

RADFORD

The Magazine of Radford University

Summer 2017

The *Artis* Legacy

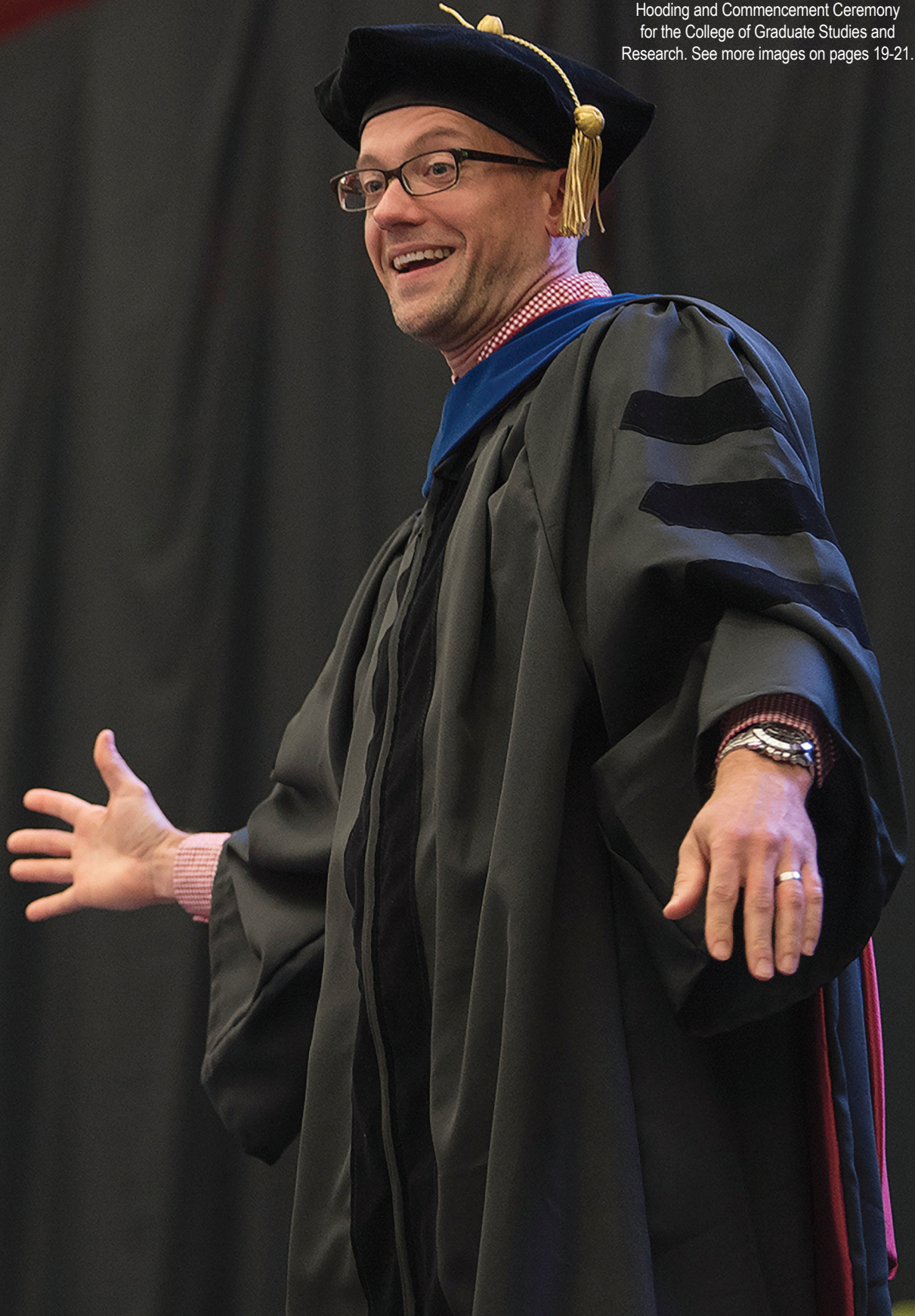


INSIDE Commencement Day! | The Strategy Space



NICE JOB!

Sean Avery Moore is congratulated by Matthew Grimes, Ph.D., at the 30th annual Hooding and Commencement Ceremony for the College of Graduate Studies and Research. See more images on pages 19-21.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Radford Family:

Greetings, fellow Highlanders, and welcome to the Summer 2017 edition of The Magazine of Radford University! This edition provides an in-depth look at significant milestones made possible by the Radford family's unwavering passion for our critical mission and our strong tradition of Highlander pride, thereby resulting in a truly historic year. Without question, the vibrancy of the Radford family, including our students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and community members, is proudly displayed on our campus and prominently captured within these pages.

In this edition, we honor H. Pat and Nancy E. Artis '73 for their dedicated service to Radford University and their selfless contributions to our students and programs. In April, the Radford family joined with Pat and Nancy to celebrate their historic gift, which will profoundly impact the lives of current and future generations of students and their families by producing a lifetime of Artis Scholars through scholarship support. These talented students and future alumni will carry on the Artis legacy, a deep love for science and technology and a strong desire to help others. Pat and Nancy's spirit of philanthropy and passion for furthering our mission are greatly assisting Radford students in becoming successful professionals and strong citizen leaders.

With the naming of the Artis College of Science and Technology, Pat and Nancy's steadfast commitment to the Radford family took a bold step forward, and their celebrated and legendary name will forever be etched in our history and our hearts. The Artis legacy is reflected across our beautiful campus in the Applied Research in Technology and Information Science (ARTIS) Lab in Davis Hall, the Janice Eisenhart MBA Library in Kyle Hall, the Nancy Eisenhart Artis Executive Conference Room in Kyle Hall and the Artis Computing Laboratory for the Biological Sciences in the Center for the Sciences. Thanks to the Artises, and so many other proud alumni and dedicated friends who serve as Radford's philanthropic partners, more young men and women from across our local region, the Commonwealth, the nation and the world will enrich our campus community and experience Radford University's life-changing opportunities.

The Magazine of Radford University truly serves as a unique opportunity for you to personally experience your Radford family and our beloved campus. And, I hope that you will join your fellow Highlanders from Oct. 6-8, 2017 for Homecoming and Reunion Weekend. During that exciting fall weekend of celebration and engagement, you will find a University community transforming itself. In the company of your family, loved ones, former classmates, fellow alumni and others, you will see today's students immersed in projects, research and scholarly activities and celebrating what it means to be "United as One Radford Family."

Moving forward, the Radford family is fully embracing and keenly focusing that limitless energy as we develop and implement a comprehensive strategic plan to fulfill Radford University's vision of becoming an innovative, premier university with a keen focus on teaching, research and service in the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond. Toward that end, the campus and the community are working diligently with great enthusiasm, and we are so excited to have your support on this continued journey.

With Highlander Pride,

Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.

President

@BrianOHemphill



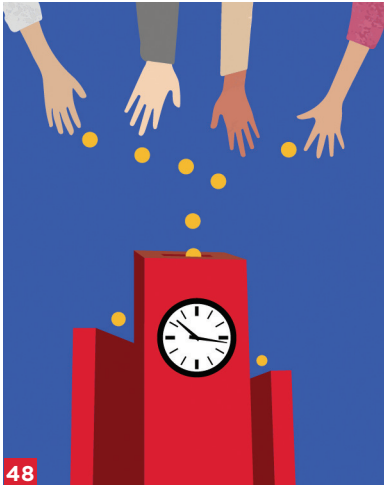
We want to hear from you!

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



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*We had our whole line of pickets
run in two ways they were
stationed on the 25th Aug over
Alexander Road Road for an
mile we had one man killed
and one wounded. The man
was shot in the thigh with a
bullet hole to belong to our
company. He was shot through
the head killing him instantly
another was shot by a bullet
he was shot most of our company
made a very narrow escape the
pickets got up on them
and fired on them before
they could make their escape
it is a great wonder that we
not more of our men killed.
Jack Chimes a member of our
company had two shots fired at him.*

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

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The
Artis
Legacy

A HISTORIC
ANNOUNCEMENT

Artis College
of Science and
Technology named
in appreciation of
largest individual
donation by
an alumnus to
Radford University



The Artis Legacy


By Ann Brown, M.S. '03



President Brian O. Hemphill and First Lady Marisela Rosas Hemphill join Nancy E. Artis '73 and H. Pat Artis, Ph.D., for the historic announcement.

April 28, 2017 was a historic day for Radford University and future generations of student-scientists, thanks to the generosity of two of the University's most dedicated supporters. Radford University announced that alumna Nancy E. Artis '73 and H. Pat Artis, Ph.D., will contribute \$5 million to Radford University to establish the Artis Endowed Scholarship Fund.





“Education is the single greatest investment that anyone can make in their life.”

H. Pat Artis, Ph.D.

H. Pat Artis, Ph.D., and Nancy E. Artis '73

To date, this \$5 million gift is the largest individual donation by an alumnus to Radford University. In appreciation, the University named the Artis College of Science and Technology in Nancy and Pat Artis's honor. The College's new name was announced and unveiled during the afternoon ceremony on the lawn of Reed and Curie Halls.

"Today, we announce a gift from Pat and Nancy Artis to Radford University for student scholarships in the College of Science and Technology," said Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill. "Pat and Nancy's generous gift will produce a lifetime of Artis Scholars, who will carry on the Artis Legacy, a deep love for science and technology and a strong desire to provide for others!" said President Hemphill.

"Pat and Nancy, on behalf of the Radford University Board of Visitors, please accept my heartfelt appreciation and lasting gratitude for all that you have done for Radford University," said Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham, member of the Radford University Board of Visitors and board president of Radford University Real Estate Management LLC. "More importantly, thank you for all that you will continue to do for Radford University, thereby creating opportunities for current and future generations of Highlanders!" said Snyder-Falkinham.

In addition to Snyder-Falkinham, Board of Visitors members Mark Lawrence and Mary Ann Hovis '65 were also in attendance at the special ceremony. Del. Joseph Yost '06, M.A. '08, and City of Radford Mayor Bruce Brown, M.S. '78, also attended.

The Artis Endowed Scholarship Fund

ONCE FULLY implemented, the Artis Endowed Scholarship Fund will provide a \$3,000 award to 67 Artis Scholars each year in perpetuity. Scholarship recipients will be high-achieving incoming freshmen and transfer students studying in the Artis College of Science and Technology.

"As first-generation college graduates, Pat and I understand the value of education. We are pleased that our donation will enable current and future generations of students to access Radford University," said Nancy E. Artis '73.

"Education is the single greatest investment that anyone can make in their life. We are honored to invest in the Artis College of Science and Technology that will further the education of many students to come," said H. Pat Artis.

"I believe I speak for everyone here today and across our beautiful campus when I say: Pat and Nancy's gift to Radford University in support of the Artis College of Science and Technology is beyond humbling. Indeed, the Artis Legacy will live forever in the hearts and minds of the Radford family," said J. Orion Rogers, Dean of the Artis College of Science and Technology.

On behalf of the student body, Hannah Bell '17, chemistry major, and Dewey Milton '17, computer science major, spoke about their Radford University experiences and the exciting opportunities the Artises' generous

contribution will afford future generations of Highlanders.

"I have been given so many opportunities here," Bell said. "I have traveled. I have researched. I have represented Radford University and my department at national chemistry meetings. I have made lifelong friendships with not only my classmates, but my professors. The College of Science and Technology has really grown over the past few years, and I feel like it has been a very transitional time. If it weren't for the support that the University receives from the community of donors, we wouldn't have any of this."

"At Radford, I have already coded programs that will solve puzzles and designed my own card game," Milton said. "This semester, my software engineering team is working on a social network site for the University. All these experiences would not be possible without the contributions of many people."

Milton also spoke of the support he has received from the Artises through a scholarship.

"Nancy and Pat Artis have done so much for me," Milton said. "Their scholarship allowed me to not have to work this semester and instead, focus on my studies and projects. I'm looking forward to straight A's this semester, and without them, that probably would not be possible."

About the Artises

NANCY E. ARTIS is a 1973 biology graduate of Radford University. She has served on the University's Board of Visitors (2006-2013) and currently serves as a member of the College of Science and Technology Alumni Advisory Council and as vice president of the Radford University Foundation Board of Directors.

H. Pat Artis holds a B.S. from Virginia Tech (1971), an M.S. from Rutgers University (1976) and a Ph.D. from the University of Pretoria (1992). He currently serves as a professor of practice in the Kevin T. Crofton Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering at Virginia Tech.

The Artises own Performance Associates, Inc., a Pagosa Springs, Colorado-based company focusing on performance and replication for enterprise storage subsystems. The company provides educational and consulting services as well as a family of software products.

The Artises have been supporters of Radford University since 1987 and have contributed to many initiatives across the University, including in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, Radford University Athletics, College of Business and Economics and the newly-named Artis College of Science and Technology.

"For many years, the Artis family has served as true champions and strong supporters of Radford University, thereby creating countless opportunities for students and enhancing the environment in which they learn. The outstanding leadership and selfless contributions of the Artis family have forever made a mark on the Radford family," said President Hemphill. ■

View the video recap of the historic event online at www.radford.edu/magazine.

UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY SERVICE EFFORTS RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL ORGANIZATION



Accounting major Eleni Brown, left, volunteered at Radford Early Learning Center as part of a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

Radford University has earned national recognition for its commitment to community service.

On Sept. 21, 2016, The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) placed Radford University on its 2015 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The initiative recognized Radford University's efforts in 2015 in the area of community service programs and raising the visibility of effective practices in campus community partnerships.

The distinguished honor recognizes higher education institutions in four categories: General Community Service, Interfaith Community Service, Economic Opportunity and Education.

Radford is among seven public Virginia institutions in the General Community Service category.

"I can personally attest to the many ways in which a commitment to service — to connecting knowledge and resources to tackle today's most challenging issues — is one of the defining qualities of a Radford University experience," said Erin Webster-Garrett, director of the Scholar-Citizen Initiative (SCI). "Across colleges, units and disciplines, the Highlander tradition is one built around our appreciation for and dedication to community and to each other."

During 2014-15, more than 3,200 Radford University students engaged in academic service-learning and contributed more than 100,000 hours of work in the early education and human service areas alone. They served pre-K through second-grade schoolchildren through art therapy programs; hosted K-12 students and teachers from regional school districts for science enrichment programs; and dedicated more than 3,000 hours of community nursing service in health education and screenings in local school districts and homeless shelters.

Highlighted in the University's application for the CNCS award are the adoption of SCI as the University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to infuse civic-learning outcomes across the curriculum and recognize student excellence in servant-leadership and public scholarship; and implementation of universitywide days of service, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, organized by Student Affairs and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, and the Holiday Food Drive, organized by the Greek Life community.

SHARING THE WORLD



Teachers have the ability to share the world wherever they are.

That is a truth future educators are learning more and more every day at Radford University. Faculty in the University's School of Teacher Education and Leadership (STEL) often go the extra mile — and in one case, 9,000 miles — to bring that message home.

Each year, a group of adventurous, globe-trotting soon-to-be classroom educators spend nearly a month teaching lessons — English is a high priority — to schoolchildren in southeastern Africa as part of the Malawi Study Abroad Project.

"We have been taking students to Malawi for more than a decade to work in the schools and learn what it's like to teach in a very different culture and a very different environment, working with students who mostly do not speak English," said STEL Associate Professor Patti Talbot.

In Malawi, Radford University students work with scores of children — there are sometimes 120 children in a classroom — at the Malemia Primary School.

More recent trips to the school have focused on preparing Radford students to draw from their experiences there and implement a global perspective in their future classrooms.

"They discover in Malawi that all it takes to teach are their voices and a relationship with their students," Talbot said. "The experience opens their eyes to a whole new world, and they come away with a rich cultural experience that they wind up sharing in their classrooms."

Watch the video of the Malawi experience at www.radford.edu/magazine.



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

College of Distinction 2016 and 2017

The unique national online and print resource focuses on innovative, teacher-centered undergraduate education that prepares graduates for real-world success.

Radford University showed exemplary commitment to four distinctions: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant communities and successful outcomes. The annual process to select the nation's Colleges of Distinction also includes a review of each institution's freshman experience, as well as its general education program, strategic plan and alumni success and satisfaction measures.

Washington Monthly Magazine "Best Bang for the Buck" 2013-2016

Radford University ranked No. 54 out of 100 schools in the "Southeast" category of the magazine's rankings, which assess affordability, access and student outcomes.

The Princeton Review "Guide to 361 Green Colleges" 2010-2016

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

The Princeton Review "Best in the Southeast" 2004-2017

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

U.S. News & World Report "Top Public Schools in the South" 2017

For 2017, the University was ranked at No. 16 in the publication's listing.

U.S. News & World Report "Best Regional Universities – South" 2013-2017

The list comprises 146 public and private institutions, and Radford University is ranked at No. 47 for 2017.

U.S. News & World Report "Best Colleges for Veterans – Regional Universities-South" 2016-2017

Among its regional peers, Radford University was ranked No. 29 by the magazine, moving up two spots since last year. This is the second year the University has been recognized for its distinction in serving veterans.

RADFORD INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TOUR WASHINGTON, D.C.

To develop a feel for American history and culture, the International Education Center (IEC) hosted Radford University international students on a whirlwind tour of Washington, D.C., last October.

Led by IEC Assistant Director Teresa King and Program Support Specialist Lori Roop, the exchange students from Switzerland, Malaysia, Taiwan, Japan, France, Germany and Spain spent two chilly fall days bussing around the city, browsing monuments and museums, walking the Mall and eating American fare.

To Yuri Takano, a junior business major from the Osaka University of Commerce, the trip was part of her yearlong immersion into the American way of life and education.

"Everything was beautiful. The buildings were so interesting, and the streets were so wide," she said. "Compared to Tokyo, my capital city, it was less crowded and very comfortable."

The trip was one of a series of events the IEC hosts to acclimate the nearly 100-strong international student community to Radford and America. Events included the Annual International



International students tour Washington, D.C.

Banquet, a semester-opening Globefest picnic at Bisset Park, special cultural celebrations and monthly coffee hours that introduce the visiting exchange students to Radford and each other.

"International students can be much more than tourists. They can get inside the American culture and understand what it is like to be an American," said IEC Director Paul Currant. "Outside-of-the-classroom activities enrich their experience and understanding of America."

Washington's cosmopolitan nature surprised her, Takano said.

"As I walked around, I heard many different languages being spoken," Takano said. "When I heard Japanese, it made me feel good."

"There is so much in Washington to see, I look forward to going back," she adds. "It really is close, and I know we missed a lot."

LETTER

To whom it may concern:

I am hoping you will consider publishing the enclosed photographs (copies of the originals) in the Radford magazine. My sister, Linda (Vaughan) Welsh took them for a class while she attended Radford from 1967 to 1971 as an art major. She also designed the 70/71 Radford Handbook cover.

I am also a graduate of Radford University – class of '74 with a BS degree in Health and Physical Education – still teaching 43 years later!

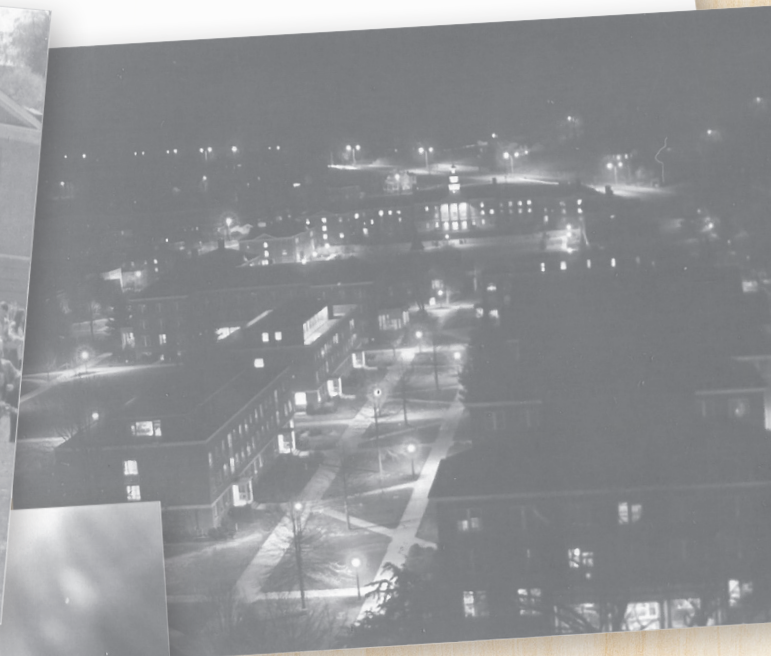
The night campus shot was taken from her dorm, the Muse, the year it opened. The other two pictures are of the Redcoats participating in the annual May Day activities. Truly treasures from the past!

On a personal note, my sister was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimers in December 2004 when she was 55 years old. She is in the final stage of the disease and we don't know how much longer she will be with us. It would mean so much to her two children and five grandchildren if you would publish the enclosed pictures.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Betty Saunders



SCORE!

Alumnus composes piece for the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra

Al Wojtera opened his musical score during a Roanoke Symphony Orchestra rehearsal. As the symphony percussionist and chair of the Radford University Department of Music looked at the piece "Procession of the Little Drummer Boy," the composer's name caught his eye.

It read "Stoots." Wojtera smiled to himself. The composer was none other than Jonathan Stoots '16, who majored in music with a concentration in music business and was an intern for the orchestra and its conductor, David Stewart Wiley, at the time.

"Jonathan is a talented composer and arranger on the verge of a wonderful career," Wiley said. "It has been my and our privilege at the Roanoke Symphony to mentor him and watch his talent and hard work come to fruition."

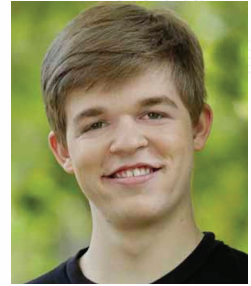
The orchestra premiered the piece Dec. 5, 2016, during a Holiday Pops concert at Covington High School in Covington, Virginia. Wiley directed Stoots' piece and said it was well received.

"As I had never composed for a full-size orchestra, I leaned heavily in what I had been taught in my

music history and theory classes to write for strings, as I really had no prior experience," Stoots said, "Score study in these classes made the difference in how I arranged and composed."

To gain this internship opportunity, Stoots used his networking skills learned from the Radford University music business program. He met Wiley through an introduction by Radford University director of bands, R. Wayne Gallops.

The orchestra hopes to continue mentoring Radford University students and being a training laboratory for young rising professionals such as Stoots.



Jonathan Stoots '16

Visit www.radford.edu/magazine to hear the performance.

STUDENT WORK WINS NATIONAL ADDY

When Paul Gartner '16, right, found out he won a National Student Silver ADDY in the 2017 annual American Advertising Federation's competition, he was calm and introspective.

Gartner said he was more focused on world issues than the award. But he said it is his ability to focus his attention on one thing to an almost obsessive level of detail that helped him win the ADDY.

Gartner's entry, "Mug Hard Root Beer," originally created for a packaging design class, won in the packaging category.

"To take a vintage look and outdo what other companies do, to take something to its logical extreme — you don't get more old-fashioned or 19th century than having a corked bottle," Gartner said about his winning entry.

Graphically, the design shows an English bulldog smoking a pipe. According to Gartner's research for the project, he discovered that a regular motif in the 1800s was dogs

smoking pipes. He believes it was the precursor of a meme.

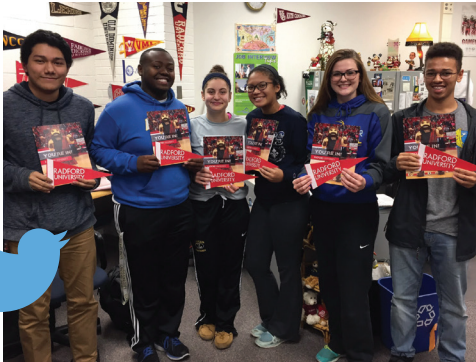
"What really sets Paul's design apart is its level of detail and polish," said Jim Woods, who teaches the packaging design class. "The mock-up was printed professionally, no dummy text was used, and even the barcodes were properly done. It is a great design, executed flawlessly."



