

## From the Dean's Desk - - February 14, 2014



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## STUDENTS WIN AWARDS AT STATE WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

VATWS award winners: Zach Farris (VT grad student), Fallon Parker, Brenna Hyzy

The Radford University student chapter of The Wildlife Society sent 12 students to the annual conference of the Virginia chapter of The Wildlife Society (VATWS). Our students represented RU well, completing five professional research presentations and taking home two student awards.

Fallon Parker was the winner of the "Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education" student scholarship. This is a \$500 award given to one undergraduate student in the Commonwealth who is pursuing a career in wildlife biology. Fallon is the 3rd RU student in 3 years to win this state-wide award - quite the honor for RU!

Brenna Hyzy took 2nd place in the student presentation competition, beating out several graduate students for this award. Her research talk was entitled: Monitoring the status of gray bats in Virginia, 2009-2013, since the onset of White-nose Syndrome.

Additionally, four students presented research posters at this conference:

- Fallon Parker: Contributing to fisheries conservation in Knoxville, Tennessee
- Alex Pearce: Use of Radford Army Ammunition Plant magazines as artificial bat hibernacula
- Emily Clark: Within-season temporal variation in reproductive success of eastern bluebirds, *Sialia sialis*, in southwestern Virginia
- Nikohl Miller: Animal surveys at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant in summer 2013

We are proud of all of our students who attended this meeting. It was a great opportunity to learn about wildlife research in the Commonwealth, to share their own research experiences, and to network with potential employers. – Submitted by Dr. Karen Powers



## CSAT SPOTLIGHT: VICTORIA SCOTT – CREATING A PATH TO HELP CURB NATURE DEFICIT DISORDER



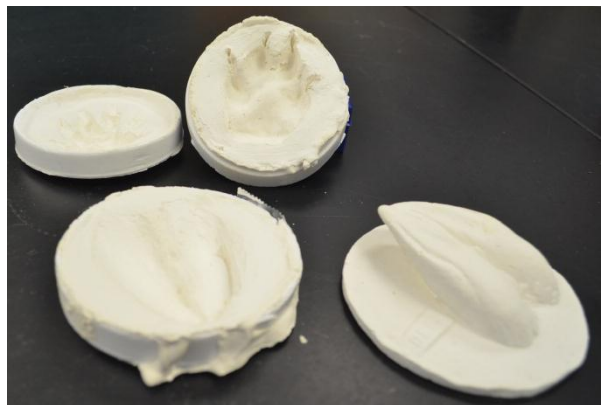
Senior Biology Major Victoria Scott is leading a project to help encourage people of all ages, especially children, to spend more time outdoors and to help combat “Nature Deficit Disorder.” “Nature Deficit Disorder’ is a term coined by Richard Louv in his book *The Last Child in the Wood*” Victoria states. “Although it is not a recognized medical disorder through the American Psychological Association, this term describes the disconnect that currently exists between nature and society and has become a legitimate concern for many educators, leading to an increase of both science and non-science teachers utilizing outdoor classrooms in order to increase time spent outdoors. I sought out to mitigate this disconnect by using the skills and knowledge that

I have gained here at Radford University to educate Wildwood Park visitors about the animals that are found in this conservation easement. “

Victoria’s project includes taking paw prints of animals that typically would be found in the Radford area and creating plaster casts of them to display in various locations around Wildwood Park in the heart of the city. “Animals such as coyotes, raccoons, possums, mink, deer, mice, squirrels, skunks, perching birds, foxes, and bears are all animals that could potentially be found living in or passing through Wildwood” says Victoria. “We plan to make a poster presenting “fun facts” and general information about each of the animals and place it in a display case at the park.”

To further engage those interested in the project, Victoria is working with Dr. Matt Dunleavy and the “FreshAir” software to create a companion application for smart devices such as phones or tablets that would allow the user to not only learn more about the animal prints on display, but to experience a more interactive process. “Visitors walking in the park will be notified when they are in close proximity to a paw-print” states Victoria. “Upon arrival at the print the app would begin a series of questions which will lead the person to the answer and help them identify to which animal the paw print belongs.”

The project has been selected as a Scholar-Citizen Initiative here at RU and is being supported by a number of faculty collaborators across campus. “I’ve been working with Dr. Judith Guinan of Radford University’s Biology Department, Dr. Matt Dunleavy of Radford’s University School of Education and FreshAir app co-founder, Dr. Tricia Easterling of Radford University’s School of Education, Jonathan Mayer and Danny Coalson of Radford University’s Printing Services Department, and Mr. Frank Taylor of Radford High School’s Biology Department” says Victoria. She expects to begin the placement of the plaster paw prints in the next few weeks and to have the project up and running by the spring. “By



providing children and adults with a fun outlet to explore nature, I believe this project will be a great first step in developing a more active Radford community” says Victoria. “Hopefully if interest is spiked enough, then individuals in the community will continue to seek out healthy and nature-oriented entertainment.”

