

RADFORD

The Magazine of Radford University

Summer 2015



RADFORD BASEBALL MAKES HISTORY

INSIDE: THE REASON IS RADFORD | 18 GOING ON 80





Summer Comes to Campus

No such thing as a lazy summer day at Radford University – Scottish Rite campers participate in fun and games.

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Editors and contributors

Jon Beard
 Don Bowman
 Richard Boyd
 Ann H. Brown, M.S. '03
 Nakia Byrd
 Travis Byrd '10
 Joe Carpenter
 Karen Casteale '79
 Brian Cox
 Haley Frazier '15
 Jaslyn Gilbert
 Lora Gordon
 Jeff Greenough
 Mary Hardbarger
 James Harman '92
 Jon Harris
 Kelly Hilsey
 Jaime Hunt
 Leslie King
 Taylor Newman '15
 Chad Osborne
 Michael Roche
 Dan Waidelich
 Sherry Wallace
 Charlie Whitescarver
 Melissa Wohlstein



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Alumni and Friends of Radford University,

This is an exciting time for Radford University!

In early spring we began the launch of the university's marketing and branding campaign. In researching and preparing for this effort, we heard from alumni, friends, faculty and staff, and students alike that the university should increase its public presence to promote what we do well and the success of our programs, students and alumni. Many of you said we need to spread the Radford University story far and wide. Well, we listened to you! In our Summer magazine, you will learn about the extensive research that was done to find out what many of us already know: Radford University gives students opportunity in the classroom and in campus activities to discover their potential and become prepared for their futures. You'll be seeing more advertisements in media outlets, including online, that tell our story through student and alumni success: "The Reason is Radford."

In April, the university set aside a special weekend to thank our most generous supporters! On Friday, April 10, I invited members of the President's Circle platinum and gold levels to dine at the historic Governor Tyler House, my official residence as president of Radford University. It was a pleasure to speak with them and personally thank them for all that they do to support our students, academic programs and the future of the university.



Keynote speaker ESPN's Marty Smith '98 and President Kyle at the Spring 2015 Commencement Ceremony

On the afternoon of Saturday, April 11, we celebrated all those who have endowed scholarships to benefit our most deserving students. The scholarship benefactors were able to meet the students that they support, and the students were able to personally thank them. This is always a touching and rewarding event for all of us here at Radford, as well as the benefactors and the scholarship recipients. These scholarships truly improve the Radford experience for our students and impact their future success!

During the evening on Saturday, April 11, I hosted a Garden Party at the Governor Tyler House for the university's most dedicated and generous financial supporters. I thanked them for their loyalty and generosity to the university and its students. It was an honor to host them at the Governor Tyler House and to personally express our gratitude for their support.

This May marked the 102nd commencement ceremony on campus. The keynote speaker for the main ceremony was ESPN commentator Marty Smith '98. We were excited to welcome back an enthusiastic Radford University alumnus like Marty to reflect on his distinctive career path that has taken him to speedways, sports arenas, stadiums and interviews of prominent athletes, all of which are part of the fabric of American culture.

As you will see in this edition of the magazine, the Radford University campus does not slow down during the summer. We use this time to reach out to K-12 students from around the Commonwealth and offer them educational opportunities in the sciences, visual and performing arts, liberal arts and special programming. This is all in addition to a full schedule of summer classes our faculty members provide for our own Radford University students!

This is an exciting time to be a member of the Radford University community. We are continuing our mission of providing the best possible education for our students and proudly telling the success stories of our students, alumni, faculty and staff who make the Radford family truly unique and special!

With warmest regards,

Penelope W. Kyle

We want to hear from you!

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

Inside



24



42



32



18



36



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.

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

Cover Story

10 Radford Baseball Makes History

Features

18 Conquering New Territory

24 Telling Our Story
Behind "The Reason is Radford"

30 Homecoming 2015

32 "American Garden"

38 Networking in the
Nation's Capital

42 18 Going on 80

44 Keeping Up With Wes



46

4 News & Notes

6 Up Front

10 Sports

21 Campus

30 Alumni

36 The Experience

46 The Arts

51 Student Affairs

57 Class Notes

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Growing Together in Service

RADFORD UNIVERSITY'S

School of Social Work and New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS) have a working relationship that spans nearly 20 years.

The relationship began with the genesis of the school's Master of Social Work program in 1995.

The School of Social Work undergraduate and graduate students work as interns with NRVCS, an agency that offers behavioral health services to residents of the New River Valley.

"Our interns give NRVCS hundreds and hundreds of hours of direct social work service and that goes straight back to our community," said School of Social Work Director Diane Hodge.

The school also supplies NRVCS staff, many of whom are Radford University School of Social Work

alumni, with continuing education courses that allow them to maintain their licenses.

In turn, NRVCS provides valuable supervision for the school's interns. Many of the staff serve as adjunct professors in the school, and advise the school about needed course electives and job opportunities for students and graduates.

"It's always been a give-and-take relationship," Hodge said. "What do they need? What do we need?"

James Pritchett graduated from the school's master of social work program in 2000 and is now the director of crisis and family services at NRVCS. "Obviously, the close proximity of Radford gives NRVCS access to a pool of potential employees who we know have been through a very strong



Richard Boyd

Collaboration is key in the long-standing relationship between Radford University's School of Social Work and New River Valley Community Services.

program and who are often well-prepared to enter the field," said Pritchett. "This solid foundation better enables them to take the knowledge they have and apply that to real-life situations, which means a higher quality of services for the individuals and families that turn to our organization for help."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

May 11, 2015

To whom it may concern:

I was very interested to read about the re-formed bagpipe band in the Spring 2015 copy of The Magazine of Radford University.



I began playing bagpipes at Radford University (then Radford College) in the spring of 1975, after I had received both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Radford. Dr. Bennett Lentzner was the director of the Highlander Band at that time. I believe that I can identify myself in that tiny picture of the Highlander Band freezing at the Thanksgiving parade in Philadelphia in 1976, above.

My husband was on the faculty during the 1970s and the 1980s, and I continued to play with the Highlander Band, at concerts in Preston, for graduations, for various parades, and on tour until the mid-80s, but I came back to Radford every year to lead the procession for graduation until around 2000. During that same time period, my daughter, who became a percussionist, played with the percussion ensemble and the Highlander Band during her high school years in Radford. They were good years, but the interest in the pipe band dwindled after Dr. Lentzner left Radford.

I was glad to read that the tradition has been renewed, and I was quite pleased to see that the pipe band is not wearing "full dress." That was so uncomfortable. I do not mean to be critical, but I could not help but notice that all of the kilts visible in the photograph are too long, and off-white hose would be more appropriate than the black hose.

Carol Robertson '75, M.S. '76
Jefferson City, Missouri

Graduate Program in Data and Information Management to be First in State

THE MARKET is clamoring for information technology (IT) professionals who can get the right data to the right people at the right time. That demand has inspired Radford University's Department of IT, chaired by Professor of Computer Science Jeff Pittges, to create a master's degree program in Data and Information Management (DAIM). The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the demand for data management professionals will grow by 28.5 percent over the next decade.

Recently approved by the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV), Radford's DAIM graduate program is the first in Virginia. It will also be the first STEM-H graduate program offered by Radford University's College of Science and Technology. DAIM is founded upon the department's highly successful database concentration, the only undergraduate database program in Virginia. The DAIM curriculum will challenge students to solve real problems for real clients.

"Professional skills can't be taught, they must be experienced. The faculty must also develop our students' soft skills to match their technical skills to provide the community and Virginia with a workforce to manage and protect important assets," Pittges said.

DAIM will produce professionals who can design, develop and manage large-scale information infrastructure and scalable systems and processes. Radford DAIM candidates will collaborate with faculty and industry partners in state-of-the-art facilities, such as the newly opened ARTIS Lab in Davis Hall, and in the Advanced Research Consortium.

RU Reads Tells Story of Diversity

Lana Gordon



Kaleice Green

BOOKS TELL STORIES to transform readers' perspectives.

That powerful effect was on display during this spring's RU READS: One Campus, Many Voices campaign.

Twenty-six faces of the Radford University community, including students, faculty and staff, filled

posters on which each person revealed a book that had impacted his or her understanding of diversity. Book topics touched on religion, disability, sexual orientation and race, to name a few.

Kaleice Green of Mechanicsville said she participated in RU READS to share the inspiration she felt when reading

"The Pursuit of Happiness," by Chris Gardner.

"I have recognized that the novel has motivated me to achieve more than the average," said Green, an M.S. candidate in Criminal Justice.

Junior Ian Gammarino of Floyd said promoting literature was "a life tradition."

"I was second place in a reading competition in third grade, an avid participant in my high school book club, a participant in RU's first Living Library, and to this day, I am still trying to find ways to promote reading for pleasure," said the theatre and geology major.

Participants were also featured in a short film in which they talked about their chosen books: <https://vimeo.com/117488368>.

This was the second time the university has orchestrated the reading campaign, which is sponsored by McConnell Library, the Office of the Provost, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and R-SPaCE.

Colley Selected as CEHD Dean



KENNA COLLEY was selected in April as Radford University's next dean of the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). She began

serving her new role July 1.

Colley previously served as director of CEHD's School of Teacher Education and Leadership (STEL).

Patricia Shoemaker, who has served at Radford University since 1987, has been the college's dean since 2007. Shoemaker plans to rejoin the CEHD faculty in a teaching role.

Colley's selection followed a national search and a series of on-campus candidate interviews and presentations.

Colley's association with Radford began in 1996 when she became the first coordinator for CEHD's Training and Technical Assistance Center. During the same year, Colley began teaching as an adjunct faculty member for the university's Special Education Department. She was promoted to co-director of the T/TAC in 2000. In 2004 Colley was hired in a tenure track position as an assistant professor of special education.

The Princeton Review once again recognized Radford University for its commitment to building and maintaining a sustainable, environmentally friendly campus.

Known for its test preparatory programs and college rankings, ratings and guidebooks, the company profiled Radford University in the sixth annual edition of its free downloadable book, "The Princeton Review's Guide to 353 Green Colleges: 2015 Edition." It is the sixth consecutive year that Radford University has been recognized by the education service company.



Jennifer Jones teaches a group of enthusiastic second graders from Snowville Elementary School, Virginia.

“Don’t Just Be a Teacher — Be a Darn Good One.”

Jennifer Jones: State Council for Higher Education of Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award Winner

By Chad Osborne

“I WASN’T THE greatest reader when I was in elementary school,” confessed Jennifer Jones, who used to jokingly refer to herself as a “fake reader.”

And then ...

“It was a teacher who turned my life around and made me want to read,” said Jones, who now serves as an associate professor and program area leader for the Literacy Education graduate program at Radford University.

The teacher was Terri Mitchell, a high school English teacher in Tazewell, Virginia, where Jones was a student. “She loved what she was doing,” Jones remembered. “She brought the text alive, and ever since, I’ve wanted to do for others what she did for me.”

After graduating from high school, Jones enrolled at Bluefield College to become a teacher. She had received news that Mrs. Mitchell had been diagnosed with cancer. “I went back to see her because I knew she wasn’t going to be around long,” Jones said, fighting back tears. “I thanked her for all she had done for me.”

Just as teaching had been a passion for Mitchell, it became and remains a passion for Jones.

The funny thing is, she discovered her passion for literacy pedagogy as a teacher in Fluvanna County, Virginia, at

the third and fourth grade levels, grades in which many students are already far along in their paths to literacy.

One year, however, Jones taught a

group of third graders who were struggling with reading more than usual.

“I started taking classes to learn more to help them,” Jones said. “I saw that made a difference, and so one class led to another and then another.”

Even after she received her doctorate, Jones thought she would continue to teach

children. But then, while living in Georgia, she was asked to teach a class at the University of Georgia.

“That’s when I realized that this is what I’m supposed to be doing with my life,” she said.

Jones is now in her twelfth year at Radford University teaching future literacy educators how to teach reading to children. “I love trying to equip my students with the knowledge and the confidence they need to teach kids to read or to help kids grow as readers,” she said.

Her students aren’t the only ones who benefit from Jones’ passion.



President Penelope Kyle (left) attended the OFA program in Richmond along with Associate Professor Jennifer Jones and her family.

She often visits schools in the region surrounding Radford and spends hours conducting classroom demonstrations for elementary school teachers and their students.

Her passion for teaching extends well beyond southwestern Virginia.

Jones is co-director of Radford University’s Malawi Study Abroad Program, which takes students each summer to the southeast African country where, for three to four weeks, they explore the opportunities and challenges of teaching and learning in a developing country.

“The kids there can’t get enough of learning,” Jones said of the young students of Malawi. “They realize education can change their lives. We go there to teach them, but I think we are the ones who leave with the lessons and rewards, just being with them.”

In December 2014, Jones received a SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award, the highest honor for educators in the Commonwealth’s public and private colleges and universities.

“The award is a testament to her extraordinary commitment to her students and her dedication to education at Radford University and throughout the community, the Commonwealth and around the world,” said President Penelope W. Kyle, who joined Jones and her family at the 29th annual Outstanding Faculty Award ceremony, held Feb. 19, 2015 at The Jefferson Hotel in Richmond.

Mrs. Mitchell would have been proud. Jones has done exactly what her teacher instructed her to do during their last visit together.

“She said to me, ‘Don’t just be a teacher; be a darn good one,’” Jones said with a smile. “I hope she’s happy.” ■



Radford University Associate Professor Jennifer Jones accepts an Outstanding Faculty Award (from left: Anne Holton, Virginia education secretary; Jones; Peter Blake, SCHEV director; and Hunter Applewhite, president of the Dominion Foundation).

American Premiere of Tribal Art Exhibit Coming to Radford University

By Chad Osborne

Photographs by Charlie Whitescarver



ONE OF SOUTH ASIA'S most vibrant contemporary indigenous art movements is coming to Radford University during the fall 2015 semester.

The Pardhan Gond art exhibit, the first of its kind in America, will appear at the RU Art Museum beginning in September. The exhibition, viewable by appointment only, will feature paintings, drawings, sculpture and animated film by central India's contemporary Gond tribal artists.

John Bowles, curator of the upcoming exhibit, spoke about the art collection Feb. 20 at the Radford University Art Society's annual Give Your Heart to Art fundraising event at the Covington Center for Visual and Performing Arts.

Serving as guest speaker for the event, Bowles shared stories of some of the artists – a few of whom will visit campus during the exhibit – and provided insight into programs being developed by RU faculty around the exhibition, which will be titled “Painted Songs & Stories: The Hybrid Flowerings of Contemporary Pardhan Gond Art.”

Bowles also thanked the more than 50 in attendance for “turning out on this cold winter's night to demonstrate your enthusiastic support of the visual arts.”

During the evening, Gond paintings and sculptures lined the walls of the oval-shaped Covington Center foyer, giving visitors a preview of the exhibition.

