Geography professor Grigory Ioffe’s textbook *Global Studies: Russia and the Near Abroad, Twelfth Edition* will be released April 23 by McGraw-Hill Publishers. Ioffe’s book is a supplementary textbook to be used in conjunction with courses examining Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

He is a specialist in human geography with expertise in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. He spent much of his sabbatical during the Fall 2009 semester working on the book. The text is comprised of two extensive essays devoted to the Soviet Union and Russia, and 11 shorter essays devoted to other Soviet Republics. The 11 editions prior to Ioffe’s were published by a different author, therefore 95% of the text is completely new.

Rachel Albert Wins Rogers Research Award - Ross Gillett ’10

Junior biology major and Christiansburg native Rachel Albert was recently awarded the Rogers Undergraduate Research Award. The Rogers Award, a $500 dollar award to help fund undergraduate research, is granted on a competitive basis by the College of Science and Technology (CSAT) scholarship and awards committee to a current sophomore or junior undergraduate student enrolled in the college. CSAT Dean Orion Rogers and his wife Valerie created the award in 2008. “My wife Valerie and I decided to create the Rogers Undergraduate Research Award for CSAT students, because we highly value the culture of mentoring that permeates the college, and we have witnessed how student lives are transformed by working with faculty members on special projects, in the field and in the laboratory,” says Dean Rogers.

Albert and her faculty mentor Justin Anderson are working together on research to develop an insecticide that could have an impact on preserving a healthy environment while protecting humans from disease carried by mosquitoes. “I basically work with mosquitoes. I’m trying to find an environmentally friendly and green substance that could be an effective larvicidal, as well as an anti-viral. Right now I’m working with coffee, which preliminary data has shown may be an effective agent. In further research, I’ll use other plant extracts,” said Albert.

Albert’s sixth grade science teacher Robert Hill at Belview Elementary School can be credited for her first love for science. “I loved going to his class. He made science interactive. We would walk around and go ‘exploring.’ I thought it was awesome that we learned how stuff around us worked. I couldn’t imagine going on in life and not understanding the world we live in,” says Albert.

Once she knew she wanted to pursue biology, research quickly followed. “I want to conduct research to build my resume, but also to hopefully graduate with a published paper with my name on it. Again, I love science and research is a huge aspect of it. There are major findings every day, and if I could have a part in those, well that would be just awesome,” says Albert.

While attending Christiansburg High School, Albert played volleyball for the high school and for a junior Olympic team. Now, she also enjoys hiking. “I love to hike! The mountains in this area have some of the most serene and gorgeous views around. I enjoy the outdoors and I’m a huge thrill seeker; I hope to go white water rafting and sky diving this summer,” says Albert.

Albert chose Radford University because it is close to home and she knew that this is the kind of university where “professors would know my name.” She says that the most significant achievement at RU is making the Dean’s List for three semesters. When asked what advice she would give to a prospective student, Albert replied “don’t give up! The work load can get hard but keep your priorities straight. It’s only four years of your life that will determine the rest of your life. you need to study, but it will pay off in the long run. Look at the big picture.”
Physics Major Receives AEP Scholarship  Abby Field ’10

RU physics major Laura Sweat has seized every opportunity available to her as a student in the College of Science and Technology – from researching arctic sea ice in Alaska to teaching the public about wonders of outer space in RU’s planetarium in Curie Hall. Her drive and determination has led to her receiving an AEP Scholarship to continue her work in the RU Planetarium.

Sweat says that her interest in science began with her high school science teacher Mr. Billy Meador. He taught physics during her senior year at William Byrd High School in Vinton, Va. “He was so enthusiastic with the subject … I knew that I had found what I wanted to do.” Sweat chose Radford University to continue exploring science because of RU’s small class sizes, accessible faculty and multiple opportunities for hands-on experience. Over the past three years, she’s worked with highly technical physics equipment including the Ground Penetrating Radar and Ohm Mapper and is the recipient of the AEP Scholarship Partnership, which offers her a $1,250 stipend this semester to run RU’s planetarium shows throughout the week for audiences of all ages. The RU Planetarium is part of RU’s Science Alliance initiative with Virginia’s k-12 schools. Sweat’s opportunity to work with fellow students and her faculty mentor Rhett Herman in Barrow, Alaska has been the highlight of her college career, she says.

Apart from her success in the physics lab, Laura has also found time to be involved in campus life as a member of Alpha Sigma Tau sorority. She credits her sisters with encouraging her to “literally reach for the stars.” In addition to her social sorority, Laura is also a member of Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Fraternity, Kappa Mu Epsilon Math Fraternity, the Society of Physics Students, the Physics and Astronomy Club, CSAT Club and National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

Sweat will be graduating this summer and hopes to pursue a career in physical science with the government, aspiring to work either with NASA or the US Army Corps of Engineers - like her grandfather. She also plans to attend graduate school and earn a degree in geoarchaeology. She has dreams of one day locating foundations of centuries-old civilizations.

Faculty Should Officially Report All Accidents

Faculty are encouraged to follow the RU Safety Office’s policy regarding the record-keeping of accidents. “The following information is the policy maintained by the RU Safety Office and will hopefully serve as a reminder that all accidents on campus should be reported,” says Diane Clark, CSAT’s representative to the RU Safety Office.

