



# Radford University College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences September 2014 Newsletter



## 2014-2015 Welcome Back Party...

CHBS kicked off the year with sounds of Dr. Jeff Aspelmeier's band, *Johnny Law and the Justice Truck*. Administration, faculty, and staff enjoyed each other's company at the Dean's annual event.

**Dean Katherine Hawkins**



## College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences

Students in the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences develop marketable skills in written and oral communication, critical thinking, creative problem solving and collaboration with others that prepare them well for success in their personal and professional lives after graduation.

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## Learning about myself, through learning about others: My growing journey in research.

By: Lucas Wade Connolly,  
Sophomore

When I was a little boy, I questioned everything; mostly things I shouldn't have. As I grew, so did my questions. By twelve, I began what my father affectionately named "Church Tastings;" His creative solution to my persistent curiosities. Every Sunday, my father would provide transportation to any religious service of my choosing, under the condition I wrote a journal entry about each one. Thus began my passion for recording and analyzing religious people and practices.

When I entered freshman year, I enrolled in "Survey of World



## Dr. Paul Thomas and Sophomore Lucas Connolly:

### Conducting Collaborative Research on the Creation Museum

Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Dr. Paul Thomas is collaborating this year with sophomore Lucas Connolly on an extensive research project. Studying Ken Ham's Creation Museum located in Petersburg, Kentucky, they are focused on the audience's response when passages from scripture are turned into material objects. The 70,000 square foot museum depicts stories from the Bible using life-like characters, interactive exhibits, and outdoor displays.

The content of the museum is structured on Ham's belief in the ideology of Young Earth Creationism that he preaches in his ministry Answers in Genesis. Lucas, from Chesapeake, Virginia, explained, "Answers in Genesis was founded in 1994. One of their original descriptions was 'with the purpose of upholding the Bible from the very first verse'. Answers in Genesis are not any sort of liberal or loose interpreters of the scriptures. They believe that what is written in the scripture is exact and there is no room for interpretation."

For Lucas, who is interested in the sociological aspects of religion, this research topic sparks his interest in understanding the human belief

system. "In religion, we find that it's rare for someone to be completely

Religions.” Within the first ten minutes of Dr. Thomas’ class, I was inspired. By the second week of my first semester at Radford University, I declared a major in Religious Studies. Upon informing him, Dr. Thomas requested to be my advisor. Dr. Thomas told me “You remind me of myself at your age. I was excited and constantly the first hand in the air.”

Second semester, I took Dr. Thomas’ “Sacred Religious Texts of the West” course. In tandem with this time frame, I developed a relationship with my “Introduction to Western Philosophy” instructor; The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies Chairman, Dr. Joe Jones. Dr. Jones proved to be another invaluable resource and mentor. With Dr. Jones and Dr. Thomas at the helm, I began to continue my journey into deeper thought and analytical intellect.

system, ... in religion we find that it's rare for someone to be completely and entirely 100% positive all the way around. Answers in Genesis believes that the scripture is accurate in its entirety...It's something that's very fascinating to me... to not only have that much faith, but to be that sure and that positive.”

While still in the very early stages of research, Dr. Thomas said that what drew him to this topic was the larger theoretical concern of where meaning lies in text. “Does meaning reside in the text and what the author’s intent was or does meaning reside in the reader and how they interact with the text? In Europe that’s called reception theory. In the US ... (this) tends to be referred to as reader response criticism.” Dr. Thomas believes that their questions will focus on whether interpreting a material object is the same as interpreting written text. He questioned, “Does the display dictate meaning to the visitor or does the visitor create meaning using their knowledge about the text?”

Lucas will travel to the Creation Museum to observe the displays, see how they are situated, and complete observations. This will help Dr. Thomas and Lucas formulate questions that will be asked in an exit interview to museum visitors. “We do hope to come out of this semester with something publishable,” commented Dr. Thomas. “By the end of this semester we will hopefully have something with Lucas as the lead author for publication and to present somewhere.”

Dr. Thomas earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s in History. In 2006 he earned an Interdisciplinary PhD from the University of Missouri- Kansas City in History and Religious Studies. He came to Radford in 2008 and continues to be an avid researcher. His research interests include representations of monsters and giants in the Bible, Bible themes in religious traditions, and the study of extraterrestrial life and religions. In fact, Dr. Thomas published an award-winning article on the latter topic in

Through Radford University's Honors Academy, I learned of independent study, capstone, internship, and research possibilities. I informed Dr. Thomas about my interest in pursuing these vehicles of further exposure. Only weeks later, Dr. Jones and Dr. Thomas had a discussion that would later result in Dr. Thomas asking me to assist him in his research of Ken Ham's Answers in Genesis: The Creation Museum and Education Center, located in Petersburg, Kentucky. I was honored and excited that as a freshman at RU, I was asked to assist an instructor who I respected on such an interesting and cutting-edge project.

