national security and individual liberties. ”

Luke William Hunt
Criminal Justice Assistant Professor and Prewlaw Advisor



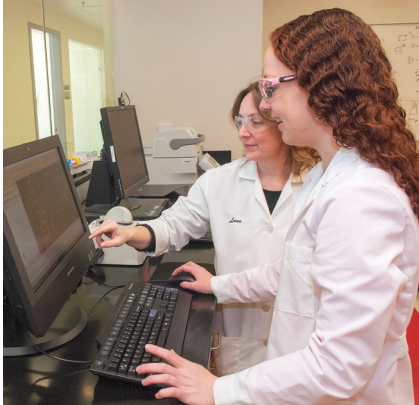
*Embracing the tradition
and envisioning the future*

**New strategic plan has
Radford University
poised for new heights**





Focal Areas



Academic excellence and research



Brand identity



Economic development and community partnerships

By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15

Radford University's 2018-2023 strategic plan, *Embracing the Tradition and Envisioning the Future*, was unanimously approved during the Dec. 8 Board of Visitors meeting. The strategic planning process, which began in October 2016, was co-chaired by Kenna Colley, current interim provost and previous dean of the College of Education and Human Development, and Jack Call, professor of criminal justice.

"The goals identified within this five-year plan reflect the hopes and dreams of Radford University and those it proudly serves, including our students, faculty, staff, alumni, community and friends," said Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill. "The plan will drive each of us in our daily interactions and collaborative efforts to selflessly serve current and

future generations of Highlanders."

The new mission statement, before the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) for final approval, emphasizes that "... Radford University empowers students from diverse backgrounds by providing transformative educational experiences, from the baccalaureate to the doctoral level, within and beyond the classroom."

The new vision statement, influenced by President Hemphill, states that Radford University aspires to be the premier, innovative, student-centered university in the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond with a keen focus on teaching, research and service.

During the developmental stages of the plan, dedicated individuals from the campus community and Highlander Family identified key focal areas.

Mission

As a mid-sized, comprehensive public institution dedicated to the creation and dissemination of knowledge, **Radford University empowers students from diverse backgrounds by providing transformative educational experiences**, from the baccalaureate to the doctoral level, within and beyond the classroom. As an inclusive university community, we specialize in cultivating relationships among students, faculty, staff, alumni and other partners, and in providing a culture of service, support and engagement. We embrace innovation and tradition and instill students with purpose and the ability to think creatively and critically. We provide an educational environment and the tools to address the social, economic and environmental issues confronting our region, nation and the world.

Vision

Radford University aspires to be the premier, innovative, student-centered university in the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond with a keen focus on teaching, research and service.



Philanthropic giving and alumni engagement



Strategic enrollment growth



Student success

“When this important work began, I asked individuals to be creative, innovative and responsive to future learners and societal needs,” President Hemphill said. “I charged them with engaging in the process, participating in robust discussions, stepping out of their comfort zones and thinking outside the box. I can proudly say that, through the work of a Universitywide task force and various subgroups, these individuals embraced the tradition and, at the same time, envisioned our future.”

The Radford University Strategic Planning Task Force and working subgroups considered several significant points regarding the context of contemporary American higher education. Public institutions must not only survive in today’s environment but also must be able to adapt, be

creative and be innovative. The immediate surrounding locale of the New River Valley, the statewide environment of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the national and global settings all require that Radford University pursue new opportunities and niche markets and respond to societal needs.

The overarching theme of the strategic plan relates to the campus environment, with focal areas of academic excellence and research; brand identity; economic development and community partnerships; philanthropic giving and alumni engagement; strategic enrollment growth; and student success.

As part of the strategic plan, Radford University has adopted seven core values, which represent the

Continued on page eight

Core Values

Student Empowerment and Success We engage and support our students in the discovery and pursuit of their own unique paths.

Excellence We expect our community to strive for the highest standards.

Inclusiveness We are committed to a spirit of cooperation and collaboration, embracing and honoring the diversity of our community.

Community We foster relationships and a culture of service within and beyond our university community.

Intellectual Freedom We encourage and defend a fearless exploration of knowledge in all its forms.

Innovation We inspire and support creativity in research, scholarship, pedagogy and service.

Sustainability We are committed to integrating sustainable practices into all aspects of our operations and engage students across the curriculum to learn, discover and contribute to positive current and future environmental solutions.



Continued from page seven

University's commitment to preparing students for their successful futures.

"During this comprehensive effort and inclusive process, we witnessed firsthand the direct involvement and dynamic interaction of task force and subgroup members, the active engagement of the campus community, the open sharing of ideas through forums and surveys and the honest feedback from individuals who have fully invested themselves in our campus and the community," Colley and Call wrote. "We were truly honored and humbled to be asked to lead this vital effort by Radford University's seventh president."

Radford University's commitment to embrace its traditions and envision its future stands tall and shines bright despite the challenges ahead. With this strategic plan in place, Radford University is well positioned to overcome challenges and seize opportunities that will make an even greater difference for all within its reach. ■

Please visit www.radford.edu/strategic-plan to learn more.

“Without question, the state of the University is strong, and our recent progress and resounding success would not be possible without the unwavering support and continued dedication of our students, faculty, staff and alumni.”

President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.



JEFFERSON COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES INTENDS TO MERGE WITH RADFORD UNIVERSITY

By Don Bowman

OFFICIALS FROM Carilion Clinic, Jefferson College of Health Sciences and Radford University announced in January their intention to merge Jefferson College into Radford University, primarily into Radford's Waldron College of Health and Human Services.

"Radford University and Jefferson College have a robust history of collaboration, and these two great institutions are now working toward an even stronger partnership," said President Brian O. Hemphill. "This endeavor benefits the students, faculty, staff, alumni, supporters and communities of both institutions, along with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the entire region."

"Both schools are approaching this potential merger from positions of institutional excellence and financial strength. We're combining forces to create something even bigger and better for the entire Commonwealth," said Nathaniel L. Bishop, president of Jefferson College.

The merger planning process is expected to take 18 to 24 months. Radford University, Jefferson College and Carilion Clinic officials have been working closely since the announcement to develop processes and procedures to facilitate the integration. The merger would create the second largest nursing program in Virginia.

"We are confident this partnership will help better prepare our students by providing access to the latest research and top-notch clinical experiences," Hemphill said. "We believe this will encourage potential students to seek health care careers and stay in the Commonwealth to work. There's no doubt this will provide increased access to health care education."

Jefferson College, currently owned and operated by Carilion Clinic, brings 35 years of history as an accredited institution and has grown in enrollment from 200 to about 1,150 students in that time. Jefferson College is a top regional producer of nursing and allied health professionals and has been rated among the top 10 Virginia health care education providers.



From left, Jefferson College of Health Sciences President Nathaniel Bishop, Executive Vice President of Carilion Clinic Jeanne Armentrout and Radford University President Brian Hemphill

"Carilion Clinic is proud to have nurtured Jefferson's growth and reputation for developing ethical, knowledgeable, competent and caring health care professionals," said Nancy Howell Agee, president and CEO of Carilion Clinic. "Joining the Radford University family is a wonderful opportunity for Jefferson College. And now is the right time as the vision for a health sciences and technology campus in Roanoke comes to life. Partnerships among leading academic institutions strengthen our region as a destination for health education and research, and ultimately drive economic development."

Students from both Radford University and Jefferson College will have access to enhanced educational opportunities, such as clinical placements and internships, and Radford University will continue to partner with Carilion Clinic to utilize its facilities and research capabilities.

"Jefferson College already enjoys a wonderful relationship with Radford University," said Bishop. "This next step makes sense for both institutions, and serves to enhance Radford University's reputation as a premier educational destination for those seeking careers in nursing, health care and health sciences." ■



Reflection and Vision

By Mary Hardbarger

In his inaugural State of the University address to the students, faculty, staff, alumni and community leaders on Oct. 6, 2017, President Brian O. Hemphill reflected on a successful 2016-17 academic year and looked toward a bright future at Radford University.

“Without question, the state of the University is strong, and our recent progress and resounding success would not be possible without the unwavering support and continued dedication of our students, faculty, staff and alumni,” Hemphill said.

During his remarks, Hemphill reflected on the life and accomplishments of Mary Ann Jennings Hovis '65 who, at the time of her death in August, was a member of the Board of Visitors (BOV). In her honor, Hemphill announced the naming of the Mary Ann Jennings Hovis Memorial Board Room, the dedicated meeting space for deliberations of the BOV.

Special guests Nancy '73 and Pat Artis were also recognized and thanked for their \$5 million gift for student scholarships in the Artis College of Science and Technology, the largest contribution by an individual and an alumnus in Radford's history. The Artis Endowed Scholarship Fund will award 67 high-achieving students scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 based on academic eligibility.

Hemphill announced that total giving to the University increased from \$7.9 million in fiscal year 2016 to \$10.7 million in fiscal year 2017, a 30 percent increase. The total number of donors increased from 4,435 to 5,253, nearly 20 percent.

As an example of the University's expanding academic program offerings, Hemphill brought attention to the proposed Doctor of Education and Bachelor of Science in Computer and Cyber Science. These programs are awaiting review and approval by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

“We have truly made great strides, but much more work lies ahead,” Hemphill said.

That work will be defined by the University's strategic plan, *Embracing the Tradition and Envisioning the Future*. The plan, which will guide the University's efforts through 2023, was officially implemented in January.

In fall 2017, the University welcomed 1,848 freshmen, a 5.5 increase over the prior year, including a 22 percent growth in out-of-state students when compared with the prior year.

Student academic profiles are improving as well, he said. The Class of 2021 had an entering high school grade point average of 3.24, the highest level since 1996, when the University began tracking this information. The class also showed impressive improvements in ACT and SAT scores.

In relation to the University's enrollment, Hemphill announced the creation of an Enrollment Data Council to utilize predictive analytics and best practices to grow the overall student body to more than 13,000 by 2023.

By 2023, Radford University plans to increase its first-to-second-year retention rate from 75.7 percent to 85 percent and its six-year graduation rate from 58.3 percent to 62 percent, Hemphill announced. Radford's current minority student population is 28.8 percent of the University's total student body, representing an increase of 18 percent over the past decade.

Opportunity for student-faculty research is another vital piece of the Radford University experience. To enhance undergraduate research opportunities, Hemphill announced the launch of a new initiative called the Highlander Research Rookies Program.

Beginning with the 2018-19 academic year, 15 apprenticeships will be awarded each year to high-achieving and highly motivated freshman and sophomore students who will be paired with faculty members to conduct research. Funding of up to \$4,000 will be provided to each awardee.

In conclusion, Hemphill expressed excitement about the upcoming year.

“Radford University, the Commonwealth of Virginia, our nation and the world are counting on each and every one of us now and well into the future,” Hemphill said. “Together, we will succeed. Together, we will make a difference. Together, we build a brighter future.” ■

To watch the video of the State of the University address, visit www.radford.edu/presidential-address.





From left: NOVA President Scott Ralls; NOVA students Thomas Yates, Alejandro Zuniga and C.J. Tchouante; Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill; and Giancarla Rojas Mendoza '16.

Radford, NOVA sign landmark agreement

By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15

Many Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) students can rest assured that all of their earned credits will transfer to Radford University, saving them time and money, thanks to a Guaranteed Transfer Partnership Agreement.

On Aug. 28, Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill and NOVA President Scott Ralls signed the agreement to strengthen the partnership between the two institutions.

Students taking advantage of the agreement will seamlessly transfer from NOVA to Radford University and be guaranteed admission. The agreement also allows students to fully transfer all NOVA courses described in a NOVA-RU Curriculum Pathway to meet degree requirements in a baccalaureate program at Radford University without losing any prior credits earned at NOVA.

The College of Visual and Performing Arts, the Artis College of Science and Technology (ACSAT) and the College of Business and Economics (COBE) are participating in the Guaranteed Transfer Partnership Agreement at launch.

“We are excited about this first-of-its-kind partnership in Virginia,” Hemphill said. “We are mindful that the increasing cost of higher education is at the forefront for our students and their families. This agreement will establish a truly seamless transfer process for NOVA students to Radford, knowing that every course they take in approved programs will count for full credit in transferring into approved Radford programs. This will save those students valuable money and time in their hard work to obtain their undergraduate degrees.”

Agreements between community colleges and four-year institutions are commonplace. In these agreements, admission is guaranteed, but the transfer of all credits is not. This Guaranteed Transfer Partnership Agreement is different.

“That’s why this is important,” Ralls said. “It ensures that all credits transfer. We appreciate that Radford is the first guaranteed transfer partner. This agreement is all about the students we have who aspire to go to Radford. This helps students not have to make up any past ground. This will always be an important day for our institutions.”

Todd Rowley, chair of the NOVA College Board, said that community college students who transfer to a four-year institution often lose a semester’s worth of college credits.

“Today’s agreement represents a significant step toward solving a national problem,” Rowley said. “This new partnership will ensure that NOVA students who follow an outlined program of study will be able to transfer all of their earned credits toward their chosen major when they continue at Radford. They will transfer as true first-semester juniors. This saves them thousands of dollars in tuition.”

“This new partnership will ensure that NOVA students who follow an outlined program of study will be able to transfer all of their earned credits toward their chosen major when they continue at Radford.”

Todd Rowley, chair of the NOVA College Board



From left: Brian O. Hemphill, president of Radford University; Todd Rowley, chair of the NOVA College Board; Chris Wade, immediate past rector of Radford University’s Board of Visitors; Don Strehle ’78, who serves on the Radford University College of Business and Economics Advisory Council; and Scott Ralls, president of NOVA.

“This is a moment in time where we can help change the course of education in the Commonwealth,” said Don Strehle ’78, who serves on the Radford University College of Business and Economics Advisory Council. “It takes vision to do that.”

Giancarla Rojas Mendoza, who graduated from Northern Virginia Community College in 2014 and from Radford University in 2016 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, transferred to Radford University as a true junior in 2014. After meeting a recruiter from Radford, she knew she found her college home.

“Being at Radford and NOVA helped make me strong and more confident about my skills,” Mendoza said. “This agreement will encourage more students to go to Radford and give them the best possible college experience. Radford has so many resources.”

Mapping the academic programs at NOVA and Radford together took the effort of dedicated faculty members at both institutions.

“All of the department chairs in our eight departments worked extensively with the NOVA faculty to establish the pathways because the faculty controls the curriculum,” ACSAT Dean J. Orion Rogers said. “They did important work.”

Former Dean of the College of Business and Economics George Low said that NOVA does a great job of preparing students for the coursework at Radford University.

“We talked about how we could work more closely together with faculty members, get more NOVA students to Radford to visit and to best implement the agreement,” Low said.

“We are excited to welcome NOVA graduates as Highlanders. This is truly a win-win partnership for our institutions and the Commonwealth,” said Hemphill. ■



IMPACT

INNOVATIVE PERSONALIZED ACCELERATED
TECHNOLOGY COMPETENCY



IMPACT

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Innovative Mobile
Personalized Accelerated

IMPACT

IMPACT

Radford University introduces Innovative Mobile Personalized Accelerated Competency Training, a groundbreaking program that prepares working professionals for a diversifying job market.

Radford University launched an innovative new competency-based education (CBE) program in October that will position the University as a national leader in training working professionals for high-demand occupations.

The groundbreaking program, called Innovative Mobile Personalized Accelerated Competency Training (IMPACT), is the first of its kind among four-year public institutions in Virginia. The program's goal is to increase the skills of the Commonwealth's diverse workforce.

IMPACT officially launched on Oct. 1 with an initial focus on cybersecurity. This spring, the program expanded to include geospatial intelligence. IMPACT was also recently awarded \$13.9 million from the U.S. Department of Education to use this same online, self-paced CBE approach to provide professional development training to 5,000 general education teachers and administrators throughout Appalachia. *Learn more about this grant on page 16.*

IMPACT is aligned with the CBE approach, which teaches specific job-related skills needed to perform a critical task in the workplace. The program offers a non-traditional teaching learning approach that breaks away from 14-week semesters and other time-based models. The program is delivered online in an asynchronous, self-paced manner and is available through a fixed annual license. IMPACT training also prepares students to take professional certification exams.

IMPACT is available to Radford University's strategic partners that range from public, private and global companies to government localities. Partnerships will continue to grow as IMPACT advances.

Former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe visited Radford University's campus to introduce the ambitious endeavor to more than 550 guests at the IMPACT launch event on Sept. 8. He spoke of the growing threat of cyber-attacks in Virginia and across the United States.

"This is the biggest threat that we face as a state and a nation," McAuliffe said. "So it was important that Virginia be the leader in cybersecurity, and we are."

McAuliffe said that Virginia has 650 cybersecurity companies, more than any other state. Virginia also has more data centers than any other state, and more than 60 percent of the world's Internet traffic goes through Ashburn, Virginia. As these companies continue to grow and expand, so, too, does the demand for cybersecurity professionals.

He called higher education institutions, including Radford University, the "connective tissue" that will train students with the skills they need to fill these in-demand cybersecurity jobs.

"We are now the leaders," he said. "We've got the jobs, and I want to thank all of the folks here, because now we have to train armies and armies of cyber warriors. You are at the forefront ... You are leading the country, you're making Virginia proud, you're building a new economy in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and you are giving all of these students a key to success so



that they can provide for their families and participate in the American dream.”

President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., congratulated the IMPACT team, led by executive director Matt Dunleavy, Ph.D., and said the program is a key example of the University “focusing on innovation and being responsive to societal needs.”

“Indeed, today is a new day for our University,” Hemphill said. “We are a University that will forever be rooted in our strong tradition of teaching and learning. But, we are also a University that has a resilient drive to innovate and a desire to be on the cutting edge. With this first-of-its-kind program in the Commonwealth, Radford University will continue to be a leader.”

IMPACT is a collaborative effort among faculty, instructional designers and industry experts to ensure the content is rigorous, engaging and directly aligned with industry needs. “The IMPACT Lab is a team effort and the result of strong collaboration with Radford University’s outstanding faculty. We are thrilled to be working with such a talented group of professionals to meet the workforce development needs of the Commonwealth,” Dunleavy said.

A recent IMPACT Lab partner is the TRGroup, which serves 800 credit unions in seven different states. The IMPACT Lab will provide cybersecurity training to the associated credit unions’ staff to ensure the assets of all of the credit unions are protected against cyber crime.

Among the IMPACT team is Prem Uppuluri, Ph.D., director of the Center for Information Security at Radford University and lead professor for the cybersecurity curriculum for IMPACT. “For IMPACT, we took the established center for academic excellence program of study in cybersecurity in the Department of Information Technology and tailored it with intensive, hands-on experiences to provide a corporate level experience,” said Uppuluri.

ManTech representative Kent Warren ’91, president of commercial services, said IMPACT will “blend real-world experience into academics.”

“From a business perspective, anytime we can team up with an industry, including higher education institutions, and bring real-life, hard skills and training, that’s a win for everybody,” Warren said.

Warren, who formerly served on the Radford University Foundation Board of Directors, believes IMPACT will drive jobs in the New River Valley and beyond.

“Right now, there is a high concentration of the cybersecurity skill set in Northern Virginia,” Warren said. “IMPACT is going to help expand this knowledge base right here in Southwest Virginia.”

Jagat Dhami, M.S. ’18, served as a data analyst among the team of Radford University administrators, faculty and students who helped make IMPACT a reality.

“I believe IMPACT will provide a great outreach to the community,” Dhami said. “Our goal is to make connections and work with industry leaders.”

“The opportunity to work with IMPACT to meet the workplace needs of the geospatial intelligence community has been a great experience for me and the Department of Geospatial Science. IMPACT’s innovative approach to teaching is resulting in some great educational products,” said Andrew Foy, Ph.D., associate professor of geospatial science and director of Radford University’s GIS Center.

To learn more about the IMPACT Lab and how you can become a partner, please visit www.radford.edu/impact and watch the video. Experience the excitement of the IMPACT announcement event at www.radford.edu/magazine.

ASSET

Historic grant enhances IMPACT

By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15

Radford University’s Innovative Mobile Personalized Accelerated Competency Training (IMPACT) program was awarded a three-year, \$13.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) Grant

Program, the largest in Radford University history. The grant began on Oct. 1 and runs through Sept. 30, 2020.

The SEED grant will expand IMPACT to include Appalachian Support for Specialized Education

Training (ASSET), which includes the development, implementation and evaluation of online, self-paced, competency-based education (CBE) training designed to increase teacher effectiveness



More than 550 guests attended the IMPACT launch event on Sept. 8.

in underserved rural Appalachian communities. ASSET will build K-12 teachers' knowledge and skills to better serve their students in rural Appalachia, including regions in Virginia, Tennessee and West Virginia.

"Through Radford University's innovative IMPACT Program, ASSET provides a groundbreaking opportunity for our teachers to receive training and support that will further strengthen our economy in Southwest Virginia and the rest of Appalachia," said former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe. "I applaud Radford University and the other grant partners for contributing to the success of this important initiative and assisting in our efforts to build a new Virginia economy by increasing teacher effectiveness and workforce capacity in underserved rural communities."

The program content and experiences will incorporate simSchool simulations based on the Institute of Educational Sciences (IES) What Works Clearinghouse

(WWC) practice guides geared toward increasing teacher effectiveness. ASSET will develop a unique set of five micro-credential stacks in high demand areas, such as inclusive literacy instruction for elementary and secondary general curriculum classrooms; inclusive math instruction for elementary and secondary general curriculum classrooms; and inclusive problem solving for high need secondary students.

"Since our founding more than 100 years ago, Radford University has a long and distinguished record of training educators," said Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D. "With this historic grant, we can continue our tradition of excellence in training teachers in a new way that reinforces the fact that Radford is at the forefront of teacher education. I commend the work of Drs. Matt Dunleavy, Brooke Blanks, Kenna Colley, Amanda Bozack and Greg Sherman in making this goal a reality," said Hemphill.

Dunleavy, executive director of IMPACT and project director of ASSET, said that the IMPACT program at Radford University is rapidly developing the Commonwealth's workforce in cybersecurity and geospatial intelligence, and the same model will be used to address critical shortage areas in K-12 education.

"Our focus is on maximizing the resources we currently have, namely building instructional capacity among our highly committed, long-term teachers working in our rural Appalachian schools," said Blanks, associate professor of special education.

