FROM THE DEAN’S DESK – MAY 4, 2017
THE RADFORD UNIVERSITY ARTIS COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWSLETTER

From L to R: Artis College of Science and Technology Dean J. Orion Rogers, President Brian O. Hemphill, alumna Nancy E. Artis ’73, Pat Artis, Ph.D. and Marisela Rosas Hemphill, Ph.D., First Lady of Radford University celebrating the announcement of the Artis Endowed Scholars Fund.

PAGE 2 – COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RECEIVES LARGEST INDIVIDUAL ALUMNI GIFT IN RADFORD UNIVERSITY HISTORY

PAGE 4 – RUSECURE CAPTURE THE FLAG CONTEST CROWNS CHAMPION AT EVENT FINALS

PAGE 5 - ARTIS COLLEGE DEAN’S SCHOLARS RECOGNIZED IN CEREMONY

PAGE 6 – ONE CONVERSATION CHANGED HIS LIFE

PAGE 8 - GEOSPATIAL SCIENCE VIRTUAL REALITY LAB TO BRING THE WORLD A LITTLE CLOSER TO HOME

PAGE 9 - ARTIS COLLEGE HONOR SOCIETIES CONDUCT INDUCTION CEREMONIES

PAGE 10 - NEW FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE RAISES THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FOR SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM

PAGE 11 – RARE TEAMS ANNOUNCED FOR MAY AND JULY TRIPS TO PERU

PAGE 14 - INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMS TAKE ON PROJECT WITH IBM

PAGE 15 - ENGAGING OTHERS IN SCIENCE IS A PASSION

PAGE 16 – FOOD TRUCK FOR THE PHYSICS MIND VISITS CAMPUS

PAGE 16 - RADFORD UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS FACULTY FEATURED IN NATIONAL ARTICLE

PAGE 17 - MATH PROFESSOR INVITED TO JAPAN TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL CONFERENCE LOCATIONS
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 today 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.

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 their honor. The College’s new name was announced and unveiled during an afternoon ceremony today 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, Ph.D. “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.S. O8, and City of Radford Mayor Bruce Brown, M.S. ’78, also attended.

Alumna Nancy E. Artis ’73 and her husband Pat Artis, Ph.D pictured with President Brian O. Hemphill and Marisela Rosas Hemphill, Ph.D. after it was announced the Artises will contribute $5 million to Radford University to establish 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.
“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, seniors Hannah Bell, chemistry major, and Dewey Milton, 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."

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), a M.S. from Rutgers University (1976) and a Ph.D. from Rutgers University (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. “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 has forever made a mark on the Radford family,” said President Hemphill.

*Story by Ann Brown*
RUSECURE CAPTURE THE FLAG CONTEST CROWN CHAMPION AT EVENT FINALS

A full day of competition and some creative answers to challenges allowed one team to reign supreme in the 2017 RUSECURE Capture the Flag competition sponsored by the Department of Information Technology. The “Hungry Hippos” from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria Virginia, outlasted the competition of more than 250 students representing 63 teams from 28 high schools and three community colleges over the past six months including the preliminary and semi-final rounds of the contest.

This event challenges high school students to perform at extraordinary levels. Managed by Radford University Information Technology faculty and students, the contest is part of an overall effort to improve cyber security literacy among K-12 students across the Commonwealth. Co-Chairs for the event are Dr. Joe Chase and Dr. Prem Uppuluri.

In his closing remarks, co-director Dr. Uppuluri praised all seven final teams in the contest. “This was the closest competition we have had in the history of this program with very few points separating the top teams” he stated.

Finishing in second-place was the Poolesville high school team and the third-place finisher was the team from Deep Run high school.

Delivering a keynote address for the program, Mr. Rick Schwein, Radford University Class of 1983 and a 31 year veteran of the F.B.I. and the Army stressed the importance of the online activities of the contest participants. “We need you to help us save the world” he stated. “The threat of doomsday is not so much from a geopolitical entity pushing a button today but from a hacker who might gain access to dangerous weapons.”