At the start of the current semester, Dr. Thomas assigned readings and reports to properly arm me with knowledge of techniques necessary to be successful in

2010 titled "Revisionism in ET-Inspired Religion" which won the Thomas Robbins Award for Excellence in the Study of New Religions. About his research Dr. Thomas commented, "I actually have a little metal box that holds 3 x 5 notecards. Every time I have an interesting research idea I write it on a card and drop it in the box. I have a box filled with those things. So there's no shortage of research projects. It's just trying to maintain enough discipline to focus on one at a time."

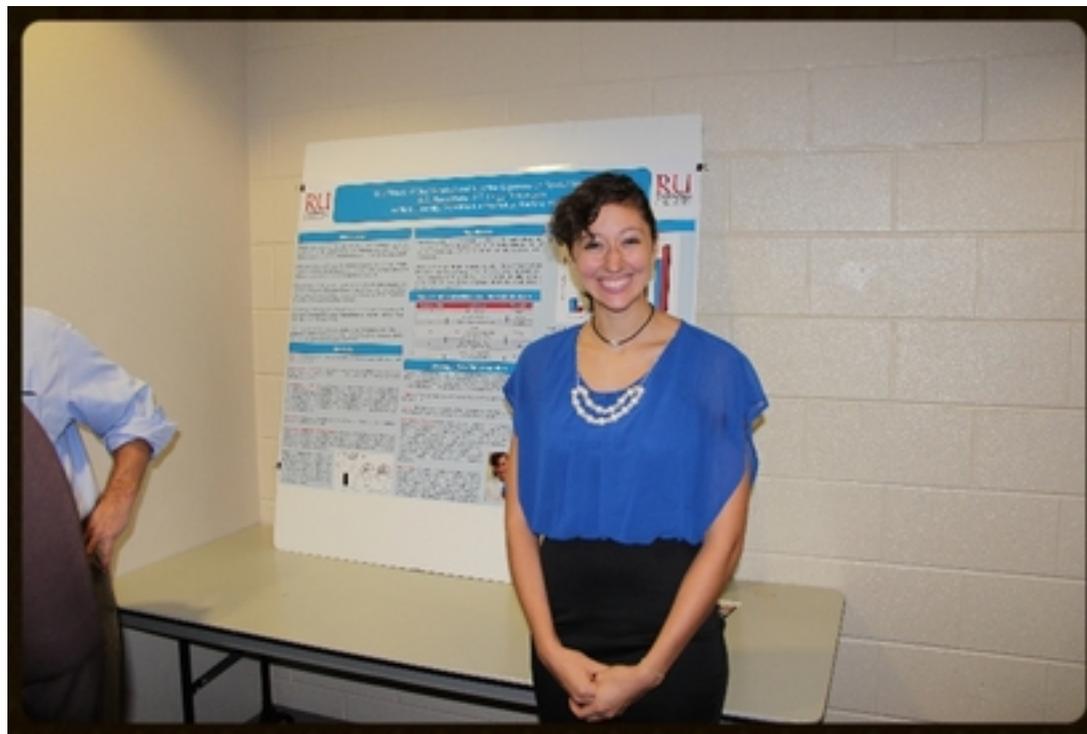
When not researching, Dr. Thomas is a passionate educator who is known for his dedication to his students. He teaches Introduction to Religion, Sacred Texts of the West, Exploring the Old/New Testament, and Survey of World Religions. Dr. Thomas continues to motivate and inspire students like Lucas to reach beyond the learning they receive in the classroom and to become student researchers. He is an advocate for Religious Studies, speaking fervently about common misconceptions, "Not everyone understands what Religious Studies at a state university is about. A lot of people don't understand that we are observers and reporters. If I want to look at Ham it doesn't mean that I am invested in him or his ideas. That's a difficult thing for people to grasp. Many people think we are doing religion when in fact we are historians and researchers. We study religion as an aspect of human behavior."

Dr. Joe Jones, Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, commented, "Dr. Thomas' deep passion for and understanding of the material he teaches results in consistently high praise from his students and open respect from his colleagues. These are in spite of his rigorous grading standards and unconventional presentation. He makes everyone around him better, sharper, and laugh more."

research. I learned how historians and literary scholars' theories are shaping the way sacred religious texts are interpreted and analyzed. This material continues to prove an accurate metaphor for my field: No matter the ground, you just keep digging, and never reach the bottom.

I must admit, my biggest challenge is the congested, difficult, complex, and high-volume nature of the texts I am analyzing. I'm constantly reading and re-reading these articles and analyses, pouring myself over each page; and my incessant fascination still persists. Dr. Thomas assured me "everyone in our field finds this material challenging, sometimes you just have to take a step back, and let the thoughts grow organically. Don't let yourself be discouraged."

