Radford University Department of Information Technology students working together as featured on the new MS in Data and Information Management website that launched this fall http://www.radford.edu/content/csat/home/daim.html

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DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT WEBSITE LAUNCH INAUGURATES RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR THE FIRST COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

“Big data,” a popular buzz phrase, refers to the data sets that are too big and unwieldy to manage with traditional approaches. As the volume of information continues to explode, so does the need for IT professionals who can maximize the value of information assets while getting the right data to the right people at the right time.

To help meet this need, the Radford University Department of Information Technology is launching a MS in Data and Information Management (DAIM) degree that combines traditional classroom learning with practical experience, resulting in a proposed curriculum that challenges students to solve real problems for real clients. In the final stages of approval from the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV), the program will feature class discussions that can build a strong theoretical foundation reinforced with hands-on projects enabling students to engage with faculty and industry partners in state of the art facilities. One such space, the ARTIS LAB, will debut during Homecoming weekend this fall and is an advanced, high-tech collaborative workspace.

The program should formally launch in the fall of 2015, but recruitment is taking place now. To help expand awareness of DAIM, a website was recently launched as a part of the College of Science and Technology online space that will serve as a guide to the concept, classes, and application process.

By blending theory and practice, students enrolled in DAIM will master the latest technology and learn fundamental concepts and principles in the following areas:

- Data architecture; data modeling and design; data storage
- Data integration and interoperability; data quality
- Data governance; data security and privacy
- Data warehousing and business intelligence.

Aware of industry’s growing need to deliver solutions to increasingly complex data management problems and opportunities, the faculty of the Department of Information Technology designed the MS program to provide students with knowledge and real-world experience they will need to attain leadership roles at multiple levels from database engineers and administrators to data architects and information managers.

Graduates will be proficient with tools and techniques for managing traditional data as well as the latest technology and best practices to manage and process big data. Graduates will also be prepared to meet the challenges of designing, developing, and maintaining high-performance systems with 24/7 availability. The MS in DAIM will be available for students in the Fall of 2015 and more information is available at [http://www.radford.edu/content/csat/home/daim.html](http://www.radford.edu/content/csat/home/daim.html).
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FACULTY JOIN RU MILLION DOLLAR CIRCLE DURING FALL CONVOCATION

Members of the College of Science and Technology faculty who have helped secure funding of $1 million or more for university programs and initiatives were recognized as Radford University formally began its 2014-15 year August 20 with the Fall Convocation in Pridemore Playhouse in Porterfield Hall. RU President Penelope W. Kyle opened the assembly of approximately 600 faculty and staff by reflecting on the university's positive momentum. "We all know that it takes a village," she said. "This is our village. To get any of this done it takes all of us. We've been blessed the last several years with some success and you have all participated in making that happen."

The theme of a village coming together to serve our students and expanded community continued throughout the program as President Kyle welcomed new faculty and administrators, recounted a year of achievements by the university community and shared updates about developments at the busy campus. President Kyle welcomed new faculty and administrators, recounted a year of achievements by the university community and shared updates about developments at the busy campus.

Closing the program, President Kyle introduced Dennis Grady, dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies and leader of RU's sponsored programs. Dr. Grady presented the Million-Dollar Award winners and their grant totals.

Dr. Ian Barland, associate professor of information technology with a total of $1.2 million; Dr. Agida Manizade, associate professor of mathematics and statistics also with a total of $1.2 million; Dr. Jean Mistele, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics with a total of $1.3 million; Dr. Orion Rogers, dean of the College of Science and Technology with a total of $1.2 million; Dr. Premchand Uppuluri, associate professor of information technology with a total of $1.3 million.
The work of these individuals has helped improve and enhance the quality of teaching within the College of Science and Technology, recruitment and retention of students, and the co-curricular experience of the CSAT community.

A current project that was funded through the work of several individuals within this group was a $602,101 National Science Foundation (NSF) scholarship, retention and career development program called "RU-NextGen: Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders in Science, Technology and Mathematics."