He added “We need you to use these skills for the good of humanity.” Mr. Schwein also emphasized that life must be a balance. “Master the virtual world, but live in the real world” he stated. “Live your life in reverse. In other words, think about how you would want to be thought of and make those things happen.” He closed by stating “You don’t change the world by being self-absorbed. You change things by giving of yourself for the good of all.”
ARTIS COLLEGE DEAN’S SCHOLARS RECOGNIZED IN CEREMONY

The top students in each of the Artis College of Science and Technology’s nine degree programs were honored on April 22 at the Dean's Scholars Ceremony, held in the Center for the Sciences.

Representing Anthropological Sciences was Ms. Candice Wachtel

Representing Biology was Ms. Annie Rudasill

Representing Chemistry was Ms. Rebecca Sandlin

Representing Geology was Ms. Alexa Harrison

Representing Geospatial Science was Ms. Renee Daurer

Representing Computer Science was Ms. Alexis Miller

Representing Information Science was Mr. Erik Miller

Representing Mathematics and Statistics was Ms. Cameron Leo

Representing Physics was Mr. Stephen Foster

Faculty introducing these outstanding students shared the many accomplishments, research activities, and community outreach efforts of the recipients. Dr. Orion Rogers, Dean of the College stated "As teachers and mentors, we are inspired by your dedication to excellence and enthusiasm for learning. You are multifaceted individuals who seize academic, leadership and service opportunities throughout campus and your lives."

A Dean's Scholar is a graduating senior nominated by CSAT faculty representing each of the college's nine programs. Dean's Scholars have demonstrated success in the classroom, laboratory and other activities related to their chosen disciplines. The 2017 CSAT Dean Scholars were presented a plaque and crimson stole to be worn with their caps and gowns at Radford’s Commencement ceremonies May 5-6.
ONE CONVERSATION CHANGED HIS LIFE

It has been said that life is what happens while you are busy making other plans. That can certainly be true when students encounter challenges on the pathway to their college degree.

Aras 'Russ' Memisyazici experienced this phenomena as he was working to complete his undergraduate degree. He had always planned to continue his education through his Master’s Degree to be able to attain the job level he desired, but through a set of circumstances including the passing of his father and working full time, Russ was struggling to cross the finish line for stage one of his plan.

He was lamenting his situation in a discussion with his mother at a local bookstore in the New River Valley when a chance encounter changed the course of his life and helped him achieve his dreams. David Daughtery, who was serving as an Assistant Professor of Information Technology at Radford University, overheard the conversation, introduced himself, and offered a possible solution in the distance education program in IT offered by RU.

The connection proved to be fruitful, as Russ was able to begin at RU in 2010, maintain his family and work responsibilities, and graduate in 2013. “My Radford University education was very satisfying” recalls Russ. “I was shocked and awed by the personal attention I received!” He added “The faculty were always willing to go out of their way to help me move forward.”

In one instance, Russ was having a difficult time grasping a concept in one of Dr. Ian Barland’s courses and he was surprised by the response he received when he asked for assistance. “Since he knew I was in the area, Dr. Barland arranged to meet me at a local coffee shop in Blacksburg to spend a little more time explaining the material to me. That kind of individual attention and care was what enabled me to finish my degree.”

Russ recalls that he started as a student around the same time that Dr. Prem Uppuluri, Associate Professor of Computer Science, began teaching at Radford University. “We were both new and found opportunities together” said Russ. “I soon found myself as a founding member of the Cyber Defense Club and was exploring new areas.”

Following his time at Radford University, Russ moved forward with his original plan and completed his Master’s Degree at Virginia Tech which then led to his current role as Network Architect for the Virginia Cyber Range. “If it wasn’t for Radford University, I would never have been accepted in the master’s program at Tech. Without that degree, I would never have had the opportunity for my job with the Virginia Cyber Range.”

In his role as Network Architect for the Virginia Cyber Range, Russ spends a great deal of time working with his team to help expand cybersecurity education within Virginia. “Our goal is to have 2500 high
school and college students participating in the fall of 2017 so that we can train the next generation of cybersecurity professionals to work in Virginia” Russ stated.

While this process is challenging, Russ credits the faculty at Radford University with the tools he is using to help solve problems on a daily basis. “Dr. Bob Phillips’ course where we covered the concept of core computing principles has proved invaluable” said Russ. “I’ve had to rethink the basics of what we do at the Cyber Range to be able to make them work in the cloud as we design programs to serve the entire Commonwealth.”