Paul Gartner's "Mug Root Beer" ADDY-winning designs were displayed during the 2016 Radford University Graphic Design Show at Reagan National Airport's Gallery Walk.



RADFORD UNIVERSITY SHATTERS APPLICATION RECORDS



Students at Lee High School, Springfield, show off their acceptance letters.

RADFORD UNIVERSITY experienced a surge in freshman applications, shattering the previous record of 8,192 achieved in fall 2012.

The new record of 14,443 applications as of June 21, 2017 represents a 94 percent increase over last year's total of 7,447 freshman applicants. The applications also raised the academic profile of the incoming class: the freshman

applicants' high school grade-point and SAT averages increased when compared to the total applicants for last fall's freshman class.

According to the Office of Enrollment Management, the increase in freshman applications is due to additional outreach to prospective students and their families; increased communications about the diverse and exciting opportunities Radford University offers students; and earlier financial aid notifications for prospective students.

Transfer applications also increased for fall 2017 admission. More than 1,800 transfer student applications — a 23.7 percent increase — were received as of June 21.

"We're excited to engage with even more prospective students and share the Radford story with them," said Vice President for Enrollment Management Kitty McCarthy. "The breadth and depth of Radford University's academic programs, combined with the opportunity to work with outstanding faculty in a student-centered environment, is attractive to many students and families. More prospective students are hearing about Radford University and are applying to be a part of the energy we experience on campus."

COLLEGE AND INDUSTRY SHARE COMMON VISION



ESP President and CEO Douglass Fouser, second from right, and Executive Vice President Hans Hollister, right, talk with students about opportunities they will have with the company through its partnership with Radford University.

THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS and Economics (COBE) and Chantilly-based Engineering Solutions & Products, LLC (ESP) have developed a partnership designed to promote both entities through branding, advertising and growth with a special emphasis on Northern Virginia.

In September, COBE and ESP formalized an agreement through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signing in the University's Kyle Hall. Penning their names to the MOU were Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill and ESP President and CEO Douglas N. Fouser.

"This is the beginning of a partnership between two organizations that share many goals," said COBE Dean George Low.

Low spoke of ESP's core values and noted the commonalities between those values and the four fundamentals President Hemphill has laid out for Radford University: excellence, transparency, accountability and student-centeredness.

Still in its infancy, the partnership already is offering Radford University students opportunities for internships, full-time positions, class projects and other initiatives that will be developed over time, Low said. ESP works with many government agencies and may have specific opportunities for Radford University students who are military veterans, the dean said.

An opportunity may exist, Fouser said, for Radford University students to work with ESP employees.

"What a great way to bring these two common values together in a formal way in a memorandum of understanding that will allow both organizations to continue to thrive, grow and accomplish our goals," Low said. "It's also a model that demonstrates how Radford can connect in a meaningful way with corporate partners, and this is something that magnifies what we are able to do when we work with others who share a common vision and goals."

The MOU offers many opportunities for ESP, Fouser noted, including an opportunity for its employees to enroll in Radford University classes, such as a COBE's online MBA program.

"We can bring the Radford University name to Northern Virginia and offer our employees an opportunity to go to a great school," Fouser said.

REED AND CURIE HALLS RENOVATION PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY



Architect's rendering of interior space in renovated Reed and Curie Halls

A NEARLY \$34 MILLION renovation to science-centric Reed and Curie Halls was approved for funding in fall 2016.

The anticipated \$33,882,000, state-funded project, slated to begin this fall, will renovate 94,840 square feet of space and provide modern facilities for several of the University's science departments, including geospatial science, biology, chemistry, geology and physics. The renovations will include new laboratories for teaching as well as faculty and student research, in addition to engagement spaces for lectures, student support areas and office spaces.

A standout feature will be the new Cybersecurity Training and Education Lab (CTEL) for teaching,

research, modeling and simulation of cyber threats — an ongoing global scourge that Radford University prepares many of its students to combat.

Radford University students in cyber and information technology disciplines are among the most sought after by industry due to their preparation, as reflected by their strong showing in national cyberdefense competitions and Radford University's recent designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CDE) by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Through 2021, Radford will be at the forefront of preparing

graduates in cybersecurity and meeting the evolving demands of cybersecurity education. Radford University is one of only six four-year institutions in Virginia designated as a CAE-CDE institution and is one of only 127 four-year institutions in the country to earn the prestigious national designation.

"This renovation project will significantly benefit our students and faculty as they advance both knowledge and research in the sciences, as well as the Commonwealth," said Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill. "The timing also is perfect to contribute to the demands of our state's future economy given, for example, the stated need for cyber and computer science professionals and Radford's growing expertise in this area."

A young woman with brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a purple t-shirt and sunglasses on her head, is focused on using a bright orange pipette. She is in a laboratory setting with other people blurred in the background. The word "ELITE" is written in large white letters, and "Leaders in the lab" is written in smaller white letters below it.

ELITE

Leaders in the lab

By Mary Hardbarger



An innovative scholarship program is preparing Artis College of Science and Technology (ACSAT) students to become the leaders of tomorrow.

ELITES, Emerging Leaders in Technology, Science and Mathematics (STEM), is a unique opportunity for students to develop and enhance key leadership skills that are not generally associated with STEM areas of study.

Assistant Professor of Mathematics Jean Mistele, the ELITES student advisor, explains:

“The idea of STEM leaders is different than what you typically think about organizational leaders, where you want an outgoing personality to lead the people in the organization. STEM leaders generally are going to be leaders within a lab environment or a leader in the research field.”

Many STEM students are introverted, Mistele added. Their comfort zone is often in front of a computer screen or behind a microscope. By encouraging them to interact with other students and faculty, practice public speaking and engage in research, students will enter the workforce better prepared to tackle challenges, embrace diversity and lead others in a STEM field.



“The program was a great choice to make because it can and has already helped further my career as an undergraduate student.”

Cole Faulkner, above, a pre-med student majoring in biology

Currently, ELITES is part of the RU-NextGen: Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders in Science, Technology and Mathematics project funded in 2014 through 2019 by the National Science Foundation.

As of spring 2017, five students have graduated with ELITES distinction.

Rising sophomore and Bland County, Virginia, native Cole Faulkner, a pre-med student majoring in biology, said ELITES has pushed him to be more active on campus.

“The program was a great choice to make because it can and has already helped further my career as an undergraduate student,” he said. “It takes a lot of time out of my week, but it’s worth it.”

ELITES students sharpen their skills in four distinct categories: research, communication, career development and management and service. Tasks within each category are assigned points, ranging from one to 10. To successfully complete the program, a student must earn a minimum of 20 points.

The extracurricular activities the students engage in, the posters and research they present, the symposiums and conferences they attend, the internships they apply for — all the tasks are STEM focused, Mistele said.

A major component of the program is faculty mentorship through research studies and other types of projects.

Mistele is in regular contact with students to make sure they stay on track. Her major concern is ensuring the students are academically strong, followed by their progress in ELITES. Students are encouraged to engage with their professors to reach academic success and success in the program by engaging in research projects and learning about other opportunities in which they can enhance their STEM leadership skills.

“It’s definitely not a program where they leave you and let you go about your day,” said biology major Kyanna Jenkins. “They check in on you and form a bond with you.”

Jenkins, a rising senior, has been participating in undergraduate research since her freshman year with Associate Professor of Biology Tara Phelps-Durr.

“It’s been amazing,” said Jenkins, who conducts botany research. “ELITES has pushed me to do these things; to strive beyond just getting a good GPA.”

In addition to pursuing undergraduate research, Faulkner is also a teaching assistant and peer mentor — two tasks he can check off his ELITES list.

“Being a peer mentor has been a fulfilling role to play,” he said. “Just telling other students, ‘Hey, I’ve been in your shoes.’ ‘I know what you’re going through.’ ‘I’m here to help you succeed.’”

ELITES was one of the main reasons Jenkins, of Norfolk, decided to attend Radford University.

Hanna Mitchell ’17, of Vienna, Virginia, was part of the first cohort of students to be accepted into the ELITES program in 2014. She is one of three who graduated with the distinction this spring.

While at Radford, Mitchell admitted she was one of those rare “extroverted” STEM students.

“I’ve always been really outgoing. I was president of the STEM Club and Math Club,” she said. “But ELITES gave me added reassurance that I was on the right track.”

With that extra confidence boost in her pocket, Mitchell said she’s now exploring graduate school programs. She wants to work with young women and show them how being involved in STEM fields can improve their self-esteem. ■



Commencement Day!

By Chad Osborne

“But more than anything, always stay humble and kind.”

Retired Virginia Tech football coach Frank M. Beamer, M.S. '72





RADFORD UNIVERSITY conferred degrees on 1,887 undergraduate and graduate students at its spring commencement ceremonies May 4-5, culminating with the undergraduate ceremony on Moffett Lawn.

"It's been a really great four years at Radford University, and coming here was the best decision of my life," said Lauren Gallops as she waited for the main ceremony to begin on a cool and occasionally rainy Saturday morning.

"I've really been able to connect with professors, and I've made so many lifelong friends here," said the public relations major from Roanoke. "I'm going to be leaving a piece of myself here and taking a piece of Radford with me as well."

Radford alumnus and retired Virginia Tech football coach Frank M. Beamer, M.S. '72 served as keynote speaker. Beamer received his Master of Science in Guidance and Counseling from Radford College in 1972.

"I'm proud of my degree and as I look around today, I can see that the class of 2017 has greatly enhanced my degree," Beamer said. "So, thank you to all my fellow alumni."

Beamer spoke of overcoming adversity and preparing for success, citing his mother Herma Beamer, a 1936 Radford graduate, as an uplifting example.

"As you embark on your career, as you put your degree from Radford University to work, each of you are going to face adversity. It's going to happen, so prepare for it each day," Beamer said. "But more importantly, prepare each day for how you will react to the situation. You may not be able to control what happens to you, but you can control how you respond. My mother taught me that at an early age."

Beamer asked the graduates to draw inspiration from a famous speech from a basketball coach, the late Jim Valvano, and from a song by one of his favorite country music artists, Tim McGraw.

"As you begin your life after college, there will be times when it seems like there's a mountain to climb. You're going to face adversity, but you can climb it," he said. "You can make it to the peak by preparing each day for how you will handle adversity. Dream big and remember: laugh, think, cry. But more than anything, always stay humble and kind."

Beamer was awarded an honorary doctoral degree following his commencement address.

Beamer encouraged the graduates to be thankful to people who helped them toward their goal of graduating.

"There are a great number of people who have helped you get here today," he said. "Many have given you guidance, support and direction. Make sure you thank them today. Make sure you tell them you love them today."

Following his address, Beamer was awarded an honorary doctoral degree "in recognition of the invaluable lifetime achievements created through unyielding commitment, dedication, leadership and unwavering compassion," said Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Joe Scartelli.

Presenting the honor was Radford University President Brain O. Hemphill.

"Coach Beamer, by the authority invested in me by the Radford University Board of Visitors, as president I hereby formally confirm upon you the honorary doctorate of public service degree," Hemphill said. "Dr. Beamer, you are now a double alumnus of Radford University. Thank you for your many contributions to the Radford family and the New River Valley."

Later in the ceremony, Hemphill awarded local business owner and pillar of the Radford community

George M. Harvey Sr. an honorary Bachelor's in Business Administration.

Presiding over his first spring commencement, President Hemphill told the graduates that a

Radford education "prepares you for a life of service, not only to your family, but to those in need. I am confident that you will take your Radford education with you on the journey ahead. I urge you to continue to make education a lifelong pursuit."

The majority of this year's graduates — 95 percent — were Virginia residents. Graduates came to Radford from 112 Virginia localities, which accounted for 84 percent of the Commonwealth.

The remaining graduates came to Radford from 17 other states, including Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Graduates also represented 19 foreign countries, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Canada, Honduras, India and the United Kingdom.

The number of first-generation graduates totaled 596, 36 percent of the graduating class.

A couple of unique statistics of the Class of 2017: graduates ranged in age from 19 to 57, and eight graduates celebrated birthdays on commencement day. ■



Watch the video at www.radford.edu/magazine.



George M. Harvey Sr. (center) is honored at the Spring Commencement Ceremony at Radford University on May 6 by President Brian O. Hemphill (left) and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Joe Scartelli.

'Big H' gets a big honor

George M. Harvey Sr. awarded honorary degree at Commencement

By Ann H. Brown, M.S. '03

A BELOVED MEMBER of the Radford community and Highlander family, George M. Harvey Sr., was honored May 6 during the University's spring 2017 Commencement Ceremony on Moffett Lawn. Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., bestowed upon him an honorary Bachelor of Business Administration in recognition of his lifetime achievement in business and faithful service to his community.

"George is a great supporter of the University and a great friend. He is a true Virginia gentleman. Throughout his many business endeavors, he was engaging in innovation before people even thought of innovation. He is one of the great examples of someone ahead of his time. His success in business and his dedication to his community has made a positive impact on Radford University, the Radford community and the New River Valley," said President Hemphill.

Bruce Cunningham, interim vice president for University Advancement, a Radford native and grandson of Radford University's second president, David Wilbur Peters, Ph.D., remembers his father calling George M. Harvey Sr. "Big H." He said Harvey has been a role model and inspiration for him and so many others. "George has been so much a part of the community and

Radford University. This honor is so fitting," said Cunningham.

After serving in the U.S. Army and taking classes at the National Business College in Roanoke, George M. Harvey Sr. began his professional career owning a service station, then a used car dealership, gas distributorship and a new car business. With each business success, he would use his profits to invest in the next and even more successful business. His son Brad Harvey said that his father's success came from the way he treated people. "Dad would say 'always tell the truth, be honest and good things will come,'" said Brad Harvey.

In 1959, George M. Harvey Sr. founded what we know today as Harvey's Chevrolet. In 1989, Time magazine named Harvey a Quality Dealer Award finalist, and his selection was announced by Time magazine at the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Convention in New Orleans on Jan. 28, 1989. He was only one of 10 dealers nationwide to be named a finalist for his outstanding business performance and exceptional community service.

In addition to working hard and being a successful businessman, Harvey is dedicated to his community. He has held positions on boards of directors in the areas of health care,

banking, education and community organizations. During Radford University President Donald Dedmon's tenure, Harvey served as the second president of the Radford University Foundation Board of Directors.

"George Harvey Sr. is recognized today for his commitment to his community, his accomplished career, his role in the economic prosperity of this region and what he does every day to make the New River Valley a wonderful place to live and work," said Joe Scartelli, Ph.D., interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. "I know you serve as a role model for so many people and hope that the graduates here today will also be inspired by your success."

When George M. Harvey Sr. accepted the degree from President Hemphill, he humbly told the audience of graduates and their families "this is not my day, this is your day, the day that you are graduating. You're getting your degree and you're in your 20s. I'm getting mine when I'm 89!," said Harvey. He said to the crowd of 1,800 graduates and their families that "the most important part of Radford University is the students. Radford University is here to give our students a quality education at a reasonable price," said Harvey.



George M. Harvey Sr. with wife Juanita

"I just want Radford University to grow and prosper. That's my goal. With Dr. Hemphill's ability, energy and willingness to work, I believe we can accomplish that," said Harvey.

Commencement days are nothing new for Harvey. He has five children and 15 grandchildren, and "I've been to a few of them over the years, but this is the first one that I've been to for myself," he said after the Commencement ceremony. "It was a great event. To have my children and grandchildren here with me made it even more special. ■"

MEET THE MAKERS

Using creativity to overcome real-world challenges

AROUND CAMPUS, Radford University has places for students and faculty to devise solutions to the problems of a modern world. These unique places house the Maker community on campus.

Radford was named a Make School by the Make School Alliance in 2016, joining 47 other colleges and universities, such as Carnegie Mellon, Cornell, Yale and Penn State, to earn that designation.

The MakerSpaces, where the modern solutions are created, are located inside Peery Hall, the Department of Design Make Lab and the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning New Media Center. Some of the materials inside the spaces include 3D printing and design, programming and microcontrollers, electronics, power and hand tools, e-textiles, fabrics and multimedia.

The MakerSpaces allow for faculty and staff to collaborate — outside and inside of the classroom — to enhance learning through practical hands-on experience.

Radford has a freshman learning community built around the existing Maker community and lifestyle. The living-learning community in Peery Hall is open to all incoming freshman at Radford, regardless of their major.

“They will have greater access to the makerspace than the general student population,” said Physics Professor Rhett Herman. “They have workshops during the semester

that teach them design, thinking, process and technical skills that most people don’t have the opportunity to learn while in college.”

Herman said that the living-learning community looks for creative students — ones who identify a problem and create a solution.

“The presence of two interdisciplinary, campus-wide MakerSpaces — the New Media Center and the Peery MakerSpace — along with the interdisciplinary living-learning community, reinforce the broad scope of our Maker movement,” said Assistant Vice Provost of High Impact Practices and Professor of Sociology Jeanne Mekolichick.

Through community outreach, Radford University faculty and students also work with local schools.

“Society needs graduates who are prepared to work in diverse teams, understand how to approach complex problems, communicate outside of their discipline area and understand the value of failure,” Mekolichick said.

Students who adopt the Maker mindset will see themselves as creators, problem solvers and team members. Radford students will also have tangible products to present potential employers.

“This is the power and impact that the Maker movement can have on our students,” Mekolichick said. ■



Code

warriors

IT students and
faculty excel in
cybersecurity
activities

By Mary Hardbarger

THIS SPRING, the Radford University Department of Information Technology continued to lead the charge in cybersecurity education.

In February, the Radford University Cyber Defense Club earned second place at the inaugural Virginia Fusion Cyber Cup Competition, at which schools from across the state competed in cybersecurity challenges.

Team members, coached by Associate Professor of Computer Science Prem Uppuluri, included Jacob Walters, Mehdi Himmiche, Harry Frank, Joey Burt '17, Michael Basala and Sean Anderson. Joining the participating team members were students Ben Adams, Carlie Addicks, Danielle Pompa and Matthew Wallace '17, who served as observers to prepare for future competitions.

During the competition, teams tackled problems in scenarios designed to model real-world computer security challenges across a range of categories that include cryptography, network traffic analysis, reverse engineering, steganography, memory forensics and pen-testing.

Radford University faculty members have also showcased their cybersecurity expertise at several on- and off-campus functions.

In March, Uppuluri was featured at the Making Connections cybersecurity conference in Roanoke. There, he sat on a panel with Gen. James Clapper, former director of National Intelligence under President Barack Obama. Uppuluri shared Radford University's efforts to prepare students for the cybersecurity workforce and stressed the sooner students are introduced to cybersecurity practices, the more their interest will grow. He also suggested



Members of Radford University's Cyber Defense Club compete at the Virginia Fusion Cyber Cup Competition in February.

educators think of ways to incorporate cybersecurity training into everyday lessons.

The conference, hosted by Roanoke County Public Schools and the Virginia Society for Technology in Education, was a new technology summit held with the goal of increasing the pipeline of students in cybersecurity.

Radford University has been at the forefront of that effort in Virginia with programs such as a class for middle and high school students entitled "Data Security, Ethics and Privacy," as well as with training for teachers and other faculty members. Uppuluri, along with additional members of the Department of Information Technology faculty, created this programming, secured grant funding from the National Security Agency (NSA) and established the Center for Information Security at Radford University.

"The demand for cybersecurity professionals is projected to far exceed the number of graduates produced by higher education," said chair of the Department of Information Technology Jeff Pittges. "Our department is committed to providing the highest quality cybersecurity education to ensure that our graduates master the necessary skills and best practices to protect the Commonwealth and the nation."

To further pique students' interest in cybersecurity, Radford University hosted in April one of the Commonwealth's largest cybersecurity competitions, called "Capture the Flag." More than 250 students, representing 63 teams from 28 high schools and three community colleges, participated in the competition, which was co-directed by Uppuluri and Professor of Information Technology Joe Chase.

These events are the most recent in a series of intentional activities by the Radford University community to enhance cybersecurity training.

In June 2016, Radford University was designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CDE) by the NSA and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Radford University is one of only seven four-year institutions in Virginia to earn the prestigious national CAE-CDE designation. ■

The demand for cybersecurity professionals is projected to far exceed the number of graduates produced by higher education.

Jeff Pittges, chair of the Department of Information Technology



The go-to for professional success

Graduate program sparks success on the job

By Don Bowman

A GRADUATE DEGREE is a solid investment that can take a career to the next level.

Radford University serves those aspiring to open new doors for professional advancement or to stand out from the competition in today's job marketplace. Its rich menu of programs can sharpen professional skills and broaden knowledge.

Master's degrees are a popular way to enable career change or career advancement. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the number of master's and doctoral degrees conferred is expected to continue increasing through 2022-23.

A graduate degree has the potential to significantly increase earnings. On average, employers will pay 21 percent more to those who hold a master's degree than to those with a bachelor's degree, according to 2015 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Several of Radford

University's largest graduate degree programs — in fields of education, healthcare and social service and business — are among those fields in which the master's degree can pay the greatest financial dividends.

"A hallmark of the Radford graduate school experience is the focus on advanced professional training and applied research as preparation for professional success," said Acting Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) Laura Jacobsen.

Graduate study is a central part of the Radford campus fabric.

The CGSR coordinates Radford University's rich menu of graduate offerings:

- Twenty-two master's programs in 17 disciplines
- Three doctoral programs
- Eleven post-baccalaureate certificates
- One post-master's certificate

According to Jacobsen, additional program options are being developed. These include innovative options using online and hybrid delivery formats, thereby providing flexible learning paths.

Those looking to enhance their credentials at Radford University will find a highly supportive environment. A core strength of Radford University's graduate school experience is the engaged faculty who embrace teaching and provide significant, close professional direction.

The cohort of Radford University graduate students receives solid support. Nearly half of all full-time Radford University graduate students have some form of assistantship or fellowship. Additionally, more than 70 Radford University graduate students in the 2016-2017 academic year received professional development awards supporting their travel to present at professional conferences.

"The facilities for many of our programs are designed for innovation. They are creative, high-tech platforms for 21st-century teaching and learning that forge connections to advanced professional careers," Jacobsen said. "Our program facilities are now as modern and strong as the faculty who teach and as the programs themselves."

There are inherent values of a post-graduate degree. Some are career-related, according to Jacobsen, such as improved earning potential and broadened job opportunities. Jacobsen added that other personal benefits such as challenging one's self, building new professional relationships, sharpening leadership skills and having freedom to deeply explore personal interests, make graduate study and a master's degree a solid investment with a lifelong return.

"At Radford University, we are invested in each graduate student's success," Jacobsen said. ■



President Brian O. Hemphill presents a ceremonial gift to Shandong Youth University's Linshan Wang.

THE INTERNATIONAL reach of Radford University continues to expand.

With the signing of a Study Abroad Agreement with Monash University by Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill in November, Radford University will reach "Down Under."

Monash, Australia's largest university, is highly ranked in the London Times' Higher Education World University Rankings and by the U.S. News & World Report. Based in Melbourne, Australia's second-largest city, Monash has four campuses and 70,000 students, including 25,000 international students.

"This is an exciting way to further globalize the Radford University community and enrich our students' collegiate experience," said President Hemphill.

Monash has a global footprint, with four Melbourne-area campuses, satellite campuses in China, India, South Africa and Italy and a network of international partners.

Radford University is exploring a Chinese connection as well. President Hemphill welcomed colleagues from the Shandong Youth University of Political Science in China to discuss potential student and faculty exchanges, joint degree programs and other international collaborations.