“It's really colorful. It's really animated,” said Steve Arbury, director of the Art Museum. “There is a certain aboriginal quality to it that you find in a lot of tribal art, whether it's from India, or Mexico, or Australia or other countries. There is a certain commonality of style, and this fits right in.”

Myrl Jones, chair of the Arts Society, said bringing the Gond art to RU is “a real coup” for the university community. “There aren't many places in the United States where you can see this art, particularly as much of it as we will have here.”

The Gond collection is not the first exhibit that Bowles, a longtime supporter of the university, has brought to campus for the benefit of students and community.

In 1992, Bowles donated to Radford University much of his personal collection of Huichol art created by contemporary

artists from Northwest Mexico's Huichol tribe. The collection totals 60 yarn paintings, 12 of which are on permanent display at Selu Conservancy's seven-sided meeting room. The rest of the collection can be seen and studied in the Radford University Art Museum, where it's available for annual exhibitions and outside loans.

“Thanks to John's generosity, the university now has one of the world's leading public collections of contemporary Huichol art,” said university President Penelope W. Kyle while introducing Bowles. “For example, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts has circulated its own statewide touring Huichol exhibition, developed entirely from our collection.”

Kyle also praised Bowles for his commitment to Radford University's arts programs. “He is as passionate about the arts as you are,” the president said. “He is a great supporter of the arts here at Radford and we are grateful for the opportunities that his support gives to our faculty and our students, especially the opportunity for them to learn about international art.”

The Radford University Arts Society supports creativity, award-winning talent, performances, community outreach and student scholarship.

The Give Your Heart to Art Dinner is dedicated to enriching the student experience at the university by building the university's collection of fine art.

“Radford University's arts supporters' passion for our visual and performing arts programs and their support of our students' successes in those areas is much, much appreciated by all of us here at the university,” Kyle said. ■



Exhibit curator John Bowles with President Penelope Kyle

Radford University Says

Thank You



“We are here to change lives.”

Dale Parris, MBA '85, M.S. '10

By Ann Brown

Photos by Jeff Greenough

ON FRIDAY APRIL 10 and Saturday, April 11, Radford University said thank you to its most generous supporters.

The Friday evening event was dedicated to members of the President's Circle platinum and gold giving levels. This exclusive event was held at the historic Governor Tyler House, which was the home of Governor James Hoge Tyler and his wife Susan Hammet Tyler from the time it was built in 1892 to their deaths in the 1920s. It now serves as the official residence of Radford University's president. The Queen Anne-style home was gifted to the Radford University Foundation by two longtime supporters of Radford University: alumnus Randal J. Kirk '76 and Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham.

Saturday afternoon's Partners in Excellence Celebration in the College of Business and Economics was an opportunity for the university to thank those who have established scholarships for Radford students.

“This day is our opportunity to let you know what these scholarships mean to us and our students,” said President Penelope W. Kyle during the Partners in Excellence Celebration where scholarship recipients were able to meet their benefactors.

Radford University Foundation Board Vice President Dale Parris, MBA '85, M.S. '10 described why she and many others support Radford University and its students. “We are here to change lives. There are great things happening here at Radford University,” said Parris. Supporters of the university gave close to \$1.4 million for scholarships in fiscal year 2014. Thanks to their generosity, more than 500 scholarships were awarded to deserving students.

Lindsay Marti, benefactor of the Nathan B. Marti Memorial Scholarship, discussed why she and her friends

and family created the scholarship in honor of her brother Nathan Marti '05, who was killed by a drunk driver in 2007. She said it allowed her, her family and Nathan's friends to continue Nathan's legacy in a meaningful way. Lindsay hosts annual fundraising events to raise money for the scholarship. “Our fundraising success is due to the support of friends, family and those who didn't know Nathan but allow us to tell his story,” said Lindsay.

Hannah Gullickson '16, the recipient of the Dr. Edna Warweg Speidel Scholarship in Chemistry, spoke to the more than 100 benefactors and students in attendance about what the scholarship meant to her. She said that because of this scholarship, she was able to continue her education at Radford and work in Chemistry Professor Kim Lane's laboratory researching ways to mitigate the negative side effects patients experience when taking cancer drugs.

“I hope when I'm a professional out in the world that I will be able to make a difference in a student's life as you have in mine,” said Gullickson.

At the Governor Tyler House Saturday evening, President Penelope W. Kyle hosted dedicated supporters of the university.

President Kyle thanked those who were in attendance and expressed the university's appreciation for all that they do for the university's students, programs and continued success.

“We wanted to be able to get you together and say thank you. Everyone here is a supporter of Radford University. We've been blessed by your generosity and dedication to the university. Thank you for your support and continued support!” said President Kyle. ■

1 From left: Robert Hovis, Melissa Wohlstein, Georgia Ann Snyder-Falkinham and Mary Ann Hovis '65 **2** Michael Deneka and scholarship recipient Misty Queen **3** Phillip and Karol '62 Hull **4** Lorene Jones, scholarship recipient Holly Moore and Myrl Jones **5** Chuck Hayes **6** From left: Mary '63 and Jon Wyatt, Norman and Joann '60 Lineburg **7** From left: Michele Messner '88, Pattie DeLoatche '82, Kate Hawkins and J.P. Beckham '87 **8** From left: Mary Ann Hovis '65, Marquett Smith '85, Pat and Nancy E. '73 Artis, Joseph Falkinham III and President Penelope W. Kyle **9** Charlotte and Bobby McConnell **10** Drew '01 and Nicole '02 Robinson **11** From left: Russell Pompa '84, Barbara Cook Turk '87, Barbara D. Turk, Lisa Pompa '86 and J.P. Beckham '87 **12** From left: Robert Hovis, President Penelope W. Kyle, scholarship recipient Russell Dixon and Mary Ann Hovis '65 **13** Michael Turk and Barbara D. Turk **14** Anthony '98 and Mary Smith **15** Nancy E. Artis '73, President Penelope W. Kyle and Penelope Kyle





RADFORD BASEBALL



MAKES HISTORY!

By Chad Osborne Photos courtesy of RUathleticsPhotos.com



Josh Reavis '15 makes a play at the plate.

When Shane Johnsonbaugh slapped a single to right field in the eighth inning against Indiana University on the last day of May, it was more than another hit for the Highlander outfielder. It proved to be a significant milestone for the Radford University baseball team.

Johnsonbaugh's hit drove in a run for the Highlanders and broke a 3-3 tie with the Hoosiers. Radford went on to win the game 5-3, staying alive in the regional competition of the NCAA Baseball Tournament.

The day before, Radford had rallied from a 2-0 deficit to defeat Lipscomb University 5-2, the first ever national tournament win for the Highlanders baseball team in the program's history.

Making it to the national tournament's regional competition was another first for the team. After a record-breaking season in which Radford won the Big South Conference's regular season and tournament titles, the Highlanders qualified for the regionals in Nashville, Tennessee, competing against Indiana of the Big 10 Conference, Lipscomb and Vanderbilt University, the defending national champions.

The Highlanders finished the season with a 45-16 record,

a new team high for wins, but fell to Vanderbilt the next day to drop out of the tournament. However, Coach Joe Raccuia '95, his players and the team's supporters cannot help but be elated about the Highlanders' success.

"I would first and foremost like to thank my team for a record-breaking season," Raccuia said after the season finale against Vanderbilt. "Forty-five wins, not a lot of losses, first place in the regular season, Big South Tournament Championship."

Raccuia, the Big South's Coach of the Year and an alumnus of the 1995 Radford University baseball team, said he was proud of the team for bouncing back and winning two games in the tournament after dropping the opening game to Indiana.

"It was disappointing that it finished like this, but that is not going to be the trademark of this season," Raccuia said. "The trademark of this season is a 45-16 record and separating ourselves from a lot of people at our level." ■

Vanessa Quesenberry



Radford baseball team alumni representing classes from 1993–2012.



Vanessa Quesenberry



Vanessa Quesenberry



Linda Whitley-Taylor '86, left, former Rector of the Board of Visitors, and President Penelope W. Kyle.

This season, the Highlanders achieved a list of milestones longer than a home run blast out of Radford Baseball Stadium. Those milestones include:

- Finished 45-16 overall, 20-4 Big South
- Rating Percentage Index climbed to as high as No. 12 in the nation
- Earned national rankings for first time in program history
- School-record 15-game winning streak
- Joe Raccuia – all-time winningest coach in program history
- Michael Boyle – All-Big South First Team, Big South All-Tournament Team
- Josh Gardiner – All-Big South First Team
- Hunter Higginson – All-Big South First Team, Big South Tournament MVP
- Brad Keen – Big South All-Tournament Team
- Patrick Marshall – All-Big South First Team
- Ryan Meisinger – All-Big South First Team, Big South All-Tournament Team
- Josh Reavis – Big South All-Academic Team, Big South All-Tournament Team

Big Effort Brings Success for Big South Coach Marci Jenkins

By Brian Cox

SUCCESS is not easy to come by. Just ask Radford University Volleyball Head Coach Marci Jenkins.

Sure, the three-time Big South Coach of the Year leads a program that has posted a 73.1 winning percentage over the past two seasons — the team earned two Big South regular-season championships and a conference tournament title in that span. Victories over California, of the Pac-12, and Maryland, of the Big Ten, raised eyebrows as well.

However, getting to that point was an uphill battle for the seventh-year head coach.

“Things are never easy when you’re trying to change a culture, but that’s what RU needed, a complete change,” Jenkins said. “The program needed stability, it needed direction — that doesn’t come overnight. If a coach changes the culture too quickly, the program may not have long-lasting results. I wanted results built for the long term.”

Jenkins’ first three seasons at Radford University went as follows: 9-19, 12-21 and 11-21. The Chicago native would not have blamed anyone for doubting she could get the job done.

Jenkins just needed a breakthrough, some recruits to take a chance on her program. By her fourth season (2011), Jenkins got what she needed.

This freshman class embodied what Jenkins was looking for: a blue-collar work ethic, a competitive spirit and a desire to build a program into a championship contender.

Three seasons of undesirable results didn’t deter Rachel Wiechecki, Emma Deininger, Jena Braden, Savannah Cantrell, and later, Kristina Cascio, from believing in Jenkins’ vision.

For the past four years, this group has been the engine driving Radford volleyball back into prominence.

“With the state of the program the way it was, that freshman class had a huge opportunity to make an immediate impact,” Jenkins said.

That impact didn’t come as soon as Jenkins would have liked. In 2011, the Highlanders got off to a bumpy start.



Jenkins speaks to her team's success at a press conference.

Radford was 4-9 through its first 13 matches and seemed headed for another below-.500 season. However, as the season progressed, the freshmen began

to mesh well with their teammates to spark a late-season, six-match win streak that propelled Radford into the conference tournament final against Liberty.

Despite losing in the championship match, RU concluded the season with a 17-15 record, Jenkins' first winning season with the Highlanders and the first winning season for the program since 2001.

2012 was hampered by injuries, especially for Wiechecki, who missed 12 matches during the middle of the season. The 5-foot-10 outside hitter was never 100 percent and neither was the team, which finished the season with a 16-16 record.

"Most teams have that one player you just can't live without if they go down," Jenkins said. "Rachel was that one player for us in 2012. We lost her at probably the worst time of the year — right at the beginning of conference play — and we never really recovered."

Nevertheless, following a tremendous off-season, Wiechecki, Deininger, Braden, Cantrell and Cascio were ready to make a statement in their junior campaign.

And a statement was delivered. The Highlanders reached 20 wins for the first time since 2001, and returned to the NCAA Tournament for the first

first AVCA All-Region performer. Also bursting onto the scene was Deininger, who tallied a single-season record 145 blocks en route to First-Team All-Big South honors.

"We all started the season on a mission," Jenkins recalled. "We mentioned that mission once in August and once again after we won the regular season. Every Monday before practice that year [the team] got the same speech: 'I don't care what we did over the weekend, it's not going to matter if we don't work equally as hard this week and prepare.' We never let up."

With six of seven players returning from the starting rotation, on paper, the 2014 season had the makings to be even more special for RU. Because of the team's high potential, Jenkins and her staff assembled one of the most difficult schedules Radford had ever faced. And just like they did in 2013, the Highlanders answered the call.

The team flew out to Las Cruces, New Mexico, and toppled California in five sets. One week later, RU upset Maryland in five sets. On top of those monumental wins, the Highlanders defeated defending Ohio Valley Conference champion Morehead State twice, Conference USA power Marshall and CAA stalwart UNC Wilmington. The win against the Seahawks marked Jenkins' 100th at RU.

The Highlanders' 10-5 record in nonconference play was nothing short of incredible.

"To be honest, Chris [Hertel] is the one who said we needed this schedule. Because I trusted him, I went with it," Jenkins said. "The team was super excited

about our schedule all spring. We played Minnesota in the first round of the NCAA Tournament the previous year and had never seen that level of

competition before. We wanted to make sure if we got back [to the NCAA Tournament], we would be more prepared."

With the nonconference portion of the schedule behind them, the Highlanders set out to defend their conference title. With an eight-match win streak to close the season, the Highlanders



achieved exactly that, clinching the Big South regular-season championship in consecutive seasons for the first time since 2001.

Radford extended its win streak to 10 by dispatching Campbell in the conference tournament quarterfinals and Winthrop in the semifinals — setting up a rematch with Coastal Carolina for the championship. RU battled the Chanticleers to five sets on their home floor before CCU used a late rally to come from behind and capture the tournament title.

Though they may not have had a storybook ending to their last RU volleyball season, Wiechecki and company have rebuilt Radford Volleyball into a championship contender.

"I will forever be indebted to this group of five seniors [who graduated in May] because they trusted me as their coach," Jenkins said. "The respect I have for all of them — I just can't put into words. They were the five who said yes when everyone else said no ... However, it's time for our remaining players and incoming freshmen to start creating their own legacy. It's like starting all over again, but the blueprint is there."

As for whether it will be easier the next time around, said Jenkins, "Nothing can be accomplished without hard work. There are no shortcuts to success!" ■

“I wanted results built for the long term.”

time since 2000. Wiechecki set the RU single-season record for kills (504) on her way to becoming the Big South Player of the Year and the program's



Members of the Radford Athletics Hall of Fame were recognized during halftime of the Men's Basketball game on February 28. The group included Tammy Crown-Bassinger and Tom Lillard, who were inducted in October 2014.



2014 marked the 40th anniversary of Men's Soccer at Radford University. Alumni and coaches were recognized at halftime during Homecoming 2014.



Three Women's Soccer student-athletes earned Big South honors. Freshman Jordan Lundin was named to the First Team, and finished the regular season tied for the league lead in assists.

Photos courtesy of RUAthleticsPhotos.com

HIGHLANDER



Women's Track and Field Coach Brent Chumbley was named Big South Indoor Track and Field Coach of the Year.



Senior Patrick O'Keefe was named Big South Men's Tennis Player of the Year. O'Keefe posted an impressive 16-2 overall record, including a 6-1 conference mark at No. 1 singles.



