Weekly Activities

Fun on the Fourth

By Claire Nelson

Although everyone was missing their families on the Fourth of July, the students had an exciting holiday. Unfortunately, Radford did not get a perfect, sunny summer day for the celebration, so Gov Games, planned for midday, were sadly canceled; however, they were replaced by some fun indoor activities including movies, games, a sing-off, and even a ping-pong tournament. Following dinner the weather had started to clear up and everyone was excited to see the fireworks at Bisset Park. The process of transporting four hundred students was lengthy, and so many students found fun ways to pass the time including singing patriotic songs, including many from Hamilton the musical. At Bisset Park students had the opportunity to explore and purchase arts and crafts and food before the fireworks. Toasted, a food truck selling grilled cheese, was particularly popular. However, the festivities were soon cut short by the return of stormy weather. Everyone was forced under a picnic shelter due to a sudden thunderstorm as the fireworks were started early. Following the abbreviated firework show students waited under shelter in the rain for the buses to return home. Students finished an eventful night by running through the rain across campus to the dorms. The students’ ability to remain flexible and positive helped lead to an enjoyable, and memorable, Fourth of July for all.

Dancing through the Decades

By Olivia Tilson

Last Saturday, Governor’s School held a themed dance for the students. Each of the students were asked to dress as a decade of their choice, with most choosing the 1900s, but some branched out to other decades. The dance was filled with flappers, hippies, greasers, and many other decade classics. The dance included, as expected music and enthusiasm but also included a caricature artist to do portraits and a photo booth complete with props. Not only did students get into the theme but the counselors dressed up as well. The entire night was filled with fun and provided all participants of
Governor’s School with a change from our regular routine and classes.

**Ab Workouts!**

*By Mila Harinandan*

Every evening, counselor Sheih’Ron Freeman holds an ab workout class for all students interested. Students are given the opportunity to learn the correct exercises to gain and maintain healthy abdominal muscles. In the class, the workout started with light exercises and progressively increased intensity. Exercises included partner leg throw downs, 3 minute squats, and the popular *All that abs*. This portion of the workout is based on the song *All That Jazz* from the musical *Chicago*. Exercises are synced with the tempo of the song to create a fun experience. After the workout, participants are left feeling sore yet accomplished. Although it may be tough in the beginning, it's all worth it in the end.

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**Poof!**

*By Shyloh-Symone Bailey*

On July 4th magician Sean Watson was invited to Governor’s school to showcase his illusions and tricks to students and staff. Watson is a well known magician, from the city of Las Vegas, who has traveled from venue to venue. He started his act with simple yet intriguing tricks that wooed the crowd. After he invited a few of members of audience to participate in the show he showed us some of the first tricks he ever performed. He went on to explain how he was not the most outgoing kid in school, but once he learned magic he was able to open up and make friends. Sean Watson was an amazing act to receive and definitely one to remember.

[https://player.vimeo.com/video/129846365](https://player.vimeo.com/video/129846365)
Claytor Lake
By Kevin Shaw
Each group has been assigned a weekend to attend Claytor Lake, a Virginia State Park. Around half of the students have already been given the opportunity to attend, and the other half will be able to go in the coming weeks. Claytor Lake is a beautiful environment with plenty of activities to keep visitors entertained. Here, the students are able to swim, relax on the beach, spend time with friends, and enjoy the diving board. The combination of the beauty of nature and the relaxation of the beach was an experience that is truly one of a kind.

Making A Difference, One Class At A Time
By Emily Vaughan
One class at Governor’s School has been going above and beyond, encouraging students to look at the community immediately around them and to actively improve the lives of others. In this course, the youth decide everything, from which charity they want to focus on to the ways in which they will fundraise for their projects. Kids are encouraged to think outside of the box and bring their plans to life through teamwork in this class which takes place over the course of a mere week. The first two groups in this class chose to donate to the Homeless Shelter and Women’s Shelter respectively, with one class holding Penny Wars to raise money and the other asking for product donations and holding a ping pong tournament. Both groups will continue taking donations up until the end of Governor’s School and will each make presentations at Gov Stock, a celebration in the third week of the program which is also run by committees of humanities students. Some members of these newly founded projects admitted to being nervous that no one would want to donate, but at this point, both groups have a good chunk of change thanks to the VPA and Humanities students at Radford. Being surrounded by so many people who are so kind-hearted and giving in this world is unfortunately not a common occurrence, but as the donation boxes fill with drawstring bags and tampons in the lobby of Moffett, it appears that Governor’s School is one of those special places.
Gov School’s Got Talent- Open Mic Night

By Emily Vaughan

The Talent sure did show up at Governor’s School last Friday night. On the 1st of July a mandatory Open Mic Night was held, providing an excellent chance for students to showcase the abilities that make them exceptional. Some of the acts students did include reciting poetry, performing modern dance, and singing bittersweet evocative renditions of Adele and Beyoncé songs. While these talents were amazing, the real heroes of the night seemed to be the audience who intently watched the show with great enthusiasm and never failed to give support to their fellow classmates who got up on stage and put themselves out there for the entire auditorium. The night saw multiple standing ovations, with students showing such energy that an announcement had to be made for the audience to hold any applause until the end of the act. Even those helping make the night possible were given recognition as the crowd put their hands together for the dedicated stagehands as they scurried around, madly setting up props for the next acts in the span of one or two minutes at a time. The comedic musings of MCs Sheih’Ron Freeman and Jasmine McCormick also helped give the talent show a fun and upbeat flare which ended with good feelings all around.

