

# RADFORD

The Magazine of Radford University

Spring 2019

## *A Momentous Occasion*

Sandy and Jack Davis



**INSIDE** Responsive. Resilient. Real.



# CAPTURING the COLLECTION

Alumna Destiny Howard's professor, John Jacob, Ph.D., proudly takes a photo of her work being modeled on the catwalk during Fashion Week in New York City. To learn more, see page 52.

# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

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## EDITORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Don Bowman

Karen Castelee '79

Paul Davis

Robin Dowdy

Nickola Dudley

Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15

Jessica Fowler

Jeff Greenough

Mary Hardbarger

James Harman '92

Mark Lambert

Wendy Lowery

Joe Mahoney

Pam McCallister

Colleen McNickle

Hannah Moses

Alexa Nash

Chad Osborne

Stephanie Overton

Caitlyn Scaggs '07

Ashley Schumaker

Nakia Shelton

Lauren Slough

Meghan Williams Spraker '03

Laura Turk '87, M.S. '90

Sherry Wallace

Justin Ward '10

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Fellow Highlanders!

As this most recent edition of *The Magazine of Radford University* arrives, Spring Commencement festivities are underway across campus, the New River Valley and the Commonwealth of Virginia. While we celebrate the significant accomplishments of our newest graduates and reflect on the notable achievements of all students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends, we must also focus on our exciting future.

This edition focuses on academic excellence, community partnerships and expanded opportunities for our students as they continually work to make a lasting impact on our communities and the world around us. It is the University's mission to empower students from diverse backgrounds by providing transformative educational experiences, from the undergraduate to the doctoral level, both within and beyond the classroom. In fulfilling this mission, we embrace innovation in every facet of our work, continue our strong tradition of teaching and learning and instill students with purpose and the ability to think creatively and critically. We provide an educational environment with the tools to address the economic, social and environmental issues confronting our region, nation and the world.

At Radford University, we provide experiences and opportunities that are second to none. In this edition, you will read about just a few of the individuals and initiatives where tradition meets innovation and where the past meets the future. At Radford, we are evolving each and every day. With the ongoing implementation of our five-year strategic plan, we are truly *Embracing the Tradition and Envisioning the Future*.

In October 2018, I delivered my annual State of the University address. Then, I assured the Radford family that the state of the University is strong. Today is no different. Our merger with Jefferson College of Health Sciences has received unanimous approval from the Commonwealth of Virginia and is becoming a reality as we approach the fall 2019 semester. As some of you may have heard, I am very proud to call our Roanoke campus *Radford University Carilion*.

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. The stories on these pages are a testament to that fact and showcase what makes Radford University a special place and a home to so many incredible individuals. I invite you to enjoy the latest edition of *The Magazine of Radford University*, and GO HIGHLANDERS!

With Highlander Pride,



Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.  
President



Link to State of the University: [www.radford.edu/sou](http://www.radford.edu/sou)



### 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](mailto:editor@radford.edu).

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

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**Returning to campus this fall!**

See page 68 to learn more.



President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., and First Lady Marisela Rosas Hemphill, Ph.D., honor the first recipient of The Spirit of the Tartan Award, Tom McGlothlin, joined by his wife, Sandy McGlothlin.

## THE HIGHLANDER FAMILY TOUR

**Radford University is taking the Highlander spirit on the road this spring and summer as the 2019 Highlander Family Tour is now underway. President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., and First Lady Marisela Rosas Hemphill, Ph.D., are welcoming the extended Highlander family to eight events from Atlanta, Georgia to Northern Virginia.**

During this event series, alumni and friends of the University have the opportunity to meet campus leaders and hear how the institution is moving forward together.

“We have to be intentional about being innovative within the work we are conducting,” Hemphill said at the inaugural Highlander Family Tour event in Bristol, where nearly 100 close supporters came together in celebration.

President Hemphill shared how Radford University must embrace tradition, while envisioning the future in bold and innovative ways. One such example is the Innovative Mobile Personalized Accelerated Competence Training, or IMPACT program, which started in the fall of 2017 and now has about 700 students enrolled.

President Hemphill also spoke of the University’s renewed goal of producing scholars with a high level of applied learning capabilities. Highlander alumni heard ways in which Radford University is garnering recognition in established and new academic programs

in health sciences and healthcare, and how that will evolve as the merger with Jefferson College of Health Sciences continues to completion.

The Highlander Family Tour also provides an opportunity to share and celebrate the successes of students. At each stop, a video highlighting the Highlander experience of one student is shared with attendees. (In doing so, the Radford campus can be enjoyed by alumni, supporters and friends of the University both near and far.) Attendees also hear firsthand how the University is positively impacting students from a variety of backgrounds through transformative educational experiences.

“I think it was very uplifting, and I think we’re right on target for growing with the times,” said Emily Gibson ’02, who attended the Bristol event and reconnected with Highlanders in her community.

At each stop, The Spirit of the Tartan Award is bestowed upon Highlander alumni or friends in recognition of their work to support the greater Radford family and their communities. Join your Radford family at any of the tour locations to reconnect with long-lost friends, share meaningful stories, enjoy amazing food and broaden your Highlander network.

**To view the remaining dates in the Highlander Family Tour and to view galleries from the events thus far, please visit [www.radford.edu/highlander-family-tour](http://www.radford.edu/highlander-family-tour).**



Students from Waldron College of Health and Human Services programs continue to excel in certification and licensure exams.

MASTER OF  
**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (M.O.T.),**  
JANUARY 2017 - DECEMBER 2018

**RESULT:** 95 percent pass rate  
**TEST:** National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)

BACHELOR OF  
**SCIENCE IN NURSING**  
(B.S.N.), 2018

**COMPOSITE:** 98 percent first-time pass rate  
**RADFORD COHORT:** 100 percent first-time pass rate  
**ROANOKE COHORT:** 96 percent first-time pass rate  
**TEST:** National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), the examination for the licensing of nurses that is administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)  
**NOTE:** The 2018 national first-time pass rate for baccalaureate students: 91.57 percent, according to the NCSBN

MASTER (M.A., M.S.) OF  
**COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS (COSD),** 2018

**RESULT:** 100 percent pass rates  
**TEST:** PRAXIS II, milestone toward earning the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP)  
**NOTE:** The fifth consecutive year COSD graduates achieved a 100 percent pass rate

DOCTOR OF  
**PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
(D.P.T.), 2018

**RESULT:** 100 percent first-time pass rate  
**TEST:** National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE), administered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT)



**RADFORD** has surpassed the national NCLEX first-time pass rate average for seven consecutive years.



## EXPANDED NURSING SIMULATION CENTER RETURNS TO CAMPUS

**The Radford Clinical Simulation Center (CSC), now in its new home on the third floor of Cook Hall, has doubled in size and added capabilities that replicate the modern healthcare environment.**

Radford University School of Nursing students now have increasingly immersive practical experiences in additional hospital rooms, exam rooms and interview rooms, and they debrief in larger, technology-rich

spaces that are supported by a state-of-the-art computer infrastructure.

“The expansion of the CSC represents an exciting opportunity for the nursing program,” said School of Nursing Interim Director Iris Mullins, Ph.D. “The relocation and expansion bring efficiencies and synergies that enrich nursing students with virtual reality experiences that are important complements to their classroom and clinical experiences.”

The expansion marks the first-ever renovation of Radford’s CSC, formerly located in the Radford University Corporate Park, since its initial opening in





1. Entrance to the Clinical Simulation Center (CSC) in Cook Hall 2. Home healthcare kitchen and living room 3. Home healthcare bathroom 4. CSC doctor's office 5. A nursing student with an automated medication dispensing system, a key new addition to the CSC inventory of medical technology 6. A team of nursing students with a simulation patient that is controlled by evidence-based, peer-reviewed programs and scenarios 7. Transformative educational experiences within the CSC

2006. The Radford CSC now includes two “wings” — a wing simulating the hospital environment with rooms devoted to obstetric, pediatric and medical/surgical care and a wing simulating a healthcare clinic and doctors’ offices.

The Cook Hall CSC also includes an apartment in which students work with patients, or actors who portray patients, to replicate the home healthcare environment.

“We can now provide more state-of-the-art sim education with faculty who are simulation experts,” said Cindy Cunningham ’88, M.S. ’97, CSC director. “Learning takes place in debriefing, and we have ample space and technology by which our students can review their work on their own and with faculty, plus an even more realistic environment.”

“The new nurse call system and BD Pyxis MedStations are typical of technology found in most acute care facilities and nursing homes. This technology makes our replication of a nurse’s environment even richer,” Cunningham said.

The BD Pyxis MedStation is an automated medication dispensing system that the CSC nursing students will work with as they transition into their clinical rotations and into practice. A nurse call system enables communication between patients and nurses to enhance quality of care.

Cunningham emphasized, “We can now provide our students with invaluable practical experiences that build their confidence, proficiency and clinical judgment in a safe environment.”



## A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS: HARVEY KNOWLEDGE CENTER OPENS IN MCCONNELL LIBRARY

**Radford University officially unveiled its newest learning hub in fall 2018.**

The Harvey Knowledge Center is located on the fourth floor of McConnell Library and is an expansion of the Warren P. Self Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC), formerly located in Walker Hall.

The center provides an array of helpful resources for both students and faculty, including small and private study areas, one-on-one mentoring, study groups, areas for group collaboration and workshops designed to help students become lifelong learners.

“We envision the Harvey Knowledge Center as a place where students can connect to a community and a place for exploration and inquiry,” said Director Jessica Beckett, Ph.D. “It’s a hub to connect students and faculty to campus resources and bring the Radford community together.”

Dozens of peer mentors and undergraduate coaches are available at the center to help student-learners achieve academic success in all areas of study, from biology and math to the humanities.

“We hope when students come in, they’re not just here for help one time, but they’re becoming connected to a community of learners.”

Jessica Beckett, Ph.D., director, Harvey Knowledge Center



George Harvey Sr.

The center is a result of Radford University’s 2018-2023 Strategic Plan, *Embracing the Tradition and Envisioning the Future*, and supports the University’s mission to provide all students the tools to address the social, economic and environmental issues confronting our region, nation and world.

Throughout several strategic plan discussions, students and faculty identified a need for an updated learning center. The LARC, explained Associate Provost for Academic Programs Jeanne Mekolichick, Ph.D., was an older model and, based on the current needs of students and faculty, that model needed to shift.

“The LARC was focused on helping students over those little speed bumps, but the Harvey Knowledge Center is focused on helping students learn the tools that are needed to be successful in life,” Mekolichick said. “That broader skill development, self-efficacy, self-advocacy, working in teams — all of those pieces that will help our students in their professional lives, civic lives, family lives and so on. It’s a much broader, deeper vision of learning.”

The center is named after George Harvey Sr., a local businessperson, community leader and a longtime supporter of Radford University.

“Today, we’re standing in a space allocated to continue to provide these services, but now in an even greater capacity,” said Mekolichick at the unveiling event in October 2018. “The combination of the LARC with the Harvey Knowledge Center will serve a larger number of students in a centralized location, thereby

## RADFORD UNIVERSITY ROLLS OUT NEW IN-DEMAND DEGREES

**Radford University is offering three new undergraduate degrees and one doctoral degree that reflect the growing demand for skilled employees in the healthcare, technology and education industries.**

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia recently approved the three undergraduate programs. The cybersecurity and sport management programs were launched in spring 2019, and the third program, in allied health sciences, will begin in fall 2019.

### CYBERSECURITY

Radford University is the first public, four-year institution in Virginia to offer an undergraduate degree in cybersecurity. Offered through the Artis College of Science and Technology's Department of Information Technology, the program is designed to help meet the anticipated demand of 3.5 million cybersecurity professionals by 2023.

The program leverages existing courses in information systems and computer science, in addition to several new courses, to produce a pipeline of tech-savvy graduates who are well prepared to design, implement, deploy and administer technological solutions to prevent and defend against cyberattacks.

### ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

The College of Education and Human Development's Department of Health and Human Performance is offering a new degree in allied health sciences. Formerly a concentration, the program will prepare students for graduate and professional school and eventual entry into physical rehabilitation disciplines, such as physical or occupational therapy, exercise physiology, cardiac rehabilitation, chiropractic medicine, physician assistant or other advanced programs.

While many of these careers require an advanced degree, students graduating from the allied health sciences program can pursue immediate employment in settings such as health agencies, hospitals, health and fitness facilities and rehabilitation centers.

### SPORT MANAGEMENT

The Bachelor of Science in Sport Management is also administered by the Department of Health and Human Performance. The program will educate students about the theoretical and applied aspects of management as they pursue careers within the sport industry.

The new major will offer two concentrations: sport administration and coaching management. It will provide instruction in such aspects of sport management as sports facility management, professional writing, the sociocultural perspectives to sport management, ethical principles, budgeting, fundraising and economic analysis of sport activities, as well as marketing and promotion.

### EDUCATION

Radford University's Doctor of Education program has been approved by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and will begin classes in January 2020.

The program will prepare new generations of executive-level leaders in education through coursework, field experiences and applied research to work collaboratively within their communities to improve student outcomes.

The 63-credit Ed.D. program is fully online, making it convenient for working professionals. The program meets the Virginia licensure requirements for the Division Superintendent endorsement.



making a direct impact on our ability to assist our students throughout every challenge and opportunity in their college experience.”

