



NEWS

Newsletter for the College of Graduate and Professional Studies

Winter 2008

New Dean of Graduate College Begins in June

Dr. Dennis Grady has been named to serve as Dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies beginning June 2. Grady replaces Dr. Carole Seyfrit, former dean, who decided to return to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology after completing her spring Fulbright in Iceland.

Grady brings nearly 20 years of academic experience to this position. Prior to joining RU, Grady worked at Appalachian State University, where he served as director of ASU's Energy Center at the Cratis D. Williams Graduate School and chair of the Department of Political Science/Criminal Justice.

Grady is experienced working with program development, intellectual property protection and recruiting and mentoring graduate students.

"I am well aware of the excellent reputation of Radford University and it is an honor to be selected for this senior administrative position," Grady said. "Mentoring graduate students and watching them progress into productive professionals is the reason I joined the academy."

"Dr. Grady brings talents and insights that will help increase the prominence of our graduate programs throughout the Commonwealth and nation," said Dr. Wil Stanton, Provost and Vice

President for Academic Affairs. "I look forward to him joining our team."

Grady earned a Ph.D. in political science at Emory, a master's degree in city planning at Georgia Tech and a bachelor's degree in economics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.



Dr. Dennis Grady

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Munkh-Orgil Turbold Destined to Excel



Munkh-Orgil Turbold

According to his mentor and guitar instructor Robert Trent, when Munkh-Orgil "OT" Turbold arrived in Radford he was bound and determined to fit in and to succeed. And that is exactly what he did. The Winter 2007 graduate has made a name for himself as one of the best guitarists to ever graduate from RU, and his future is only limited by opportunities he has not yet encountered.

Turbold was born and raised in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and had a rich musical lineage. His brother was an active singer and songwriter and he was the one who first introduced Turbold to the guitar. He says, "My mother's side was all musicians and actresses and my father's side was very fond of music and the

performing arts. So I was brought up where all holiday gatherings would turn into a family concert."

When he enrolled at RU, his English vocabulary was very limited and there had been little training in classical guitar. He had no music reading skills though he came from a background where music and performance was part of daily life. Trent remembers Turbold as a student trying to fit into a culture that was all new. "He had long flowing hair and his clothing of choice was ripped blue jeans. He was quiet, respectful, serious and eager to learn. Despite having been dropped into a foreign culture and without basic musical training, he set about the business of absorbing all that he could learn from his music studies at Radford." Turbold became somewhat of an overnight legend.

He has been chosen by the faculty to perform in every Honors Recital and was selected as Trent's graduate teaching assistant while pursuing his master's degree. Of all his accomplishments, the most prestigious is winning the St. Joseph International Guitar Composition where he competed against performers

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Munkh-Orgil Turbold Destined to Excel

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from Europe, South America and the United States.

When he was deciding on undergraduate studies, Turbold said RU was one of the few schools that offered music business and the tuition fit his budget. "I met Dr. Trent and was introduced to the classical guitar and I was astounded by the possibilities of what you could do with a guitar. A year after I got my undergraduate degree, I decided to get my master's in guitar performance and I came back to RU."

Though he loves RU and Southwest Virginia, Turbold says, "I decided to pursue my career at a place where it's musically thriving. So I moved to Brooklyn, New York, this August and right now I'm working in Northern Virginia during the week and living in Brooklyn on weekends."

Turbold has been an assistant at a New York studio and now teaches in Brooklyn and Northern Virginia. He played a concert at RU this fall, which was the last one he needed to finish his master's degree.

What does a multi-talented classical guitarist like OT enjoy listening to when he's not performing or teaching? "My all-time favorite song is *Going to California* by Led Zeppelin," he says, but he's also been immersed in The Shins' new album *Winning the Night Away*.

When asked what is his favorite thing about being an RU student, he replies, "The whole experience."

Farewell from Carole Seyfrit

The future of graduate education at RU is very bright and promising. The university's new 7-17 Strategic Plan puts graduate education at the forefront. As I reflected on the changes that have taken place in graduate education, the college can report these significant accomplishments:

- RU's first doctoral program (Psy.D.) will enroll its inaugural class in Fall of 2008
- Graduate funding increased 34 percent, which allowed increases in the stipend amounts and the number of tuition grants
- The graduate college moved its offices into Lucas Hall
- Graduate enrollments have increased
- The newly developed Advanced Degree Fund now provides two scholarships per year

Expanded program offerings now include accelerated bachelor's/master's programs in communication and criminal justice. Several programs, including nursing, education, and business admin-

istration have programs of study that allow the completion of both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in five years.