"The ASSET program allows us to give them the knowledge and skills they want without ever having to leave their local communities."

The ASSET CBE teacher-training program will serve as a national dissemination platform for the IES WWC practice guides, while the ASSET program will develop a replicable and scalable national model for CBE-enabled teacher effectiveness training in critical shortage areas.

"The ASSET grant is a game-changer for professional development for all teachers in rural Appalachia," said Colley, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. "The professional development format is accessible, provides research-based interventions that can be easily replicated in classrooms and will be expertly delivered by our faculty in the School of Teacher Education and Leadership (STEL). What an amazing accomplishment for all of us at Radford University." ■



A gift with impact

RADFORD FAMILY GATHERS TO DEDICATE VINOD CHACHRA IMPACT LAB

By Mary Hardbarger



The Chachra family at the March 14 naming ceremony of the Vinod Chachra IMPACT Lab at the Radford University Corporate Center.

LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR and enthusiastic Radford University partner and supporter Vinod Chachra, Ph.D., has given the University a significant financial donation that will support its new competency-based education (CBE) program, IMPACT (Innovative Mobile Personalized Accelerated Competency Training). In recognition of his generosity, Radford University will name the program's laboratory the Vinod Chachra IMPACT Lab.

Chachra, of Blacksburg, is the founder of VTLS Inc. and until recently served as its president and CEO. He is an internationally recognized lecturer, consultant and innovator in the field of information system planning. As a Radford University partner, Chachra has strongly supported the implementation and creation of IMPACT, a first-of-its-kind program among four-year public institutions in Virginia. IMPACT officially launched Oct. 1 with an initial focus on cybersecurity, an information

technology security program in which Radford University is nationally recognized.

As a result of Chachra's generous gift, Radford University is at the forefront of higher education technology innovation and providing lasting benefits in the region, across the Commonwealth of Virginia and throughout the nation and the world.

"This gift will be instrumental in Radford University's innovative efforts to continuously infuse technology in all facets of teaching and learning," said Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill. "Additionally, it will forever etch the internationally renowned Chachra name in the history of Radford University and inspire the next generation of Highlanders and others to make a significant and lasting impact in the cyber defense sector."

The Vinod Chachra IMPACT Lab will enable one of the first instructional design teams to embed

learning science principles into every aspect of CBE design, thereby aligning with Radford University's traditional image and mission as a teaching university. In addition, with this approach, the Vinod Chachra IMPACT Lab has the opportunity to become a national leader in highly innovative and emergent fields of study (e.g. CBE instructional design, personalized learning, learning analytics, story-based learning environments, gamification, self-organizing learning environments and virtual reality).

The lab will be the incubator that lays the foundation for the sustainable future of learning and business practices at Radford University and possibly other universities in the Commonwealth and throughout the country.

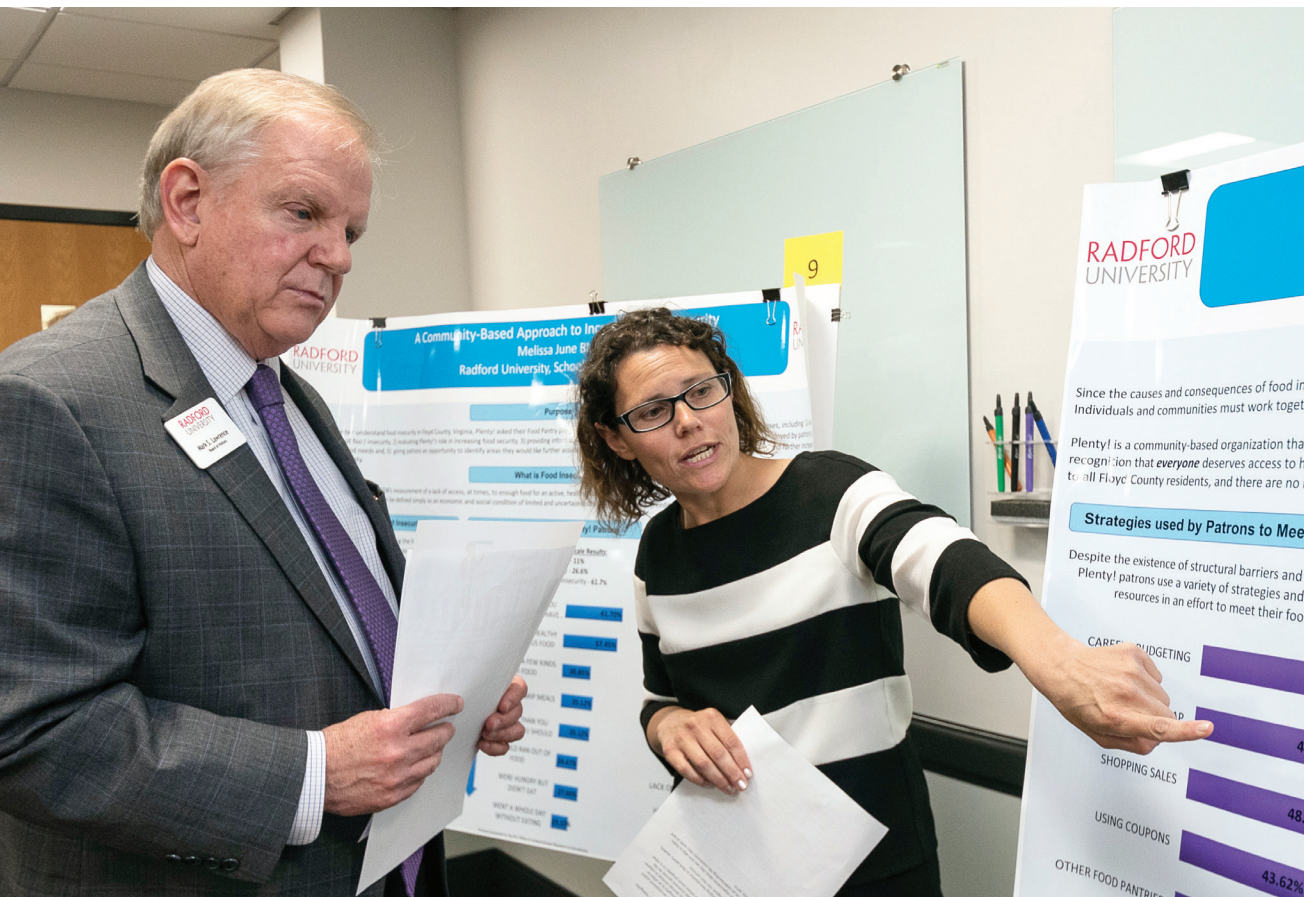
The Vinod Chachra IMPACT Lab will be an established lab space physically separate but adjacent to Radford University's main campus. It will house office space and computer equipment. ■



Mark Lawrence

COMMUNICATOR. BRIDGE BUILDER. LEADER.

By Ann Brown, M.S. '03



Rector Mark Lawrence reviewed a student research presentation at an event during the May meeting of the Board of Visitors.

MARK LAWRENCE, the rector of Radford University's Board of Visitors, can be described as a communicator, bridge builder, leader and problem solver. When talking about professional acumen we think of industry knowledge and technical abilities. However, what set Mark Lawrence apart in his early career was his expertise in the prized soft skills of teamwork, communication and the ability to relate to others on many different levels.

Mark Lawrence, who since August of 2001 has served as the Vice President for Governmental and External Affairs for Carilion Clinic, said "never in his wildest imagination" would he have seen himself in a government relations role. The Galax, Virginia native, Galax High School graduate and alumnus of Virginia Tech began

his career at Appalachian Power in the business and transmission side of the company. "I'm not a political junkie. I'm more of a business and organizational person," Lawrence added.

However, his bosses took notice of his ability to collaborate, build relationship networks and find areas of common ground to solve problems. "In 1990, the president of Appalachian Power moved me into the government affairs manager role because I was involved in a number of community activities, and I knew a lot of people. I worked hard at building relationships and finding areas of common ground. I would learn the legislative arena on the job," Lawrence said.

The move to government relations was meant to be a three to five year job, and in 1994, Appalachian

Power's president asked Lawrence to decide if he wanted to stay in governmental relations or move back into the business side of the house. "If I made a decision based on my personal interest, I considered moving back to the operational side, because it required less travel. Travel was hard on family time. But I put my company hat on and knew that we were in a very important discussion phase of electricity deregulation. I said 'if you move me out of this role at this critical stage in the debate it would make the issue more challenging because you'd have to train someone to pick up the conversation.' So, I agreed to stay in the role and did so until my move to Carilion in 2001," Lawrence said.

In 2001, Carilion wanted to add more structure to its governmental affairs function and elevate the health system's engagement in the public policy sphere. Lawrence serves as Carilion's liaison with elected officials at all levels, with emphasis on state and federal affairs. While working in governmental relations for both Appalachian Power and Carilion, Lawrence began to learn more about Radford University through his interactions with the University's presidents Douglas Covington and Penelope W. Kyle.

These conversations built upon what he already knew of the University while growing up in Southwest Virginia and as a Virginia Tech student. "I feel very strongly about the role our regional universities play in serving the Commonwealth," said Lawrence. When he received the call from the governor's office to consider serving on Radford University's Board of Visitors (BOV), "It's hard to say no to the governor because these opportunities are rare and such a privilege. I also saw it as an opportunity to learn more about Radford University and the Radford community," Lawrence said.

In 2015, he began serving on the Board and later became rector. Lawrence brought the business and leadership experience he gained on many community and regional boards and learned from great leaders at Appalachian Power and Carilion Clinic. "From them, I have learned about leadership styles and engagement styles to bring out the strengths of individuals. I'm also in the relationship business and process business. I have to help people understand the concept to move it through the process of working with people to create a solution.

“ I see the potential, excitement and enthusiasm of our students. ”

Mark Lawrence, Rector of Radford University's Board of Visitors

I bring all of my experiences to the BOV for Radford University," Lawrence said.

He is proud and honored to be a member and rector for the Board of Visitors because he and his board colleagues work on behalf of the taxpayers of the Commonwealth. "We are there to represent the Commonwealth and are guardians of the state and taxpayer investment in the University. We help set the direction of the University and ensure the University has proper leadership to prepare students for their careers and future endeavors. Our mission is to make sure the University is providing the best opportunities for our students to prepare them for what their future will be. It's important for the future of our region and to the family members who are sacrificing so much to help their student achieve their academic goals. From my perspective, that's a very important role," Lawrence said.

Lawrence said that one of his most rewarding experiences as rector is when he is able to interact with Radford University students. "My interactions with students are the best part of the job. I see the potential, excitement and enthusiasm of our students. I'm able to learn about the things happening in the classroom, laboratories and community. Radford University is a place that provides incredible opportunities if students choose to take advantage of them," said Lawrence. "And our student-faculty relationships are VERY special at RU." He also enjoys watching Highlanders compete on the playing fields. "Our student athletes are so talented. They juggle community service, academics and competition incredibly well," Lawrence said.

When asked about what he prioritizes most as a member of the Board and rector, Lawrence mentions two things. "We need to continue to provide a safe and supportive environment for our students to allow them to achieve. Second, we need to provide the best opportunities for the future of the University with the precious resources that we have. We need to be good stewards of the investment of the Commonwealth and our students," Lawrence said. "In order to continue to do this, we need to be innovative and partner with other schools, businesses and stakeholders to provide the best education for the best value." ■



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RADFORD FAMILY

gathers for Winter Commencement ceremonies

By Don Bowman

FOR THE RADFORD UNIVERSITY FAMILY, the 2017 Winter Commencement ceremonies enriched the holiday season with a sense of pride and achievement.

Radford University celebrated the academic achievement of almost 600 undergraduate students and 75 graduate students from across Virginia and the world during six ceremonies Dec. 15-16.

Sawyer Guest, an interdisciplinary studies graduate from Hopewell, was surrounded by friends and family after the ceremony for students receiving degrees from the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences and Waldron College of Health and Human Service.

"This has been the best experience of my life so far," said Guest.

Veronica and Skip Guest, Sawyer's parents, looked on and basked in Sawyer's exuberance.

"Not only has she had a good experience here, but we have, too," said Veronica. "She found great teachers and inspiring mentors at Radford, good friends and a caring community. We are so pleased at how she has been treated and grown."

Before an overflowing Bondurant Auditorium, Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill explained to the Class of 2017 the vital role that they will play in society.

"The value of an education goes so far beyond preparation for a career. It develops our ability to make good judgments and listen with a critical ear and open mind," said President Hemphill.

While awaiting the ceremony at which he would accept his degree, Jeremy Rosario, a criminal justice and psychology major from Hopelawn, New Jersey, reflected on the moment.

"Today is just one more highlight of so many during my time here at Radford," Rosario said. "I am a first-generation college graduate. I am proud of the accomplishment and look forward to the opportunities that await me."

Anthropology Professor and Faculty Senate President Jake Fox spoke on behalf of Radford's faculty, saying, "It is our greatest hope that no matter how varied your future might be, each of you will take from your Radford experience something of tremendous value ... the habits of the mind."

On Dec. 15, the University recognized graduate students and nurses. At the Winter 2017 Hooding Ceremony for the College of Graduate Studies and Research, 75 graduate students donned the academic regalia signifying their achievement.

"Tonight, we celebrate you — our dreamers and our doers," said Laura Jacobsen, acting dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Kenna Colley, interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, challenged and assured the newly-hooded graduate students.

"As you go out into your respective professions and, by the virtue of the advanced degree that you have earned, your co-workers and colleagues will have high expectations about your performance and preparedness," Colley said. "Rest assured, you will live up to their expectations and go beyond."

Zachary Higginbotham of Radford said the defining experience of his MBA program was entrepreneurial.

"We pulled from every single course that we took to develop a product, service, guides, business plan — you name it," Higginbotham said. "It was a unique experience where we could actually do everything that we learned. We are going to move the business plan forward and see where it takes us."

Among the other graduate degrees conferred were from disciplines such as special education, social work, education and psychology. Popular undergraduate degrees were from the disciplines of psychology, liberal arts, criminal justice, nursing and management.

The U.S. Army also commissioned a new first lieutenant — Radford's Colleen Talbot, a biology major.

Optimism, and relief, marked the ceremony during which 33 Bachelor of Science-Nursing (B.S.N.) and Registered Nursing-to-B.S.N. students were pinned by family or professional mentors.

Rebecca Rogers was pinned by her grandmother, Annette Haggerty, whom she will soon join as a colleague in the emergency room at a Winchester hospital.

"I guess I can retire in a couple of years," said Haggerty, a nurse who has been practicing for 60 years. "My advice to her is to keep patients and their care THE priority. They are the reason you, I mean, we are here."

"I so look up to her for her ability to always care," said Rogers.

Sgt. Cristian Morgan recently returned from an overseas deployment with the U.S. Army to join his children — Junior, Mark and Ava — for the pinning of Logan Manley-Morgan, his wife and their mother.

"It is amazing. It is awesome," Morgan said of his wife's achievement. "I am so proud of her. She worked very hard."

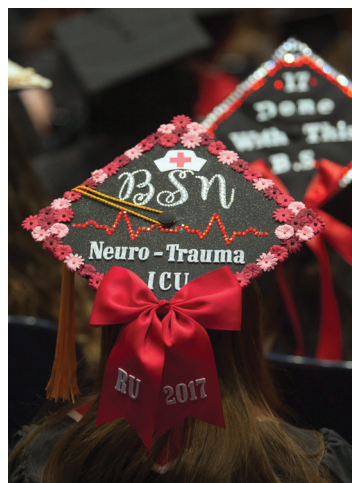
"The day has finally come," said Manley-Morgan, who will soon join a cardio/thoracic stepdown unit at a Fort Bragg, North Carolina hospital. "I feel unexplainably good."

Twenty Master of Occupational Therapy students also proudly joined their profession with a pinning ceremony. Julia Jennings echoed the happiness of her classmates and then shared the credit.

"We had the support of our faculty who graciously answered our late night emails, opened their doors for us to deflect our fears of failure and shared smiles while reminding us that it is all 'part of the process,'" Jennings said. ■

“ You have changed. You are not the same person you were when you started here. You are now a combination of every professor, friendship, challenge and frustration of the last four years. Your Highlander experience has prepared you for a bright future. ”

Julianna Stanley
President of the Student Government Association





Gratitude

AND

Leadership

By Jeremy Norman



MIKE DEFILIPPO '90



WHEN MIKE “FLIP” DEFILIPPO '90

arrived on campus in the fall of 1985, he was, in his own words, “lost.” Today, DeFilippo sits on the Board of Directors for the Radford University Alumni Association, serves as president of the National Capital Region Radford University Alumni Chapter, sits on the Alumni Advisory Board for the Artis College of Science and Technology, serves as chapter advisor for Phi Kappa Sigma and is a fixture at most Highlander events throughout the Commonwealth.

DeFilippo “found himself” at Radford University.

“Radford gave me direction and a place where I truly felt at home, and this has continued into my adult life,” says DeFilippo. “I feel an unbreakable bond to the Highlander Nation and feel compelled to give back to the place that gave me so much.”

That bond with Radford University began before DeFilippo was a student. “When I visited campus in the winter of 1985, I absolutely fell in love. It just had a good feel to it,” DeFilippo explained.

“Unfortunately, I was worried that I didn’t have the grades to get accepted. After I applied, I wrote letters, called the admissions office to make sure that they received my application and implored them to look at the full body of my work and not just my grades.”

When the self-professed introvert set foot on campus as a student, something changed in DeFilippo. “The University really drew me out of my shell and gave me confidence,” he says. “Attending Radford University was a real game-changer for me.”

However, he received an unfortunate letter from the University while home for winter break of his Radford freshman year.

“I was put on academic probation during the second semester of my freshman year,” DeFilippo explains. “But that was really a lifeline for me. I took a few tests and found out that I had a learning disability. The University was flexible in allowing me to work on my academics and gave me support in those efforts.” Because of the support by the University, DeFilippo was able to raise his grades and, during his sophomore year, he joined the rugby team — despite not knowing anything about the sport. Once he raised his GPA to the

“Radford gave me direction and a place where I truly felt at home, and this has continued into my adult life.”

Mike “Flip” DeFilippo '90

required level, DeFilippo was also able to rush Phi Kappa Sigma during his junior year.

“I was still able to have the full college experience.”

DeFilippo had the opportunity to work for his alma mater, serving on the Alumni Relations team to help coordinate efforts for regional alumni activities and volunteer engagement in Northern Virginia. When DeFilippo left the position in order to spend more time with his family, he was given the opportunity to stay involved with Radford University by serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

“I act as an ambassador, of sorts, for the University,” he explains. “We help find ways to engage with alumni and engage with students and help tell the Radford University story — show what is unique and special about the University and the community.”

While the board is still in its infancy and is still developing its mission, DeFilippo believes that the right pieces are in place for the board to be a success. “Under the leadership of Executive Director for Alumni Relations Laura Turk '87, M.S. '90 and Director of Alumni Relations Sandra M. Bond '97, MBA '00 and Alumni Association Board of Directors President Kevin Rogers '87, the board will help do great things for Radford University.

“I want every alumni to be able to engage with what’s going on at the University no matter how far away they are,” DeFilippo continued.

In his role as president of the National Capital Region Radford University Alumni Chapter, DeFilippo is able to fulfill his passion for giving back to the University that he says gave him so much. “I want to give

more than I have received, and I’ve received so much more than I can believe,” he added.

As president, DeFilippo helps organize the annual “Radford University Day at Nationals Park” in conjunction with Major League Baseball’s Washington Nationals. The event, which routinely hosts hundreds of Radford University alumni and friends, was particularly memorable for DeFilippo in 2015.

“We were able to have 10 alumni walk onto the field prior to the game to be greeted as special guests of the Nationals,” he says. “The Nationals’ star first baseman, Ryan Zimmerman — whose wife, Heather '06, is an alumna — took some pictures with us while holding the Radford University flag.” Zimmerman, who graduated from the University of Virginia, was somewhat apprehensive to take the picture at first. “I said ‘Ryan, it’s not for us, it’s for Heather,’” DeFilippo said with a laugh.

Even the Nationals’ opponent, the Colorado Rockies, recognized that it was Radford University Day and adjusted their pitching rotation so that Eddie Butler, a former Radford University pitcher, could start in front of his “home” crowd.

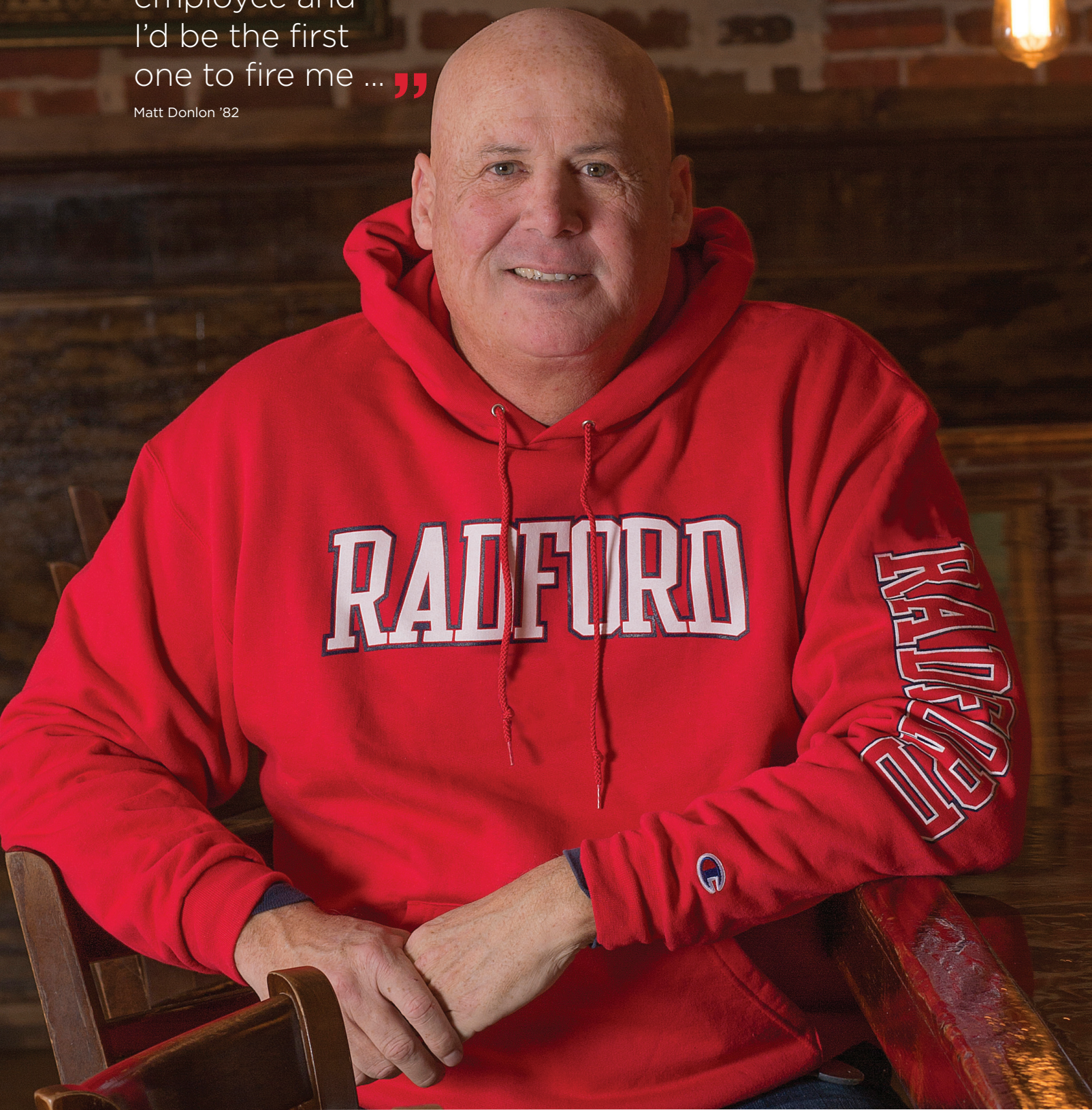
“That everyone involved recognized and supported our efforts to bring Radford University alumni together was a really cool thing,” DeFilippo says.