Art Spotlight

Art By VPA
Student Tamia Alston-Ward
Teacher Profile

Scott McDarmont, The Ethics of Super Heroes
By Olivia Tilson

Q: How many years have you taught at Radford and the Humanities Governor's School?
A: This is my 15th year teaching at Radford University but my first year actually teaching at Governor's School. I volunteered to run one of the roundtable sessions last year but did not teach a class.

Q: What do you enjoy about teaching Governor's School?
A: Governor's School offers an opportunity for teaching in its purest form. This program is discussion based and only uses projects for application of knowledge which cuts out grade-fishing. I also don't mind not having to grade any assignments.

Q: What made you want to combine superheroes and ethics into a class?
A: Firstly I've always loved superheroes and ethics. They are two large interests of mine. It was clear to me the connection between the two. Comic book authors have always questioned social issues with superheroes and this practice leads to discussions about what is right and what is wrong or essentially ethics.

Q: Why do you think superheroes and comic books are important?
A: Comic books are now a cultural staple. They provide a good setting for discussion about social issues as well as pure entertainment. Comic books are very underappreciated but they do provide something that regular print books don't provide: visuals. Comic books merge movies and literature at a very affordable price.

Q: Who is your favorite superhero and why?
A: Spider-man. He is the most relatable of the superheroes. He's is super in his powers but his personality is normal. His origin story is fantastic it shows that he is imperfect and is human but strives to improve himself and do the right thing.
Q: How many years have you been at Radford, and how many years have you been a counselor at Gov School?
A: This is my third year as a Governor's School counselor. If you want to be technical, my first time at Radford was actually attending Governor's School in 2010, but I just completed my 5th year at Radford as a student.

Q: Why did you decide to become a counselor?
A: I went to Governor's School as a student, and it was the best time of my life. The director at the time told me that you had to be 21 to be a counselor, so I spent a few summers just waiting to be 21 so that I could apply to help at Governor's School, and they sent out an email about it when I was about to be a senior. I did it the first year, I was asked to come back, and have loved it ever since.

Q: What is your favorite part about Gov School?
A: You people! The kids of course. You all are so cool. Every year, especially the humanities, with all the themes and things going on, all of the students are so interesting and interested. It's such a pleasure to spend a month with overhearing all of your weird conversations. I love it.

Q: What is your field of study, and why?
A: I have a master's in special education, and all of my college and graduate course work has been teaching people things. I'm really interested in special education because it is so focused on individuals instead of whole groups, and it has a lot to do with how individuals think, learn, change, and grow. You learn to teach in a different -and what I find to be a better- way. If you focus on an individual's strengths, it makes you a better teacher for everyone.

Q: What is your favorite animal?
A: Oh! The octopus, because they are extremely intelligent and can fit into impossibly small spaces, and there are so many other neat facts about them.

Q: What are the biggest challenges you face as a counselor?
A: A lot of it is just timing, especially this year with an unusually high number of required things early on. That makes it hard to do group activities, go off campus, and to just have time to relax. To find time to fit in all that stuff can be a big challenge.

Student Interview

Clara Na, a Humanities student

By Claire Nelson

Q: Why did you decide to come to Governor’s School?
A: So I go to a part time STEM program during the year and I kind of like got temporarily sick of that so I wanted to try and broaden my horizons over the summer and Gov School seemed like a good way to do that cause it’s a residential program and I’d immerse myself in the humanities for a month.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time here?
A: I read sometimes and I practice piano. I talk to friends and friends from home.

Q: What’s your favorite thing to eat in the dining hall?
A: I don’t know, it’s all pretty good. I’m gonna say like rice stuff.

Q: What’s your favorite class?
A: I kind of like the round table discussion elective I’m taking right now for this week. We’re talking about like AI and robots and that kind of technology and the moral and ethical ramifications of that and just it’s pretty interesting.

Q: What’s been your favorite activity thus far?
A: Open Mic Night was really cool.
An Interview with Radford President, Dr. Hemphill

By Shyloh-Symone Bailey

Q: How did you become president of Radford University?
A: Becoming president, I had a long career in higher education that spans almost 25 years. Also, progressively working in administration at places like University of Arkansas, Northern Illinois University, and then West Virginia State led me to come here and asked to be president.

Q: When did you know you were on this path to become a leader and/or president?
A: It was something that probably developed when I was Northern Illinois University because I really didn’t aspire to be a president. I enjoyed the administrative work I was doing and it was just when the opportunity presented itself. I prepared myself to be ready so when someone ask you to do it you have to be willing to step forward and say, “I will.”

Q: What is some advice you can give to future presidents of companies, of countries, of various things?
A: Make sure the people are first because if you make sure the people are first in the organization. For us it's our faculty, our staff, our students you have to make sure the people are a part of every decision you make.