Shandong Youth University of Political Science is a 12,000-student university, located in a populous and affluent east Chinese province, that grants bachelor's and associate's degrees in disciplines such as economics, design arts, information technology and political science.

"Agreements can give professionally and personally life-changing opportunities both to our students and the international students we welcome to our campus," said International Education Center (IEC) Director Paul Currant.

Through the IEC, Radford University students can study

abroad for a semester, academic year or on one of many short-term programs. Among Radford's expanding international exchange partners are France's Blaise Pascal University and EMLyon Business School and ESDES School of Business and Management; Kassel University in Germany; Japan's Osaka University of Commerce and Kansai Gaidai University; and the University of Glasgow in Scotland. ■

Learn more about IEC programs by visiting www.radford.edu/iec or by calling 540-831-6588.

University outreach spans the globe

By Don Bowman



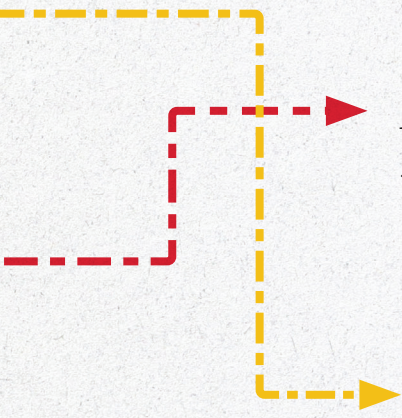


Angela Joyner, executive director of Career Services, left, is committed to helping students become “engaged contributors to the future.”

PROFESSIONAL PATHFINDER

Angela Joyner jumpstarts campus Career Center

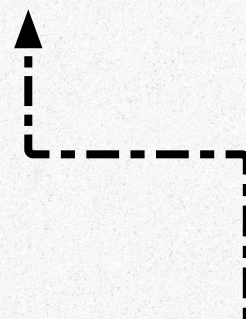
By Chad Osborne



▶ Angela Joyner, Ph.D., is on a mission to take Radford University’s Career Center to a new level. She wants to help students find their path to career happiness and success.



leadership





THE CENTER'S executive director is driving an effort to "evolve the center to focus on three areas that will have the most positive impact on our students" and engage alumni, she said.

Joyner, who began her role at Radford University in June 2016, is determined to create more experiential learning opportunities for students, develop talent and build stronger collaborative communities.

"We want to create a culture where every student has the opportunity to participate in at least one experiential learning activity," Joyner said. "Whether it be internships, student research, study abroad, work-study or job shadowing, we would like each student to engage in activities that will put their classroom work into practice."

Application-based experiences, Joyner said, will further develop Radford University students to be engaged contributors in the future.

Radford University has an abundance of talented students who can fulfill those roles, and Joyner aims to provide them with rich personal and professional development opportunities.

"We want to focus on competencies that are highly desired by employers and required for success in the workplace today," she said. "This holistic approach to talent development, not just career placement, will help students be stronger leaders and give them the ability to integrate their classroom learning with their unique talents."

Joyner wants to help those talented students connect with industry experts, employers, mentors and alumni. "These communities will also help students connect with others who are interested in the same fields and industries so that they can build strategic relationships that will last a lifetime," she said.

Before coming to Radford, Joyner served as vice president and general manager of ConAgra Foods in Naperville, Illinois. Her previous higher education experiences include teaching as an adjunct professor of brand management at the Paul Merage School of Business at the University of California, Irvine.

Joyner, who is "unapologetically doing what I love," holds a bachelor's degree from North Carolina State University, an MBA in marketing from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business and a doctorate of philosophy from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Her greater mission at Radford University is to provide strategic leadership for developing, implementing and evaluating recruiting systems, programs and events to connect employers with Radford University students, faculty and alumni.

"We want to focus on competencies that are highly desired by employers and required for success in the workplace today."

Angela Joyner

"I am excited about the future of the Career Center and how we can help our students be successful," Joyner said. "With the challenges our world is facing, our students are being called to solve complex problems, serve their communities and add value to their future organizations."

Joyner has spoken to groups of alumni throughout the year and encouraged them to connect with the Career Center and help students find internships and employment upon graduation. During the Alumni Volunteer Summit on campus in February, she discussed ways in which alumni can become more involved.

Rodney Crowe '89 was a finance major at Radford University and attended the Career Center workshop during the summit. He says that he attended the summit because he wants to give back to the University. He works in the finance area of federal contracting and has ideas for classes that would better prepare students to work in his area of business.

"I see a need and I see how Radford can help fill it," said Crowe, who is also interested in providing internship opportunities for Radford University students.

"We have to inspire and equip our students so that they can confidently leave their unique contribution in the world," said Joyner. "Our commitment is to help individuals and organizations thrive. My belief is that our relationship with Highlanders should last a lifetime." ■

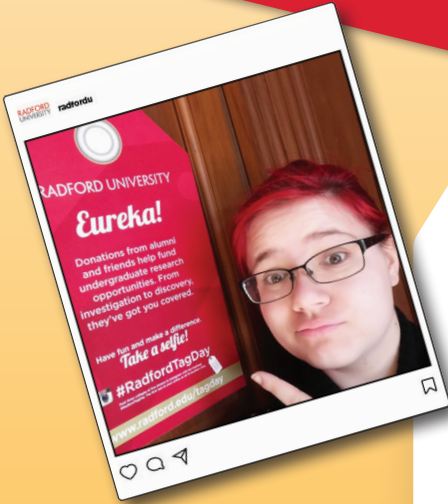
If you would like to become more involved and help students find their professional path, contact Angela Joyner at 540-831-1464 or ajoyner9@radford.edu.



TAG! *You're it!*

Teaching the spirit of philanthropy

By Jeremy Norman



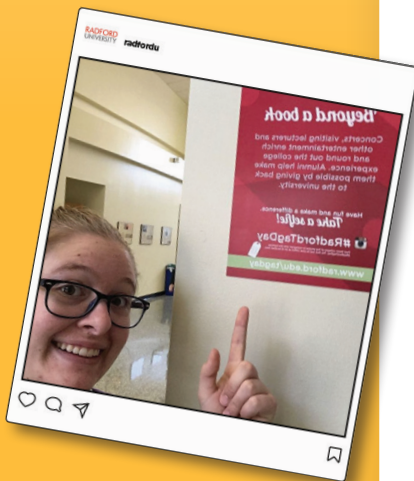
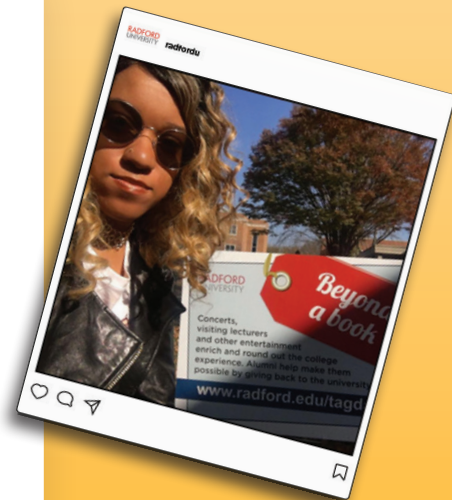
IF YOU WALKED around campus on Nov. 16, 2016, you no doubt saw numerous signs posted throughout University grounds and inside buildings. These signs, or “tags,” carried information on them that highlighted the impact philanthropy has had on each student’s college experience.

“We wanted to educate students about philanthropy by bringing tangibility to it,” said Assistant Director of Annual Giving Crystal Hubbard ’00, MBA ’08. “The room you are studying in bears the name of someone who cared. As a student, you normally don’t think — or even know — about that fact.”

Teaching Annual Giving Day, or TAG Day, was Hubbard’s brainchild. She wanted to introduce students to the importance of philanthropy in a way that would resonate with her target audience. “To put it in front of them and gamify it, so to speak,” she explained. Thus, TAG Day was born.

On Nov. 16, tags were posted at various locations across campus which best exemplified how private donations make a difference to Radford University. Students were then invited to take a selfie with as many tags as possible. Each TAG Day selfie entered the student into a raffle to either watch a home men’s basketball game or have lunch — student’s choice — with Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill. “We felt this was a great way to get the new president involved with the students,” Hubbard explained.

Raffle winners were also able to designate a \$500 gift, generously donated by the Radford Athletics Club, to the club, team, program or department fund of their choice. Junior Ashleigh Cochran won the scavenger hunt raffle and



designated the group Disciples on Campus, of which she is a member, to receive the donation. Cochran, majoring in deaf education, said that she thought participating in the scavenger hunt “was a great way to support my group.”

Cochran also chose to have lunch with President Hemphill. “President Hemphill seems really cool and I wanted to learn more about him,” she said.

Students were also encouraged to sign a TAG Day banner and give their thanks to supporters via video message. The banner, which held the messages and signatures of well over 100 students, was ultimately hung from the walking bridge between Dalton Hall and Heth Hall.

While TAG Day was Hubbard’s idea, she is quick to point out that it would never have happened had it not been for the work of several different Radford University departments.

“We started planning TAG Day over the summer. We had a scavenger hunt raffle, a banner, a thank you video, 15 different building tags, and 12 different campus signs as well as the prizes for the raffle,” she explained.

“TAG Day had a lot of moving parts and required assistance from numerous Radford University areas: University Relations, Web Communications and Strategy, Facilities Management, the Office of the President. Without the collaboration of those departments, we wouldn’t have had a TAG Day.”

As for whether or not she felt the months of work it took to bring TAG Day to life had been worth it, Hubbard maintained her characteristic optimism.

“If even one student better understands the impact that philanthropy has had on their education, then I believe it was a success. They can then pass that message on to others.” ■

To see photos from TAG Day and the student compilations video, please visit radford.edu/tagday.



Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill heads to lunch with the TAG (Teaching Annual Giving) Day winner, junior Ashleigh Cochran.

“We wanted to educate students about philanthropy by bringing tangibility to it.”

Assistant Director of Annual Giving
Crystal Hubbard '00, MBA '08



Classroom Connection

Verlander Foundation and Radford University partner to address teacher shortage

By Jeremy Norman

NESTLED BETWEEN the Chesapeake Bay and the mouth of the Rappahannock River lies one of Virginia's oldest, and smallest, counties. Located almost 300 miles from Radford, Lancaster County is home to approximately 11,000 people — including three Radford University student teachers.

"The George W. Verlander and Cornelia M. Verlander Memorial Foundation has been a longtime supporter of Radford University," explains Kenna Colley, dean of the College of Education and Human Development. "The primary focus of the foundation is supporting Lancaster County, which has been suffering from a lack of qualified teachers.

In the fall of 2015, Colley and members of the University Advancement team drove nearly six hours to Virginia's northern neck in order to meet with members of the Verlander Foundation board, as well as other members of the Lancaster County community, in order to see if the College of Education and Human Development could help with the area's teacher shortage.

"Jack Neal, president of the Verlander Foundation, pulled in about 10 to 15 people from the community to meet with us and come up with some ways to attract teachers to the area," says Colley. "They had some creative ideas, including housing, signing bonuses and a year of free sailing lessons."

What brought the most amount of interest, ultimately, was a partnership between the foundation, Radford University and Lancaster County Public Schools.

"The Verlander Foundation would offer \$5,000 scholarships to Radford University students who agreed to work in the Lancaster School system during their year of student teaching," Colley



From left, Christabelle D'Silva, Alicia Cardwell and Laura Rowlett

explains. “The hope was that the students would then agree to take a full-time position with the school system upon graduation.”

The process to apply for the scholarship was not like any other. “Interested students had to travel to Lancaster County for a school visit, tour and a mock interview with school administrators,” Colley says. “We started with 42 interested students, reduced that number to six students for the school visit and interview, and ultimately had three students receive scholarships.”

The three students, elementary education majors Christabelle D’Silva ’17 and Deanna Friedel ’17 and English education major Allyson Umstead ’17, graduated from Radford University in May and have each received verbal offers to stay with Lancaster County Public Schools.

“I really enjoyed this experience. I feel secure in my future thanks to the scholarship and a job offer,” says D’Silva. “This experience has been a wonderful journey for my career. I was lucky enough to interview so early on in the semester — January — and within a week, I was offered a fourth-grade teaching position.

“I really enjoyed this experience. I feel secure in my future thanks to the scholarship and a job offer.”

Christabelle D’Silva

“Not a lot of college students get offered positions so early on in the game. I am so excited for the future,” she adds.

“This scholarship allowed me to take my first big steps out from under my parents’ umbrella and into the ‘grown-up’ world,” explains Friedel. “I was able to move out and get an apartment, as well as not worry about paying for textbooks, classroom supplies and several other expenses that came with my student teaching semester.

“The whole process has taught me tips on how to interview, what

different schools and school systems look like and has provided me confidence in my ability to be a future teacher,” Friedel continues.

The first year of the partnership has been such a success that Colley may have unintentionally created some competition.

“Our partnership model is now being used by other universities,” says Colley. “Others want to use the model, which is fine. My job is to bring scholarship money to our students and to supply the state with high-quality teachers.”

With budget cuts to public school systems increasing and populations in Virginia’s rural counties decreasing, innovative collaborations such as this between donors, school systems and universities will be necessary to combat the teacher shortage. Colley recognizes the situation that school systems are confronting.

“The state is facing critical teacher shortages in the areas of math, science and special education,” she explains. “We want to create a pipeline for our students, especially in high demand areas. Our school systems are struggling right now, and we need to work together with them in order to solve this crisis.” ■

Stronger, faster, better

Center takes athletic training and conditioning to a new level

By Paul Hershey

RADFORD ATHLETICS' strength and conditioning motto is "better yourself to better the team." Now, Highlander student-athletes have a new and improved space to prepare for success in competition.

Radford University student-athletes are challenged every day to perform at the highest level in the classroom and on the practice field and compete for championships. Strength and conditioning are the cornerstone of successful programs.

Thanks to dedicated Radford University Athletics fans and supporters, more than \$220,000 has been raised to help create the new Sports Performance Center in what was formerly the pool area of the Dedmon Center. The difference between the upgraded space and the previous weight room is striking.

"This center helps current and future athletes tremendously. It gives us a big advantage compared to other mid-major schools. We now have areas to work on things we never could before. With injuries always a possibility, I think having a state-of-the-art facility is all the advantage. Not only will our new weight room help us, but more importantly, the new training room keeps us safe and healthy," said Danny Hrbek '17, a recently-graduated baseball pitcher from Effort, Pennsylvania.

"The first time (student-athletes) came in, they were like a kid coming down the stairs and seeing what Santa left for them," Assistant Athletic Director for Sport Performance Scott Bennett said. "They loved it. A lot of times their workouts are not easy. To give them something to be excited about and have a little 'wow' factor, that's a great feeling to be able to provide that."

Starting with the most basic comparison of size, the new facility nearly quadruples the square footage, from 4,200 to about 16,000, and makes it one of the largest performance centers for a school of Radford University's size. The center provides more room for workout equipment, and athletes are able to have space as they train. Because of the extra square footage, the cardio and Nautilus machines, previously in storage, are now being fully utilized by student-athletes

However, the most significant upgrade is the wide-open

turf area in the center that provides an additional training area that can be used as an alternative to the Dedmon Center court, the baseball and softball hitting facility, or in case of bad weather, outside. The soccer and lacrosse teams have used it for drills. Volleyball has taken advantage of the softer surface for jumping work; basketball as a warm-up area before games; and baseball and softball can use it and the weights at the same time without having to change buildings.

Along with making the workouts themselves more efficient, the additional space has made coordinating schedules among the teams easier.

"People don't think 15 or 20 minutes is a big deal. As tight as our schedules are, it is a big deal. You don't want to have to start anything at 5:30 in the morning," Bennett said.

The other very noticeable improvement is the aesthetics of the room itself, with its open floor plan and natural light flowing through the roof and windows.

"It just gives them a whole new outlook on training," Bennett said. "They're excited about working in here, and you have the feeling as a student-athlete that the coaching staff, the administration, everybody here is behind us and wants us to have a great experience."

Additionally, larger television screens displaying all of the different workouts have been

added, and the plan is to upgrade the sound system. The two departments are also collaborating on a program emphasizing nutrition, with the hope of eventually putting a nutrition bar inside the new facility.

"It's all about the young people and giving them a first-class facility to train in, making sure we're doing the right things with them, and giving them plenty of room to do what they need to do to get better," Bennett said. ■



More enhancements to the new Center are expected to be completed throughout the coming year. Donor support is crucial to providing the best facility possible for our hard-working student-athletes. If you are interested in contributing financial support for these facility enhancements, please contact Andrew Hartley at 540-831-6236 or ahartley7@radford.edu.

Investing in community care

Bedford Community Health Foundation provides scholarships for nursing students

By Jeremy Norman

SINCE 2011, Radford University's School of Nursing and the Bedford Community Health Foundation have engaged in a partnership that has allowed nursing students to receive valuable clinical experience while also providing Bedford residents with an ever-increasing pool of health professionals.

"In order to graduate, nursing students need to have clinical experience in real-world health care environments," explains Mary Wiley, program officer with the Bedford Community Health Foundation. "Unfortunately, this can mean increased expenses for the students by way of travel and housing. The Bedford Community Health Foundation grant helps offset those expenses."

The grant is awarded to Radford University School of Nursing graduate and undergraduate students who agree to do their clinical work in the Bedford area. "Frequently, if a student performs their clinical in this area, they will be hired upon graduation," explains Wiley.

One such student is Amy Johnson, D.N.P. '13, who was the first recipient of the grant in 2011. "I was doing my clinical hours with Dr. Leonard Cohen at Eastlake Medical Center in Huddleston," Johnson says. "I spent three semesters with him, learning about his patients, his practice and developing skills alongside him. When I graduated, he offered me a full-time position and six weeks following graduation, I began my full-time career working in collaboration with Dr. Cohen as a nurse practitioner."

"Because of my two years spent there as a student, I had a patient base that knew me, was comfortable with me and willing to accept me as their health care provider," she adds. "I could not have asked for an easier entry into my career." Today, Johnson works with Centra Medical Group - Bedford, located inside Centra Bedford Memorial Hospital.

Shannon Dechant, D.N.P. '17, a 2016-17 recipient of the Bedford Community Health Foundation grant, says, "The scholarship was a blessing to my family. I am married and have two small children. I work full-time as a nurse, and



Shannon Dechant, D.N.P. '17 assesses a patient.

it helped eliminate the need for picking up additional shifts at work. This allowed me to have more time with my family during such a busy season in our lives."

Dechant continues, "I was also fortunate enough to spend some time with Mary Wiley and was able to hear about all the wonderful things the Bedford Community Health Foundation does for the community."

"The Foundation board believed that this would be a good investment for the Bedford community," Wiley explains. "That is why we have awarded the grant every year since 2011."

According to Wiley, when the program began in 2011, the Foundation awarded \$2,000 to Johnson. For the 2016-17 year, a total of \$10,000 was awarded to three Radford University nursing students.

"Working, attending graduate school and raising a child is tough, so this grant allowed me to continue with my proposed plan of study without delays," says May 2017 Doctor of Nursing Practice graduate and grant recipient Anne Saunier.

"I ended up working with several providers in the Bedford area for the last two years," Saunier explains. "This has been a wonderful experience to precept with doctors and nurse practitioners in the community in which I live, work and raise my family."

"I feel there will be numerous opportunities in Bedford for me to practice in a variety of care settings and give back to my Bedford family. I would not hesitate to take a job opportunity in Bedford."

Which is exactly what Wiley and the Bedford Community Health Foundation want to hear.

"I believe that this partnership has been very successful. When I speak to the students, they are very appreciative," she says. ■

“... a good investment for the Bedford community.”

Mary Wiley, program officer with the Bedford Community Health Foundation

Come home to your
#RadfordFamily!
Homecoming
Oct. 6-8 2017



Featured events include:**Friday, Oct. 6**

8 a.m.-7 p.m. Tours of the new Alumni Center in Russell Hall

11 a.m. State of the University, Bondurant Auditorium, Preston Hall
Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., will provide a keynote address about the University's progress over the last year and the plans for the future. (Open to students, faculty, staff and alumni)

Noon Alumni Volunteer Leadership Lunch and Awards, Kyle Hall

6 p.m. 2017 Radford University Athletics Hall of Fame, Kyle Hall
Presented by Service Contracting of Virginia, Inc.

7 p.m. Froggy Friday's at BT's

Saturday, Oct. 7

8 a.m.-2 p.m. Tours of the new Alumni Center in Russell Hall

Noon Women of Radford Lunch, Kyle Hall

2 p.m. Alumni and Family Village, Moffett Lawn

2 p.m. Alumni Lacrosse Game, Moffett Lawn

6 p.m. The Golden Dinner, Governor Tyler House

Sunday, Oct. 8

9 a.m. Highlander Weekend Brunch, Dalton Dining Hall

Visit www.radford.edu/homecoming for a complete listing of events and to register!

Questions?

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





Helping those in need

Alumna Linda Davis '95, M.S.N. '05, D.N.P. '10 boosts eldercare services

By Don Bowman

A HEALTH CARE provider's focus is on service to the client, the family and their community.

Linda Davis '95, M.S.N. '05, D.N.P. '10, a three-time graduate of the Waldron College of Health and Human Services' School of Nursing, has shown just how productive one woman's focus can be. Her creation of the Pulaski Adult Day Care Service and Fall Prevention Center (PADS-FPC) is tangible proof.

The facility rose from the rubble of the old Dublin Elementary School. The driving force was Davis' commitment to serving an underserved community with which she was familiar both professionally and personally.

The credentials after Davis's name — B.S.N., M.S.N., D.N.P., G.C.N.S.-B.C. — are a catalog of degrees earned at Radford University. Davis earned her bachelor of science in nursing in 1995, her master of science in nursing with a specialty in gerontology with board certification as a clinical nurse specialist in 2005 and her doctor of nursing practice, the terminal degree for nursing, in 2010.

Davis has successfully conceived, financed, promoted, coordinated construction and launched the \$1.7 million dollar, 4,200-square-foot facility and program to serve Pulaski County. PADS-FPC has a registered nurse, a rotating pair of social workers and other expert caregivers and therapists to serve up to 30 clients a day.

The facility opened in November 2016 and capped a process that began for Davis in 2006 as she struggled to care for her own ailing mother.

"It has been absolutely amazing to see what the community has been able to do to help families who are dealing 24/7 with caregiving for a loved one," Davis said.

The PADS-FPC, according to Davis, provides activities and a safe, secure environment for participants

requiring supervised daily care. The adult day care center works with those suffering from dementia, physical disability, mental illness and developmental disabilities, among others. It also provides freedom, comfort, education and support for the caregivers who are responsible for them.

"To cut down on health care costs and the revolving door to the hospital, the center is a place where our clients can be creative, gain control of chronic disease, be monitored and socialize," Davis said.

The facility serves Radford University students as well. The PADS-FPC is a site at which occupational therapy, nursing, physical therapy, music therapy, social work and recreational therapy students receive clinical experience. Alumni of those programs have also landed jobs on the PADS-FPC staff.

Bonnie Fox, 2016 recreation therapy graduate, recently joined the staff to supervise activities and Cindie Wolfe '13, a music therapy graduate and board-certified music therapist, is a contractor who gathers the clients together for spirited sessions of song and sound.

Davis freely admits she had to gain mentors for the business aspects of the project. She credits her nursing mentors Ginger Burggraf, professor of nursing, and Vickie Bierman, associate professor of nursing, with being role models for the indomitable courage and nursing wisdom that inspired her to forge into the unknown on behalf of her clients and persevere. She credits emeritus faculty member Marcella Griggs with being another mentor. Griggs spearheaded the capital campaign to support the facility and its programs that is nearing its \$500,000 goal. Davis said she also got invaluable guidance from David Shanks, former

director of Radford's Small Business Development Center, and Yolanda Hunter, MBA '02, of Beans & Rice.