Harvey attended the event with his wife, Juanita, and several of his children.

“Knowledge is so important in our lives,” Harvey told event attendees. “We cannot do anything without proper knowledge. There is one word in the vocabulary that is outstanding to me: decision. We make decisions all of the time. Without proper knowledge, you cannot make proper decisions. So, to me, knowledge is so important, and I’m hoping that’s exactly what this learning center will do — help all these young people to be able to have the knowledge to make all these decisions that will be a part of their life, and help them make good decisions. There are a lot of good opportunities out there if you make good decisions.”



# A Healthy Exchange

**PSY.D. STUDENTS PROVIDE FREE  
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING, GAIN  
HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES**

By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15

**JUST DOWN** U.S. Route 11 in Christiansburg, Radford University students in the Doctor of Psychology in Counseling Psychology (Psy.D.) program work hands-on with clients at the Community Health Center (CHC).

The CHC and its satellite offices offer a wide range of services to patients, including general medical care, women's health services, dental care and behavioral healthcare. The CHC strives to be a comprehensive center for patient care.

Inside the CHC, Radford Psy.D. students provide mental health counseling services to those who do not have insurance or cannot afford a sliding scale, allowing services to be provided to a wider range of people at no cost.

Elizabeth Cottrell, a Psy.D. student from Raleigh, North Carolina, worked in the CHC during her first year in the program. She said that the work is important to her and her values.

"It was really meaningful work," she said. "Lots of programs do practicum and clinical experiences in college counseling centers. We do have that, and we have those experiences, but this is a chance to be involved in the community

“This is a chance to be involved in the community and see a side of clinical work that maybe we otherwise wouldn't.”

Elizabeth Cottrell, Psy.D. student



Elizabeth Cottrell

and see a side of clinical work that maybe we otherwise wouldn't [experience]."

While rural and urban areas are vastly different, many of the mental health issues are similar.

Issues range from post-traumatic stress

disorder (PTSD) to addictions to trauma and other disorders.

"I'm seeing more PTSD around here, especially when we think about what trauma means and how do we define it," said Victor Bullock, another



Victor Bullock

Psy.D. student, of Prince George, Virginia. "Part of that goes back to an individual's culture. Not talking bad about people and trying to keep issues contained. We need to get through that so we can really address what's going on.

PTSD doesn't go away by itself, so it's been untreated for a long time."

Part of the CHC's ability to educate patients about mental health services stems from the clinic's offering of a variety of health options, which helps introduce patients to mental health services during regular health checkups or dentist appointments.

"I think having all that under the same roof helps promote a variety of services. It also normalizes us as therapists. We're just people," Bullock said. "[The CHC] brings together mental health and behavioral health with more traditional medicine and dentistry in a place that really helps to lower stigma and get people introduced to mental health clinicians and expand their knowledge of what services are available." ■

Limitless  
**LOVE**  
— *and* —  
Positive  
**PASSION**  
*for Radford University*

By Chad Osborne



SANDRA C. DAVIS AND WILLIAM C. DAVIS  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS





After great anticipation, Radford University announced a landmark \$8 million gift from Sandra C. Davis and William C. Davis as part of a campus-wide Momentous Occasion held in October 2018.

The landmark gift will endow scholarships to be provided to students studying in Radford University's College of Business and Economics and the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., said, "This gift will change the lives of our students and their families forever."

In recognition of the generous gift, the University announced the naming of the Sandra C. Davis and William C. Davis College of Business and Economics. Additionally, the Covington Center for Visual and Performing Arts is home to the newly named Sandra C. Davis and William C. Davis Performance Hall.





## *The* Davis Scholar

Will be an incoming freshman  
or transfer student

Will study in the Davis College  
of Business and Economics  
or the College of Visual  
and Performing Arts

Must be enrolled full-time

Must be a Commonwealth  
of Virginia resident

Must possess a 3.5 GPA

“

If we can ease some  
of the economic pressure,  
we can help young people  
come to Radford. When they  
can get started here,  
they'll just take off.”

William C. “Jack” Davis

“Radford is on a wonderful course. There is a positive atmosphere here, and it is very contagious,” said Sandy Davis, who, talking with media before the event, spoke of the well-rounded education students receive at the University. “Our ultimate goal is to help provide scholarships for Radford University students.”

William C. “Jack” Davis added, “If we can ease some of the economic pressure, we can help young people come to Radford. When they can get started here, they'll just take off.”


The Sandra C. Davis and William C. Davis Endowed Scholarship Fund will provide academic scholarship awards to Davis Scholars of \$4,000 per year or \$2,000 per semester.

The awards will be exclusively provided to incoming freshman and transfer students studying in Radford University’s Sandra C. Davis and William C. Davis College of Business and Economics and the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Davis Scholars must be enrolled full-time at Radford University, be a Commonwealth of Virginia resident and possess a 3.5 high school GPA or college transfer GPA.

In the first year of implementation, a total of three Davis Scholars will be selected to receive scholarship awards. Once fully implemented, it is anticipated that there will be 80 Davis Scholars each academic year.

“Today, Sandy and Jack’s limitless love and positive passion for Radford University hold a new meaning on our campus and in our community,” President Hemphill said. “Sandy and Jack’s monumental gift will produce a lifetime of Davis Scholars, who will excel in the classroom, dedicate themselves to their chosen professions and provide their time and talent to the communities in which they live and work.” ■



“ Sandy and Jack’s monumental gift will produce a lifetime of Davis Scholars, who will excel in the classroom, dedicate themselves to their chosen professions and provide their time and talent to the communities in which they live and work. ”

President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.





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UNIVERSITY  
CARILION**



# Bringing a Bold Vision to Life

By Don Bowman

## IN JANUARY 2018, RADFORD UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT BRIAN O. HEMPHILL, PH.D., JOINED WITH EXECUTIVES FROM CARILION CLINIC AND JEFFERSON COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES TO ANNOUNCE A BOLD ENDEAVOR TO IMPROVE HEALTHCARE IN THE REGION AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA.

### NOW, THAT BOLD VISION HAS NEARLY COME TO LIFE.

The initiative merging the two institutions is expected to be completed in July, with the first class of new Highlanders being welcomed on August 26, coinciding with the start of the 2019-20 academic year.

The synergy powering this new healthcare education center is reflected in the name: Radford University Carilion.

Radford University, known for healthcare education and service, joins Carilion Clinic, synonymous with healthcare excellence and service. Jefferson College of Health Sciences is an arm of Carilion Clinic that will be folded into Radford University as a result of the merger. The new name captures the unity of two organizations joined in a public-private partnership that will prepare the students to become healthcare providers who confidently serve their communities, hospitals, clinics and families.

This emergent regional healthcare education center will distinctively enhance the quality of healthcare education and provide unparalleled access to clinical experiences and research opportunities.

A transition team of more than 100 campus and community leaders have worked tirelessly to blend two healthy academic institutions and distinct cultures since the announcement of the merger initiative in January 2018. These

efforts have been led by an executive committee of President Hemphill, Jefferson College of Health Sciences President Nathaniel L. Bishop '88, D.Min., and Carilion CEO Nancy Agee, among other leaders.

The partnership has received a tremendous outpouring of support. During the 2019 Virginia General Assembly session, members of the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate of Virginia unanimously voted to approve the merger of Jefferson College of Health Sciences into Radford University. The endorsement was signed by Governor Ralph Northam on February 19 and will become effective July 1. The bills' chief patrons, Delegate Nick Rush and Senator Bill Carrico, have been longtime champions of education and opportunity.

Legislative support of this merger, based on the potential positive impact for all Virginians, provides critical momentum toward completion of the merger. Radford University Carilion, which combines the two organizations' proud heritages and distinguished

faculty and staff, has elicited support from other critical partners, including Governor Northam, leadership in the House and the Senate, the Roanoke Valley area legislative delegation and state agency leaders and staff, especially the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

Regional accreditor approval is a critical final component. A prospectus for the merger was submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the regional accrediting body for both Jefferson College of Health Sciences and Radford University. The SACSCOC Board of Trustees' next scheduled meeting is in June. Pending SACSCOC approval, the merger is slated for completion in mid-July.

As the successful completion of the merger is anticipated in the near future, the Radford and Jefferson College of Health Sciences families have taken intentional steps towards getting to know each other better.

On April 9, dozens of Jefferson College of Health Sciences students, faculty and staff made the trip to the main Radford University campus to watch the baseball team take on VMI. This time spent together involved a picnic-style meal, opportunities to connect and the chance to cheer proudly for the Highlanders as one cohesive group.

Radford University also participated in the final Jefferson College of Health Sciences Spirit Day on April 22. This time of celebration allowed everyone to collectively honor the strong legacy of Jefferson College of Health Sciences, while also looking eagerly toward the future of the combined institutions. ■

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To learn more about the merger, please visit [www.radford.edu/merger](http://www.radford.edu/merger).

WELCOME

Responsive

Resilient +

Real

André



My Story

**THREE YEARS AGO**, there André Ragsdale sat: a freshman and first-generation student.

Seated in Radford University's Dalton Dining Hall, he scanned his surroundings.

Students, faculty and staff stood in lunch lines as they discussed class assignments, budgets and life.

Ragsdale's contagious smile caught the attention of Office of Alumni Relations Executive Director Laura Turk '87, M.S. '90, and Director of Alumni Relations Sandra Bond '97, MBA '00, who were greeting students as they always do at the beginning of each school year.

"I remember exactly where I first saw André," Turk recalled. "He was sitting near the dessert line at a two-person table by himself. He has a sparkle, a smile that makes people gravitate toward him. We knew right away that we wanted to find ways to get him more engaged."

Ragsdale, now a rising senior, has experienced a dramatic transformation at Radford University, both intellectually and socially.

Now, Turk said, "André shines. With the right encouragement and engagement, he has thrived."

"I definitely feel like a different person," he said. "Now, I have the tools to be a successful professional in the real world. The opportunities that Radford has given me greatly impacted my life."

Ragsdale epitomizes the traits to which so many Highlanders can relate: responsive, resilient and real.

## Responsive

**RAGSDALE WAS** encouraged early and often to get involved in campus activities.

He listened, and more importantly, he responded.

Through his relationship with Turk and Bond, he discovered the Office of Alumni Relations for which he became a student-worker. He also joined and is now vice president of the RU Ambassadors, a student-alumni engagement organization.

From there, his involvement blossomed.

“My Professors have changed my perspective and challenged my worldview.”

André Ragsdale

He joined the Rho Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. in spring 2017. A year later, he was elected and now serves as the president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC). He formerly served as the NPHC representative to the Student Government Association (SGA) and joined several SGA members and other student representatives at the 2018 and 2019 Advocacy Day in Richmond.

One of his favorite, and most challenging, leadership roles thus far was as a Quest Assistant (QA). Quest is the University's new student orientation program, and QAs serve as mentors to new students and their families. The role of a QA requires confidence, energy and empathy.

Ragsdale said he is especially proud of that Highlander experience. Pride beams from a Quest branded backpack he still carries around campus.

To help finance his tuition, Ragsdale secured a job as a student supervisor for the University's Telephone Outreach Program.

In the classroom, Ragsdale is majoring in political science and aspires to one day get involved in politics. He also plans to go to graduate school to pursue a career in higher education.

His Radford University resumé,

now rich and varied, will set him apart from others as he enters the professional world.

"I've learned interview skills, resumé building, networking and professionalism," Ragsdale said. "My professors have changed my perspective and challenged my worldview. My involvement has shaped me into a person who wants to better my community and my fellow peers. I've definitely had a full college experience."

And he still has one more year to go.

## Resilient

**RAGSDALE'S PATH** to Radford was unique. He was born in Hopewell, Virginia, and raised by his mother and grandmother. Neither family member attended college, so "choosing the right one was a really big deal for me," Ragsdale said.

During a tour of Radford University's campus, Ragsdale's eyes opened to a world of possibilities. He thought the campus was beautiful, the staff engaging and the small, tight-knit community not too different from his hometown.

He saw himself as a Highlander.

And, Ragsdale responded by enrolling in fall 2016 and starting his journey, as so many first-generation students do, a little lost.





Executive Director for Alumni Relations Laura Turk '87, M.S. '90, André Ragsdale and Director of Alumni Relations Sandra M. Bond '97, MBA '00, sit on the Highlander Bench near Russell Hall.

That was until that fateful day when Turk and Bond found him sitting in Dalton. With a little “push” in the right direction, Turk said, Ragsdale opened up and what came out was a well-rounded student and a genuinely kind and caring young man.

“Since my freshman year, I’ve been growing as a person and as a leader,” Ragsdale said.

## Real

**DESPITE RAGSDALE’S** many accomplishments at Radford University, there have been challenges along the way.

“Success doesn’t come without struggles,” Ragsdale explained.

Navigating financial aid, facing social pressures and their consequences, paying bills, juggling

job demands with classwork and staying focused on graduation — the ultimate goal — are real struggles of Ragsdale and all students who immerse themselves in the college experience.

The keys to success in and out of the classroom, Ragsdale said, are being real with yourself and others, overcoming fears and eliminating obstacles.