It is hard not to recognize the efforts of someone who works so hard to bring Highlander pride with him wherever he goes — quite literally.

“I always carry my original Radford University ID with me,” DeFilippo explains. “I even post a picture of it online around Homecoming every year.” ■

“I’m a lousy
employee and
I’d be the first
one to fire me ...”

Matt Donlon '82



MATT DONLON '82

MATT DONLON

DEFINES

ENTREPRENEURIAL
SUCCESS

By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15

EVEN AFTER a career spanning the who's-who of high-profile and classified organizations, Matt Donlon '82 has always carved his own path.

Donlon continued that independence with the launch of his own company, UZURV, which aims to integrate with ride-sharing platforms.

"What I got out of Radford was how to take some risks," Donlon said. "Life happens not necessarily in the four years at college. I was a late bloomer — that's the honest truth. [Radford] was a good foundation. I learned about love, relationships and friendships. Those go a long way. It isn't always about the academics in business."

That risk taking led Donlon to TRW — since purchased by Northrup Grumman — after graduation. While TRW had a hand in the aerospace, automotive and credit reporting industries, Donlon's expertise focused on TRW's premier aerospace intelligence programs.

From there — Donlon's career spanned organizations such as the Department of the Navy, specifically highly classified R&D programs, including special access or black programs; NASA, with involvement in highly sensitive R&D aeronautics; the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA); and the Software Engineering Institute-Carnegie Mellon University (SEI-CMU), which is home to the initial Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) that stores the largest database of internet vulnerabilities and has aided similar programs grow across the globe.

In 2000, following his work in the intelligence field, Donlon founded the Extranet Secure Portals (ESP) Group, which developed and marketed an application service provider secure enough to be used by the security community and beyond. ESP Group was sold in 2006 to NC4, an international solution provider that collects, manages and shares information to mitigate risks, manage incidents and securely communicate and collaborate.

From that point, Donlon invested in new businesses, including a horse hospital, a commercial restaurant

building in Carytown, a whiskey distillery in Lovingsston — and then became an Uber driver. But Donlon's path wasn't going to stop there.

"I thought, 'This is awesome,'" Donlon said. "I had no idea that Uber existed until it came to Richmond in 2014."

This was the inspiration for his new startup.

"I realized as cool as Uber is, there are gaps," Donlon said. "There are things that can make it better. If a third-party app makes your experience as a rider and driver better and gives these ride-sharing companies more business, that would be an awesome company."

And enter UZURV.

"UZURV was born from this idea and is now in 153 cities, and 53,000 drivers are now using my platform," Donlon said. "We got a good contract with GRTC Transit System and the American Cancer Society."

UZURV is a middle-ware software that leverages the independent drivers. Through this program, clients select specific drivers at specific times in advance. The platform also allows for classifications and specific training requirements for drivers, such as first-aid, and disability, pet-friendly, kid-friendly or senior friendly training.

"From a rider standpoint, they want the economics of Uber or Lyft, but they want the reliability of a car service and the familiarity and trust of their own chauffeur. That's what we give them," Donlon said. "Drivers are able to build a list of clients, have a better schedule and earn residual income."

After the company's initial two-year startup, Donlon has handed the reins over to a team, which has allowed him to step back and play the true role of founder.

"I guess I'm an entrepreneur," he said. "The reason I do what I do is because I could never be an employee. It's not in my DNA. I'm a lousy employee and I'd be the first one to fire me, so I have to go off and create my own stuff." ■

COMING HOME

By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15

Determination and hard work led alumna Aysha Bodenhamer '10 on her academic journey, which took her from rural North Carolina to Radford before returning to her home state to earn a Ph.D. and returning to Radford University as an assistant professor.

Through the inspiration of her high school softball coach and Radford alumna Myra Combs '99 — who was adamant that Bodenhamer continue her studies — Bodenhamer visited Radford as a high schooler and fell in love with the campus and the surrounding area.

“I just love the mountains,” she said. “I felt comfortable. I love that the New River was right there along campus, and everybody was pleasant and friendly. It just felt like home.”

But it took that determination and hard work to succeed as a first-generation student. While her parents were supportive, they didn't necessarily understand the college process.

“[First-generation] students don't have that privilege of their parents saying, ‘Oh, you're really good at this,’ she said. ‘Maybe you should check out these programs.’ It is not a bad thing — it just is what it is. I work extremely hard and I persevere. That is what has been ingrained in me from my family and from my Appalachian roots — to persist and never give up.”

While her parents didn't understand the process, they supported Bodenhamer through her college experience. “I do feel very privileged,” she said. “My dad told me that he would help me finance college for four years — if I did well and if I didn't drop out. He was very strict about that. His support was huge. My mom also offered a lot of social and financial support.”

At Radford, Bodenhamer was given opportunities to do graduate-level research as an undergraduate student — opportunities that Bodenhamer said enabled her to pursue her Ph.D. Paula Brush, former chair of the Sociology Department, was instrumental in Bodenhamer's success as a student. “She was by far one of the best professors I've had in my entire life,” she said.

Theresa Burriss, who serves as chair of Appalachian Studies and director of the Appalachian Regional and Rural Center, was also instrumental as she took a group of students to see firsthand the effects of mountaintop removal in West Virginia. “That was really the beginning of my graduate career,” Bodenhamer said. “The issues with

coal, non-renewable resources and energy and how we take that for granted as a society.”

Near the conclusion of Bodenhamer's time at Radford, she was encouraged by her mentors to continue her education, saying that Jeanne Mekolichick, now assistant provost of academic programs, and Brush told her that “it was what she was meant to do.”

Bodenhamer added that if she didn't have the encouragement of her mentors, she wouldn't have attended graduate school. “I wouldn't have even gone to college in the first place and I definitely wouldn't have gotten a Ph.D.,” she said. “I didn't think it was in my future plans. I didn't think I was capable of doing these things.”

North Carolina State University offered Bodenhamer a full scholarship to attend graduate school, where she studied two concentrations that interested her — global change and development and rural sociology.

Bodenhamer wanted to use her graduate degree to become a college professor. As she was completing her studies, she began to look for employment.

“As I was approaching the job market, I realized that my interests were in really niche areas,” she said. “I wanted to be somewhere in the Appalachian region where people would appreciate this research. It had always been my dream to come back to Radford University because I had such a positive experience here and I loved the atmosphere. I could knock on a professor's door at any time and have a conversation with them — it was always welcomed. I didn't see that at other institutions.”

Three open positions appeared in the Sociology Department at Radford University at the exact time Bodenhamer began looking for a job. “I was thrilled,” she said. “But I was still nervous about the possibility of coming back to Radford. I'd be coming back as an equal colleague, but Radford is the place for me.”

“I'm hoping that as I get grounded in this job, I can be a mentor to students just like my mentors were for me,” Bodenhamer continued. “I feel very privileged to be here. I feel like I'm a product of great mentors.” ■

“That is what has been ingrained in me from my family and from my Appalachian roots — to persist and never give up.”

Aysha Bodenhamer '10



Alumna Aysha Bodenhamer '10
first-generation student to faculty mentor



Dick Baynton, MBA '98

Highlander Resilience and Spirit

WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU ARE 69 YEARS OLD AND RETIRED? IF YOU'RE DICK BAYNTON, YOU PURSUE AN MBA.

By Jeremy Norman

WHAT DO YOU do if, at 69 years old, you have just sold your successful countertop fabrication and distribution company to an international firm? What do you do if your career, which began at a construction firm in Michigan in 1949, continued to a factory in New York, federal government posts in Wyoming as chief architect, a position as Pacific construction cost examiner for the Pacific Area in Hawaii as well as management positions for a large corporation, was — after almost 50 years — over?

If you are Dick Baynton MBA '98, you go back to college.

Baynton was about three weeks into retirement when, while driving through Roanoke in 1997, he saw a billboard advertising Radford University. "It said 'We are here for you at RU,' and I thought that was pretty clever," explained Baynton. "I had worked with a lot of MBAs during my decades in business, and I respected the expertise that each one brought. The billboard's message piqued my interest, so I decided to inquire about Radford University's MBA program."

Nearly 50 years had passed since the Michigan native was last in a college classroom, graduating from Michigan State — after an interruption to serve in the Navy during World War II — in 1949 with a degree in forestry, business and engineering. "To be honest with you, my grades as an undergraduate weren't that great, so it took a little encouragement from my late wife, Elaine, for me to enroll in the program," Baynton says. "I knew I wanted, and needed, face-to-face instruction in order for it to work, and that was something that Radford University was able to offer me."

Unfortunately, Baynton's time at Radford University almost ended before it even began.

"My daughter had a heart attack just as I was beginning my classes," explains Baynton. "She was going to require round-the-clock care, as well as a kidney and a pancreas transplant, so I thought it best to drop out of the program. However, my wife urged me to continue; she really pushed me to finish."

Baynton commuted from his home in Roanoke to the Radford University campus for each class. He even underwent a heart bypass surgery as a student

and never missed an assignment. To say that his time at Radford University was a success would be something of an understatement. He finished second in his graduating class and was nationally recognized for his thesis about the order of succession in a successful business.

With the help of his wife, who passed away in 2014, Baynton established the Richard and Elaine Baynton College of Business and Economics Scholarship in 2007. The scholarship gives preference to students who are organ recipients or students with other physical handicaps.

"I had a great opportunity at Radford University, and I took advantage of it," Baynton says. "I want to give other students the same opportunity."

Today, Baynton puts his Radford University education to use as a business consultant. He also writes a weekly column for *The Roanoke Star* and has written a book, "The Handbook of Small Business." He wears his Highlander pride, literally, when you see him in public sporting his signature Radford University hat. "I've got three caps and three cups," he says with a laugh.

"Attending Radford University is as good as going to Stanford, Harvard or Yale," he continues. "It is the best university you can find regarding curriculum and faculty. It all depends upon the participant.

"The student will only get as good of an education as they put in. If they can accept that early on, then they are going to get an education that is second to none at Radford University. The Radford University faculty and staff members are among the best any university has to offer."

While Baynton, now 90, does not make the trip to campus as much as he used to when he was a spry 70-year-old student, he still gets the same feeling. "I always took the back roads when I was commuting, to avoid the interstate. When I saw Muse Hall peeking out from above the railroad tracks, that's when I knew I was home.

"When I travel back to campus now, I still look for Muse Hall and the amazing new Kyle Hall." ■

BOARD OF VISITORS HONORS THE LATE MARY ANN HOVIS '65



THE RADFORD UNIVERSITY Board of Visitors (BOV) unanimously approved a resolution at the Sept. 15 campus BOV meeting in honor of the late Mary Ann Jennings Hovis '65, who at the time of her death Aug. 26 was a member of the BOV.

Hovis earned a Bachelor of Science degree in social science from Radford College in 1965. She served on the BOV from 2002-10, including terms as rector in 2004-05 and 2005-06, and served again from 2015-17. She also served on the Radford University Foundation Board of Directors, the Radford University National Alumni Association and as Capital Campaign Tri-Chair. She had been recognized by multiple Virginia governors as a technology industry leader, proud citizen, steadfast supporter, alumna, ambassador and member of the Radford University family.

"Mary Ann was one of our most loyal, generous and dedicated alumni whose 'can-do' attitude was infectious and an inspiration to many generations of the Radford family," said Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.

"Mary Ann Jennings Hovis was a champion for Highlander students, tirelessly working toward the betterment of the Radford experience, personally investing

in student support, engaging with students both on and off campus, attending and supporting activities and hosting events in her home," the resolution stated.

Hovis believed in Radford University students' success and personally invested in their futures through her support of the Mary Ann Jennings Hovis Scholarship, the Dr. Edward Jervey Scholarship, the Presidential Scholars program, the Covington Center, the Selu Conservancy and Radford University Athletics, among other initiatives.

She also spent countless hours in support of Radford University, including her participation in Advocacy Day in Richmond and accompanying busloads of students from Northern Virginia to visit Radford University.

The resolution stated that Hovis "encapsulated the true spirit of a Highlander, the qualities of leadership, integrity, honesty, compassion, strength and optimism."

"The Radford University Board of Visitors will deeply miss her joy, laughter and presence," the resolution continued. "The members of the Radford University Board of Visitors hereby posthumously recognize and salute Mrs. Mary Ann Jennings Hovis as a person to emulate, and extend to her loving spouse, Robert, our sincere gratitude for the time and energy both he and Mary Ann spent on behalf of Radford University." ■



**RADFORD
UNIVERSITY**



MARTIN HALL BOARD ROOM DEDICATED TO HOVIS

Radford University honored the memory of Mary Ann Jennings Hovis '65 in a ceremony Dec. 8, 2017 by dedicating its executive boardroom in honor of the former Board of Visitors member.

"It is truly an honor that we have an opportunity to name this the Mary Ann Jennings Hovis '65 Memorial Board Room, and it will always symbolize her dedication and her passion for her alma mater and all things Radford University," said Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill.

The boardroom is located on the third floor of the University's Martin Hall.

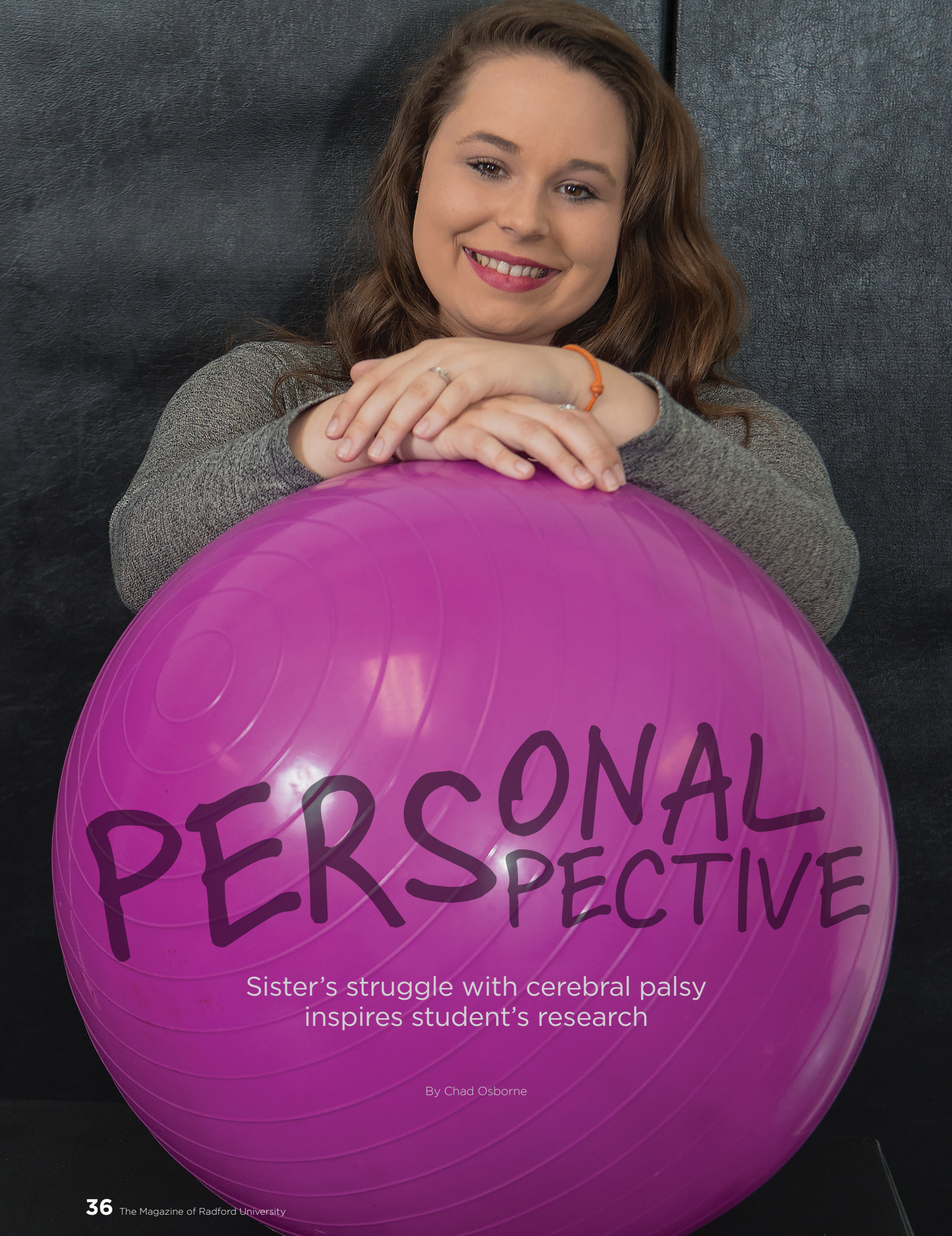
BOV member Karyn K. Moran '88 also spoke of Hovis' love of students and steadfast advocacy of Radford University, as well as her legendary hospitality. Moran presented a proclamation from former Gov. Terry McAuliffe honoring Hovis.

Radford University Director of State Government Relations Lisa Ghidotti read before the audience letters from several members of the Virginia General Assembly, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring and then-Virginia Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam recognizing Hovis' contributions throughout her career.

Following the heartfelt comments, Hemphill joined Moran, BOV Rector Mark S. Lawrence, former BOV Rector Christopher Wade and Hovis' husband, Bob, as they pulled back a curtain to reveal the boardroom's new name spelled out in brass letters on the red wall.

"All I can say is 'Thank you,'" Bob Hovis said after the unveiling, followed by a standing ovation from the audience.





PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

Sister's struggle with cerebral palsy
inspires student's research

By Chad Osborne

There are varying degrees to which individuals are affected by cerebral palsy.

Some are bound to a wheelchair, while others appear to be completely functional.

Lauren Boush '18's sister, Autumn, is among the latter. However, the pain and exhaustion can be tremendous.

"What people don't see is that when she comes home, she is in tears because the muscles in her back are so contracted to one side because her backpack was heavy or her brain got tired from trying to make those movements of walking all day long, or she can't physically see," Boush said of Autumn, a student at Virginia Western Community College. "I want people to know that it may not look like she struggles, but she really does, and that is something that needs to be addressed."

It was during Autumn's physical therapy visits that Boush, an exercise, sport and health education major at Radford University, began to see the benefits exercise was having on her sister. "I could see the exercises were making a huge difference for Autumn," said Boush, who soon after began to think about conducting her own research with children who have cerebral palsy.

As a member of Radford's Honors Academy, Boush worked with Health and Human Performance Chair and Professor J.P. Barfield on a capstone project that delved into the benefits of exercise for those individuals with cerebral palsy. Last spring and summer, she expanded her research to work with a group of children with cerebral palsy at a high school in Roanoke.

"The whole point of the research was to try to find ways people can exercise without hurting them too much, so they don't have to deal with the pain they deal with every day," Boush said. "My sister's legs are so tight sometimes she can't walk because it's so painful. This is something really close to me, and I just wanted to use my knowledge because I've been learning a lot in the sports medicine field to try to help her."

One major concern, Boush said, "is people with cerebral palsy don't get enough exercise because it is so painful. The other part of my research says that exercise can help, and there are ways that help them be more functional and have less spasticity."

An aspiring physical therapist assistant, Boush began by creating a series of warm-up and cool-down exercises and a group of eight activities that could be done on practical, everyday exercise equipment. The goal was to strengthen muscles and decrease spasticity.

Boush gave each participating child a pre-test, which consisted of a standardized physical activity assessment and a relative pain scale for muscle spasticity. Boush also gave the children a pedometer to count their steps each day.

"The whole point of the research was to try to find ways people can exercise without hurting them too much, so they don't have to deal with the pain they deal with every day."

Lauren Boush '18

She worked with the young participants each Monday and Wednesday, taking them through the various exercises to measure their capabilities. After the initial session, Boush established a baseline for each individual to measure their progress.

After four weeks, she conducted post-tests in the same manner as the pre-tests to determine if there was improvement in the amount of physical activity each could do, whether it be steps or reps, and if their pain scale number had decreased.

"Conclusively, each participant had increased their overall amount of physical activity, increased their step intake, increased their reps and sets with the exercises tremendously, and their overall pain level was decreased," Boush said. "To me, the research was a success and I was very lucky to get the opportunity to carry it out."

The opportunity to conduct this level of research as an undergraduate student is something Boush didn't expect, she said, but "Dr. Barfield opened my eyes to so many things. He said 'this is something you should do, and I think you should do.'"

The research is timely, said Barfield, who works as a classifier for various disability sport athletes, many of whom have cerebral palsy. "Over the past 10 years, much has been done to understand what gets people with cerebral palsy to stay active, and there hasn't been a very successful model yet according to the literature.