Plans are underway to increase the number of graduate students enrolled and the number of programs available. The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia recently approved RU proposals to offer Doctor of Physical Therapy and Master of Occupational Therapy degrees. The first admitted students to both programs would begin classes in the fall of 2009 if granted final authorization by the Virginia General Assembly.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time as graduate dean and look forward to the exciting developments that will continue in Radford University's graduate college. Join me in welcoming Dr. Mary Atwell, professor of criminal justice, as the interim dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies during spring semester 2008.



Dr. Carole Seyfrit

Former Graduate Dean Awarded Fulbright

Carole Seyfrit, former dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies and professor of sociology, was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and conduct research at the University of Akureyri in Iceland during the Spring 2008 semester. These are highly prized and competitive awards. In 2007-2008, only 18 of the 746 Fulbright Scholar Awards are in sociology.

Over her academic career, Seyfrit has secured more than one million dollars to support her research and academic efforts. Her research agenda focused on natural resource development in rural areas and the impact

on adolescents. She studied the impact of North Sea oil development in the Shetland and Orkney Islands of Scotland, the pre-development phase of oil exploration in Newfoundland, zinc mining and fishing in Alaska, as well as coal mining in Utah and agriculture and fishing on Virginia's Eastern Shore. In all of these sites, Seyfrit conducted surveys of high school students and gathered information on adolescents' occupational, educational, and residential aspirations. She will work with sociologists in Iceland who have conducted similar surveys of Icelandic youth.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for cross-national comparative research on how social and economic changes impact rural youth in resource dependent areas," says Seyfrit.

After completing her Fulbright experience in Iceland, Seyfrit will return to her faculty position in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology

The Fulbright Program, America's flagship international educational exchange activity, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. To learn more about The Fulbright Scholar Program, visit the Web site, www.cies.org.

English Program Offers Options for Graduate Degrees

By Paul Witkowsky, Professor of English

The Department of English has long given students the option of specializing in British or American literature for their M.A. or M.S. Since 2005, the department has offered another option: English Education. And, for students who didn't complete an English Education program as undergraduates, there's the additional possibility of obtaining initial licensure along with their master's degree. That's what attracted Elizabeth Mulvaney Chapman—a Roanoke native who earned her undergraduate degree in communication from Clemson—to Radford University.

RU's graduate program in English has always attracted substantial numbers of local teachers who were interested in continuing their studies in literature, but others indicated that they would prefer a program that was more directly relevant to their teaching. The department designed a program that would allow students to focus on pedagogy, educational research, and teaching-oriented subject areas like composition, grammar, and adolescent lit-

erature and added a new course, "Critical Approaches to Teaching Literature." Other courses will be added as the program expands and as the number of students electing the English Education option increases.

In addition to supporting teachers who are already in the classroom, the second goal of the new option is to help prepare new secondary English teachers for the Commonwealth. Students who are not already licensed for grades 6-12 can take the necessary undergraduate courses along with graduate courses while they are in the program, and then complete student teaching as part of their work for the M.S. In fact, Chapman earned licensure before she completed the requirements for her degree, and is currently teaching ninth- and tenth-grade English at Cave Spring High School in Roanoke, Va., while taking her last two courses at Radford.

Elizabeth is enthusiastic about her experience at Radford, both because of

the flexibility of the English Education program and because of its small size and personalized quality. She praises her professors, especially Dr. Kelly, for exposing her to contemporary non-traditional and holistic approaches to student learning, and for requiring her to become involved in professional organizations like the National Council of Teachers of English and the Virginia Association of Teachers of English—something she says, "I don't think I would ever have done on my own." In fact, she presented a paper, "Where I'm From' Poet Georgia Ella Lyon: Discovering the Geography of One's Imagination through Regional Children's and Young Adult Literature," at the national conference of the NCTE in November. Her presentation was in conjunction with a reading by the Appalachian writer Georgia Ella Lyon.

Elizabeth's work is an impressive accomplishment for a graduate student, and a good omen for the future of the graduate English Education program.

RU's New Psy.D. Director Named Ohio's Outstanding Psychologist

James L. Werth, Jr., director of Radford University's new Doctor of Psychology program, recently received the Outstanding Psychologist Award from the Ohio Psychological Association.