Currently, I am working on reconnaissance of Ken Ham



### Senior Psychology Major Conducts Summer Research

Senior Analise Roccaforte presented at the 2nd Summer Research Celebration held in the Bonnie Auditorium. Analise presented research on the effects of dual alcohol and nicotine use on the hippocampus. She spent this summer breeding rats and preparing them for the experiments she will conduct this fall. Rats will be given injections of nicotine and alcohol for 8-hours per day for ten days. After an 18-hour withdraw period, rats will be placed in a water maze to see how well their spatial memory will work. One of her hypothesis is that nicotine-exposed rats will perform better than alcohol-exposed rats. Annalise is working with Assistant Professor of Psychology Dr. Dayna Hayes and Ryan Lingg, a Master's student at RU. They will present their findings at the Society for Neuroscience Conference in November. Analise is a Psychology major

resemblance of Ken Ham, Answers in Genesis, The Creation Museum, and the “Noah Theme Park.” As I dig deeper, I am resolving questions about the Implied Reader: Identifying the target audience of Ken Ham’s work. Through framing and profiling Mr. Ham, I’m beginning to analyze compositions of his original authorship, as well as his personal beliefs of Young Earth Creationism. While I make headway in the construction of a file on Ken Ham, I extract more about his life in and out of the spotlight. I continue to find and examine many individuals on the broad spectrum who make up visitors of The Creation Museum, through coding and the logging of reviews as well as testimonies. It is crucial and pertinent to determine the average subjects’ previous experience and exposure to the material presented in the museum.

and is also pursuing several minors: Dance, Sociology, and Interdisciplinary Forensic Studies. She serves as a CHBS Ambassador. This past summer, eighteen student-faculty projects were funded through the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships, or SURF program. The SURF program helps fund projects that engage professors and students in collaborative research efforts. For more information or to apply go to [www.radford.edu/ours](http://www.radford.edu/ours). CHBS is extremely proud of Analise’s hard work and dedication to research.

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### **Dr. Cutler's Research Focuses on Imperialism and the Environment**

Beginning his 3rd year as Assistant Professor of History at Radford University, Dr. Brock Cutler combines his commitment to research with his desire to enhance the pedagogies of Middle Eastern studies. Originally from South Dakota, Dr. Cutler earned his PhD at the University of California, Irvine in 2011. While in graduate school Dr. Cutler took classes on French colonialism. “I thought I was going to work on France when I got to graduate school. I took this course and I found Algeria really fascinating as a place,” stated Dr. Cutler. His reading on the subject brought about more and more questions, sparking his intellectual interest.



Sitting in his RU office is filled with maps of Algeria and Africa, Dr. Cutler explained his research is focused on the relationship between the colonial state of a country and environmental disasters that have occurred. “I’m looking at these huge periods when there is kind of massive and horrific

The goal of this research is to be awarded the necessary funds to travel to Kentucky and visit the creation museum myself, with the purpose of conducting reconnaissance and gathering further data. This would be a massive stepping-stone in our research and a personal milestone; for seeing it would conclude in uncovering data and information I could never access from 356.7 miles away. An expedition to the museum itself would be invaluable in not only our research, but also my true end goal.

My hope for my first semester is to learn the necessary tools to craft a well written, interesting, scholarly and strong thesis around fifty pages in length. Under the knowledgeable guidance of Dr. Thomas, this paper will be submitted to several peer-reviewed journals and conferences of high esteem

disaster and seeing how that then shapes what the state does, what governments do, what the military does...trying to flush out the relationship between what is happening in the physical world and the state responses to them and how one influences the other.”

Dr. Cutler continues to focus on the 1860s-1870s when Algeria was a French colony. During this time an on-going drought occurred. To worsen the severe conditions, a large invasion of locusts began in 1866 and persisted through the fall of 1867. So with droughts, insects, and starvation, disease ensued. Within four to five years, one-third of the Algerian population died. Dr. Cutler continued, “[The] question is, how did this happen? Who gets access to food and resources in colonial situations? There are French colonists very few of whom starve or die. How does one population get to survive and one has to die? After you have this kind of disaster, were there any changes that took place? Is it possible to set the environment aside?”

As one of the 12 recipients of the 2013-2014 CHBS research grants, Dr. Cutler spent his summer in Algeria and France piecing together archives from a particular region of Algeria called Tebessa. Tebessa is on the border of Tunisia. A massacre took place when Tunisian merchants were killed by an Algerian tribe. The tribe was instructed to do so by the French military. “I think it’s the case where if you pick a subject and just keep studying it, you will find interesting things. The subject is really something I like to do,” commented Dr. Cutler.

Dr. Cutler has turned his research into several articles, with the goal of writing a book. He will also present this year at the Middle East Studies Association annual conference in Washington, D.C. Dr. Sharon Roger Hepburn, History Department Chair, commented on Dr. Cutler’s professionalism as a researcher and as a teacher, “Brock is a promising

...sense of high esteem within the academy. This is only conceivable with growth, experience, understanding and thorough analysis of the material. All things I feel excited to do, confident I am capable of. The bar has been set: I will successfully publish or present my research on Ken Ham's Answers in Genesis: The Creation Museum.

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### **My Study Abroad Experience in France**

By: Caleb Reed

My name is Caleb Reed and I'm studying both French and Public Relations. During the 2014 spring semester, I spent

scholar. His essay, 'Water Mania!': Drought and the Rhetoric of Rule, was recently published in a 2014 issue of Journal of North African Studies and he has been invited to contribute to an edited volume on the history of water in Africa. Now in his third year of teaching at Radford University, Dr. Cutler has proven himself to be a popular classroom instructor. Students often comment on his interactive classroom style and ability to connect with them on a personal level. Brock is working on curriculum revisions to best highlight his field of study in both Islamic World studies and Environmental History."