When the PADS-FPC opened its doors in November, it culminated Davis' entrepreneurial building of a public-private partnership. Davis rallied support and effort from Pulaski County, a slate of local foundations, area businesses and citizens.

"Because of my long relationship with Radford University, I relied upon its faculty, staff and students as great resources," Davis said. "In so many ways, Radford gave this project focus, skills and knowledge that I am blessed to share with my community and those trapped by a disability."

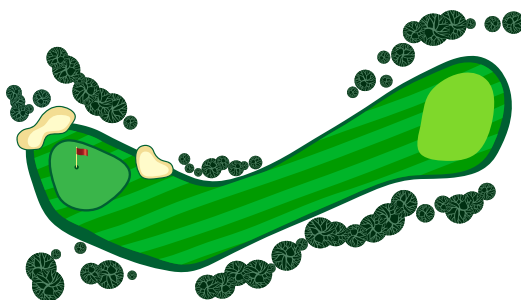
During her residency as a D.N.P. candidate, Davis founded the Southwestern Virginia Fall Prevention Coalition. Last April, Davis focused her skills and passion for collaboration to coordinate a Fall Prevention Summit that brought experts from across the region together to address the persistent threat of falling to the growing gerontological population. The summit attracted support and cooperation from both major regional health care providers — Carilion Clinic and the Lewis Gale Health System.

"That event was a real breakthrough on working to build a statewide Fall Prevention Coalition, which will work to overcome the national health problem," she said.

Radford University has always been key to the collaborations Davis has led to successful conclusions, she said.

"At each level of my professional growth and in these projects' development, I would learn and apply the evidence, raise questions and find good advisors," she said. "Our clients, their families and the community have benefited from the expertise available at Radford University." ■

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



By Ann Brown, M.S. '03

JENNIE TEASS ALLMAN '67

makes a difference for current students while looking forward to coming home to Radford for her Golden Reunion on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017 during Homecoming.

Allman earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Radford College, now Radford University, with the intention of a long and wonderful career as a teacher. Although she taught for only two years, Allman still identifies herself as a teacher and has continued to support her community in roles such as Chairman of the Bedford County School Board.

Allman used her teaching skills to obtain her first job in corporate America as an educational representative with IBM in Roanoke. That position led to a business analyst role as marketing support representative. Then she moved to Dallas to serve IBM in its marketing department.

Allman returned to Roanoke to marry Bill Allman in 1973. She was offered a position with Norfolk and Western as assistant manager of administrative planning and then became manager of that department. She describes her time with the railroad as “an exciting opportunity to work with some of the best business minds in our country.” She was promoted to director of office automation soon after the merger of Norfolk and Western and Southern Railway. In 1987, she left Norfolk Southern to pursue some entrepreneurial projects, but was quickly rehired by the company as a consultant.

Allman became interested in golf courses when she and two other partners purchased Seven Springs in Chesapeake, Virginia. That venture led to the purchase of Ivy Hill Golf Club in Forest, Virginia; the construction of the River Course in Pulaski, Virginia; the renovation of the golf course at Oakwood Country Club in Lynchburg, Virginia; and then



Jennie Teass Allman '67 with Radford Golf Society scholarship recipient Jacob Vaught '16

to a management contract at Poplar Forest Golf Course in Forest, Virginia.

Allman and two other partners purchased Oakwood Country Club in 2010, and she became the operating partner. “Operating companies are moving targets and require attention to detail by every employee. But they are fun because you are creating something that exists only because investors are willing to take a chance in the economy, and then dedicated employees are willing to work hard to get the results,” says Allman.

Her alma mater will always be special to her. She and a group of fellow graduates are making a difference for Radford students. She says, “the values reinforced at Radford College through such mentors as Bonnie Hurlburt '58 have spun the fabric of my life. I am most proud of my membership in The Golf Society of Radford College. This group

was first just friends getting together to laugh and have fun. After several years of just having fun, our Radford heritage kicked in and we wanted to do something good as a result of our time together. To combine those two objectives, we created a scholarship that grows each year as we renew our friendships on the golf course.” Allman and her friends believe that a scholarship is a great way to make sure that Radford values live on.

Allman encourages young people to not miss the joys of life while working hard to make a difference in the world. She admits that in her seventh decade, it is clear that the only thing anyone will leave behind is their influence on others. She believes that supporting a scholarship is a great way to live forever. ■

Join fellow Highlanders for Homecoming 2017, scheduled for Oct. 6-8, 2017. For a schedule of events or to register, visit www.radford.edu/homecoming.

Tradition of service

By Jeremy Norman

“DURING MY TIME at Radford University, I learned how to work with colleagues from different backgrounds and different points of view,” said Pattie DeLoatche '82. “I learned tolerance and a strong sense of self. I learned the art of compromise.”

For DeLoatche, senior policy advisor in the government strategies practice at Sidley Austin LLP, compromise is vital to her success. “I assist our clients in determining their goals and initiatives,” explains DeLoatche. “We then come up with a strategy for bringing these goals to the attention of Congress and the administration, and ultimately we help implement said goals.”

By providing strategic advice to the firm’s clients on legislative and regulatory issues before the administration, Congress and state agencies, DeLoatche is able to utilize over 25 years of experience she earned working as senior health policy staff with senior members of Congress in both the Senate and House of Representatives. To hear DeLoatche tell it, her government experience began long before she was even born.

“I inherited a strong tradition of service to the country,” she said. “My grandfather was a tailor and a first-generation immigrant from Sicily. He worked on Capitol Hill in what they called the House ‘folding room,’ where he would operate machines that would fold and place government correspondence into envelopes.

“My mother worked for the Dwight D. Eisenhower White House,” DeLoatche continued. “As Christmas gifts, my mother received from President Eisenhower two signed prints of his paintings — a hobby that he picked up from Winston Churchill. Not a lot of people know that President Eisenhower painted. Both prints now hang in my home.”

DeLoatche’s path to Washington, D.C., was not without its detours, however, as her family would eventually relocate to southwest Virginia while she was still in high school. That relocation led her to Radford University.

“While in high school I met a Radford student who talked about the wonderful experiences she was having at Radford. The school wasn’t too big or too small, and it had a beautiful setting,” DeLoatche said. “Without ever even visiting the campus, I decided to apply. Coincidentally, many of my friends from northern Virginia ended up going to Radford as well.”

While at Radford University, the burgeoning public servant joined the Student Government Association and, like many students of that era, fell under the wing of Bonnie Hurlburt '58.

“Dean of Students Bonnie Hurlburt was my advisor and was like a mom away from home,” explained DeLoatche. “She treated us with love, but tough love when we needed it. She made such an impact on so many of our lives.

“I am still close with her and with many of my classmates from that time,” she continued. “Dean Hurlburt

is the one who bonded us together. And that is what Radford is about — family.”

Upon graduating from Radford University, DeLoatche made her inevitable journey back to Washington, D.C., working first as a legislative correspondent under former Sen. Dan Coats, of Indiana, before serving as health legislative assistant, legislative director and, ultimately, chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Michael Bilirakis of Florida. It was during her work with Bilirakis that DeLoatche caught the attention of the chief of staff for Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah. “I participated on a panel to discuss Medicare reform when I met Senator Hatch’s chief of staff,” she explains “I was then asked to interview for a health position with his staff.”

Serving as Senator Hatch’s lead health advisor for over a decade, DeLoatche counseled the senator on pending health bills, regulatory oversight, federal nominations and congressional investigations. She also worked on numerous health policy matters, including the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act, the reauthorization of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program and the Medicare Modernization Act, as well as issues related to the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act.

“I have been fortunate to work for top-notch members of Congress,” DeLoatche says. “Their jobs are hard and require numerous sacrifices.”

Even though she no longer works for members of Congress, it does not mean that she works with them any less. “I spend a lot of time on Capitol Hill. In fact, I have had 11 meetings over two days within the last week,” DeLoatche explains.

While much of her schedule is devoted to her work on Capitol Hill, DeLoatche still makes time to give back. She and her certified therapy dog, Petie, perform weekly volunteer work with recreational therapist Nick Englund '12 in the long-term rehabilitation unit at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Virginia. DeLoatche also serves as chair of the Alumni Advisory Board for the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences.

“I believe it is important for students and alumni to give back to the University,” she says.

Which is exactly what DeLoatche has been doing for the University, and the country, for over 30 years. ■



Pattie DeLoatche '82

Mountain Man

*Climbing guide Eli Helmuth scales
the heights of his profession*

By Chad Osborne

If you're the adventurous type with an itch for a weeklong mountain expedition in Alaska, where elevations stretch to 20,000 feet and wind chills dip to -100 Fahrenheit, there's a guide for that.



Eli Helmuth '87 stands at the summit of the glacier-covered Antisana volcano. At 18,174 feet, it is considered one of the most challenging climbs in the Ecuadorian Andes. In the distance and under Helmuth's hand is Cotopaxi, an active stratovolcano that reaches 19,374 feet, the second highest summit in Ecuador. It last erupted in January 2016.

Perhaps you're looking for something a little less challenging — and bone-chilling. Maybe you'd like scaling up and rappelling down smaller cliffs in the warm, tranquil environs of Puerto Rico, where high temperatures consistently settle in the mid-80s and island breezes comfort your every move. If that is more to your liking, there's a guide for that, too.

His name is Eli Helmuth '87, and he is one of the most experienced mountain guides in the world. For nearly 30 years, Helmuth has been taking people on adventures — rock climbing, skiing and hiking — all around our rocky, wet, warm, snowy planet, from the Himalayas to the Andes.

"I've taken people to some wild places," said Helmuth, a specialist in high-altitude mountaineering who also trains others for careers as professional outdoor guides in such remote locations as Mount Everest and Yosemite National Park's El Capitan.

"I've done many trips on Denali, Mount McKinley, Alaska, and that's one of the coldest places on the planet. It can be -40 Fahrenheit with 60 mph winds," he said.

As the guide, Helmuth leads the expeditions, managing everything from where the travelers sleep to what they eat and carry on their backs.

"It's highly risky, and unfortunately, many of my peers have perished over the years due to these hazards," Helmuth said. "You see those lists about the most dangerous jobs in America, and those don't compare to what we do. We're way beyond those risks."

A climber "needs a super-high-level of continual focus while hanging on the side of a cliff," he explained. "You have to be 100 percent in the moment."

"And yeah, you should be scared. There's always some fear and trepidation. And a high level of awareness. That helps keep us in one piece."

Helmuth has been training mountain guides since 1999 for the American Mountain Guides Association and has been a lead trainer for the organization since 2001. "Training guides is a great responsibility and comes with some risks," he said.



“Everything I learned at Radford was appropriate for the job.”

Eli Helmuth '87

As a teacher, failure — “not the kind where bad things happen,” Helmuth said — can be a positive for anyone with a goal to climb to new heights, figuratively and literally.

“If you look up at a climb and it's not scary, then maybe it's not worth doing,” he said with a laugh, but he wasn't joking. “Living in fear and not being paralyzed by it, and helping others figure out how they can manage the risks and still move forward and carry on with the goal, can be very satisfying.”

Helmuth said he trains people the way Gary Nussbaum trained him at Radford University.

Top: Helmuth, right, and 76-year-old client Steve take a breath after a day-long climb to the 17,267-foot summit of Illiniza Sur in Ecuador. Bottom: Helmuth cooks dinner for clients during a ski mountaineering trip in Alaska. Right: Helmuth, sitting, leads one of his many guide-training expeditions in the Alaska Range.

“Everything I learned at Radford was appropriate for the job,” Helmuth said about his time studying with Nussbaum, a retired Recreation, Parks and Tourism Department chair and professor.

Helmuth “stumbled into” the outdoor education program at Radford University by “doing some adventurous rope work” to explore caves for bat research in a biology class. He was a walk-on lacrosse player and explored his newfound interest by studying with Nussbaum. After graduation, he moved “out West” in 1989 to work in California, Oregon and Washington. His career evolved from there.

Helmuth was one of the first people in the United States to earn a rock climbing guide certification, and in 2002, he earned an international license. “I’ve been able to work around the planet,” he said, “leading people on extraordinary mountain-climbing trips.”

Helmuth lived in Colorado for 18 years — he became an expert in avalanche training there — before moving to Puerto Rico in 2016 with his wife, a professional dancer, and their two children. On the island, they are shifting their business model to focus on eco-lodging “oriented to adventurous people like us,” Helmuth

“Living in fear and not being paralyzed by it, and helping others figure out how they can manage the risks and still move forward and carry on with the goal, can be very satisfying.”

Eli Helmuth '87

said, and “to where I’m not hanging off a cliff every day.”

Still, there are plenty of rocks for Helmuth to climb in Puerto Rico, and if you’re willing to take on the challenge, he is eager to be your guide.

“If you come to Puerto Rico, we’d definitely go to a cliff,” Helmuth said. “There’s one right around the corner from my house. I would look for climbs that I would perceive to be in your ability. We would climb to the top and see amazing views.”

If you feel scared ... “Well, you probably should be,” he said with a laugh. “You’re about to climb up the side of a cliff.”

The risk, however, is low with Helmuth, one of the most experienced guides and trainers on Earth.

“What was so great about the training I received at Radford was I learned to provide a professional experience that is reassuring and that a person understands they are working with someone who knows what they are doing,” Helmuth said.

Establishing that trust, listening and asking questions and being sensitive to concerns, he said, helps make for positive and “super-rewarding experiences” every time up and down a cliff.

“There’s rarely a day at my work where folks don’t say, ‘Wow, that was one of the coolest things I’ve ever done’ and ‘Because of you I felt really safe and assured,’” Helmuth said.

And best of all, “When can we do it again?” ■



Family brand

Advertising maven Kim D'Aloise follows in grandfather's footsteps

By Chad Osborne



LAWRENCE D'ALOISE SR. made a career as a creative advertising executive in the "Mad Men" era of the 1960s, working at such prestigious New York City firms as J. Walter Thompson and Dancer, Fitzgerald and Sample on Madison Avenue.

He was a creative force, working on and developing numerous well-known campaigns. He was the brainchild of the simple yet memorable "Kodak Moments" advertising slogan.

Tales of working in the glamorous advertising environment regaled and inspired his granddaughter Kim D'Aloise '97, who grew up just north of the Big Apple, to develop a strong desire to follow in her grandfather's footsteps.

"I've wanted to work in marketing and advertising since I was in high school," D'Aloise said. "He was my inspiration."

After graduating from Radford University with a degree in media studies and concentration in advertising, D'Aloise worked with several top tier agencies.

"I started off in direct marketing and direct mail, back in the day. That evolved into public relations, promotions, branding and repositioning," she said.

You probably know many of the brands D'Aloise has worked on. It's an impressive and exhaustive list that includes Diageo, Snapple, ESPN the Magazine, American Express, Verizon, Beech-Nut Baby Food, Equinox, Reebok, Sallie Mae, SC Johnson, the NFL and a campaign for Acapulco, Mexico.

"Then I eventually got into digital," she said.

These days, D'Aloise plies her advertising and marketing chops as a manager in digital marketing in the global marketing communications department at New York City-based Colgate-Palmolive.

Which means ... "I wear a lot of different hats," she said. "I've mainly been working on developing and driving digital marketing capability within the company, and a lot of that has to do with digital education and training.

"We make sure we're developing people and arming them with the foundational knowledge to build and execute digital programs within marketing plans."

Colgate-Palmolive is a worldwide consumer products company focused on the production and distribution of oral care, home care, pet and personal products, such as soaps, detergents and oral hygiene products.

Motivated by her grandfather's inspiration, D'Aloise began building her portfolio at Radford University, particularly through her efforts on a senior independent study project. Working with a faculty member, she developed an advertising and branding campaign for the Radford Heritage Foundation.

"I learned a lot in the classroom at Radford, but the hands-on experience was the most helpful," she said. "A lot of times you need to learn by doing, trial by fire."

Now, deep into the fire of her career, D'Aloise continues to take on educational experiences. She was one of only 45 Colgate-Palmolive executives chosen to participate in the prestigious Stanford University Leadership Business Program. Colgate-Palmolive identifies some of its high-potential employees to send to the program, and last year, D'Aloise was selected.

"It was a week long, and it was a pretty intense schedule of classes with Stanford's top professors," D'Aloise explained. "There was a lot of teamwork, collaboration and innovative thinking with really engaging faculty and speakers."

Her education and climb up the ladder of the advertising world were a source of tremendous pride for D'Aloise's grandfather, who "ironically enough," she said, also worked on the branding of Crest, a main competitor of Colgate.

"It makes me proud to follow in his path, and when he passed away a few years ago, he was proud I was working here," she said, sitting in her New York office. "He knew that working in marketing and advertising was something I wanted to do since high school, and he was a major influence." ■

“I learned a lot in the classroom at Radford, but the hands-on experience was the most helpful. A lot of times you need to learn by doing, trial by fire.”

Kim D'Aloise '97

Snapple
Verizon
SC Johnson
ESPN the Magazine
Beech-Nut Baby Food
American Express
Reebok
Equinox



Paying it FORWARD

By Don Bowman

“I just want to help other Radford young people to recognize and enjoy the same experiences I did.”

Levar Cole '02

For Levar Cole '02, paying it forward began as he walked off the McConnell Lawn after graduation in 2002.

As he and George Mendiola '00 reflected on their Radford University experiences, both felt the time was now to help those who would follow in their footsteps.

The Mendiola-Cole Leadership Scholarship is an example of philanthropy that began while the glow of accomplishment still burned bright. Cole and Mendiola immediately started making an annual investment in the endowed scholarship that bears their name.

"George said 'Let's do it. Help me do it,'" said Cole. "We reached out to as many people as we could and it happened faster than I thought."

Cole, now an audit manager for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), was heartened by the response.

"People I didn't even know pitched in," Cole said.

Both Cole and Mendiola were leaders at Radford University who benefited from scholarship support. Mendiola was Student Government Association (SGA) president, and Cole was executive vice president. The desire to give back to the campus by assisting students who contribute to Radford was one of many aspirations that united them.

The two SGA leaders worked their networks of friends and fellow alumni to get the scholarship established in 2003. In 2007, the Mendiola-Cole Leadership Scholarship reached endowment status and was first awarded in 2009.

The recipients of the Mendiola-Cole Leadership Scholarship meet its rigorous qualifications of a minimum 3.3 GPA for undergraduates or 3.7 GPA for graduates and demonstrated leadership abilities at Radford University through their participation in extracurricular activities that promote the welfare of all students.

Cole's experience at the University was an eye-opener, he said.

"When I arrived at college, I wasn't sure I would like it. There was something about Radford that made me like school. I got to choose what I studied and there were so many interesting options," Cole said. "Some of the best classes I had were literature and writing classes. Who knew?"

Radford University's academic richness inspired Cole to double major. After finishing up his criminal justice major, he added a political science major.

Cole's curiosity and drive motivated him to seize service opportunities off-campus as well. One day, he said, he witnessed a car accident. The fire department response intrigued him so much that he joined the Radford Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter.

"There are so many opportunities to grow and serve," Cole said. "I just want to help other Radford young people to recognize and enjoy the same experiences I did."

To round out his undergraduate experience, Cole worked as a youth mentor with Beans and Rice, a community service organization, and participated in the honor societies for his chosen fields: Lambda Alpha Epsilon and the Pi Gamma Mu.

The thank-you letters he has received from the recipients of the Mendiola-Cole Leadership Scholarship keep Cole connected to his undergraduate days at Radford University.

"Man, we were just like them back then," he said.

Much has changed, though, for Cole. He is the father of five and works in an intense field as a member of a team charged with overseeing nuclear reactor safety for the NRC's Office of the Inspector General.

A common thread running through Cole's life for the past 15 years has been his Radford University friends.

"I never expected to see so many Radford colleagues along the way," Cole said. "Throughout my career, I have



Levar Cole '02, second from left, with his family

met new Radford friends and grown closer to many of those with whom I graduated."

Radford University, the Mendiola-Cole Leadership Scholarship and its recipients, past and future, are beneficiaries of the connections that were kindled on campus and have grown with time.

"The time at Radford was great," Cole said. "I feel good about young people going there. I can't stress enough the value to me of the lifelong friendships I made at Radford."

In retrospect, Cole said he is happy that he and Mendiola responded quickly to their urge to give back.

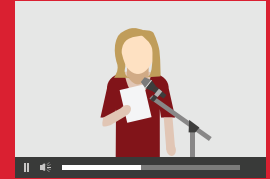
"The crazy thing is that as I look back, it was smart to do it right after school," Cole said. "Now I am used to writing a check annually and asking friends to contribute." ■



Legislators' political careers sparked at Radford University



Service to the state



By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15



RADFORD UNIVERSITY'S

graduates maintain a standard of civic service — and some have gone on to perform public service to their communities.

Virginia Del. Joseph Yost '06, M.S. '08 and Florida Rep. MaryLynn Magar '85 are currently serving their communities as representatives in their respective state governments.

In 2011, when Yost won his election for the 12th District in Virginia, he became the youngest delegate in office and the youngest person in Virginia's government since Thomas Jefferson.

A double graduate of Radford University, Yost used his Radford University education to launch his political career. He used the relationships built during his academic career, as well as interactions



Joseph Yost '06, M.S. '08

with people of all different ideologies, to shape his views.

"We had a close-knit community," Yost said. "I think having those interactions and those little conversations throughout the day was the thing that shaped me the most and what I enjoyed the most. Everyone knows who you are and knows you by name."

While at Radford University, Yost worked with Tod Burke, professor of criminal justice, to co-write articles for the FBI's magazine.

"Having the interactions with people from all over the political spectrum and all over the area geographically, that certainly opened my eyes to different viewpoints and challenged my own views on things," Yost said.

Yost found a political focus in a job at the Mental Health Association of the New River Valley. As part of his responsibilities, he traveled to Richmond to do presentations to members of the legislature.

"I think for me, at that point, and having interactions with lawmakers, there wasn't really anybody who had a really heavy in-depth understanding of Virginia's mental health system. I felt like we needed somebody on the other side of that presentation, listening, who had that interest," he said.

Yost gained political experience through involvement in campaigns and by volunteering on campaigns. Jim Shuler, former delegate for the 12th District, announced his intent to retire in 2011, opening the door.

"I honestly never really saw myself being the individual who was on the ballot," he said. "I was 24 at the time that we announced our run. I had a lot of energy and we decided to just go for it and see what happens. We knocked on about 20,000 doors from April through November. We worked hard and eventually won."

With the victory, Yost became a representative for the entire district of more than 80,000 people.

"I work with everyone when elected," Yost said. "When someone comes to the door, I don't ask them whether they voted for me or about their political affiliations, because it doesn't matter. That isn't what I am here for. I am here to be their voice in our state government."

Magar uses her Radford University education and work ethic to guide her as both a politician and a business owner in Florida.

"Radford gave me a great exposure to so many different organizations and people, which drew out my love of being busy and accomplishing things," Magar said. "I enjoy meeting with constituents and solving



MaryLynn Magar '85

their problems or hearing ideas on policy on how we can solve issues."

After graduating from Radford University, Magar moved to Florida, where she worked with a telecommunications company before joining her husband at Heart Care Imaging, which sets up and manages nuclear imaging centers, usually for teaching hospitals. Magar always saw herself working in a business to solve problems and find new solutions, but eventually "got frustrated with government at all levels."

"I knew a lot of the local elected officials. I was very friendly with them and helped them work on their campaigns. With a growing frustration, several of them encouraged me to run for a seat [in the state legislature]," she said.

Magar was first elected in 2012 and has since run for re-election — and won.

"I've had people that didn't vote for me the first time I ran, but after they got to know me, they voted for me," Magar said. "They saw I was willing to work on policy that was good for our community."

Helping constituents is Magar's favorite part of working in the state legislature.