To help recruit participants and to continue to grow support for the program, Russ is sharing his experience and the work he is doing at the Cyber Range with a variety of audiences including an upcoming presentation to members of the Roanoke – Blacksburg Technology Council. “I love being able to provide the knowledge we are gaining as we move forward with the program” said Russ. “It is wonderful to be doing the things that I had always hoped to do. It was a longer journey than I expected, but I finally got there.”
GEOSPATIAL SCIENCE VIRTUAL REALITY LAB TO BRING THE WORLD A LITTLE CLOSER TO HOME

The first station in a virtual reality lab has been established at the Radford University GIS center in Cook Hall. Participants strap on an Oculus-type headgear along with headphones and controllers and soon find themselves standing not on the first floor of Cook Hall, but in an arena several stories high where they can teleport to a variety of science experiments and lessons as created by GIS Center Director and Associate Professor of Geospatial Science Dr. Andrew Foy and his team.

“The VR Lab was created to explore how we can used VR to enhance the learning experience for students” stated Dr. Foy. “Technology such as augmented reality and virtual reality are rapidly advancing and the Geospatial Science department wants to be a leader in changing the way we learn about our world and even the way we live in it.”

The development team is currently creating virtual reality experiences with the use of a drone, Lidar, and a 360 degree 4k camera. These tools are allowing for immediate impact. “Recently, I did my first virtual lecture, where I teach in a virtual classroom” Dr. Foy recalled. “It is really amazing. Instead of being limited by a whiteboard, I can illustrate and demonstrate concepts anywhere in the virtual world using a diverse set of virtual tools.”

Dr. Stockton Maxwell plans to take the new 360 degree camera to Peru this summer as part of the Radford Amazon Research Expedition (RARE) to capture elements of the jungle that can then be used to transport students to the Amazon. “It will be like a virtual field trip” stated Dr. Maxwell. “Students will have the ability to explore the area and participate in activities such as tree and organism identification.” This type of experience will allow students to participate in a variation of highly engaging activities without the barrier of logistics and cost creating issues.

The applications of these new tools appear to be boundless. “We are just beginning to understand how transformative this technology will be” said Dr. Foy. “VR is changing the way we learn about our world and even the way we live in it.”
ARTIS COLLEGE HONOR SOCIETIES CONDUCT INDUCTION CEREMONIES

Sigma Pi Sigma, the National Physics Honor Society, held an induction ceremony for new members on Friday, April 21 in the Radford University Planetarium. National SPS Director, Dr. Brad Conrad was on hand for the ceremony and delivered a keynote address prior to the induction detailing the value of a physics degree in the working world.

The history of the organization was reviewed as part of the ceremony.

Kappa Mu Epsilon, the National Mathematics Honor Fraternity, held their induction ceremony for 2017 on Monday, April 24. Members must be in the top 35% of their class and completed at least three courses with a B or better and be active at Radford University. As a part of the ceremony, Math Club Vice President and KME member Cameron Leo gave an overview of the mathematic symbols that make up the logo and pin for Kappa Mu Epsilon.
NEW FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE RAISES THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FOR SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM

More than $3,000 was raised for the Summer Bridge program utilizing crowdsourced fundraising to support projects around the Radford University community. Entitled Spring Fever, the week-long effort helped secure gifts from 26 students, alumni, faculty, and staff in an effort to help support the annual week-long, residential, immersive STEM experience for high school age women.

The Summer Bridge program, which has been in existence for over a decade, features the work of CSAT faculty and students as they help participants interested in STEM explore the opportunities available to them at the academic and career levels.

Summer Bridge will take place at Radford University from July 9th – 14th. More than 75 participants are expected.

More information is available at: http://www.radford.edu/content/csat/home/summer-bridge.html
RARE TEAMS ANNOUNCED FOR MAY AND JULY TRIPS TO PERU

The Radford Amazonian Research Expedition (RARE) will provide undergraduate students with a unique opportunity to conduct original biological research in a primary Amazonian rainforest ecosystem. Under the supervision of Radford professors, groups of select students will spend three weeks learning and exploring deep in the Peruvian jungle. For the past two years, dozens of Radford had the opportunity to visit Peru as part of RARE, proving the expedition to be so popular that two separate groups will be travelling to the Amazon in the summer of 2017.