“That’s what motivated me to do so well each semester,” he said. “It wouldn’t make sense for me to be unsuccessful after I spent all this money and worked so hard. I think some first-generation students don’t understand that there a lot of resources on campus to help them be successful...I try to be that kind of role model for students. I want them to know that they can succeed and have the same opportunities that I had.”

Going into his senior year, he plans to stay just as motivated.

“I know it’s my last year, and I still have to do the work,” he said. “I go into every year strong. I try not to slack off, although it’s bound to happen sometimes. But, I work so hard to make sure I end the semester on a good note.”

Three months ago, there André Ragsdale sat: a Radford University Highlander with a bright future on the horizon.

Seated in his campus apartment, he scanned his surroundings.

Radford University athletics posters and logos, fraternity banners, Quest gear and his favorite Highlander sweatshirt filled the room.

André smiled.

“I’m definitely at the peak of my college career,” he said. ■



# A FOCUS ON FACULTY EXCELLENCE



**DALTON EMINENT SCHOLAR  
AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

Newly inaugurated Lt. Governor John N. Dalton with his father, Judge Ted Dalton, on January 12, 1974. John Dalton became governor four years later.  
*Image courtesy of the Dalton Family.*

By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY** announced the five faculty members who were selected to receive the 2018 Dalton Eminent Scholar Awards.

Each faculty member received a \$10,000 award that will fund research travel and materials, along with a \$5,000 award to be granted to the faculty member following successful completion of research and scholarly activity.

The Dalton Eminent Scholars Fund was originally established in the late 1980s and early 1990s as a way to honor United States District Judge Ted Dalton and former Governor of Virginia John Dalton. Through a grassroots fundraising campaign, more than \$700,000 was raised for the endowment, which now has funds totaling nearly \$2 million.

The awards provide faculty members opportunities to go above and beyond in their chosen academic fields and to recruit and retain the best faculty.

"Radford University is dedicated to supporting faculty research, and the Dalton Eminent Scholar Awards are a way for us to further foster their endeavors," said Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Kenna Colley, Ed.D. "Each winner is highly deserving of the award, and we are excited to see the results of the research and how that knowledge and experience is brought back into the classroom."

#### The five winners are:

**Tracy Cohn, Ph.D.**, *associate professor of psychology, College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences*



Cohn is using the award to fund work related to understanding the experiences of transgender, gender non-conforming (TGNC) and sexual minorities. Cohn said that rates of hate crimes, hate speech and hostile work environments remain exceptionally high for TGNC and sexual minorities.

"It is such an honor for my work to be recognized, especially when you see how many incredibly talented individuals were nominated," Cohn said. "Research is a social activity for me, and so receiving this award is acknowledgment of the fun and also challenging work that I've been able to accomplish in collaboration with my students, my colleagues and my friends."

**Ji-Eun Lee, Ph.D.**, *assistant professor of dance, College of Visual and Performing Arts*



Lee, who received the Rising Star Award, also conducted research during winter break.

"It means a lot to me," Lee said. "Once again, I have been reminded that Radford University strongly supports faculty research, which motivates me to work harder."

**Helen Roybark, Ph.D.**, *professor of accounting, Davis College of Business and Economics*



Roybark is conducting research related to accounting, auditing and regulations.

"It is an honor to have been nominated by my colleagues for the Dalton Eminent Scholar Awards," Roybark said. "I am humbled to receive this award and appreciate this recognition."

My research relates directly to what I teach, so I believe my research has and will continue to make me a better teacher."

**Skip Watts, M.S. '77, Ph.D.**, *professor of geology, Artis College of Science and Technology*



In recent years, unmanned aerial systems, also known as drones, have become an important tool for analyzing geohazards. With the expertise of Professor of Geology Skip Watts, Radford University is leading the region in these investigations.

Watts said, "I am delighted to have used that money to support other faculty and students when they traveled to Patagonia in South America to work on climate change studies monitoring melting glaciers in the Andes Mountains using Radford University drones. I'm working with Professors Ryan Sincavage and Beth McClellan, who led the group of students there over the winter break to use our drones to detect and document changes in glacial volumes. I supervised drone flights and image processing, while communicating with them via satellite links."

**Jeremy Wojdak, Ph.D.**, *professor of biology, Artis College of Science and Technology*



Wojdak currently has five grant-funded research projects currently, including three that help faculty teach quantitative skills to science students. He also collaborates with colleagues in biology, chemistry and physics to improve student outcomes in the natural sciences through the

REALISE (Realising Inclusive Science Excellence) program. His disciplinary research involves studying the interactions among predators and prey in freshwater habitats and the consequences of changes to biodiversity for how those ecosystems function.

"There are so many talented faculty members at Radford," Wojdak said. "To be recognized in this manner and alongside four really impressive colleagues is quite an honor and certainly a surprising one." ■

Homecoming 2018 provided an amazing atmosphere for many alumni and friends. Members of the Radford family came together to reminisce and make new memories. You will not want to miss this year's Homecoming excitement. **Make your plans for Oct. 25-27, 2019!**



# HOME





# COMING 2018

RELIVE  
**HOMECOMING 2018**

Visit [www.radford.edu/welcome-home](http://www.radford.edu/welcome-home)  
for the full story!



# THE GAME CHANGER

Shay Carson Onorio '99

By Stephanie Overton





## RED THINKING

DIGITAL | BRAND STRATEGY | DESIGN



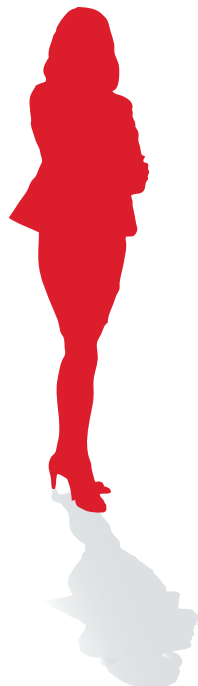
“Radford was my game changer.”

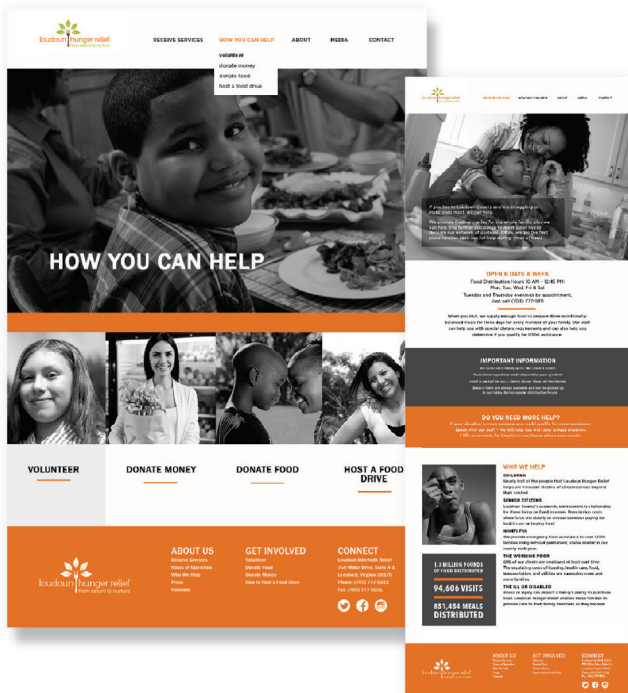
Shay Carson Onorio '99

**T**he culture of a business is central to its success. Shay Onorio '99, president and partner at a Washington, D.C.

metro-based branding and digital marketing agency, lives by this philosophy and has a thriving business that is leaving a big footprint.

Onorio leveraged 20 years of marketing and leadership experience and joined forces with another creative mind to establish their company, Red Thinking. The name is a nod to the two redheads leading the charge. Their clients span a variety of sectors, including real estate, finance, health, retail, hospitality, travel and nonprofits. It is a boutique-style agency with no centralized office. The talented team makes an impact, especially for the nonprofit organizations across the nation that are selected to participate in the agency's annual Brand Jam, a pro bono event that brings their team and other creatives together to produce high-quality branded materials and websites over the course of 24 hours.





Loudoun Hunger Relief is one beneficiary of Red Thinking's Brand Jam. The annual event brings Red Thinking's team and other professionals together to pool their creative and marketing skills in service to nonprofits.

"Giving back to nonprofits and charities is part of the Red Thinking DNA. Many of us volunteer and sit on the boards of several organizations that advocate for children, at-risk families and the arts. And, we love the chance to use our professional talents to give back," said Onorio.

"Nonprofits often don't have a budget, but they need branding. Other companies take them on pro bono, but their projects often take a back seat to paying clients."

The benefits to the organizations selected through the Brand Jam competitive application process are game-changing.

Representatives from nonprofits travel to Washington, D.C., where they kick off the event at a donated location with their Red Thinking team, along with freelance designers and writers who have joined Red Thinking for a day of creative genius. They spend 24 hours focused exclusively on charitable organizations without any distractions. Nonprofit clients are selected based on their nonprofit status, impact, location and budget. Brand Jam has garnered great support and inspires others to participate by donating food and hotel rooms for the event.

It is a long day that culminates with presenting a full suite of branded collateral materials to the nonprofit clients.

"The exhaustion is worth it every year," said Onorio. "Our clients are so happy, often with tears in their eyes."

She has always had mentors that have supported her and wanted to push her forward. Onorio is compelled to give back in the same fashion. She credits her Radford University experience for putting her on her career path and developing her love for what she does.



A team of creatives focuses on a project at Red Thinking's Brand Jam.

Photographs courtesy of Shay Onorio and Red Thinking.





Strong family ties: Onorio, with her husband, Gary, and daughter, Georgia (left), is also devoted to the group of lifelong friends who make up her Radford family (right).



“Radford is different. We are a united team of like-minded individuals, who want to promote our experience. Twenty years later, my very best friends are from my Tri-Sigma life and those I met my freshman year in the dorms.”

Shay Carson Onorio '99

“Radford was my game changer,” shared Onorio. Growing up in northern New Jersey, she did not know much about Virginia schools when she began her college search. Onorio and her father were on the college tour journey when she discovered Radford University. She knew it was the institution of choice for her and came to Radford despite not knowing anyone. It was not long before the Radford community became central to her college experience.

“Radford is different. We are a united team of like-minded individuals, who want to promote our experience. Twenty years later, my very best friends are from my Tri-Sigma life and those I met my freshman year in the dorms,” she said. “Faculty were eager to work with students, and once in my major — media studies — I really thrived academically. I like to show off Radford as much as I can.”

Onorio is passionate about being a Highlander and her special group of lifelong Radford friends. She is proud of their beginnings at Radford University and what they have each achieved as professionals. “I have a lot of very successful friends with thriving careers,” she said.

Onorio’s career has been jam-packed with opportunities to empower companies. She heads up business development and client services at Red Thinking and is the “secret sauce” that enables the team to deliver “thought-provoking and effective strategy and creative thinking” for their clients. She is intentional about carrying the Highlander spirit forward and having an impact that is game-changing. ■

Visit [redthinkingllc.com](http://redthinkingllc.com) to see more of Red Thinking’s work.

# 2019 Winter Weekend Volunteer Summit



## Celebrate



Radford graduates are doing remarkable things to impact their communities and have a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with current Radford University students. Working together, the Radford community can shape future generations of Highlanders and ensure that they have the best Radford experience. Visit [www.radford.edu/alumni](http://www.radford.edu/alumni) to get involved and join us for the 2020 Volunteer Summit!



# Connect



# Contribute





From left, Jenny Riffe, M.S.W. '03, Daniela Brunner '98 and Jane Fisher '94, M.S.'00, prepare Bobcat Backpacks.

Putting  
OTHERS  
FIRST

RADFORD GIVES BACK THROUGH THE BOBCAT BACKPACKS PROGRAM

By Mary Hardbarger



**A**lumnæ Daniela Brunner '98, Jane Fisher '94, M.S. '00, and Jenny Riffe, M.S.W. '03, are passionate about their hometown and their fellow Highlanders.

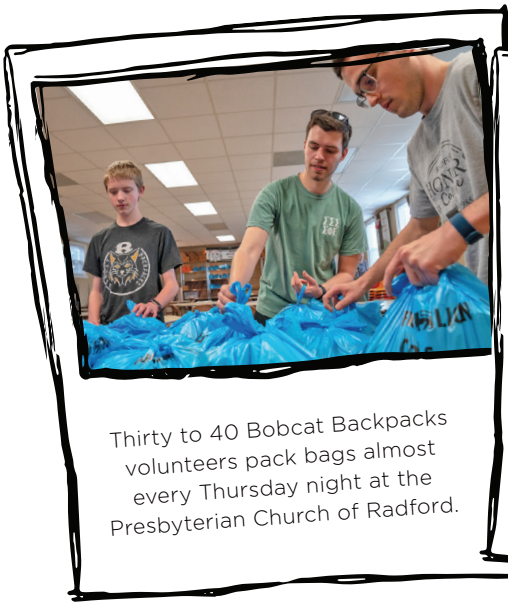
After graduating from Radford University, they started their professional careers and settled with their families in the City of Radford. They also maintained a strong connection with their beloved alma mater.

Their love for the community, connection with Radford University and emphasis on education intersected just a few years ago when the women recognized a growing concern of food insecurity within Radford City Public Schools (RCPS).