"Whether it is individually with constituent help, connecting them to services that they might need, or helping an entire industry. I think that is why we do these things — to make a positive impact," Magar said.

Another one of Magar's priorities in the legislature is to grow the local university.

"We are trying to build a strong community with a strong education," she said. "We have a passion for research and I feel like combining both university and businesses together, the collaboration of the two will only make for a better community."

As the local university and community are strengthened, Magar hopes that students will take advantage of the opportunities available to them.

"You start in college when you start to become your own person, developing strong traits, values and principles. I encourage all students to look around and get to know yourself and find that determination and work ethic within yourself," Magar said.

Later in life, Magar relied upon that work ethic and determination realized during college when she suffered a stroke, leaving her completely paralyzed on her right side. She spent several months in a rehab facility learning how to walk and talk again, as well as relearning daily functions.

"I felt like what got me through that, aside from prayer and faith, is having that work ethic and not giving up. I realized that there are things that I may not like to do, but I must do them. I made a full recovery, which my doctors — and everyone — think is amazing. I've even been skiing this past season with my former Radford roommate who now lives in Colorado." ■

To learn more about what alumni are doing now, check out the class notes section in the back of the magazine. Help us keep you connected. If you have moved, changed email or mailing addresses or want to tell us what you have been up to since graduation, let us know! Visit www.radford.edu/alumni to update your information and stay connected!

Ret 22^a

Camp near Centerville

Dear Brother & Sister

I have the pleasure of writing you a few lines to let you know

how things along I am well I have
 spell of the camp
 I feel very weak
 but I am able
 I think I will be
 in a few days
 well and hearty
 my customer with his
 and Mustache

Negros at the Creek from the 21st Feb 1809
 No. 1. 1812.

Sat	Woman
Shagety	Jenny } Supernatural
Phil	Joan } 2
Deiah	Children
Rose	Christy " 2
Sack	Russ " 2
Sally	Sally " 2
Betty	Jenny " 1
Jenny	Betty " 1
Next 10 Working Hands	Next 10 y ^{rs} 1
100 ⁰	12

My 1/2 50

Dear Brother & Sister

It affords me great pleasure to inform you that I have my health in these trying times and I had more through help of the surgeons and labour when I was at Home I believe it would have killed me had we had higher power than man watching over and preserving our healths and controlling our battles. On Sunday the 21st of July about 3 O'clock was the boldest hour ever I experienced at that time the enemy was cutting our men all to pieces I thought ^{about} from the latter extreme but said in time of our the god of battles interposed in our behalf and struck terror and destruction in the enemy's ranks and they fled in every direction and was followed by our artillery and cavalry which caused a great slaughter in the enemy's ranks and capturing nearly every thing they had. I have no doubt you are weary of the battle at Ball Run but must remember it was a solemn time of mourning and of rejoicing for the lives and liberty and property and every thing that is dear to the Southern Confederacy rests on this battle. I have no doubt but they will try us again but we have struck such terror through their army that they never will fight as well again. Oh how I would like to sit down and tell you of our victory instead of writing for I am it would be more interesting

Here at the
 No. Feb 21. 1809 } 107. 15. 10
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Forgotten Treasure

Alumna and Radford University students preserve history

By Jeremy Norman

“Historical documents like this don’t come around that often,” says Sharon Roger Hepburn, Ph.D., professor of history and department chair, describing the cache of official papers that made a 300-year journey from a Botetourt County courthouse to a Radford University classroom.

“This was an opportunity that we had to take advantage of — we couldn’t just digitize the documents and send them back,” explains Roger Hepburn. “We needed to look at the collection as a whole and see exactly what is in there.”

What, exactly, was in there was over 500 pages of documents stretching from the colonial era through Reconstruction. A treasure trove containing, among other things, papers signed by a who’s who of American history. The signatures of future presidents Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe and Benjamin Harrison, Founding Father Patrick Henry, and Henry Lee, father of Confederate general Robert E. Lee, were among the highlights.

“I was in the right spot at the right time,” says Pat Honts ’68, a researcher and genealogist in the Circuit Court Clerk’s office of Botetourt County. One late afternoon in March of 1995, Honts was cleaning out a metal filing cabinet at the Circuit Court in Fincastle while she waited for her husband, the late George Honts, who was serving as Circuit Court judge of both Botetourt and Rockbridge counties, to complete his judicial duties. A Circuit Court deputy who was assisting Honts with the clean up commented that she required a trash can, which instantly grabbed Honts’ attention.

“She said she found some moldy old papers in a manila envelope and didn’t want to touch them,” Honts explains. “I told her that I didn’t care if the papers were moldy or not, I wanted to take a look at them first!” Upon inspecting the envelope, Honts discovered numerous papers in varying stages of decomposition. The first paper she examined was folded, with a wax seal and ribbon still attached. The date on the paper read 1772, and it was signed by Lord Dunmore, the last royal governor of Virginia.

All told, there were 37 documents dated from the 1770s through the 1790s in that one manila envelope. Within a few days of the discovery, George Honts contacted a records preservation company in Vermont to begin the restoration process for the papers. Each document was cleaned and treated, then placed in an acid-free sleeve to protect it from further damage. “Then, a shipping company almost lost the documents after we had sent them off for the preservation treatment,” Honts says.

The documents finally made their way back to Botetourt County, where they were placed into albums, nicknamed “Pat’s albums,” and stored within the Circuit Court’s vault at the Circuit Courthouse. The large historical find in the

small Virginia town made national news, with numerous newspapers requesting to see what had been saved from the trash heap. “News of what we had found even ended up on Paul Harvey’s national radio broadcast,” says Honts.

Eventually, however, the excitement over the documents faded, and the find was — like the papers themselves — largely forgotten. Forgotten by everyone, except Pat Honts.

“There was no back-up for the documents,” explains Honts. “The courthouse had already suffered one fire, and I would wake up some nights in a cold sweat for fear of what would happen if they suffered another one.

“I wanted to preserve our history,” she continues.

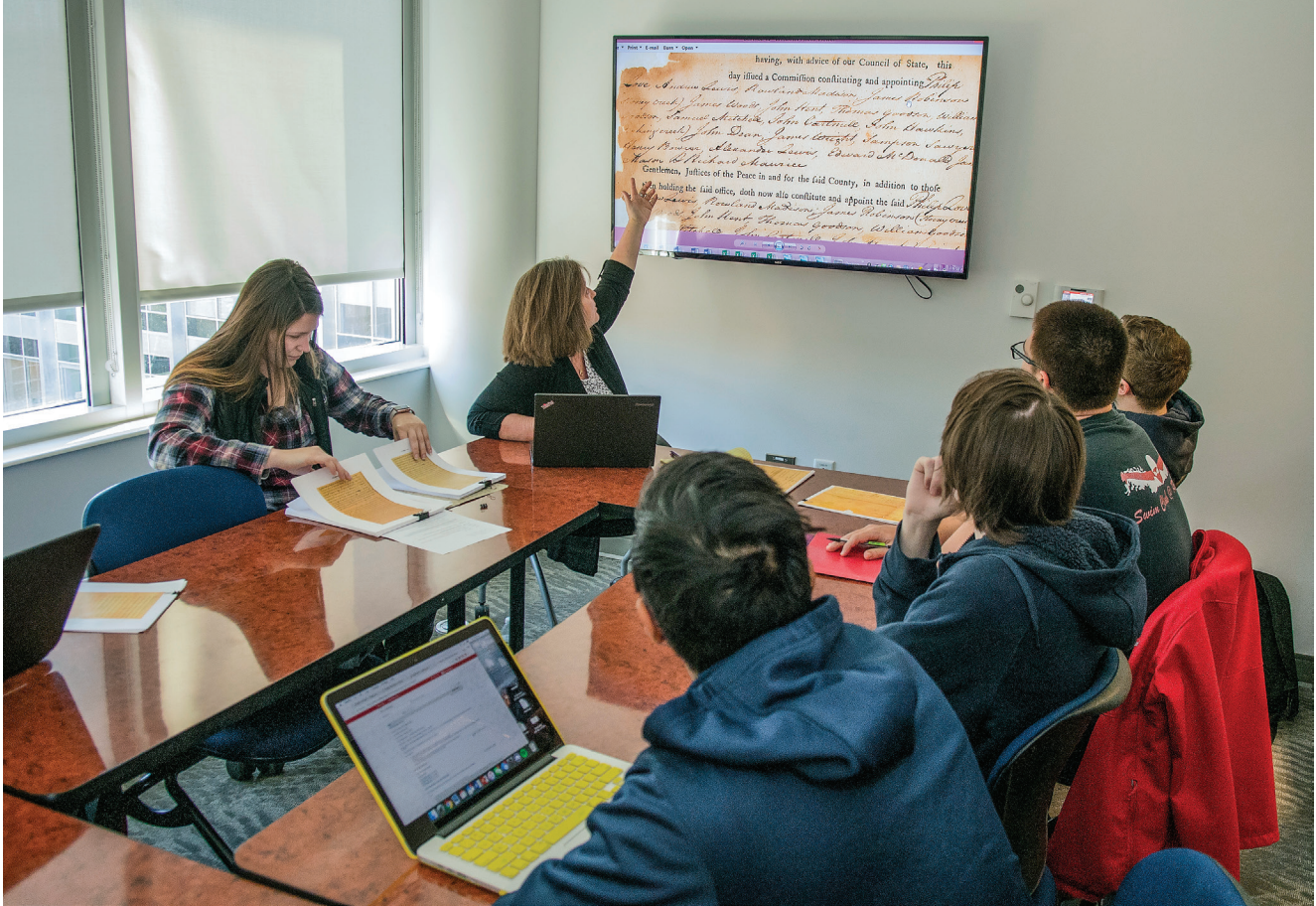
Honts invited members of the Radford University staff, among them Sharon Roger Hepburn, to the courthouse to see the documents. “I invited Sharon up here to see the documents, and she was floored by the contents,” explains Honts. “I worked for a number of years to get someone to take a look at what we had, and once they did, everything started moving quickly.”

“I initially found out about the documents in the fall of 2015,” says Roger Hepburn, “and it snowballed into something I could never have expected.” Immediately seeing the historical — as well as academic — value of the documents, Roger Hepburn helped begin the process to ensure the documents would not be lost to history again.

“The initial priority was to have the documents copied and digitized,” Roger Hepburn explains. “Dean of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, Katherine Hawkins, was integral in procuring funds for a state-of-the-art scanner, and David Atkins ’12 worked to digitize and scan over 500 pages of documents.”

As the digitization process was ongoing, Roger Hepburn began to think of ways that she could integrate the documents into her curriculum.

*We had our whole line of pickets
run in last Sunday they were
stationed on the Leesburg over
Alexandria Rail Road for ten
miles we had one man Melrose
and one evince Wm. Morse
was shot in the thigh with a
Minnie ball he belongs to our
Company Wato was shot through
the head killing him instantly
brother Fox was right by him when
he was shot most of our company
made a very narrow escape the
Yankys Duffe up on them
and fired on them before
they could make their escape
it is a great wonder that were
not more of our me*



Sharon Roger Hepburn, Ph.D., professor of history and department chair, studies a document unearthed by Pat Honts '68, a researcher and genealogist in the Circuit Court Clerk's office of Botetourt County, with her class.

"I had been thinking about a course involving digital documents, but I didn't think this would be how it started," she says. In the fall of 2016, Roger Hepburn began teaching the course HIST 392 Digital Archives.

In the course, students received their own set of digital documents from which they created a portfolio. They transcribed the documents, wrote succinct descriptive summaries, included research notes regarding people referenced, and created phrasing and keywords to be used in future searches. "For our students, this is an opportunity that they normally wouldn't have — true historical research," says Roger Hepburn. "This is hands-on work in their discipline."

Ultimately, each entry in the portfolio contains a digital picture of document, transcription, author, subject matter and details behind the subject matter. "I want the students to learn that it is not just about what the documents say, but what do they mean," Roger Hepburn explains.

Roger Hepburn's five students ended up working on 50 different documents during the course, transcribing and researching over 200 pages for their portfolios. By performing a literal transcription of the documents, students receive hands-on experience with historical documents, their handwriting and their language. "They are dealing with the primary sources of history," Roger Hepburn says.

Those sources include membership lists of Civil War regiments, slave inventories, genealogical records, land surveys, Civil War letters, court appointments, a divorce and wills — even a register of free blacks. "These

documents give voices to those people who, historically, had none," she explains. "Without documents such as these, they would have been lost to history."

Because of the success of the first offering, Roger Hepburn made sure to include HIST 392 on the spring 2017 class register. "The students who took the original course were adamant that it be offered again," Roger Hepburn says.

"There are documents we still have not gotten to, including the Free Black Register," she continues. "Eventually I would love to offer a digital history program and make this part of its curriculum."

In the meantime, Roger Hepburn is setting her sights on another goal, one that takes the project back to its source. "I am currently working on putting the entire collection together for the Botetourt Courthouse," she says. "I want them to have a full portfolio that is accessible at the courthouse."

Roger Hepburn continues, "This has been a rewarding experience for all involved. The new College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences building's technology has made the process that much better. We are able to utilize the large monitors available to us by blowing up the documents in the classroom as well as the breakout rooms."

Honts could not agree more. "Radford University's involvement was very fortuitous, as the funding for digitization was just not there for us," she says.

"My husband always said that if it didn't go through the courts, it didn't happen," Honts continues. "These documents prove that." ■

First Highlander drafted in Major League Soccer SuperDraft

By Jordan Childress

JO VETLE RIMSTAD '17 made Radford University men's soccer history as the Harestua, Norway native was selected by the D.C. United with the 43rd overall pick in the 2017 Major League Soccer SuperDraft.

Rimstad becomes the first Highlander drafted into Major League Soccer (MLS) in program history and will join Dante Washington as the only two Highlanders to don an MLS jersey.

"I just couldn't be happier right now. D.C. United is the perfect club for me, as I have a lot of friends in the area," Rimstad noted. "It seemed that most Radford students were United fans, so I now have the chance to represent them when I put on the black and red."

Rimstad was named a National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) All-American and Scholar All-American. Rimstad became the second Highlander in program history to be named an NSCAA All-American during the Division I era. In addition to his All-American honors, Rimstad earned the fourth NSCAA All-South Region First Team honor in program history. The accolade was the third of Rimstad's career from the NSCAA — he earned second-team honors in 2014 and 2015.

"Our University, alumni and soccer program are incredibly proud of Jo Vetle. He had an outstanding four years at Radford, both on and off the field," said former head coach Marc Reeves. "He now gets the chance to represent Radford positively and bring great exposure to the school. He is a fantastic person who is fully deserving of this opportunity."

Rimstad finished his career as one of the best center backs in Radford University and Big South history. In 2016, Rimstad became the second

Highlander in program history to be named Big South Defensive Player of the Year. Rimstad earned All-Big South honors in each of his four collegiate years, earning first-team honors three times.

"Reevo [Reeves] sent me a text message to tell me I was going to be drafted, I just couldn't believe it," Rimstad added. "This is what I have been working for. I never imagined being put in this situation, because I have been enjoying playing soccer for the longest time. I have been working hard for a very long time, and it has finally paid off."

The five-time Big South Defensive Player of the Week honoree aided Radford University to 31 shutouts in his career, including 18 in the last two years. Radford University matched a program-record 10 shutouts during the 2016 season.

Rimstad did nothing but win since he arrived on campus in 2013. The Highlanders compiled a 49-20-11 record over the span, including a 24-4-5 record inside Cupp Stadium. Radford won three Big South regular-season championships, one Big South Tournament championship and made two NCAA Tournament appearances during the span.

"Jo Vetle understands that it requires continued true hard work to pursue the goal of being a professional, and he has certainly earned the right to be drafted," Reeves added. "We are thankful for D.C. United for believing in him and wish Jo Vetle the very best."

Rimstad will join former Highlander Ryan Taylor in the D.C. United organization. Taylor is a member of the Richmond Kickers, the United's affiliate in the United Soccer League. ■





Jen Falconer, on the ground, and Jayda Worthy, standing above, celebrate.

By Jordan Childress

Broken records, immense wins and heartbreak summarize the 2016-17 Radford University women's basketball season. The Highlanders strung together one of the best seasons in program history while providing the Radford University faithful countless memories.

Dropping no more than two games in a row throughout the season, the Radford University team concluded its magical season with a 24-9 record, finishing with the second-most wins in program history. Only the 1988-89 squad won more games, compiling a 25-7 record. In Big South Conference play, Radford University finished with a 14-4 record for the second most conference wins in the team's history.

"This season was a historical and memorable season in a lot of ways," said fourth-year head coach Mike McGuire. "This team demonstrated a tremendous amount of effort, focus and consistency to win those 24 games."

Racking up the wins on the floor, Radford University also racked up its first Big South regular season championship in 25 years, defeating Campbell with a thrilling 49-48 win on Feb. 27. The stout Highlander defense held off a late fourth-quarter comeback as Campbell's game-winning attempt rimmed out at the buzzer.

As the final horn sounded, 12 faces summarized the journey to the regular season crown. Emotions of joy,

relief and disbelief were on full display as the Highlanders hoisted their first regular season trophy since the 1991-92 season.

Developing the nickname "Cardiac Kids" midway through the season, the Highlanders played in nine games decided by three points or less, with five coming in the last seven games of the season. The Highlanders compiled a 7-2 record in those games, which may be due to the calm demeanor of McGuire. During McGuire's tenure, Radford University is 21-11 in games decided by five points or less.

Providing fans with suspenseful games all season long, Radford University's lockdown defense was a major part of the season's success. The Highlander defense finished the season ranked inside the Top 15 nationally in two defensive categories. Holding opponents to a mere 55.0 points per game, Radford University ranked as the 10th best defense in the country. The Highlanders ranked 11th with a 35.1 field goal percentage defense.

"The growth we made as a program and as individuals is something that we are extremely proud of," McGuire added.

Individually, Radford University placed four players on All-Big South squads. Sophomore Destinee Walker and junior Jayda Worthy earned a spot on the first team, while junior Janayla White was named to the honorable mention squad and Khiana Johnson on the all-freshman team.

“The growth we made as a program and as individuals is something that we are extremely proud of.”

Mike McGuire, Women's Basketball Head Coach

Walker led the team with 13.9 points per game (ppg), 2.3 assists per game (apg) and 1.5 steals per game (spg). The sophomore finished third in the Big South Player of the Year voting after averaging 14.2 ppg in league games while shooting 45.2 percent from the floor.

Tallying six double-doubles on the season, Worthy averaged 11.9 ppg and 7.1 rebounds per game (rpg). The junior crossed the 800-point (898), 500-rebound (566) plateau on the season. In Big South play, Worthy was clutch, averaging 13.2 ppg and 8.3 rpg.

Proving that the motto “It’s not how you start, it’s how you finish” holds true value, White tallied double figures in nine of Radford University’s final 11 games on the season. In that stretch, White collected five double-doubles, giving her eight total.

Johnson earned herself a spot on the all-freshman team after providing Radford University with a spark off the bench all season long. She averaged 7.4 ppg and 1.6 apg while leading the team with an 80.8 free throw percentage.

After taking the job four years ago and going 7-23 in his first season, McGuire was unsure of how long it would take for his championship-winning program vision to come to fruition. McGuire has increased the program’s win totals from seven in his first season to 17, 18 and 24 over the last three seasons. Since that 7-23 season in 2013-14, McGuire has compiled a 57-36 record.

The program even collected its 700th win on Feb. 21, becoming only the second program in Big South history to win 700 games.

“When I accepted this position four years ago, we envisioned the women’s basketball program competing for Big South championships and postseason appearances consistently,” McGuire noted. “Our current team has raised the bar for our program again and has made our vision a reality.”

That vision quickly became a reality during the Big South Tournament Championships as the Highlanders found themselves in a tournament championship game for the first time since 2008. Radford University’s path to the championship game came with, of course, two three-point victories and two defensive stops.



Women's Basketball Head Coach Mike McGuire, middle rear, celebrates with his team and staff.

Radford University’s defense forced a turnover with seconds remaining for a 54-51 quarterfinal win over Gardner-Webb. In a 53-50 decision over Charleston Southern in the semifinals, Worthy blocked a game-tying 3-pointer.

The two wins sent Radford University into a championship game matchup with the defending tournament champions in UNC-Asheville. The two foes previously played a single and double overtime contest in the regular season.

Radford University jumped out to an early lead and led for 37:06, before going cold in the final five minutes of the game as UNC-Asheville went on an 8-0 run to take a 49-48 lead with less than five seconds remaining.

After Highlanders’ timeout, Walker got the ball at the top of the key and drove the right side of the lane. Her shot was blocked and the ball went to White on the other side of the basket, but her attempt as the buzzer sounded missed short off the glass.

Heartbroken is the only word to describe that feeling, but determination will be the word heading into the upcoming season.

Seconds away from making its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1996, Radford University received a consolation for its efforts on the season, earning an automatic bid into the WNIT Tournament as a result of winning the regular season championship. The WNIT Tournament appearance is the seventh postseason appearance in program history and the second of the McGuire era.

“The entire 2016-17 season along with the Big South Regular Season Championship will only motivate us to prepare with even more detail and focus on the upcoming season,” McGuire said.

Going by the team motto, “All Gas, No Brake,” Radford University fans will be in store for another thrilling ride starting in November. ■



Making it Believable

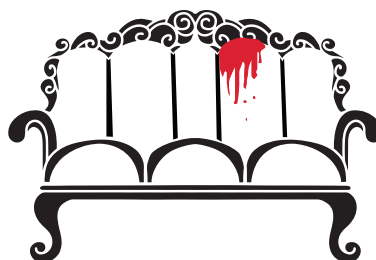
THE THEATRICAL WORLD OF FAYE ARMON-TRONCOSO '95

By Leslie King

The interior was white. The couch was white. Even the actress wore white. Then she was shot and there was red, as she lay in a pool of blood.

The next day, the audience of the play “Stunning” saw the perfectly white set with no residue of bloodstains, until again, the actress was shot and the cycle continued day after day at the Duke Theatre in New York.

The blood was actually a flexible resin and paint combination created by prop designer Faye Armon-Troncoso '95. Making non-messy blood is part of what the Radford University theatre alumna does now in her job. She creates effects that are manageable and believable onstage. This includes providing any object or furniture for a play that an actor touches during the course of the show. Much like an unseen magician, Armon-Troncoso is responsible for creating a suspension of disbelief and much of this magic happens on Broadway.





Faye Armon-Troncoso '95 and her dog Bella at Faye's prop studio.



Scene from Lincoln Center Theater production of "4000 Miles"



For instance, there was the table setting for "Macbeth" at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre. In one scene, the floor became an empty table, which was lowered below the stage by an elevator. Within 30 seconds it was set with dishware before ascending back onstage.

The set designer chose a setting from pictures Armon-Troncoso provided. It turned out all the dishes in the photo were made of chocolate for a museum exhibition.

"So we got the chocolate molds from Australia and were able to make light-weight plastic versions of all the silverware and dishware, so it would all be unbreakable," she said.

This way, in the limited space they had to work with beneath the stage, they were able to set the props on another tabletop, which slid onto the table before it was raised.

For Armon-Troncoso, it is all about creating a believable environment, which she does by considering each characters' personalities



and actors' traits. To do so, she delves into her past at Radford University as an acting major, when she studied with former theatre professor Jerry McGlown.

"He was so instrumental in helping me act, in teaching me the guidelines and how to do it, that I am able to breakdown these props and environments and really dive deep into the characters," she said.

She also credits two current faculty members. Carl Lefko, director of the School of Dance and Theatre, taught her about set construction, and Monica Weinzapfel, theatre professor, gave her a taste of costume design.

