

Upcoming College Events:

Nov. 20

5-6 p.m. Cook 317

Chalk Talks

Nov. 24—28

Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 3

7 p.m., Bonnie Auditorium

Guadalcanal Diary: The 2008 RU Forensic Science Institute Expedition to the Solomon Islands

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Christiansburg 8th Graders Visit for Science Day

During the past two weeks, 300 Christiansburg 8th graders participated in Science Day on campus. The first half of the group visited on Nov. 13 and the second half were on campus today.

The students' science adventure began about 9:45 a.m. The group is split into sections for tours of the greenhouse and the Museum of Earth Sciences, planetarium shows and physics and chemistry demonstrations.

During their time in the planetarium, students enjoyed the show "The Planets" and learned about the night skies at this time of year.

Physics demonstrations included a small Tesla coil for a "lightening bolt" effect, a Van de Graaff generator which creates static electricity to cause students' hair to stand on end, catching a ball with no hands using a shop vacuum in reverse, and a hovercraft demonstration.

Chemistry demonstrations included properties of dry ice, chemicals that

absorb water, properties of carbon dioxide, and chemicals and their colored flames.

Tours of the greenhouse were conducted by biology education students and included a discussion of the plants housed there.

During the students' time in the Museum of Earth Sciences they experimented with the seismic detector display and learned about an extinct cave bear.



MES Hosts Forensic Geology Lecture



The Museum of the Earth Sciences lecture series continued with a presentation by geology department interim chair Skip Watts.

Where have you walked? The dirt on your shoe cannot only

tell where, but when. Did wastewater trigger a national park's most catastrophic rockslide? Watts discussed these topics and more during his lecture on Nov. 12.

The next MES lecture "Guadalcanal Diary: The 2008 RU Forensic Science Institute Expedition to the Solomon Islands" featuring

anthropologists Donna and Cliff Boyd and physicist Rhett Herman will be Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. in Hurlburt Auditorium.

Biology Class Takes Lesson to the Stream



Students in biology faculty Karen Franci's general zoology class spent an afternoon surveying the diversity of the insect population in Connelly's Run, a small stream that runs through Wildwood Park and eventually feeds into the New River.

A survey of the diversity of insect groups in a stream can tell biologists whether a stream is considered healthy, or if a result of human activity such as

erosion, road run-off or agriculture is negatively impacting the stream.

The goal of the course is to survey a broad range of species in the animal kingdom while understanding that similarities exist between animals as different as sponges and squids. Two weeks of the course focused on Phylum Arthropoda, which includes insects.



Photos provided by Karen Franci

Advising Corner: Registration Information—by Susan Underwood, advising coordinator

Registration is now in Phase III until Dec. 19. In Phase I, a student can register for up to 14 credits. Registration is by appointment “windows” assigned by the Registrar. Priority is given to graduating seniors, athletes, Honors Academy students and students registered with the Disability Resource Office.

The same priority is followed for Phase II, and students can complete their schedules up to 18 credits. Phase III is open registration with no appointments.

Since Tuesday at 5 p.m. was the

withdrawal deadline, this is a good time to discuss withdrawal policies. During a student's time here, he is allowed five class withdrawals and one university withdrawal. The class withdrawal form is completed and signed by the student's advisor or an advisor in the Advising Center. An advisor should ask a student about the number of withdrawals he has used before signing the form. Advisors can also verify the number through the student's online audit. A university withdraw is when a student

withdraws from all classes during a semester. All university withdrawals originate from the Advising Center. Students who withdraw from a class or the university before the withdrawal deadline receive a “W”. Students who withdraw from the university must apply for readmission. Students who leave in “good standing” are readmitted through the Registrar's Office. Students leaving the university with below a 2.0 GPA must apply for readmission when they return.

The readmission committee considers things such as how many repeats and withdrawals a student has remaining and the likelihood that they can return to good standing. The university's withdrawal policies are available on page 68 of the 2008-2009 University Catalog.

Watts an Author of Transition 2008 Document on Energy and Environment

Interim geology department chair Skip Watts was part of a team that wrote transition document *Critical Needs for the Twenty First Century: The Role of the Geosciences* for President-elect Obama.

It was created by the Governmental Affairs Advisory Committee of the American Geological Institute, a coalition of 45 professional associations representing more than 100,000 earth scientists. Since 2003, Watts has represented the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists on this advisory committee.

Founded in 1948, the coalition of environmental professionals plays a major role in strengthening science education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital part the geosciences play in society's use of resources and interaction with the environment.

The transition document provides a blueprint for new U.S. leadership in critical areas of energy, natural resources, environmental quality and natural hazards. It outlines policy actions needed to face these

challenges with the help of the science community.

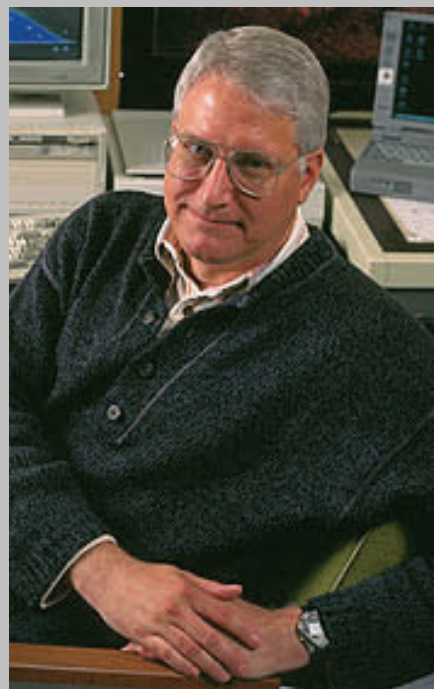
Seven specific needs crucial to future world health and well-being are identified in the blueprint including energy and climate change, water, waste disposal, natural hazards, infrastructure, raw materials, education and workforce.

Among the recommendations for the new administration are to act quickly to establish a Natural Resource Advisor within the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to advise the President on stewardship of natural resources and to invest in research and development to understand Earth processes. Sustainable consumption and conservation of resources, enhancement of environmental quality and resilience from risk depend on living with our dynamic planet.

Watts was named a Congressional Science Fellow by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Geological Society of America for 2001 and 2002. During that time, Watts served on U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman's staff as a science and

technology advisor for transportation, telecommunications, and natural hazard issues. He was later named the 2003 National Jahns Distinguished Lecturer on Science and Public Policy.

To read the 20-page transition document visit <http://www.agiweb.org/gap/trans08.html>.



**RADFORD
UNIVERSITY**

College of Science and
Technology
PO Box 6936
Radford University
Radford, VA 24142

Phone: (540) 831-5958

Fax: (540) 831-5957

E-mail: jorogers@radford.edu

The College of Science and Technology inspires students to look beyond their world and into the global arena of ingenuity, invention and research.

College faculty dedicate themselves to their students' success. They are mentors who guide inquiring minds through the process of discovery in the classroom and in real-world research.

The College of Science and Technology houses the Departments of Mathematics and Statistics, Information Technology, Geology, Chemistry and Physics, and Biology.

College faculty and students collaborate across disciplines in research and real-world problem solving. This synergy inspires many opportunities for faculty and student innovation to take root and grow to meet the ever changing needs of the global community.

Thank you for being a part of our CSAT faculty. You inspire excellence within our students and your colleagues.