Senior Taylor Newman was named Big South Women's Tennis Co-Scholar-Athlete of the Year.



Sophomore Nick Brediger tied for seventh at the Big South Championship, shooting a BSC school record at four under par.



Men's Basketball seniors (from left) Javonte Green, R.J. Price, Kyle Noreen and Jalen Carethers were recognized during Senior Day on February 28. Javonte Green ended his Radford Basketball career as the program's all-time leader in rebounds and steals.



In 2014, Radford Volleyball won their second consecutive Big South Regular Season Championship. Coach Marci Jenkins was named Coach of the Year, and Big South Scholar-Athlete of the Year Emma Deiningner was named to the Capital One All-America Team.



Senior Teresa Williamson led the Highlanders to a third-place finish at the Big South Women's Cross Country Championships. The men's program finished fourth place – their best finish since 2007.



Radford Women's Golf finished third at the 2015 Big South Championships. This was the team's highest finish in program history.

HIGHLIGHTS



The Men's Soccer team won the 2014 Big South Regular Season Championship. Nine Highlanders received All-Big South honors, including Coach Marc Reeves, who won Big South Coach of the Year. Senior Stephen Hudgens was named Big South Scholar-Athlete of the Year, and earned a place on the Capital One Academic All-America Team.



The renovation of Radford Softball's stadium includes new dugouts, stadium seating, a sound system and a press box.



Big South Coach of the Year Mike McGuire led the Women's Basketball team to a second seed in the Big South Tournament. The Highlanders also earned a bid in the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

Conquering New Territory

By Taylor Newman '15

Photo by Lora Gordon

STARTING a women's lacrosse program is no mystery to Haley Marvine. She was part of the inaugural women's lacrosse team at the University of Cincinnati and began the squad as head coach at Transylvania University in Kentucky. Now she'll do the same at Radford University.



“It was my experience starting a program as a player that really made me want to do it as a coach because I remembered all the good things about it,” Marvine said. “The opportunity to be the first team and all the excitement around that was so fun.”

Marvine is originally from Alpharetta, Georgia. As a three-sport athlete in high school, she took an interest in basketball, volleyball and lacrosse. Although basketball was the main sport she focused on, by the end of her high school career it was lacrosse that became her ultimate love.

As an All-American in high school, she landed a scholarship in 2008 to play college lacrosse as goalie for Cincinnati. Marvine appeared in a total of 12 games during UC’s first season, and 31 games throughout her collegiate career. In her senior year, she was team captain and earned Big East Academic All-Star.

“I absolutely loved my college experience. I wouldn’t trade being a student-athlete for anything,” Marvine said.

Inspired by her father’s high school football coaching gig, Marvine followed in his footsteps and pursued a lacrosse coaching position after college.

She first coached club lacrosse at the middle school and high school level in the Cincinnati area, working with the organization Natilax. She also gained experience through the Nike Cup Syracuse Camp and other high-profile camps at Notre Dame, Duke and Georgia Tech.

Marvine’s first exposure to leading a program was in 2011 when she was

hired to launch the first lacrosse team in school history at Transylvania University. In the two seasons there, she led the team to a 12-13 overall record.

“My experiences at both Cincinnati and Transylvania have been and will continue to be crucial to the success of our program at Radford University,” Marvine said. “I’ve been there before, I’ve done it, I know that it can be hard and scary, but I also believe it’s an unforgettable experience.”

Spring 2016 will mark the first time that women’s lacrosse will be offered as

“I’ve been there before, I’ve done it, I know that it can be hard and scary, but I also believe it’s an unforgettable experience.”



Courtesy photo

Marvine during her tenure as the inaugural head women’s lacrosse coach at Transylvania University

a varsity sport at Radford University. The decision to begin the program was approved in Feb. 2014 in response to increased growth and interest in the sport nationwide and a realignment of RU’s athletic department, which will allow all 16 of its varsity sports to compete in the Big South Conference.

Since Marvine’s first day in the office, she looked to begin the recruiting process immediately. In December, 11 recruits signed their National Letters of Intent during the early signing period.

“I’m mostly excited about getting the team here,” Marvine said. “Our first season is so exciting and so awesome because everything is a first. The first player who scores a goal, that’s the first goal in Radford history. The first win is the first win in Radford history. Everything is a first, and you can’t help but have fun with it.”

Coming in knowing the team will be filled with freshmen and potential transfers, Marvine ultimately just wants her team to surprise.

“We have to put in place a positive team culture first and foremost — find out what core values we want to operate by as a team ... what kind of team we want to be known as,” Marvine said. “For me personally, one of my main goals is to instill a ton of confidence in our young women.” ■

Courtesy photo



Marvine defending the goal as a student-athlete at the University of Cincinnati

RADFORD BASEBALL



FOR LOVE OF FAMILY AND BASEBALL

By Travis Byrd '10

PHILANTHROPIC is an adjective describing someone who seeks to promote the welfare of others. There is no better way to describe the heart of Paul Sioros and his late wife Shirley.

In February, Mr. Sioros saw his wife's vision for Radford Baseball come to fruition. Thanks to the generosity of the Sioros family, Radford Athletics welcomed the addition of a new video scoreboard to the RU Baseball facility.

"I feel fortunate that I was able to be the facilitator of this project to fulfill my wife's dream, and show our support of Ed Butler," said Sioros. Radford University alumnus and Colorado Rockies prospect Eddie Butler is Sioros' step-grandson.

The new video scoreboard features a 35-foot, high-definition display, and sits atop an inning-by-inning scoreboard. Head Baseball Coach Joe Raccuia '95 believes this project will take Radford Baseball to the next level. "This addition is going to draw attention to our fan base," he explained. "It's going to give a better fan experience for anyone who is in the stadium."

Raccuia and Sioros have formed a special bond. "Mr. Sioros has become more than just a supporter of the program,"

Raccuia said. "He has become a personal friend. His support says a lot about people and how they feel about our program."

This is not the first time the Sioros family has been involved in a capital project. They have been proud Radford Athletics Club members since 2011 when the university opened the new baseball facility. The renovation included upgraded stadium seating, dugouts, press box and sound system. "Over the years, Paul has consistently supported Radford Baseball," said Radford University's Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg. "He is truly making a difference in the lives of our student-athletes."

Sioros sees the completion of the new video scoreboard as a great way to remember his wife and honor his step-grandson. "Unfortunately my wife passed away last January [2014], and is not able to see her dream come true. However, I am personally very excited about this project."

Sioros' gift has inspired other donors to give back to their alma mater. As a result, the baseball and softball programs will open a new indoor facility later this summer, featuring a hitting facility and coaches' offices.

To learn more about how you can support Radford University Athletics, call the Office of University Advancement at 540-831-5407. ■



Construction Update

WORK CONTINUES

pace on campus construction at Radford University!

As spring semester drew to a close, students and faculty continued to watch the Center for the Sciences take shape.

With windows and walls in place, work nears completion on the 114,000-square-foot building, the future home to the College of Science and Technology (CSAT); Departments of Anthropological Sciences, Biology and Chemistry; and the Forensic Sciences Institute. The \$49.5 million structure will connect with each level of Curie Hall and host teaching and research lab spaces, classrooms, faculty offices, a planetarium and the Museum of Earth Sciences, among others. The center is planned to be complete and ready for use this fall.

Also on track for a fall opening are Bolling and Pocahontas Halls. The residence halls are the latest to be given a new lease on life in ongoing efforts to modernize campus living space. With new plumbing, fixtures, fire alarm systems, electrical upgrades, accessibility improvements and the addition of air conditioning, the halls will greatly add to student life experiences.

And efforts are in full swing on the largest campus project, the new home for the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS).

In August 2014, construction began on the new CHBS building, which, at 143,600 square feet, will be the largest academic building on campus. The \$52.8 million building will provide academic space including classrooms, offices, laboratories and student/faculty collaborative areas.

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

Notable features of the building include a TV studio, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) simulation room and a mock trial room. The EOC simulation room will serve as the actual university EOC when needed. The project is scheduled for completion in 2016. ■



Sunshine and Excitement

Mark Radford University's Spring Commencement

By Mary Hardbarger

BEAUTIFUL WEATHER and the excitement sparked by an outstanding speech by ESPN commentator and Radford University alumnus Marty Smith '98 capped Radford University's 2015 Spring Commencement.

"Today is the greatest day of my life," said Matt Janssen, a management graduate from McLean.

Janssen's enthusiasm echoed throughout campus May 9 as proud families watched graduates take the stage and earn their diplomas.

At the main commencement ceremony on Moffett Lawn, President Penelope W. Kyle conferred degrees on 1,233 undergraduate students. The night before, 263 degrees were conferred on graduate students in a separate ceremony.

"We are delighted to be here on this beautiful day celebrating you and your accomplishments," said President Kyle. "On behalf of Radford University, I offer my deepest congratulations to each one of you graduates. You have worked so hard for this, and you make us proud. I know as alumni, you will continue to do so."



Richard Boyd

ESPN's Marty Smith '98 during his keynote address

A highlight of the ceremony was the heartfelt, inspiring and humorous commencement address from Smith, a Pearisburg, Va. native, whose words resonated with both students and their families.

"It's good to be home," Smith said to the audience.

Smith is an ESPN bureau reporter based in Charlotte, North Carolina, reporting on a variety of sports.

Following the main ceremony, Radford University's colleges staged individual ceremonies across campus, where the celebrations continued.

Proud grandmother Judy Lassiter is very familiar with Radford University and the opportunities it provides,

“Today is the greatest day of my life!”

Matt Janssen '15

especially for granddaughter Annie Lassiter.

"She's a third-generation Radford University English student," Judy Lassiter said.

Annie's grandmother – on her father's side – and her mother are both Radford University alumni.

"They're all successful," Judy Lassiter said. "It's a wonderful school and we enjoy coming back here."

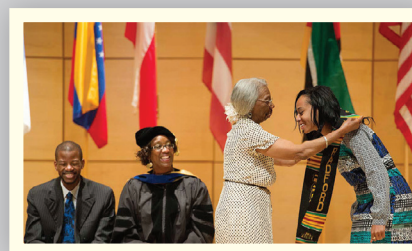


Richard Boyd

The Radford University Highlanders Pipes and Drums added a traditional touch to the main ceremony.

On Friday, May 8, the university held the 28th annual Graduate Hooding and Commencement Ceremony for students in the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Other commencement activities on Friday included the ROTC commissioning of cadets as United States Army officers, the School of Nursing and Doctor of Physical Therapy pinning ceremonies for graduates and the Multicultural Congratulatory Ceremony in the Covington Center.



Lora Gordon

Audrey Pyles places a stole around the neck of granddaughter Clarissa Pyles during the Multicultural Congratulatory Ceremony.

The Multicultural Congratulatory Ceremony, a tradition for nearly three decades, offered students a chance to reflect on the diversity of campus and the bonds they have forged in their time at Radford.

This year's spring graduates represent 29 states and nine different countries, including Canada, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Uganda, United Kingdom, Venezuela and Zambia. ■



“I want Radford to stand out. It’s a school of opportunities.”

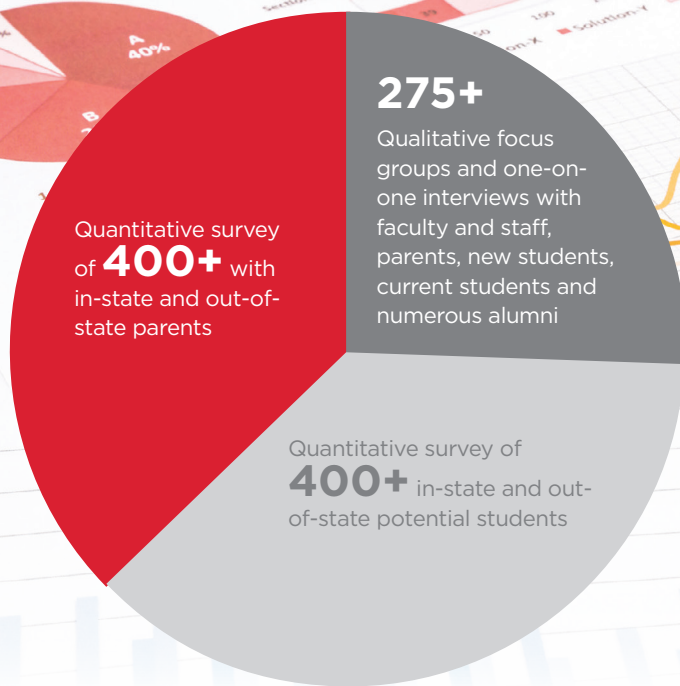


THE REASON IS RADFORD

Representing the Radford Experience Through Success

By Ann Brown, M.S. '03

RADFORD UNIVERSITY has embarked on a branding initiative that defines the university in a way that conveys the success of Radford’s students and generations of graduates. With the assistance of an external higher-education marketing and brand agency, the University’s goals are to define and articulate the Radford experience for prospective students and their parents, current students and parents, faculty and staff, and alumni.



The three goals of this marketing and branding initiative are:

Student recruitment

Colleges across the country are experiencing increased competition for qualified applicants. In recent years, Radford University has experienced success in recruiting new classes, but faces an increasingly competitive market. Many prospects do not consider Radford University because they do not know about the University. Having a cohesive story to tell about the University will help Radford continue to be successful in attracting students who would benefit from the opportunities available to them at Radford University.

Alumni pride and support

Consistently, Radford University has heard from alumni that they want to see their alma mater be more proactive and public in telling its story. They want the University to promote what makes the institution special and reflect the transformational experiences that they had as students. This in turn increases the value of their Radford University degrees.

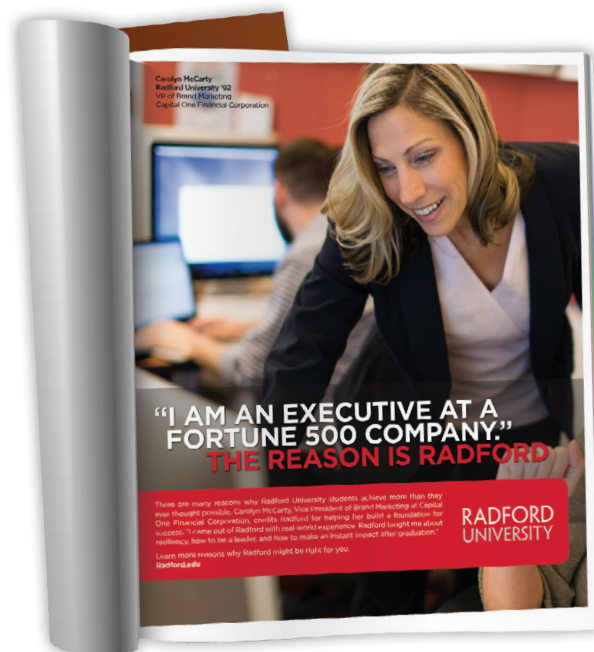
Faculty and staff recruitment

Students and alumni know what makes Radford University special – its faculty and staff and their dedication to student success! The university wanted to tell that story in the marketplace to recruit the next generation of faculty and staff who put their students first and can continue the legacy of what makes Radford University unique.

