



The Graduate Review

THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL
D. J. MATHEWS, EDITOR

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**RADFORD
UNIVERSITY:
Investing in
Lifetimes**

Service A Part of R. U. Centennial



Blake Mycoskie

The spring semester of the 2009-2010 school year has been a special one, 2010 being the Centennial year of Radford University's founding.

A number of events have been held on and off campus to celebrate this special anni-

versary. These have included the inaugural "Polar Plunge," where nearly 100 people paid for the privilege of jumping into the chilly February waters of Radford's chilly New River, at Bisset Park, and raising about \$3,000 in funds for the Special Olympics. And a number of students have been involved with a community garden. These are part of the "Centennial Service Challenge," a theme for this anniversary.

On February 11 Radford University was recognized for "100 years of service to the Commonwealth" at a Virginia General Assembly session in Richmond. This pleased R. U. President Penelope Kyle, who said, "To have our university's Centennial recognized by one of the most distinguished legislative bodies in

the history of the democracy is truly an exceptional honor." And Kyle received a plaque of recognition during the legislature's annual Advocacy Day.

The university also held a series of events on "Charter Day," March 24. Besides a congratulatory speech given by Governor McDonnell at the Dedmon Center, students in an email drawing were able to breakfast with special guest speaker Blake Mycoskie.

Mycoskie, who drew a big crowd at both the Dedmon Center and the Bonnie Hurlburt auditorium later in the day, is known for his original business, TOMS Shoes, which donates a pair of shoes to the poor for every one sold. The youthful looking, 33 year old businessman was no (continued on page 2)

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Final Message of GSC President Matt Shelor ...



Dear
Highlanders,

The time has come for me to say goodbye to you all. It has been a true joy being President of the GSC. I love working for the students of Radford University. I have always said being a student leader is the best job any student could have. I would also like to say thank you to my GSC staff. I am grateful to my staff, because they made 2010 a great year for GSC.

I know President Paul Park; he will do great things for the Graduate Student Council. I hope the new leadership will take the job of running GSC to heart.

As I close this chapter of my life I embrace the next chapter. I wish all of you great success as you start your next chapter. God bless each of you and thank you for all your support.

Centennial A Time for Service... (continued from page one)



doubt a hit with students in attendance. Mycoskie, winner of the 2009 ACE award for humanitarian work on behalf of his original business, TOMS Shoes, had some words of inspiration for those thinking about their careers and going into the workplace in the near future.

Specifically, Mycoskie encouraged R.U. students to be like Henry D. Thoreau and simplify their lives. He lives on a sailboat and has his books stored in a warehouse. He said he'd have to "dump stuff" before he could add anything to his house on the water. He's taken shoes personally to kids in places like Africa and Argentina. And the Argentina kids have taught him "the quantity of stuff (in your life) can really



Students in "Dread the Red" shirts form "100" on Muse Quad lawn.

weigh you down."

The enthusiastic former philosophy major encouraged students to get a job "based on what you're passionate about," great advice for grad students about to go out in the world. He believed this would eventually

make money for those who did just that.

For those students interested in having an internship, especially with his organization, he advised them to be "extremely specific in what you want to do." His organization would look at your skills in fashion and retail sales. Experience with organizational skills would be a plus.

He also said his present job fit him well.

Holy Cow — Snow!

The 2009-2010 winter saw a record amount of snow for the town of Radford, causing school to close and snow to be on the ground two months, causing winter commencement to be postponed almost 2 months.



DID YOU KNOW ?

In 1972 Radford University officially went coed. There were 96 young men



With SGA President Matt Clem to her right, Pres. Penelope Kyle holds plaque of recognition on Radford University's 100th anniversary, given to her by Virginia Assembly members in Richmond.

in that first class, and 36 of them lived on campus. "They were outnumbered 35 to one," according to David Moore, then vice

president of academic affairs and chair of the ad hoc committee on coeducation, as reported in an issue of the RU Magazine.

History of College Began Even Before Centennial

Radford University had a history that led to its establishment in 1910. And it came about during a very progressive period for both state and federal government.

In the early 1900s, Theodore Roosevelt was president and a few Virginia “society” women decided to push for better edu-

cation for the students of the Commonwealth.

According to R. U. history professor Dr. Mary Ferrari, Lila Meade Valentine and May-Cooke B. Munford “spent their entire lives committed to the service” of the community. Valentine was especially instru-

mental and innovative, making great use of the press to promote her cause of education for all. And even though she had no college opportunity of her own, her husband actually provided her with college tutors.