In May and July, members of the RARE teams will travel from Radford to Puerto Maldonado, a rapidly growing city near Peru’s eastern border. In Puerto Maldonado, the team will meet with guides from Tamandua, LLC, a conservation and ecotourism group devoted to the protection and conservation of the Peruvian jungle. From there the RARE team will travel eight hours, first by car and then by boat, to reach the remote Las Piedras Biodiversity Station where they will conduct the majority of their studies.

The 2017 participants are:

Andrew Summers, a senior majoring in Geospatial Science;
Megan Marie Stokes, a junior majoring in Biology with a minor in Geospatial Science;
Carly Cook, a junior majoring in Geospatial Science;
Arpitha Mysore Rajashekara; a senior majoring in Biology;
Rachel Sharrett, a sophomore majoring in Political Science with a minor in Economics & French;
Shannon Knutson, a junior majoring in Biology with a minor in Sociology;
Abigail Jones, a sophomore majoring in Sports Medicine;
Brigette Miller, a senior majoring in Geology;
Angelina Occhiuzzo, a freshman majoring in Biology;
Jared Crotts, a junior majoring in Biology with a minor in Psychology;
Ruth Boylan, a senior majoring in Biology;
Sarah Sosa, a senior majoring in Anthropological Sciences;
Samantha Rubush, a junior majoring in Anthropological Science with a minor in Psychology;
Ezekial Jeansonne-Moore, a senior majoring in Geospatial Science;
Chelsey Dietzel, a junior majoring in Biology with a minor in Studio Art & Business Administration;
Conner Philson, a sophomore majoring in Biology;
McKenzie Schrank, a sophomore majoring in Biology and Anthropological sciences;
Mitchell Powell, a senior majoring in Computer Science and minoring in Math;
Drew Wolford, a sophomore majoring in Biology;
Nicole Diambra, a junior double majoring in Dance along with Tourism and Special Events;
Sarah Garza, a senior majoring in Physics and minoring in Arabic and Astronomy;
Aubree Marshall, a freshman double majoring in Biology and Anthropology;
Stephanie Rowe, a senior majoring in Biology and minoring in Chemistry;
Abigail Malmborg, a junior majoring in Biology;
Conner Philson, a sophomore majoring in Biology
In the several weeks they spend in and around the Las Piedras Station, members of the RARE team will conduct multiple original scholarly studies that the students themselves worked to design and prepare during the preceding semester. Their research will focus on a wide variety of topics including changes in overall health and immunocompetence of Americans temporarily living in the Peruvian Amazon, a comparison of the tree-ring patterns of Amazonian and North American species, the antibacterial properties of novel ficus species, the scent preferences of orchid bees, deploying new sensors and piloting novel wireless communication technologies, capturing river methane for use as a possible renewable fuel, and much more.

In addition to their independent research, RARE students will have the opportunity to explore the forest and river, to learn from local guides and to study under Radford’s expert faculty. They will encounter rare and endangered species, visit local markets, see the impact of deforestation first hand, and hike and study in a truly one of a kind place. Before their return back to the USA, both groups will also be visiting the Machu Picchu UNESCO world-heritage site. Following their return to Radford, students will also be encouraged to continue their studies and analysis, conducting follow-up research on the samples and data they have collected for further academic credit.

The RARE project is a component of Radford University’s initiative to provide undergraduate students with unique opportunities for transformative academic exploration of the world and their place in it. As participants in RARE, students will be able to enjoy an experience that is equal parts education and exploration, and entirely unforgettable.
INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMS TAKE ON PROJECT WITH IBM

Radford University MFA Design students, working with Ms. Kristin Machac, and Radford University ITEC students, working with Ms. Karen Ughetta and Dr. Andrew Ray, are collaborating in the research and subsequent build of a schematic prototype diagram for an interactive, virtual workshop that would use the principles of the design thinking process. Today IBM hosts face-to-face workshops that use the design thinking process but having an interactive virtual workshop would enable broader usage for their teams and also reduce travel costs.