First she went to New York to try her hand at acting and found some success with a few off-off-Broadway shows and tours. Then she tried a full-time job in theatre starting at a Broadway press agency. This led her to the Cherry Lane Theatre, where she worked as a ticket taker. Moving up, she soon became the house manager and finally assistant manager of the theatre.

But then one day she noticed the properties assistant in the theatre.

"I remember thinking, I kind of want to do that — run around, be involved and make stuff," Armon-Troncoso said.



Lincoln Center Theater production of Shakespeare's "Macbeth," with Ethan Hawke

With this desire, the theatre allowed her to try her hand at props and she found the challenges interesting. Soon she was designing and creating props for off-Broadway.

This is where her story takes off. She did props for a show called "Bugs" at the Barrow Street Theatre. In this, the main character rages war on insects.

"I got all these repellents, gallon jugs and chemicals and made everything look like if a match were lit in this room, it would blow up," she said. And eventually in the show, the room did explode.

For this work in 2004, she was the first person to win an Off-Broadway Theater Award (Obie) for props. Since then, only one other person has won an Obie for props.

This fueled her desire to stay in the business and start her own studio. She has since branched out with production design to film and television, including "The Tums Quarter-time Show" that ran during the 2017 Super Bowl on the internet.

For Armon-Troncoso, it is all about making the artificial believable. ■



Highlights of Faye's career on Broadway

"Les Liaisons Dangereuses"
 "Long Day's Journey Into Night" with Jessica Lange
 "Gin Game" with James Earl Jones
 "Fun Home" (Tony Winner 2016 & Best Set Nomination)
 "The River" with Hugh Jackman
 "Of Mice and Men" with James Franco
 "Testament of Mary" with Fiona Shaw
 "Golden Boy" (Tony Best Set Nomination)
 "Clybourne Park" (Tony Best Set Nomination)
 "War Horse" (Tony Winner Best Set)
 "Merchant of Venice" (Tony Best Set Nomination)
 "Enron"
 "Edward Albee's Seascape"

Upcoming Productions on Broadway 2017

"Roman Holiday"



MILITARY COMPOSER SHARES STRENGTH THROUGH MUSIC

By Leslie King

Captain Dan Boothe '06, U.S. Air Force, did not make eye contact. On the plane, he stood in salute along with the other airmen during a dignified transfer at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. As he watched a transfer case of a fallen soldier lowered from the plane, without seeing them, he heard the desolation of the bereaved family.

Using this moment, the assistant director of operations and associate conductor of the premier U.S. Air Force Band in Washington, D.C., drew the inspiration needed to compose "Music for a Dignified Transfer." Voluntarily written in 2014 for Air Force Mortuary Affairs, it is the custom music for videos each family receives to document the dignified transfer of their fallen loved one.

"The music I wrote grew out of my own need to process that experience," Boothe said. When he thought about this, he connected to the loss already

their families, they knew they had to adapt to deployment.

For Boothe, this meant meeting the local musicians.

"They invited our musicians to join them in a small community house where they shared food, stories and, of course, music," Boothe reminisced, "We all brought some handheld instruments and they had theirs. Together everyone just jammed and shared different musical bits ... looking for ways that we might add to one another so we could create one ensemble."



Dan Boothe '06, the assistant director of operations and associate conductor of the premier U.S. Air Force Band in Washington, D.C., right, is interviewed at the Lighting of the National Christmas Tree Celebration.

experienced by so many others.

During his deployment in Afghanistan, he continued to create and perform his music.

"The only difference was, sometimes we had to dive for cover, literally, in the middle of a song because the Taliban would shoot mortars toward our position," he said.

Though his unit dealt with 110-degree sand-blown days, lived in tents and small trailers and missed

This brought two diverse groups together and transcended barriers in communication. Afghanistan's second largest radio station aired the results during a live call-in show.

As with this example, Boothe can make the most out of a situation, crediting some of this ability to his time as a music major at Radford University.

"At Radford, I learned the value of making the most of what you have," he said.

Encouraged to tap into faculty experience, students studied under a range of musicians who had trained at Yale or performed with Leonard Bernstein.

"Radford University challenged me academically while also championing my core identity as an artist and music student," he continued.

The University nominated him for USA TODAY's 2004 College Academic All-Stars "First Team" competition. This annual contest recognizes the top college students in the country.

He shared this recognition with recipients from schools such as Yale, Princeton and Harvard. With the combination of opportunity and challenge Radford University provided, Boothe competed academically while standing out artistically.

He is currently a full-time conductor in the U.S. Air Force, one of three conductors with the premier U.S. Air Force Band in Washington D.C.

During the 2016 holidays, he conducted the U.S. Air Force Airmen of Note jazz band on the Hallmark Channel's Lighting of the National Christmas Tree Celebration. He worked with celebrities such as James Taylor, Marc Anthony, Garth Brooks and Kelly Clarkson. But then he found himself in a unique position onstage with the 44th U.S. President, Barack Obama.

"Is the band ready?" the president asked Boothe.

Boothe gave him the thumbs-up and his band began the holiday classic "Jingle Bells." ■

As this magazine goes to print, Boothe has left the military for a new position as music director for Symphonicity, the symphony orchestra of Virginia Beach. They selected him after holding a two-year competitive international search. His first season as Symphonicity's maestro begins in October 2017.



Design Army
AND THE DRIVE BEHIND PUM LEFEBURE'S
American Dream



By Leslie King

THE CLOCK on the computer screen read 3 a.m., but Pum Lefebure, a student designer with University Relations, was so absorbed in her project she was unaware of the hour. As she worked, however, the dirt on her computer screen began to bother her so she decided to do something about it.

She reached for screen cleaner and sprayed the offending surface. Then she used a paper towel to dry it. Then paper stuck to the surface.

Puzzled and panicked, she looked at the cleaner and discovered she had sprayed the screen with spray mount adhesive.

There are people who would have walked away from such disasters, but not Lefebure. She spent the next two hours peeling away the paper and polishing the surface of the screen so no one would ever know. And she kept this secret until now.

Her drive and diligence seen in both working late — not because she had to but because she wanted to — along with her problem-solving abilities, has propelled Lefebure into being a serious force in the design world. She is the co-founder of the highly prestigious Design Army, which she started with her husband Jake.

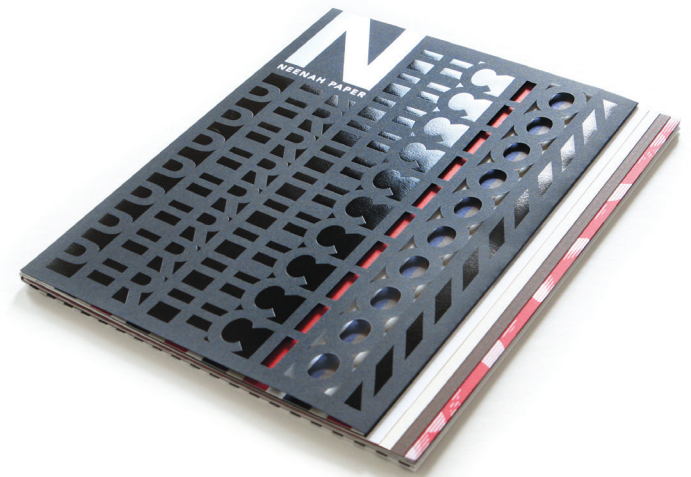
Located in Washington, D.C., Design Army is an award-winning, internationally recognized design firm often featured in publications such as *How Magazine*, *Forbes* and *Adweek*. Lefebure was a speaker at Cannes Lions and HOW Design Live 2017, two of the largest annual gatherings of creative professionals in the world.

But before all this, she was an international student at Radford University. Lefebure came to Radford after a campus visit while a high school foreign exchange student in Virginia Beach. Her teachers encouraged her to stay in the U.S. to study graphic design, which she chose instead of art because it seemed more lucrative.

Radford's campus was a change of environment for her, a place where she could hear herself breathe. The loudness, the distractions and the shopping she had known growing up in Bangkok, Thailand, were gone.

"The campus is really different from any other campus in Virginia," Lefebure said. "It's really small and quiet and there is all this opportunity for students to work on campus. Students can get scholarships. Being a foreign exchange student, I wanted to offset the cost to my parents."

To do this, she made a fateful decision to work with University Relations. Along with the skills she learned



in graphic design classes, she credits this employment experience as providing her with a real world point of view. She pitched ideas and designed the University's view book.

"I remember Pum's time in Creative Services like it was yesterday," said James Harman, art director for University Relations, who worked with Lefebure at the time. "She was extremely goal-focused, exceptionally hardworking and very professional, with a great sense of humor."

And though she excelled in this position and her classes, she knew she had to work three times harder than she had while in Bangkok. As an international student with an American dream to stay in the country as a graphic designer, she would compete against hundreds of other students from prestigious design schools to be not only hired but sponsored by a company.

After graduating summa cum laude, she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a concentration in graphic design, and Supon Design Group in Washington,

“If you want something, you have to work hard for it.”

Pum Lefebure

D.C. immediately sponsored and hired her. Starting there as an intern, she rose quickly to senior art director. She also met Jake Lefebure, who became her husband and eventual business partner.

When another firm bought Supon, the two decided to go in another direction and started Design Army. Now they maintain a balance of being an international company with clients such as Ritz Carlton and the Academy Awards with being a boutique firm for local businesses.

Lefebure manages this with her impeccable style, making success look easy. But it is not. It is her drive, the same determination she had while working as a student designer to excel beyond excellence, that is the backbone of her personal philosophy.

"If you want something, you have to work hard for it," she said. "It is not just going to come to you. Life is short, and I don't want to be lazy." ■

Visit designarmy.com to see more of Lefebure's work.



‘An advocate and a half’ Student provides service for fellow veterans

By Don Bowman

AT RADFORD UNIVERSITY, Juwell McClendon, M.S.W. '17, found the passion that will direct her to a bright and meaningful future ... for herself and her fellow American veterans.

McClendon, a 2017 Radford University Master of Social Work graduate, left Detroit at 18 looking for her way. After a stint in the U.S. Navy, she spent a year on the West Coast and returned to Norfolk, where she earned her undergraduate degree.

McClendon found Radford University and its School of Social Work as a result of a trip to a regional Rally in the Valley Social Work Summit. She liked the school's strong reputation and the peaceful, rural campus. She enrolled, still puzzled about her direction.

At Radford University, McClendon identified a need — student veteran advocacy — to be addressed. She also found the atmosphere, education and opportunities she believes will prepare her to address it.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars-Student Veteran Association (VFW-SVA) recognized McClendon's power to advocate for veterans. The organization named her to their 2017 class of VFW-SVA Legislative Fellows.

“When I left the military, I didn't have a focus. My first try at college was unsuccessful because I didn't have focus, a knowledge base or experienced mentors,” she said.

McClendon, who earned the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal during her four-year tour in the U.S. Navy, has prepared to fill the role she identified by its absence early in her career.

At Radford University, McClendon became the first graduate assistant assigned to the expanding Military Resource Center (MRC) and did a 600-hour, yearlong internship with the Veterans Administration at a community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC) in Wytheville.

Along with the opportunities she discovered at Radford University, she found mentors: Professor of Communication Bill Kennan, who directs the MRC; Assistant Professor of Social Work Philip Mongan, who directs Radford University's longstanding internship program with the Salem Veterans Affairs Medical Center; and her research project supervisor, Assistant Professor of Social Work Mashooq Salehin.

McClendon said she thinks the helpful nature of which Radford University takes so much pride is part of her successful professional development as an advocate. She plans to incorporate that willingness to reach out in her future advocacy efforts on behalf veterans in the higher education environment.

"Any problem that came up, I found people to be very forthcoming with information, understanding and empathy to do what they could," she said.

As she readies herself for the next stage of her career — a Ph.D. in social work or an aspect of higher education, a position at a university working with the expanding population of student veterans or in some as yet unimagined possibility — McClendon values her Radford University experience.

"It has been good," she said. "Through the challenges and life lessons, I have grown personally and professionally. Radford provided many opportunities to engage my passion for advocacy and experiences that will guide and motivate me."

McClendon's contribution to the university she serendipitously discovered can be reflected in the growth of the MRC. According to Kennan, the MRC began humbly in 2012 at a table in the Learning and Resource Assistance Center. From Calhoun Hall, it now serves over 300 veterans, active duty personnel and military dependents.

"Juwel has been instrumental. She has a sophisticated level of understanding of policy, resources and what we ought to be doing," said Kennan, who was named director of the MRC in 2016.

As McClendon's internship supervisor, Mongan, added, "She is an advocate and a half. She brings a unique perspective that she shares tirelessly with her classmates and clients."

In her time at Radford University, McClendon found a variety of ways to contribute. She was an advisor in the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences advising center before moving over to help organize the MRC. She has done a phenomenological research study on the lived experiences of student veterans within the higher education system and how they succeed with and without services and support. Last summer, she joined a handful of colleagues to do research in Uganda on parental and



“Radford provided many opportunities to engage my passion for advocacy and experiences that will guide and motivate me.”

Juwel McClendon, M.S.W. '17, left

cultural perceptions toward childhood disabilities.

Prior to coming to Radford University, she worked as a social worker in foster care and adoption.

"That was hard, heartbreaking work and a different kind of advocacy," she said. "I learned, though, that my niche is advocacy."

As a VFW-SVA fellow, McClendon participated in a 10-person team research project that was presented during legislative visits on Capitol Hill and at the annual VFW National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., last winter.

"The VFW-SVA Fellowship was a great honor and gave me valuable advocacy experience at a new level," said McClendon. "I spent the holiday break digging into policy, fact-finding and building my knowledge base. The fellowship made me realize that policy is very black and white, so facts, facts and more facts are needed. I redrafted my portion of the project five times before I felt it was good enough to submit."

As a VFW-SVA fellow, McClendon advocated alongside VFW staff and represented Virginia on issues facing today's student veterans. In conjunction with the VFW National Legislative Committee, McClendon met with policy-makers from federal agencies responsible for implementing veterans' policy.

After the conference, McClendon implemented a local advocacy plan in her home congressional district, Virginia's 9th, and reported to the Virginia VFW state convention, as well as local VFW and SVA national offices, about her experience.

McClendon embraces the unique opportunity to combine social work and personal experience at a high level.

"Being a veteran who worked hard toward my own education was an experience I lived, and I have good friends, too, who had trouble getting on their feet and reintegrating after discharge from the military," she said. "I appreciate this and all the many chances I had to jump right into the deep water."

The time spent working with her brothers and sisters-in-arms at the Wytheville CBOC sealed the deal for McClendon.

"I did a little bit of everything," McClendon said. "I learned something new daily from the veterans and their families about their needs — and their spirit. The camaraderie is amazing." ■

We're on in

3...2...1

High-tech TV studio's cameras are rolling

By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15

THE LIGHTS are shining and the cameras rolling inside the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS) television studio, which opened its doors to Radford University students, faculty and staff in January.

The TV studio is a learning space inside the CHBS building and will allow students to gain advanced broadcast experience in a professional setting.

"Students are able to get in and get hands-on experience in a news studio," said the college's technology specialist, Jeremy Jennings. "The studio is set up so students are able to get dedicated experience at different positions. Students will know the function of each piece in the studio."

The embedded nature of each position within the studio allows for an immersive educational experience.

"Students have a remarkable opportunity to immerse themselves in all aspects of production, at length and over time," said School of Communication Director Matthew Smith. "This is more meaningful than a mere tour of an operational facility; students operate a facility themselves, figuring out how the technology works and having the chance to experiment with its capabilities, while pushing their own."

The TV studio is full of advanced technology that meets or exceeds that of local newsrooms.

"It is on the higher end of studios," Jennings said. "Around the area, we are comparable if not better than other studios."

The studio incorporates a piece of that new technology — a robotic camera, which is controlled from the production room.

"If a professor needs to do an interview on a television network, you can do the interview with minimal staff," Jennings said. "The camera can be completely controlled from inside the production room. The robotic camera has the same lens as the other studio cameras, so there is no

difference in the image quality. Otherwise, the camera is a secondary camera during productions."

Jennings said that the robotic camera functions are easy to control, "especially if you have played a video game before."

The original concrete floor caused audio and video issues during filming, which led to Jennings and the School of Communication installing advanced flooring in the studio.

"It was just cement at first, but it caused some jitteriness when rolling the cameras around," Jennings said. "We can roll the cameras freely and output a smooth, consistent image. The floor is a no-noise material, so movements don't impact the audio."

A common tool inside of the production studio is a green screen. The screen is composed of a material that allows the background to be changed. A uniform color, and in the case of the CHBS TV studio, a bright green color, coats the wall.

The screen inside of the studio goes to the floor, with a gradual curve at the base, allowing for consistent lighting over the entirety of the screen to enable proper image replacement.

"The green screen floor," Jennings said, "allows us to stand on the green screen and get a full-body shot."



The combined technological power of the learning space gives students professional opportunities during their collegiate career and aids them after graduation.

“Having a professional learning space gives our students the opportunity to work in an environment that mirrors what they will be working in once they leave Radford University,” said Assistant Professor West Bowers. “This better prepares students for that first job and for what they will encounter in their professional lives.”

The initial use of the studio will lean toward instructional purposes so that students and staff members alike will have time to be properly trained in the use of the new technology. The studio will also be used for Radford Athletics video promotions.

As for the studio’s long-term future, a closed-circuit cable network is in development.

“We want to give students experience running live news shows,” Jennings said. “It gives students an opportunity to get positive feedback on running a live news show and gives students tangible experience. We will have a place where students, faculty and staff can get real campus news.”

The launch of the closed-circuit campus news channel is expected within two years. ■

“Having a professional learning space gives our students the opportunity to work in an environment that mirrors what they will be working in once they leave Radford University.”

Assistant Professor West Bowers





Tourism students set sail, make waves in paradise

By Chad Osborne



Sailing on a 60-foot catamaran in the Sea of Abaco, Bahamas, in mid-May sounds like a majestic way to earn college credit.

It is.

But make no mistake, it isn't easy. It's a challenge, both physically and academically, for the dozen or so Radford University students who sign up for the journey.



What Assistant Professor Josh Carroll, left, calls “our living, learning classroom.”

EACH MAYMESTER, Assistant Professor of Recreation, Parks and Tourism Josh Carroll and a small group of students make their way to the Bahamas — where if the wind is right you can sail away and find tranquility — for a week to learn about coral reef management, beach use and island tourism, as well as marine and charter boat tourism trends.

“The boat becomes our living, learning classroom,” Carroll said.

Out at sea, the group visits both populated and remote islands to examine local fish, reefs, beaches, historical attractions and “their interrelationships with local livelihoods,” said Carroll, who has been leading the excursion since he joined the recreation, parks and tourism faculty in 2013.

The course is designed to provide invaluable information and experience in marine-based tourism. Topics covered in the class are numerous and include tourism management, sustainable tourism and service industry response to demand.

“I want my students to realize how big and important tourism is for the economic development of the

communities in the Bahamas,” Carroll said. “It’s extremely important to the people there. They need it for survival.

“It may sound strange” Carroll continued, “but we face similar challenges in southwest Virginia, where tourism has begun to replace more extractive economies and becomes a pathway to sustainable community development. Our students having skills in these areas is very valuable in today’s job market.”

Carroll’s course has three levels. First, there is the classroom prep work before anyone steps foot onto the sailboat. It’s no day at the beach.

“We have long days, and it’s a lot of work,” Carroll said. “Before departure, we spend a week on campus laying down the conceptual framework for research projects the students will conduct in the Bahamas, and cover a lot of lecture material. It’s a lot of information jammed in before going to the Bahamas.”

The prep work includes spending a day on a small sailboat at nearby Claytor Lake.

“There, I do an introduction to sailing concepts and safety,” Carroll said. “It’s mostly information so they

can be safe when they get on the big boat. That way, things are not completely foreign to them.”

Soon thereafter, Carroll and his students are sailing on the beautiful majestic blue waters, basking in the warm ocean breezes and taking in the enchanting island views. They anchor in harbors and off small, sandy cays such as Treasure Cay, Guana Cay, Hopetown, Little Harbour and Man-o-War Cay.

“A week on a boat with 13 students your age sounds perfect, right?” asked Megan Valentine ’16, who was part of the May 2016 course. “It is until everyone is hanging off the back of the boat, seasick.”

It takes some time to adjust, said Carroll, explaining the various difficulties of life on a vessel.

“We go there to work, and working on the boat can be challenging,” Carroll said. “On board, days go from 6 a.m. to about 9 or 10 p.m. and are jam-packed with lectures, group data collection, snorkeling, local tourism operation visits and many guest speakers on a wide range of topics. We also carry all our own water and handle all our own garbage and waste. It’s an interesting lesson in living closely together and living consciously.”

Carroll and his companions spend three days engaging with people involved with nonprofit organizations and local tourism groups, such as the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism.

Part of the learning experience involves each student adopting a tourism-based business. This means identifying and researching a business. While on the island, each student meets with a representative from their chosen business.

“They interview them and ask about longevity of the business, the history, what’s successful and what’s not and about plans for expansion,” Carroll explained. “They learn the ins and outs of running the business.”

No trip to the Bahamas would be complete without snorkeling, beach excursions, island resort tours, arts and music and so forth. There



“This trip helps [the students] shape a piece of their worldview to gain a better understanding of different cultures, views, economic structures, problems, opportunities and issues.”

Josh Carroll, assistant professor of Recreation, Parks and Tourism

is plenty of time for those things. Between the fun, however, there is more work to do.

Carroll and his students conduct an inventory, called the Tourism Opportunity Spectrum, of six different attributes that relate to tourism opportunities in an area. The sites have been identified by the Bahamas National Trust — “it’s like our National Parks Service,” Carroll said — and the information gathered has led to two peer-reviewed publications for Carroll and students, who serve as co-authors.

They’ve also presented the research at the Resort and Commercial Recreation Association Conference each November for the past two years.

“One of the great things about the conference is it offers a full day and a half for employers to interview students for upcoming jobs and internships,” Carroll said. “Last year (2016), every one of the 12 who went to the conference got a job offer or internship offer. Some got multiple offers. It’s really good for them to attend and present. And doing the work in the Bahamas helps further their chances for internships and employment.”

Once they have returned from the island, there still is work to do back in Radford.

For the businesses each student adopted, they must get to work on creating a promotional packet. This includes a video, a social media piece and a brochure. The students share the work with their respective

business, and some of those businesses use the packets.

“It’s a great learning experience for the students, and it keeps them connected with some of the businesses in the Bahamas,” Carroll said.

To complete the nine-credit-hour course, the students must demonstrate what they’ve learned by conducting their own tours for Carroll and their classmates around the New River Valley. It can be any place in the region they choose. In addition to planning, designing, and guiding

the actual tour, they must prepare the itinerary, “which tells us what we need to have a successful day,” Carroll said.

The “big picture,” for offering the course, Carroll said, is for the students to understand a larger world view.

“Some of the students who go on the trips have never left the country or been on an airplane. This is a big eye-opener,” he said. “This trip helps them shape a piece of their worldview to gain a better understanding of different cultures, views, economic structures, problems, opportunities and issues.”

Sailing away with the Tourism Institute is something Caitlin Coleman will remember for the rest of her life, she said.