The program supports academically qualified but financially disadvantaged students from high schools and community colleges and their pursuit of a critically-needed STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) major and career. The grant, which includes six to eight scholarships per year, also includes a leadership development program to encourage their retention and career development.

The RU-NextGen is a successor to a recently completed NSF-grant program that RU CSAT implemented in 2009, called "Bridges and Pipelines: Success and Leadership in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)" program. Central to the new degree completion program is the formation of an innovative umbrella group, called ELITES (Emerging Leaders in Science, Technology and Mathematics). ELITES is designed to help participating students succeed academically, sharpen their career and leadership development skills and encourage professional growth opportunities like research assistantships and internships on the way to STEM career success.

The ELITES program supports student progress by monitoring its cohort's individual action plans. Among the initiatives contained in the ELITES program are summer research projects, leadership or honors contracts to encourage active classroom engagement, peer mentoring and cohort-building social and academic exercises.

The new program complements other successful CSAT STEM development initiatives like the pre-college Summer Bridge Program for high-school age women who aspire to careers in science, science days, its schedule of science competitions for regional students and its STEM Club. The RU-NextGen and ELITES programs support the Commonwealth of Virginia's drive to increase the statewide pool of STEM professionals outlined in the January 2011 "Preparing for the Top Jobs of the 21stCentury: The Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011."

Congratulations to the new members of the Million Dollar Circle at RU.
MUSEUM OF THE EARTH SCIENCES TO SPONSOR LECTURE SERIES

The Museum of the Earth Sciences and the Radford University chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon present a public lecture series featuring RU faculty, students and geologic experts from around the region in a series of programs highlighting unique geologic features, exploration of exotic places, and unusual scientific encounters.

A view of the Grand Canyon at Sunset from the South Rim courtesy: http://www.nps.gov/grca/index.htm

On Wednesday, October 8th, Dr. Parvinder Sethi, Professor of Geology at Radford University will kick-off the 2014-2015 series with his presentation entitled “GRAND CANYON IN 3D: A GEOLOGIST’S ADVENTURES THROUGH DEEP TIME!” Dr. Sethi will begin at the top of the Grand Canyon and travel back through time descending down to the Colorado River at the bottom of this mile-deep natural wonder of our world!

The program will explore the world of the unusual on Tuesday, November 4th as Dr. Joe Keiper, Executive Director, Virginia Museum of Natural History presents “How Did That Get in There? A Review of My Most Bizarre Entomological Consultations”

Rounding out the program for Fall semester on Tuesday, December 2nd, Dr. Albert Dickas, Professor Emeritus of Geology, University of Wisconsin – Superior will present “Geociting in and around Virginia”: A virtual field trip to nine geologically significant places in, and around, Virginia.

Additional programs will take place during the Spring 2015 session including a program by Arctic Explorer and Radford University student Ms. Luna Brett on February 3rd and by Ms. Christina Byrd, Paleontology Technician, Virginia Museum of Natural History on March 3rd.

The lectures are free and open to the general public as well as the University community and will take place in the Bonnie Hurlburt Student Center Auditorium.
Dr. Mary Lee Jensvold, an Associate Professor in the Anthropology Department and the Primate Behavior and Ecology Program at Central Washington University, will present a program called “Communicating with Chimpanzees” on Tuesday, September 16 as a part of the Sigma Xi chapter installation. Dr. Jensvold has worked with chimpanzees who communicate with sign languages since 1986. Her studies include conversational behaviors, private signing, phrase development, chimpanzee to chimpanzee conversation, imaginary play, and artwork in chimpanzees. Other research includes caregiving practices, zoo visitor effects, and public education about chimpanzees. She is active in improving conditions for captive chimpanzees. This year, Dr. Jensvold is studying the behaviors of chimpanzees at Fauna Sanctuary near Montreal Quebec.