Currently, Dr. Cutler teaches Introduction to World History as well as his upper-division classes. He has designed two new upper-division history courses on the Middle East: Middle East in the World, 600-1700 and Middle East in the World, 1700-Present. Dr. Cutler has also developed a class on the environment in history. In the Environmental Imperialism course, Dr. Cutler looks at how the environment shapes the way nations work and the way in which people organize themselves. Radford University student Caitlyn Parker, who took this course in Fall 2013, reflected, "I found the content intriguing, as it was my first opportunity to study Environmental History. Dr. Cutler's class was inclusive and challenging; I found myself eager to explore the subject."

Dr. Roger Hepburn praised Dr. Cutler for his excellence in teaching and as a colleague, "The Department of History has been extremely pleased with Dr. Brock Cutler since his hire in 2012. He is a pleasant colleague and has a most adorable 18- month old son who we love having around in the office."

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five months studying at l'Université Catholique de l'Ouest à Angers. Though being away from home had its difficulties, I can honestly say that my time in France was one of the best in my life. I, and two other Radford University students, studied at the French university and lived in a foyer where our bedroom windows opened up to the view of the Chateau of Angers! Our experiences weren't restricted to the city limits of Angers, but to all of Europe. Some of these experiences included sightseeing visits around the bordering regions in France, a road trip to Belgium, a spring break in Central Europe, a week in the south of France, and countless trips to Paris! Through my study abroad, I had the opportunity to not only learn the French language, but also to experience and better understand the extremely rich culture.



**Constitution Day 2014** was a huge success. This year's theme was *Big Brother's Electronic Eye: The 4th Amendment in the Age of Big Data*. Thanks to the panelists Dr. William Nolte, University of Maryland, Dr. Juliet Dee, University of Delaware, Dr. Jack Call, Radford University and two RU students Tyler Lester and Danielle Fenimore. A special thanks goes to Dr. Margaret Hrezo for organizing such a wonderful and informative event.





### **RU Alumna Gets Published**

By: Alexandra Lund

I attended Radford University from the fall of 2010 to the spring of 2014. I was originally a media studies major, but shortly after my first English class, I realized I had to change my major. I flourished intellectually and as a human being during my English studies. I also had a Philosophy minor. During my



### **Dr. Axtell: Scholar, Teacher, Philosopher**

Dr. Guy Axtell, Associate Professor in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department, is the consummate scholar, researcher, and educator. Dr. Axtell earned his B.A. in Philosophy from University of California, San Diego, his M.A. from the University of Rhode Island, and his PhD from the University of Hawai'i. Dr. Axtell joined RU in 2009 and serves as a member of the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department as well as the Core A critical thinking coordinator.

Dr. Axtell is an internationally recognized scholar who has authored more than 40 articles and book chapters. In just the past year alone, according to Philosophy and Religious Studies Department Chair Dr. Joe Jones, Dr. Axtell has published one peer-reviewed book chapter and is awaiting page proofs on another, is working on three invited book chapters, two invited encyclopedia entries, submitted a proposal to the Journal of Chinese Philosophy, wrote book prospectus reviews for Hackett Press and Rowman and Littlefield, and reviewed an article for the journal *Dialectica*. "It is no wonder he won the CHBS Distinguished Scholarship Award last year, the same year he was tenured and promoted," stated Dr. Jones.

Dr. Axtell is currently working on a manuscript for a book entitled *Objectivity* as part of the "Key Concepts in Philosophy" series (Polity Press), which is expected to be published in 2015. According to Dr. Axtell, "objectivity has been a debated, hotly debated, even an embattled concept because the authority of science is said to reside in the objectivity

Philosophy 111. During my Native American literature class with Dr. Tim Poland, I wrote an essay on Sherman Alexie's novel *Indian Killer*, which identified four characters as synonymous with various stages of American literature that created the popular ideas of Native peoples. I was proud of this work, but I never considered submitting it for publication until Professor Poland pulled me aside before class and said, "You need to get this published." I would like to take this opportunity to thank the English department, specifically Dr. Napolitano, Dr. Wawrzycka, Dr. Guruswamy, and of course Dr. Poland for being wonderful and supportive educators. A small part of any success I may achieve in this life is owed in some part to these individuals.

As for the article itself, you may find it in the next edition of the *Explicator Journal*, titled "Enforcement in Sherman

of its methods and because science and its authority has itself been controversial." Dr. Axtell argues for the need to rehabilitate the concept of objectivity rather than abandon it. "The concept of objectivity has been a battle ground over the last half century since the downfall of the logical-positivist view of science and the advent of feminist epistemology, social epistemology, post-modernism. Those are just some of the many groups who have sometimes been critical of the value of the concept of objectivity, and they are some of the richest and most thought-provoking sources of ideas for rehabilitating it," Dr. Axtell explains.