"Lauren is contributing cutting-edge research in cerebral palsy in terms of rehabilitation," he said. "It's really exciting for her to be contributing something other people need and will use. I think this research is really a mission to help her sister and help everyone with cerebral palsy. She is doing something that is meaningful to her personally and professionally." ■





MAXIMIZING ALUMNI SPIRIT

By Jeremy Norman



President Hemphill at Alumni Tour in Richmond

THERE HAS BEEN A RENEWED SENSE of enthusiasm among Radford University alumni that can be traced back to the inauguration of Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., as the University's seventh president in 2016. Building upon this excitement, the Office of Alumni Relations has restructured how it interacts with alumni, forming the Radford University Alumni Association Board of Directors and bringing back the popular alumni regional chapters.

"For several years we have had amazing alumni volunteers that operated without a structure of leadership," explained Laura Turk '87, M.S. '90, executive director of Alumni Relations. "These moves help give our alumni that leadership."

Each regional chapter operates as part of the Alumni Association, which was formed as a limited liability company under the umbrella of the Radford University Foundation in 2016. The chapters — Atlanta, Charlotte, National Capital Region, New River Valley, Raleigh, Richmond, Roanoke and Tidewater — all represent areas where there is a large, and passionate, Radford University alumni base.

"It is from President Hemphill's outreach during his 2016 alumni tour that we were able to tap into the excitement of the alumni. He was the first step from which we were able to build. The president is a big believer in regional chapters," said Turk.

"Once the board identified where the chapters should be established, the next step was to identify leaders in the respective areas," she continued. Every chapter has the same leadership structure, with a chapter president and a communications liaison. The responsibilities of the two positions are quite simple — identify activities in their respective areas that would be of interest to alumni and promote the University. The inaugural Alumni Volunteer Summit was held in February 2017 to show alumni how they can help the University through regional chapters.

"The Party in Elmwood Park, Radford Night at Kindred Spirit Brewing, all of the Radford University nights at minor league baseball games — these are all events whose success can be tied to the work of our regional chapters," Turk said. "And it's not just the events. Our regional chapters assist with admissions activities in their respective areas, as well professional speaking engagements and career fairs."

"The regional chapters allow alumni to identify with the University in their hometown," added Sandra Bond '97, MBA '00, director of alumni relations operations. "We understand the high demand for people's time," said Bond. "The Office of Alumni Relations will support them at every step. We can find an opportunity that fits their skillset and give them the tools for success."

Frankie Fitzgerald '81, M.S. '83, president of the New River Valley Alumni Chapter, echoed that sentiment. "My wife — Hollie Fitzgerald '05 — and I have been able to experience a lot of the events on-campus as well as engage with a lot of friends we typically would not see otherwise," said Fitzgerald. "It is important to us to volunteer to help the New River Valley Chapter grow in order so that others may stay in touch with their alma mater."

"One thing a local chapter does is help grow a community," said Rita Davis '80, communications liaison for the Charlotte Alumni Chapter. "Even though we are generationally diverse, the shared Radford University experience is always fun, and becoming friends through shared opportunities with the group motivates us to grow, spread the word to others as we meet them and to engage with one another professionally."

Regarding the future for the regional chapters, Turk put it simply. "We want all 80,000 Highlanders to share their Radford University story, wherever they are." Interested alumni volunteers should contact the Alumni Relations Office at 540-831-5248. ■

Round the clock NURSING STUDENT BY DAY AND EMT BY NIGHT

By Don Bowman

FOR COURTNEY STOVER '18, health care and service are family traditions.

As a team leader and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) for the Christiansburg Rescue Squad (CRS) and as a Radford University nursing student, Stover is extending her family's professional heritage.

"Interest and service in the health care field run in the family. Mom is a nurse, dad is a firefighter and a bunch of cousins are EMTs," she said.

Family tradition is not the only reason that Stover volunteers to drive an ambulance speeding through the night, work car accidents along Interstate 81 and confront a first-responder's other challenges.

"I knew nursing would be hard, and I wanted to be as well prepared as I could be," said Stover, who is conversant in medical terminology, technology and procedures as a result of the accelerated two-month EMT course she completed in 2015 on her own initiative. The subsequent two years of responding to accidents, participating in missing-person searches and supporting police, fire and other emergency calls have added depth and confidence.

The junior also works with the Carilion Medical Center Patient Transfer unit in Roanoke, ferrying patients home or to other facilities.

As her days only contain 24 hours, Stover decided to sit this year out as a high school basketball official to focus on completing the rigorous nursing program and fulfilling her duties as a team leader at the CRS.

Assistant Professor of Nursing Sarah Gilbert said Stover brings a valuable perspective that the School of Nursing is incorporating. In November, Gilbert's rescue squad teammates worked with Radford University nursing students at the Radford Simulation Center. Together, they explored the teamwork involved in patient hand-off and pickup to better understand patient care from the two jobs' perspectives.

"Courtney has brought an unusual and valuable perspective and she has shared it to the benefit of our current students and students in the future as well as the patients with whom they will work," said Gilbert. "Her connection and experience have enabled us to explore in detail an often overlooked interprofessional relationship that can influence the successful treatment of a patient."

The patients with whom Stover works as an EMT are extremely vulnerable, she said. From her experiences in the ambulance or in the hospital, Stover recognizes that compassion and empathy are as important as her mastery of the ever-changing technical knowledge and skills of either of her health care jobs.

"Illness and injury require my full attention as an EMT. I see patients in a time of great need," said Stover. "As a nurse, I look forward to playing an even more important part in helping a patient along their journey toward a return to everyday life."



Courtney Stover '18 balanced college classes and EMT work from 2015 to her graduation in May.



As part of her nursing studies, Stover has been immersed in the requisite clinical rotations. She said she has already felt the warmth and satisfaction nurses count on to balance the trauma and fear that their patients endure.

"When a patient says 'thank you' for helping them in even a small way, it is nice to feel that I am making a difference," said Stover. "I like being part of someone's miracle."

As a basketball player, a rescue squad member and now as a nursing student, Stover appreciates the camaraderie and commitment that unites a team.

Trust and humor, along with rigorous training, have forged a connection among her rescue squad colleagues that she said stabilizes them for their difficult calls. Stover has felt the same vibe at work in the SON.

"You can see it and feel it with my classmates as we come together. My study group is like sisters working as hard to help each other succeed as we do on our own," Stover said. "The faculty's professionalism has inspired me and their kindness has encouraged me through some difficult times. I love them all." ■

SCHOOL OF NURSING SUCCESSSES

- The Radford University School of Nursing (SON) has built a solid reputation as a pre-eminent educator of health care professionals.
- For the fifth consecutive year, Radford's SON graduates surpassed the national average pass rate by first-time test takers of the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).
- Graduates from the SON's December 2015 and May 2016 classes combined to post a first-attempt pass rate of 94.4 percent to exceed the 84.5 percent national average for Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) programs. Radford University's first-time test takers also exceeded their Virginia colleagues' pass rate of 88.2 percent.
- The examination is administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and is a nurse's final step toward professional licensure. In 2016, 85 of the 90 candidates from the SON's Radford and Roanoke sites passed and are now eligible for licensure in all 50 states.



Radford University's Information Technology Department is preparing teachers and students for the cybersecurity needs of the future

By Mary Hardbarger

With cybersecurity attacks on the rise and cybersecurity professionals in high demand, Radford University is taking action to alleviate these national challenges.

Since 2013, Professor Prem Uppuluri, coordinator of the University's Center for Information Security (CIS), along with information technology Professor Joe Chase, has been working with school systems across the Commonwealth to train teachers and students with cybersecurity skills. Specifically, the professors are incorporating cybersecurity into Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) education at the kindergarten through high school level (K-12).

"Our goal is simple. Given the ubiquitous nature of technology, we want to make cyber awareness and security skills as much a second nature to a new generation of students as reading and writing skills," Uppuluri explained. "Imagine the recruitment pipeline of potential, highly motivated information technology majors this will create."

This intentional training would ideally motivate students to consider cybersecurity careers. Virginia alone has 36,000 job openings in the field. Such a large number of skilled workers is needed to combat the staggering number of cyberattacks the Commonwealth faces each year. In 2016, Virginia saw 78 million of these threats.

Chase and Uppuluri sat on Virginia Department of Education-sponsored (VDE) panels to develop new curriculum in cybersecurity for K-12 school systems. The work resulted in the development of two official cybersecurity courses for Virginia public schools: Cybersecurity Fundamentals and Cybersecurity Software Operations, Advanced.

Cave Spring Middle School instructional technology resource teacher Stephanie Schilling participated in one of the classes.

"The trainings were wonderful," Schilling said. "Each week, class was live-streamed and we are able to learn, interact and ask questions about the weekly topics and assignments. Prem took every opportunity to make teachable moments that allowed us to pass this knowledge to our students."

Business and information technology teacher Sharon Reeves at Grayson County High School benefited from the class, too.

"Participating in Radford University's cyber trainings have helped me broaden my skills," Reeves said. "Radford faculty are very knowledgeable and are more than willing to help me and other high school teachers broaden their knowledge."

Both educators realize the importance of passing along these skills to their students.

"It is crucial for students to have access to this type of program," Schilling said. "There are abundant opportunities for students with cybersecurity knowledge and skills. In the



WARRIORS

“Given the ubiquitous nature of technology, we want to make cyber awareness and security skills as much a second nature to a new generation of students as reading and writing skills.”

Prem Uppuluri, Ph.D., coordinator of the University's Center for Information Security (CIS)

future, there will be a greater need for employees with cybersecurity training.”

Radford University also hosts several cybersecurity activities on campus that attract students from across the state. The RUSecure Capture the Flag (CTF) contest will be offered for the fifth time this year, providing education, motivation, competition and scholarships to the participating high school and community college teams.

“Wonderful opportunities are being created with the collaboration between Radford University and Roanoke County Public Schools,” Schilling said. “We have been invited to participate in the CTF competitions, which help engage our students in real-world cybersecurity techniques.”

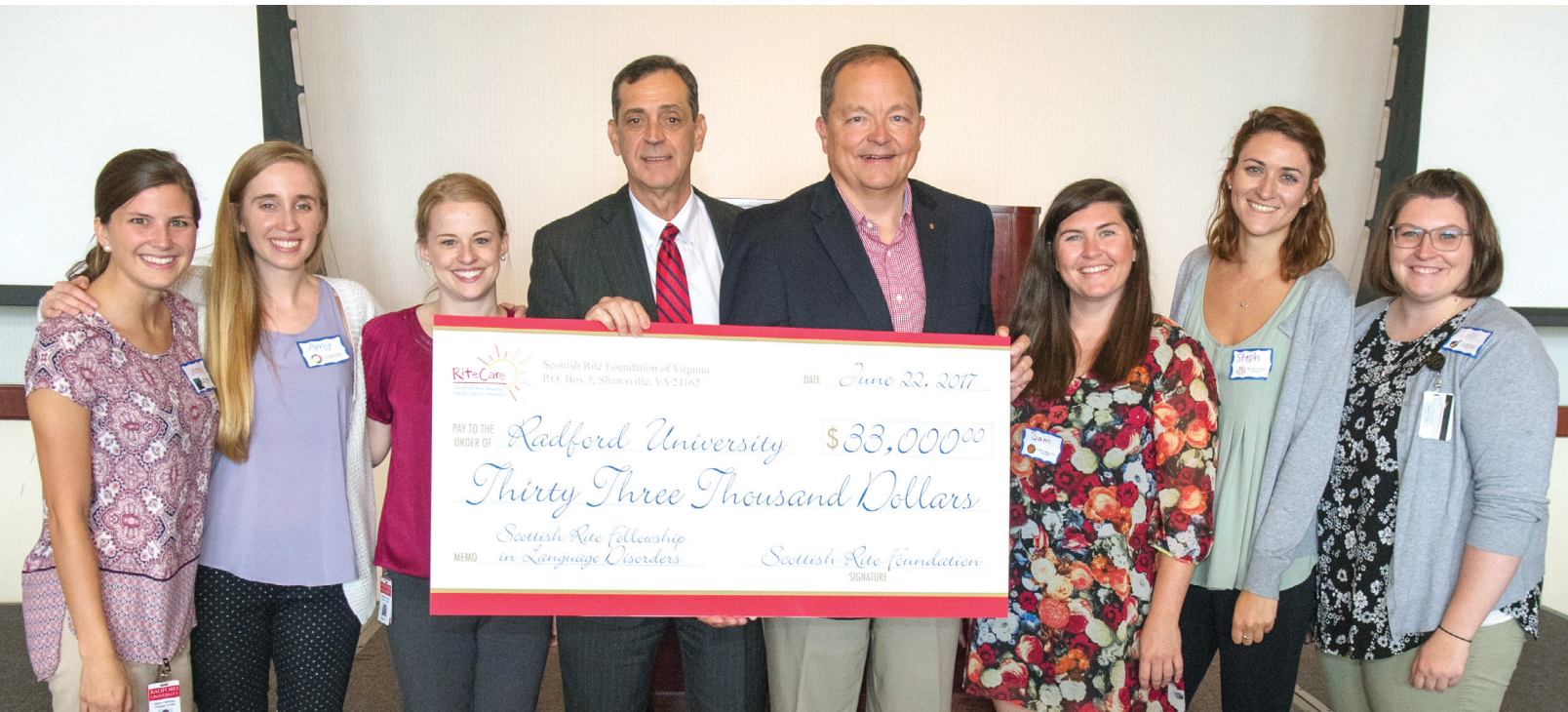
Proud alumna and computer technology teacher Jennifer Eller's Radford High School students also participated in the contest and enrolled in the University's ITEC 145, an Information Technology dual enrollment course. Eller also took the class.

“As an educator, I have really appreciated the support and relationships that I have gained with RU faculty,” said Eller '99, M.S. '12. “I admire their tenacity and passion to train the next cyber warriors. As an alumnus, I feel a large amount of pride in being a part of the University's growth in cybersecurity training and education.”

Last fall, Eller enrolled in the University's new competency-based education program, Innovative Mobile Personalized Accelerated Competency Training (IMPACT). The program launched Oct. 1 with a focus on cybersecurity. Uppuluri was part of the team that helped develop and is now teaching IMPACT classes designed for working professionals.

Radford's cybersecurity outreach will continue to grow with a \$140,250 grant from the National Security Agency (NSA). The grant will support the University's collaboration with more than 20 teachers in K-8 schools and 50 teachers in 9-12 schools across the state to create cyber-focused lesson plans, assessments and SOLs and provide them the necessary knowledge and skills to teach security. Radford University cybersecurity undergraduate students will take part in this project as research assistants.

More than 50 teachers are expected to be supported through the Pathways in Cybersecurity grant. To give perspective, Uppuluri explained, “With this number, we will have taught almost 100 teachers in K-12 in Virginia over the last two years.” ■



Former Interim Provost Joseph Scartelli joins James Cole (fourth from right) and COSD representatives in accepting the Scottish Rite donation.

SCOTTISH RITE

largesse sustains COSD outreach and service

By Don Bowman

IN ONE of his last official actions before retirement last summer, Interim Provost Joseph Scartelli joined the celebration that wrapped up the annual RiteCare Clinics' summer of helping children develop and enhance communication and literacy skills.

Scartelli's swan song was one of many poignant aspects of the luncheon in Kyle Hall's multipurpose room to acknowledge the contribution by the Virginia Scottish Rite Foundation (VSRF) towards sustaining the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders' ongoing community service work.

James Cole, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Virginia, presented Scartelli a check for \$33,000 to support

the enduring partnership's initiatives that help children of the New River Valley.

On behalf of more than 150 campers, parents, grandparents, Communication Sciences and Disorders (COSD) faculty and staff, graduate student clinicians, undergraduate volunteers and music therapy faculty and students, COSD Chair Diane Millar thanked the Scottish Rite organization and its guests from the Roanoke and New River Valleys.

Scartelli echoed Millar's gratitude, saying "Thanks from the bottom of my heart and that of this institution for your support of the incredible work that is being done, needs to be done and has to be done."

Reflecting on the heritage of the Radford-VSRF partnership and the VSRF's pivotal role, Scartelli said, "No institution can do this work without the committed philanthropy of partners like your organization and its members."

The event marked the 23rd year that Radford's COSD Department and the VSRF have teamed up to help children of limited means overcome a variety of communication disorders. Over more than two decades, the VSRF has generously shared almost \$1 million with the COSD Department. In that time, the VSRF has prepared a generation of speech-language pathologists (SLP) with hands-on experience working with children and families.

The luncheon concluded a morning during which Cole and regional Scottish Rite members toured some of the programs made possible by their efforts:

- The Language and Literacy Summer Institute, led by COSD Associate Professor Elizabeth Lanter, to support academic achievement by preschool to middle school children through improved oral and written language skills.
- The Preschool Language Lab (PLL), a program for toddlers and pre-school-aged children with identified communication disorders or who are at risk of failing to develop strong communication skills. The PLL is an interprofessional collaboration between COSD student-clinicians and music therapy students, led by WCHHS Associate Dean and Associate COSD Professor Corey Cassidy and music therapist Angela Obst.
- The Radford Adventure Language and Literacy (ALL) Camp, led by COSD instructor Karen Arndt, that used STEM-focused activities for school-aged children to develop literacy skills.

For the first time, the RiteCare program enabled the COSD Department to expand its reach and host satellite programs at Christiansburg Middle School (CMS):

- The Summer Enrichment Camp, organized by COSD Assistant Professor Karen Davis, to engage students in language-based group activities and encourage active learning and improve reading comprehension and written language skills by elementary school aged children.
- The Social Skills Program for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, led by Millar, to give middle schoolers on the autism scale opportunities to sharpen social communication skills and improve peer interactions.

Hosting RiteCare camps at satellite locations marked important progress for the COSD Department and its students' professional preparation, said Millar.

"The schools are overwhelmed with the number of children who need our services," said Millar. "The school-based camps are additions to the many unique and valuable ways that Radford serves the community."

Davis said the satellite camps season the first-year graduate students before they take to the field for additional clinical experiences.

"In the school model, our students have to collaborate with each other and their colleagues at the school, as well

as clients' families," Davis said. "It is a fluid environment that forces them to adjust their plans and actions."

The environment stimulated Christine Braunstetter, one of the counselors-in-training at the CMS site.

"I liked being part of a team and the interaction with multiple clients," Braunstetter said. "I had a chance to immerse myself in their interests and needs by getting to know them over a longer period of time in a place they were comfortable."

Amy Weldon was a team leader at the Language and Literacy Institute. She said the field experience helped her grow as an SLP.

"I have more confidence in my abilities. I feel like I broadened the scope of potential ways I can help my clients," Weldon said.

The Summer RiteCare camps complement the activities of the Radford University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic (RUSLHC) which provides services by graduate interns who are supervised by state-licensed and American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) certified SLPs. Annually, the RUSLHC provides more than 3,000 clinical hours of training while serving clients from the New River and Roanoke valleys in areas such as prevention, assessment and treatment of speech, language, swallowing and hearing disorders. ■

“I am honored to witness today something that makes a difference. Our members and our organization are humbled by what you clinicians do and the difference you are making in the lives of others.”

James Cole
Virginia Scottish Rite Foundation



Members of the Virginia Scottish Rite participate in the annual visit to the RiteCare Clinics' summer camps.



A new way to play

By Chad Osborne

LIKE MANY great ideas, this one began with a need. For Jane Machin, the need was a birthday present for her godson, Logan, who has dyslexia.

“I wanted to find a present that celebrated his dyslexia, rather than give a gift that left him feeling inadequate,” said Machin, an assistant marketing professor at Radford University. Her initial idea was to purchase books about famous people who also had the learning disorder, “but there were none,” she said. “Zilch. Zip. Every book about dyslexia was completely academic.”

After interviewing experts and joining the Dyslexia Society, Machin learned more about the strengths and weakness of children with dyslexia in terms of processing information.

Through all her time and work, Machin discovered an idea that would benefit her godson, who was turning 7 years old, and provide a valuable learning tool for her Marketing 101 class.

“Quite often, our families will get together for game night, and there are certain games Logan can’t fully participate in, at least without feeling stressed,” Machin said. “So, I decided to challenge my students to develop ideas and create board games that rewarded the strengths of a dyslexic child rather than punish their areas of weakness.”

Typically, Machin said, board games put dyslexic children at a disadvantage because of the high level or speed of reading comprehension required to play.

“I thought creating games was a unique opportunity for my students to immerse themselves in the experience

of somebody else,” Machin said in describing the process. “When I teach creativity, I tell my students empathy for the person you are trying to solve problems for is highly, highly important.

The first and arguably most important step in the design thinking process, Machin said, is to understand the problem from the perspective of a dyslexic child.

During the fall 2016 semester, Machin challenged her students to create the games, and in November 2016, more than 200 students participated in an Experience Dyslexia simulation, which was aided by a High Impact Practice Classroom Enhancement grant.

Over the course of four hours, three sections of students rotated between two reading, two writing and two listening stations that simulated different characteristics of the dyslexia experience.

Each station had an individual moderator playing the role of teacher, Machin said. Some stations were manned by community members who either had dyslexia or worked with dyslexic children. Logan’s mother and grandmother also helped, as did faculty and students from other campus departments.

Students spent approximately 10 minutes at each station completing the simulation activity and then spent five minutes reflecting on the activity.

“Part of the experience is to feel that emotional threat, the same as a dyslexic person,” Machin said.

After completing all stations, the class came together to share their emotions and learning from the overall experience.

“ I thought creating games was a unique opportunity for my students to immerse themselves in the experience of somebody else. When I teach creativity, I tell my students empathy for the person you are trying to solve problems for is highly, highly important.”

Jane Machin
Assistant professor of marketing

“We talked about it in debriefing sessions and the experience really helped my students understand the threat and it was way of processing and a different way of looking at things,” said Machin, who continues to organize and run the simulations.

Students then worked in class for the next two weeks to develop their games past the prototype stage and into functional games with real materials. The project culminated with a poster session in Kyle Hall.

“They had to do a presentation that stated the title and rules of the game and listed the competitors. They also had to identify which aspects this was tapping into,” Machin said. “Is it the way dyslexic children look at letters and pictures? Is it the way they can make connections more quickly?”

Faculty and students rated each game according to its creativity and how well it solved the initial problem: giving children with dyslexia an advantage over their friends and family.