Approximately 50 percent of RCPS students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Having raised their own children in the school system, the mothers witnessed firsthand how hunger affects students and their ability to focus in the classroom.

# 66 Feeding hungry children comes from small and large efforts. 99

Daniela Brunner '98



Thirty to 40 Bobcat Backpacks volunteers pack bags almost every Thursday night at the Presbyterian Church of Radford.



Bobcat Backpacks co-founder Jenny Riffe, M.S.W. '03 (left) directs a line of volunteers as they pack bags full of food for distribution at a weekly "Packing Night."

Instilled with the Highlander value of service to the community, Brunner, Fisher and Riffe responded to this significant need in a determined, practical and impactful way.

In January 2016, they founded the Bobcat Backpacks Program to help feed food-insecure students in the system, which includes two elementary schools, an intermediate school and one high school. The program, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, provides weekend food for 180 RCPS students each

week throughout the school year and summer months.

There are many ways the women reach students in need.

"Feeding hungry children comes from small and large efforts," Brunner said. "From elementary students volunteering to unload food into their school each week to food and financial drives organized by community members, we have been able to reach so many in need."

Almost every week, the alumnae, and new recruit Tory Leahy '97,

RESPONSIVE

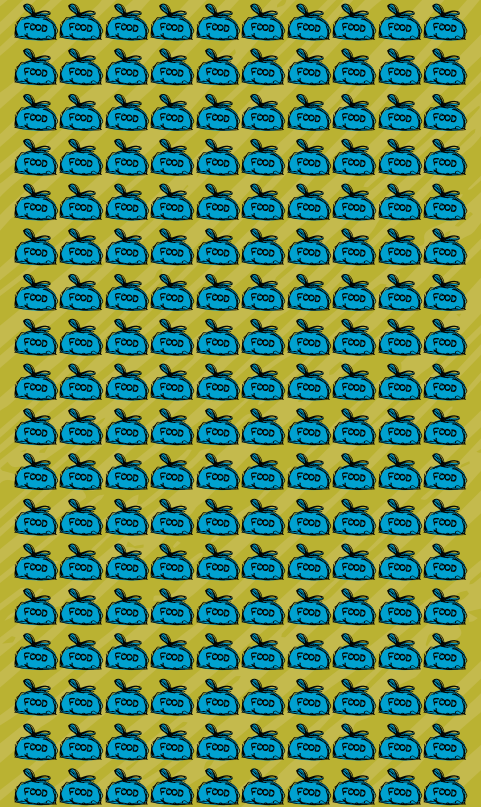
50% of RCPS qualify for FREE or REDUCED-PRICED lunch



supports 4 schools



weekend food for 180 RCPS students



2 items for breakfast-lunch-dinner

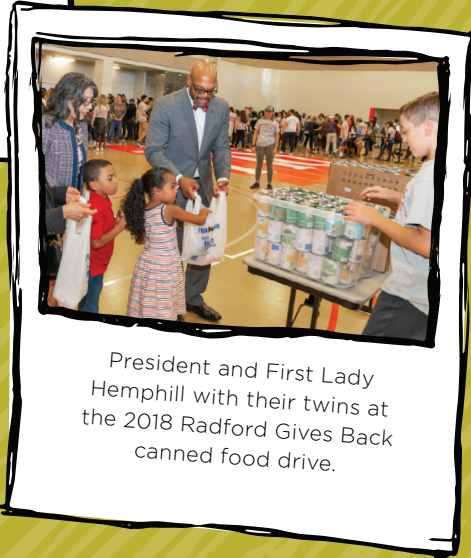




More than **300**  
University volunteers  
filled food bags.

“We love  
the  
fact they  
care  
so much.”

Jenny Riffe,  
M.S.W. '03



President and First Lady  
Hemphill with their twins at  
the 2018 Radford Gives Back  
canned food drive.



The drive  
provides  
about  $\frac{1}{3}$   
of the Bobcat  
Backpacks'  
annual needs.

The food drive collected a

**RECORD**

**15,467**

**FOOD DONATIONS.**



organize a packing night at a local church where students and their families, Radford University volunteers and community members unite to fill backpacks with non-perishable food items to send home with RCPS students during the weekend. Each bag is packed with two breakfast items, two lunches and two dinners.

They stock food pantries at Radford High and Dalton Intermediate schools with snacks and grab-and-go meal options, as well as toiletries and school supplies. Among the 180 students they serve are also preschoolers enrolled in the local Head Start Program.

Bobcat Backpacks is funded and replenished by several community partnerships, including a very important one with Radford University.

For the past three years, the Radford family has supported the program through the Radford Gives Back canned food drive.

President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., and First Lady Marisela Rosas Hemphill, Ph.D., implemented the food drive upon their arrival in 2016. They sought to make community service and partnerships a priority.

The drive provides about one-third of the Bobcat Backpacks' annual needs.

“We love the fact that they care so much,” Riffe said. “Since they’ve arrived, it’s like they’ve said, ‘Radford is our home, and this is how we treat it.’”

Now a University tradition, the annual drive attracts hundreds of student, faculty and staff volunteers who not only donate food items, but also spend an evening on campus packing backpacks for distribution. The 2018 Radford Gives Back canned food drive collected a record 15,467 food donations. More than 300 University volunteers filled bags with these items in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center in October 2018.

“This has been a wonderful town-gown relationship,” Riffe said. “The outreach has been amazing, and the linkage between Radford University and the surrounding community is so important.” ■

To learn more, visit the Bobcat Backpacks Program Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/BobcatBackpacks/](http://www.facebook.com/BobcatBackpacks/).





# the *Big Float*

Willie Levenson '93

By Stephanie Overton

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY**, nestled in a beautiful scenic location among the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, offers an immersive educational experience that flows beyond the classroom. The New River, winding 320 miles through North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia, runs through the City of Radford and can be enjoyed from multiple access points. For one Radford student, time spent on the New River created a defining moment that would lead to impactful activism in his community.

Willie Levenson '93 chose Radford University for its small town, rural charm and beautiful campus. He grew up in Rockville, Maryland, and Virginia Beach, but said summers in Radford cultivated his love for rivers and influenced his later activism in Portland, Oregon. "I still consider Radford to be home as much as anywhere I have lived. I had to pay for my apartment if I was there or not, so I decided to take a class and experiment with a summer on campus. One summer led to three. My summers centered around swimming at Claytor Lake and Bisset Park and tubing at the New River Junction. From the first time I took a dip in the 'New,' I fell in love," said Levenson.

After graduation, Levenson sought adventure in Boise, Idaho — a city, like Radford, that had a deep connection to its city's river. After three years in Boise, he moved to Portland, where he was surprised to discover that its citizens had a different relationship and culture around the city's river. Not only did people not swim in the Willamette River, they made jokes about its water quality.

There was a reason for the negative river culture that developed in Portland. Like many urban rivers, incremental over-industrialization led to severe degradation of water quality. Over time, a collective feeling of hopelessness and disconnection developed. Billions of dollars were invested and scores of regulations applied over multiple generations to improve the water quality of the Willamette River. However, these positive developments did not change the public's attitude about the river. Changing Portland's river culture felt like a battle he could win. Levenson was compelled to take it on.

The Willamette River flows 187 miles, and its watershed is home to two-thirds of Oregon's population, cutting through Portland and encompassing 4,000 acres within city

limits. The Willamette is Portland's second largest natural area, yet only five percent of this space is accessible at the river's edge. After years of work, the Willamette River is now again healthy enough to swim in, but there are only a few places to do so.

In 2011, Levenson formed the nonprofit Human Access Project (HAP) with a handful of friends. HAP's mission is to "Transform Portland's relationship with the Willamette River." Its vision is simply "A city in love with its river." The principal strategies of HAP are to challenge deep-rooted perceptions about the river with facts, create greater access to the river's edge and develop fun programming to "get people into their river."

Levenson characterizes HAP as a "grassroots movement disguised as a party," but with a focus on more than fun. HAP has made a serious impact on changing perceptions and connecting people to their river. It has been instrumental in numerous policy changes, including opening Portland's first downtown public beach, Poet's Beach. Beach number two, Audrey McCall Beach, is planned to open this summer.

HAP's marquee event is The Big Float, which has become a Portland institution. This year's July 13 Float will be the ninth year of the event, and 7,500 people are anticipated to attend. The Big Float features four bands on two floating stages, beer and wine gardens, food, kid's activities and



“It’s a gift if you can discover something in life that inspires you. Be courageous in following the thing that moves you.”

Willie Levenson '93

more, creating a fun beach party atmosphere, right in the heart of downtown Portland.

“It’s possible to have fun and make a difference,” states Levenson. Other HAP programming includes the Annual Mayoral Swim with Portland’s mayor and the River Hugger Swim team, which enjoys daily summer swims in the Willamette River, thereby making a statement about the safety of the river. ■

**Willie Levenson '93** received the 2018 Tom McCall Award to honor his “outstanding leadership and careful stewardship of Oregon’s natural environment.” Award recipients have dedicated time and resources to serving the State of Oregon and enhancing it to better the lives of Oregonians. Levenson and his wife, Pamela, are co-owners of Popina, a women’s swimwear company with two store locations in Oregon and wholesale distribution to retailers nationwide.



Willie Levenson '93 with Portland's mayor, Ted Wheeler, at the Big Float.

# BAND OF BROTHERS



Honor Committee, from left, Jeff Graves, Pete Campbell, Chris Ducey and Todd Beck.

## RADFORD ALUMNI ESTABLISH HONOR TO SERVE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

By Mary Hardbarger

**IN THE LATE 1980s**, Pete Campbell '92 and Jeff Graves '89 were among a band of brothers at Radford University who cared deeply about their alma mater and each other.

Many of these brothers — members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity — joined the military. Others went on to lead successful careers in law enforcement and as first responders, further deepening their commitment to the safety of their communities and the protection of our nation.

Graves and Campbell had parted ways, as many college friends do, upon graduation, but reconnected unexpectedly in early 2018 at a work-related conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Later that spring, Campbell attended Radford University's Volunteer Summit, an annual event hosted by the Office of Alumni Relations during which

alumni learn of opportunities to become more involved.

"They expressed that one thing we could do was organize together to make a huge impact," Campbell said. "I knew we had a strong core of brothers and Radford alumni who would support this cause, so that's what we set out to do."

Campbell first reached out to his renewed fraternity contact, Graves, who just happened to serve as an officer in the United States Marine Corp (USMC). They recruited Chris Ducey '95 and Todd Beck '91 to establish a scholarship committee to honor the service of Radford University graduates and assist with the critical need of helping current students finance their tuition.

In just months, the Honor to Serve Scholarship Fund gained tremendous momentum.

The Honor to Serve Scholarship

Fund will annually recognize two Radford University alumni who served in the military or careers related to first response (police officers, firefighters, etc.) and financially support two current students who are pursuing similar paths.

"Radford University has a great history of turning out strong military leaders, first responders and law enforcement officers," Campbell said. "It is definitely something to be celebrated."

Campbell, Graves, Ducey and Beck were Highlanders and members of Radford's chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon three decades ago. The brothers were close, they agreed, and actively engaged in the campus and the community.

Just as Campbell's Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers once did as Radford University students, they banded together as alumni to support their alma mater.

During Homecoming and Reunion Weekend 2018, the Radford University Honor Committee hosted the inaugural Honor Dinner to introduce the scholarship and garner additional support.

Alumni Col. Kevin Hudson '90 and Col. Sean Magee '87, both retired from the Marines, keynoted the special event. The first Honor to Serve Scholarship, to be awarded in fall 2019, is in their names.

"The event was not only successful, but I think it motivated people to reengage. Personally, it brought us back as fraternity brothers," Graves commented. "At the next Honor Dinner in the fall of 2019, Kevin and Sean will get to meet the first scholarship recipients, who we hope are inspired by their stories," Campbell said.

