

March 31, 2011



CSAT Bi-weekly Newsletter

From the Dean's Desk

College Leads Scouts in Science Exploration

The RU College of Science and Technology Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Club (CSAT STEM Club) welcomed close to 130 registered boy and girl scouts to campus for its annual RU Science Exploration Day on Saturday, March 26 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Scouts from areas across Southwestern Virginia including the counties of Pulaski, Wythe, Montgomery, Giles, Washington, Louisa and Orange, and the City of Radford took classes in electronics, computers, personal management, chemistry, environmental science and Indian lore. CSAT faculty and students in the CSAT STEM Club led the scouts in their scientific adventures.

Ian Maxie from Boy Scout Troop 100 in Dublin said that his favorite part of his Indian lore class was building a tomahawk out of bamboo. During the class taught by anthropological sciences faculty member Cassady Yoder and the anthropological sciences student club, students learned about the lives of Native Americans and how they used natural substances to create useful tools.

Franklin Vishneski from Shawsville spent his day learning about electronics from physics professor Rhett Herman and volunteer physics majors. "My favorite thing was building a

radio from scratch," says Vishneski. Joseph Neilson from Pembroke agreed, "I really like soldering the parts together. I like hands on activities like this," he said.

Close to 30 students explored chemistry with the chemistry club and faculty members Kim Lane, Christine Hermann, Joe Wirgau, Tim Fuhrer and Libby Watts. Autumn Campbell, a 13 year old girl scout from Gordonsville, says that some of the chemical demonstrations were surprising. "I've never seen baby powder explode before," she said.

Information technology professor Joe Chase taught scouts the fundamentals of computers and his wife Melissa Chase from the Virginia Cooperative Extension taught students personal management, which includes the concepts of financial budgeting.

The curriculum for the RU Science Exploration Day is based on the requirements for the Boy Scout merit badges. Environmental Science instructor and junior geospatial science major Joseph Rudolph is the president of RU's Environmental Club and is familiar with the process of earning merit badges and achieving the highest honor of becoming an Eagle Scout. "I volunteered to teach the Environ-

mental Science merit badge because I myself had to earn it as I progressed toward the rank of Eagle Scout. Volunteering my time and knowledge is the least I can do for an organization which has helped make me the person I am today. Also, by teaching the younger generation about environmental issues and ethics, they can then help guide the world to strive toward a more sustainable future," says Rudolph.

This is the second year that the CSAT STEM Club offered RU Science Exploration Day. "Thanks so much for all the work you put into the program we attended," said Jim Anderson, scoutmaster for troop 117 in Damascus, Va. "The boys and leaders were very impressed with the instructors and aids in the classes that were attended. The facilities and grounds were great as always," he adds.

The CSAT STEM Club and the college hope to offer this event again next year.

Joe Chase teaches scouts about computers. More photos on page 2. Photos by IT student Jared Johnson.



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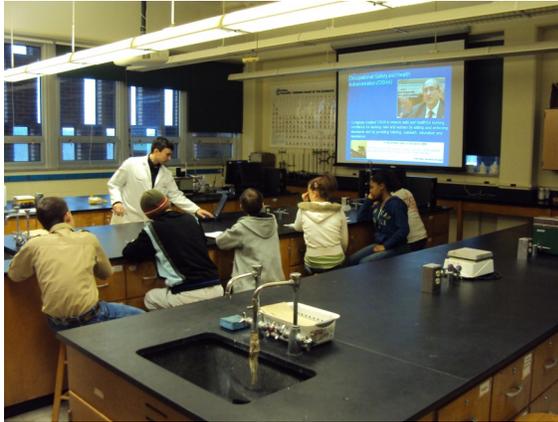
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Upcoming Events:

- April 2, CSAT STEM Club trip to the Smithsonian
- April 5, MES Lecture Series with 3D Presentation by geology professor Parv Sethi
- April 7, CSAT STEM Club Speaker Wei-Chi Yang

See www.radford.edu/csat for full event listing

Scouts Explore Science with CSAT Students and Faculty



L-r: baby powder chemistry demonstration, Joe Wirgau instructing scouts in chemistry, Kimberly Lane teaching scouts about chemistry



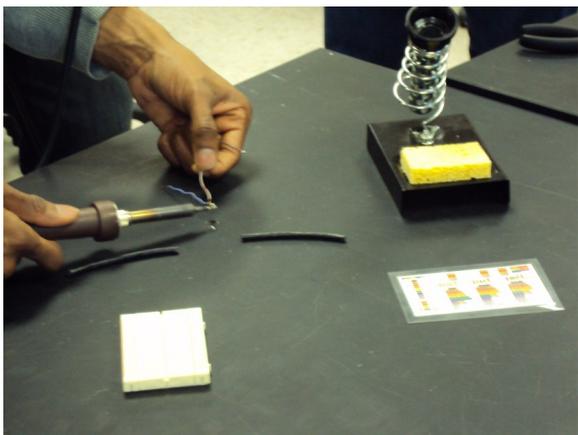
Left and right: CSAT students and Rhett Herman teach scouts about electronics

Below: Joe Rudolph teaches environmental science



Below: Scouts learned how to solder wire in electronics

Right: Scouts learned about money and budgeting in personal management



Joe Chase teaches scouts about computers

Geography Club Links to Japan

The Geography Club collected donations for the survivors of Japan's earthquake and tsunami. The club collected donations for the American Red Cross and its relief efforts in Japan on Monday, March 21 – Tuesday, March 22 outside of Hurlburt Hall.