Victoria will be sharing her project with others from around the United States during a presentation she will lead in March at the Southern Regional Honor's Conference in Savannah, GA. She will also be continuing her education locally as she was just recently accepted to attend the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg.

### **COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO HOST OPEN HOUSE FOR PROSPECTIVE RU STUDENTS ON FEBRUARY 22**

Students who have an interest in attending Radford University to pursue a major in science, mathematics or technology are invited to participate in an afternoon open house on February 22 from 1-5pm. In addition to experiencing some of the outstanding outreach programs on campus such as the Greenhouse, Museum of the Earth Sciences and the Planetarium, prospective students will have the opportunity to learn more about financial aid, career services, student leadership opportunities and more. RU CSAT Alumnus Seth Peery will deliver remarks reflecting on his experience as a Highlander and current faculty and students will be available to help showcase the college. For more information, please visit [www.radford.edu/sstem](http://www.radford.edu/sstem).

### **MUSEUM OF THE EARTH SCIENCES LECTURE SERIES "ENTOMOLOGY OF SERIAL KILLINGS"**

"Entomology of Serial Killings" was presented by the Executive Director of the Virginia Museum of Natural History, Dr. Joe Keiper, on Tuesday, February 4 at the Museum of the Earth Sciences Lecture Series.

According to Dr. Keiper, serial killings have been documented in world society since ancient times, but the application of entomological evidence found on victims has been used only recently to help reconstruct the timelines of these heinous crimes. Dr. Keiper reviewed his experience and discussed methods used during investigations.



Our next MES public lecture is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Tuesday March 4 in the Hurlburt auditorium and will feature Dr. Alton Dooley, Curator of Paleontology at the Virginia Museum of Natural History. The title of his presentation will be "Reconstructing Buttercup: From scraps of bone, to a fossil whale."

All MES Public Lectures are free and open to the university community and to the general public

## STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE REGION PARTICIPATE IN AMERICAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION AT RU

On February 4, 2014 students from across our region put their math skills to the test when Radford University's Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the RU Math Club hosted the AMC 10/12 program. The exam consists of 25 questions in 75 minutes. The high scoring students across the county will advance, until a six-person team is chosen to represent the United States. Results will be known in about three weeks. The event was coordinated by Mr. John McGee, Instructor of Mathematics at Radford University.

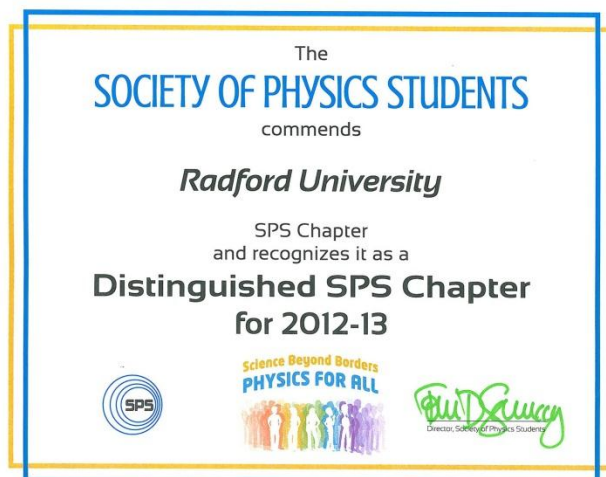


For more than 60 years, students across the country have taken up the challenge of America's longest-running and most prestigious math contests, The American Mathematics Competitions (AMC). Every year, at thousands of schools in every state, more than 350,000 students take part in this program, sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America. For more information, please visit <http://www.maa.org/math-competitions/amc-1012>

## RADFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Radford University Chapter of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) recently received notification that they have been designated as a "Distinguished SPS Chapter." The ranking is based on a chapter's engagement in areas including campus activities, public science outreach, and participation in regional and national SPS events.

Congratulations to RU SPS!



## **IBM RECRUITER TO VISIT RU ON FEBRUARY 17**

A representative of IBM, Steve Choquette is coming to campus on Monday, Feb. 17, to meet with our students from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. in Davis 027.

Mr. Choquette works with the Software as a Solution Center of Competency Focal Point in the Cloud & Smarter Infrastructure division.

In addition to this visit, IBM hosts an annual Master the Mainframe contest for students. The competition is designed for students with little or no mainframe experience. You have a chance to win t-shirts and other great prizes. The competition is open to HS students as well. The link is included below. Please spread the word and consider competing in the 2014 competition this fall.

