CSAT Offers Activities for the Community on Saturday

Individuals attending Highlanders Festival and Welcome Back Reunion Weekend events on campus Saturday have an opportunity to also check out two facilities that promote educational outreach and faculty-student collaborative efforts within the College of Science and Technology.

The official fall opening of the Museum of the Earth Sciences in Curie Hall is scheduled from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Museum goers can see the “Corning Glass Earth Under a Microscope Exhibit” along with newly added displays and specimens. In addition, the RU Planetarium in B43 Curie Hall will be offering free shows at 1, 3, 5 and 7 p.m. Seating is limited, and a ticket, available at check-in, is needed for admission.

The CSAT STEM Club will also be participating in the Highlanders Festival on Saturday with an activity booth for children. Activities include science and math trivia, geometry crafts and pH testing of various household liquids.

IT Students Receive State Awards for Innovation

Computer science majors Daniel Burgess and David Payne received $1,000 first-runner up and $500 third place prizes respectively in the Governor Timothy M. Kaine’s “Learning Apps Development Challenge” this summer.

The iPhone applications were designed under the mentorship of Matt Dunleavy in the College of Education and Human Development as a part of the Gaming, Animation, Modeling and Simulations Lab at Radford University.

Burgess’ application “Freddy Fraction” challenges students to demonstrate their knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages as they help an alien find his lost spaceship.

Payne’s application “Fraction Factory” features a conveyor belt bearing fractions which must be placed in correct sequence at the top of the screen.

Burgess says his project “certainly has cemented my decision to go into software engineering, as well as opened my eyes to a number of possibilities that I wouldn’t have thought realistic for me otherwise.”

“[This project] certainly has cemented my decision to go into software engineering” —Daniel Burgess, computer science major
Advising Corner— Susan Underwood, CSAT Advising Coordinator

There are a few issues that I have been getting some questions about that I would like to clarify.

**Petitions**
- If you have a student that needs an academic petition, please email me the following information: name, RUID, petition request and justification. After I receive an email from you, I will prepare the petition and notify the student to pick it up for signatures. If you noted a petition on the cover sheet for the graduation applications, that should be sufficient.

**Graduation Applications**
- The graduation application has been updated to not include a student’s social security number. If you have any old applications in your office, please discard them. In the future, if a student brings an old application to you, please send them to the Advising Center or the department chair’s office for a new form. Social security numbers should not be on any university form.

**Degree Works Audits**
- Each time and advisor accesses a student’s audit, they should press the “Process New” button instead of the “View Audit” button. This refreshes the database and updates the student’s audit. We will be getting a new audit in January when we fully implement Banner. It is supposed to be very similar to what we have now, except with more capabilities.

**Banner**
- Be aware that all spring activity is taking place in Banner, and cannot be viewed in RIM/Voyager. The students will be using Banner to register for spring classes, and after they register, you will not be able to view their spring classes in RIM, nor will they show up on the audit. We are unsure of the problems we may face when Banner goes live November 2 for registration. Please watch for email updates from me about potential issues we may encounter.

**Graduation Letters**
- For the first time, we will be scanning and emailing the graduation letters to the students and advisors. The email looks a little odd, but it will be coming from techadvise@radford.edu, so when you get these mails, please save them for when you meet with your spring graduates in the fall. Please do not reply to these emails, but call us if you have a question about the letter.

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Mathematics professor Wei-Chi Yang will present *Paradigms in Mathematical Education for the XX1st Century -Sharing educational experiences with Asia* on Thursday, Oct. 22 at the Asian Technology Conference in Mathematics (ATCM) in Valencia.

Asian countries, and in particular those from the Southeast region, have become an international reference concerning mathematical education, says Yang. According to the recent PISA and TIMMS reports, students from China, Singapore and Korea, among other Asian countries, have been achieving outstanding results and international awards in their performance of mathematics. Yang’s symposium will address:

- How to share first-hand information about mathematics education in Asia.
- How to learn about principles and methods in Asian teaching of mathematics and compare them with those in Europe and Spain.
- How to establish a first contact on mathematical education between Spain and Asia for a lasting exchange of experiences and information.
- Moreover, this Symposium will be an occasion to introduce and discuss some of the new tools and projects recently launched by different international consortia, such as those promoted by ICMI.
Summer Bridge 2010 Call for Curriculum Proposals Underway

All faculty not teaching during Summer Session II or Summer Session III are invited to submit a proposal for a science, math or information technology course that would include 10 hours of instruction geared for sophomores or juniors in high school.

Proposals should include the title of the course, course description, budget, facility requirements, learning outcomes and expected final product such as a student produced project, presentation or poster to be presented during the closing session of the camp.

The Summer Bridge Curriculum Committee will choose four courses to offer during the week-long summer camp for female high school sophomores and juniors interested in science, math and information technology. Faculty who teach during Summer Bridge 2010 will be compensated. For more information about compensation, contact the CSAT Dean’s Office.

Interested faculty should email their proposals to Ann Brown, Assistant to the Dean (abrown238@radford.edu), by Oct. 30, 2009.

Chalk Talks Scheduled for October 29

Mathematics major Catherine Inman presented her research “Creation of Educational Hypermodels using Mathematica” on Thursday, Sept. 24 at 5 p.m. in Reed Hall, room 206. The next Chalk Talks will be Thursday, Oct. 29 at 5 p.m. in Reed Hall, room 206.

Organized by biology faculty member Gary Cote, the Chalk Talks series offers students an opportunity to talk about their research in front of peers and college faculty in an informal environment. This is the second year the College of Science and Technology is hosting this resource for students.

Any students interested in participating in October’s Chalk Talks should contact Gary Cote at gcote@radford.edu.
CSAT STEM Club Invites NASA Scientist to Speak at RU

The College of Science and Technology’s STEM Club will host NASA scientist Russell De Young of the Chemistry and Dynamics Branch at Langley Research Center on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009 at 7 p.m. in McGuffey Hall, room 206.

More information about the event will be in upcoming editions of From the Dean’s Desk.