Brianna Collins '18, a marketing and management double major from Stafford, continued to work on her

game, “On Your Mark, Get Set, Go.” She received an Idea Riser grant from the University that is allowing her to build a board game prototype to test with children with dyslexia at a school in Roanoke.

“I want to fight the dyslexia stigma by positioning dyslexic children on a path of success,” Collins said. “It begins with the empowerment learning approach. ‘On Your Mark, Get Set, Go’ focuses on strengths of dyslexic children, encourages the best emotional state for learning and creates a multi-sensory learning experience.

“Developing this game into an actual product is now a passion of mine, and being able to direct my care and attention toward children battling with the most common learning disability is an opportunity I don’t want to miss.”

Logan was in school when the games were being presented and didn’t get a chance to see the products, “but his mum did and loved them,” Machin said. “She explained the games to Logan, and he was super flattered that a class was working on games specifically for him and people like him.” ■

Opening eyes AND building skills

PROJECT
SPROUT
helping children grow



WITH PROJECT SPROUT,
STUDENT VOLUNTEERS
REACH OUT TO
HOMELESS CHILDREN

By Don Bowman

IN THE FIELD, Radford University students get valuable experience, often hard-earned.

Project Sprout is a program to empower homeless or transient families with children up to 4 years old who are not enrolled in school. In the process, future health care and human services professionals from Radford University get valuable field experience.

Corey Cassidy, associate dean of the Waldron College of Health and Human Services (WCHHS), leads the effort composed of volunteer teams of graduate and undergraduate students who visit with families in neutral sites such as shelters, libraries, public parks or temporary lodgings.

As advocates, the teams talk with the families about their children's communication skills and nutrition, as well as cognitive, physical, social/emotional and language development. They deliver bright red drawstring bags with age-appropriate toys and books to break the ice and demonstrate activities that address developmental milestones with the families.

In 2017, Project Sprout partnered for the first time with both Project Hope and the New River Valley Head Start to expand its reach. Historically, Project Sprout connects with 10-12 families annually; the trained advocates can work with 25 families. Radford's Scholar-Citizen Initiative has supported Project Sprout since its inception in 2012 as an extracurricular project.

"The experience has to be a real eye-opener for Radford University students to the conditions of people who are spending so much time and energy just trying to survive," said Aline Brinckman, foster care and homeless liaison with Montgomery County Schools and project coordinator for Project Hope New River Valley. "They help us to be a main provider for these homeless children, a population who are often overlooked at a critical stage of their lives."

In 2017, a new cadre of student volunteers completed training and joined experienced advocates to enhance their own human service skills and experience and prepare for the community service initiative. In the program's first five years, volunteer student advocates have come from programs such as communication sciences and disorders (COSD), nursing, psychology, early childhood education, nutrition and dietetics, counseling education and sociology.

Graduate Coordinator Alyssa Ardman, a second-year COSD graduate student from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and independent study undergraduate coordinator Katelyn Weaver, a senior COSD major from



Students from Waldron College of Health and Human Services work on drawstring bags for needy children as part of the SPROUT Program in the New River Valley.

Madison County, Virginia, currently assist Cassidy in operating the program.

Each visit includes a two-person team, one who reviews available resources and important child developmental milestones with parents and one who gets to know the children and models how to use the toys and books.

In her first visit, Weaver confronted a chaotic environment that she said was a far cry from the home in which she grew up. She said she knew she had to overcome the shock of the glaring contrast.

"It became real for me. I had get to past my assumptions to provide resources and knowledge of opportunities available. How I feel is less important than the way I make my clients feel," Weaver said. "There are so many factors I can't control, but I want to be a person who is willing to help and can do it."

Ardman is the program's liaison with Project Hope, the local affiliate of a statewide initiative to serve as a bridge to families and children in dire economic circumstances. She arranges the meetings with families who are referred to the program by Brinckman.

Ardman determinedly tries to connect with transient families without a permanent home address. The only means of contact are cellphones, which may or may not be connected, due to financial constraints.

"The role of an advocate is to coach the caregivers and to provide them with encouragement and support," Ardman said.

Cassidy considers the encounters one more valuable opportunity for Radford University students to work in the field and tighten the bonds between colleagues and clients.

"It is a dip-a-toe experience versus a full intervention," Cassidy said. "We should all be exposed to the needs of those we serve who are in distinct and vulnerable situations. Experiencing the impact they have on families is fundamental to the students eventually becoming effective health-care and human service providers." ■

“There are so many factors I can't control, but I want to be a person who is willing to help and can do it.”

Katelyn Weaver, senior COSD major



Have headset will travel

Virtual reality lab provides innovative learning experience for students, faculty

By Mary Hardbarger

FROM THE TOP of Mount Everest to the inside of a human skeleton, Radford University's Virtual Reality (VR) Lab can take students, well, virtually anywhere.

Using HTC VIVE technology, students strap on a headset that transports them to a destination of their choice. Hand-held controllers allow them to pick up objects, draw, write and initiate other commands that assist in exploring the virtual world.

In that world, users can, for fun, play fetch with a virtual dog or stop scary Vikings from overtaking a castle with a virtual bow and arrow.

For educational purposes, they can dissect and explore a full-scale human skeleton or skyrocket to another planet and observe the stars and galaxies that surround them.

To those who witness the surreal experience, the scene can be comical and even more difficult to put into words.

For example, when it looks like the VR user is about to hit a real, physical wall inside the VR Lab, he or she stops suddenly. How? Why?

Because, inside their computer-simulated world, a fake wall appears. VR is smart and sophisticated that way, and it's advancing by the minute.

Associate Professor of Geospatial Science and Radford University alumnus Andrew Foy '05 has become accustomed to such scenarios over the past several semesters. The technology is new to the University, and Foy has been training faculty and students how to navigate the VR terrain. "The VR Lab was created to explore how we can use VR to enhance the learning experience for students," Foy said. "Technology such as augmented reality and virtual reality is rapidly advancing, and the Geospatial Science department wants to be a leader in introducing these new ways of teaching and learning to the campus community."

While newer to Radford University and higher education institutions, in general, VR has been around for quite some time. It wasn't until about the first 15 years of the 21st century that the technology really took off.

According to the Virtual Reality Society, computer technology, especially small and powerful mobile technologies, has exploded. As its popularity continues to rise, its cost continues to decrease, making the technology accessible to more people.

The rise of smartphones with high-density displays and 3-D graphics capabilities has enabled a generation of lightweight and practical virtual reality devices. Depth-

sensing cameras, sensor suites, motion controllers and natural human interfaces are already a part of daily human computing tasks.

At Radford University, the possibilities appear endless in relation to the ways that VR can transform the student experience.

Waldron College of Health and Human Services students could benefit from the virtual medical lab. An aspiring artist in the University's College of Visual and Performing Arts might use VIVE's virtual art gallery to create a portrait that can be saved and uploaded to a portfolio.

Professors can also reap benefits. Foy said he and other faculty have uploaded lectures and PowerPoint presentations into the VIVE system, resulting in a truly interactive classroom experience for professors and students alike.

"We are also using VR for virtual labs for the GEOINT Geospatial Intelligence Certificate Programs, which are part of Radford University's Innovative Mobile Personalized Accelerated Competency Training (IMPACT)," Foy said. "Students can interact with tools, such as the U.S. Geological Sciences topographic maps, in a virtual environment."

In the summer of 2017, Foy's colleague and fellow Associate Professor of Geospatial Science Stockton Maxwell traveled with a group of students to Peru as part of the Radford Amazonian Research Expedition (RARE), one of the University's signature research and study abroad opportunities.

While there, Maxwell used a 360-degree 4K camera to capture the Amazonian landscape and adventures of the student-researchers. Back on campus, that footage was uploaded to VIVE. Now, students who don't have the resources or simply don't want to study abroad can grasp that supplemental learning experience without leaving Radford.

"It will be like a virtual field trip," Maxwell said.

Future projects could include using the same 360-degree 4K technology to capture images of residence halls, dining facilities and academic buildings. Prospective students, using VR devices of their own, could then explore campus from the comfort of their homes.

"We are just beginning to understand how transformative this technology will be," Foy said. "VR is changing the way we learn about our world, and even how we live in it."

Currently located in Cook Hall, the VR Lab will move to Reed and Curie Halls upon completion of the building's renovation in fall 2019. ■

MARCH MADNESS SHOWCASES RADFORD'S SCHOOL SPIRIT

By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15

Let's Go Rad-FORD. LET'S GO RAD-FORD!

The cheer echoed through PPG Paints Arena in Pittsburgh in the waning moments of Radford University's NCAA Tournament game against Villanova on March 15. With the excitement and joy emanating from the Radford section, observers would have thought Radford was going to pull the upset.

They weren't.

Radford was down by 26. But that deficit didn't dampen the mood of the Radford contingent, who were both happy and excited to support their team on the national stage.

The students and fans who made the memorable season possible were rewarded after the game when head coach Mike Jones brought the team over to the most dedicated section

in the arena. Coaches and players passionately thanked the fans for the support during the season.

"By the time Coach Jones brought the team and spirit squad over, the entire section was already on their feet cheering loud and proud," senior Makenzi Gallagher from Virginia Beach said. "To share that moment with the team, as fans, was so special and I think it really speaks to our connection with campus. Some of us had never met before, but in that moment, we were all one community full of pride for how well our team had done."

Sportscasters and bystanders alike witnessed the power of that moment — a team and its fans that stand together.

"It was an incredible moment when the team came over to the fans after the game. They recognized how important student support is and so

many of these fans appreciated the opportunity to share that moment with the team," said Ann Marie Klotz, vice president for Student Affairs, who chaperoned the student trip along with Dean of Students Susan Trageser. "It was a class act and lovely way to end the season — together."

Wrapping up history

The men's basketball team completed the 2017-18 season with a multitude of achievements after being picked to finish seventh in the Big South. The Highlanders won the Big South Championship, won their first-ever NCAA Tournament game and set a single-season wins record with 23.

Radford advanced to the NCAA Tournament on a buzzer-beating shot by freshman Carlik Jones.

"...it has been an unbelievable year," Jones said. "I love these guys. These are my brothers. I will never forget this feeling or memory."

Mike Jones said he was proud of the team — and the seniors — and what they accomplished.

"They've done things that will leave probably the best legacy of any seniors in the history of Radford basketball at the Division 1 level, and I'm very proud of them for that," he said.

Following the season, Jones was named the National Association of Basketball Coaches District 3 Coach of the Year and became the fourth-ever Big South coach to win the award.





Preparing for 'Madness'

Packed onto two buses and a few small vans, students began the trip to Pittsburgh early in the morning of March 15 from the Bonnie Hurlburt Student Center at 9:30 a.m.

Local media outlets recorded footage of the students cheering as the buses departed — a mood that never dampened during the nearly six-hour trip.

Freshman Maria Bejarano from Woodbridge got the call that there was an extra seat on the bus five minutes before departure.

"I ran to the bus," she said. "They called me right before the bus was about to leave. I was meeting with my academic advisor in Whitt Hall when I got the call from a friend. I just ran without bringing anything with me."

Once on the bus, students crafted creative signs to show at the game. Bejarano's sign urged Villanova to get their "novacaine" ready. Gallagher's sign urged Radford to get on their dancing shoes.

Wowing the crowd

As students approached the gate, Radford cheers echoed through the area. Bystanders and media outlets alike watched as the Radford students brought their Highlander pride to Pittsburgh.

"I've never been to an NCAA Tournament, so having the chance to go to one is a good experience because most college students don't have that opportunity," said Darius Barksdale from Danville.

Emily Monk, a sophomore transfer student from Abingdon, said that it's been fun having the March Madness experience at Radford University.

"I've had family talk about experiences like this, and it's been awesome to discover it for myself," she said. "It's been fun. I'm just excited to go and be at the tournament."

A "surreal" opportunity

More than 150 students were selected to attend the game based on a contest in which they had to describe their Highlander pride.

"It was an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I am so grateful that I was one of the students selected," said Noel Piñeiro from Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. "I didn't really need any more reasons to love [Radford] more than I already do, but the entire experience made my pride in being a Highlander skyrocket. Everything was great — the atmosphere on the bus ride, our fans in the arena, the wonderful game and the opportunity to positively

represent Radford once again."

Gallagher said that rooting for Radford in March Madness was a "surreal" opportunity for her and for the other Radford students.

"I'm very, very thankful that Radford University would take hundreds of students to both of our NCAA games," she said. "I'm thankful that faculty were willing to step away from work for the day to bus students over six hours away to celebrate this huge moment in history. We have a special community because of it."

A crowd like none other

Radford students, faculty, staff and fans showed that it is possible to bring joy and grace to the sport, regardless of the outcome.

"From the face-painting, to the sign-making and the hundreds of posts on social media, these fans showed such heart every step of the way," Klotz said. "The students practiced chants on the bus ride to the games and really demonstrated the strength and commitment of our Radford community."

During the game telecast, the announcers said that they were impressed with Radford's fan showing and support — and even said they wanted to attend a Radford home game next season. ■



Women's team racks up **triumphant season**

By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15





The Radford women's basketball team wrapped up its season with a 24-9 (15-3) record while setting records along the way.

In the WNIT, the Highlanders secured their first-ever win over a Big Ten team with a 63-62 victory over Penn State on March 15 and was the first Big South team to win a WNIT game since 2013. With the victory, Radford has won games against Power 5 programs in back-to-back seasons.

The Highlanders had four players earn all-conference honors after the regular season. Senior Janayla White '18 from Virginia Beach earned first-team Big South honors for the second time in her career after averaging 10.3 points and 7.8 rebounds per game. Senior Jayda Worthy '18 from Toledo, Ohio, earned Big South defensive player of the year honors and second team All-Big South.

Junior Destinee Walker from Florence, South Carolina, earned a spot on the honorable mention team after averaging 11 points per game, and sophomore Jen Falconer from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, was acknowledged on the all-academic team for the first time in her career. White, Worthy and Walker combined to average 30.7 of Radford's 60.1 points per game.

With a 20-point win over Campbell on Senior Day, the Highlanders set a program record with their 15th conference win of the season and ended the regular season on a 10-game winning streak.

Following the regular season, head coach Mike McGuire was named Big South Coach of the Year for the second time in his career. McGuire led the Highlanders to 14-1 record over their final 15 games.

“I am blessed to be the women's basketball coach at Radford University and cherish this opportunity daily.”

Mike McGuire
Women's basketball head coach

“To me, a Coach of the Year award is a result of having determined, hard-working and selfless people in and around the program. This is a program recognition in every way,” McGuire said. “I am blessed to be the women's basketball coach at Radford University and cherish this opportunity daily.”

Following the season, assistant coach Camille Collier was selected as one of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's 2018 Thirty Under 30. The program recognizes coaches at all levels who are leaders in women's basketball. The program, now in its third year, aims to demonstrate that experience is not a requirement to be a leader.

“I am humbled and thankful to be recognized among a great group of coaches in our profession,” Collier said. “I am very appreciative of the opportunity to learn from Coach McGuire and to coach great student-athletes who continuously push me to become a better coach.” ■

Radford University Athletics

HALL OF FAME



CLASS OF 2017

Chris Oliver '07 (men's basketball)

Don Staley (men's soccer '86-'93, women's soccer '85-'93)

Tiffany Evans '07 (women's track and field)



1. Tiffany Evans '07 (women's track and field) receiving her Hall of Fame plaque from Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg and President Brian O. Hemphill.
2. Tom Lillard '79, Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg and Hall of Fame inductee Don Staley, head coach for men's soccer from 1986-1993 and women's soccer from 1985-1993.
3. Chris Oliver '07 (men's basketball) giving his Hall of Fame acceptance speech.

Meet the HighlanderFavorite movie *Braveheart*Favorite professional athlete
*Dante Washington*Favorite hobby *golf, caber toss*Favorite tartan *MacFarlane*Favorite play *Macbeth*Favorite holiday *Burns Night (Jan. 25)*Favorite monster *Loch Ness*Favorite actor *Sean Connery*Favorite clown *Darlin' MacFarlane*Favorite comedian *Mike Ashley*

Favorite sports moment

*Highlander rugby team wins
national championship*

THE HIGHLANDER

ranked the top mascot in the 2018 NCAA Tournament

In his climb to the top, the Radford Highlander dominated the Sheaf Toss, the Caber Toss and the Scottish Hammer Toss.

USA Today Sports ranked the Radford Highlander as the top mascot in a ranking of all 68 teams in the 2018 NCAA tournament.

"Amazing," wrote Charles Curtis of USA Today Sports. "Between the beard, the costume, the muscles,

the headband and all the 'THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE!!!' jokes, this deserves the No. 1 spot."

The Highlander became the name for the athletic teams in 1979, but the first mascot was Rowdy Red, who was unveiled on Dec. 9, 1981. The first-generation Highlander mascot was adopted on Sept. 28, 1996 at the first Radford Highlanders Festival. The current Highlander mascot debuted at Homecoming in 2006. ■

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Visit radfordu.bncollege.com to show your Highlander spirit and stock up on your Radford University gear!



A BIG STEP FORWARD



By Jordan Childress

Very few receive the opportunity to represent their country while playing the game they love. Radford men's soccer junior Nick Mayhugh did just that for the United States Paralympic National Team.

To be eligible for the U.S. Paralympic National Team, players must be ambulant and have one of the following neurological conditions: have had a stroke, have cerebral palsy or suffered a brain injury. There are four levels of classification: FT5 (diplegia), FT6 (quadriplegia), FT7 (hemiplegia) and FT8 (players are minimally affected by one of three).

Mayhugh falls under the FT8 classification, due to suffering a stroke as a child as a result of being a premature birth.

"Throughout my entire childhood, no one understood or believed me when I would say that my norm was different," Mayhugh added. "My doctors and family were unaware of the side effects I was experiencing until we later learned the side effects were a result of a stroke."

Growing up with the lack of feeling on the left side of his body was normal to Mayhugh, and he gave it no thought until November 2010. That fall, Mayhugh had a grand mal seizure, which led to hours of tests and scans. Doctors found a dead spot on the right side of the brain, which was diagnosed as a result from a stroke he suffered in utero.

"All the dots started to connect from earlier in my childhood. I was finally given an explanation for my norm," Mayhugh noted. "The stroke caused the lack of feeling, motor movement and sensation mainly in my left arm, hand and leg."

The adventure started for the Gainesville native in early May 2017 as he noticed an advertisement for Paralympic team tryouts on the U.S. Soccer Instagram page and was

urged to apply by his brother. Mayhugh reached out to the coaching staff, explaining his background, and he was invited to training camp in Chicago. The training camp ran June 1-7.

At the end of the training camp, participants would find out if they made the cut to travel to Chile for two international friendlies with the Chile Paralympic National Team.

“As soon as I got to the hotel, we started training. It was no different than our August training camps at Radford,” Mayhugh noted. “It was very professional. They treated us the same way that Coach Hancock treats us.”

Mayhugh had to adjust to the Paralympic soccer style of play, which features seven players on the field instead of 11 and two 30-minute periods. The substitution maximum is five within a maximum of three opportunities in the match. There is no offsides rule. The field dimensions are 70m by 50m, while the goal posts are set at 5m by 2m.

“It was definitely a challenge to adapt to the different formations and style of game that we play in the seven-a-side game, but I received a lot of help from the coaches and veteran players,” Mayhugh noted. “In the seven-a-side game, you have to be very flexible in terms of positions that you are willing and able to play because of your team’s needs. Depending on what certain formations require, you may need to be able to play more than one position.”

Part of the adjustment was learning a new position as he found himself playing center midfield.

“I found myself running a lot more, because of what the position and the seven-a-side game demands from you mentally and physically,” Mayhugh added.

Simply happy to be a part of the experience, Mayhugh didn’t ask the coaching staff when final selections would be made, he was just being himself on the pitch. During the final days of training camp, Mayhugh was pulled aside to discover that he had made the roster for the Chile trip.

In addition to an already life-changing experience, Mayhugh’s life changed even more. While in Chicago, Mayhugh and training camp participants visited the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, which has served as the best rehabilitation hospital in the country for 26 years.

“We were given the opportunity to speak, inspire and interact with patients and parents who have gone or are going through the same things that our team has gone through. I can humbly say it was an unforgettable experience that inspired me to change the way I look at my disabilities and how I value those who supported me throughout my medical speed bumps,” Mayhugh added. “Since being home, I have been in contact with a few local hospitals to set up times to visit and interact with patients. I would love to continue inspiring patients like those who inspired me in Chicago.”

The experiences continued for Mayhugh as he traveled outside the United States for the first time in his life. Once arriving in Chile, the national team trained two times a day in preparation for their matches. Mayhugh played the final 25 minutes of the first match, but he does not remember coming onto the pitch due to an overwhelming amount of emotion.

“Walking into the locker room, seeing my name on the locker and that jersey inside it was surreal. That is

when I realized that all this was actually real and I was representing our country,” Mayhugh said. “It was just like any other game as soon as I put the uniform on and the whistle blew.”

The first match resulted in a 6-0 victory, in which Mayhugh assisted on two goals. In the second match against Chile, Mayhugh tallied two goals and two assists in 50 minutes of action of a 10-0 victory.

On an off day, Mayhugh and his teammates explored the city of Santiago. The group took a train up into the mountains that overlooked the city and at the Andes Mountains.

Having teammates from different countries at Radford helped Mayhugh adjust to going to another country.

“My international teammates at Radford helped me adjust to this trip. I was surrounded by people who didn’t speak my language and were new to us,” Mayhugh added. “That is very similar to preseason at Radford, when the new guys come in. We help them adjust to their new surroundings.”

After spending time in a soccer-centered country, Mayhugh gained a new respect for the game and how it brings different nationalities together.

After returning home for two weeks, the national team traveled to Florida to face the Canadian Paralympic National Team July 21-23. In the first match, Mayhugh scored one goal in a 2-2 draw. For the second time in four games, Mayhugh found the back of the net twice in a 3-1 win to wrap up friendly play.

Mayhugh is no stranger to playing in big soccer matches and in front of large crowds. He has been a part of two Big South Regular Season Championships and one Big South Tournament Championship as well as two NCAA Tournaments.

“Playing in those big matches and that environment helped make everything calm for me,” Mayhugh noted. “The American Outlaws came out to our matches in Florida. They were playing drums and chanting. It was similar to the 2016 Big South Championship match.”