The Radford University teams traveled to Raleigh on February 1st to meet with the IBM team to brainstorm and help assess their needs. Attending the workshop in Raleigh were students Dewey Milton, Tre Haga, John Filipiowicz, Seth Christensen, and Annie Rowell.

During Phase I of the project, Radford University MFA Design students, collaborating with IT students, researched then built schematic diagrams of an interactive, virtual environment that allows users to collaborate virtually as part of the design thinking process.

They pitched the project to IBM in early May and their work was very well received. “The project Phase I was absolutely a success” said Ms. Ughetta. “Today the two groups presented their results to IBM and clearly the IBM team was hugely impressed.”

The teams are hoping that funding will allow the project to continue on to a second phase where students would build a prototype in the summer or fall of 2017 that IBM could decide to produce. Which would enable the delivery of Design Thinking workshops online, and thereby significantly reducing the cost of the workshops and increasing the scalability of workshops for IBM.
ENGAGING OTHERS IN SCIENCE IS A PASSION

For the past several years, one Radford University Biology major has been at almost every science outreach event in the mid-Atlantic region, usually with a cockroach on her arm. Erin Dudley, a senior from Haymarket, Virginia will graduate on May 6th with her degree but she leaves behind scores of fans who have met her at a variety of locations including the Science Museum of Western Virginia, the Radford University and Virginia Tech campuses, and beyond.

She has been an ambassador for the Roachzilla Outreach Project, based in the ecophysiology lab at Radford University. The project is part of an initiative to spread basic science with the general population using Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches treated with a honeybee protein as a tool to educate various audiences on insect physiology, evolution, animal behavior, and how day-to-day science actually works. Erin has taken the project one step further by exploring the ways that these roaches process what they eat and how they might be able to solve a larger problem of food waste. Her “biotransformers” exhibit proposes the use of the cockroaches in a contained environment as a catalyst to help transform food waste into compost. Erin not only conducted the research but she designed the habitat for the roaches and worked with faculty and student makers to construct it. She presented her project at the Undergraduate Research Forum on April 19th.

This opportunity was just the latest chapter in her Radford experience. RU seemed to be a wonderful fit from the beginning. “Radford University was the perfect size school for me with
the essential foundation of a large school as well as the small class sizes, but I was mostly drawn to the beautiful area” she recalled. “The DC suburbs I grew up in were a bit superficial for my temperament and I loved the idea of studying somewhere completely different with a local culture. A few of my friends were planning on attending Radford and the Appalachian scenic atmosphere in the surrounding area made the choice for me.”

In addition to the campus and region being desirable, Erin found the biology program to be just right as well. “I always say I got incredibly lucky that my fit into the department and research was so perfect” she stated. Over the past few years, Erin has taken her research on the road and has been in demand as a featured speaker at events from the Star City to the Nation’s Capital. She was one of the most popular “STEM TAVERN” speakers in Roanoke of the past year and was a featured hit at the USA Science and Engineering Festival in 2016.

In a letter to the University following her program in Roanoke in 2017, Mr. Eli CS Jamison wrote “I used to teach and work at Radford University, and I currently work at Virginia Tech. I have rarely seen an undergraduate perform so professionally and comprehensively in her subject as Erin did this evening. I was sitting in a crowd that included other college professors who also wondered what graduate school she attended.”

In addition to her outreach efforts, Erin has also been an active member of the Radford University Community serving as President of Radford University’s chapter of Tri-Beta, the National Biological Honor Society and also participating in the 2016 Radford Amazon Research Expedition.

Moving forward, she expects to continue to challenge herself and to find a way to make Science accessible. Her next stop is New York City. “In a similar fashion to my college decision, I chose NYC largely because of how different it is going to be” said Erin. “I strongly believe that you cannot grow without great struggle so I constantly want to push myself out of my comfort zones.”