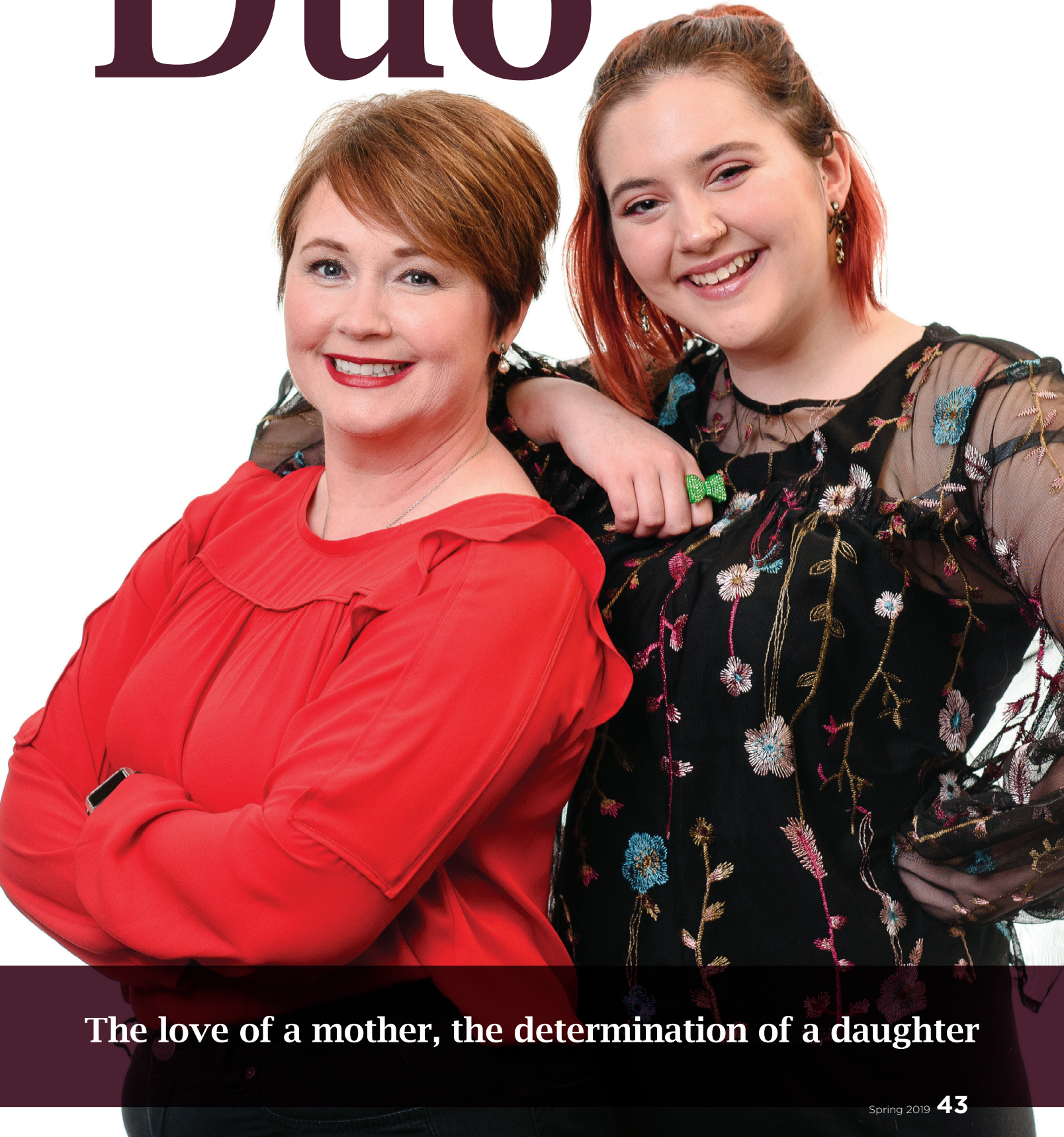
Campbell and Graves, who set a fundraising goal of \$100,000, are looking forward to seeing the scholarship continue to grow with the help of broad-based and dedicated alumni and supporters who wish to honor our current and future service members. ■

**To learn more about the Honor to Serve Scholarship Fund, contact Associate Vice President for University Advancement Tom Lillard at [tlillard@radford.edu](mailto:tlillard@radford.edu).**

A Proud  
**Highlander**

By Don Bowman

# Duo



The love of a mother, the determination of a daughter

In the success story fashioned by Rachel '17 and Robyn Hall, the Highlander values — responsive, resilient and real — are a salient theme. Simply put: The Halls' journey reflects Radford University at its best.

Rachel Hall '17 is now the senior assistant director of advising, who guides incoming freshmen as they begin college. Robyn Hall is a second-semester freshman, who, as her mother said, "is finding her way, making progress and making me very proud."

For neither Hall was the path easy.

Rachel, a single mother, relocated from Patrick County to Radford in 1996. Her daughter had just been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, now considered a condition on the autism spectrum. At that time, Rachel felt overwhelmed. However, things pivoted positively for them when they joined the Radford University family.

Witnessing the Halls' situation was Patti Williamson — recently retired, but then Rachel's supervisor in Pre-Major Advising. At Williamson's suggestion and with Radford's support, the Halls connected with the clinicians in Waldron College of Health and Human Services' Department of Communications Sciences and Disorders (COSD). There, they found a team to counsel and work with them both.

The COSD faculty has a powerful ally, the men and women of the Virginia Scottish Rite. Together, they host summer camps that provide free services to children with communications disorders and the Speech-Hearing-Language (SHL) Clinic in Walker Hall.

In 25 years, the Virginia Scottish Rite Foundation has donated over \$1 million to the COSD Department to support the camps, scholarships and fellowships for aspiring speech-language pathologists (SLPs).

Robyn, with support from her mother, the COSD Department and the Virginia Scottish Rite, worked her

way from isolation to engagement. Rachel found professional help, guidance and support from the COSD clinicians to help Robyn.

In six years, Robyn grew from a camper to a camp mentor within the Scottish Rite Camp framework. She became fully engaged at Radford High School in the choir, the small animal club and as a member of the flag team and color guard.

The Halls commend Radford City Public Schools speech-language pathologist Anne Goodman and the COSD clinicians, including Pat Rossi and Diane Millar, Ph.D., as well as the graduate assistants and the aspiring SLPs, who staff the camps and work under faculty supervision in the SHL Clinic.

Rachel Hall recalled an early incident typical of the invaluable help she and Robyn found at Radford.

"When Robyn was little, she used to get so anxious about what she was going to do next that she would physically melt down — crying, kicking and screaming. The idea of transition and change was so hard," Rachel said. "The COSD instructors taught me about visual schedules of little pictures of what she would be doing during the day. Even though Robyn could not process verbally what the changes in the day would be, she could anticipate them by looking at those pictures. It was a turning point for us."

Rachel reflected on the impact of the care she found and work done by Radford's COSD Department and its Scottish Rite benefactors: "To communicate with my daughter, they taught me ways to be a creative problem solver. What they did for us, they do for so many others."

“

Radford has been a lifesaver. There are not enough words to express my thanks.”

Rachel Hall '17

While raising Robyn and working full time, Rachel persevered. At the urging of Williamson, Rachel completed her undergraduate degree at Radford. In 2017, Rachel walked across the Moffett Lawn stage, achieving the goal of which she encourages the young people whom she advises.

Robyn, upon graduation from Radford High School, chose Radford University and is working to follow her mother's example. She now studies graphic arts and design in the Department of Art in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Rachel and Robyn share a deep gratitude to Radford University and its commitment to service.

In Rachel's words: "Radford has been a lifesaver. There are not enough words to express my thanks."

Said Robyn: "I would not be here where I am if it weren't for Radford." ■

“

I would not be here where I am if it weren't for Radford.”

Robyn Hall









# RADFORD ON THE RUNWAY

Student's fashion collection  
shines in New York City

By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15



Alghamdi takes in the New York City streets before her collection was in New York Fashion Week.

## UNDER THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK,

senior Mashail Alghamdi's fashion collection shined at Couture Fashion and ASC Fashion Weeks. In fact, her collection shined so brightly that one would think she was an established pillar of New York Fashion Week.

Not only was it her first time being in the prestigious event, Alghamdi was the first currently enrolled Radford University student to be accepted into New York Fashion Week and the first designer from Saudi Arabia.

Alghamdi's "The Buckingham Collection" was named in honor of Queen Elizabeth I, her inspiration. The collection was featured in the ASC Fashion Show and the Couture Fashion Week Show in September 2018.

"She's considered one of the most powerful women in history," Alghamdi said. "She inspired me to build the whole brand with the concept of the customer to be powerful and sophisticated at the same time."

“

When I started school, I didn't know how to sew. I went to school with zero experience in fashion. Now, I feel like an expert. I feel like I am competing with the big designers.

**I am so glad that I chose Radford.**”

Mashail Alghamdi





Before her collection graced the runway, Alghamdi watched her models get makeup done to ensure that it showed her collection in the best light. Afterwards, Alghamdi had her makeup done.



“

Alghamdi's journey to Radford began when she did not like her major in her native country of Saudi Arabia. After discovering that the Radford design program is among the best in the United States, she knew she found her future home.

"Honestly, Radford helped me so much," Alghamdi said. "When I started school, I didn't know how to sew. I went to school with zero experience in fashion. Now, I feel like an expert. I feel like I am competing with the big designers. I am so glad that I chose Radford."

Even in New York City, the Radford family made Alghamdi feel at home. Two of her design professors, Farrell Doss, Ph.D., and John Jacob, Ph.D., traveled to New York to see her showcase her collection and some of Alghamdi's former classmates — now Radford alumni — made the trip to support her.

Jacob said that he's "incredibly proud" of Alghamdi's accomplishment.

"She has a fantastic career ahead of her," Jacob said. "To do what she did at such a young age, while being a mother to two kids, is incredible. Her line displayed so well at the fashion show and was one of, if not the, best in the show."

Alghamdi's appearance in Couture Fashion Week went smoothly — and after her collection was shown, she was swarmed by fashion reporters and guests — the perfect ending to her historic appearance in New York Fashion Week.

"It was my vision to be in New York Fashion Week, and I worked on that vision since I started at Radford University," Alghamdi said.

Alghamdi's husband and family supported her throughout the entire process to help her vision become reality. ■

To do what she did at such a young age, while being a mother to two kids, is incredible. Her line displayed so well at the fashion show and **was one of, if not the, best in the show.**”

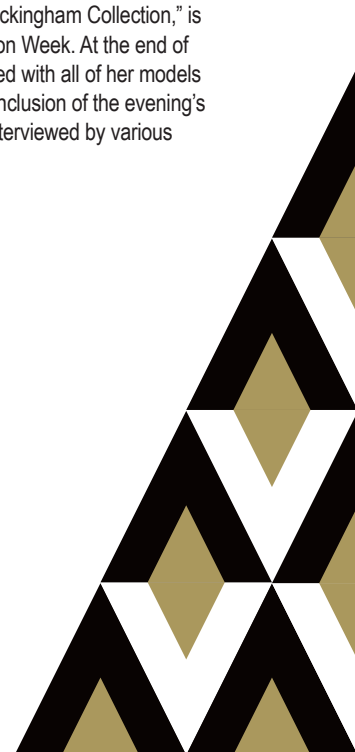
John Jacob, Ph.D.



# THE EXPERIENCE



Alghamdi's line, "The Buckingham Collection," is shown at Couture Fashion Week. At the end of her show, Alghamdi posed with all of her models on the runway. At the conclusion of the evening's events, Alghamdi was interviewed by various fashion publications.



From  
**SOUTHWEST  
VIRGINIA** to the  
Big Apple:

Destiny and a dream



“ Every time I do a collection,  
it has to have meaning behind it,  
**something positive to  
impact someone’s life.** ”

Destiny Howard '16

The models displaying Destiny Howard’s collection captured the concept of ethereal madness on the runway. After the models displayed the line, Howard walked out on the runway with her models.



From a young age, Destiny Howard '16 knew what she wanted to become: a fashion designer. Now, as the owner and designer of her brand, "Destiny Howard," she does everything, including sketching, concepting, sewing, social marketing and booking.

After operating the business for less than a year, Howard got the news that all her hard work and dedication to her business and dream had paid off: her brand had been accepted into Society Fashion Week as part of New York Fashion Week.

Howard incorporated a purposeful and positive message into her line displayed at Society Fashion Week through the concept of ethereal madness.

"Every time I do a collection, it has to have meaning behind it, something positive to impact someone's life," she said. "The collection has to do with remembering your worth and recognizing your worth and knowing that you are beautiful on the inside and outside. After you've overcome something, don't go back to that thing that made you insecure or feel less worthy." ■

**Imagine.**

**Listen.**

**Hope.**

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY  
HONORS THE LEGACY OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.**



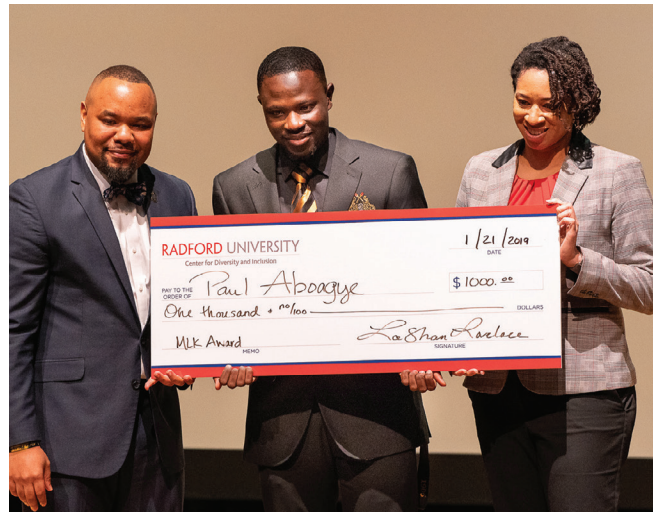


## TESTAMENTS TO THE LASTING LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FILLED BONDURANT AUDITORIUM IN PRESTON HALL IN JANUARY 2019 AS PART OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY'S ANNUAL COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM.

“EVERY YEAR, the Radford University community comes together to honor the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK),” said LaShan Lovelace, director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI). “The sixth annual MLK Day of Service sponsored by CDI was an amazing experience, and all volunteers demonstrated Highlander pride through their service and good deeds.”

A central part of the program was the first-ever MLK Day of Service Award, an award that honors a student for their dedication to the community, the classroom and each other. Out of the 235 students considered for the award, Paul Aboagye, a senior computer science major from Alexandria, Virginia, was the inaugural recipient.