Who are we?

The research behind the brand

The University and its branding partners conducted extensive research through focus groups and surveys into how the institution is viewed by people engaged with the University and those who may have heard of Radford University, but are not connected to it. The goal was to find an underlying theme from what people say about the institution so that the brand campaign tells Radford’s story in a genuine and compelling way for all audiences – prospective students, current students, parents, alumni, and faculty and staff.





“Radford is a place where you can become who you want to be.”

“The resulting brand is authentic because it articulates Radford University’s success stories based on the real experiences of our students, faculty and alumni.”

President Penelope W. Kyle

The birth of the brand

Through on- and off-campus research, the group learned that “Radford is the reason” students and alumni discovered their potential and achieved success beyond what they thought possible. “We were very conscientious to listen to alumni groups from various backgrounds, geographical regions and class years. Across all of the many groups of people we spoke to – alumni, students, parents, prospective students and their parents, faculty and staff – there were so many similarities in the reaction to and enthusiasm for Radford University. It was also very clear that Radford University has a proud story to share and this effort will help us find our voice,” said Joe Carpenter, Radford University Vice President for University Relations and Chief Communications Officer.

During the focus groups and interviews, both alumni and upperclassmen said that Radford gives students guidance and a place to develop into self-confident adults prepared to achieve success in life. Current and former students emphasized that Radford is a place where mentors inside and outside the classroom and friends in clubs and organizations helped them find their strengths, passions and career paths. Thirdly, those interviewed stated Radford University’s welcoming and friendly campus is a first and lasting impression for all.

These messages also resonated with potential students and parents, and led to the adoption of the slogan “The Reason is Radford” as the marketing campaign theme for 2015-16 and beyond.

Going public

“Radford University’s branding and marketing initiative is an important undertaking for our institution, and we wanted it to be informed by extensive research, which included listening to those who know our university best. The resulting brand is authentic because it articulates Radford University’s success stories based on the real experiences of our students, faculty and alumni. Implementation of the brand will provide a disciplined framework for us to more effectively tell the inspiring personal stories that represent the tremendous opportunities here at Radford University,” said President Penelope W. Kyle.

“I am excited about the potential impact this initiative can have to introduce Radford University to many new audiences that we have not been able to reach yet,” she continued.

The brand strategy is also being integrated into a cohesive identity across campus, and new print, online and outdoor advertising was launched in the spring. Advertisements have already been placed in media such as the Capitals and Wizards game books, newspapers, magazines, billboards, radio, digital platforms and search engine marketing in several Virginia markets. The full launch of the marketing initiative will occur with the return of students for fall 2015. ■

FORGE YOUR
FUTURE

RADFORD
UNIVERSITY

The Reason is Radford



“We need to let people know that Radford stands for amazing opportunities during and after college.”

Radford.edu

THE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEAD ON
CAMPUS TAUGHT ME HOW TO SUCCEED.
THE REASON IS RADFORD

RADFORD UNIVERSITY



Ideas?

Do you know a student, alumnus, or faculty or staff member who exemplifies Radford University? Please send an email to TheReasonIsRadford@radford.edu to nominate someone to be featured in upcoming Radford University “The Reason is Radford” advertisements.





No Lazy Summer

Special programs enliven campus

By Chad Osborne

Lora Gordon



Camp Invention

Lora Gordon



RUBY



Camp Invention

L.S. King



Summer Bridge

Lora Gordon

IF YOU THINK life on the Radford University campus slows to a snail's pace when students leave after Spring Commencement, think again.

The summer of 2015, like all Radford University summers, will see loads of activity, ranging from school kids conducting science experiments with university professors to athletes running, kicking, throwing and playing.

Add to the mix summer sessions of undergraduate and graduate classes.

So, what is happening at Radford this summer? If you step onto campus during June, July and August, here's what you can expect:

Radford University welcomed **Virginia Boys State** back to campus for the third consecutive year, June 21-27.

The nearly 800 Boys State attendees participated in a variety of activities that reflect the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities of a citizen. The training is designed as

an objective, nonpartisan examination of the United States government system. Activities included mock legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, visits by Virginia legislators, assemblies as well as music and recreational programs.

Camp Invention is an exciting, week-long adventure in creativity that immerses children in imaginative play that reinforces and supplements school-year learning in the subjects of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). At this summer's camp from June 22-26, children worked together to seek innovative solutions to real-world challenges and sharpened critical learning skills.

Since 2010, Radford University has been selected by the Virginia Department of Education to host the **Governor's School** program, which gives junior and senior high school students an opportunity to explore their creativity in music, visual and performing arts and the humanities. Students



Jon Beard



Virginia Boys State

Charlie Whitescarver



Governor's School

Lora Gordon



Governor's School

Lora Gordon

choose the classes that most pique their interest from a varied curriculum taught by faculty members and guest instructors. This summer's program began June 28.

Beginning June 28, the **RUBY International Summer Intensive Program** took to the stage at Radford. This classical-based program is ideal for serious and dedicated ballet students age 12 and older who have had a minimum of two years of ballet training and at least one year of pointe training for girls. The two-week concentrated coursework for intermediate and advanced level students helps young dancers realize their higher potential.

The College of Science and Technology **Summer Bridge STEM** program is a week-long residential experience for rising sophomore, junior and senior high school girls interested in science, technology and mathematics. The 2015 edition of the program happened July 12-17. Participants got a unique opportunity to work on field experiments with professors in

such subjects as space exploration, environmental science, forensic science and the biology and chemistry applications of medicine.

For a second consecutive year, the week-long residential learning experience, called **Summer STEAM Academy**, brought rising sixth, seventh and eighth graders from around the Commonwealth to campus with a mission of exposing those eager-to-learn students to STEM disciplines.

This year's Summer STEAM was held July 12-18 and offered four courses. Two of those courses were taught by Radford University faculty members, giving the middle school students an opportunity to learn complex subjects from university professors.

The university's athletics coaches host their own sports camps for youth in the region. Whether a one-day clinic or overnight camp, campers have fun learning fundamentals. Visit www.ruhighlanders.com for more information.

Lazy days of summer are nonexistent on Radford University's campus. Learning happens year-round! ■





HOMECOMING 2015

October 16-18

Register for Homecoming and Family Weekend 2015

Alumni and friends will be celebrating their Highlander spirit during Homecoming and Family Weekend 2015 scheduled for October 16 – 18 on campus.

Come back to campus for homecoming and celebrate.

There are a lot of activities planned just for you during this special weekend. And the largest event of the weekend, the Alumni and Family Village on Moffett Lawn, will be filled with colorful tents showcasing alumni and student groups.

Connect with your alma mater through the alumni relations social media channels. Visit Radford University to learn about the exciting progress happening on campus, including the completion or construction of some of the newest campus facilities:

- **Student Recreation and Wellness Center**
- **Center for the Sciences**
- **College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences Building**

Join the newest alumni and friend community at Radford University through Radford Connection.

Visit connect.radford.edu to log in and register for Homecoming!

For a full listing of athletic, alumni and family events, visit www.radford.edu/homecoming.

Homecoming Weekend Highlights

\$ denotes fee required * denotes advance registration required Unless otherwise indicated, events are free.

Friday, October 16

4 - 5:30 p.m.

Radford Baseball Intrasquad Scrimmage and Alumni Heckling *
Dedmon Center Complex, Radford Baseball Field

4 - 6 p.m.

College of Business and Economics Reception and Faculty Mini Lectures *
College of Business and Economics, Rooms 320 and 340

All COBE alumni, current students and families are invited to a reception and series of faculty mini lectures on hot business topics from your favorite professors.

5 p.m.

College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences Advisory Board and Alumni Reception *
Heth Lawn (rain location - Heth 014)
This reception, hosted by the dean and faculty of the college, offers the opportunity to stop by and shake hands with fellow alumni and friends. Complimentary refreshments will be provided.



Saturday, October 17

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Alumni Open Meeting *
College of Business and Economics, Classroom 320
Alumni Relations will showcase the latest university news and discuss how you can volunteer. All alumni are encouraged to attend.

9:30 a.m. - Noon

Admissions Open House for Alumni Families *
Martin Hall, First Floor
Radford alumni with high school aged children are invited to attend an admissions open house to learn about our campus, academics, research and internship programs. You will hear more about our admissions and financial aid processes, and, most importantly, you can ask questions! To register and learn more about this event, please contact Justin Carter '13 at jcarter109@radford.edu.

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Forensic Science Institute Tours
Preston Hall, Annex
Sponsored by the Anthropology Department
Meet the faculty and learn about the unique hands-on training that prepares students for professional careers in a variety of forensic medico-legal settings.

Greenhouse Tours

Reed Hall, First Floor
Sponsored by the Biology Department
Sometimes you have to stop and smell the roses. Enjoy a tour of Radford's Greenhouse, which maintains a diverse living collection that demonstrates ecological concepts and culturally important plants throughout the world.

Table Top Trebuchet Demonstration

Reed Hall Lawn
Sponsored by the Math Department
Witness the wonders of trigonometry in everyday life as a floating arm trebuchet launches small, soft projectiles and lands them with pinpoint precision. Demonstrations every 15 minutes.

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

"Women of Radford" Luncheon \$ *
College of Business and Economics, Multipurpose Room 340
\$18 per adult
President Penelope W. Kyle cordially invites all women of the Radford family to attend. Reminisce about Radford's history as an all-women's school and celebrate the Radford women of today. Attire is dressy casual, and you are encouraged to wear your hats and pearls. Best hat wins a prize. President Kyle will share Radford women's leadership roles starting with Dean Moffett to the present. This year's event is sponsored by Woods Edge in Blacksburg, Virginia.

1 p.m.

Baseball Alumni Reunion and Game *
Dedmon Center Complex, Radford Baseball Field
Cheer on Radford's baseball alumni as they battle against the current Highlanders. A cookout will follow the game.

1 - 7 p.m.

Planetarium Show
Reed/Curie Hall, Room B43
Ever wonder what it's like to have a vertical leap that eclipses Michael Jordan's? Come watch the "Great Planet Adventures" and see what it's like to jump in zero-gravity, snow-mobile

through the snowbanks of Pluto, glide over the hydrocarbon lakes of Titan and much more.

Show times are 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Pick up free tickets to the show at the Hurlburt Student Center Information Desk. Space is limited.

2 - 5 p.m.

Alumni and Family Village *
Moffett Lawn (rain or shine)
All alumni, family and reunion participants will celebrate the weekend at the Alumni Village, the largest weekend event! The main tent is a great meeting place for class reunions and will include dance music from alumnus DJ Shock, alumni authors and refreshments. Enjoy the Lacrosse Alumni Game on Moffett Lawn and the Chariot Races' return for the special halftime program.

Throughout the afternoon, colorful tents highlight the Highlander pride of alumni and student groups! Affinity student and alumni groups can request a small tent, table and chairs to decorate and showcase their school spirit! Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 1-888-478-4723 to reserve your spot.

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The Golden Reunion Dinner \$ *
The Governor Tyler House
\$35 per adult
Members of the Class of 1965 and previous Golden Reunion classes will have a special dinner with President Penelope W. Kyle to celebrate their time at Radford. Classmates will reconnect and share their favorite Radford tales. Registered guests will be shuttled to and from the Comfort Inn Hotel starting at 6:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

National Pan-Hellenic Council StompFest Step Show \$ *
Preston Hall, Bondurant Auditorium
\$8; Radford University students w/ ID free
Sponsored by Radford University NPHC
Don't miss roll call! Watch student and alumni groups step it out to see who will take home the top prize.

Sunday, October 18

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Highlander Weekend Brunch \$
Dalton Dining Hall
\$11 at the door
Have brunch with your classmates and friends before you head home. Enjoy a carving station, made-to-order omelets, breakfast and lunch entrées.



“AMERICAN GARDEN”

Selu Nurtures Caretakers' Love of the Land



By Don Bowman

Photos by Lora Gordon

If a place can speak, then the 380-acre Selu Conservancy came through loud and clear to Will '15 and Lindsay Dowd '13. The Dowds have made their mark on this slice of paradise. After Will's graduation from Radford University, they embark on their future beyond Selu. However, they say the property will always be a part of their life and accomplishments.

"Selu is so beautiful and has so much potential. It is a laboratory, a classroom, a recreation site, a habitat and a haven," said Will, a May 2015 geospatial sciences graduate. "I have been fortunate. I feel like I know every tree."

Reporting to Jeff Armistead who was director of Selu Conservancy during their tenure, the Dowds served as on-site-caretakers and champions for Selu.

"Will and Lindsay's contributions, advocacy, leadership and enthusiasm have been invaluable," he said.

The path by which the Dowds arrived at Radford University and Selu is one navigated by curiosity — not convention.

As middle-schoolers, they met at a summer camp and became buddies. Unhappy with the high school experience and life in Smithfield, Virginia, Will gassed up his Jeep "to look for America," as Simon and Garfunkel once sang. An early stop on Will's journey of discovery was to see his pal, Lindsay, in Atlanta.

She invited herself along on an adventure that included national parks, back roads and small towns. In the process, a friendship blossomed into a romance, and they married in 2010.

A chance encounter in Arizona with a traveling nurse crystallized Lindsay's interest in pursuing her nursing degree and a nursing career. She received her associate's degree at Virginia Western Community College and her bachelor's degree in nursing at Radford University. She has worked in the post-neurological trauma unit and now is a member of her hospital's research committee.

She is excited about an upcoming project that will brighten the walls of the hospital. Her research project about the positive impact of art on healing led her to propose and champion a project by which Lewis Gale Montgomery and the Radford University College of Visual and Performing Arts would combine to feature student-generated art in the hospital environment.

With their experiences, education and enthusiasm, the Dowds have invested heavily in their part-time job at Selu. "From the time we met as teenagers, we knew we were looking

“Here at Radford University and at Selu, we found a place and a community that inspires us and has brought out our best.”

Lindsay Dowd '13



Will '15 and Lindsay '13 Dowd listen during the gardening workshop they hosted this spring at SELU as Jason Pall of Glade Road Growing, Blacksburg, explains the proper way to irrigate a garden.

for something we hadn't found. Here at RU and at Selu, we found a place and a community that inspires us and has brought out our best," said Lindsey.

"Nursing done well is demanding. It can be hard on a person's spirit. Here at Selu, I have found a way to make it work," she said. "I can give my patients my all, and Selu restores me and inspires me."

Officially, Will was the caretaker of the conservancy that lies along the Little River, 20 minutes from campus. During their two-year tenure at Selu, the Dowds invested sweat equity into its physical resources and added promotion and academic outreach to the caretaker's role.