"We had decided at our club meeting that since the Japan earthquake and tsunami had happened so recently, at that point it would be a great way for the club to help the global community," says club president Brian Walton.

The club collected \$60 during the two days and sent the money to the Red Cross. "Eventhough it wasn't a huge amount, it will be going to a good cause," adds Walton. "When events like these happen, it takes years for things to return to normal. We should continue to aid those in need after these disasters," he says.

The club will host a two-day hiking and camping trip for geography club and CSAT students in April. The club also will spend an afternoon cleaning up its adopt-a-spot location on Park Road.

For more information about geography club events, contact Walton at bwalton2@radford.edu.

Top: Rachael Simon, Britni Belcher, Brian Walton

Bottom: Brian Walton and Joseph Rudolph



IT Department Hosts Programming and Gaming Competitions



The Department of Information Technology hosted four programming competitions for high school, community college and RU information technology students from March 25 to March 26 in Davis Hall.

These high school and community college events were designed to promote software development skills among high school and community college students in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and foster stronger relationships between the information technology programs in the Virginia school systems and Radford University. A \$3,000 scholarship was awarded to each member of the first place team for their first semester at Radford University. Smaller scholarships will be awarded to members of the 2nd and 3rd place teams.



Five teams competed in the high school and community college programming competition. The Southwest Virginia Governor's School team "The Dominators" won first place, the Mountain View High School team "Mountain View Wildcats" from Stafford, Va., won second place, and the Southwest Virginia Governor's School team "Original Team Name" won third prize.

Three teams competed in the community college programming competition including two teams from Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) and one from New River Community College (NRCC). Team "(" from BRCC won first prize, team "(" from BRCC earned second place, and NRCC team "NRCC_JJ" placed third.



Two teams competed in the high school programming competition. The "Mountain View Wildcats" won first place.

The department also hosted a local programming competition for RU information technology students. Joel Dominic, Austin Devinney, Tucker Lien, Ross Norvell, James Hunt, Pierce Meikle and Jonathan Medlin competed against each other on Saturday in the computer labs in Davis Hall. Dominic won first prize, Meikle earned second and Devinney placed third.

IT Department hosts two days of programming competitions for high school, community college and RU students.

The system setup for the programming competition environment was created by information technology students Forrest Michael Thola and Alex Meade. The leader of the weekend's volunteers was recent IT graduate Stephanie Reese. Information technology professor Edward Okie and Chen-Chi Shing served as head judges for the weekend's events. The event was organized and led by information technology faculty member Hwajung Lee.

-Xiu Wang



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PO Box 6936
Radford University
Radford, Va. 24142
Phone: 540-831-5958
Fax: 540-831-5957
E-mail: jorogers@radford.edu

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The CSAT STEM Club would like to thank all of the volunteers who participated at the Science Exploration Day on March 26, 2011. The event was very successful and fun for both the boy and girl scouts, as well as for the volunteers.

We will have Dr. Wei-Chi Yang as a guest speaker next Thursday, April 7 at 5 p.m. in Russell 033. His will present "Enhancing our Knowledge in Math and Sciences through Evolving Technological Tools".

This Saturday, on April 2, the CSAT STEM Club will be leaving at 5 a.m. for the Smithsonian Trip in Washington D.C. We will be returning that night around 11-11:30 p.m.

There are still spaces available on the bus for anyone who would like to attend. The cost is \$15. Please contact Dr. Laura Jacobsen at ljacobsen@radford.edu for more information or to register for the trip.

For our service project, the CSAT STEM Club will be cleaning up the New River in Bissett Park on April 17 from 3—5 p.m. The club will also have a table at Earth Day on April 20. Club members will have a trivia board and give "Treats for Trash"

The Spring Picnic will be held on Sunday, May 1, which is the Sunday before exam week, from 4 - 7 p.m. The club will be serving hamburgers and hot dogs.

Jasmine Jackson, CSAT STEM Club Secretary



Top left: The CSAT STEM Club t-shirts are on sale for \$13

Top right: The club offered a bake sale during the Science Exploration Day for the girl and boy scouts. The bake sale was a fundraiser for the club.

Bottom left: CSAT STEM Club president Erin Fowler and girl scout Ruthie Brown manned a snack cart of bake sale goodies that they delivered to classes during the Science Exploration Day.