“Making the decision to be a part of this program through Radford University was one of the best I’ve made,” said Coleman, who was on the 2016 trip. “Fifteen of us lived, ate, showered and slept on a sailboat together, and we all ended up becoming pretty close even though it was only for a couple of weeks. I’m so grateful I had the opportunity to experience Bahamian culture in a way that you wouldn’t see on a vacation.” ■



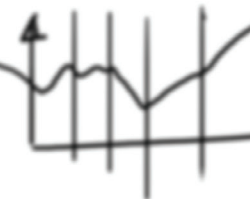
Underwater classroom



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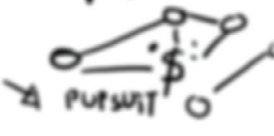
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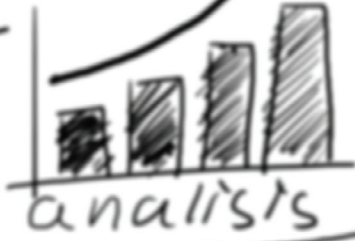
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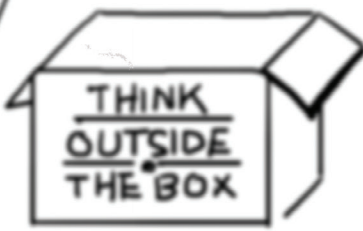


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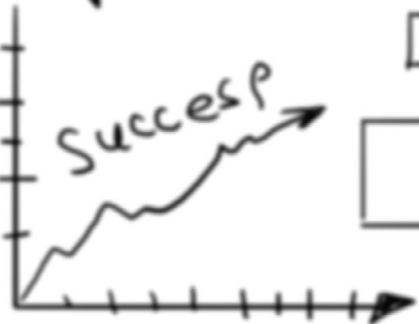


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Challenge Cultivate Connect

COBE opens Center for Innovation and Analytics

By Chad Osborne

THE COLLEGE of Business and Economics (COBE) is combining innovation and analytics in a new center designed to challenge minds, cultivate talents and connect students and faculty in a technology-rich learning environment.

COBE's Center for Innovation and Analytics opened its doors with the beginning of the 2016 fall semester with the purpose of developing a strong focus on student learning and faculty involvement in solving real-life business problems in active collaboration with industry partners.

A goal for the center is to become a destination of choice for students, entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs, alumni, community partners, faculty and staff interested in innovation and analytics.

"The goal for the center is going to be the champion for innovation and analytics for the college and beyond," COBE Dean George Low said.

A priority for the center is to focus on innovation and analytics through ways that synergistically enhance the educational experience Radford University students receive in the college.

"The opportunity the center presents is to bring innovation and analytics together in a way that is unique, that focuses on critical thinking and that helps our students understand that they have to be good at both to be successful in business today," Low said.

Two COBE faculty members are serving as co-directors of the center. Management Professor Steve Childers is leading the innovation side, while Marketing Professor Wil Stanton guides analytics.

"These two faculty members have distinguished records in the fields of innovation and analytics," Low said. "In their roles, they are in a position to apply their expertise and passion for these two pillars of our strategic plan to the growth and development of this new academic center."

The center connects theory with practice, Stanton said, by offering an active learning environment including applied projects and hands-on experiences, such as



The new center is designed to challenge minds, cultivate talents and connect students and faculty.

the COBE/BB&T Innovation Competition that began in 2015 and drew more student participants in 2016.

"I hope business leaders, community supporters and alumni will join us in our programs by contributing as advisors, serving as mentors and connecting with our students through internships, externships, case-based learning and guest lecturing," Stanton said.

Located in Kyle Hall, the center is not exclusive to COBE; it is open

to the entire campus community.

"We invite faculty and students from all disciplines across campus to attend and participate in the center's programs," Stanton said. "The center will help students to be better prepared to meet the expectations of employers."

The center provides students with short courses, workshops, seminars, active learning activities, hands-on training and certification in Microsoft Office products, Bloomberg, Excel, SQL, SAS including Base SAS and Enterprise Miner, SPSS including SPSS Statistics, Modeler and CoreMetrics, Web/Google Analytics, Access, R and Cognos.

"We want students to know that employers look for creativity and innovativeness in new employees. They also look for critical thinking and analytical reasoning," Stanton said. "Some employers want Excel certification, but the certification alone says 'I was dedicated, persistent and I learned this.' The analytical process of getting certification is what a lot of companies look for to solve big problems."

Overall, Stanton said, the Center for Innovation and Analytics "represents the nexus of innovation and analytics, as analytics is driving innovation and innovation is driving analytics — they overlap — and together they are transforming industries worldwide."

Childers said the center will have accomplished its mission "when innovation and analytics are intertwined throughout everything we do toward the mission of Radford University. That will be when it becomes a necessary element of anything we do." ■



“ We wanted to give students the ability to work in a professional environment that will mirror what they will see out in the field.”

Criminal Justice Department Chair Stephen Owen

By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15

WHEN RUNNING a crisis simulation, students used a room in the basement of Heth Hall, equipped with a single projector. Now, students are using two of the most technologically capable rooms on campus.

The third floor of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS) building on the campus of Radford University houses two unique learning spaces — the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Social Media Watch Center.

A primary function of an EOC is to have key decision-makers come together — in a technologically capable space — and figure out how to resolve a crisis. The focus inside of an EOC is on strategy rather than on tactical details in how to specifically resolve a crisis.

These are skills that Criminal Justice Department Chair Stephen Owen teaches students in his emergency preparedness courses. Owen's courses utilize both new learning spaces on campus through crisis simulations, typically held at the end of each semester.

"These are flexible spaces that bring together key decision makers to help provide both assistance and coordination for an ongoing incident," Owen said. "Each scenario has different needs which an EOC helps to support."

Part of the robustness needed for a successful operation lies within efficient — yet effective — communication between the EOC and the social media watch center.

"As persons in the watch center review incoming data, they can alert the incident commander to important information, and the EOC can pull the same data on its screens," Owen said

A temptation that comes with having access to a multitude of raw information is to pass along everything to the incident commander. During a crisis, it is important for the people inside of the watch center to serve as an information filter for the incident commander.

"The incident commander only needs to know what they need to know to do their job," Owen said. "Someone needs to filter that. Raw data should be coming into the watch center, which can then be in communication with the EOC to build situational awareness."

Some of the information that is posted to the video boards will pertain to computer-aided dispatch feed, pending calls, photos from the scene, a map of the incident area and incident objectives.

Owen and his classes use the EOC to conduct professional emergency preparedness exercises. Each scenario differs and takes students through an emergency in a safe environment.

"The simulations allow students to apply emergency management concepts. Mistakes can be corrected now as students get comfortable with the relevant frameworks, so when they are at an actual scene, they

can make better decisions and judgments when it really matters," Owen said.

The EOC is an enormous step forward as an educational space at Radford University.

"We looked at actual EOCs when in the design phase," Owen said. "We wanted to give students the ability to work in a professional environment that will mirror what they will see out in the field."

All fields and careers will deal with emergencies — either directly or indirectly — while on the job.

"I think this helps for them to know what is going on behind the scenes at the command post," Owen said.

"When they are in a scenario, even if they are not a commander or on the command team, they will have a context for why things are happening and how they fit into the incident command structure. It is a very real professional skill."

Loaded with NUVI software, the Social Media Watch Center can analyze various social media platforms to search for trends, opinion leaders and origins of posts. The software can sort the data by emotion or sentiment.

Each region is highlighted in either green, red or blue as a quick-reference for the sentiment behind each post.

School of Communication
Assistant Professor John

Brummette, who works with Owen on crisis simulations, applies the software to analyze trends, all in real-time. Having the analytical power of the NUVI software allows students to understand and harness the data to spot potential branding issues or respond to a crisis.

Criminal Justice and the School of Communication capped off the first year in the new CHBS building with a three-hour crisis simulation.

"Students work with the theories, concepts and technologies that guide professional practice. Being able to do so in a facility that parallels those in the workplace allows them to better be prepared for their chosen careers," said Owen. ■

New center prepares students to think through a crisis



Students experience a crisis simulation in the new Emergency Operations Center in the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences building.

“I found a place where I could do so many things — research, volunteer, service and work.”

Kenzie VanDerwerker '15, M.S. '17

“I think staying busy makes everything easier. You just flow along from one interesting thing to another.”

Audra VanDerwerker '17



AS HAPPENS annually at graduation, talented and motivated students head out to the “real world.”

In May, when Kenzie and Audra VanDerwerker graduated, the campus lost a couple of superstars.

The sisters from Bedford — Kenzie, who got her bachelor’s degree in communication sciences and disorders in 2015 and her master’s in 2017, and Audra, who graduated with a B.S. in psychology in 2017 — set unique and high levels for achievement — and multitasking — while at Radford University.

In November, Kenzie was named National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) student state officer, representing Virginia’s students as part of the organization’s leadership councils. She has also presented research on the university, state and national level. At the ASHA (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association) national convention, the second-year graduate student made a solo poster presentation, titled “Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: Enhancing the understanding of ADHD on executive functioning in school-age students.” Early in her time at Radford University, Kenzie worked as a resident assistant and most recently served as president of the University’s chapter of the NSSLHA.

Audra, who minored in exercise, sport and health education, also presented research at the university and regional levels and tutored at

VanDerwerker duo ignites a spark on campus

By Don Bowman

the Learning Assistance and Resource Center.

In their “spare” time, the sisters teamed up to win two world championships at the Odyssey of the Mind (OTM) competition. The sisters also embraced the organization’s service ethic and served as Odyssey Angels. They annually prepare Halloween costumes for children with disabilities from the Bedford and Lynchburg areas.

Not just cute mask and glitter costumes, either. But mechanical

structures that enable children in wheelchairs to trick-or-treat in style with their ambulatory classmates.

“The kids get noticed for the costumes, not their wheelchairs,” said Audra, who estimated that the sisters spend 100 hours each Halloween to design, build, paint and deliver the distinctively decorated costumes made of PVC pipe, cardboard and whatever else can be scrounged.

“Our apartment here spills over with the production, and as we get closer to delivery, our parents’ front room looks like a workshop.”

Both VanDerwerker sisters competed successfully in the Southern and Northern Atlantic Forensic Union (SNAFU). Both continued their interest in history that began in high school with the annual National History Day competitions.

Audra annually produces a new video exploring aspects of the Holocaust. At the 2016 SNAFU championships, the aspiring Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) candidate’s seriocomic forensic presentation about chronic traumatic encephalopathy and strategies to protect children from sports-related head injuries earned her fifth- and sixth-place finishes.

“I think staying busy makes everything easier. You just flow along from one interesting thing to another,” said Audra of her formula to fill a 24-hour day with 36 hours of activity.

Kenzie, who completed her full-time practicum to check off one more requirement of professional licensure as a speech-language pathologist, called it a mindset, and one that has flourished at Radford University.

“I found a place where I could do so many things — research, volunteer, service and work. Radford gave me an open field in which to develop my leadership skills and gain confidence ... one thing led to another,” said Kenzie.

A gateway for the VanDerwerkers to their high-achieving Radford University experience was the Honors Academy. Both sisters are proud alumni of the academy that defines itself by intellectual curiosity and active engagement in the educational process.

“They do things just because they are passionate about learning,” said Honors Academy Director Niels Christensen. “Each is different and has her own vibe. Together, though,

they are a whirlwind — energetic, enthusiastic and curious.”

Kenzie came to Radford University in 2011 and Audra joined her in 2014. Both entered as juniors, as they had earned enough credits from an early college program at Liberty High School that enables motivated students to supplement their high school curriculum with community college credits.

Curiosity steered Kenzie to inquire about continuing her History Day interest at Radford University. Christensen put her in touch with Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Director Joe Wirgau.

At the 2011 Undergraduate Research Forum, VanDerwerker produced and performed a 10-minute living history presentation on the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, a deadly industrial fire in New York that killed 146 garment workers, mostly women. Kenzie has since focused on research in her field, doing a pilot study on therapy approaches to selective mutism and studying double-meaning work jokes in autism.

Audra has racked up her own field-specific research portfolio. Her honors capstone project is about corticotropin releasing hormones in the hypothalamuses of rats.

“For me, it comes down to the professors and their impact. That is what has made my Radford experience so memorable,” said Audra. “They go far beyond the classroom to meet and continue teaching. Whatever my future holds, I will always consider them invaluable to my successes.”

Kenzie has seen Radford University from both the undergraduate and graduate perspectives.

“Radford prepared me for the workload as an undergraduate and then taught me as a graduate student what I need to know as a professional,” she said. “The other experiences have really helped me become comfortable leading and managing multiple tasks and passions.”

As sisters, the pair shares a bond. After rooming together and collaborating as OTM teammates, they say they still like each other.

“I had a bumpy first semester when I first came to Radford,” said Audra. “I saw how engaged Kenzie was, and that encouraged me to get involved and do my thing.” ■



AT WHAT AGE DO SOCCER PLAYERS PEAK? ASK AN ECONOMIST

By Chad Osborne

Associate Professor of Economics Seife Dendir

Harry Kane is a dynamic, unstoppable striker for Tottenham Hotspur.

He scores fantastic, breathtaking goals, seemingly at will, against some of the world's best soccer teams in the English Premier League.

Kane, who is 24 years old and already a superstar, hasn't yet hit his peak age, according to research conducted by Radford University Associate Professor of Economics Seife Dendir.

For years, soccer managers and executives have speculated about the peak age for professional soccer players. All previous evidence has been anecdotal and subjective, with no formal analytics being applied to the questions.

Using statistics from WhoScored.com, Dendir conducted a study using data from fall 2010 to spring 2015 from four major European soccer leagues, including the Premier League, to formally analyze the peak or optimal age of a professional soccer player.

He wrote about his findings in a paper, "When do soccer players peak? A note," in the *Journal of Sports Analytics*, which was published in 2016.

Dendir's findings suggest that on average, professional soccer players peak between the ages of 25 and 27, depending on their positions on the pitch. Goalkeepers were not included in the study.

"In the preferred models, the average forward peaks at 25, whereas the typical defender peaks at 27," Dendir wrote. "For midfielders, the estimated peak age varies by model, but still occurs in the 25-27 age band."

Defenders, Dendir explained, "experience relatively minimal curvature in the age-performance relationship. Further results show that peak age may vary directly with ability."

Dendir's findings could impact the economic decisions team executives make when putting together their team rosters. "They have to ask, 'Are we paying too much or too little?'" This study can give them an idea of whether or not they want to pay a premium price for particular players."

One discussion Dendir hopes his study will generate pertains to the American soccer model versus the European model. In Europe, players tend to turn professional at an earlier age than do American players, thereby gaining more experience in professional leagues during their peak years.

"Is it too late a start for American soccer players, who are going to be competing with other professionals?" Dendir said. "By the time American players become professionals, they are already four or five years behind their European peers."

Dendir's areas of research traditionally include economic development, applied microeconomics and econometrics. However, his love for soccer influenced him to delve into the data and take a closer look at a question that thus far had been answered with only anecdotal and subjective evidence from the game's players, coaches and executives.

His study provides the first systematic, comprehensive and thorough investigation of the issue. ■

Caring for the INDUSTRIAL ATHLETE

THE EXPERIENCE

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

By Chad Osborne

As the assembly line rumbled just a few feet away, Kelly Hartman listened to a plant worker explain an issue with his leg. “He was touching his leg, and he told me what he did to it and what he did on the assembly line,” Hartman said of the man describing his injury. “I asked him some questions and then provided some possible options for follow-up care.”

Hartman and fellow athletic training major Megan Dee talked with many people that day at the Volvo New River Valley plant health and wellness fair. They listened to plant workers and informed them of simple stretches and exercises they could do to possibly ease the aches and pains they earned through repetitive motions during a hard day’s work.

Hartman and Dee, both seniors and members of the University’s Athletic Training Student Association, attended the health fair armed with cards, flyers and a wealth of knowledge to help explain workplace ergonomics, stretching and injury prevention. Injuries such as carpal tunnel, plantar fasciitis and shoulder and back pain are common on an assembly line, Dee said.

At the fair, “someone might walk up and tell us, ‘My shoulder hurts.’ Then we ask, ‘What do you do at work?’ or ‘Do you do this repetitive motion?’” explained Health and Human Performance Assistant Professor Ellen Payne as she rotated her wrist. “If you do, try doing this stretch.’ We tell them a lot of preventative things they can do.”

If it seems to be a minor injury, “We tell them to get it looked at by a doctor,” Payne said. “They need to take care of it early and not let it develop into something that’s going to end up as a workmen’s comp claim and time off.”

Payne first organized the trip to the Volvo health fair two years ago as a way to immerse athletic training students in experiences working with individuals who are not traditional athletes.

“At Volvo, our students get to have interactions with what some people call the industrial athlete, or the nontraditional patient,” Payne said. “Athletic trainers are getting more and more into settings like Volvo.”

For Radford University athletic training students, it’s their initial experience working with employees at an assembly plant setting.

“They’re in the factory, they can see the machines employees work with every day. For their clinicals here at Radford, they’re usually at high schools, colleges and physical therapy clinics. That’s more of the traditional athletic training route, but as the profession grows and as new jobs are created, we’re seeing more and more athletic trainers in industry.”

The change in setting and type of patient was important to Hartman, who plans to pursue a career in athletic training, perhaps in the military or industrial setting such as Volvo.

“It was really cool getting the experience in industry,” Hartman said. “It’s a change from working in an athletic setting. It’s great getting that experience.”

Companies around the world are recognizing the value of having athletic trainers work with their employees. Having healthy workers can save a company money through injury prevention, Payne noted.

Kevin Muniz ’05 coordinates wellness and fitness programming at Volvo. It was his idea three years ago to bring Radford University athletic training students into the plant for the fair.

“I wanted to bring the athletic trainer students in because we have a lot of ankle, knee, hip, back, shoulder, elbow, wrist and finger issues and overuse injuries here,” Muniz said. “Like athletes, these employees need to get back to their playing status as soon as possible.”

Plant workers can’t “take time off from their work like an athlete can from their sport,” Payne said. “They have to keep working.” ■

DEER IN THE HEADLIGHTS

Criminal Justice Department deploys a decoy to shed light on wildlife crime

By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15

IMAGINE you're a current student in the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences and you're walking through the halls of its new building, rushing to get to the elevator so you can make it to class. You push the call button.

The elevator arrives and the door slowly opens. A pair of eyes stares back at you — but they aren't human.

As your brain rushes to figure out what your eyes are seeing, students push the deer out of the elevator on a cart, with one holding a remote controller.

What you and other students just saw was a mechanical decoy deer, a tool used to teach students in wildlife crime how to effectively combat spotlighting, a term used to describe a type of illegal hunting.

During such an operation, officers place the deer off-road, hidden enough to make the deer appear realistic but also visible to a passerby. Officers typically hide on either side of the decoy and the entire operation is recorded.

"Having a realistic wildlife decoy at Radford University is a great tool to give students hands-on experience," said Criminal Justice Professor Egan Green. "I'm not aware of anywhere else that teaches a class on wildlife crime and conservation enforcement. There's no book. It's a niche class that we offer.

"I give students practice using the tools of the trade. It takes practice to make movements smooth and lifelike. When students apply to agencies, they are able to say that they have experience using a decoy."

When seniors Carly Ruth and Grant Scott first saw the deer, they thought it was mounted.

"I saw that the front leg was detached, which isn't a normal thing for a full-mounted deer," Scott said. "I knew something was up, but I had no idea what it was until the head started moving slightly."

Ruth said that she could see Green looking down each time the deer moved, so she knew that he was controlling it.

Both students agreed that the deer decoy aided their understanding of spotlighting while doing so in an interesting and unique way.

"This was the perfect class for me," Grant said. "This is something I'm really interested in and something for which I have a passion. When applying to jobs, which will mostly be in rural counties, I can tell the departments that I'm familiar with some of the ways they catch poachers."

"It helps that the deer decoy is different," Ruth said. "It gives you an edge if you've never heard about it before or had the opportunity to use a decoy before."

Another objective for students in Green's classes highlights the shared resources between departments and offices.

"It helps because there is a lot of overlap between agencies, since a lot of them need help from others," Ruth said. "Some agencies are subject-specific, such as wildlife. If there was ever an issue where one agency needed to have additional skills, they can easily shift between agencies for help."

Ruth summed up the opportunity of Radford University's Criminal Justice Department when she said, "Not many universities have someone who specializes in this field. These classes open your eyes to all the possibilities within criminal justice." ■



Centered Student Success

By Max Esterhuizen, M.S. '15

DURING President Brian O. Hemphill's alumni tour in summer 2016, he discussed his ideas with alumni regarding the University's work in helping students along the way to succeed and earn their Radford University degree.

Glenwood Morgan '02, M.S. '06 said that President Hemphill's ideas on increasing student success hit home. "I liked his ideas about increasing the retention rate. I struggled at Radford and almost got caught up in the statistic. I was lucky and connected with the right people. But, I've been there and know what it's like," said Morgan, who graduated with two degrees from Radford University's College of Education and Human Development.

Radford University's Board of Visitors approved the adoption of a new retention plan — a direct result of conversations across campus, the region and with alumni across the state and beyond.

The Student Success and Retention Action Plan's core mission is grounded in the belief that all students admitted to Radford University can be successful and graduate.

As part of the shift of focus to examine Radford University's retention rate, the University formed the Council on Student Engagement and Success (CSES).

"The CSES has brought together a diverse group of voices from across campus and introduced a richness to conversations about student success," said Assistant Vice Provost of High Impact Practices Jeanne Mekolichick. "We are asking ourselves if our practices, policies and actions align with helping students learn, and we are building relationships that support student success."

The 12 CSES action teams

developed five themes to improve retention: remove barriers; support the classroom experience; ensure effective, efficient advising; engage in clear, unified communication; and address the unique needs of each group of students.

The University will continue to implement High Impact Practices (HIP), student-centered and engaged learning practices both inside and outside of the classroom, to keep students engaged and involved. "Radford University is known for these deeply engaging hands-on learning practices both within and beyond the classroom. In this area, the retention action plan focuses on strategic approaches to more systematically bring these experiences to our students. The more opportunities we can create to bring faculty and students together in meaningful dialogue, the more powerful the experience for all," said Mekolichick.

The plan will redesign the one-credit University 100 courses that all new students take to help them transition to Radford University. The courses will provide more experience-based learning.

As a critical component of student success, effective and efficient advising helps students make the most of their academic careers. A few methods aimed to improve advising are to design and implement advising standard procedures; hire additional professional advisors; and develop a student ambassador peer-mentoring program to assist advisors during peak advising periods.

A purposeful, strategic coordination of communication is part of the plan to engage in clear, unified and targeted efforts to help students persist with their studies.

Part of this implementation is the Starfish Connect™ software, which promotes engagement and removes obstacles between students and their advisors, tutors and instructors. This system provides case management, appointment scheduling, and communication tools to promote engagement and help students stay on track.

Exit interview processes and procedures are also being developed to identify reasons behind a student's choice to leave Radford. Social media tactics and strategies — designed to improve communication with students — are being revised.

Each student and group have unique needs. A way to help address these varying needs is to better coordinate and develop existing programs and services, keeping students on task to timely degree completion and celebrating the success of students from their first year through graduation.

To help achieve these goals, the Division of Student Affairs is working with the Student Government Association (SGA) to better connect and work with students. Some of the co-sponsored activities include a check-in campaign, in which SGA members and Students Affairs staff members knocked on over 2,000 doors to personally check in with students.

The initiatives in the Student Success and Retention Action Plan are designed to realize the potential of the students attending Radford University and the potential that lies within the University. "The experience continues to spark new conversations and bring alternative perspectives, sharpening our focus on excellence in all that we do," said Mekolichick. ■



ADVOCIA

STUDENTS TAKE HIGHLAN

By Mary Hardbarger

FOR 15 YEARS, Radford University has led a group of students on a stimulating trip to Virginia's state capital.

Every February, students are immersed in the world of government for two days as they participate in Advocacy Day activities.

The annual event allows students — who represent an array of majors, grade levels and demographics — the opportunity to interact with state delegates and senators and advocate for Radford University and fellow students.

CY DAY

DER PRIDE TO RICHMOND



Clockwise from above, President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D. and Board of Visitors member Mary Ann Hovis '65 speak with Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran; students visit with Del. Todd Pillion legislative assistant Tyler Lester '15 and Del. Joseph Yost '06, M.A. '08.

THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, the trip has influenced the lives of many of its participants. Some students say Advocacy Day helped them map their career paths. Others agree the experience encouraged them to become engaged citizens and better informed about their legislative representatives.

"I think it was a great real-world experience," said Etrenda Dillon '17, who participated in Advocacy Day in 2016 and 2017. "I had the privilege of representing my school to high-level government officials and the opportunity to practice my professional skills. Advocacy Day was definitely a highlight of my Radford University experience."

This year, Advocacy Day saw record participation.

Fifty students spent Jan. 31-Feb. 1 in Richmond, which was a flurry of General Assembly activity.

The Virginia General Assembly convened Jan. 11, just weeks before Radford University students arrived.

On the first day of the trip, students observed several subcommittee meetings, including those of the House

Education and House Appropriations committees. A group also met with staff of the attorney general's office to learn more about its inner workings.

"It was really fascinating to witness policy in action," said Alan Ward '17. "Some very important bills were being discussed, and it was exciting to be surrounded by so many decision-makers."

Students also toured the Executive Mansion, home to Virginia's governors since 1813. The same evening, they dined with Del. Joseph Yost '06, M.A. '08 and fellow Radford University alumni Martin Mash '07 and Tyler Lester '15, who all shared their respective experiences about the legislative process.

Hearing firsthand from Radford graduates about their journey to Richmond resonated with many students.

Lester's passion for politics can be traced to his time at Radford University.

A Richlands native, Lester transferred to Radford from a community college in 2013 and immediately immersed himself in politics. That fall, he got an internship with U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's office.

"I've always been interested in history and politics," said Lester, who majored in political science. "That experience was a good opportunity to gain practical day-to-day exposure to what legislators and officials actually do."

That picture became even clearer for Lester when he participated in Advocacy Day in 2014.

"The exposure that Advocacy Day gave me to the

“It was a great real-world experience.”

Etrenda Dillon '17



A highlight of the trip was the meeting with Gov. Terry McAuliffe. Pictured in the front row are, from left, Board of Visitors member Mark Lawrence; Delegate Joseph Yost '06, M.A. '08; Governor McAuliffe; President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.; and Board of Visitors members Mary Ann Hovis '65 and Jay Brown, Ph.D.

political process really cemented that this was the direction I was supposed to be going in," he said.

After graduating, Lester was offered a full-time job in Griffith's office. He currently serves as a legislative aide for Del. Todd Pillion.

"This is my dream job," Lester said. "I'm happy to now be able to share my story with other Radford University students."

On the final day of the trip, students were broken into groups to meet with their respective delegates and senators. The fast-paced sessions allowed students to discuss topics and issues important to them, such as financial aid, state job opportunities and the future of higher education. They also shared personal stories and their Radford University experiences.

"I love Radford University, and I wanted to spread the word of all the good things that go on here," said Ward, who has participated in Advocacy Day for the past three years. "It's critical to let our delegates and senators know

that the work they do in Richmond has a significant effect on what we do at the University."

Because Ward, of Roanoke, has repeatedly participated in Advocacy Day activities, he said his conversations with the politicians have become "deeper."

"After you start building relationships with them, you step into their offices and they remember who you are and what university you represent. We make a lasting impression," Ward said.

The trip was capped by an exciting visit with Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe on the steps of the Virginia State Capitol, which students later toured.

Shiza Manzoor, a junior media studies major, called the entire Advocacy Day experience "eye-opening." She hopes to one day pursue a career in political journalism.

Advocacy Day amplified that calling, she said.

"I loved it so much," she said. "It was insightful and educational. There were moments throughout the trip when everything just clicked." ■



Students Spring to Service

In Honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

By Mary Hardbarger

NEHEMIAH BESTER '18, a media studies major from Richmond, was just one of 400 Radford University students, faculty and staff who hit the ground running across the New River and Roanoke valleys on Jan. 16.

Spring semester classes didn't start until Jan. 17, but many chose to return to campus early to participate in the University's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

"At Radford, we look at today as a day on, not a day off," said Bester.

This is the fourth consecutive year the University has organized the effort that sends hundreds of volunteers across the region to lend a helping hand.

That Monday, those helping hands prepared and served meals, organized clothing and food donations, crafted homemade rugs for sheltered animals, painted walls, cleaned tables and hallways and nurtured the minds of young children.

At the Kroger grocery store in Fairlawn, Bester and his peers collected food items from shoppers for the Bobcat and Micah's backpack programs, as well as for the Women's Resource Center.

"This is what it's all about," Bester said, motioning toward the table where donated goods started piling up.

Tylisia Crews and Cassidy Smith agreed that volunteering helped them connect with the community "in a more intimate way."

"This experience helps us reach others on a different level," said Crews, a senior from Halifax. "As students, we don't often get to interact with the community around us."

Such philanthropic actions reflect the ideals of Martin Luther King Jr., whose influential life was honored worldwide on Jan. 16.

"Dr. King served his community, and it's important that we do the same so we can continue his legacy of service and compassion for others," said Smith, a sophomore English major.

Volunteers were excited to see Radford University Professor Brian O. Hemphill at several sites, including Kroger, where Crews helped him shop for food donations.

"I can check that off my bucket list," Crews joked. "But it really means a lot that he cares and takes care of our community, too."

Not far away at the Radford Early Learning Center, senior Hailey Wilt sat among a circle of students — young and old — whose ears tuned in to a compelling book, "Martin's Big Words," read aloud by a young teacher.

"Be a good neighbor." "Help make the world a better place." "Be kind to others."

The message resonated with the entire room.

Afterward, the Radford University student volunteers partnered with the preschoolers on a craft that expressed how they might better their communities.

"I'm so excited to work with these kids," Wilt said. "They are so fun, and so is volunteering. It's a big part of my Radford experience."

Mary Beth Keenan, the Reading Hour Program coordinator who helped organize the Learning Center event, said she was pleased by the large turnout of Radford University volunteers.

"It's fun to see students from different schools, from different walks of life, come together to listen and interact with these children," Keenan said.

That one-on-one attention is "what our students crave," said the center's Assistant Director, Pam Cline.

"It's a perfect collaboration," Cline said.

At Christ Lutheran Church, Radford University volunteers served in a much different capacity.

The small crew volunteered to paint part of the fellowship hall.

McConnell Library Instruction Librarian Alyssa Archer, a regular MLK Jr. Day of Service volunteer, gushed about how well-organized the event continues to be each year.

"The Center for Diversity and Inclusion staff do such a great job," said Archer as she carefully brushed a fresh coat of paint on the wall.

In Salem, many volunteers spent the day at Feeding America Southwest Virginia, where they processed more than 6,000 pounds of food. New partnerships were formed with agencies throughout the region, including the Friendship Health and Living Community Center in Roanoke, Radford Coffee Company, Roanoke Diversity Center and Pulaski County Department of Social Services.

At the Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Virginia, students cleaned tables, walls and other areas of the Roanoke facility.

Clean classrooms are not only important to the 150 kids who walk through the center's doors each day, said Boys and Girls Club Director of Operations Calvin Curry.

"They're important to our donors, too," he explained.

"We are a volunteer- and donor-driven club. They need to know and see that we are taking care of our students. Today, Radford University took good care of us. The students were fantastic. We are grateful." ■

Weddings, Births & More

1970s

Frank Beamer, M.S. '72 was awarded the honorary Doctor of Public Service degree by Radford University during the spring 2017 Commencement Ceremony. He has also been appointed to the College Football Playoff selection committee by the College Football Playoff Management Committee. Prior to his retirement in 2015, Beamer was one of the longest tenured coaches in Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) history, having started his career at Virginia Tech in 1987.



Kay Dunkley '73, M.S. '79 has been named the executive director of the Roanoke Higher Education Center by the center's board of trustees.

Betsy Powers Conte '73 and her work with The Greenbrier was featured in the December 2016 edition of "Southern Living." Conte serves as the director for social activities at the resort.

Rebecca Ebert '76 has received the American Association of University Women "Woman of the Year" award. Ebert is the archivist of the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives of the Handley Regional Library and the Winchester Frederick County Historical Society.

1980s

Jamie Winship '83 served as keynote speaker for the 54th annual Shenandoah Valley Prayer Breakfast, held at the James Madison University Festival Ballroom.

June Jennings '86 has been appointed to the position of deputy secretary of finance by Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

Cathy Cruise '88 published her first novel, "A Hundred Weddings," in December 2016. The novel can be found on all major online retail stores.

We want to hear from you!

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

1990s

Ellery Plowman '91 has been appointed to the position of director of business development at Stellar Partners. Stellar Partners operates 38 convenience and specialty retail stores in 10 airports throughout the United States.

Melissa McDaniel '93, M.S. '08 has been named director of special education and student services by the Floyd County School Board. McDaniel had been serving as principal at Indian Valley Elementary School.



Rebecca Gibson Bolte '95 and her husband Steven Bolte announce the birth of their daughter Daphne Elizabeth

on Sept. 7, 2016, weighing 8 pounds and measuring 20½ inches. Big sister Annaliese and big brother Joshua are very happy to welcome their new little sister.

Kathleen Allard Roscoe '99 has joined the Community Bank of the Chesapeake as business development officer for the Fredericksburg market.

2000s

Jonathan Sweet '00 has been named county administrator for Pulaski County. Sweet previously served as county administrator and chief economic development officer for Grayson County.

Jillian Walker '00 has been named executive director of Open for Service, which provides an inclusive network aimed at promoting businesses and organizations that will not turn someone away based on sexual orientation, gender, race, disability, or political/religious affiliation.



Heather Palfrey '07 and **Joseph Walker '04** married on Oct. 1, 2016 in Bluemont. Joseph works for the federal government and Heather works at the American Chemistry Council as an environment health and safety manager.

Justin Ingram '04 has joined Park Sterling as a business banker dedicated to serving the needs of locally based Richmond businesses.

To submit a class note, please visit www.radford.edu/alumniupdate or call 1-888-4RU-GRAD.

Photographs may be submitted as .jpg files with a resolution of at least 300 dpi. If you submitted a class note and it does not appear in this issue, please look for it in the next magazine.

Robert Barrett '07 was chosen as one of the Bosch Foundation Fellows of young American professionals. He is participating in an intensive yearlong professional fellowship program in Germany that concentrates on business, economics, journalism, law and public affairs. Barrett was previously an in-house counsel for Advance Auto.



Ashley Glading '08 and Michael Graham married on July 30, 2016 in Winchester. Ashley is currently the marketing coordinator at Shentel.

Neely Edwards Zervakis '09, a former member of the Radford University women's tennis team, is a tennis instructor at the McCormack-Nagelsen Tennis Center located at the College of William & Mary.

Cassie Shortt '09 has been named a 2016 Top Producer by Dickens Mitchener, a Charlotte, N.C.-based real estate agency.

John A. Gardner '09 has been elected as vice president by the Carter Bank & Trust Board of Directors and appointed director of loan operations. Gardner has been employed by Carter Bank & Trust for over 10 years as a teller, bookkeeper and assistant vice president.

Jessica Cromer, M.S. '09 has been named assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction by the Floyd County School Board. Cromer had been serving as principal at Check Elementary School.

2010s

Hope Creasy '10, who was a softball standout at Christiansburg High School and Radford University, has been named the Highlanders' Softball head coach.



Emma Deininger '15 has officially passed all sections of the CPA exam and is now a licensed CPA in the state of Maryland.

Trooper **Sean M. Martin '16** finished a rigorous 29-week training session and has graduated from the state police academy in Chesterfield County. His first assignment will be in his hometown of Chesapeake.

Daniel Burton '16 was selected by members of Radford University's Southwest Virginia Classical Guitar Society to perform at the 16th Annual Radford University International Guitar Festival. Burton currently plays electric bass guitar for Salem-based band Mad Iguanas.

LETTER

Dear Radford magazine,

I have a daughter (Sara Flickinger, B.S. in Recreation, Parks and Tourism) who graduated from Radford in May 2014. Her experience there was extremely positive as was ours as parents hearing and sharing in her tales of success.

Around the same time her recent RADFORD magazine arrived at our house, I had begun working on a quilt using her 'old' Radford t-shirts. In the process, I did some research on the Radford plaid. I was hoping to use the tartan that Radford uses in the quilt. I was really excited when I opened up her magazine to see the Highlander band and the Highlander mascot shown on several pages. I could see the tartan. What I found out in my research was that the tartan



that Radford uses is the McFarland tartan. That plaid is my family tartan. My great-grandmother was a McFarland. Knowing this made my daughter's experience at Radford even more special. Together, we attended the Highlander days several times while she was there and, in hindsight, had a connection we didn't know then.

Although I was not able to use the McFarland plaid for the quilt, I am anxious for her to see the finished product, especially knowing the connection to the Highlanders is a lot deeper than her degree — it also involves her "pedigree."

Keep the plaid, it's a good one.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Flickinger
Warsaw, Virginia

Obituaries

1930s

Margaret Janie Hardwicke '38 of Dublin, Nov. 14, 2016.

Joyce Burnette Hankla '39 of Roanoke, Dec. 26, 2016.

1940s

Mary "Bobbie" Hartsock '47, M.S. '71 of Claymont, Delaware, Jan. 3, 2017.

C. Dean Lowe Vaughan '49 of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Jan. 2, 2017.

1950s

Helen Marie Reynolds Dobyms '50 of New Castle, Oct. 20, 2016.

Martha Elizabeth Clark Ireson Preston '52, M.S. '74 of Draper, Oct. 3, 2016.

Kathleen Hubbard Stuart '57 of St. Paul, Minnesota, Dec. 15, 2016.

Glynn Kello Parker '58 of Courtland, Feb. 23, 2017.

1960s

Edna Jean Williams '60 of Riner, Jan. 13, 2017.

Patsy L. King '65 of Pulaski, Oct. 9, 2016.

Patricia Hall Bauer '65 of Radford, Nov. 10, 2016.

Karen Sue Hicks Keller '66 of Roanoke, Jan. 2, 2017.

Kathryn Garland Obenshain, M.S. '67 of Fredericksburg, Feb. 12, 2017.

Mary Ella DeHaven '68 of Newport News, Feb. 14, 2017.

Geralene Patricia "Peggy" Pryor '69 of Greenville, North Carolina, Jan. 17, 2017.

1970s

David Wayne Goodman '71 of Roanoke, Feb. 24, 2017.

Janet Evers Foster '72 of Rockingham, Nov. 26, 2016.

Donna Carole Martin Johnston '72 of Pearisburg, Nov. 30, 2016.

Melvin M. Bentley III '75 of Roanoke, Dec. 1, 2016.

Dr. Jay Morgan Anderson Sr. '76 of Roanoke, Oct. 27, 2016.

John Snyder Baker M.S. '77 of Buchanan, Dec. 21, 2016.

1980s

Deborah Gale Leake '84 of Harrisonburg, May 11, 2016.

Amy Glisson Cocke '85 of Bumpass, Feb. 21, 2017.

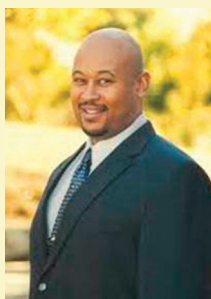
Janet Duncan Nester '86 of Radford, Sept. 20, 2016.

Janet Chase Perkins Martin '86 of Pulaski, Feb. 12, 2017.

Mary Ellen Oefelein '89 of Roanoke, Sept. 14, 2016.

K. Yvonne Wimmer, M.S. '89 of Roanoke, Dec. 10, 2016.

1990s



Demetrius Mallisham '93 of Manassas, April 28, 2016. Mallisham was a longtime member of the Baltimore Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods, serving as Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake's liaison for the LGBT community. In 2013, Mallisham was honored with Baltimore Black Pride's Chairman's Award for his work in the community.

Audra Elizabeth Walker '94 of Hayes, Jan. 12, 2013.

April Wise Smith '97 of Carrollton, Feb. 25, 2017.

2000s

Laura SueAnn Peery '05, M.S. '07 of Blacksburg, Dec. 16, 2016.

Drew Edward Welty '09 of Anchorage, Alaska, Oct. 2, 2016.

2010s

Bridgett J. Oliver '17 of New Castle, March 31, 2017.

Faculty/Staff

Hazel Irene Akers Shouse of Dublin, Oct. 4, 2016.

Olga DeHart Harvill of Indian Valley, Nov. 6, 2016.

Monty Simmons Leitch of Floyd County, Dec. 14, 2016.

Dr. Robert C. Small, Jr. of Beaufort, South Carolina, Feb. 4, 2017.

William Austin Dempsey III of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, March 8, 2017.

Johnsie Horton Poole of Christiansburg, March 29, 2017.

Paul Stephen Hershey of Radford, June 27, 2017.

Marian Lorene Lewis Wyms of Radford, July 12, 2017.

Non-Degreed

Betty Ann Thompson Van Hemert of Pearisburg, Oct. 13, 2016.

Betty Ann Tourney-Hall of Radford, Oct. 26, 2016.

Lisa Annette Cox of Dublin, Nov. 3, 2016.

Ila Jane Perdue Shepherd of Rocky Mount, Nov. 27, 2016.

Marie Harman Williams of Roanoke, Feb. 25, 2017.

Students

Darren Walter Mahoney of Varina, Dec. 17, 2016.



Nationwide[®]
is on your side

**The Radford University
Alumni Association
welcomes Nationwide as
an affinity partner!**

Calling all Creativity!

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



“‘Memory’ is the theme of my current series of digital images. These images juxtapose and contrast my photographs of 19th-century structures that have been altered by time and neglect with formal portraits of people who were photographed in the late 19th century. By joining forces with photographers of a century ago, I have merged their efforts with my own. I pay homage to those important explorers of the photographic medium, and I hope they would be pleased or, maybe, amused with how photography has evolved. Perhaps, sometime in the future, today’s photographers will find that new technology and creative expression have honored our efforts, and that we too will be pleased or, maybe, amused.” -- Bonnie B. Collier '66



Quilt
Julie Hurt Hirscher '87

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

The Magazine for Radford University is online with extra content and features, including videos and photo galleries.

Find out what's extra!

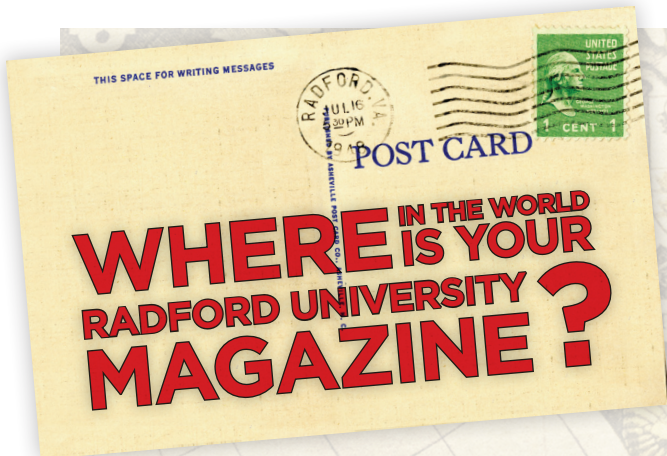
www.radford.edu/magazine



Congratulations!

THE FOLLOWING FACULTY AND STAFF
HAVE RECENTLY RETIRED
FROM RADFORD UNIVERSITY.

Sharon E. Burley *June 30, 2016*
Samuel M. Burton *April 30, 2016*
David O. Castonguay *August 9, 2016*
Barbara M. Conner *August 31, 2016*
Elwood Cox *Jan. 31, 2016*
Kathleen B. Cox, Ph.D. *Dec. 24, 2016*
Leonita H. Cutright *August 9, 2016*
Sarah D. Dowdy *April 30, 2016*
Joe A. Flickinger, Ph.D. *May 9, 2016*
Linda P. Flinchum *Jan. 31, 2017*
Fredrick L. Harris *Feb. 29, 2016*
Vincent Hazleton, Ph.D. *June 24, 2016*
Gwen S. Hughes *April 30, 2016*
Kathryn H. Kelly, Ph.D. *July 24, 2016*
Linda P. King *Feb. 29, 2016*
Elizabeth C. Koch *Jan. 9, 2016*
Raymond N. Linville, Ph.D. *August 9, 2016*
William D. McDaniel, Jr. *Jan. 6, 2017*
Margaret P. Mullins *June 24, 2016*
Nancy Y. Newton *June 9, 2016*
Tanya S. Rojewski *Jan. 31, 2016*
William A. Rutledge *Jan. 15, 2016*
Mark G. Shanley, Ed.D. *Dec. 24, 2016*
Donnie L. Shepherd *August 25, 2016*
John M. Smith *Feb. 29, 2016*
Donna G. Spradlin *June 24, 2016*
Jane C. Swing *June 30, 2016*
Joan C. Wright *Feb. 28, 2017*



Charlie ('13) and Dan ('16) Ashley

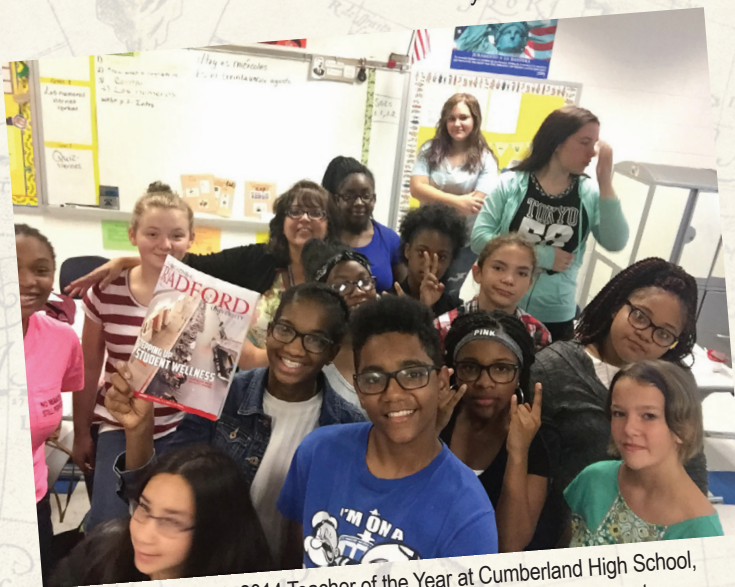
On a plane across the Pacific? On a train during your commute to work? In your car on a family vacation? Where do you read The Magazine of Radford University?

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

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

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

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



Myrna Pages Barr '81, 2014 Teacher of the Year at Cumberland High School, Cumberland, Virginia. Barr is shown with her Period 1 Spanish Class at Cumberland Middle School. She teaches Spanish at both Cumberland County High School and Cumberland County Middle School. Barr was the co-founder of the Radford University Appalachian Events Committee in 1981.



Billy Krohn '75, pictured with his Magazine of Radford University in Roanoke, Virginia, fondly remembers being among the first group of men to be admitted to Radford College in 1972.



Many things stand out in our minds when we think of Radford—especially the people, buildings, and ideas met here. Even the small memories—the fountain in the Administration Building, the walk to Founders on a snowy morning, the glance at the front of Founders on the way back from town, and seeing the railroad cars across the street as we walk from the library to Science Hall—form a small part of the place we call Radford College.



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Mark your calendar for
Radford University's
HOMECOMING
Oct. 6-8, 2017

Make plans to come home to your **#Radfordfamily** and enjoy a weekend of activities such as the State of the University address by President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., the Alumni and Family Village, Women of Radford Luncheon, Golden Reunion Dinner, 2017 Radford University Athletics Hall of Fame *Presented by Service Contracting of Virginia, Inc.*, tours of the new Russell Hall Alumni Center, Alumni Volunteer Leadership Awards Lunch and soccer games.

A full schedule of campus events is available at www.radford.edu/alumni. Stay connected by following the alumni social media sites and the official Homecoming hashtag, **#RadfordHC2017**, for the latest developments.

Questions?

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