CSAT Students Accepted to Medical School

College of Science and Technology Pre-health Advisory Committee works with students throughout their college career to help them successfully apply for graduate programs in health related fields. Over the years, many students from CSAT have been accepted into pharmacy, physical therapy, veterinary, dentistry, optometry and medical schools in addition to graduate research programs across the country and overseas.

This year, the college continues to be proud of its successful students including Jonathan Nogueira, Rob Buchanan and Stephen Shanks who were accepted into the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Stephen Carr was accepted into the M.D. program at Marshall University and Catherine Twimasi was accepted into the Ross University School of Medicine in Dominica, West Indies.

IT Students Complete Biology Department Website—Ross Gillette ’10

Information technology students Cole David and Pierce Meikle, under the direction of faculty member Jack Davis, have successfully revamped the College of Science and Technology’s (CSAT) Biology Department website. After six months of intense work, the site has plenty of new features and matches the college website’s layout and design. It includes a description of the programs in the department and a brief biography of the faculty. It also includes an “opportunities” drop-down that offers links to: research opportunities, future career possibilities, potential internships and jobs, and the department’s student clubs and organizations.

David says that the main features of the site are designed to keep visitors informed of the news, events and opportunities in the department. “It has news features and a story banner that rotates the front pictures. The administrative side is very interactive allowing changes to the page online without having to recode it,” says David. Miekle says the goal of the site is to “show a high resolution picture of activities involved with the major as well as other news going on.” Both David and Meikle will be continuing their work on program, departmental and school websites throughout the summer months. The next site to become live is the School of Environmental and Physical Science.

David is a senior computer science major with concentrations in networks and database. He said he first was interested in website development in high school. “I taught myself HTML in high school, continued at New River Community College then at RU,” says David. After graduating in the fall of 2010, he hopes to find a full-time job related to his major.

Meikle is also a computer science major with emphasis on software engineering and database. He will graduate in the spring of 2011. Meikle says he has learned everything he knows about website design from classes he has taken at RU. He looks forward to continuing to work on the department’s and school’s websites and using this experience to further his education and career goals.
Geology Students Travel to Shore for Learning—Abby Field ’10

Geology faculty member George Stephenson and 18 of his Introduction to Oceanography students travelled to the Outer Banks April 9-11 to learn field measuring techniques of scientific phenomena and observe natural and man-made beach erosion processes. During the first part of their trip, they visited the US Army Corps of Engineers Oceanographic Field Research Facility to learn from Bill Birkemeier, a member of the US Army Corps of Engineers, about the tools used for and data acquired from the research that takes place there. He also briefed them on historical information such as tide elevation, storm strength and beach erosion. After obtaining a permit from Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, Stephenson and his students conducted barrier island profile measurements using both basic tools and sophisticated GPS equipment.

Stephenson remembers that work was hard at first, especially with 6 a.m. wake-ups and swampy marshes in which to work, but the students were amazed at how much they accomplished in such short amounts of time. The students are now busy preparing final lab presentations, and Stephenson is looking forward to seeing the end result. “I can’t wait! I urge all students to learn to work with other majors on projects,” says Stephenson. “After all, most jobs require working with other disciplines. Teamwork is where it’s at!”

Biology Student Receives Prestigious Research Award—Ross Gillette ’10

Senior biology major Stephen Reeves has received the J.J. Murray Research Award from the Virginia Society of Ornithology. The $1,000 award was announced at the banquet of the annual meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology on April 24.

The $1,000 award will help Reeves fund a research project which he conceived and developed to study the effects on food supplementation on the endocrinology, physiology and nesting success of eastern bluebirds, Sialia sialis. Reeves spent the spring, summer, and fall of 2009 working in the field and lab on bluebird research. He is conducting further research for his proposal this spring and summer, and will present his findings, titled “Effect of supplemental feeding on corticosterone in eastern bluebirds (Sialia sialis),” at a future meeting of the Virginia Ornithological Society. Reeves is graduating in May but will be continuing his research through the end of bluebird breeding season in August. After graduation, Reeves hopes to obtain his dream job, working as a fishery biologist.
RU’s Chapter of the Wildlife Society Hosts Second Annual “Bio-Blitz” - Ross Gillette ‘10

On Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11, RU’s chapter of The Wildlife Society hosted a two-day “Bio-Blitz” that focused on wildlife biology at Selu Conservancy. The New River Birding Club, Virginia Master Naturalists, Virginia Native Plants Society, and the RU Biology department also participated in the activities. Saturday activities for the club included trap-setting, spotlighting, sunset canoeing, and a cookout. Sunday was open to the public with workshops in birding, small mammals, salamanders and turtles, fungi, and wildflowers. RU’s Wildlife Society co-president Jessica Sosnicki says that the group hopes to continue the tradition of Bio-Blitz next year. “It’s an excellent way to get students outside to learn to appreciate the natural world. Plus, it’s a lot of fun and a great way to make connections with people in the biology field and other students sharing common interests,” says Sosnicki.

Geology Students Travel West—Abby Field ‘10

The weekend of April 10 was an exciting one for geology professor Steve Lenhart’s Paleontology class and the RU Geological Society (RUGS). The group drove to Berea, Ky., to excavate fossils as old as 500 million years. Lenhart and his students camped in Berea on Friday and left Saturday morning for “fossil road,” an area rich with fossils. The students worked on excavating fossils such as bryozoans, brachiopods, snails, and even trilobites — a rare find. According to senior geology student Lisa Cotsimopoulos, her last trip to Berea only yielded two trilobites, but this year’s group uncovered ten among the nine students. “It was pretty awesome,” says Cotsimopoulos.

They spent the afternoon in Geode Valley where geodes are found in the majority of rocks. The students brought hammers and buckets and cracked open rock after rock to reveal the crystals inside, each person searching for the “perfect geode.” After their time in Geode Valley, Lenhart and the students headed back to their campsite for a campfire cookout. They camped for the night, and in the morning, packed up and headed back to Radford. All students that participated in the trip came away with prize specimens and the realization that “field season is here.”

Geography Students Present at Professional Conference—Ross Gillette ‘10

Radford University geography majors Alex Minter, David Gibbs, Bryan Walton, and Seth Younger presented research at the 2010 Association of American Geographers (AAG) conference in Washington D.C that was held April 14-18. The AAG is a scientific and educational society with 10,000 members with interests in theory, methods, and practice of geography and geographic education. The AAG annual conference gives an opportunity for geography professionals to gather and share research, while receiving constructive feedback from their peers. Among the students who participated, senior Seth Younger presented his research about Radford City. With help from geography professor and interim director of the School of Environmental and Physical Science Bernd Kuennecke and adjunct professor Andrew Foy, Younger spent the entire fall semester researching the land in the City of Radford zoned as conservation districts. At the conference, Younger presented how he statistically analyzed the zones’ geographic characteristics in comparison to the city as a whole to see what made these areas stand out. He also demonstrated that many of the districts did need protecting and that conservation easements may be a more protective approach.

Students Encouraged to Apply for SunTrust Centennial Research Scholarship

Thanks to a generous donation from SunTrust, The College of Science and Technology will be able to offer three $500 awards to CSAT students for original undergraduate research. The goal is to monetarily recognize the research done by students at Radford University. The work must be original work conducted under the guidance of a faculty member.

The winners of the awards will be determined by a jury selected by CSAT Dean Orion Rogers, which will be made up of faculty from CSAT. Research must be completed and ready for presentation in September 2010. The winners will be recognized at the SunTrust Centennial Scholars Celebration Banquet in October 2010.

Students entering the contest need to complete an application and return it to Art Carter, Associate Dean College of Science and Technology, PO Box 6933 no later than May 28, 2010. Contact Carter for an application and more information.
Student Spotlight

CSAT STEM Club
Activities and Upcoming Events
By Arielle Reynolds

The CSAT STEM Club set up a table at the Earth day event. The booth was called "Did You Know...?" CSAT STEM Club members passed out candy and read interesting environmental facts to people passing by. For the past two weeks, the club has been collecting donations for the Women's Resource Center in Radford. Thank you to all the members and faculty who participated! On Monday, May 3 from 4-7 p.m., the club will host a Spring Picnic at Bissett Park. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite potluck dish, games and friends.

The new officers for the 2010-2011 school year are:

Web Masters- Jonathan Pingilley/Jared Johnson
Treasurer- Adam O’Kane
Secretary- Jasmine Jackson
Vice President- Erin Fowler
President- Arielle Reynolds

New officers and members of the CSAT STEM Club

Innovation Inspired