Along with his publications, Dr. Axtell maintains a blog entitled JanusBlog for scholars and researchers to discuss epistemological issues, such as Virtue theory, character psychology, and theory of deliberative democracy. Dr. Axtell also collaborated with RU undergraduate student, Jacob Daston, on a conference poster "The Expanding Moral Circle: East Meets West," that was presented at the 2013 American Society for Bioethics and Humanities in Atlanta last October, as well as the Philosophy Conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Dr. Axtell excels not only in his scholarly work, but in his teaching as well. Dr. Jones commented, "Dr. Axtell is not one-sided. He is rated at the top of the PHRE department in student evaluations. This is a result of hard work and discipline, but fun, too, as he uses humor extensively in the classroom." One of Dr. Axtell's most popular courses is his Philosophy 111 course in which students discuss basic philosophical questions presented through the medium of popular movies. Weekly readings also correspond with philosophical issues raised by the films.

Dr. Axtell's other responsibility at Radford is serving as the Core A Critical Thinking coordinator. In this role he helps train faculty about the latest critical thinking pedagogy. About the teaching of critical thinking Dr. Axtell

Alexie's Indian Killer." It focuses on four non-Native American characters; a mother who adopted an Indian son, an anthropology teacher who fancies himself an honorary Indian, a white author whose fame is owed to his Indian protagonist, and an extremely insensitive radio talk show host. This reading of the text was prompted largely by Ward Churchill's essay *Literature and the Colonization of American Indians*, which identifies four specific stages of American literature that reinforce European perspectives of Native Americans that has been taken as factual observations of their culture by the American populous. In this respect, I believe it was no mistake by Alexie that these characters mirror Churchill's observations so neatly.

commented, "Philosophy's language and the way we go about teaching critical thinking can be excessively general and can be distanced from the psychological research and about how we actually think, and what our actual motivational cognitive biases are...I think there is a movement afoot in philosophy to be more actively naturalistic in our approach, which means philosophy should be continuous with the best research. I've been doing quite a bit of research in cognitive psychology. It's a forward-going project of mine to redesign our critical thinking pedagogy in line with what I take to be the best advice from the sciences about how to more effectively address biases, weaknesses, and tendencies we have that make us less reliable agents."

Dr. Axtell is an asset to Radford University and to CHBS. As Dr. Jones concluded, "Dr. Guy Axtell fulfills the ideal of a scholar-teacher extremely well. We are very fortunate Dr. Axtell graces our department, college and campus. He is a teacher, scholar, and friend of Radford University."



### **Making the Major Meaningful: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Liberal Arts**

The Interdisciplinary Studies in Liberal Arts major, or IDSL, allows students to combine interests to create a unique and individualized field of study. Having undergone extensive curriculum revision under former director Dr. Jeanne Mekolichick, IDSL offers more flexible options for students to stay connected with their



## My Summer as an Intern on Chincoteague Island

By: Luke Kelly

My name is Luke Kelly, an undergraduate History major here at Radford University. This summer before starting my sophomore year, I volunteered at the Museum of Chincoteague Island. The museum is a local museum where I'm from that focuses on the history of Chincoteague Island, Virginia, a small Island community famous for its annual wild pony swim and auction. The island has a rich history that includes not seceding from the Union with

majors. "I think it's fair to say that everyone is excited about the changes to the curriculum," commented the new interim director Dr. Sandra French. "I think we've made the curriculum more responsive to the job market."

Housed in the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, the IDSL major affords students the opportunity to build a major that fits their individual academic and career goals. They must complete 36 hours from two concentrations, one of which must come from the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences. "(Students) have the freedom to explore the other colleges and what they have to offer to really craft a program that I think leaves them well suited for a wide-variety of careers," continued Dr. French.

In order to declare an IDSL major, student must complete an application that includes naming two career paths for which the IDSL degree they are seeking gives them a solid foundation. The current IDSL requirements include 13-hours of core curriculum work created only for IDSL majors. These core curriculum components include: one written communication class, one oral communications class, and one IDSL research methods class. IDSL majors are required to undergo an immersion experience that could be either an internship or an independent study. "Internships are an area of exciting growth. With the scholar citizen initiative, we have a lot of professors on campus doing a lot of exciting work in the community. And those projects need interns," stated Dr. French. Finally, new to the program this year, all IDSL students must take a Senior Seminar where they will build an electronic portfolio to help them explain and define their degree.

"I think if there is one thing we can accomplish this year, I would want it to be a reformation of thought about the major, from a reactively chosen

the rest of Virginia in 1861 and being a major source of seafood on the east coast during the 19th and 20th centuries. Chincoteague is most known for the famous Chincoteague pony, Misty, a star of children's books, written by Marguerite Henry, and the movie Misty, released in 1961.