Dr. Jensvold is serving as the keynote speaker for the installation of the newest chapter of Sigma Xi, the international honor society of science and engineering. One of the oldest and largest scientific organizations in the world, Sigma Xi has a distinguished history of service to science and society for more than one hundred and twenty five years. Scientists and engineers, whose research spans the disciplines of science and technology, comprise the membership of the Society. More than 200 Nobel Prize winners have been members.

The establishment of this chapter also helps to highlight the importance of contributing to original research while participating in the educational process that so many RU faculty and students engage in daily.

Dr. Jensvold’s presentation and the Sigma Xi chapter installation will be held in the Bonnie Hurlburt Hall auditorium at 7pm on Tuesday, September 16. Admission is free. Students, faculty, classes, and other guests are encouraged to attend.
RU RESEARCHING: LLOYD JONES AND CHRIS HUNTINGTON

Cyber security has become increasingly important in the information technology world as a new data breach seems to be uncovered weekly. RU has been a leader in producing graduates who have an excellent working understanding of the needs related to information security and who possess highly sought after skills in the marketplace. Much of this expertise is developed through a combination of classroom and real-world experience. Two RU seniors, Lloyd Jones and Chris Huntington, spent the summer further developing their skills and gaining new insight into the world of cyber security.

Lloyd participated in a 9-week summer undergrad research experience with Purdue University’s Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security (CERIAS) program in Information Security. “I was one of the 11 students selected from a pool of 80 applicants” says Lloyd. I arrived in May and researched the security of public cloud providers for use by the federal government with my research partner, Sarah Isaacs.” The two presented their work to professors, graduate students, and industry professionals, and their research poster was chosen as one of the top two out of the group. Lloyd adds “We are planning on applying to several undergraduate research conferences so we can present our work to a wider audience.

Chris took part in a summer internship in Huntsville, Alabama at Textron: a multi-industry company that leverages its global network of aircraft, defense, industrial and finance businesses. “I worked as an information assurance intern for Textron’s unmanned systems unit” states Chris. “I developed a continuous monitoring system using the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) risk management framework to aid in the development of Textron’s systems.”

In June, Lloyd and Chris applied for a student scholarship to attend the Black Hat 2014 security conference in Las Vegas. Black Hat is an organization that conducts a series of highly technical information security conferences that bring together thought leaders from all facets of the “infosec” world – from the corporate and government sectors to academic and even underground researchers.

Lloyd recalls “We were both accepted and given free tickets, which was a great deal since usually there is a charge of $895 for an academic ticket.” One of the benefits of the program that Lloyd and Chris attended is that, in addition to the trainings, briefings and skill building sessions, there are plenty of opportunities to interact with companies and employees from around the world. “A surprising amount of people had heard of Radford University and Chris and I gained valuable insight on topics such as grad school, future careers, and hot topics in cyber security” said Lloyd.
HIGHLANDER LEGACIES CONTINUE FAMILY CONNECTIONS TO RADFORD AND CSAT

Every fall, as new members of the Radford University family arrive on campus, many alumni are experiencing the continuation of a family tradition. Highlander legacies, or multiple generations of families attending RU, bring strong connections to the Radford University community forged over many years.

Mike Mullen ’90, a geography graduate and member of the College of Science and Technology Advisory Council, saw the legacy continue for his family as his daughter Whitney moved into her room on campus. Mike and his wife Jenny, who is a 1988 RU graduate with a degree in early-middle childhood education, met when they were students at RU, living two doors down from one another in an apartment complex and have stayed involved with RU over the years. Their daughter Whitney recalls "I used to think Radford was the only school when I was little. I'm excited. I've been ready to go away to college for a while now, and I already feel really comfortable here."

Whitney plans to major in nursing at RU and spent part of her summer as a member of RU Accelerate, a program designed to prepare exceptional new freshmen for research and study at the collegiate level. Students enrolled in a summer online course and classes in the fall and spring of freshman year that culminate in a team-based research project. Whitney will join fellow nursing students in her project next spring.