Typical of their passionate evangelism for Selu, the Dowds began two grassroots initiatives in support of the conservancy's 25th anniversary: the formation of the Selu Garden and Service Club and its subsequent garden project. RU students and friends built, planted and harvested a 100-foot by 60-foot, 10-bed garden to generate produce for area fresh food pantries and club members.



Courtesy photo

Photo, upper right: Participants in the SELU Gardening Workshop look through free seed packets brought in by one of the gardening groups that presented at the workshop. The seeds were free to gardeners who plan to garden at SELU this summer.

“There are many examples of outstanding undergraduate and graduate research happening at Selu.”

President Penelope W. Kyle

The club’s first effort, which began with seeds donated by the New River Valley Chapter of the Virginia Master Gardeners, culminated with a fall harvest of more than 100 pounds of Selu-grown produce. Corn, tomatoes, squash, zucchini, cucumbers, green beans, eggplant, watermelon, cantaloupe, rosemary, thyme, sage and lavender were donated by the group to the Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread and the Meals-On-Wheels program. For its 2015 garden, plans are just as ambitious.

At Homecoming 2014, the Friends of Selu hosted a 25th Anniversary Celebration at which President Penelope W. Kyle detailed the academic value of this unique place for RU students and programs. President Kyle recounted some of the research assets that Selu provides: an aviary, a teaching and research reptile collection, an observatory and The Farm at Selu, which gives visitors a glimpse of farming life in the 1930s through guided tours, interactive demonstrations and exhibits.

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

John Bowles, who donated the initial 185-acre tract of his family’s ancestral land to found Selu, was also in attendance at the celebration.

In the last two semesters, ten different research projects have been conducted from a variety of disciplines including interior design and recreation, parks and tourism.

As they reflected on their rich and varied RU experience, the Dowds were unanimous in giving thanks.

“As a nurse, RU allowed me the flexibility to tailor my education and development with research experience,” she said.

Will marveled at the positive changes he has undergone.

“Radford University brought out more in me than I imagined possible. I have had opportunity after opportunity since I got here and have grown so much,” he said. ■



“Perfect Academic Setting” FOR STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL

By Haley Frazier '15

JUNE JENNINGS '86 has served the Commonwealth of Virginia for almost three decades and was recently appointed State Inspector General.

She now oversees the state's programs of performance reviews, inspections and investigations. She also manages the whistle blower reward program and the state fraud, waste and abuse hotline in addition to providing guidance to the internal audit programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia. “This has been the most challenging and rewarding position in my career in state service. I stay here because I strongly feel we are making a difference,” says Jennings.

Before it all began, Jennings wanted to attend a university that was the right fit for her. “I was very apprehensive about attending a large university. Radford University provided me with the perfect academic setting and the comfort that I needed,” says Jennings.

While at Radford, Jennings made lasting friendships that she cherishes to this day. “I was an accounting major, so a lot of my time was spent studying. If I was not in the books, though, I enjoyed the beautiful scenery in the mountains and would always try to spend time hiking or relaxing at Bisset Park,” says Jennings.

When Jennings graduated from Radford University, she left with the mindset that hard work and commitment are critical for success. With that attitude, Jennings made her way to the Office of the State Inspector General and has not looked back since. “I have worked for the Commonwealth for over 28 years now. I have always loved the work that I do and find it to be very rewarding,” says Jennings.

Jennings reflects often on her Radford days. “The university has changed so much since I attended. I am very proud of its growth and

accomplishments,” says Jennings. She encourages current students to take full advantage of their time at RU. “The university has so many options and opportunities. It is important to explore all of the programs and find your niche. Most importantly, remember that hard work and commitment are the keys to success,” says Jennings. ■



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FEELING CRABBY



Diagnosing a Crustacean Infection

By Dan Waidelich

Dan Metz

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE LINED SHORE CRAB.

INFECTIONS are flaring in the crabs – native to Pacific coasts and small enough to fit in the palm of your hand – and parasites are the culprit.

Enter parasite researcher Dan Metz, who graduated from Radford University with a B.S. in biology in May.

Metz spent the summer of 2014 in the salt flats and along the shoreline of Southern California and in the laboratory of the Marine Science Institute of the University of California, Santa Barbara developing methods to screen crabs for parasitic infection.

The research was made possible by a Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Sustainability (SEEDS) Undergraduate Research Fellowship from the Ecological Society of America (ESA). Metz received one of three 2014 fellowship spots.

“This was an infection in crabs that hadn’t been seen before,” Metz said. “So I went to see if I could figure out how it’s getting into the crab. It turned out to be a really challenging experience.”

That challenge paid off, however, as

Metz and his fellow researchers believe they discovered a new species of parasite, a finding that will need to be confirmed with further research.

Metz returned from his expedition among the shore crabs for his senior year at Radford University with more than a big discovery; he also gained practical experience that will serve him as he continues in his career.

With mentor Ryan Hechinger, currently an associate professor and research scientist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, Metz has continued work on the crab project, titled “Initial description and disease ecology of a putatively novel ciliated parasite of the lined shore crab, *Pachygrapsus crassipes*.”

“From my first conversation with him, Dan’s promise of being a successful scientist was obvious,” Hechinger said. “He was already clearly thinking like a scientist.”

As a SEEDS fellow, Metz will analyze and present his results at the 2015

ESA annual meeting in August. After that, he’ll be pursuing graduate degrees and research to further his interests as a parasite expert.

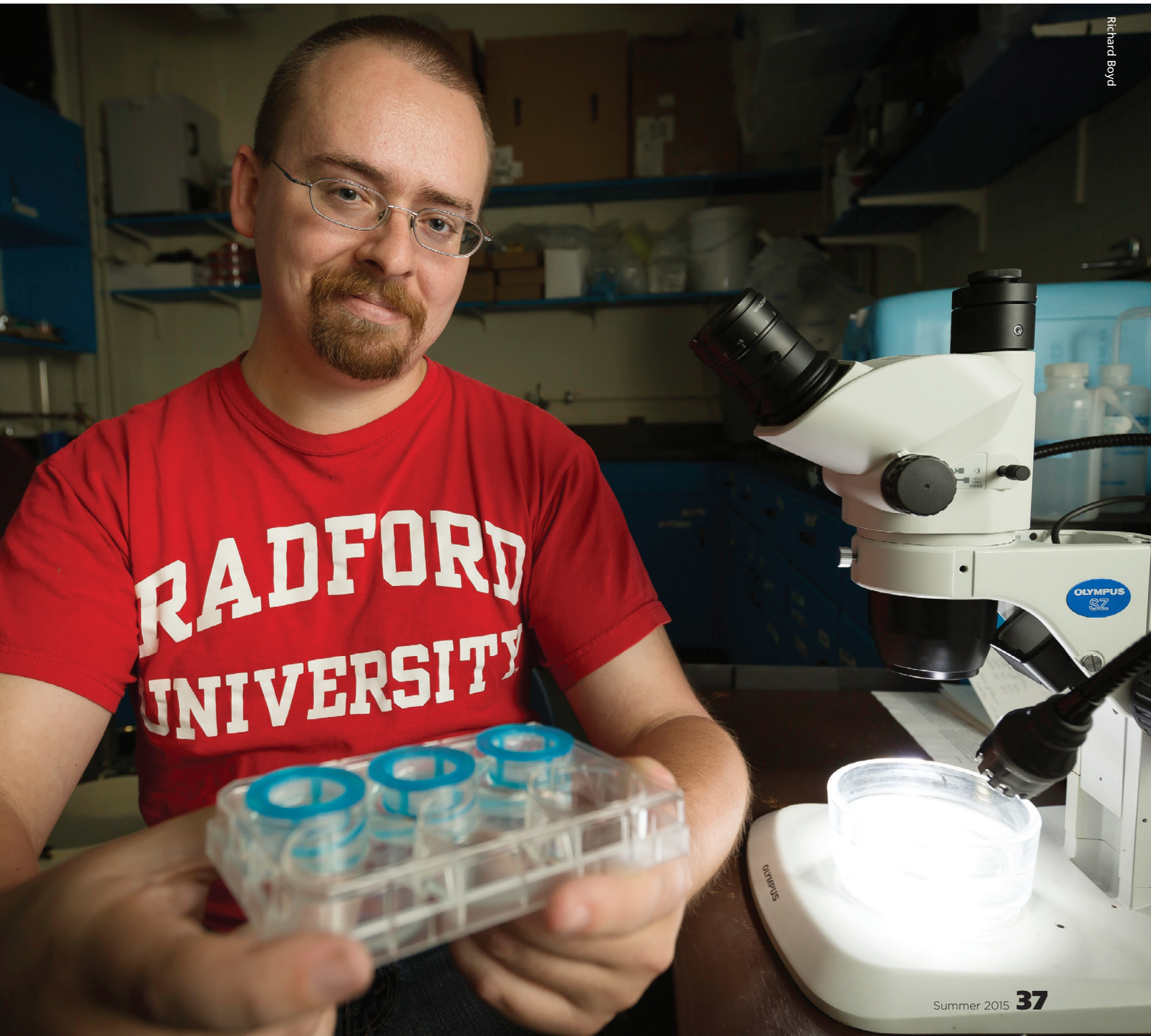
Metz was prepared for his work with Hechinger and other scientists on his SEEDS project by his RU-acquired foundations in gene amplification, scanning electron and phase contrast microscopy, and mathematical modeling. A multiple Radford University award winner, Metz has received a 2014 Outstanding Student Award, a 2013 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship and a 2013 Department of Biology Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award, among other honors.

“I went out [to California] to work in a lab that had no other undergraduate students,” Metz said, reflecting on his progress as a scholar and researcher. “They were amazed that I knew how to do things. I had experience with all of these techniques. They didn’t have to teach me how to use anything in the lab. Radford students are trained and we know how to use the equipment.” ■



“... I went to see if I could figure out how [the infection] was getting into the crab. It turned out to be a really challenging experience.”

Dan Metz



The Radford University Career Center, Office of Alumni Relations and College of Business and Economics joined forces during Wintermester 2014 to offer the new DC Experience: Connecting in Business course.

The three-credit class is designed to teach basic business concepts that students can apply in their future careers. Eleven students from across multiple disciplines and grade levels participated in the inaugural class. They studied online modules and applied in-classroom learning to the “real world” during a Washington, D.C. excursion.

The five-day trip to the U.S. capital included visits to four employer sites:

FedBid, Case Design, Edelman and the U.S. Capitol, where the students were hosted by alumni engaged in a broad range of business government and organizational leadership positions. There, they presented case studies related to course topics, such as accounting and economics, to senior staff members.

“Having to research and prepare case studies and then present them to executives of some of the companies was challenging and rewarding,” said junior business management major Peter Hart. It’s one thing to do presentations in class, but doing this in front of business people in their offices was a whole different experience.”

Such an eye-opening and realistic experience is just what the course was designed to provide.

Coordinator of Career Services Ellen Taylor collaborated with Teresa Dickens, assistant director for Career Services; Sarah Rogis, associate director for Career and Internship Development in Northern Virginia; and Associate Professor of Marketing Gary Schirr, the course instructor, to create the curriculum. Office of Alumni Relations Executive Director Laura Turk and staff connected with RU alumni volunteers who work in the Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. area.

The sophomore, junior and senior students were responsible for their own

From left, Samantha Mullins, Alyson Pieno, Peter Hart, Allison Gilmore, Katelyn Smith and Nicole Montgomery at the Washington Monument



Bottom left: Students with Jay Rupert '95, deputy director at the House Periodical Press Gallery, center, during a visit to the Capitol
Bottom right: From left, Sarah Fowler, Samantha Mullins, Alyson Pieno and Allison Gilmore present a case study to executives at Edelman.



transportation and managing a full day's schedule – which usually started at 7:30 a.m. and concluded around 9:30 p.m.

Rogis traveled with the group for the majority of their trip and witnessed students stepping out of their comfort zone, she said.

“Some of these students aren't business majors. And some of these students had never been to Washington, D.C. before,” Rogis said. “But they all stepped up, were really invested and were great representatives of Radford University.”

Throughout the course, students researched, studied and

reached beyond what they were learning in the classroom to present strong case studies to the executive panels.

“We each brought our own strengths to the table,” said Hart, of Springfield. “Then to be able to combine that with meeting Radford alumni and learning from them was really rewarding.”

In addition to visiting the four employer sites, students also participated in two professional networking events. At D.C. Connect, students and alumni networked and participated in an activity during which alumni mentors offered students advice and information on a variety of topics, including job interview behavior and resume writing, at six “career stations.”

Alumni mentor Christopher H. Harr '09 of Immix Group said several of the students have already followed up with him since the event for internship opportunities.

“The students I met were clearly exceptional. It was evident to me that

there was a screening process, and that they were well prepared for the evening,” Harr said.

Through the second networking event, students met with Stephan Cassaday '76, who started a successful financial planning business, Cassaday & Company. Cassaday served on the Radford University Board of Visitors from 2000-04 and 2010-14.

That alumni-student link was a vital part of the class, both groups agreed, and was representative of the entire Radford University experience.

“It is important for our students to feel really good about their education and to see the sky is the limit,” Turk said. “Students can say ‘I am so proud to be at Radford because I met so many amazing alumni.’ And alumni can say ‘I am so proud of my alma mater because they continue to foster amazing students.’”

To see a video of RU's DC Experience, visit <http://vimeo.com/117393889>. ■

Networking *in the* Nation's Capital

By Don Bowman

Photos by Jaslyn Gilbert

Below: Tom Hanton '90 (bottom left) and Greg McCarthy '85 (bottom right) talk with students during D.C. Connect, a networking event where students were offered practical tips from alumni.



GO
BIG
or GO HOME



JORDAN
EAGLE is tuned in.

“I studied hard and then harder. I surprised myself.”

Jordan Eagle

By Don Bowman Photos by Lora Gordon and Jaslyn Gilbert

At Radford University, the junior physics major from Virginia Beach is amping up her scientific quest to be a radio astronomer.

In her brief academic and scientific careers, Eagle has studied polar ice degradation in Barrow, Alaska, served as a Summer Bridge teaching assistant and interned at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), Green Bank, West Virginia.

“It’s been one opportunity after another,” said Eagle, who declared her major despite never having taken a college-level physics course.

The decision was not based on her previous success or confidence in her math and science abilities, she added.

“I decided to go big or go home,” she said.

The leap of faith into physics started with a thud. She failed her first physics test, but rallied to see her grade rise to an A. Once the dream career path opened, Eagle has not looked back.

“I studied hard and then harder. I surprised myself,” she said. “Now I want to test myself more and more to see what I can do.”

Her current independent study project is to listen for the radio sounds of Jupiter, confirm them, and, hopefully, contribute her own data to the sparse, but growing,

international database of deep space radio signatures.