It is the RU Safety Office’s policy to maintain required records of accidents and injuries and analyze the data with the goal of preventing accidents as well as review and/or investigate all accidents and near-misses, with the purpose of preventing recurrences, and institute corrective actions with the cooperation of supervision. Therefore, it is extremely necessary for all employees to report any injury, however slight, to their supervisor. Supervisors should complete the “First Report of Injury” form and submit this form to the Department of Human Resources. Students should be encouraged to report any injury that occurs on campus to the RU Safety Office as well. This form can be found at: http://www.radford.edu/fpc/Safety/forms/acc_inves.htm

Employees and students are encouraged to actively participate in the safety program by helping supervisors identify, control, and eliminate deficiencies in health and safety practices. Employees and students may bring health and safety concerns to the attention of the Safety Office without fear of reprisals.
CSAT Nominates Two For Goldwater Scholarship

Sophomore biology major Brandon Newmyer and junior biology major Jessica Sosnicki were nominated by the college for the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. Both students are outstanding academically and in the laboratory.

Newmyer’s area of interest is neuroscience and collaborates with faculty mentor Mark Cline in research. Newmyer’s work has been published in several professional scientific journals including the *Journal of Neuroendocrinology* and *Behavioural Brain Research*. Newmyer has also received Virginia Academy of Science grants.

Sosnicki’s interest is in environmental biology and is the co-president of RU’s chapter of The Wildlife Society. In addition to her outstanding academic achievements in the classroom, she has been awarded the 2009 Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District Scholarship. Sosnicki has conducted research with RU biologist Jeremy Wodjak on trematode infections in snails. She is currently working with RU biological anthropologist Cassady Yoder to analyze what people ate in an ancient Bolivian civilization through bone samples collected in Bolivia by Yoder last summer.

Anthropology Student Meshes Love Of Culture and Research – Abby Field ’10

Susan Christopher is not your average anthropology student. A former professor of Communication and Spanish at Walsh University and Kent State, Susan is immersed in research with faculty in the College of Science and Technology. After earning undergraduate and graduate degrees in communication, Christopher decided a few years ago to combine her love of culture and research and pursue a degree in anthropology with hopes of eventually working in archaeology. Her son and daughter share her love of archaeology and are also ancient Egypt enthusiasts. Many of their family vacations have been historical in nature, and Christopher is looking forward to adding excavation digs to their itinerary.

Christopher’s particular areas of interest include Caribbean and Arctic archaeology. She leaves for Barrow, Alaska with physics professor Rhett Herman and his team Saturday, February 27 where she will work with him on researching fractal dimensions in ice. In addition to the RU team, 2005 physics graduate and governor school teacher Dan Blake with three of his students will also be participating in the research. The team hopes to find a correlation between thickness of the ice and the slight temperature variations at the surface of the ice. The work done by the team will ultimately lead to a better understanding of the polar sea ice and its dynamics. Due to successful presentations and brainstorming between RU faculty, students and members of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, this spring’s trip will last two weeks, a week longer than previous excursions.

During Christopher’s stay in Barrow this spring, she will pursue her own research into native Inupiat women and their whale boat building. The Inupiat society is male-dominated, but the boat building is performed solely by the women. Christopher will also take a deeper look into the Inupiat mythology in hopes of uncovering information about the burial mounds in Barrow. She will be returning to Barrow with Herman in July for three weeks to examine the mounds and shore with ground penetrating radar. The shoreline is slowly receding, and Christopher and Herman will work with local archaeologists to recover burial mounds lost to the water, some of them dating back as early as 300 A.D. RU physics student Laura Sweat and forensic anthropology student Lindsay Sliwa will also be in Barrow this summer to examine skeletal remains.
CSAT STEM Club Spotlight:
Activities and Upcoming Events

Biology faculty member Judy Guinan presented information about bluebirds on February 11th. Members said that it was an excellent presentation with an abundance of background information and that there are numerous opportunities for research.

The club is planning a trip to the Smithsonian Museum on March 20. Members have been encouraged to talk to friends in the College of Science and Technology to invite them on the trip. The goal is to fill the bus with as many CSAT students as possible.

Student volunteers are needed for the CSAT Open House on February 27 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. and for the Super MACC competition on March 22 from 4-9 p.m.

Lastly, students are needed for the Merit Badge event on March 27 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. for registration and student assistants are needed from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CSAT Dean’s Student Advisory Council and Geology Alumna Presents Research

Geology 2009 alumna Angela Giuliano, currently in the master’s degree program at East Carolina University will present her masters degree research projects on Friday, Feb. 26 at 8 a.m. in Reed 107 and at 9 a.m. in Reed 106.

Giuliano’s research presentation is titled Effects of Water Control Structures on Salt Water Intrusion at Emily Richardson Preyer Coastal Reserve in Tyrrell County, N.C. She will also discuss her experience here at RU and how it prepared her for graduate school. She says that she was better prepared for graduate school than many of her peers in the East Carolina University program.