Throughout the summer I learned how to catalog items for the museum using the software PastPerfect. I entered photos, newspapers, documents, and assorted items into the museum's archives. Through doing this I learned what the key characteristics of items that needed to be cataloged. These characteristics include background about an item and the time period it's from, the item's condition, age, and who donated or loaned the item to the museum. When I wasn't cataloging items, I was doing

major to a proactively chosen major. In other words, what I'd like to see us accomplishing is making sure that in pre-major advising and in Quest orientation, that students are seeing this as a major that they might actively choose," commented Dr. French. Dr. French's goal is for students within the IDSL major to feel connected with one another and to take a sense of pride and ownership in the major. She has already planned special events, such as a welcome reception, and she plans on establishing a chapter for the IDSL Honors Society next year. Dr. French will be a part of the majors' fair in October where interested students may come and speak with her.

Randy Taylor, CHBS Assistant Advising Coordinator and Primary Academic Advisor for IDSL, believes that the IDSL program allows students to "explore their fields of study through the lenses of multiple perspectives." He continued, "This is the very essence of the major itself, both preparing students for the rigors of their prospective careers, but also keeping the curriculum alive and interesting for each individual student."



research for an upcoming World War II exhibit that is opening in October. I analyzed primary and secondary sources while researching the effects WWII had on Chincoteague. The residents of the island during the war participated in blackouts and had to find alternative methods of making money with the threat of German U-boats threatening the seafood business. I also found information about Chincoteaguers who had a direct impact on the war. Maurice Jester, a resident of the island, received the Naval Cross after sinking a German sub 40 miles off the coast of Chincoteague.

I am very grateful for the opportunity I was presented with at the museum, as well as the experience I gained from volunteering there. I look forward to returning to the museum next summer and



## On the Retirement of Bill and Margaret Hrezo

By: Dr. Richard Straw

Most of the people in and around Radford University who know Bill, know Margaret. Most who know and work with Margaret, know Bill. But while they are in some ways inseparable professionally, there are personal differences that those of us who know them well will recognize as illustrations of their individuality. As these two exemplary professors face retirement, and more importantly as the university contemplates its future without them here, some reflection on their personalities and immense contributions to the well being of thousands of students and the integrity of this institution is in order.

During their long tenure at Radford University, together spanning more than 50 years, Bill and Margaret both served as Chair of the Political Science Department. As chairs they were expected to hold and attend many meetings. Their individual tastes and styles, particularly in food choices, reflect something of their personalities and their approach to leadership. At chairs meetings in the early 1990s the Dean provided a lunch that was heavy on salads but light on Bill's favorite food, meat. I remember he jokingly quipped to the Dean that some bacon would lighten the burden we were all under. At the next meeting there was a pound of cooked bacon waiting for Bill, a comfort to him to be sure. On the other

seeing the final product of the WWII exhibit.

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### **Reflections on the School of Communication**

By: Senior Haley Frazier

The School of Communication is more than just a department, or School in the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences. It is a family of professors within our University who have passion for their profession and show a love of teaching. Each

hand, Margaret is fond of bringing healthy snacks, typically whole-wheat blueberry muffins, to comfort her colleagues as they too deal with weighty administrative concerns. Their dissimilar tastes in food are not trivial for this reflects their common respect for differences and their advocacy of civil discussion and thoughtful compromise.

To prepare this short essay on a couple that I have known for over 30 years I asked a number of people to share some of their thoughts about Bill and Margaret with me. I asked a former student who is now a judge, several colleagues who have known them nearly as long as I have or longer, and younger colleagues who have had the pleasure of working with Bill and Margaret for a relatively short period of time. Without fail two themes emerged from everyone's recollections of this exemplary pair of individuals. One, their absolute and unalterable commitment to teaching within the liberal arts tradition, and two, their absorbing dedication to serving the needs of the university on committees, taskforces, councils, working groups, focus groups, boards, senates, and clubs. To say that they have been in high demand to work in this often-neglected area of faculty life is a dramatic understatement.

In one sense, the guiding philosophy that Bill and Margaret have followed over the course of their careers can be captured in that word service. The work that they have done at this university has been, without a doubt, exceptional and life changing for countless undergraduate students struggling to find meaning in their coursework. Their integrity, wisdom, civility, experience, and willingness to serve was never questioned and they both earned the respect of everyone who ever had the opportunity to work with them, either alone or together. They are both known and widely respected as well for their intense ethical stance on every issue that comes before them. Ethics to them is not a lofty goal or construct that resides in textbooks but rather the map that leads towards an

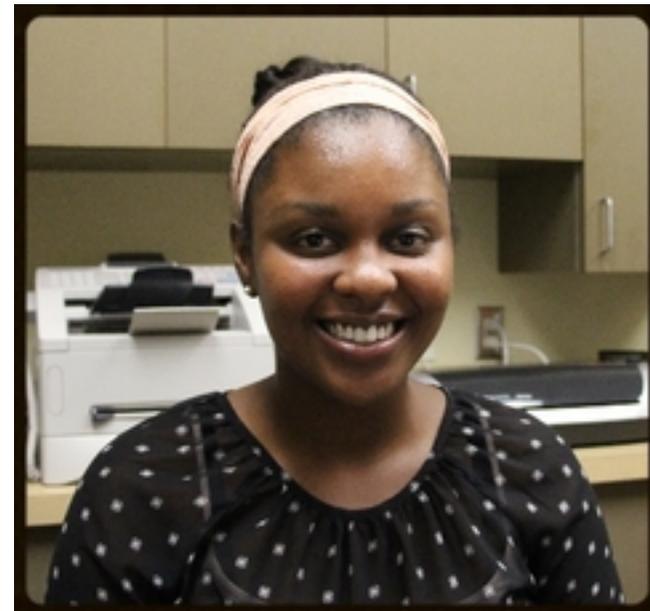
individual student and faculty member who is a part of the School brings something unique to the table.