It's not all work, though. Between classes, the pre-nursing major is eager to explore the social and recreation activities offered at RU. Whitney is impressed with the campus and is excited about the new fitness and wellness center scheduled to open in November. "I like to run...So I'm definitely excited for the new athletics facility to open up” she stated.

Whitney’s parents are also excited about the growth of the campus. Jenny said "I love the way the university is expanding. I think they did it right. They didn't rush, they didn't muck it up and they kept it nice. I'm very proud of RU. I'm very proud of our school."

Mike agrees."It was a great learning environment and still is," he said. "Teachers that are approachable and just a great campus life. Big enough that you don't know everybody, but small enough that you feel like you belong."
For Patrick Phimmasone, a physics major and aspiring engineer, the choice of RU was easy and obvious. "Dad’s memories were important, but I knew early that RU was where I wanted to go," he said. His father, Annaput, is enthusiastic about RU and his son’s prospects. "I know a lot of successful people who came from RU," he said. "My wife and I are comfortable that he will be taken care of here and challenged. As we were."

We welcome all the new Highlanders to Radford University.

Second Summer Research Celebration highlights RU undergraduate research efforts

Eighteen Radford University undergraduates who conducted research during the summer will present their work at the second Summer Research Celebration on Wednesday, Sept. 17, from noon to 5 p.m. in the Hurlburt Student Center Auditorium.

The celebration will be a showcase of the breadth of research possibilities available to RU undergraduates on and off campus, featuring work done this summer by the 2014 class of Undergraduate Research Scholars in art, biology, business, chemistry, education, geology, geospatial science, mathematics, and psychology.

Many of the presentations are from students in the College of Science and Technology and represent a great deal of the learning through experience that takes place in CSAT.

Featured speakers

• Melissa Brett, a senior majoring in physics and geology, who was part of a team doing glacial physics research on the Juneau Icefield in Alaska and Canada this summer. 4:45-5 p.m.

• Dan Metz, the Ecological Society of America's SEEDS Research Fellowship recipient for 2014-2015, who studied a novel parasitic disease of shore crabs under the aegis of the University of California at Santa Barbara, 2:15-2:30 p.m.

Detailed Schedule of Events

12:00-12:15 - Mandeep Kaur and Caitlin Linville “The Effects of Vespa Amino Acid Mixture on Musca domestica”

12:15-12:30 - Sarah House “Creating an Online Linear Algebra Course Using Mathematica”

12:30-12:45 - Kathryn Self “Exploring Effects of Multiple EDC Exposure”
12:45-1:00 - Angel Lambert “A Study of the C84 Isomeric Set”
1:00-2:00 - Posters & Demonstration

Keela Dooley “The Plasticity of Sterling Silver: Achieved through Deformation”

Anthony Friedman “Investigating Middle and High School Pre-Service and In-Service Teachers Perceptions and Beliefs About Collaboration in Inclusive Classrooms”

Matti Hamed “Selu Conservancy’s Herpetofaunal Diversity: Establishing a Long Term Monitoring Program”

Analise Roccaforte “The Effects of Dual Alcohol and Nicotine Exposure on Spatial Memory”

2:15-2:30 - Dan Metz “Initial Description and Disease Pathology of an Undescribed Parasitic Protist of California Shore Crabs”

2:30-2:45 - Debra Lustig “Contradictions and Divergence in the Visual Constructions of Charlemagne”

2:45-3:00 - April Tingle “Are the Antiviral Properties of Pseudomonas Pigments Due to ROS Generation?”