The keynote speaker was Marc Lamont Hill, professor of media studies and production and media and communication at Temple University, and he delivered his talk on creating a lasting legacy in uncertain times.



Paul Aboagye was awarded the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Award.

*The keys, Hill said, are radical imagination, listening and hope.*

“History is made by the tens of thousands of people whose names never get printed in the newspaper, who never get a microphone and who never get the attention. They understood that their work was bigger than the attention,” Hill said.

Being involved in the community is a pillar of King’s lasting legacy and is something that the Radford family has taken to heart.

A record number of students, faculty and staff joined the Day of Service. Volunteers were in locations throughout the New River and Roanoke valleys to give back to those in need.



A record number of students, faculty and staff joined the Day of Service.



Radford students, faculty and staff joined teacher Betty Metzler's preschool class at the Radford Early Learning Center.

President Hemphill joined the Radford family in giving back to the local community by helping support the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley, one of 18 local organizations and sites that received volunteers.

Radford students, faculty and staff joined teacher Betty Metzler's preschool class at the Radford Early Learning Center for the afternoon. Metzler said it was nice to have extra help so the eager 3-year-olds in her class could get valuable individual attention and adult interaction.

Brian Henry, a senior economics and finance double major from Arlington, Virginia, worked through the holiday break between semesters. He also completed an online accounting course and called the volunteer experience at the Radford Early Learning Center a way to reorient himself for the upcoming semester.

"Working with the little kids and seeing their eagerness and openness is a nice way for me to get ready for the challenge of a full semester of five classes," Henry said. ■



“History is made by the tens of thousands of people whose names never get printed in the newspaper.”

Marc Lamont Hill, professor of media studies and production and media and communication at Temple University



# Representing Radford

A STUDENT EXPERIENCES  
ADVOCACY DAY



By Colleen McNickle



President Hemphill and Colleen McNickle

**“IT’S AN EXCITING TIME** to be a Highlander,” said sophomore Chase Arrington as we were departing for our trip to Richmond for Advocacy Day. This is a sentiment my classmates and I echoed to Virginia state legislators during Advocacy Day.

An excuse to miss class is enticing to a college student, but Advocacy Day is more than an excuse to leave campus for two days: it is an opportunity to meet with state delegates and senators to advocate on behalf of the campus and the community we all love dearly.

We also have amazing networking opportunities with our school’s administration and fellow student leaders. This year, I was afforded the opportunity to go for my third straight year. It really is an experience offered to Radford students unlike any other.

As a three-year veteran of the program, I was able to emerge as a group leader and guide my group members on how to talk with legislators (*shoutout to the Northern Virginia group, you guys did an awesome job*).

I have been continually impressed with all the student testimony I hear. Not only are the students on this trip poised and professional, but they are also deeply passionate about Radford University. It is a wonderful reminder that our community here is so strong and that I definitely made the right college choice.

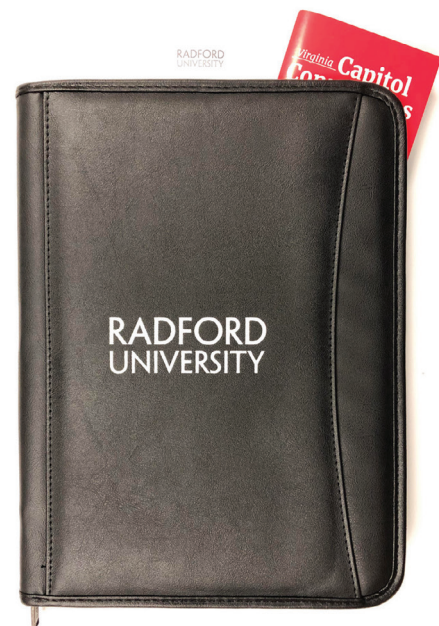
I originally got into Advocacy Day after I was encouraged by my peers in Student Government Association (SGA) as a freshman. Since SGA sponsors Advocacy Day, all the older (and in my mind, cooler) members of SGA asked me to apply. I was so determined to attend that I went even though I had the flu and was running a 102-degree fever.

As you can imagine, I was very sick, but I was confident Advocacy Day would be worth it. I feel as

though I really discovered a passion and an interest on my first trip. When I first got to Radford, I was a media studies major. Advocacy Day opened my eyes to a career in government that I didn’t know I might want. The night I got back from Advocacy Day, I called my mom to tell her I had an interest in politics. The next day, I added political science as a double major. Ever since then, each year, I wanted to go again so I could continue to grow in my connections to my peers and network for my potential career path.

I am not the only one who has been so impressed by Advocacy Day that they kept coming back, or even made a career out of it. Two alumni I had the pleasure of knowing while they were attending Radford spoke with me about how Advocacy Day changed their life. One was alumna Denia Rauls ’18, a legislative assistant. She said Advocacy Day sparked a passion of hers and exposed her to the possibility of young people in politics. Before she got back to work, she showed us her padfolio from when she went to Advocacy Day. She said she still uses it every day.

In the near future, we will all be off in our careers, some of us close by and others across the globe. However, we will all be connected by Radford University and this amazing opportunity, and we are all better for it. ■



From  
Davis College to

# WALL ST

By Chad Osborne

ROBERT BLANKENSHIP fell in love with trading stocks when he was a sophomore in high school. “I’m pretty much self-taught,” he said, but he came to Radford University to learn more.

The Davis College of Business and Economics trading room, a finance student’s paradise, is where Robert discovered the Student Managed Investment Portfolio Organization, or SMIPO. It is a select group of talented, finance-savvy students, who manage nearly \$2 million for the Radford University Foundation, Inc. Robert is the organization’s vice president of investments and portfolio manager.

“He has an interest in investing in stocks, and I could see it right away when I met him,” said Abhay Kaushik, Ph.D., an associate professor of finance and Robert’s mentor.

Kaushik met Robert three years ago when Robert was a freshman. “He came to me asking about options and finding undervalued stocks,” Kaushik recalled. “That’s very uncommon among freshman students.”

Just months after arriving on campus in August 2016, Robert joined SMIPO. By the time calendars flipped to December, he ran for vice president of finance and won the position, making him the youngest executive member in the organization’s history.

Robert has always had a strong work ethic and enjoys the effort. “That’s why I do it,” he said.

As a finance and marketing double major, Robert now serves as SMIPO’s portfolio manager, where he oversees the organization’s transactions and runs reports to present to the Radford University Foundation, Inc.

“He has such great enthusiasm, and he is so friendly,” Kaushik said. “We need people like Robert in SMIPO. People enjoy listening to him and being around him. He gets things moving forward quickly.”

In addition to his SMIPO executive position, Robert is a leader in the Makers community, treasurer of Phi Sigma Kappa and a student representative on the Davis College of Business and Economics Advisory Board.

Experiences and opportunities are one reason Robert chose Radford University out of all the other schools he considered.

Robert reflected, “I came to Radford because I wanted to learn more, and I’ve learned so much more than I ever imagined. Radford is the perfect place for me.” ■

“ He has such great enthusiasm, and he is so friendly. We need people like Robert in SMIPO. People enjoy listening to him and being around him. He gets things moving forward quickly.”

Abhay Kaushik, Ph.D.





The 2018-19 academic year was one to remember for Radford University Athletics! Across 10 women's varsity sports and six men's varsity sports, the Highlanders competed at a high level from top to bottom. Women's Soccer, Women's Basketball, and Men's Tennis won Big South Conference Championships and reached the NCAA Tournament, while Men's Basketball earned a share of the Big South regular season title. Radford University also earned numerous all-conference, all-state, all-region and even national awards along the way. Go Highlanders!







# RADFORD HIGHLANDERS





Andrew Ross, *Train Station Market*, archival pigment print, 2006

Once a Highlander, Always a Highlander

Andrew Ross



By Chad Osborne

**ANDREW ROSS** made a significant impact on the Radford University community during his time as an assistant professor of photography. He is celebrated for his positive impact on students, passion for photography and dedication to the University.

Ross began teaching at Radford in August 2014, but stepped down from his position at the close of the spring 2018 semester, after being diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease.

In September 2018, the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) honored him with an intimate reception in the Joseph P. Scartelli Atrium at the Covington Center for Visual and Performing Arts.

During the reception, with a collection of Ross' black and white photographs serving as a backdrop, CVPA announced the formation of an endowed scholarship for the photography program. The funding for this scholarship was provided by Ross' parents, Coleman and Carol Ross.

"I have always been truly in awe of Andrew's love for his students, his mission to share his love and knowledge of photography with our campus community and his overflowing support of all the arts on our campus," CVPA Dean Margaret Devaney said at the reception. "In a relatively short time, our photography program expanded in the most amazing ways and our students flourished."

Devaney spoke further of Ross' commitment to students and the program, including his donation of photography and printing equipment and the reorganization of an art gallery in the Covington Center, which has now been renamed in his honor, the Andrew W. Ross Student Art Gallery.

Ross attended the reception; however, his medical condition has left him unable to speak. He prepared remarks, and his father read those words at the gathering.



The College of Visual and Performing Arts honored former Assistant Professor of Photography Andrew Ross with a reception and announced the formation of the Andrew W. Ross Endowed Photography Scholarship.

At Radford, Andrew Ross said he found "students, colleagues and a campus community that I fell in love with. Radford University has what I was really looking for in a photography program."

Ross said he was thankful to his parents and their generosity that will allow him "to continue to be a part of this program through the naming of a new scholarship in my honor," Coleman Ross read. "By introducing this photography scholarship, my hope is it will help Radford to recruit, retain and reward talented students like those announced today, who will bring recognition to photography and the arts here at Radford University."

The first recipients of the Andrew W. Ross Endowed Photography Scholarship are Amber Rodgers, a senior from Meadows of Dan, Virginia; Sarah Carriker, of Alexandria, Virginia; and Alex Moral, a second-year graduate student from Alicante, Spain.

"Amber, Sarah and Alex, I am so pleased to see you as the first recipients of the award. I'm sure you know how much I miss working with you and all of my students," Coleman Ross said when reading Andrew's written comments. "If your future success gives you the ability to be generous to this University, I hope you will remember the impact a scholarship like this can have on a budding artist." ■

To learn more about endowed scholarships, contact the Office of University Advancement at **540-831-5407** or [ruadvancement@radford.edu](mailto:ruadvancement@radford.edu).

# Weddings, Births & More

## 1950s

**Velma Jean Boyd Shannon '56**, writing under the name Jeanne Shannon, published a novella titled "The Sourwood Tree." The novella is set in far Southwest Virginia in the mid-20th century.

## 1960s

**Betty Jo Foster '69** was named interim president of Danville Community College. Foster worked at Danville Community College for 36 years before retiring as the college's academic vice president in 2004.

## 1970s

**Jane Huffman '76, M.S. '82**, associate professor of education at the University of Mary Washington, was recognized with the Graduate Faculty Award. The honor showcases an exceptional full-time faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in graduate teaching and professional leadership in a graduate program.

**Tommy Slusser '79**, funeral service licensee at Nicely Funeral Home in Clifton Forge, Va., was reappointed by Gov. Ralph Northam for a second term on the Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers. The board is the regulatory entity for all funeral service in Virginia.

## 1980s

**Deborah Ellis '80** was named mortgage loan officer for New Horizon Bank in Powhatan.

Pella Regional Health Center named **Cristina Thomas '83** to the role of chief information officer.

The Loudoun Valley Viking Athletic Association inducted **Mary Carpenter Lovenberg '87** into its Hall of Fame. Lovenberg was a four-time letter winner in tennis and soccer and continued her tennis prowess at Radford University, where she competed in the NCAA Division II National Tennis Championships in 1984.

The Foundry Artist Cooperative of Chambersburg, Penn., hosted the gallery exhibit "Paintings by Kate Keely," featuring works by **Kate Keely, M.F.A. '89**. Keely's "Wolf White" earned the Best of Show at the Washington County Museum of Fine Art's Cumberland Valley Artists exhibition.

## We want to hear from you!

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

## 1990s



**Christina Lemon '90** completed a special commission for Georgia Southern University, where she serves as professor of art. The presidential medallion and chain was commissioned for the inauguration of Jaimie Hebert, Ph.D., the 13th president of Georgia Southern University.

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

**Joe Kasper, M.S. '90**, who was the first strength and conditioning coach at Radford University, is the founder and formulator of Muscle Goat, "The Cleanest and Tastiest Protein on The Planet."

**Shawn Stone '91** was named senior vice president of First National Bank in Altavista. Stone will be continuing his role as commercial loan officer.

The Roanoke County School Board named **Theresa Reed Kabath '91, M.S. '94**, the new assistant principal at Herman L. Horn Elementary School.

**Kevin J. Magliato '91** was promoted to chief financial officer at Wegmans Food Markets, Inc., headquartered in Rochester, N.Y.

**Stacy Lewis '91**, foster parent licensing supervisor with Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health, was awarded the "Direct Service Provider of the Year" by the Florida Council for Community Mental Health.

**Rev. Bobby Crum '91** is among those appointed by Florida Gov. Rick Scott to the district board of trustees of St. Johns River State College. Crum, of St. Augustine, Fla., is a pastor of Anastasia Baptist Church. His term started Dec. 6, 2018 and ends May 31, 2021.