Toward that end, Eagle built and coordinated the installation of a 10-foot antenna on the roof of Curie Hall and wired to it a receiver – which she built – in the Advanced Physics Lab. She now combs the interstellar soundscape for a “popcorn popping sound caused by accelerated, excited electrons” generated light years away.

As a result of a reference from Physics Professor Jack Brockway, she interned at the NRAO. Experiencing high-level radio astronomy validated her aspirations.

“We did real radio astronomy on real projects,” she said. “I felt comfortable with such smart, enthusiastic scientists. It was just the kind of place I want to be.”

As a member of the 18-person team that developed a protocol for measuring polar ice on Alaska’s Chukshi Sea, she also found the company of scientists and the challenge of science alluring.

“We were out on the ice all day and looking at data all night. When problems occurred, we had to come together to solve them,” she said.

She joined the expedition’s presentation team at the Fall 2014 Meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco.

“It was a chance to meet scientists who are learning so many new things,” she said. “It’s nice to know I can learn, and now it is about learning and learning more.” ■

18 GOING ON 80



Adjunct Faculty Member Andrea Drake, M.S., OTR/L navigates a hallway wearing a suit designed to simulate the effects of aging.

Old-Age Simulator Inspires Empathy

By Mary Hardbarger

Photos by Lora Gordon

RADFORD UNIVERSITY nursing students experienced an intense dose of aging reality throughout the 2014-15 academic year.

When the young and aspiring health care professionals strapped on the heavy, complex gerontologic test (GERT) suit, it became clear that growing older means much more than wrinkles and gray hair.

"My legs feel so weak," said a student as she hobbled down the hallway.

"I don't know if I can make it," said another as she eyed a trip back up a flight of stairs, one that proved a struggle on the way down.

"I don't want to get old."

For the past two semesters, Radford University students have had the opportunity – enjoyable or not – to experience aging ails thanks to the GERT suit – an advanced outfit that simulates the challenges of old age.

The suit combines a weighted vest, knee braces and ankle and wrist weights to simulate muscle loss and reduced mobility. Accessories can be added to the ensemble to simulate hearing and eyesight loss. A tremor simulator makes hands uncontrollably shaky just as arthritis does. A hemiparesis simulator limits the effectiveness of one side of the body, a common complication of a stroke.

The suit, which costs about \$6,000, was gifted to the university by the School of Nursing's former director, Marcella Griggs, in 2014 and has enhanced the university's gerontological nursing curriculum as well as students' experiential learning.

Once suited up, students are tasked with completing a variety of common activities, such as writing, getting in and out of bed, climbing stairs and sorting pills and loose change.



Above: Mary Bennett (left) watches as Patience Cantrell experiences via age-simulation accessories a challenge many elderly people face daily: reading a pill bottle. Left: Kelsey Thomas, feeling the effects of old age thanks to the GERT suit, is helped down a flight of stairs by classmate Alex Derenzis.

"I was extremely shocked as to how hard doing a task as simple as walking was," said senior nursing student Teresa Williamson of Chesapeake. "I am on the track and field team at RU, so I am used to being able to do whatever I want physically with ease. Once I put on the suit, I could barely make it down the hallway without running out of breath and sweating."

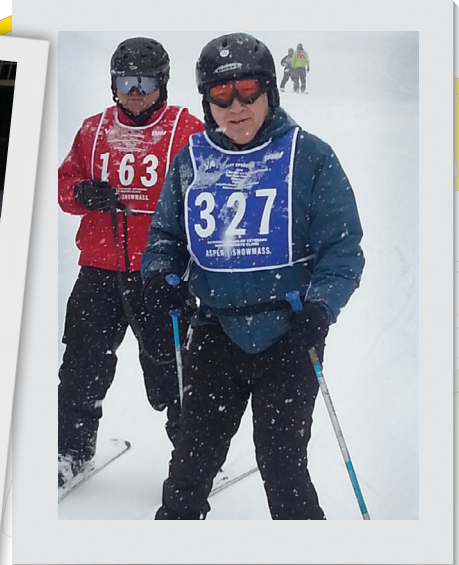
Such keen understanding allows students to identify with the older adults they may treat as patients one day, a population that is rapidly increasing, said professor Sarah Gilbert.

"The number of people 60 and older will triple from 605 million to 2 billion in 2050, according to the World Health Organization," Gilbert said.

"Since most of our students will practice in acute care settings, it is imperative that we are able to care for older adults using compassion, empathy and the most current evidence and research."

While extremely helpful in the study of gerontological nursing, the suit will also be used in other departments as proof of its effectiveness spreads across campus, said professor Katie Katz, who teaches the course with Gilbert.

"I think that all the departments in Waldron College may find this helpful in training students who will work with older adults," Katz said. ■



Courtesy photos

Keeping Up with Wes

For Wes Price, an active lifestyle is the only option.

Whether Price, an Air Force veteran from New Castle, Virginia, is doing 20 miles on his bike, spending warm days kayaking on the river or taking pictures around the New River Valley, he remains always in motion.

Not too bad for a man recovering from a debilitating stroke.

Four years ago, Price suffered a stroke, which affected the left side of his body, leaving him with little movement and stunted speech. Today, Price has made incredible strides in reclaiming his motion and voice, partly with the assistance of Radford University's Department of Occupational Therapy (OT).

"I needed one to two years to talk," Price said of his vocal abilities. Of his arm movement, he had just as much of a hurdle. "My arm, it was dead."

Occupational therapists are health care professionals who help clients with special needs learn or relearn how to take care of themselves in daily life. From broken bones to more serious issues, such as Price's debilitating stroke, occupational therapists do their part in making life easier for their clients.

"A big goal of [Price's therapy] has been getting him back into doing the

Radford Department of Occupational Therapy helps the differently abled get back to their lives.

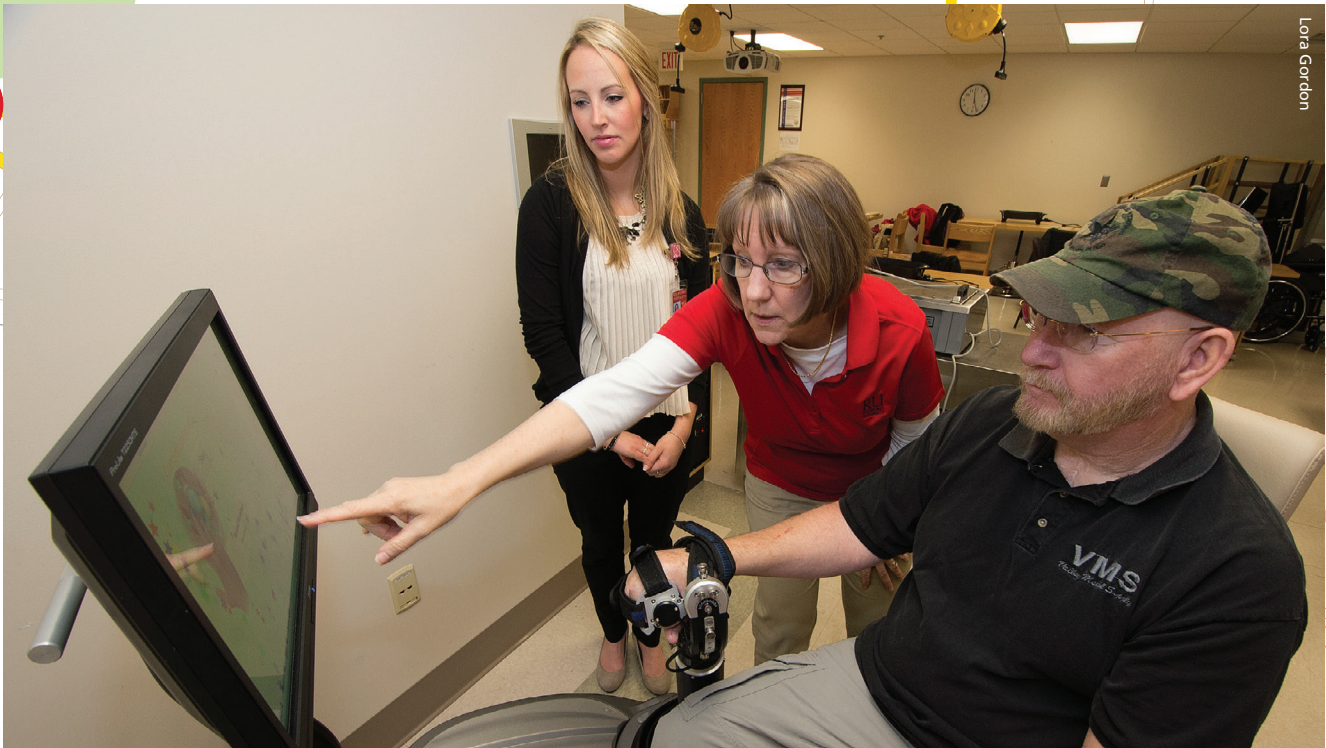
By Dan Waidelich

things that he used to do before the stroke," said Sheila Krajnik, assistant professor of OT and one of Price's therapists. "We also want to facilitate his ability to be satisfied with how he can do it."

Currently, Radford University offers a master of occupational therapy degree. The mission of the OT program is to prepare students for a career in helping to rebuild lives and encourage and improve the capabilities of those they work with.

"A stroke affects people so differently," Krajnik said. "For Wes, his thinking is fine, but it's his body that needed help."

After the stroke, Price's left arm was nearly immobile. Through extensive therapy, his range of movement increased. The range keeps growing with each OT session. In a typical



Occupational therapy student Patience Cantrell observes as Sheila Krajnik talks with Price in RU's OT lab about a dexterity game he plays on-screen, one of many rehabilitation exercises he does to regain his mobility.

“A big goal of [Price's therapy] has been getting him back into doing the things that he used to do before the stroke.”

Sheila Krajnik, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy

hour-long session, Price works with a machine with a large handle. When he manipulates the handle, the movements are shown on an attached monitor. That monitor can also tell him where to move the handle, giving his arms a workout designed to win back movement. A computer tracks his success and shows him improvements from session to session.

“We celebrate the small successes,” Krajnik said.

Aside from just being able to move, an important part of the rehabilitation is working on speed and control. Machines like the ones used in the OT department can deliver the precise directions and multiple repetitions that clients like Price need.

Even though Price hasn't gained back all the movement he lost, he has found that with the right assistance, he is still

able to maintain his active lifestyle. He lives on his own and is still able to drive himself where he needs to go. A recumbent tricycle allows him to take the same long rides as a two-wheeled bike. Text-to-speech applications on his phone and tablet help him fill in his speech when needed. And a specially designed paddle grip for his kayak helps him enjoy the river.

One of the OT students who has worked with Price and Krajnik is second-year Kate Burch, of Christiansburg, Virginia. Burch worked with the professor to produce Price's paddle grip. The design for the custom neoprene grip came from Price; Krajnik and Burch located the materials and made it for him.

“We had to consider a variety of factors including function, comfort, safety and feasibility when creating the

paddle grip,” Burch said.

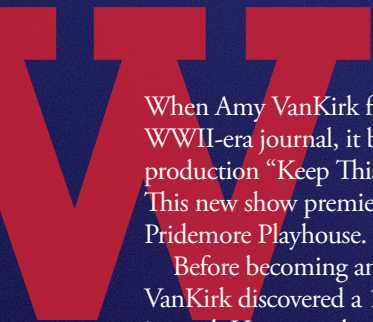
Working with actual clients like Price is an important part of OT education at Radford. These experiences take learning from the textbook pages into the practical realm.

“Working with clients helps you to apply the information and skills that you are learning in class to real-life situations,” Burch said. “This, in turn, helps you to better understand and retain the course information and skills.”

Those skills will undoubtedly make a difference in the lives of patients. OT sessions at Radford, with Krajnik and students like Burch, have certainly helped Price live independently and actively.

One of his latest adventures? In March, he and some fellow differently abled veterans hit the slopes in Aspen, Colorado.

What have you done lately? ■



When Amy VanKirk found pages of her grandfather's WWII-era journal, it became the inspiration for the musical production "Keep This For Me: Memories of the Last War." This new show premiered Jan. 30 at Radford University's Pridemore Playhouse.

Before becoming an assistant professor of dance at RU, VanKirk discovered a 14-page letter in her grandfather's journal. He wrote the journal while stationed in Italy with the Army Air Corps during World War II. His words and other family mementos motivated her to create a 20-minute dance production for her Master of Fine Arts thesis at the University of Arizona.

"The journal entries are gruesome, terrifying, touching, hopeful, and most importantly, true," VanKirk said about this direct view into the life of her grandfather as a 25-year-old man during the war.

Since joining the RU faculty, she knew she could do more with the story. Rather than just focusing on dance, she saw a bigger picture. The RU School of Dance and Theatre was the perfect place to begin.

"In 2012, the School of Dance and Theatre embarked on our first joint production of original works with dance and theatre students and faculty working collaboratively," said Carl Lefko, director of the School of Dance and Theatre. As a follow-up to the success of the first production, "Keep This For Me" was the next iteration of this initiative.

"The show quickly snowballed into a large-scale, full-length production involving students and faculty from numerous departments across the college and the university," VanKirk said. "Keep This For Me" included theatre, dance, media and music, along with an onstage, big band orchestra. All five departments within the College of Visual and Performing Arts were involved, as was Matthew Oyos, professor of history from the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences.

VanKirk also enlisted Tommy Iafrate, assistant professor of theatre, as a co-director.

Together they devised an original script. They spent hours poring over hundreds of pages of VanKirk's family documents, letters, articles and journals, sorting through spellings of German cities, and double-checking dates to make sure the script was consistent.



Keep This For Me

A veteran's
memories come
to life on the stage

By Leslie King

Photo by Lora Gordon

The widespread pain of war, soldiers longing for home and peace, the nostalgia of calendar girls, and a sense of hopefulness were all present in this production. The cast included: Shannon Comerford, Molly Cox, Ashley Dobrogosz, Grace Ellinghaus, Lauren Faulkner, Brenna Featherston, Rachel Gattoni, Forrest Goodwin, Aja Gore, Brandon Goss, JoBeth Hardin, Zach Helms, Marley Holliday, Doina Jeter, Chelsea McGinnis, Jodie McKaughan, Taylor Moore, Haley Race, Matthew Robinson, Grace Smiley, Tori Unterberger, Caleb Waybright and Marcus Wooling.

VanKirk also served as the choreographer and Iafate as musical director. Dayl Burnett, instructor of music, led the big band. Several other faculty and staff were involved as members of the technical crew: Andrew O'Neal as technical director, David Wheeler as lighting designer/production manager, Jimmy Ray Ward as scenic designer, Cathleen Connor as costume designer and Professor John Jacob as adviser for the historical accuracy of costuming.

"Keep This For Me" so beautifully demonstrates what this College of Visual and Performing Arts does so well ... students and faculty actively engaged in the creative process, collaboration and the communication of memorable ideas through the lens of artistic expression," said Margaret Devaney, dean of the CVPA. ■

“The journal entries are gruesome, terrifying, touching, hopeful, and most importantly, true.”