Joining former Olympian Dante Washington as the only two Highlanders to represent the United States in international play adds to memorable experience for Mayhugh.

“Dante set a standard for Radford soccer,” Mayhugh added. “We strive to leave our mark like he did.”

After a successful summer, Mayhugh earned one of the spots on the U.S. roster for the IFCPF World Championships, hosted in San Luis, Argentina. The championships ran Sept. 4-24.

The U.S. team went 4-2, finishing fifth at the 16-team tournament. Mayhugh scored the tying goal in the U.S. team’s 3-2 win over Brazil. The fifth-place finish is the best finish in major world competition by the USA since the 1996 Paralympic Games.

“This is an actual dream come true. I grew up dreaming and wishing to play for the U.S. national team. I was given the chance to represent our country, while playing the game that I love and that’s something I can’t really describe,” Mayhugh said. “Putting on that jersey with the patch, standing in the starting lineup while the national anthem plays just chokes me up thinking about it. There is nothing better.” ■

MUSIC ALUMNUS BRINGS 'MOUNTAIN STAGE' TO RADFORD UNIVERSITY

By Leslie King

ADAM HARRIS' DAYS sound familiar. He answers email, takes phone calls and goes to meetings. But what sets this executive producer for "Mountain Stage with Larry Groce" from West Virginia Public Broadcasting apart is each week a national radio audience hears the result of his efforts.

The Radford University community experienced these firsthand on April 8, when Mountain Stage came to campus to tape a live show. The University Performance Series, WVRU and the Appalachian Events Committee hosted the two-hour event Harris produces. It featured five guest artists, performing live. This format was similar to when it airs from the West Virginia Culture Center Theater in Charleston, West Virginia.

Harris '05, a music business alumnus, credits two Radford University programs with his success at Mountain Stage — his classes and his extracurricular time at WVRU, the University's radio station.

Learning about the industry from his courses helped give him an understanding of music business. And he learned how to communicate with professional musicians and gained empathy for their challenges.

"This education helps you grow respect for what they do," he said. "Day in and day out these artists have chosen to make a living playing music and it's not easy."

And Harris helps such musicians by booking them on Mountain Stage.

This is where his experience from working at WVRU played a large role. It provided him with real-life opportunities. Mountain Stage was the not the first time he brought live music to the radio.

While working at WVRU, through the encouragement of General Manager Ashlee Claud and Operations Manager Jon Benfield, Harris recorded and aired live bands. That gave him a rudimentary knowledge of studio engineering and some instrument-miking, both of which helped him

grow within the Mountain Stage ranks, from stagehand to leading the 26 people it takes to produce each show.

"So many things I take for granted now I was able to do at WVRU," he said. "They thought it was really cool that I wanted to have local bands in the studio. It's another example of something I took away from there."

WVRU was the perfect training ground for his future self. The station provided a hands-on education. And he said for many students, it was the first time they ever used microphones and recording equipment.

"WVRU gives you that platform to be able to make mistakes and grow as a professional and become prepared for the very competitive real world," he said. "I am even more grateful looking back on it to have had a place to learn the craft and hone it."

It was here he gained respect for the non-promotional aspects of public radio, such as avenues for exploring new music not often heard on commercial stations. He feels such a format allows for more creativity and music discovery.

At WVRU he also learned to keep his ego in check because public radio is about the audience. People listen because of the music and that is why they stay with a station or a show. Harris said, good radio involves presenting music the audience loves.

And from starting as an unpaid college intern at Mountain Stage to becoming its executive producer, Harris has proven he pays attention to his audience.

Maybe that is why a quote from artist Peter Mulvey resonates with him.

"If you can play in a town that is not your hometown and have anybody show up that you are not related to, you've put in a lot of work," Harris quoted. ■



Once more, with music



Adam Harris began learning studio engineering as a Radford University student working at WVRU. He parlayed that experience into a job with Mountain Stage (left), rising through the ranks to become executive producer. At right: Harris reunites with a mentor, WVRU Operations Manager Jon Benfield.

Opening doors for a generation

ALUMNUS LEADS BY EXAMPLE WITH NEW FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP

By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15

ALUMNUS JEFF MACKINNON '85 is addressing a problem common to many — the cost of attendance.

MacKinnon used his experience as a founding member of Farragut Partners, a government relations firm, to lead by example through the creation of a \$150,000 scholarship for the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS) that aids first-generation students with financial hardships continue their education at Radford University.

“The more I learned about the make-up of the freshman class, there was as significant portion going to school for the first time,” MacKinnon said. “For a lot of them it wasn’t their grades, it was their finances that forced them to leave. The students find that by the end of the year they don’t have any more money. They’ve exhausted all other options, scholarships and elsewhere.”

MacKinnon has seen firsthand the challenges of leaving college with significant debt and wanted to help reduce that financial burden for first-generation students.

“I also see this with students who are working for not a lot of money and a lot are forced to go into the private sector earlier ... because of student loan debt,” he said. “It’s worse at other schools, but to the extent that I and others can help alleviate some of the student’s financial burden once they get out and graduate from Radford University, we will. It’s a national issue, but this also makes Radford more attractive. Relatively speaking, Radford University is a lot for your money.”

Education is changing to become more involved and hands-on, and the new CHBS building helps the college meet those changing needs, MacKinnon said. The new building “opens up so many doors for majors and disciplines in the future that weren’t even thought about 25 years ago,” he added.

“Having that state-of-the-art, hands-on experience is fantastic. You could go to Radford for a liberal arts education, and these facilities ... allow students a lot of top choices,” MacKinnon said.

MacKinnon said that the new facilities and the



Jeff MacKinnon '85

recent opening of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center “make for a great tour and first impression.”

“There aren’t many comparable universities — there aren’t many with these facilities and smaller class sizes,” he said. “You can literally walk or ride your bike anywhere.”

MacKinnon’s leadership has included service as the inaugural chair of the CHBS Alumni Advisory Board, which

was organized by CHBS Dean Katherine Hawkins to provide leadership and advice for the future endeavors of the college.

“As I became re-engaged with the college through the CHBS Alumni Board, I learned more about Radford today, its students and what challenges they were facing,” MacKinnon said. “I wanted to set an example for the members of the Alumni Board and others by establishing a scholarship for first-generation students.”

The CHBS Alumni Board looks for ways to aid students by sharing their professional experiences, such as hosting mock interviews.

“We walked them through an interview and critiqued them and gave them some career advice. It’s just helpful because it makes you feel invested in the University.”

Involving alumni in the day-to-day success of the University gives students valuable networking opportunities.

“These things can take time to gel, but getting folks re-engaged with Radford is huge, and we are starting to see the fruits of that labor,” MacKinnon said.

MacKinnon added that the increased involvement with the University is increasing the attendance at alumni regional events.

But the purpose of both CHBS Alumni Board and MacKinnon’s scholarship is to help members of the Highlander Family navigate through the University and set them up for success beyond Radford University’s campus. ■

To learn more about the CHBS Alumni Board, visit www.radford.edu/chbs or call 540-831-5149.

Making connections and supporting the future

By Ann Brown, M.S. '03

WHEN PAM COWAN SOWDER '79 walked Radford University's campus on her first day of classes in the fall of 1977, she made sure she greeted everyone she passed. The previously shy Cave Spring native knew that she could be whom she was meant to be, and that journey began at Radford. "It was the most profound thing for me — I was extremely shy. When you live in the small town of Cave Spring, you're in a bubble. The first day at Radford, I realized that I don't have to be shy anymore," said Sowder, who was the first in her family to attend college.

Sowder is chief networking officer for It Works!®, a global \$750 million company that she and her business partners Mark and Cindy Pentecost created in 2001. Now, Sowder travels the world creating and strengthening connections with her 100,000 independent distributors, giving hands-on training and support and sharing her excitement for the company's products — including its original and best-selling Ultimate Body Applicator.

Her presentations are attended by tens of thousands of people with the dream to work hard and make their own success selling It Works!® products. "Nobody in the beginning thought we could do it, and that drove me," said Sowder. With headquarters in Palmetto, Florida and Dublin, Ireland, Sowder said the company's culture is about fun, friendships and freedom.

She wants to inspire others so they too can follow their dreams and reach their professional and personal goals. "I teach and train people how to believe in themselves. I teach them how to take the income they earn and get out of debt," she said. Sowder earned her Radford University degree in education and experienced firsthand the power that inspiring teachers have to change lives.

When Sowder graduated high school early, she took classes at Virginia Western Community College in the secretarial science program with instructor Martha Brown. At that time, Sowder didn't know if she was destined to earn a four-year degree, but Brown changed her life with just a few words. "Since no one in my family attended college, we never talked about it. Martha Brown encouraged me to keep going, she said 'you aren't done,'" explained Sowder.

While taking education classes at Radford, Sowder remembers another teacher who gave her advice that she continues to use today. "One of my education professors at Radford said don't go into the teacher's lounge and get caught up in the stories about students. Don't judge your students based on what other teachers say about them. I carry that forward to the job today. Some people may be good at one subject and not good at others. That doesn't

“ I love to help students who don't have that opportunity. I want to help them be that teacher that says that one thing that will be a legacy changer.”



Pam Cowan Sowder '79

mean they aren't good at anything. You just have to help them find out what they love," said Sowder.

Sowder and her husband David will be helping generations of Radford University education students and future teachers find their passion. Their gift of \$105,000 to endow the Pamela Cowan Sowder '79 Endowed Scholarship will provide a \$5,000 scholarship to a full-time undergraduate student studying in Radford University's School of Teacher Education and Leadership. The Pamela Cowan Sowder '79 Endowed Scholarship award is renewable and can provide scholarship funding for a total of two full academic years or four semesters. These scholarships will provide future teachers inspiration and encouragement in order to make a difference in the lives of their students and in their communities.

Sowder wants to encourage Radford University students to keep going and not give up. "My hope is that students can really dive into it and enjoy it. Immerse yourself in the college culture and personal development. No one can ever take your degree away," said Sowder. "I was blessed that my parents said 'you pay for the first quarter, and then every class you pass we will pay for it in the next quarter.' I love to help students who don't have that opportunity. I want to help them be that teacher that says that one thing that will be a legacy changer," said Sowder.

Sowder is proud of her accomplishments and hopes to inspire others by example. She said she was a first-generation college student who became a first-generation multimillionaire, and she's not done. "No one raises you and tells you that you can be a millionaire. The money is just a reflection of the work. I wanted to change my family's lifetime and our legacy," said Sowder. ■

For more information about how you can make a difference in students' lives by creating a scholarship endowment, visit www.giveto.radford.edu or call the Office of University Advancement at 540-831-5407.

With scholarship, nursing student carries on a colleague's work

By Don Bowman



Isabel Botha '18, center, with Skilled Nursing Unit Manager Nicole Ratcliffe RN, B.S.N. '02, left, and Deanna Kelly, right, at Highland Ridge Rehab Center in Dublin.

SINCE HIGH SCHOOL, Isabel Botha '18 dreamed of being a labor and delivery nurse. Becoming the first recipient of the Bridgett Oliver Memorial Scholarship helped her continue on the path to her goal.

Botha shadowed a neo-natal nurse practitioner in a hospital. The experience was profound and gave her focus and motivation.

"I totally fell in love with it," said Botha. "It was a powerful and beautiful experience."

The passion for helping women and babies unite Botha and the scholarship's namesake, Bridgett Oliver '17.

Oliver, of New Castle, died as the result of an automobile accident on March 31, 2017. She was 21 and a senior honors nursing major. Fellow honors nursing student Rachel Jones '17, of Dinwiddie, was seriously injured in the same accident.

To honor Oliver and support students like Botha, the School of Nursing (SON) community and the Radford Honors Academy community came together with the Oliver family to endow the scholarship. To ensure that the scholarship would be fully endowed and help a junior nursing student right away, the Oliver family made up the difference at the deadline.

Botha, who was a student in an anatomy class for which Oliver was a teaching assistant last year, said, "I want to thank those who created this memorial to Bridgett, and I will honor her and her memory in the specialty for which we share a passion."

To Botha, Oliver was a sterling example of both the SON and nursing cultures into which she is eager to advance.

"She always made time to encourage us with advice, study tips, time management ideas, whatever," Botha said. "She volunteered to keep the lab open for us, coached us and made time for us."

To Sharla Cooper, associate professor of nursing, Oliver characterized nursing and those who succeed in it.

"We continually raise the bar for these students. Our students continually respond. They are ready, they work hard, smile and keep giving good care," said Cooper. "Bridgett was compassionate, courageous, determined — the definition of caring."

Oliver's influence transcended the SON. She was a member of Radford's Honors Academy as well. Oliver's poster presentation on neo-natal care, titled "A Little Dose of Being Held Close," was presented at the 2017 Student Undergraduate Engagement Forum days after her and Jones' accident, which occurred as they returned from their presentations at the Southern Regional Honors Conference.

In support of the Radford University initiative to honor Oliver, the Southern Regional Honors Council (SRHC) joined the Oliver family and more than 100 individuals with a substantial gift to the fund.

Niels Christensen, director of the Radford Honors Academy and professor of psychology, was touched by the kindness of the honors community and their donation.

"The state/regional/national honors community is full of good folks whose contribution reflects a commitment to supporting the efforts to grow and succeed by so many other young people like her," Christensen said.

School of Nursing Director Tony Ramsey reflected on the power of the philanthropy inspired by Oliver's tragic death.

"The School of Nursing community, the nursing community and the Radford family have made a powerful statement of support for young people like Bridgett who are inspired to make an impact in a career of service to others," Ramsey said. ■

To make a contribution to the Bridgett Oliver Memorial Scholarship, visit connect.radford.edu/bridgett-oliver-memorial-scholarship or call the Office of University Advancement at 540-831-5407.



Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity accepting the 2017 Greek Life Challenge award.

GREEK LIFE CHALLENGE raises over \$11k

By Jeremy Norman

WHILE THE WINNER of the 2017 Greek Life Challenge may technically be Phi Kappa Sigma, the real winner was the Radford University Greek Life community, as the competition raised \$11,211 from 150 donors in 30 days. The funds from the annual competition, which pits the 24 fraternities and sororities that comprise the Radford University Greek Life community against one another to see which organization can raise the most money, will go to support Radford University Greek Life programming and scholarships.

Sixty-three current and alumni brothers of Phi Kappa Sigma rallied together to raise more than \$4,000. The current chapter of brothers was unanimous in their support as they achieved 100 percent-giving.

Taylor Bell '18, chapter president, said, "We put a lot of pressure on ourselves to make sure our chapter continues to be seen in a positive light. This was an opportunity for us to leave our footprint at Radford University."

Bell continued, "Fraternity alumni, like Mike DeFilippo '90, put a lot of pressure on us to make sure we are always looking for ways to give back. It was definitely a group effort."

This year's challenge had a new twist, as it was the first to feature Radford University's new crowdfunding platform, The Hive. The platform allowed Greek leaders to send personalized updates on the competition to donors and potential donors, while users could see the leaderboard update in real-time.

"Donors could quickly and easily find their organization, make a gift and see that total increase," said Brea MacBrien, director of annual giving. "The donors seemed to appreciate the real-time updates," MacBrien continued.

Donors showed that appreciation with their generosity, as this year's competition raised nearly \$9,000 more than in 2016. ■



Investing in the Future

SMIPO FUND HELPS FUTURE FINANCIERS WITH COLLEGE DOLLARS AND CENTS

By Chad Osborne

AS GREEN NUMBERS and accompanying upward-pointing arrows hurried across the stock ticker inside Kyle Hall's financial trading room, a small group of seasoned student investors took note. They made sound investment decisions based on knowledge absorbed from their vast experiences as members of Radford University's Student Managed Investment Portfolio organization.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) had just topped 23,000 that day for the first time in its 121-year history. As investors around the world scurried in reaction to the news, so did members of this elite student-managed club, known colloquially on campus as SMIPO.

"As the Dow moved upward to new records over the past several weeks, students also watched the SMIPO portfolio do the same, ending at \$1.526 million at the end of the day on Wednesday, reaching a new all-time high for the portfolio, said SMIPO faculty advisor Steve Beach. "The

running ticker in the trading room displays the DJIA and the components of the index, so they were watching closely as it snuck over 23,000 for the first time on Tuesday, then returned to stay over that benchmark on Wednesday."

Beach and fellow Finance Professor Clarence Rose founded SMIPO in 2002 to provide students with the opportunity to gain real-world investment and portfolio management experience. The organization gives its members practical experience in the management and decision-making processes of a corporate-structured organization by participating in hands-on management of the funds.

"SMIPO is such an exciting part of my day because I get to apply every piece of knowledge I have learned throughout my three years at Radford University into an experience that benefits myself as well as other students at the University," said SMIPO president and senior accounting and finance major Katie

Sherbin '18. "There just aren't enough words to describe the experience and joy I get from investing for the Radford University endowment. It is an experience you only wish you could have more of."

George Kite '03 was one of the original members of SMIPO. He helped grow the organization from its roots, when the Radford University Foundation provided a jump-start with an initial \$100,000.

"It was really good experience for me," Kite said. "We met every week, for no college credit, and we held each other accountable and we made investment decisions with real money."

"We created an organizational structure, hired people to be in SMIPO, did the marketing, managed the human resources component and got some real hands-on experience prior to graduation."

Kite credits his SMIPO experiences for helping him land his first job out of college. He now serves as chief financial officer at Call Federal



Credit Union in Richmond, which has \$400 million in assets. “My role in the organization was critical for my experience and becoming employed. Today, I still draw upon those lessons I learned as part of the organization,” he said.

Kite also serves on the Radford University Foundation Board of Directors, where he sees firsthand the intense effort put forth by current SMIPO members as they manage the organization’s \$1.5 million portfolio.

“It gives me a great sense of pride at every foundation meeting and investment board meeting to see the students doing so well,” he said.

The commitment of time and energy SMIPO students devote “to learning their craft and managing funds for the Radford Foundation is incredible,” Beach said. “Attracting and retaining the best and brightest students for investment management is a top priority for the organization and the College of Business and Economics.”

It’s one reason Kite and others are building upon the SMIPO Scholarship Fund.

“If SMIPO students can focus more on learning instead of stressing over whether they can continue one more semester, I’m happy to be a part of it,” Kite said. “I didn’t come from a family of money, and most students who attend Radford University and go through SMIPO have that same story.

“So, I’m happy to give back in hopes of supporting that organization so these students can flourish and be successful in their careers. And I hope, one day, they give back to the University and pay it forward in that regard.”

SMIPO students typically volunteer between 60 and 150 hours a semester and receive the vast amount of their scholarship support from other areas of the University. The group annually travels to conferences and competitions in such places as Chicago and New York City. It was in New York that they earned the top fund ranking for the Value Fund

Category — Undergraduate Division at the 2016 Global Asset Management Education Forum.

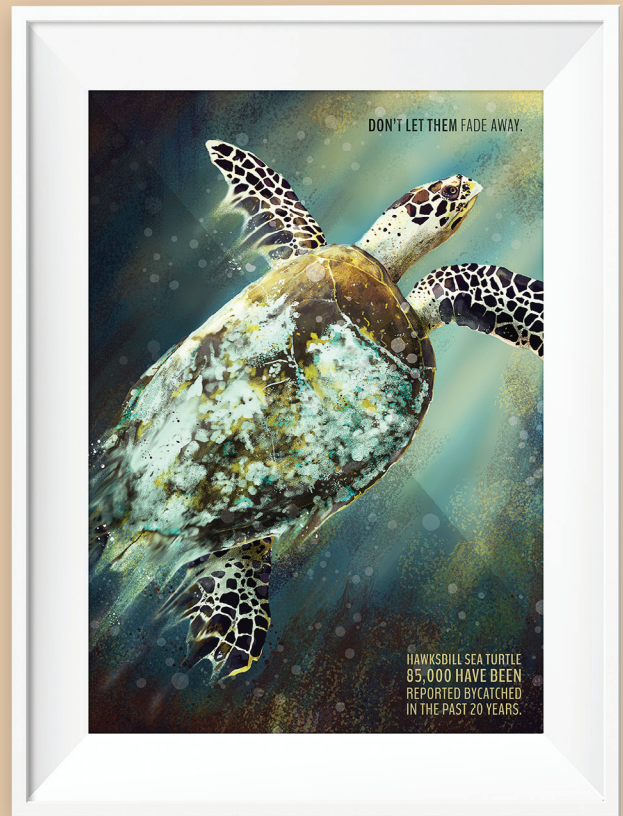
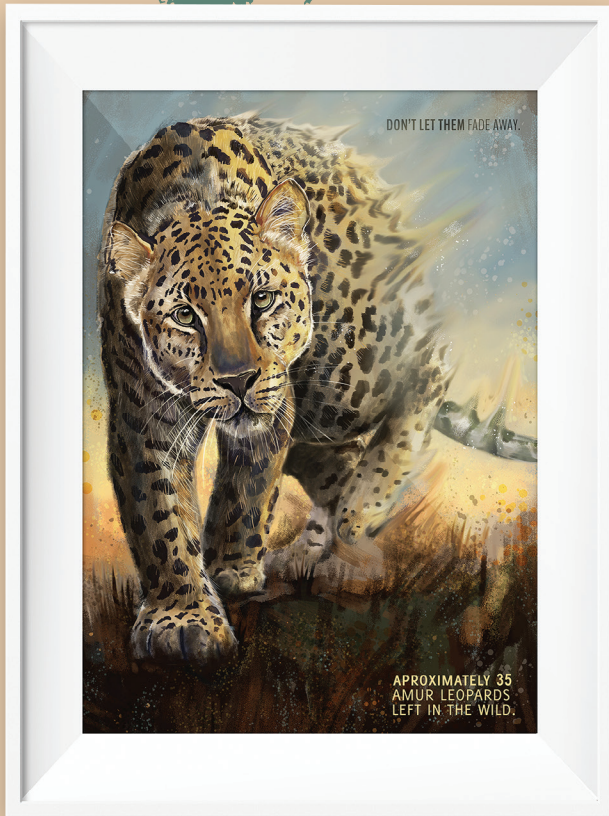
The successes have been “outstanding,” Kite said.

“It brings a lot of notoriety to SMIPO and to Radford University,” he continued. “It makes me feel good as an alumnus and former member of SMIPO that these students are going and winning and placing very well in national competitions against very well-known schools and investment programs. It is something we all should be very proud of.”