Bedford Hills Elementary School fourth-grade teacher **Tracie Tkacik '92** was announced as Lynchburg City Schools' Teacher of the Year for 2018.

**Penelope Shumate '93** was featured in "An American Family Christmas" by the Peoria Area Civic Chorale. Shumate is an assistant professor of voice at Western Illinois University.

**Jason E. Kelley '94** guest starred on CBS's "S.W.A.T." and portrays a recurring character on CW Networks's "Arrow." Kelley has previously guest starred on the shows "Bosch," "Young Sheldon" and "Lucifer."

*Continued on page 68*



## Highlander Pride. GIVE BACK!

**SHOW YOUR HIGHLANDER PRIDE!** Every gift, no matter the amount, strengthens our Radford family.

*"Knowing our alumni give back to help current students inspires me to be my best and makes me proud to be a Highlander. I look forward to following in your footsteps and supporting our Radford family."*

— Arie Parker

You can make a difference for current and future generations of Highlanders by making your gift today!

[www.radford.edu/give](http://www.radford.edu/give)

## Mark your calendar for Radford University's Homecoming! Oct. 25-27, 2019

Make plans to come home to your  
#RadfordFamily and enjoy a weekend of activities:

Alumni Village featuring live music by The Deloreans, alumni lacrosse game, food and beverages, Greek Life 90th Anniversary, Athletics Hall of Fame Dinner, Golden Reunion and more.

A full schedule of events and online registration will be available later this summer at [www.radford.edu/alumni](http://www.radford.edu/alumni).  
#RadfordHC2019

**Questions?** Call the Office of Alumni Relations toll free at 888-478-4723 or email [alumni@radford.edu](mailto:alumni@radford.edu).

Continued from page 66

**Jesse Hiatt, M.S. '95**, director of accountability and student services with Mount Airy City Schools in Mount Airy, N.C., spent 10 months in China. Hiatt worked as an English teacher at the Beijing Royal Foreign Language School, which is for students equivalent to grades six through nine in America.

Orange County School Board appointed **Cecil Snead, M.S. '96, Ed.D.**, as superintendent. Snead had served as the superintendent of Buckingham County Public Schools since 2012.

**Nikki Manning '96** was named principal of Joseph Rogers Primary School in Rogersville, Tenn. Manning has been a teacher at Mooresburg Elementary School for 20 years.



**Hank Testerman '97** was named vice president and retail lending manager for Carter Bank & Trust, serving the Virginia communities of Abingdon, Blacksburg, Bristol, Christiansburg, Hillsville, Pulaski, Radford, Wytheville and surrounding areas. Testerman has been with Carter Bank for 17 years; his most recent position was as a vice president and managing officer at Carter Bank's east Galax branch.

St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., announced the appointment of **Hassel Andre Morrison '97, Ed.D.**, as the next vice president for student life. Morrison previously served as the associate dean of students at the University of Idaho.

**Jane Bolin '97** was elected city commissioner in Oakland Park, Fla.

**Elaine Schlegel '99** was named vice president of contracts for Highlight Technologies, a Fairfax-based firm providing IT development and transformation, secure IT operations and mission support services.

**Katey Morlino Howerton '99** has been promoted to senior assistant dean of development and alumni affairs at William & Mary Law School.

## 2000s

**Kelly Dampeer '00** was named head baseball coach at Northside High School. After a successful baseball career with the Highlanders, Dampeer spent three years in the minor leagues with the Cleveland Indians organization.

**Garrick Rhoads '01** was named principal at Mack Benn Jr. Elementary School in Suffolk. Rhoads came from Elephant's Fork Elementary School, where he had been the assistant principal since 2015.

**Victoria Belcher '98, M.S. '01**, married Brian Daniel on Nov. 12, 2018 in Reva, Va. **Jenny Bellamy '97, M.S. '99**, and **Jodi Maren Kalish '98** served as bridesmaids.

Kindergarten teacher **Amy Rowe '02**, who was named Speedwell Elementary School's teacher of the year, was also chosen as the Wythe County Teacher of the Year for 2018.

The Roanoke County School Board selected **Melanie Fisher M.S. '03, M.S. '16**, as assistant principal for Burton Center for Arts & Technology.

The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) named **Kristin Walker '03** of Clemson University's

Center for Career and Professional Development its 2018 recipient of the Spelman Johnson Rising Star Award. The Rising Star Award recognizes one individual each year who has demonstrated strong leadership potential and contributions to the career services profession and NACE organization.

**Amy Johnson '04, M.S. '15**, was honored for excellence in the field of juvenile justice as she was awarded the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association's 2018 Meritorious Award in the Area of Court Services, while attending the 42nd Fall Juvenile Justice Training Institute. Johnson is employed by the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice as a probation supervisor for the 28th Court Service Unit — Abingdon.

**Carley Sundstrom Wessler '05** is an associate underwriter for Kinsale Insurance Co. in Richmond.

Justin and **Keri Harris-Shaw '05** announce the birth of Lillian James, Jan. 21, 2018.

RIFE CEO **Kwabena Osei-Sarpong '05** earned a coveted spot on the 2018 Washington Business Journal's "40 Under 40" list. RIFE International is an energy efficiency and sustainable construction solutions provider in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

Big Table Publishing published the book "My Life Without a Uterus," written by **Rachael Goetzke Hughes '05**.

**Stephen Jayjock '05** joined JLL as vice president in the project and development services group. JLL is a leading professional services firm that specializes in real estate and investment management.

**John Hodson '06** teaches seventh- and eighth-grade physical education and health with the Milaca School District in Milaca, Minn.

**Heather Johnson '07** was hired as a director of sales for Concord Hospitality Enterprises.

**Philip O'Connor '07** was named executive director of College of Engineering Foundation and Corporate Relations at Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Jessica Pressley '07** married Todd Jennings at the Avoca Historical Museum in Altavista on Oct. 13, 2018.

**Belinda Kim '09** was named director of student activities at Falls Church High School.

**Amy Johnson '09, D.N.P. '13**, a nurse practitioner with Centra Medical Group at Bedford Memorial Hospital, was honored through the Virginia Farm Bureau Lady Leader recognition program at the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation



**RADFORD UNIVERSITY IS THRILLED TO WELCOME THE RADFORD HIGHLANDERS FESTIVAL BACK TO CAMPUS ON OCT. 12, 2019!**

This event represents a long-standing collaboration with the City of Radford and is an opportunity to celebrate our region's Scots-Irish heritage with heavyweight games, live music, sheepherding, food, vendors and a variety of festivities suitable for all ages.

**Save the date and come prepared to demonstrate your Highlander spirit!**

[www.radford.edu/festival](http://www.radford.edu/festival)

Women's Spring Conference. The Lady Leader program provides opportunities for spokeswomen who are passionate about promoting agriculture.

## 2010s

**Ashley Stroehlein '10**, sports reporter in Charlotte, N.C., with WBTV, claimed the Sports Feature category in the 2018 Gracie Awards local television division. The Gracie Awards is the celebration of the Alliance for Women in Media. Stroehlein's story, "Racing Towards Hope," documents NASCAR driver Martin Truex Jr.'s partner Sherry Pollex's battle with ovarian cancer.

**Nicole Diaz '10** married Ronnie Julio '11 in Lawrenceville, Ga., on March 11, 2016.

**Andy Mabe '10** was named recreation director for the Floyd — Floyd County Parks and Recreation Authority. Mabe recently served as recreation and athletic programmer for Henry County.

**Kelly Walker '11** earned a juris doctor degree from Elon School of Law, Greensboro, N.C. Kelly works for a law firm in Greensboro, with a focus on real estate transactions and estate planning.

**Sarah Kennedy '11** was named sideline cheer coach for the Pulaski County High School sideline cheer squad.

Danville Public Schools hired **Cody Kesling '12** as the new band director for George Washington High School.

**Brandon Lawson '12** married **Kaitlyn Hall '15** on June 9, 2018 in Bedford.

NPR's digital content team named **Arielle Retting '12** as the visual newscast copy editor. Recently Retting worked at Wired as a copy editor for the magazine and website.

**Kayla Black '13** married **Matthew Rohr '13** on June 30, 2018 in Leesburg.



**John Jewell '14** married **Kenna Crane '15** on Aug. 19, 2017 in Blacksburg.



**You can support Radford University today, while preserving your assets for retirement and providing for your family.**

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Contact the Office of University Advancement to learn more about planned giving at Radford University and how you can make a difference now. Call 540-831-2009 or visit [radford.giftlegacy.com](http://radford.giftlegacy.com).

Calling all  
members of the  
Class of 1969!

Come back to campus during Homecoming 2019 Oct. 25-27 for a Golden Reunion celebration. Reminisce with classmates and meet President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., and First Lady Marisela Rosas Hemphill, Ph.D.

Questions? Call the Office of Alumni Relations at 888-478-4723 or email [alumni@radford.edu](mailto:alumni@radford.edu).

Ware Academy, of Gloucester, announced the addition of **Haley Beatley '14** as athletic director and physical education teacher.

**Kelsey Isaacs '15** joined Oregon State University Foundation as an assistant director of development.

**Alice Wren '16** joined Charles Ryan Associates as an account coordinator. Based in Richmond, Charles Ryan Associates is a brand communications firm offering full service advertising, public relations, digital, video and social media strategies to clients.

Former Radford men's basketball standout **Javonte Green '16** earned an invitation to the MGM Resorts NBA Summer League with the Phoenix Suns. Green spent the last three years overseas, playing for Marin Peixe Galego in Spain and most recently for Pallacanestro Trieste 2004 in Italy.

**Megan Osborne '16** married **Peter Hart '16** on April 28, 2018.

Brittany Lauren Stovall and **Jared Wayne Smart, M.S. '16**, were married July 7, 2018, at The Meadows in Walnut Cove, N.C. Smart is employed by Patrick County Public Schools as a special education teacher at Hardin Reynolds Memorial School.

The Roanoke County School Board selected **Paulus Moore, M.S. '17**, as assistant principal of William Byrd High School. Moore previously served as a teacher at William Byrd.

**Laura Elizabeth Reasor '17** joined the Pulaski Cooperative Extension as the associate family and consumer science agent for Pulaski and Giles counties. Virginia Cooperative Extension is a state agency meant to provide resources and educational outreach to Virginia's residents in the areas of agriculture, 4-H youth development and family and consumer sciences.

**Annie Schroeder '18** joined Charlottesville's WVIR-TV as a reporter. Schroeder got her start as the executive producer for Radford University's student-run TV station Radford On Camera (ROC-TV). She also served a reporter and associate managing editor of The Tartan.