Amy VanKirk, Assistant Professor of Dance



ALUMNI EXHIBITION

Bill Wightman, M.F.A. '90

"Careers I'll Never Have"



BILL WIGHTMAN'S body of work "Careers I'll Never Have" appeared on campus in spring 2015 as part of the "Beyond the Tartan" exhibition series. Wightman, now a professor of art education at James Madison University, earned his M.F.A. in 1990 from Radford University, and said his experiences in the M.F.A. program provided him with a strong studio and historical foundation, allowing him to find success as both professor and administrator.

In "Careers I'll Never Have," Wightman explores concepts like human capacity and performance with playfulness and self-reflexivity. One work in the series, top right, features Wightman dressed like a doctor,

a surgical mask covering the true expression on his face. Would you trust that man to do surgery on you? Wightman leaves it to his viewers to decide how well he'd perform.

The RU Art Museum biannually selects M.F.A. alumni from the Department of Art to exhibit current work in their "Beyond the Tartan" exhibition. Each semester, the gallery features the work of a different alumnus who is a professional in the field. ■



Seeing It Differently

By Leslie King

RANDOM OBJECTS, creative name badges and mask making brought new insights when Radford University art education majors shared an interactive class with nine students from Mexico.

On the Covington Center classroom front desk sat four items: a glue gun, a rock, a hammer and a stuffed animal. Discussing the similarities and differences among these items, RU students mingled with their international guests.

In this exercise, Richard Bay, professor of art education, explained such activities used in an elementary classroom setting help children increase their perspectives through comparison.

Seemingly different items have many commonalities, much like the two cultures that combined during this unique classroom opportunity. Through this, both cohorts gained a deeper understanding about each other's perceptions and culture.

"When RU students interact with international students, they acquire a different set of skills," said Charlene Dandrow, associate director of the Language and Cultural Institute at Radford University (LCI@RU). "They develop an important 'literacy' that enables them to successfully engage with diversity, which nowadays is a crucial skill to have in the competitive global market."

Dandrow organized the international visit. Through a partnership with Virginia Tech, LCI@RU provides language-related programs and services for academic and professional development.

Most of the guest students originated from Benemerito Instituto Normal Del Estado General Juan Crisostomo Bonilla

Peublo, Mexico. The majority of the students are kindergarten through sixth grade elementary education majors, while one student is industrial engineering at the Instituto Tecnológico de Puebla.

These students were part of a new Mexican government-supported program called Mexican Proyecto 100,000, the goal of which is to sponsor 100,000 Mexican college students from all majors, along with professionals, to study English in the United States for one month by 2018.

When applying to host this group, Dandrow asked specifically for student-teachers. Including them in Bay's class was one way to provide more events that would enhance the group's academic studies.

Bay's class provided several activities, as opposed to a straight lecture, including making artistic name badges with pre-cut shapes of paper, comparison studies and paper mask making.

"Since we were in a one-on-one situation, it offered a personal exchange between these groups," Bay said.

This experience left the Radford University students wanting to continue the culture exchange. Both groups overwhelmingly agreed that they wanted to spend more time together.

Scott Ford, one of the RU art education majors, summed up the benefits of this learning opportunity: "Not only did we learn how people of another culture view what are soon to be our professions, but we all had a wonderful time working together and putting lesson plans that we could use in the future to practice with people who are sure to think about things in a way that is new to us." ■

Two Artists You Should Know

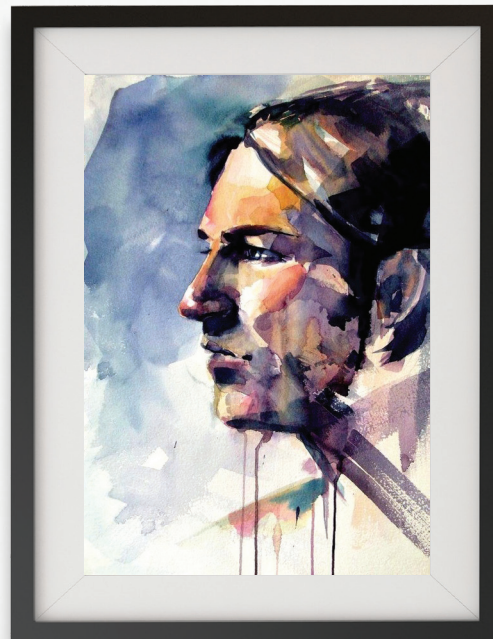
By Leslie King

JARROD WILSON, who is currently enrolled in Radford University's M.F.A. program, and Jordan Lively, M.F.A. '15, are among an accomplished group of artists chosen for Watercolor Artist magazine's December 2014 feature "10 Artists You Should Know," also known as "Ones to Watch."

"Ones to Watch' is a national competition that Watercolor Artist magazine puts on once a year to feature 10 artists of their choice," said Lively, who graduated in May.

Wilson elaborated on the selection process, explaining, "In order to be considered as one of the 'Ones to Watch' you have to be nominated by someone that Watercolor Artist asks to nominate rising watercolor painters."

Professor of Art Z.L. Feng is such a person. He nominated both.



↖ Jordan Lively



Jarrood Wilson ↗

In Feng's comments about Lively's portraits, he said, "Jordan wants to convey emotion in her watercolor portraits." She also strives for accuracy in proportions and bone structure, but keeps her brushwork loose and wet.

Wilson's subject matter is cars.

"Jarrod creates believable, realistic versions of cars with transparent watercolor by alternating between wet-into-wet and wet-on-dry," Feng said.

As for mixing art with a career, Lively and Wilson intend to share — or continue sharing — their talent and passion for creating art as educators.

Wilson currently teaches art and advanced placement art history at Galax High School in Galax, Virginia. He has taught for 14 years in the Galax school system. He plans to graduate from Radford University in spring 2016.

Lively plans to be an art professor. ■

RADFORD UNIVERSITY students once again took part in the annual Advocacy Day on Feb. 4, traveling to Richmond to meet state legislators and discuss issues important to the university community.

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe was one of many elected officials to hear from Radford University's most passionate student representatives. Throughout the day, the students shared their RU experiences with the legislators.

"I think that it's really important for our generation to be involved in the political process," said RU Student Government Association President Colby Bender, attending his second Advocacy Day. "Anything we can do to advocate for important issues regarding Radford is vital."

This year's event coincided with the quarterly meeting of the RU Board of Visitors (BOV) in Richmond. President Kyle and university administrators, joined by several BOV members, accompanied the students on their visits to their respective delegates and senators and a tour of the Virginia State Capitol.

In the morning, participants representing a broad range of Radford University organizations sat in on the Education Committee Meeting, where legislators discussed proposed legislation regarding higher education, among other topics.

"An event like this sheds light on the [higher education] community," said Lauren Faulkner '15, a theatre and English major. "It places RU in the thoughts of big decision-makers such as those that we encountered while in Richmond."

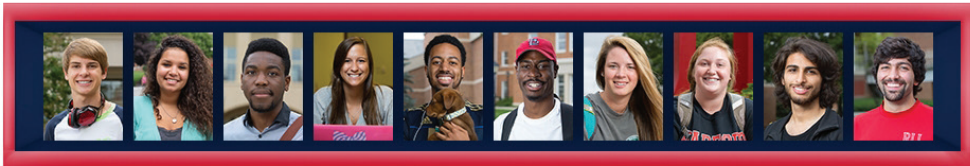
Student participants in Advocacy Day get more than a chance to tour the capitol. The experience also offers them a chance to develop their professional and civic connections.

"We got to sit down with these political leaders who decide on how much funding higher education institutions receive, and tell them about our own experiences and why Radford needs to be supported," said Alan Ward, a sophomore political science major. "Not only can the university benefit from continued support, but students can use the skills and connections built during their time in Richmond for careers after graduation." ■

Students Represent Radford in Richmond

By Dan Waidelech





100 FACES of RADFORD UNIVERSITY

By Mary Hardbarger

WHAT DO YOU see yourself doing in the next five years? What do you love most about Radford University? What is the most embarrassing thing that has happened to you? Do you prefer ham or turkey?

From serious to funny, these questions and dozens more were asked to Radford University students as part of the “100 Faces of Radford University” project, which launched in the spring.

During the fall semester, 100 students were stopped on campus at random and asked to be photographed. The student who had his or her portrait taken created a question for the next student to answer.

The creative conversation starter was orchestrated by RU’s Web Strategy and Interactive Media department. Multimedia Producer Jaslyn Gilbert was inspired by Jeremy Cowart, a motivational speaker for photographers who spoke at a conference Gilbert attended.

Cowart launched a similar project called PortraitQA, and Gilbert felt it was something that could be easily done at Radford University.

“I am always looking for new ways to showcase our students and increase social media engagement through multimedia,” Gilbert explained. “It was a great opportunity to visually highlight how diverse and unique our student body is at Radford University.”

Gilbert and student intern Chris Henry ’15 combed campus for participants, most of whom seemed very interested in the project and eager to take part.

Sidney Green, a sophomore from Aldie, Virginia, is pictured among 99 other RU students from varied backgrounds.

“At Radford, every student is more than just an ID number, and this project shows a small portion of our student body and how unique each individual is to our campus,” Green said.

Green is a former Quest orientation assistant, so when she was asked about her favorite RU experience thus far, her answer wasn’t far from reach.

“Stepping into leadership positions,” Green responded.

Sharing such informative, fun and thoughtful dialogue is what the project intended, Gilbert said.

“I hoped that students would see this as an opportunity to reach out to their fellow classmates – you never know who you might meet along the way,” Gilbert said.

Henry, who took 50 of the portraits, then built the “100 Faces of RU” website, with guidance from Web Strategy and Interactive Media staff.

Check out the creative campaign at www.radford.edu/content/radfordcore/home/100-faces.html. ■

Beyond the Classroom

*New Tool
Unveiled to Foster
Student Engagement*

By Mary Hardbarger

RADFORD UNIVERSITY students were welcomed back to campus this spring with an exciting new site to explore.

The RUInvolved website, powered by OrgSync, launched students’ first day back to class after Winter Break.

RUInvolved provides students with information to become actively involved with RU’s more than 250 clubs and organizations, service events and other campus programs. With news feeds, calendars and notifications, the portal centralizes all involvement information personalized to students’ interests.

“We shopped around and found a platform that we believe students will want to use,” said Assistant Director of Student Activities John Leonard.

Leonard said finding a fun and interactive system that would pique students’ interest and keep them engaged was important.

The new RUInvolved tracks student organization involvement and service hours to create student involvement records. A customizable ePortfolio can serve as a robust online record containing involvement, employment, documents and recommendations. There is also an RUInvolved app students can download to their mobile devices.

“Our ultimate goal with this site is to increase student participation,” Leonard said. “Participation leads to better retention, better grades, better socialization and more of a sense of belonging.”

Check out the new RUInvolved website at <https://orgsync.com/login/radford-university>. ■

A **Student** SNAPSHOT

Radford University international students come from 62 countries across the globe.

Countries with the most students on campus



Ethiopia
25



United Kingdom
20



Saudi Arabia
19



Ghana
16



Canada
10

Northern Virginia 32%
Undergraduate: 2,878
Graduate: 65
Alumni: 11,986

Southside 10%
Undergraduate: 849
Graduate: 91
Alumni: 5,272

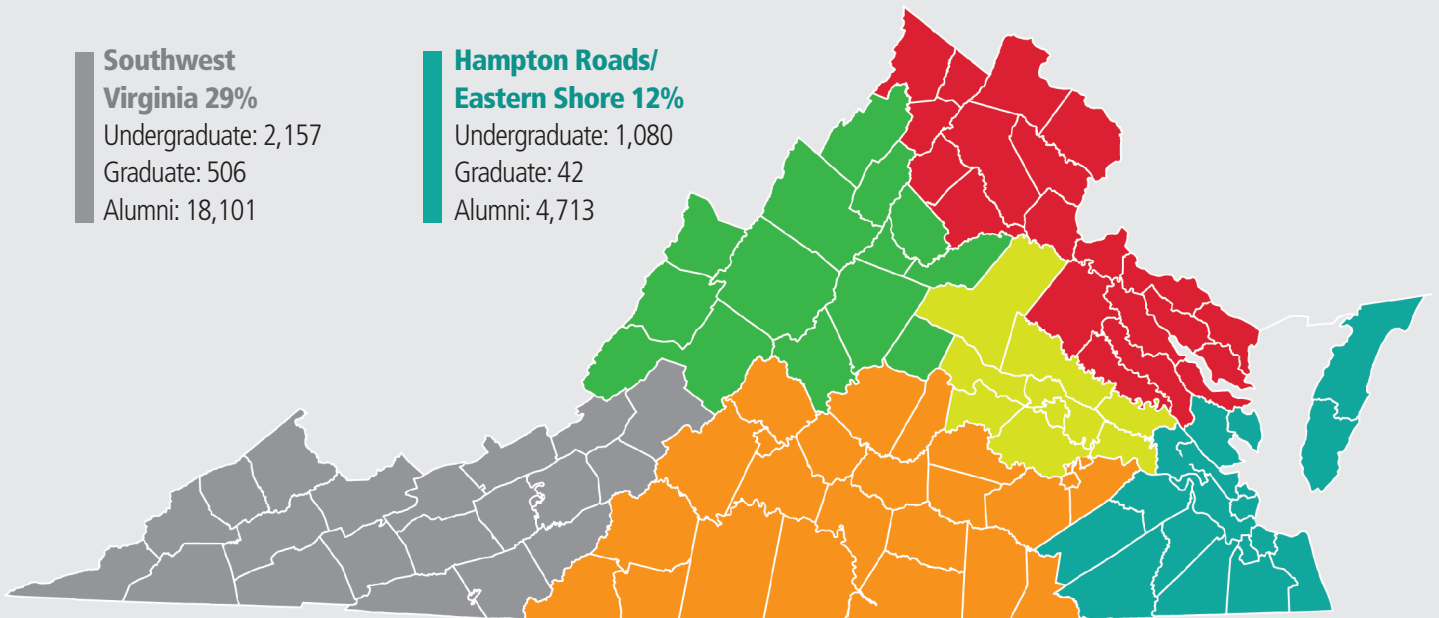
Valley Region 6%
Undergraduate: 515
Graduate: 39
Alumni: 3,261