For SMIPO students, “scholarships can mean so much on many levels,” Beach said. “They can allow members to stop working off-campus and devote themselves to this professional-development activity. Many successful careers have been launched from this program.” ■

To contribute to the SMIPO Scholarship Fund, visit connect.radford.edu/smipo to make your gift today.

GIVING creativity A LEG UP



ALUMNI SPONSOR PROMISING GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDENTS IN COMPETITION

By Jeremy Norman

IN DECEMBER 2016, two Radford University graphic design professors, John O'Connor and Ken Smith, decided to pair the annual student graphic design show with the launching of a new competition sponsorship fund for graphic design students. In June 2017, the combination paid off on a national level as recent Radford University alumna Shawna Hession '16 was awarded gold in the illustration campaign category in the American Advertising Awards for students, an entry that stemmed from a project during her final semester in the graphic design program.

Each year the American Advertising Awards — formerly the ADDYs — recognizes and rewards the creative spirit of excellence in the art of advertising. The student awards competition is a unique national awards program designed specifically for college students to showcase their work and gain valuable name recognition. To win at the national level of the American Advertising Awards, there are three stages: local, district and, finally, national. To reach the

national level, an entry must win gold at both the local and district levels.

Each level of the American Advertising Awards requires the entrant to pay an entry fee, usually about \$100. This fee can be cost-prohibitive for college students, forcing them to miss an opportunity to meet potential future employers and gain valuable name recognition for both themselves and the Radford University graphic design program. This is why O'Connor and Smith helped establish the ADDY Sponsorship Fund. The fund is designed to help offset the cost of the American Advertising Awards student entry fee.

By pairing the annual student graphic design show with the ADDY Sponsorship Fund, the graphic design professors wanted to engage the program's many alumni in the spirit of competition, as well as philanthropy, by inviting all Radford University graphic design alumni to not only attend, but to judge the show as well.



“Toward that goal, we asked our alumni to participate and to jury the student show, and we asked them to donate \$20 each toward the new ADDY Sponsorship Fund,” Smith said. Student Graphic Design show winners received award certificates and free entry of their winning pieces into the American Advertising Awards competition.



Shawna Hession '16

“In this way, our alumni will have the opportunity to directly influence Radford’s ADDY award entries and to make sure our program’s best work is represented,” he explained.

“For students, I think to have the necessary tools and opportunities to create and showcase their work are so important for their creative development,” says Chris Henry '15. Henry is a graduate of the graphic design program as well as a supporter of the ADDY Sponsorship Fund. “Participating in the American Advertising Awards gives students a leg up in the field by allowing them to create at the pace of the design industry while giving students a chance to be recognized and sometimes even rewarded for dedication and hard work.

“As an alumnus who thrived from the help and support of other alumni, I feel a responsibility to support future art students in the same way,” Henry adds.

Hession’s entry, the digital painting series, “Don’t Let Them Fade Away,” focused on the plight of endangered species and focused on three separate animals: the Amur leopard, the black rhino and the Hawksbill sea turtle.

She settled on these animals for a variety of reasons, but two of the driving factors was the location of the animals and facts about each species.

“The major concept of the project was to show awareness of how these animals are on the verge of being extinct, so what better way to depict that than to illustrate them actually disappearing,” Hession said.

The original concept for the illustrations came from a 3D design course Hession took the fall of her senior year, which included a project based on elephants being poached for their ivory.

“I ended up creating a 3D geometric elephant kind of exploding — it didn’t look as morbid as it sounds — and that concept I had ended up being the inspiration for these posters,” she said. “I knew right away how I wanted to design it before even starting.”

Though Hession began working before receiving the national American Advertising Association award, the project helped her become a graphic designer at DECA, a nonprofit organization that works to prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in various fields.

“My boss was blown away by my illustrations, and he thought that skill would help DECA grow with their merchandise, magazine spreads and other projects,” she said.

As part of her job, Hession primarily creates custom designs for chapters and organizations, as well as assisting DECA’s communications department with conference programs and collateral materials, the DECA magazine and other design work. ■

To contribute online to the ADDY Sponsorship Fund, visit <https://connect.radford.edu/addy-awards>. All donations are tax deductible and include a free membership for the donor into the University’s Arts Society.



“celebration and life and passion”

JOSEPH P. SCARTELLI ATRIUM IN THE
COVINGTON CENTER FOR VISUAL AND
PERFORMING ARTS NAMED
IN HONOR OF PROVOST EMERITUS

By Jeremy Norman

“Tonight, we dedicate and unveil the Joseph P. Scartelli Atrium in the Covington Center,” said Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., at a special ceremony held Aug. 19 to honor the former dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts and provost emeritus, who retired from the University in July 2017.

“The name and legacy of Dr. Scartelli are etched on our campus and in our hearts.”

Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.



More than 175 faculty, staff, alumni and friends of Radford University gathered in the Covington Center to honor Scartelli, a man who committed nearly four decades to the betterment of Radford University and the local community.

Board of Visitors Rector Mark Lawrence, Board member Robert Archer and Board of Visitors and Radford University Foundation Board member Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham attended the special ceremony. Additionally, former Radford University Foundation Board Chair Dale Parris MBA '85, M.S. '11, Foundation Board chair Nancy Artis '73, Foundation Executive Director John Cox and Foundation Board member Michelle O'Connor '91 attended the event to celebrate Scartelli.

Also in attendance were the members of the Radford University Arts Society, the University's Leadership Council, City of Radford Vice Mayor Dick Harshberger and Radford University President Emeritus Penelope W. Kyle.

“The people here are a testament to your years of work,” said President Hemphill.

“The name and legacy of Dr. Scartelli are etched on our campus and in our hearts,” President Hemphill continued. “Joe is forever a part of the Radford University family, as well as the Hemphill family.”

President Hemphill also announced more than \$150,000 in gifts and commitments for the Dr. Joseph P. Scartelli Scholarship in Visual and Performing Arts, a scholarship founded by friends, family and colleagues of Scartelli that is designed to provide assistance for those studying in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

“My knees are shaking,” said an emotional Scartelli. “I’ll never be able to live up to this honor. How grateful I am to Radford University and to the people in this room.”

Scartelli continued, “When the \$150,000 in scholarship money was announced, to think that students will receive support to study whatever

their passion is and be able to go out and change the world with their art and their work, it is overwhelming.

“Thank you. There are no stronger words that I can say,” Scartelli said. “Thank you.”

Al Wojtera, chair of the Department of Music, opened the evening by discussing Scartelli's numerous achievements since arriving at Radford University as program director of music therapy in 1981. He would eventually become dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts in 1988 — and again in 2012 — as well as serve as Radford University's interim provost for two separate tenures. “Joe Scartelli is an extraordinary person with an extraordinary career,” Wojtera stated.

“He has qualities that endear him to students, faculty and the community alike,” Wojtera continued. “He has unflappable personal integrity and has always been about giving back.” It was in the spirit of giving back that Scartelli and Kenneth “Ken” Bondurant would form the Arts



Joe and Fran Scartelli

Society of Radford University in 1990. Bondurant served as president of the society until his death in 2004.

“When Ken became too ill to work, Joe would come out to our home and bring the plans with him for the Covington Center, just so he could keep Ken involved,” said Bondurant’s widow, Carolee. “After Ken passed, Joe came to the memorial service and shot a potato cannon in Ken’s memory. That’s Joe — full of celebration and life and passion.”

Scartelli’s passion for education was reflected in the words of Dwayne Martin ’04, M.S. ’06, who was chosen to speak at the ceremony on behalf of Radford University students and alumni.

“I am just one of many who can trace their roots back to Dr. Scartelli,” said Martin, who serves as program director of the Claremont Therapeutic Day Treatment Program in Pulaski County. The Claremont School provides a structured environment for children who have been placed on homebound instruction by their primary school. “At the Claremont School, I have worked with over 129 different clients and their families,” Martin continued. “These children have some of the roughest backgrounds that one can imagine. Without the music therapy program at Radford University, I never would have been able to help any of these clients. Without Dr. Scartelli, there would have been no music therapy program.

“Dr. Scartelli, please hear 129 ‘thank yous’ from those

that you have helped,” an emotional Martin said. “And please hear one more thank you from me.”

“When Radford University was in need of a stabilizing anchor, they turned to Joe,” said E. Carter Turner, former chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies and past president of the Faculty Senate, who spoke on behalf of the Radford University faculty.

“Institutions need someone with strong character, and there has never been a better choice than Joe.”

J. Orion Rogers, dean of the Artis College of Science and Technology, who spoke on behalf of the Radford University administration and staff, reflected on the lessons he learned from Scartelli. “Joe is the embodiment of a servant leader. He taught me that the root of the word administrator is ‘minister,’” said Rogers. “That comes directly from the Latin word ministrare, which means ‘to serve.’

“He taught me the importance of serving our students,” Rogers said. “I remember Joe spending long days working as provost, only to see him sprinting across the parking lot at 5 p.m. so that he could then spend the evening teaching his graduate students.”

Scartelli’s work was not limited to Radford University, as illustrated by Greg and Fran ’79 Rooker, who spoke on behalf of the community. “Joe has always been a civic leader who has always refused to say no to an opportunity to better the community,” Greg Rooker said. “By never saying no, he added to an already stifling schedule, going all day long until 11 at night. I’m amazed.”

“Joe has been on the board of Brain Injury Services of SWVA for the past 10 years,” said Fran Rooker, founder of the nonprofit organization. “Thank you for all of the lives that you have touched.”

While the plaudits her father received during the ceremony did not come as a surprise to daughter Nicole Scartelli Sykes ’05, the amount of work he did outside of Radford University certainly did. “All of the boards — my goodness,” said Sykes after listening to the dozen-or-so boards of which her father was a member. “My brother and I knew of just a couple. We had no idea all of the work Dad did in the community.

“My dad is so cool.”

“I still have tears from laughing and crying,” said Kathleen Harshberger ’80, chair of the Radford University Arts Society. “Every accolade Joe received was deserved. It speaks volumes that he is amazed by all of this, yet the rest of us are not. He is so humble.”

Speaking on behalf of the Scartelli family was Joe’s brother, Paul. After amusing the attendees with a few stories about what life was like growing up with the elder Scartelli, Paul ended with a hypothetical question to his brother.

“If Joe were ever asked what he wanted to be remembered for at Radford University, I imagine he would want it to be that he left Radford University in a better place than when he first got here.

“Mission accomplished.” ■

If you would like to contribute to honor Joe Scartelli, visit connect.radford.edu/cvpa and designate your gift to the Joseph P. Scartelli Scholarship in Visual and Performing Arts.

Virginia Natural Gas contributes \$20,000 to establish the Virginia Natural Gas Scholarship at Radford University

By Ann Brown, M.S. '03

VIRGINIA NATURAL GAS, a subsidiary of Southern Company Gas, recently contributed \$20,000 to the Radford University Foundation, Inc. to establish the Virginia Natural Gas Scholarship. The scholarship assists high-achieving Radford University juniors or seniors studying accounting, finance, information technology or STEM-related fields who hail from the company's service area.

The Virginia Natural Gas Scholarship will provide \$1,000 per semester or \$2,000 per year to one or two students each year, renewable for up to two academic years. Recipients will be from the Virginia Natural Gas service areas of Chesapeake, Hampton, Hanover, James City, New Kent, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Suffolk, Virginia Beach or York.

"There are more than 1,000 undergraduate students from our service area enrolled at Radford University. This is an important way that we can support our communities as well as Radford University," said Jim Kibler, president of Virginia Natural Gas and member of the Radford University Board of Visitors.

"The Radford University family greatly appreciates Jim Kibler's service as a member of the University's Board of Visitors and Virginia Natural Gas' dedication to our students' success through their philanthropy with the establishment of the Virginia Natural Gas Scholarship. Because of this gift, deserving students from the Virginia Natural Gas service region will receive the encouragement and financial assistance they need to reach their academic goals and realize their dreams of a college education," said President Brian O. Hemphill.

Kibler said this scholarship would support and encourage students who may be struggling financially to continue their coursework and graduate. "Our goal is to reward students who performed well in their first two years and provide a bridge to stay at Radford University and graduate. We hope to provide internships to those students as well," said Kibler.

A large percentage of the energy industry's workforce is approaching retirement age, and he said this scholarship is an opportunity to encourage and support the next leaders in energy. "This is an opportunity for us to build our talent pool and assist men and women who may want to come back home after graduation. We want to provide opportunity for high-performing students to come back to our service area and stay in Virginia," said Kibler.

Virginia Natural Gas has a lasting legacy of serving its communities through charitable giving. The company supports programs that focus on the following areas: children and education, energy assistance, environmental stewardship, military and veterans and community enrichment.



From left, Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill and President of Virginia Natural Gas and Radford University Board of Visitors Member Jim Kibler

“There are more than 1,000 undergraduate students from our service area enrolled at Radford University. This is an important way that we can support our communities as well as Radford University.”

Jim Kibler
President of Virginia Natural Gas and
member of the Radford University Board of Visitors

"One of the values at Virginia Natural Gas is 'total commitment' to serve our communities with time, talent and resources," said Kibler. "This is an extension of that commitment."

In addition to this contribution being a part of Virginia Natural Gas' commitment to its community, it personally resonates with Kibler. "I'm honored that the governor selected me to serve on the Radford University Board of Visitors. Supporting Radford University, both with my time and making this scholarship possible, is a part of my service," Kibler added.

Kibler, a Craig County native, also has connections to the Highlander family within his own extended family. "My great-aunt Neva Hutcheson Farrier '63, who was my kindergarten teacher, was the first in her family to attend college, and she graduated from Radford. Four of my aunts and six cousins are Radford graduates — one cousin is a current student. Also, many of my high school teachers were Radford graduates," said Kibler.

"Radford University has a great legacy of service to our region and the Commonwealth," said Kibler. ■

Hemphill Hosts...



Dublin Mayor Benny Skeens (left), an engineering technician at Radford University, joins Bobby Nickolson, former member of Radford City Council, at President Hemphill's reception for business leaders.



Honors Academy students pose with Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill during a reception Sept. 13 at the Governor Tyler House.

President Hemphill hosted several events at the beginning of the fall semester to engage the campus community and its partners.

The start of the 2017-18 academic year was filled with events that engaged students, faculty, staff, alumni and community partners.

Before fall semester classes began, President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., hosted a **business leaders** reception at the Governor Tyler House, the official residence of Radford University's president. More than 100 regional business leaders gathered to learn about the University's progress and discuss opportunities for collaboration.

Caitlyn Scaggs '07, founder of Blue Mobius Marketing in Blacksburg, said she is impressed with President Hemphill's leadership and the direction he is taking the University.

"He has a real vision, and he's acting on it," said Scaggs, who also served on the University's Strategic Planning Task Force Brand Identity sub-group. "He's making his vision a reality."

As a new business owner and Radford University alumna, Scaggs realizes the important role the University can play in the local economy. She has already taken advantage of the University's many helpful resources, including its students.

"My very first intern was a

Radford University student," she said. "He was eager to learn, well-equipped and hungry for the experience."

During the first week of classes, President Hemphill and First Lady Marisela Rosas Hemphill invited the **freshman class** to their home for a cookout. The students enjoyed grilled treats, lawn games and time with the Hemphills and fellow Highlanders.

"It feels like a very welcoming environment here, said freshman Erica Fitch of Baltimore. "You'd never expect to be invited to the president's house, especially in college."

Several Student Government Association (SGA) members also attended the cookout to meet the freshmen.

"I think it's amazing that the Hemphills are doing this," said Cerra Ebbecke, SGA secretary of Highlander Pride. "It makes Radford University feel like a family."

On Sept. 13, a reception was held for students involved in the University's **Honors Academy**, an academic program and vibrant community defined by intellectual curiosity and active engagement in the educational process.

"You represent the innovation; you represent the bold spirit; you represent what many people refer to as grit," Hemphill told Honors Academy students. "As I think



Students enjoyed grilled hot dogs and hamburgers at the Freshman Cookout, hosted by the Hemphills.

about each of you, I think there are special things in store for you because of the great work you have the ability to do."

Honors Academy member Aiden Cancasci said he was excited to be a part of the talented group of students.

"It will allow me to get outside my comfort zone, and I think it will push me to make myself better in all areas," said the computer science and technology major



President Brian O. Hemphill (left) and First Lady Marisela Rosas Hemphill (second from left) greet new faculty members.

shortly after talking with and having his photo taken with President Hemphill.

New and retired faculty also had the opportunity to engage with the president during two separate events.

On Sept. 12, President Hemphill hosted a reception for **new faculty**, followed by a reception to honor **retired faculty** on Sept. 13.

Although new to Radford, art instructor LouAnn Thompson said she already “feels like family.”

“From the art department to human resources, everybody has been so friendly and welcoming,” Thompson said. “It’s unbelievable. It made me feel like I went to school here and I knew everybody.” ■



Susan Rogers '87, son Josh and husband John meet Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill at the Alumni Legacy Lunch on Thursday, Aug. 24. Josh was entering his first year at Radford University.

CELEBRATING GENERATIONS OF HIGHLANDERS AT THE ALUMNI LEGACY LUNCH

“I’m absolutely ecstatic to have my daughter attend my alma mater,” says Mark Antley '84, whose daughter, Megan, was beginning her first year as a transfer student at Radford University.

When asked why she ultimately decided to transfer to Radford University, the Charlottesville native replied with a laugh, “You mean besides my dad?”

“The atmosphere,” Megan continues. “The campus is beautiful, and Radford has a number of major options suited to my interests.” Although she is currently undeclared, Megan states that she is leaning toward a major in English.

The Antley family represented just a few of the 150 Radford University alumni and future alumni who participated in Legacy Alumni Family Luncheons hosted by the Radford University Office of Alumni Relations on Aug. 24-25. The luncheons, which have become a tradition for alumni families, were held in the recently renovated Russell Hall, the new home of the Office of Alumni Relations.

“The campus has changed considerably since I graduated,” says Mark regarding the construction. “It’s been all for the better.”

“One of the main reasons my son, Josh, came to Radford University was because of the facilities, specifically the new College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences building,” says Susan Rogers '87. “It’s amazing.”

“I’m hoping to attend law school after this,” says Josh, as his mother nods in approval. “So the new College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences building, with the mock courtroom, is a good fit.

“And the people here have been great,” he continues. “I even got to meet President Hemphill during my first campus visit.”

“Where else can you do that,” Susan asks rhetorically, “meet the University president on your first tour?”

As if on cue, Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., arrived to meet and greet the Highlander families. It was not long before the President found himself at the Rogers’ table, discussing possible law school destinations with Josh.

While each person attending the luncheons — be it parent or child — shared a sense of nervous anticipation, they also shared something else: the Highlander spirit. ■

Weddings, Births & More

1970s

Chowan University's Board of Trustees named recently retired professor of education **Carolyn Modlin '72, Ed.D.**, professor emeritus. Modlin joined the faculty at Chowan in 2001 after a lengthy career in the public school system and served the University for 15 years prior to announcing her retirement in 2016.

Nancy E. Artis '73 has been named Chair of the Radford University Foundation Board of Directors.

Royal Rowe '76, M.S. '78, has been appointed general manager at Six Senses Qing Cheng Mountain resort in Sheng, China.

Tina Israel '78 was a member of the inaugural Broad Run High School Athletic Hall of Fame class. She played both basketball and softball at Radford University and went on to play three years of semi-pro softball.

Kenneth R. Brady '79 has joined the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce as chief marketing officer. Previously, he was managing director of product and service delivery at the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

1980s

Thomas Diehl '80 has been named Assistant Vice President, Supply Chain for Nanticoke Health Services of Delaware. Diehl started his career at Nanticoke in November 2009 as the Director of Materials Management.

Mary Lou Merkt '80, MBA '90, has been named the 2017-18 chair of the National Association of College and University Business Officers board of directors. Merkt currently serves as vice president for finance and administration for Furman University.

Raymond Knapp, M.A. '83, celebrated the release of his newest publication, "Making Light: Haydn, Musical Camp, and the Long Shadow of German Idealism." Knapp is professor of musicology and academic associate dean at the Herb Alpert School of Music at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Iris Rice '83 released her newest publication, "The Circumvention of Stalking." Rice currently serves as special projects coordinator with Liberty University.

Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe announced the appointment of Hampton School Board member **Martha M. Mugler '84** to the Virginia College Savings Plan Board. An 11-member board, consisting of experts in finance, investment

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management and higher education, governs the plan, also known as Virginia529.

The Idaho Falls Auditorium District's board of directors hired **Brian "Chip" Scott, M.S. '84**, as the organization's executive director. Scott has served as vice president of operations for the Memphis in May International Festival and served as production director for Bumbershoot, the Seattle Music and Arts Festival.

Dale Parris, MBA '85, M.S. '10, has been appointed director of Strategic Initiatives at Radford University's Office of Advancement. Parris spent 17 years with Roanoke Gas Company as a vice president and most recently has served as president of the Radford University Foundation Board of Directors.

Greg Rose, M.S. '86, was inducted into the 2017 Kentucky Athletic Trainers Society Hall of Fame.

Rick Sizemore '86 has been awarded the Virginia Rehabilitation Association's R.N. Anderson Award for Leadership and the National Rehabilitation Association's Belle Grove Memorial Award for supporting the employment of individuals with disabilities in Virginia. Sizemore serves as director for Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville.

To submit a class note, please visit 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.

Tony Quesenberry '87, M.S. '96, has been named director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Galax. Quesenberry previously served as assistant director for the Galax Recreation Department.

Barry Hollandsworth '88 has been named principal for Floyd County High School by the Floyd County School Board. He previously served as the school's assistant principal.

James Haigh '89 has been appointed vice president of U.S. Southern Sales for Avaya, a global provider of business collaboration and communications solutions.

1990s

Mary "Katie" Caussin '90 is among the cast of The Second City's "She the People: Girlfriends' Guide to Sisters Doing It for Themselves," a sketch show created, designed and performed entirely by the women of Second City.

Scott Morris '90 is one of 11 recipients of the 2017 Distinguished Service Award, which is presented annually by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Morris currently serves as athletic director for Fluvanna County Public Schools.