<https://contest-reg.dfw.ibm.com/contest/usaca.nsf>

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 @ 9:45am**

**DAVIS HALL 027**



**@RU**

## **ITEC 490 CLASS BRINGING GUESTS TO CAMPUS**

As a portion of the ITEC professionalism course, many guests who can be a benefit to the student community are coming to campus in February.

Derick Maggard, Director of the Roanoke - Blacksburg Technology Council will provide an Introduction to RBTC and companies in the NRV on February 17 at noon in Davis Hall 151.

On February 19, from 12:00-12:50 representatives from Multivision will provide a presentation on the job market: hot skills and communication in Davis Hall 151.

Dr. Martin L. Barrett, Graduate Coordinator and Assistant Chair, Department of Computing, East Tennessee State University will discuss graduate school and the application process at noon in Davis Hall 151 on February 21.

Rackspace, always a popular visitor to campus, rescheduled their information session and “Tech Talk” to February 24. Locations for this rescheduled event are to be announced.

## CSAT SPOLIGHT: ALUMNUS ZACHARY NEITZEY '13 – ALL SMILES IN DENTAL SCHOOL



"I can say that I couldn't have asked for a better undergraduate experience than what I received at Radford" says RU alumnus Zachary Neitzey. Following graduation in spring 2013, Zachary enrolled at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in Boston. "I was always interested in dentistry, but I did not think that I would be able to handle the difficulty nor the amount work needed to get into dental school" recalls Zachary. "I started my freshman year as a business management major because my original plan was to take over my father's business soon after graduating. I was doing okay in my classes, but I didn't feel very passionate about the entry level business courses."

Zachary chose to use his science general education requirements as a challenge and a test. "I decided to take the most difficult of the three options available to me, BIO105, to test myself to see if I could handle biology" he recalls. "Dr. Guinan was teaching the course and it was not an easy class, but I loved the material and the challenge of it. During the summer from freshman to sophomore year, I changed my major from business management to biology."

Zachary feels that his RU experience helped to prepare him well for the next phase of his life. "I have nothing but good things to say about the courses and the professors I had at Radford" says Zachary. "Most of the classes were very difficult, but every time I asked a professor for help, they would stop whatever they were doing and work with me until I had a good understanding of the material. This has definitely been an advantage for me in dental school. A lot of the material I learned at Radford has come up in my didactic courses at Tufts."

Finding success in a dental medical program is not always easy, but Zachary feels confident that he has been shown a great path. "The professors at Radford gave me the knowledge and confidence that I needed to get accepted into and excel in my classes in dental school" Zachary says.

"I loved the education that I received, but that's not even my favorite part about Radford. The best part about Radford is the atmosphere. There is nothing like walking across the campus on a nice day and seeing the quads filled with people having fun. It's in a beautiful area. The university works hard to make sure there are fun activities and events happening regularly. I would not trade my college experience for anything."



## RU DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO SPONSOR PROGRAMMING COMPETITIONS

The Radford University Department of Information Technology in the College of Science and Technology is once again hosting four programming competitions on the RU campus this spring. Three of these are our traditional annual competitions:

IT Game Programming Competition on Friday and Saturday, March 21st and 22nd;  
IT Programming Competition for High School Students on March 22nd; and  
IT Programming Competition for Community College Students on March 22nd.

These competitions are designed to promote software development skills among high school and community college students in the Commonwealth of Virginia and foster stronger relationships between the information technology programs in the Virginia school systems and Radford University. The participants will include IT students from high schools and community colleges within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Prizes will be awarded including Radford University scholarships. Each school may register up to two teams for each IT competition.



For registration and rules, please visit <http://www.radford.edu/content/csat/home/itec/news-events/programming-contest.html>

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Hwajung Lee Contest Director at [hlee3@radford.edu](mailto:hlee3@radford.edu) with the subject of "HS/CC Competition 2014,"  
Dr. Maung Htay Contest Advisor at [mhtay@radford.edu](mailto:mhtay@radford.edu) , or  
Dr. Joe Chase Contest RU Ambassador at [jchase@radford.edu](mailto:jchase@radford.edu) .

In conjunction with the three traditional competitions, Radford University's Department of Information Technology is pleased to present a high school and community college competition:

**RU Secure: A Cybersecurity Capture The Flag contest.** The contest will involve fundamentals of the web, security algorithms such as secure hash functions, and basic usage of Windows and UNIX.

Interested students will be provided all the learning material and practice labs. You can participate in this contest remotely from your schools or locally at Radford University.