Dr. Zoch brings leadership and determination to the School and ensures not just success within her faculty, but in each Communication student. Professor Collier brings real life experience to his classrooms, allowing students to take their skills and “rebrand” the university. Dr. Hazleton brings with him years of experience, not just within the public relations profession, but also the knowledge of the national organization, the Public Relations Student Society of American (PRSSA). As president of this organization I have found that I can take what I learn within these professors’ classrooms and apply it to the organization.

PRSSA is a way for students to network not only with other PRSSA members, but also

that resides in textbooks but rather the map that leads towards an equitable and just solution to problems, in the classroom, among friends and family, at play, or at home.

It is difficult, in such a short space, to capture the essence of these two role models who are so universally respected by colleagues and students. Perhaps the words of a longtime friend and himself a person who has left his mark on this university says it best. When asked for his thoughts, Steve Lerch remarked that Bill and Margaret, as loyal friends and passionate defenders of a liberal arts education, both demonstrate unquestioned integrity in all they do. All of us whose lives they touched in so many positive ways will remember them fondly as individuals who cared deeply about our institution, their colleagues, and the success of their students.



with professionals in the public relations field. I have found that the skills that I have encountered through PRSSA will serve me well in my future endeavors. It is more to me than just a resume builder; it is an opportunity to learn, to teach, to network, and to represent my college and university in a positive and respected way. With an organization that is only working to improve and grow, it is the perfect opportunity for me to take what The School of Communications is teaching me and apply it to my passion.

To my past, current and future PR professors, I am extremely grateful for the time and energy you put into not just my education, but my fellow peers as well. You have helped us to succeed in your classrooms, in our organizations, and soon you will help us to succeed in our

Dear Dr. Corroto,

I am writing this letter to show my appreciation towards you. You have been an amazing professor and a greater mentor for my colleagues and me. You change lives in more ways than one, just by your teaching style in the classroom. I had the privilege of first taking one of your classes my freshman year. When I walked into your Sociology 110 class, my interpretation and outlook on life was expanded with a new understanding of the social world. You broke the boundaries that were set due to roles that I had been placed in prior to stepping foot on a college campus. Your witty humor, down to earth persona, and in-depth thinking brought about an interest to a field of study I had never considered. Ultimately, you were the cause of my addition of sociology as a second major.

What I like most about your classes is that you go beyond scratching the surface of social issues, and you push students to recognize the underlying causes. Since then, I have been introduced to concepts dealing with social stratification and the lack of agency that we as individuals believe we have. Your passion, and drive for the success of this field fires me up every time I enter your room. On another note, you genuinely care for the well being of your students. Your office hours are not only intended for students who seek help on schoolwork, but also to serve as an advisor and mentor to students in distress. I commend you on all the hard work you put in and want to say, "thank you" for all that you have done and will continue to do not only within our department but also for Radford University.

Thank you again,

Samaiyah Williams

future careers. The School of Communication is more than just another department in the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, it is a School that takes passionate young students and molds them into successful young professionals.

Psychology and Sociology Major



### Learning the Art of Dining Etiquette

Students in Dr. Burke and Dr. Owen's Greek Life Leadership class were taught a lesson on dining etiquette today by Kathleen Harshberger, RU alumna and Director of University Advancement. Also in attendance were Vice President for Student Affairs Mark Shanley and Assistant Director for Student Activities- Greek Life Robert Marias. Mrs. Harshberger explained, "It's not how you eat; it's how you meet," as she instructed students on how to present themselves during a business lunch.

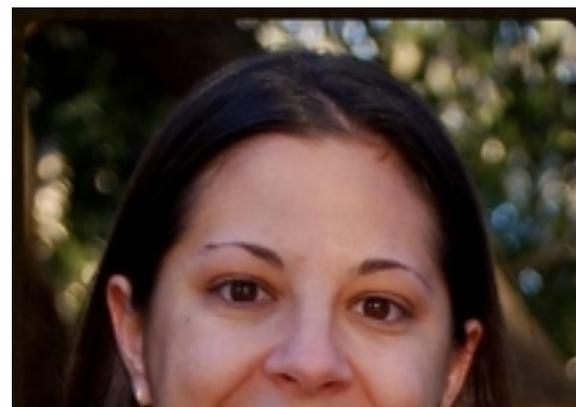


### Mid-Autumn Festival

By: Gerald Pierre- Secretary

### Welcome Criminal Justice Faculty Member Dr. Riane Bolin

CHBS is excited to welcome Dr. Riane Bolin to Radford University as Assistant Professor of



of the Chinese Club

After weeks of careful planning and arranging, the Mid-Autumn Festival finally commenced and by the attendance, as well as the praises, the program achieved great success in accomplishing its goals to give acknowledgement to the Chinese culture. This celebration has been a tradition to the Chinese culture throughout many ages and generations as a celebration of the time of Harvest. Looking to the moon goddess, Chang'e, the Chinese would pray for a wonderful harvest in the upcoming seasons by celebrating with family and the community. Being closely related to western Thanksgiving, the festival is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth month on the Chinese Han calendar. These festivities, however, are known for their most iconic snack, the