Erin is applying for internships at many organizations and companies involved in science journalism such as RadioLab, Scientific American, and Springer Nature, as well as jobs at organizations with programs in science education like Big Brothers and Big Sisters. “I plan to stay in NYC working for a year as I apply for graduate school” she said “I want to get my PhD in physiology and possibly move forward with a law degree to fight for equal opportunity science education for all ages.”
FOOD TRUCK FOR THE PHYSICS MIND VISITS CAMPUS

Nourishment for the brain was found at a different type of food truck on April 27 at the Center for the Sciences. Radford University students experimented with professional physics equipment in the “Food Truck for the Physics Mind” Packed with high level instrumentation such as lasers, muon detectors and modern interferometers, the 44-foot mobile lab travels between college and university campuses to provide the opportunity to experiment like seasoned researchers. Staffing the truck was Dr. Carl Grossman, Associate Professor of Physics at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania.

The Food Truck for the Physics Mind is operated by Teachspin, a company dedicated to expanding access to advanced lab equipment throughout higher education. It took them two years to build the truck. Proceeds from Teachspin benefit the Jonathan F. Reichert Foundation, which strives to enhance instruction and discovery throughout the field of experimental physics.

The “food truck” began traveling to campuses earlier this year as part of a cross-country tour of America. Designed specifically for inquiry-based learning, the physics truck’s instruments promote conceptual understanding and professional results while being accessible for students of all physics levels.

RADFORD UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS FACULTY FEATURED IN NATIONAL ARTICLE

The challenge of making mathematics relevant to students is the topic of an article in the April 16th edition of the Chronicle of Higher Education entitled “Math gets a makeover.” Mr. Erik Sorenson, instructor of mathematics and statistics at Radford University, is featured in the story as an example of what is working well in math education today.

From the article: “What makes the course valuable,” Mr. Sorensen says, “is that it teaches students to solve for $x$, where $x$ represents a real-world value. When math is framed this way,” he says, “students often surprise themselves with their interest in the subject.”

The full story is available online at http://www.chronicle.com/article/Math-Gets-a-Makeover/239789?cid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en&elqTrackId=b00ff2571d594ad5b0cc5cbed3d37d04&elq=a9892c45445742c080e32f41f2620d&elqaid=13497&elqat=1&elqCampaignId=5605
MATH PROFESSOR INVITED TO JAPAN TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

Scheduling an internationally renowned conference is no easy task and one that comes with many suitors. Dr. Wei-Chi Yang, Professor of Mathematics at Radford University and founder of the Asian Technology Conference in Mathematics, received an invitation from the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO), an independent administrative institution of the government of Japan, to attend the MEET JAPAN 2017 in selecting a possible venue for a future ATCM conference.

Dr. Yang, along with twelve executives from organizations around the globe, toured the Nogoya and Gifu areas which are about a 100 minute bullet-train ride from Tokyo. “Nogoya is not only a famous historic site of Japan but also home to Toyota motor company” stated Dr. Yang. “I was accompanied by JNTO members to tour the Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology, where I saw the Toyota fuel cell vehicle powered by hydrogen.” The group visited two Gifu convention centers and many interesting tourist and historic sites in the region.

Following the venue exploration, Dr. Yang participated in a “pitch session” where representatives from convention bureaus from each big city in Japan who are interested in hosting an international conference in their respective cities, have 10-15 minutes to sell the conferences on their communities.

One unexpected encounter for Dr. Yang occurred when a representative from the city of Sendai came to him to thank him for his help for their community in 2011. “I was puzzled at first” recalled Dr. Yang. “Later they said that I had donated some cash and calculators to Tohoku University In the name of ATCM during the 2011 Tsunami earthquake in Japan.”

In addition to his support of Japanese citizens in their time of need, Dr. Yang helped make a mark with the local community as they learned more about Radford University and its location in Virginia through the interaction at this event.

The Asian Technology Conference in Mathematics (ATCM) was founded in 1995 by Dr. Yang and has been held in many locations around the Pacific Rim including Beijing, Hong Kong, and Bangkok. The 2017 edition of the conference is scheduled for December 15-19 at Chung Yuan Christian University in Chungli, Taiwan.

In addition to his service in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Radford University and to the ATCM, Dr. Yang founded the Electronic Journal of Mathematics and Technology (eJMT) in 2007. A printed version of eJMT, called the Research Journal of Mathematics and Technology (RJMT) was launched in February of 2012.