Lynne Robinson '90 has been hired as chief administrative officer at OrthoVirginia's Richmond office. Robinson comes to OrthoVirginia from PartnerMD in Richmond, where she served as chief operating officer, chief relationship officer and chief business development officer.

Sherwin-Williams has appointed **Lauren West '90** to the position of color marketing manager. West will be based at the Sherwin-Williams Global Color and Design Center in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Jody Ashworth '91 is currently headlining his cabaret act, "10th Time's the Charm." Over his career, Ashworth has performed on numerous stages throughout the nation, from the Lincoln Center in New York to the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles.

Continued on page 76

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Continued from page 74

Victor P. Hatcher '91 has been promoted to captain of the Manassas City Police Department. Prior to the promotion, Hatcher served as sergeant and lieutenant of the Manassas City Police.

Sandy Bralley '92 is program coordinator for Little Scholars in Richmond, which provides in-home and in-school tutoring, summer camps, assessments and kindergarten readiness evaluations.

Laura L. Christopher '92 has been named the assistant director of academic and career support services for the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. Christopher has been with Marshall University since 2006 and was named the university's Employee of the Year for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Loris High School, located in Loris, South Carolina, named math teacher **Eleanor Pusey '92, Ph.D.**, as their teacher of the year.

Saxophonist **Luefras Robinson '92** has debuted her instrumental single, "Can't Stop." The single is available on CDBaby, iTunes, Amazon and Google Music.

B.K. Athauda '93 has been named Sri Lanka's new envoy to France. Athauda ceremonially assumed duties at the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Paris on Oct. 5, 2017.

Kevin Brookes '93 has been promoted to senior vice president at South State Bank in Charleston, South Carolina. He previously served as vice president.

Cathleen Lopez '93 has been appointed principal at Northfield Elementary School in Ellicott City, Maryland.

Rosemarie Rae '93 has been appointed vice chancellor and chief financial officer at University of California, Berkeley.

Darien, Connecticut-based Remedy Partners has hired **Jason Rose '93** as chief product officer. Rose joins Remedy from Inovalon, where he was executive vice president and chief strategic development officer.



Jason E. Kelley '94 married Teobesta Ashenafi in Woodland Hills, California, Sept. 2, 2017.

Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe appointed **Lisa Throckmorton '94** to the Radford University Board of Visitors. Throckmorton, of Vienna, is chief operating officer at SpeakerBox Communications and currently serves as vice chair of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences Advisory Board.



N. Ray Tuck '94, D.C., president and owner of Tuck Chiropractic Clinic, has been reappointed to Virginia's Board of Medicine. Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe named Tuck to the 18-member board for a second four-year term. The panel of statewide physicians oversees competent patient care by licensing health professionals, enforces standards of practice and provides information to health care practitioners and the public.

Former volleyball and women's basketball player **Anne Fontaine '95** has been inducted into the Big South Hall of Fame. Fontaine was inducted into the Radford Athletics Hall of Fame in 2002.

Adam Harris '95 serves as executive producer for "Mountain Stage," public radio's longest running live-performance radio show. "Mountain Stage" is distributed by NPR and can be heard every week on more than 150 stations across the country.

Tim Kehoe '95 was promoted to lieutenant with the Chesterfield County Police department. Kehoe has been with the department for 22 years and received a Meritorious Service Award for his six years of service on the SWAT team as operator and team leader.

Everett Painter '95 has accepted the position of tenure-track assistant professor of counseling at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

Krista Terry, M.A. '95, associate professor of instructional design and technology in the Department of Leadership and Educational Studies at Appalachian State University, has been named a faculty fellow in the University of North Carolina System's Division of Academic Affairs.

Healthcare advisory firm VERTESS has appointed **Eric Hymes '96** as a managing director. Hymes previously served as a combat medic in the United States Army before moving on to the role of general manager and senior executive with CCS Medical.

Amy Prock '96 has been sworn in as the chief of police for the Myrtle Beach (South Carolina) Police Department. Prock had been serving as interim police chief for the department.

Missy Sutton '96 has earned the Certified Association Executive credential from the American Society of Association Executives, the highest professional credential in the association industry. Sutton currently serves as member engagement manager at the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards.

Frank Pugliese '97 has been appointed principal of Shoreham-Wading River High School in Shoreham, New York. Pugliese spent the last decade as an assistant principal in the Half Hollow Hills School District, located in Suffolk County, New York.

Lavina Harless '98, M.S.W. '00, serves as director of examination development for the Association of Social Work Boards. Harless is in charge of developing the professional licensure examinations used across the United States and participating Canadian provinces. About 50,000 examinations are administered annually.

Amy Shrewsbury, M.S. '98, has been named principal at Snowville Elementary. Most recently, Shrewsbury served as the assistant principal at Dublin Middle School.

Western Oregon University has hired **Curtis Campbell, M.S. '99**, as its new athletic director. Campbell previously served as the director of athletics at NCAA Division II institution Tuskegee University in Alabama.

Malora Quesinberry '99 has been named director of educational and user technologies at Walters State Community College.

2000s

Member One FCU announced the appointment of **Bruce Ermel '00** as vice president of operations with responsibility for the credit union's contact center, products and services, insurance and card departments.

Tony Grantham '00 has been named assistant coach with the Navy football program. Grantham spent the 2017 season as the defensive coordinator at Western Illinois.

John Massey '02, M.S. '05, married Elisabeth Rausch, June 24, 2018.

John Massey '02, M.S. '05, has been promoted to assistant deputy director of operations at the Defense Security Service, a federal security agency of the United States Department of Defense.

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Kroll, a global leader in risk mitigation, investigations, compliance, cyber resilience, security and incident response solutions, announced the appointment of **Amine Antari '03, MBA '05**, as managing director in the firm's Dubai, United Arab Emirates office.

Buffalo, New York-based Sentient Science, a provider of system predictions and life-extension actions to improve rotating mechanical equipment, has named **Amine Chigani '03** chief technology officer. Chigani joins Sentient Science from GE Digital, where he was the chief architect at GE Current.

The National Panhellenic Conference Foundation has selected **Kristin Walker '03** of Clemson University's Center for Career and Professional Development for the 2017 Women in Higher Education Achievement Award. The award recognizes outstanding women who have made significant differences in higher education through leadership.

Orange County School Board approved the appointment of **Nick Sodano '04** as principal of Gordon-Barbour Elementary School in Orange, Virginia.

Brittany Quesenberry '05 was named assistant principal at Floyd County High

School. She previously served as the high school's counselor.

Kate Uhle '05 has opened her first restaurant, Mad Munch Grilled Cheezer Co., in Ocean Beach, California.

Amy Elizabeth Ratliff Hixon '06 has been named a 2017 Early Career Award winner by the Office of Science of the Department of Energy. Hixon, an assistant professor in the University of Notre Dame's Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering & Earth Sciences, is one of only 59 honorees across the country.

Tiffany Lynch, M.S. '06, an English teacher at Park View High School in South Hill, has been selected as one of eight Virginia Regional Teachers of the Year.

R. Curtis Rhea '06 has been elected to the board of supervisors in Smyth County, defeating the incumbent to claim the Chilhowie seat on the board.

Ed Snider '06 has been installed as a board member for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fauquier.

Tyler York '08 has been named Mosa's new architectural sales consultant for the Washington, D.C. region. Mosa is a Dutch

tile manufacturer with over 130 years of experience creating porcelain tile.

Amy Johnson '09, D.N.P. '13, has been named president of the Virginia Association of Adult 4-H Volunteer Leaders.

Nana "T-Chee" Kum '09 and Shyrah Kum announce the birth of their twin boys, Niran Adom Lucas and Korban Aseda Maeson, Oct. 3, 2017.

West Virginia Trooper First Class **Jason Weiss '09** was presented a Meritorious Service Award by West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice. Weiss received the award for his life-saving actions during the historic June 2016 floods.

2010s

Blair Hoke '10 has been hired as the director of corporate partnerships for the Winston-Salem Dash, a minor league baseball affiliate of the Chicago White Sox. Most recently, Hoke served as the general manager for the Pulaski Yankees.

Thad Wells '10 has been named football coach at Mooresville High School in Mooresville, North Carolina. Wells led Blacksburg High to the Virginia Group 3A football championship in 2016.

Halifax County High School has appointed **Thomas Crews '11** as wide receivers coach and assistant defensive line coach.



Kaila Bartee '14 has been named to the Carolina Panthers cheerleading squad, the TopCats. Bartee was a member of the RU Rockers Dance Team while at Radford University.

The Progressive Women's Association has named **Victoria Cann '15** a 2017 Italian-American Women of Distinction Award winner for her work in journalism. Cann is currently a staff writer at NCWV Media in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

Nora McFaddin '15 has joined the Danville-Pittsylvania Cancer Association as executive director.

Hidden Valley Country Club has announced the hiring of **Patrick O'Keefe '15** as the new director of tennis. O'Keefe returns to the area after a 2½-year stint with Smith Stearns Tennis Academy in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, where he trained high-performance juniors.

Robert Ratcliffe, M.S. '15, has been selected as principal at Indian Valley Elementary School by the Floyd County School Board. Ratcliffe had served various roles in the Pulaski County school system for the previous eight years.

Sydney Trotter '15 has received the Rising Star in Clinical Practice Award from the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses. Trotter currently works at Virginia Commonwealth University Health in the neuroscience department.

Will Darmstead '16, who served as the stadium operations assistant in 2017, is now the stadium operations, merchandising manager and corporate sales executive for the Potomac Nationals, the Class A-Advanced affiliate of the Washington Nationals. Prior to joining the Nationals, Darmstead worked for the Pulaski Yankees, the Short Season affiliate of the New York Yankees.

Garland Smith '16 is traveling to Uganda to serve a volunteer for the Peace Corps.

Former captain of the women's soccer team, **Lexi Denny '17**, has been hired as the recruiting and social media assistant for baseball and softball for Virginia Tech Athletics. Denny previously served as an intern in the Radford athletic department and served as vice president of Radford's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Brice Walker '17 has been named corporate partnership fulfillment and promotions manager for the Potomac Nationals, the Class A-Advanced affiliate of the Washington Nationals. Before joining the Nationals, Walker spent two seasons as the promotions intern with the Greenville Astros, Rookie League affiliate of the Houston Astros.

Kyle Zurak '17, the 2017 Big South Conference Tournament MVP in baseball, has been promoted to the Pulaski Yankees of the Appalachian League. The closer and spot starter was taken by the New York Yankees in the eighth round of June's amateur draft.

Obituaries

1930s

Jessie Valcarcel Willson '38 of Virginia Beach, Feb. 8, 2017.

1940s

Lois Carter Reynolds '42 of Blacksburg, March 15, 2017.

Mary Catherine Austin Clark '44 of Radford, May 1, 2017.

Mary Frances Charles '45 of Bristol, Tennessee, July 4, 2017.

Anne Spiers Hoving '48 of Williamsburg, May 2, 2017.

Frances N. Baker Luzenski '48 of Silver Spring, Maryland, July 27, 2017.

1950s

Nancy Whitworth Saunders '51 of Bedford, Jan. 7, 2018.

Mickey Whitaker Jackson Seagle '51 of Pulaski, Aug. 24, 2017.

Martha E. Preston '52, M.S. '74, of Warner Robins, Georgia, Oct. 3, 2016.

Beatrice Claudine Lee Wood '52, M.S. '65, of Woolwine, Aug. 1, 2017.

Frances Cox Hollans '54 of Fairfax, Dec. 10, 2017.

Nona Bondurant Bowman '55 of Los Alamos, New Mexico, May 18, 2017.

Marie Bolt Bailey '56 of New Bern, North Carolina, Nov. 14, 2017.

Barbara Adele Acosta '57 of Covington, June 2, 2017.

Frances Elliott Falls '58 of Forest, Sept. 29, 2016.

Jane B. Pannill '58 of Billings, Montana, July 28, 2017.

Virginia D. Cohen '59 of Topeka, Kansas, July 11, 2017.

Alma Beamer Hammond '59 of Salem, Jan. 12, 2018.

1960s

Doris Marie Thompson Crane '60 of Roanoke, Feb. 1, 2017.

Nancy Umberger '60 of Rural Retreat, Dec. 9, 2017.

Betty Martin Henry '61, M.S. '69, of Fairlawn, Sept. 13, 2017.

Mildred B. "Millie" Brannan Choinski '62 of Wayland, Massachusetts, Dec. 8, 2017.

Mary Lyons Goad '62, M.S. '75, of Fairlawn, Jan. 15, 2018.

Carolyn Hope Saunders '62 of Bedford, April 5, 2017.

Virgil Randolph Bailey, M.S. '65, of Roanoke, Aug. 27, 2017.

Mary Ann Jennings Hovis '65 of Fairfax, Aug. 26, 2017.

Nita Black Apperson Little '65 of Blacksburg, Feb. 4, 2018.

Barbara Powers-Ingram '65, M.S. '70, M.S. '85, of Pulaski, Nov. 10, 2017.

Charlotte Carter Byrd '66 of Lawrenceville, Georgia, June 19, 2017.

Wayne Booth M.S. '67 of Christiansburg, Jan. 18, 2018.

Lillian White Raible '67 of Moseley, Aug. 21, 2017.

Margaret Manning "Meg" Walker '67 of Roanoke, Sept. 14, 2017.

Sandra Stone Whitehead '67 of Lynchburg, April 16, 2017.

Joseph George Lamoureux, M.S. '68, of Alpine, Utah, July 25, 2017.

Sue Mercer Karr '69 of Bent Mountain, March 3, 2018.

Jeannette Robertson Noell '69 of Roanoke, March 7, 2018.

1970s

Vista Wilson Alderman '70 of Hillsville, Nov. 8, 2017.

Trudy Eggleston Henderson '70 of Danville, Aug. 28, 2017.

Freddie Wayne Williams, M.S. '70, of Pearisburg, Sept. 3, 2017.

Sandra Conley Rebert '71 of Taylors, South Carolina, March 23, 2018.

Betty Williams Capaldini '72 of Fairlawn, March 20, 2018.

Katherine Briggs Detamore '72 of Earlysville, March 22, 2018.

Christine Huddleston, M.S. '72, of Vinton, Jan. 2, 2018.

Diana Scott Hunt '77 of Pearisburg, Jan. 11, 2018.

Mary Katherine Paitsel Clark '78, M.S. '83, of Tappahannock, Nov. 3, 2017.

Iris "Muffin" Hyler Morris '78 of Covington, July 24, 2017.

Joseph Elwood Reed, M.S. '78, of Pulaski, Nov. 5, 2017.

James E. Leech '79 of Eldersburg, Maryland, Dec. 10, 2017.

1980s

Mildred Eloise Bolen '80 of Pulaski, Feb. 9, 2018.

Brenda Carole Riggle Haymore '82 of Knoxville, Tennessee, Dec. 20, 2017.

Thomasa Lynne Adams Clifton '84 of Virginia Beach, Nov. 15, 2017.

Callie Hill '86 of Roanoke, March 31, 2017.

Laura Hodgson, M.S. '86, of Damascus, Nov. 30, 2017.

Lisa Britts McDaniel '86 of Salem, Aug. 18, 2017.

Susan Corbett Vaughan, M.S. '88, of Troutville, Aug. 20, 2017.

Tresa Lynn Altizer '89 of Fernandina Beach, Florida, Oct. 20, 2017.

1990s

Timothy Haynes Johnson '90 of Blacksburg, Sept. 12, 2017.

David Paul Marchione '90 of Sarasota, Florida, June 1, 2017.

Susan Teresa "Terry" Tucker '90 of Springfield, Aug. 2, 2017.

Mark Robert Barrett '91 of Leesburg, July 5, 2017.

Billie Jo "Brooke" Bowman-Wood, M.A. '93, of Radford, Feb. 26, 2018.

Tina Jessee McFall '93 of Suffolk, Aug. 12, 2017.

Andrea Brown, M.S. '95, of Vinton, Dec. 29, 2017.

Paula Kaye Kistner '96 of Vinton, Nov. 8, 2017.

Brenda Lee Jones '99, M.S. '04, of Roanoke, Sept. 23, 2017.

Sylvia Rosenfeld '99 of Floyd, June 28, 2017.

2000s

Sara Elaine Campbell '00 of Keswick, June 19, 2017.

William Edward "Skip" Lester Jr. '00 of Richmond, April 3, 2017.

Deborah Yancey '00 of Callaway, Aug. 30, 2017.

Philip Russell Ferguson '05 of Lebanon, Jan. 15, 2018.

John Ernest Palmer '05 of Roanoke, Feb. 27, 2018.

Matthew Thomas McLeod '06 of Locust Grove, Sept. 19, 2017.

Jessie Gordon '07 of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Nov. 22, 2017.

2010s

Gary F. Talkington '11 of Christiansburg, Sept. 21, 2017.

Emily Martin '16 of Christiansburg, March 16, 2018.

Non-Degreed

Cynthia Jo Anderson of Pulaski, Feb. 13, 2018.

Joaquin Dewayne Bowen of Pulaski, June 28, 2017.

Mary Evelyn Cardwell Dawson of Boone, North Carolina, July 8, 2017.

Lockie Jo Greear of Riner, March 16, 2017.

Theresa DeHart Jewell of Salem, Aug. 25, 2017.

Katherine Howe Jones of Buchanan, Dec. 23, 2017.

Sally Ellen Nixon Neel of Riner, June 11, 2017.

Peggy McDonald Price of Blacksburg, June 14, 2017.

Betty Routh of Fries, July 28, 2017.

Donald D. Mitchell of Roanoke, Aug. 28, 2017.

Irene Holt Morrison of Dublin, Aug. 29, 2017.

David Plunkett of Rocky Mount, Jan. 22, 2018.

Christine M. Rakes of Laurel Fork, Feb. 21, 2018.

Novella Sutherland Rhudy of Elk Creek, Feb. 5, 2018.

Mary Whitehead of Pembroke, Jan. 3, 2017

Hazel Christina Catron Williams of Wytheville, Feb. 16, 2018.

Students

Martin Ezekiel Monge of Woodbridge, June 24, 2017.

Jacob B. Terry of Hampton, Oct. 3, 2017.

Faculty/Staff

Donald W. Breedlove of Pulaski, April 13, 2018.

David Burdette of Pulaski, Jan. 10, 2018.

James "Doc" Roosevelt Caldwell of Christiansburg, March 16, 2017.

Elizabeth Manns Casey of New River, June 2, 2017.

Andrea (Andi) Osborne Clemons of Radford, Aug. 9, 2017.

Chase Spilman Decker of Richmond, Jan. 2, 2018.

Virginia McCraw Wilson Edmonds of Radford, March 6, 2018.

Peggy Wilson Griffiths of Radford, March 8, 2018.

William Saxon Hudson of Fairlawn, Jan. 27, 2018.

Eleanor Tardy Lau of Blacksburg, Sept. 3, 2017.

Helen Louise "Peggy" Lawson Stumbo of Pulaski, March 23, 2017.

Emily Martin '16 of Christiansburg, March 16, 2018.

Nicholas "Nick" John Pappas of Radford, Sept. 5, 2017.

John Rutherford Sr. of Radford, Jan. 19, 2018.

Carole Seyfrit, Ph.D., of Radford, March 20, 2018.

Kitty Smith of Hillsville, Jan. 13, 2018.

Vasanth Balan Solomon, Ph.D., of Sri Lanka, Jan. 30, 2016.

Iris Ely Southern '43 of Salem, Sept. 19, 2017.

Anna Marie Brown Testerman '86 of Pulaski, Sept. 7, 2017.

Betty Jo (B.J.) R. Tilley of Radford, July 19, 2017.

Walter Scott Weaver of Christiansburg, Aug. 12, 2017.

Thomas Kent "Kenny" Weeks Jr. of Radford, Jan. 29, 2018.

Linda Joy Wilson of Shawsville, Jan. 12, 2018.

Friends

Melburn Sherrell Williams of Radford, Oct. 10, 2017.

Dewey Stowers Wilson Jr. of Pulaski, May 27, 2017.

Congratulations!

THE FOLLOWING FACULTY AND STAFF
HAVE RECENTLY RETIRED
FROM RADFORD UNIVERSITY.

Michael C. Anderson *June 24, 2017*
Richard J. Bay, Ed.D. *July 6, 2017*
Ellen C. Birx, Ph.D. *Dec. 24, 2017*
Russell E. Boyd *June 24, 2017*
Tod W. Burke, Ph.D. *Dec. 20, 2017*
James E. Collier *June 25, 2017*
Patricia S. Conklin *July 24, 2017*
Michael A. Dunn *July 24, 2017*
Linda T. Ely *July 24, 2017*
Stephen D. Everett *May 31, 2017*
Dennis O. Grady, Ph.D. *June 24, 2017*
Judith A. Guinan, Ph.D. *Dec. 24, 2017*
Diana W. Harrell *July 31, 2017*
Lloyd L. Jennings *June 30, 2017*
Alice King Ingham, Ph.D. *July 24, 2017*
Stephen W. Lenhart, Ph.D. *May 9, 2017*
Mary T. McGill *May 24, 2017*
Kathy S. Mitchell, Ph.D. *July 25, 2017*
Lisa D. Montgomery *June 30, 2017*
Lisa L. Onega, Ph.D. *Aug. 9, 2017*
Katie Reed *Feb. 1, 2018*
Colleen T. Roberts *June 24, 2017*
Gary L. Roberts *May 31, 2017*
Joseph P. Scartelli, Ph.D. *July 24, 2017*
Donald E. Secreast, Ph.D. *July 24, 2017*
Joey C. Sword *May 24, 2017*
Patricia A. Talbot, Ed.D. *Dec. 24, 2017*
Barbara B. Willard *March 31, 2017*
Paul W. Witkowsky, Ph.D. *Aug. 9, 2017*



Class Day, June 1938

RADFORD
UNIVERSITY

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The mascot is a large, furry creature with a beard and a plaid headband, wearing a plaid vest over a red shirt. It is standing in front of a fountain and trees on a campus. The mascot's arms are outstretched, and it has a friendly expression.

Mark your calendar for Radford University's HOMECOMING

Oct. 19 - 21, 2018

A full schedule of campus events is available at
www.radford.edu/alumni

Stay connected by following the alumni social media
sites and the social Homecoming hashtag,
#RadfordHC2018, for the latest developments.

Questions?

Call the Office of Alumni Relations at **540-831-5248**
or toll-free at **1-888-478-4723**.