Criminal Justice. Originally from Hickory, North Carolina, Dr. Bolin earned her Bachelor's from North Carolina State University, her Master's from the University of North Carolina- Charlotte, and her PhD from the University of South Carolina.



In her research, Dr. Bolin specializes in issues relating to juvenile justice and delinquency. Her dissertation focused on the professional orientation of juvenile and adult probation officers in South Carolina and whether or not the juvenile justice system has become too adult-like. "The question was, 'is there really a need for the juvenile court system?'" explained Dr. Bolin. Her research analyzed whether or not juvenile probation officers adhered to the original goals of the Juvenile Justice System which, according to Dr. Bolin, are "informality, rehabilitation, and focusing on individual discretion." Dr. Bolin explained, "Juvenile probation officers [practice] individualized justice. They take each individual as they come. They identify their risks and their needs and... tailor a treatment plan based upon their risk and their needs."

She compared this with the adult justice system where there is a more punitive approach. "I found that juvenile probation officers did adhere to more traditional ideals of the juvenile justice system... I [also] did not find that professional orientation impacted their behavior but whether they were an adult [probation] officer or a juvenile [probation] officer impacted their behavior. So basically the adult [probation] officers would engage in more punitive acts than juvenile [probation] officers," Dr. Bolin concluded.

When asked why this became her research focus, Dr. Bolin stated, "I like

moon cake, which consists of a soft cake outer layer of various design and usually with a filling of some form, the most popular being a red bean paste. For the Chinese clubs' celebration, we were able to put together performances by several groups including: The Blacksburg Chinese School, The 15-50 Dance Group, The Dragon-Tiger-Eagle Wushu Kungfu, The Evergreen Group, The Chaoxic Dance Crew, and the talented Ms. Lin Li. Each performer was able to express respect for the culture and joy for the Mid-Autumn festival during this time of the year. Along with the top performances, the club was able to provide the moon cake delicacy for all those who attended, to enjoy and taste a piece of Chinese history. Overall, the Chinese clubs' hard work was shown in the organization and dedication the performances displayed.

We were grateful to receive all

juvenile justice. And I like the correctional aspect. [The] whole idea of juvenile court is that [the children] are not complete. We need to teach them right from wrong and mold them... shape them, and rehabilitate them." Dr. Bolin is on the forefront of research involving juvenile corrections. She introduced her preliminary dissertation results at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences meeting in Philadelphia, PA. She will present her findings this year at the American Society of Criminology conference in San Francisco. Dr. Bolin also recently authored an article published in the *Journal of Drug Issues* titled *The Moderating Effects of Peer and Parental Support on the Relationship Between Vicarious Victimization and Substance Use*.

Dr. Bolin currently teaches Crime and Criminal Behavior courses as well as a Research Methods class. Her positive impact on her students has been immediate. Junior Criminal Justice major Brianna Cooper commented, "Dr. Bolin is passionate about the topic she is teaching as well as passionate about her students. She is a great professor to learn from and I am excited to take another course with her next semester."

Dr. Stephen Owen, Chair of the Criminal Justice Department, stated, "The Criminal Justice Department is pleased to welcome Dr. Bolin as a new colleague. Dr. Bolin has a dynamic research agenda focused on issues related to juvenile justice and juvenile corrections, which brings valuable perspectives to the department and which will make strong contributions to the field. I am confident that Dr. Bolin will be an excellent teacher, scholar, and colleague from whom our students will learn much."

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### Upcoming Events:

October 7- Majors and Minors Fair Lower Level Heth Hall 1p.m.-3p.m.

the guests and performers who did outstanding performances. The hard work put into this Festival and the accolades we received will never ever be easily forgotten.

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October 8- Government and Criminal Justice Fair COBE Multipurpose Room 11:00a.m.-2:00p.m.

October 6th through 10th- Alumni Teaching Week

October 10th- CHBS Advisory Board Reception Heth Lawn 5p.m.-6p.m.

October 11th- Dr. Straw Lecture:"Photographs and Memories: The Past and History in our Everyday Lives"

Young Hall, Room 302

12:30 p.m. - 1:30p.m.

October 11th- Alumni Village

Moffett Lawn (Rain or Shine) 2p.m. – 5p.m.

October 18th- CHBS IIE Design Charette 9a.m.-3p.m.

October 30th- CHBS and Student Leadership Board Sponsored Zombie Run Bonnie 8:00p.m.-12:00a.m.

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