In 1902 the school year in (continued on page 4)

English Club Literary Festival A Success

By: D. J. Mathews

The second annual English Club Literary Festival, with its Appalachian theme, was again a big success. The three authors and one playwright who graced the stage spoke to a packed audience of close to 300 people April 15 in McGuffey Hall, and we believe they were glad they did.

Our artists were definitely an eclectic group, with a Cherokee and Appalachian poet, a poet who wrote about coal mining and poverty, and even a playwright writing about how outsiders view Appalachia.

Cherokee poet Marilou Awiakta, a bit theatrical in her shawl and big pendant with the image of the outline of the atom with a deer running

through it, talked a bit about the past, her past as a child whose dad worked for the nuclear industry in Oak Ridge in Tennessee. But keeping it



Diane Gilliam, one of our speakers.

contemporary, she also read a poem, about anorexia, telling young women to choose life in that instance.

Diane Gilliam’s poems about being barefoot and

poor in Walmart and a child’s imagination were moving, as were Bill Brown’s poems on tornadoes hitting Tennessee and that picture of Grandma at “station nine” in the Cracker Barrel restaurant. Actually, the Grandma poem was pretty humorous. And Catherine Bush’s reading of a portion of a play about two women from different backgrounds, one Appalachian and one from up north, was thought provoking, to say the least.

One of the best parts of the night was the question and answer period. Gilliam’s advice to have some ‘silence’ for inspiration made a lot of sense.

Appalachian Class Makes Presentation in Washington, D. C.

Several students from an Appalachian Studies classes went all the way to Washington D. C. to make a presentation to the Appalachian Regional Commission.

APST 495/595 classmates and professor Dr. Grace Edwards went to present research

findings as part of the “Appalachian Teaching Project” that includes a consortium of 15 different community colleges and universities in the Appalachian region. It looked at how to sustain Appalachian communities. Their answer: education. Besides English grad student

Cynthia, seniors Shelly Caldwell and Jacob Prater, and juniors Kelsey Lewis and Matt Prater also made the trip up north. Paul Coughlin and John Nemeth also took the trip.



Grad Student Cynthia Coughlin, second from right, took journey to D. C.

History of College Began Before Centennial, cont'd

(continued from p. 3)

Virginia was only four months long and not even mandatory. The absentee rate, according to Ferrari, was 60 percent, and 90 percent of the teachers were women. This latter fact would later prove significant in increasing education opportunity in the Commonwealth.

Valentine believed “education was the key to the raising of the South.” And Robert

C. Ogden of the Southern Education Board agreed, and further believed that both whites and blacks needed their education “levels” raised. He felt Valentine should convince the Richmond Education Association to expand education possibilities in Virginia. This, in turn, would require more facilities to prepare teachers to teach these children.

The Virginia Education Initiative of 1906 proposed a nine month school year and more teacher training. It

became law in a few years, the next step after that being the establishment of what were then called “Normal Schools”.

James Hoge Tyler, a former governor living in Radford, pushed for the Normal school to be located in Radford. A compromise was actually struck, Ferrari says, and Fredericksburg also would get a Normal school built there.

On March 10, 1910,

the State Normal and Industrial School for Women was instituted at Radford.

GSC NEEDS YOU

The Graduate Student Council wants more members. Come to next semester’s meetings and make a difference in your college community!



Community Garden Involves Students

The R. U. Centennial “challenge” has encouraged students to do something for the college or surrounding community and a number of grad students have taken this to heart. One of them is Brittany Gerald.

Gerald, GSC MBA representative and vice president of membership for Sigma Iota Epsilon, has been working with Jim Graham since the summer of 2009 on a community garden in the town of Radford, near Bisset Park.



She said she had a plot at this garden last summer and really wanted to get involved in making the garden better and also getting more people to participate.

A number of plots have already been planned this semester. They hope to grow food to sell at the Farmers’ Market, and use the money to help fund school lunch and other food programs for kids.

Discounts for Hard Working Grads

Between all the snow and really cold weather in January and February and distracting Centennial events in March, it has been quite a semester for grad students.

In honor of all their hard work and effort during this semester, the GSC has contacted local eateries near campus for discounts. The first full week of May discount cards will be available (for free!) at the Graduate College at Lucas Hall. You deserve a break today, like the commercial says!