Richmond Metro 10%
Undergraduate: 855
Graduate: 38
Alumni: 5,515

Southwest Virginia 29%
Undergraduate: 2,157
Graduate: 506
Alumni: 18,101

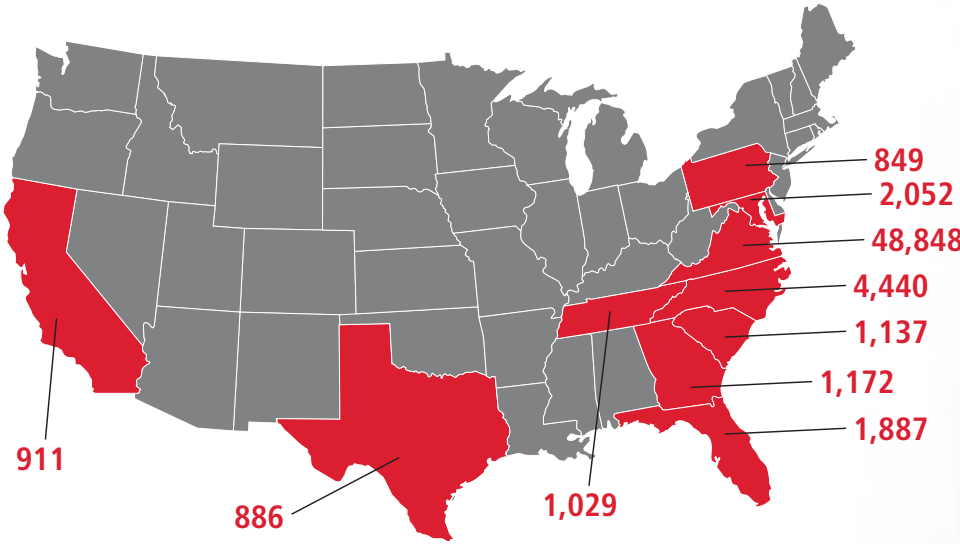
**Hampton Roads/
Eastern Shore 12%**
Undergraduate: 1,080
Graduate: 42
Alumni: 4,713

94%
of undergraduates
are from Virginia

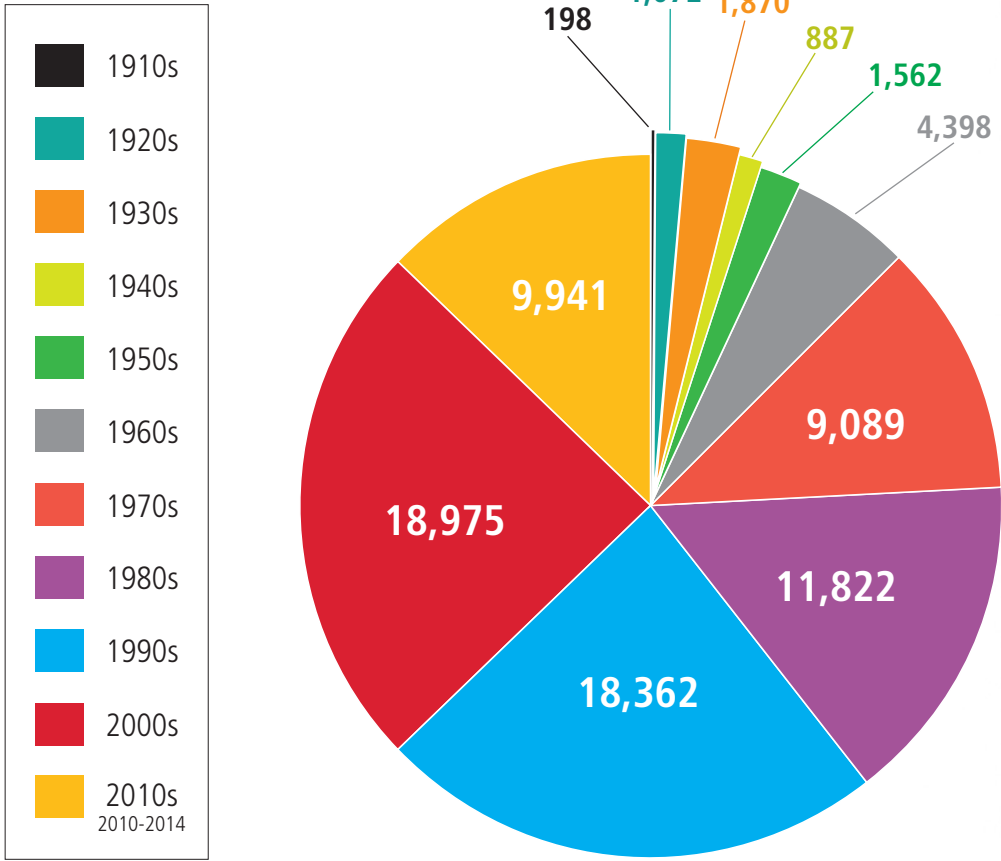


AN Alumni SNAPSHOT

Top ten states of alumni residency



Alumni by the decades



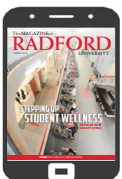
Calling all creativity!

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



Alumni Artistry

This work by Cecilia Morris '14 appeared in the 2013 Student Ceramics Show.



You can now catch up on 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.

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

Weddings, Births, Career Achievements & More

1970s

William M. Jones USMC '77 retired from the United States Marine Corps and teaching high school Marine Corps and Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps for 13 years.

Laura W. Thomas '78 was appointed CEO of TNCI Operating Company, LLC.



1980s

Jeanne Armentrout '81, executive vice president and chief administrative officer at Carilion Clinic, was appointed to the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind and Vision Impaired.

Kim Grosenbacher '89 has been named 2015 Teacher of the Year at Boerne (Texas) Champion High School. She was also honored with the 2014 Texas Lawyers Auxiliary Teacher of the Year award, the VFW District 13 National Citizenship Education Teacher award and the Bill of Rights Institute Summer Fellowship.

Erika Gray '89 is project coordinator for the Centers of Innovation program, North Carolina Biotechnology Center.

Colleen Smarth '89 is assistant director of annual giving at Blair Academy, Blairstown, N.J.

1990s

Ron Kerere '92 was hired as director of food and beverage for Orlando World Center Marriott, Fla.

Dave Jagels '93 was appointed principal of Centreville High School, Centreville, effective 1/5/15.



Kim Grosenbacher '89, has been named 2015 Teacher of the Year at Boerne (Texas) Champion High School. She was also honored with the 2014 Texas Lawyers Auxiliary Teacher of the Year award, the VFW District 13 National Citizenship Education Teacher award, and the Bill of Rights Institute Summer Fellowship.

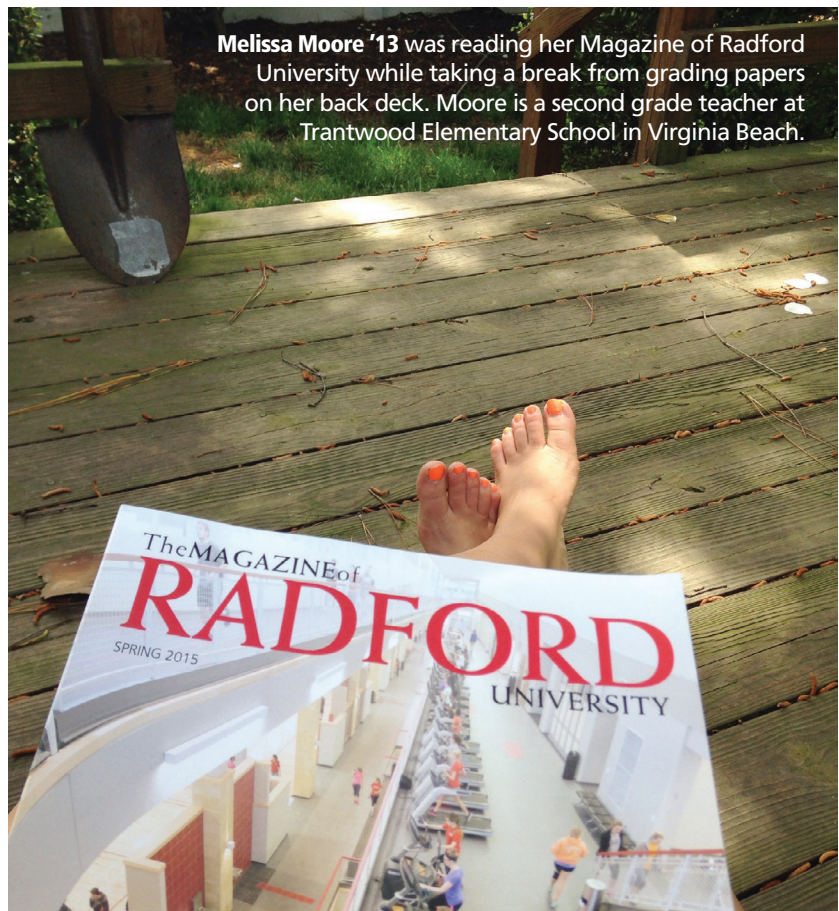
WHERE IN THE WORLD IS YOUR RADFORD UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE?

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

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

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

So, pick up your camera, grab your magazine, take a selfie, send us a picture and share your story at editor@radford.edu.



Melissa Moore '13 was reading her Magazine of Radford University while taking a break from grading papers on her back deck. Moore is a second grade teacher at Trantwood Elementary School in Virginia Beach.

Samantha Hoey Nelson '96 just released her first book "Artist in B-School," a book to inspire creative people to be more savvy in business. Visit her website at www.artistinbschool.com.

Mark Lambert '97 led a team developing and marketing a new brand for Jefferson College of Health Sciences, which received the Gold Award in two national categories at the Collegiate Advertising Awards.

Jennie Kolpak '99 is the nutrition services director for the Bethel School District, Eugene, Ore.



Bernie Ball '01 dove to a depth of 527 meters in the human-occupied vehicle (HOV) Alvin, in support of research exploring biology and genetics of deep-sea chemosynthetic ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico.

Robert Pickett '01 is a financial advisor for AIG Financial Network. Robert and his wife Elizabeth announced the birth of their daughter on 7/4/11 and their son 9/18/13.

Courtney (Pollard) Wells '01 married John Wells in Chesterfield County, 10/4/14.

T. Munkh-Orgil '05, '07 recently performed at the 2015 Davos World Economic Forum, Switzerland.

Teresa (Traini) Walquist '09 married **Brett Walquist '07**, 6/7/15.

2010s

Harless Todd Ratliff '10 and **Jayne M. Browder '14** were married at Sinkland Farms in Riner, 8/16/14.

Stephanie Cashwell '11 is the marketing development manager for CenturyLink in Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Melissa Register '12 was named the 2014 Officer of the Year by the City of Roanoke.

Lear Beale '13 is currently a "rad controller" for the Radiological Control Department, Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of Huntington Ingalls Industries.

Matthew Eskridge '13 and **Sabrina Wren '13** married on 5/24/13 in Georgetown, Del.

Obituaries

1930s



Lucille PettyJohn Stewart '38, of Bristol, 1/14/15

Mildred Josephine Lafon '39, of Pearisburg, 1/23/15

1940s

Clara Jane Billig '43, of Blacksburg, 2/28/15

Ethel Marie Goad Jackson '43, of Salem, 12/14/14

1950s

Ann Elizabeth Daingerfield '51, of Christiansburg, 1/2/15

Margaret Peggy Bowman Curry '58, of New Castle, 1/29/15

1960s

Betty Jane Hall Plot '60, of Radford, 12/10/14

Doris Jean Pearman '61, of Roanoke, 1/15
Ilene Ogle Moore '61, of Fort Chiswell, 12/8/14

Eleanor Hullinger '69, of Bradenton, Fla., 1/13/15

1970s

Mary Ann Whitescavyer '70, of Riner, 12/3/14

Cathy Anne Claflin Holland '71, of Midlothian, 1/15/15

Marilyn Victoria "Vickie" Jenkins Turner '72 of Franklin, 3/11/15

1980s

Judy Heck Clement '96, of Orlando, Fla.

2000s

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

Faculty

Dr. Henry H. Dyer, of Williamsport, Pa., 12/31/14

Karl Pribram (eminent scholar), of Warrenton, 1/19/15

Radford University community saddened by passing of beloved faculty member

The Radford University community mourned the death of Dr. Joe Jones, chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Jones, 65, died in January after a short illness.

Dr. Jones joined Radford University in August 2011 as the department chair after a diverse tenure at Barton College. "Joe was both respected and beloved. He was a colleague who was fully engaged in the life of the department, college and university," said Dean of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences Kate Hawkins. Hawkins called Jones' leadership of the collaborative effort between Radford University and Jefferson College of Health Services to establish a post-baccalaureate certificate in bioethics "visionary." She added that the initiative to enhance modern health care delivery with contemporary ethical considerations was just one of his many lasting contributions to the community.

"Dr. Jones was a consummate professional and highly valued member of the RU faculty," said President Penelope W. Kyle in a condolence message shared with the RU community. "He was a dedicated teacher and scholar with a deep interest in the success of his students. He will be missed by our faculty, staff, students and alumni."





Marty Campanello '79 has made a lasting legacy for journalism students by naming Radford University in his will. Upon his death, his estate provided financial support to endow The Marty Campanello Journalism Scholarship to assist qualifying students or graduate students pursuing a career in broadcast or print journalism. The realized bequest also included a gift of six pieces of Romero Britto artwork from his private collection to the Radford University permanent collection.

During Campanello's professional career in public relations and marketing, he served as President of the Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development and President of the North American Public Relations Council, which represented about 45,000 public relations practitioners at the time. He was also the author of two books and numerous professional journal articles on the subject of health care planning, administration and public information, and medical marketing.

While a journalism major at Radford University, Campanello was editor of the RU yearbook, a resident assistant and a member of the Student Government Association.

Planned gifts to the university like Marty's are a way to make a lasting difference for students and programs at Radford. If you are interested in more information about how you can make a difference through gift planning, please contact the Radford University Office of University Advancement at 540-831-5407. —*Ben Pasquel '15*



Former Radford University Board of Visitors member George M. Davis Jr., 88, passed away on May 25, 2015, at his residence in Franklin, Virginia. Mr. Davis was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Mary Jim Ramsey Davis '48.

Mr. Davis served on the Radford University Board of Visitors from 1977 to 1987 and as rector from 1982-87, first appointed

by then-Governor Mills Godwin. In 1988, in appreciation for his dedication and leadership, Davis Hall was named in his honor. The George and Maryjim Davis Jr. Scholarship was also established in their honor.

Following service in the U.S. Army from 1944-46, Mr. Davis graduated from Virginia Tech where he lettered in football. It was then he met his wife while she was a student at Radford. Mr. Davis had a successful career in education and business. He retired from Meherrin Agricultural and Chemical Company as president in 1992.

Former Rector Davis will be remembered for a lifetime of commitment, service and leadership to his family, friends, community and state.



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If you are interested in learning more about planned giving, please call the Office of University Advancement at 540-831-5407.

**RADFORD
UNIVERSITY**



Hanging out on the job

Muse Hall construction,
circa 1968-1970



HOMECOMING 2015

October 16-18

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

Visit www.radford.edu/homecoming for more information and stay tuned to the Radford University Alumni Association Facebook page. Follow #RadfordHC2015 on Twitter for the latest developments.

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