To participate, simply pick a 4 hour slot between 8 am Friday, March 21 and 1:00 pm, Saturday, March 22 (except 6:00 pm, March 21 to 9:00 am, March 22) and indicate whether you want to participate locally (at Radford University) or remotely from a computer lab in your school.

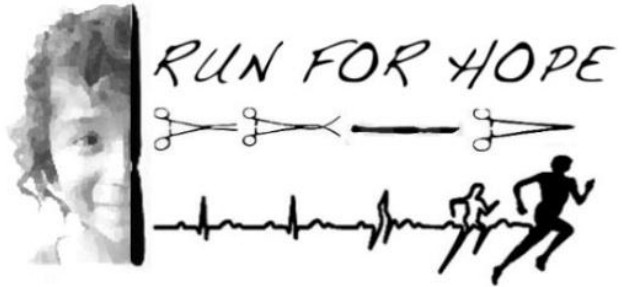
Each high school or community college team must have a faculty advisor. Send an email with this information through the faculty advisor to: Prem Uppuluri at [puppuluri@radford.edu](mailto:puppuluri@radford.edu) . The contest is partially funded through an NSA grant.



## PRE-DENTAL AND PRE-MEDICAL CLUBS SPONSORING “MISSION OF HOPE” FUNDRAISING TEAMS

Dylan McKnight, president of the Pre-Dental Club, and Jacob Mace, president of the Pre-Medical Club, participated in the “Mission of Hope” project last September and helped provide 66 free surgeries to the underprivileged people of Bolivia. With so much use and less than ideal conditions, many of the surgical instruments began to rust and break down. To help rectify this problem, they are asking for your support in raising money for this cause by getting at least 5 individuals to participate in the “Run for Hope” event to be held in Bisset Park on April 6.

- Goal is to raise \$10,000 to purchase new surgical instruments so that American surgical teams can continue to provide free operations to the underprivileged people of Bolivia.
- When: April 6<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm
- Where: Bisset Park, Radford
- Register/Donate at:  
[www.runforhope.myevent.com](http://www.runforhope.myevent.com)
- Sign up before February 28<sup>th</sup> before rates go up!
- All volunteers/runners will receive a t-shirt!
- Clubs/sponsors may submit a logo to be added to the shirt
  - Dylan McKnight: [dsmcknight@radford.edu](mailto:dsmcknight@radford.edu)
  - Jacob Mace: [jdmace@radford.edu](mailto:jdmace@radford.edu)



## CSAT STEM CLUB

The CSAT STEM is coordinating a “game night” in the Bonnie Hurlburt Student Center on Friday, February 21 from 6:30 – 8:30pm. Food and fun are planned for all members of our college. Please spread the word.

The club is meeting every Tuesday at 5:30pm in the Stuart Hall Lounge. Members are planning a spring trip and a college-wide engagement drive for students in CSAT. They are also looking to sponsor a speaker on a science-related topic for the entire Radford University community during the spring semester.

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **RADFORD UNIVERSITY TO HOST CAMP INVENTION JUNE 23-27**

For five years, Radford University's College of Science and Technology has offered the nationally-acclaimed Camp Invention program to children entering grades one through six this summer in Reed and Curie Halls each June. The 2014 edition of the program is scheduled for June 23-27.

Early-bird registration is now underway. Register by March 28 and save \$25. For more information, please visit:

<http://inventnow-web.ungerboeck.com/programsearch/moreinfo.aspx?event=9762>

## **UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS**

BETA BETA BETA, the biology honor society, has invited Justin Bower to serve as a guest speaker on February 28th 2014. Justin Bower is an RU Biology alumnus and is currently a graduate student at Frostburg State University, focusing on applied ecology and conservation biology. As part of Tri-Beta's ongoing effort to have dynamic speakers, we invite you to attend his talk at 12 p.m. in Young Hall room 302.

Ben Thompson in the Forensic Science Institute is presenting "A Comparison of Metric and Non-Metric Techniques Used in the Classification of Hispanic Crania (Poster)" at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle during Feb 17-22

Brittany Hundman in ANSC with Dr. Cassady Urista is presenting "Slaves at Stonebridge: Diet and Health at the Stonebridge Site, Virginia" at the 2014 American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA) conference in Calgary, Alberta Canada April 12, 2014.

Evan Samples just had an abstract on his work with Dr. Joe Wirgau accepted for The National Council on Undergraduate Research to be held in April in Lexington, Kentucky.

On April 16th the author of "The Disappearing Spoon", Sam Kean, is speaking at the Regional American Chemistry Society (ACS) meeting organized by Dr. Christine Hermann with the speaker being arranged by Dr. Kim Lane. Dr. Tim Fuhrer was just elected as Chair-Elect of the Virginia Blue Ridge Section of the ACS.