The award was given to Werth with a citation reading, "In recognition of contributions through teaching, innovation, OPA committee work and the promotion of high professional standards in the field of psychology."

Before beginning work as RU's Psy.D. director, Werth was a faculty member in the Collaborative Program in Counseling Psychology at The University of Akron.

"I am quite surprised, honored, and humbled to receive this award from my friends and colleagues in Ohio, especially because I now consider Radford my home," Werth said. "If their recognition of my work means they think I made a contri-

bution to the betterment of the lives of people in Ohio, then I am happy they think I made a difference. I hope to be able to become similarly involved in psychological activities here in Virginia and to reflect well on the Psy.D. program, Department of Psychology and Radford University."

Werth is a licensed psychologist and mental health practitioner with extensive experience working with people who are HIV positive and suicidal. He earned his Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Auburn University in 1995. Werth joined the RU faculty this fall.

In addition to his directorship of the Psy.D. program, Werth teaches a course



James L. Werth, Jr.

in the program labeled: "Working with Potentially Dangerous Individuals: Assessment, Counseling and Research Issues."

The Psy.D. program in counseling psychology is RU's first doctoral program and enrolls its first class of students in fall 2008. Its focus is on rural mental health and is designed for persons interested in careers as psychologists in mental health settings and institutions where clinical supervision and the direct application of counseling, therapy and psychological assessment are required. The program follows the practitioner-scholar model with an emphasis on clinical training and the application of research to practice.



College of Graduate and Professional Studies *news*

New Home for Extended Education in the Office of Academic Outreach

As the newly titled College of Graduate and Professional Studies (CGPS) continues to take shape, the extended education component of the college has joined the Office of the Provost, Academic Enhancement team, as the “Office of Academic Outreach” under the direction of Ellen Taylor.

The mission of the Office of Academic Outreach is to actively engage with our community partners to extend RU’s academic and instructional resources beyond the boundaries of the university. This is achieved through dynamic university-com-

munity partnerships, targeted credit and non-credit program development, and the use of diverse instructional delivery methods to provide quality academic programs and initiatives for students and professionals throughout Virginia and beyond; thus, enhancing the viability of our region. Moving extended education to the Office of the Provost will enhance our already substantial extended education endeavors at both the graduate and undergraduate level and will provide a greater emphasis on all our outreach activities.

The emphasis on academic outreach and community engagement is a central theme in the RU 7-17 Strategic Plan, which lists “being an active partner in the viability of our region” as a core value, and challenges us to Invest in Society: Globally and Locally (Strategic Directive 3).

To read the new strategic plan, follow the link from the RU home page at www.radford.edu. To discuss outreach initiatives with Ellen Taylor, please contact her via email at eltaylor@radford.edu or phone (540) 831-5845.

Donna Spradlin Joins Graduate College Staff



Donna Gnegy Spradlin is the new Director of Graduate Recruiting and Retention for the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. Spradlin comes to RU from Hampton University where she was employed as the site director at the Roanoke Higher Education Center.

Her responsibilities include graduate recruiting and retention, marketing, program development, working to enhance graduate offerings and increasing the graduate applicant pool.

Prior to joining the higher education ranks, Spradlin taught elementary, middle and high school students in the public school system. She holds a master’s degree from Hollins University in liberal studies. **Left: Donna Gnegy Spradlin**

Support Graduate Education through the Advanced Degree Alumni Fund

The Advanced Degree Alumni Fund allows donors to make an immediate impact on current Radford University graduate students. A gift to the fund can increase support for university-funded graduate assistantships and scholarships and strengthen the infrastructure for scholarship and professional development for graduate students.

Your gift also helps determine the quality of RU’s graduate programs. Every donor, no matter the size of the gift helps determine Radford’s recognition by national ranking agencies. Alumni who give back to their alma mater are thought to possess a high degree of satisfaction with their college experience. As such, institutions such as *U.S. News and World Report*, factor this alumni participation into its national ranking. This recognition enhances the value and prestige of an RU degree.

When you receive a call from RU, please consider making an annual gift. No matter the size, your participation will be counted among those who believe in the Radford experience.

We encourage you to also consider matching gifts as an easy way to double or even triple your gift to RU! Many employers will match charitable gifts as a benefit for their employees. Check with your employer today to see if your gift to Radford University can be matched or visit our online look-up site: www.matchinggifts.com/Radford.