3:00-3:15 - Christabelle D’Silva “Early Field Experience and Selu”

3:15-3:30 - Emily Guise “Effects of Ecologically Relevant Exposure to Trenbolone”

3:30-3:45 - Emily Cutshall “Measuring Inhibitory Concentrations of Arsenic for Environmental Bacteria”

3:45-4:00 - Raymond Boisvert “Net Alpha of Large Cap Funds with Higher Expenses Versus Large Cap Funds with Lower Expenses 2000-2012”

4:00-4:15 - Nima Hami “The Synthesis and Potential use of Phenazine Derivatives in the Inhibition of the La Crosse Virus”

4:15-4:30 - Josh Oliver “A Tree-Ring Reconstruction of New River Streamflow”

4:30-4:45 - Pat Trout “Assessing Models of Volcanism and Rifting: New Evidence from the Mount Rogers Formation, SW VA”

4:45-5:00 - Melissa Brett “Juneau Icefield Research Program”
As a part of a renewed effort in the Radford University Career Center, Dr. John Liptak will be serving as a dedicated career advisor for the College of Science and Technology and the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences. In this role, Dr. Liptak will be present weekly in Stuart Hall lounge on Wednesdays from 8am until 5pm and on Thursdays from 10am until 3pm in Davis Hall to assist our students with resumes, internship and career planning. Dr. Liptak will also be providing short articles for our CSAT faculty and students to help prepare for the upcoming STEM Career Fair.

“Tips for Student Success at Career Fairs” PART 1 by Dr. John Liptak

With the STEM Career and Internship Fair scheduled for Wednesday, November 5th from 11 am to 2 pm, it is time for students to begin preparing! Yes, you read that correctly. It is best to begin preparing for Career Fairs several months in advance so that individuals can make the best impression possible on the employers attending the fair. Over the next few issues of this newsletter, we will present additional tips for succeeding at career fairs. Following are some tips that be used to ensure success at the upcoming STEM Fair:

Do you know why students go to Job Fairs?

• Find out what they are about
• Explore career options
• Gather information about employers
• Identify openings on jobs, summer employment and internships
• Gain job leads

Do you know why Employers go to Job Fairs?

• Attract candidates
• Promote awareness of organization
• Increase visibility on campus
• Provide career information
• Identify potential candidates

How to begin Preparing for the Fair

• Clarify goals
• Start working on a professional resume that you can hand to employers. Seek help from Career Center staff if necessary.
• Know what organizations are attending. Attain a listing of the employers on the Career Center website
• Research each organization very thoroughly
• Prepare a “Thirty Second Commercial”…this is your “brand” or what makes you unique for an employer
• Prepare questions to ask the representatives. These questions should be based on your research about the organization
• Connect your background with the needs of the organization
• Practice interpersonal communication skills with others
• Consider what you will wear. Be aware of the organizational culture that is represented among the employers. Something to remember, a “first-impression” is critical and it is better to be overdressed than underdressed.
• Prepare your portfolio and e-portfolio
• Start preparing to answer questions posed by employers in your brief encounters, or questions that you could face in interviews that day (some employers might interview that day!)

What are your goals? Are you going to the fair to...
• Ask about career options in your field
• Identify organizations that offer what you are looking for in a potential employer
• Offer your resume for consideration for internships, summer job opportunities, positions after graduation
• Learn more about the organizations that are attending
• Network and develop contacts

Next time, we will take a look at some logistical aspects of the preparation needed to succeed at Career Fairs.

CSAT CLUB CORNER

The CSAT STEM club has plans for the fall semester and conducted their first group activity on Thursday, September 4th as members met to attend a screening of Captain America: The Winter Soldier in the Bonnie Hurlburt Student Center. The group has a number of teams and subcommittees working on projects and upcoming events including demonstrations for the Highlanders Festival and Homecoming/Family Weekend in October. To learn more, visit a regular meeting on Tuesdays at 6pm in Stuart Hall lounge. All parties interested in STEM are invited to join.

The RU Chemistry Club meets each Wednesday in Currie 336 at 5pm. Upcoming events include a cookout at Bisset Park on September 27 and a bake sale at the end of October. The group is making plans for other activities including participation in National Chemistry Week October 19-25.