**Seth Wiltshire '18** joined IT staffing and workforce solutions firm Apex Solutions as a recruiter.

## Obituaries

### 1930

**Tida Marshall Huff '35** of Mount Airy, N.C., June 16, 2018.

### 1940

**Charlotte Jeremy Beamer '40** of Blacksburg, Aug. 22, 2018.

**Virginia Pauline Cock '40** of Meadows of Dan, Oct. 14, 2018.

**Betty R. Laningham '41** of Jonesville, April 29, 2018.

**Shirley Louis Laird '41** of Sugar Land, Texas, June 12, 2018.

**Odette Farley Graham '41** of Dublin, Aug. 12, 2018.

**Doris Lorraine McGee '45** of Kingsport, Tenn., Oct. 6, 2018.

**MaryJane Midkiff Harmon '47** of Radford, June 10, 2018.

**Evelyn Buck Waits '47** of Goshen, Ky., Dec. 2, 2018.

**Mary Anne Laningham '48** of Pinehurst, N.C., July 15, 2018.

**Irma May Parker '48** of Williamsburg, November 3, 2018.

**Barbara Ann Young '48** of Exmore, January 14, 2019.

**Mary Sue Carter Allen '49** of Chapin, S.C., Jan. 25, 2018.

### 1950

**Eileen Borden Peck Snead '50** of Columbus, Ind., July 1, 2018.

**Annita Jean Havemann '50** of Anaheim, Calif., Feb. 14, 2019.

**Frances Faye Cantrell Roberson '51, M.S. '80** of Charlottesville, Aug. 29, 2018.

**Peggy Sue Coppage '51** of Vienna, Oct. 26, 2018.

**Margaret Grace "Peggy" Williams '52** of Galax, Aug. 26, 2018.

**Dorothy Joan McNally '52** of Fairlawn, Jan. 22, 2019.

**Frances A. Mason '53** of Hillsville, Dec. 29, 2018.

**Barbara Abell Johnston '54** of Pearisburg, Dec. 26, 2018.

**Peggy Ann Black '55** of York, S.C., May 2018.

**Mary Jane Trope '55** of Riner, June 27, 2018.

**Lucille Henderson '55** of Chester, Feb. 8, 2019.

**Sallie Mae Dougherty Wallace '56** of Asheville, N.C., June 8, 2018.

**June Allen Fortune '56, M.S. '69**, of Radford, May 9, 2018.

**Peggy Arthur Gray '57** of Blacksburg, March 30, 2018.

**Mildred Sue Hughes '57** of Wise, June 22, 2018.

**Nancy Jo Camper Akers '58** of Roanoke, Feb. 28, 2018.

**Shirley Bramlett McCabe '58** of Thaxton, Nov. 1, 2018.

**Anna Sharon Crabtree '59** of Marion, Feb. 26, 2019.

### 1960

**Rebecca Boitnott Fewell '60** of Columbus, Ga., July 18, 2018.

**Alice Rebecca Firebaugh Pfaff '61** of Radford, Oct. 24, 2018.

**Sue Neale '61** of Scarsdale, N.Y., Feb. 19, 2019.

**Cynthia Nace Barnes '62** of Cochranville, Pa., June 7, 2018.

**Georgia E. Cox '62, M.S. '70**, of Christiansburg, Dec. 14, 2018.

**Louise Harrell Grant '63** of Jarratt, Jan. 15, 2019.

**Sharon Lynn Di Luvio '64** of Fulton, Miss., April 4, 2018.

**Virginia Rankin Lollar '64** of Alpharetta, Ga., June 20, 2018.

**Patricia "Patsy" Young Smith '64** of Rocky Mount, Sept. 16, 2018.

**Patricia Sands Hepler '64** of Orange, Dec. 6, 2018.

**Doris Anne Mylum Lynch '65** of Pearisburg, March 1, 2018.

**Nikora Veronica Fraley '65** of Taneytown, Md., April 19, 2018.

**Donald Ray Corron, M.S. '65**, of Winter Garden, Fla., Oct. 18, 2018.

**Sibyl Carolyn Gillespie '65** of Carrollton, Dec. 18, 2018.

**Patricia Ryan Schillig '67** of Reston, Oct. 23, 2018.

**Herley Hudson, M.S. '68**, of Lynchburg, March 27, 2018.

**Christa Ann Pierpont '69** of Charlottesville, March 21, 2018.

**Sam King Crockett '69** of Roanoke, March 31, 2018.

**Anne Gill Coughlin '69** of Charlottesville, June 16, 2018.

### 1970

**Leslie A. Smith Maitland '70** of Glen Allen, Aug. 20, 2018.

**Carolyn Elizabeth Wynne '70** of Fernandina Beach, Fla., Oct. 1, 2018.

**Karen Elizabeth Montgomery '70** of Salem, Oct. 18, 2018.

**Joy Ann Heighes '70** of Newport News, Nov. 26, 2018.

**Patricia Anne Turner '70** of Hagerstown, Md., Dec. 21, 2018.



**Elrica Kate Sowers Graham, M.S. '70**, of Pulaski, Dec. 31, 2018.

**Iris Josephine Cundiff Powell, M.S. '71**, of Lynchburg, Dec. 28, 2018.

**Donna Sue Preissner '72** of Richmond, Nov. 28, 2018.

**Doris Leora Jones '72** of Wirtz, Feb. 2, 2019.

**Patricia Surratt Downing '73** of Germantown, Tenn., May 11, 2018.

**Carol Fae Wiley '73** of Radford, July 7, 2018.

**JoAnne Cyr '73** of San Antonio, Texas, Nov. 18, 2018.

**Roger Allen Asbury Sr. '74, M.S. '81**, of Pulaski, May 15, 2018.

**Constance Louise Finnerty '74, M.S. '83**, of Roanoke, May 29, 2018.

**Carol Lynne Strang '74** of Groton, Conn., Aug. 30, 2018.

**Joyce Ann Taylor Bickford '74** of Danville, Sept. 21, 2018.

**Phyllis Anne Jackson Holliman '74** of Dublin, Oct. 17, 2018.

**Marilyn Diane Mustard '75** of Pearisburg, May 8, 2018.

**Rachel Virginia Slate '76** of Hillsville, Jan. 24, 2019.

**Virginia Beamer Clark, M.S. '76**, of Eufaula, Ala., Jan. 31, 2019.

**Betty Ann Harrison '77** of San Francisco, Calif., April 5, 2018.

**Ted James Johnson Jr., M.S. '77**, of Pearisburg, June 5, 2018.

**Margaret Anne Rooklin '77** of Charlottesville, Aug. 9, 2018.

**Billy Francis Williamson '77** of Wallingford, Pa., on April 1, 2018.

**Pamela Hooker Wade '79** of Christiansburg, April 1, 2018.

**Donald Wade Skeen, M.S. '79**, of Quinton, Aug. 5, 2018.

**Russell Franklin "Rusty" Flesher Jr. '79** of Stuarts Draft, Nov. 2, 2018.

## 1980

**Keith Elermander Gardner '80** of Martinsville, March 11, 2018.

**Jane Greer Hill, M.S. '80**, of Roanoke, Aug. 16, 2018.

**Lt. Col. Brown "Skip" Grattan Howard IV '80** of Warrenton, Feb. 24, 2019.

**Karen Leigh Colston '81** of Chesapeake, June 5, 2018.

**Wendy Carol Montini '81** of San Diego, Calif., Sept. 12, 2018.

**Karri Karole Trahin Perez '81** of Tamuning, Guam, Jan. 27, 2019.

**Debra Jo Hall '82** of Colton, Calif., Oct. 1, 2018.

**Maryette Rauschert McLaren, M.S. '83**, of Roanoke, May 17, 2018.

**Melissa Ann Smith '84** of Chesapeake, May 12, 2018.

**Brian Andrew Spillman '84** of Natural Bridge Station, Nov. 18, 2018.

**Bonita Morrison Taylor '85** of Capon Bridge, W.Va., Jan. 3, 2018.

**Charles Andrew Dorrier '85** of Austin, Texas, Sept. 17, 2018.

**Diana Carol Gorman Stewart, M.S. '88**, of Christiansburg, Dec. 20, 2018.

**William James Arp '89** of Blacksburg, Aug. 7, 2018.

**Michael Duwayne Medlin '89** of Midlothian, Feb. 1, 2019.

## 1990

**Pamela Martin Ogden '91** of Salem, June 1, 2018.

**Stephen Anthony Wyatt '93** of Danville, Dec. 12, 2018.

**Lesia Letaine Johnson '95** of Coconut Creek, Fla., July 28, 2017.

**Susan Alice Senn Moss '96** of Burlington, Iowa, April 1, 2018.

**Judy Michelle Lineback '96** of Hillsville, Sept. 6, 2018.

**Courtland Alexander Stewart '96** of Lillington, N.C., Jan. 13, 2019.

**Debbie Ziegler '98, M.S. '00** of Reidsville, N.C., Dec. 16, 2018.

**Rachel Lynne Petrovich '99** of Shippensburg, Pa., April 24, 2018.

**Allen Kang '99** of Chantilly, Sept. 15, 2018.

## 2000

**Patricia Hampton Stump '00** of Willis, Feb. 16, 2019.

**Robert Lloyd Deatherage '01** of Martinsville, July 12, 2018.

**Kristin Fenner Wills '02** of Midlothian, Dec. 6, 2018.

**Stephanie Elaine Kidd '04** of Dublin, April 11, 2018.

**Lindsay Danelle Stanford '05** of Fairview, N.C., Dec. 24, 2018.

**Carolyn Holly Hanna '07** of Henrico, Aug. 15, 2018.

**Melissa Ann Penrod '07** of Charleston, S.C., Feb. 23, 2019.

## 2010

**Kristin Sanborn Todd, M.S. '10**, of Davis, Calif., April 14, 2018.

**Joshua Bailey '11** of Christiansburg, Nov. 23, 2018.

**Lucas Bartley Dowell '13** of Chilhowie, Feb. 4, 2019.

## Non-Degreed

**Bob "Harty" Hartsock** of Dublin, March 7, 2018.

**Irby Briscoe** of Edmond, Okla., Oct. 13, 2018.

**Nancy Hearne Johnson** of Falls Church, Jan. 10, 2019.

**Shirley Jane Edman Decker** of Winston-Salem, N.C., May 12, 2018.

**Charlean Eanes Fisher** of Roanoke, May 17, 2018.

**Jason Albert Neice** of Ripplemead, Oct. 8, 2018.

**Rachel Littleton Jones** of Roanoke, Oct. 17, 2018.

**Pamela "Pam" Peratino Hutzell** of Harper, Texas, Oct. 20, 2018.

**Dorothy J. "Jean" White Gilliam** of Virginia Beach, Dec. 14, 2018.

## Students

**Richard "Austin" Blevins** of Marion, Dec. 20, 2018.

**Alexa Cannon** of Roanoke, Jan. 24, 2019.

## Faculty/Staff

**Richard Lee Kenley** of Dublin, April 7, 2018.

**Donald W. Breedlove** of Pulaski, April 13, 2018.

**Lee Morrill Wofle** of Blacksburg, April 15, 2018.

**Greta Ann Williams** of Christiansburg, July 11, 2018.

**Leonard Raymond Gallimore** of Radford, Aug. 15, 2018.

**Edith Houston Carter, Ph.D.**, of Radford, Oct. 14, 2018.

**Troy Shane Godsey** of Pulaski, Oct. 19, 2018.

**Mary Nelson Parks** of Blacksburg, Oct. 30, 2018.

**Maggie Taylor Minter** of New River, Dec. 21, 2018.

## Friends

**Ola Scott Bowling** of Dublin, July 10, 2018.

**Bernard "Bunny" Campbell Wampler** of Pulaski, Sept. 6, 2018.

**Robert Eastwood Glenn** of Roanoke, Oct. 18, 2018.

**Dolphus "Dolph" Eugene Henry, Jr.** of Radford, Dec. 19, 2018.

# Congratulations!

## RADFORD UNIVERSITY RETIREES

Mary D. Alderman	<i>Feb. 1, 2018</i>	Lora L. Gordon	<i>March 1, 2018</i>
Richard S. Alvarez	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	D.J. Gumaer, Ed.D.	<i>June 1, 2018</i>
Micheal K. Baker	<i>Feb. 1, 2019</i>	Martha J. Hall	<i>May 1, 2019</i>
Judy K. Beebe	<i>Jan. 1, 2019</i>	Sharon Hartline, Ph.D.	<i>Jan. 1, 2019</i>
Ellen C. Birx, Ph.D.	<i>Jan. 1, 2018</i>	Vanessa Haskins	<i>June 1, 2018</i>
Kenneth J. Bonk	<i>June 1, 2018</i>	Lucy Hochstein, Ph.D.	<i>Jan. 1, 2019</i>
James E. Borling	<i>June 1, 2018</i>	Kathryn Hoover, Ph.D.	<i>July 1, 2018</i>
Harry T. Branch	<i>Sept. 1, 2018</i>	Phillip M. Huff	<i>Nov. 1, 2018</i>
Nan C. Brown	<i>Oct. 1, 2018</i>	Garnett Koger	<i>March 1, 2019</i>
Tod Burke, Ph.D.	<i>Jan. 1, 2018</i>	Susan E. Kwilecki, Ph.D.	<i>Jan. 1, 2019</i>
Carvel A. Brumfield	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	Theodore S. McKosky	<i>June 1, 2018</i>
Debra D. Carr	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	Georgia Montgomery	<i>July 1, 2018</i>
Mark Deisher	<i>Feb. 1, 2019</i>	Patsy Poff	<i>March 1, 2019</i>
J. Grady DeVilbiss	<i>March 1, 2019</i>	Timothy C. Poland, Ph.D.	<i>Aug. 1, 2018</i>
Shirley B. Duncan	<i>March 1, 2018</i>	Jeanette C. Sarver	<i>Jan. 1, 2019</i>
John W. Fox	<i>June 1, 2018</i>	Lynn K. Saubert, Ph.D.	<i>July 1, 2018</i>
Mary S. Gilmore	<i>March 1, 2019</i>	Gregg H. Shadel	<i>July 1, 2018</i>
		Terry K. Smith, Ed.D.	<i>June 1, 2018</i>
		James P. Toler	<i>May 1, 2018</i>
		Robert L. Turner	<i>Feb. 1, 2018</i>
		Karen A. Ughetta	<i>Aug. 1, 2018</i>
		Etty Vandsburger, Ph.D.	<i>March 1, 2019</i>
		Patricia D. Williamson	<i>Feb. 1, 2019</i>
		Allen F. Wojtera	<i>Jan. 1, 2018</i>
		Jeffery D. Woods	<i>June 1, 2018</i>
		Lynn M. Zoch, Ph.D.	<i>Jan. 1, 2019</i>





**TEAM TRADITION**

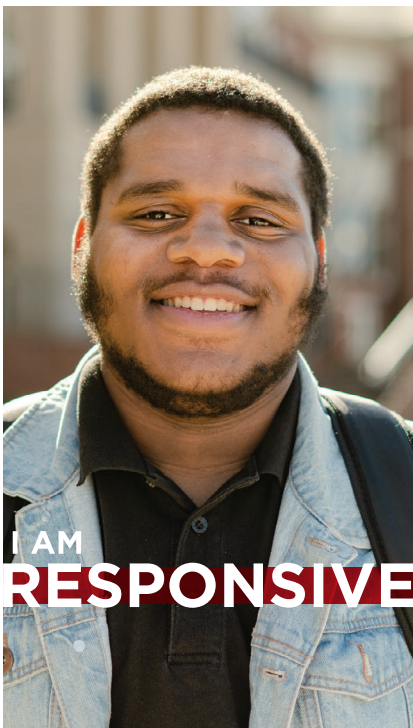
Predecessors of the Big South Conference champion Radford University women's basketball team pause for a photo.

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