To include activities of other CSAT clubs and organizations, contact David Horton, rhorton@radford.edu.
Representatives from Rackspace (Rackers) visited the ITEC 490 class on September 10 at 4pm in Davis Hall 151 to talk about opportunities with the company, corporate culture, and professionalism as it differs from business to business. Meghan Dembrosky, a human resources consultant with the company, Andrew Regner, a Linux Systems Engineer, and Mike Johnson, a software developer, showcased the “Racker” corporate culture as a national organization and as a local entity based in Blacksburg. The team discussed the larger overview of Rackspace as a global organization with a presence in over 120 countries serving more than 200,000 customers with more than 5,000 employees. Their goal as an organization is to provide the best customer service possible, which is a responsibility of every member of their team. Students in attendance had the opportunity to learn about performance expectations, internship and job opportunities and more as the guests were quizzed about most aspects of professional life from working hours to expected style of dress. A recent graduate from the Radford University I/O Psychology program, Meghan told the assembled group that Rackspace is geared more toward “how you present yourself through your work ethic rather than concern over the way that you look.” She added “Rackers really stress the company’s core values which are centered on personal responsibility and dedication.” Andrew added that the company was looking for new employees who were “flexible and willing to learn.” As a company, Rackspace looks for a “culture fit” as much as skill with programming.

Prior to the classroom visit, the Rackspace team hosted a “tech talk” exploring new technologies that the company uses to enhance their product offerings. The main subject was “macaroons” an alternative to “cookies” or small files with pieces of data geared toward helping programs run faster or more efficiently.

The visit concluded with a resume review session and preliminary interviews for potential Rackspace candidates in Stuart Hall lounge. The event was co-sponsored by the Scholar-Citizen Initiative which helped provide refreshments and marketing for the day. On September 30th, RU faculty and students will participate in a tour of the new Rackspace campus in Blacksburg known as ‘Racksburg’. 
ITEC 490 will host Kathy Claytor, Vice President for Human resources for Corvesta Companies as well as members of their Information Technology leadership team Mr. David Danco, Mr. Micah Almond, and Mr. Dean Rodil at 4pm on September 22 in Davis 151. IT Leadership:

Multivision recruiter David Gaines will be on campus and with the ITEC 490 class on September 24. Details TBA

The RU CSAT Advisory Council will meet on Friday, October 10 in Heth Hall during the annual Homecoming Weekend.

Other Homecoming and Family Weekend activities include:

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Greenhouse Tours – Reed Hall - Sponsored by: Biology Department

Enjoy a tour of RU’s Greenhouse, which maintains a diverse living collection that demonstrates ecological concepts and culturally important plants throughout the world.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Museum of the Earth Sciences – Curie Hall 143 - Sponsored by: Geology Department

Learn about the amazing planet on which we live! Through exhibits that encompass the earth science-related fields of geology, oceanography and physical anthropology, your visit will foster your appreciation of the Earth, its past, present and future, and its interaction with those who inhabit it.

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Table Top Trebuchet demonstration - Reed Hall Lawn - Sponsored by: Math Department

Come and observe a floating arm trebuchet launch small, soft projectile after using math and trigonometry to determine where the objects will land.

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Forensic Science Institute Tours - Preston Hall Annex - Sponsored by: Anthropological Sciences Department

Caught by a hair: quick, new identification of hair may help crime fighters with this new cutting-edge technique to identify human hair. Come take a tour of the Forensic Science Institute where this exciting research was developed.
1 p.m. - 7 p.m. Planetarium Shows (1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m.) Reed/Curie Room B43
Sponsored by: Physics Department

Produced by the American Museum of Natural History, and narrated by Academy Award-winner Whoopi Goldberg, this visually stunning show takes audiences through the lives of stars from their birth to their death. Viewers will explore familiar constellations, learn what is happening right in front of our (telescopic) eyes, and discover humanity’s connection to all stars.

FREE, but a ticket is needed for admission and are available at check-in.

The College of Science and Technology is planning to be a part of the Virginia Science Festival October 4-11. Displays will include: “Roachzilla – Bugs and Beyond,” The Radford University Forensic Science Institute and RU Magic of Chemistry for more information, please visit http://virginiasciencefestival.org/.

To include other upcoming guests to campus and special events, contact David Horton, rhorton@radford.edu.