Welcome to our New Highlanders!
A message from the president

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from Radford University! On the cover of this edition of The Magazine of Radford University we chose to honor the Class of 2017, the newest members of the RU family. They are symbolic of Radford University’s great heritage: an indelible enthusiasm, a dedication to learning and a life-long commitment to service, all of which link generations of Radford alumni.

Since I last wrote you in the spring, our focus on current and future Radford students has continued. A big part of that effort is to provide our students with the most modern facilities. In February, we commenced work on what will be a much-needed Student Fitness and Wellness Center, which will offer state-of-the-art educational and recreational facilities for our students. This will be a 111,000 square-foot, $32 million building that will include a sloped indoor track, multiple exercise rooms, gymnasium courts, a multi-activity court, as well as strength training and cardio spaces. Construction also continues on the new Center for the Sciences, a 114,000 square-foot, $49.5 million building that will substantially increase our College of Science and Technology’s teaching, laboratory and research capabilities. During the summer, we also completed an extensive renovation of Washington Hall and we remodeled the Dalton Hall dining facility, both significantly enhancing the student life experience at RU. We have included in this magazine an update about these and other capital improvement projects.

Radford University has also continued to be recognized for institutional excellence. For example, The Princeton Review named RU as one of the “Best in the Southeast” in its “2014 Best Colleges: Region by Region” edition. We also earned top marks in a national examination of university teacher preparation programs by the National Council on Teacher Quality. RU was specifically recognized as one of only 13 universities in the United States with “multiple strong programs.”

Our faculty and students, who make RU unique, also earned recognition. One of many examples is Professor of English and Director of Women’s Studies Moira P. Baker. This past spring she received a Fulbright Scholar Grant for the 2013-14 academic year to teach English in Croatia. This nationally prestigious Fulbright award speaks highly of both Professor Baker and Radford University. Our faculty’s hard work results in student success as exemplified by a multi-disciplinary team of RU undergraduate researchers who received a coveted national award at the Annual National Sustainable Design Expo in Washington, D.C. for their innovative approach to water purification. And, that commitment to hard work was further shown when Radford’s student-athletes earned top honors on the Big South Conference’s Presidential Honor Roll by having the highest percentage of student-athletes with a grade point average of 3.0 or better for the recently completed academic year. They have achieved this recognition for the third time in five years. These are just a few examples of the many accomplishments that make us so proud to be Radford University.

Many interesting and diverse stories abound in this edition of The Magazine of Radford University. I hope that in reading them, you will agree that Radford University is a very special place, made so because of our amazing alumni, students, faculty, parents, staff and friends who are dedicated to making it so great. Go Highlanders!

With warm regards,

Penelope W. Kyle
Upfront
Alumni
Purple reign
Delegate Crockett-Stark ’69, M.S. ’79, is retiring, but the legend will endure
Alumni return for Winter Jam homecoming

Floyd County Teacher of the Year
Lisa Bolt ’02

Research
RU grants exceed $5 million dollar mark
Music Therapy makes hearts sing
RU undergraduate research has real-world applications

Sports
Passion, experience and work ethic
Roanoke native Mike McGuire has women’s basketball poised for greatness
Not just sitting by the river with a can of worms

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Chuck Hayes Grammar guru and actor, too!
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Campus
Batters up!

Princeton Review likes Radford green
Honoring RU’s past by building for the future

Then and Now
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Student Affairs
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Class Notes
Delegate Yost tells graduates to ‘remain steadfast’

President Penelope W. Kyle conferred degrees on nearly 1,300 undergraduate and graduate students at RU’s 2013 Spring Commencement on Saturday, May 11. The keynote speaker was Joseph Yost ’06, M.A. ’08, who represents the 12th District in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Yost said he was honored by Kyle’s offer to address the Class of 2013. He told the graduates that some of his fondest memories are from his time on campus and that their accomplishments while at the university make him optimistic for the future.

“As soon-to-be alumni, I hope all of you will maintain a lifelong commitment to the lessons you learned here and also the four values I put above all else: scholarship, character, leadership and service,” Yost
said. He encouraged the graduates to “remain steadfast in your drive to better your community, your family as well as your state and your country, but also yourself.”

This year’s spring graduates represented 108 cities and counties in Virginia, 25 states and nine countries. Among the degrees awarded were more than 200 master’s and doctoral degrees. Individuals in the fields of science, technology, mathematics and health made up 29 percent of the graduates. The most undergraduate degrees—114—were awarded to interdisciplinary studies majors in the College of Education and Human Development.

The College of Graduate and Professional Studies held its hooding ceremony on the evening before undergraduate commencement. Faculty mentors presented academic hoods to students earning master’s degrees, and six students received doctoral degrees, three each in nursing practice and psychology.

See photos from 2013 Spring Commencement on Facebook.
Cassidy named associate dean of Waldron College

Corey Cassidy was recently appointed associate dean of RU’s Waldron College of Health and Human Services.

An associate professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Cassidy is the coordinator of the university’s Preschool Language Lab, which is housed in the RU Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic in Waldron Hall.

A licensed speech-language pathologist, Cassidy has held academic positions as clinical assistant professor and clinical director at Idaho State University and as clinical instructor at Northeastern University. She has practiced in the area of pediatrics in multiple states over the past 15 years.

Cassidy holds a Bachelor of Arts from James Madison University; a Master of Arts in Communication Disorders from Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.; and a Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences with a concentration in health care administration from Trident University International.

Cassidy said, “I am thrilled to have the opportunity to support and expand inter-professional initiatives across the disciplines in the college.”

School of Nursing taps Ramsey for top spot

The Waldron College of Health and Human Services School of Nursing (SON) has appointed Assistant Professor Tony Ramsey to the position of director, effective this fall.

A certified family nurse practitioner, Ramsey has taught at RU for 10 years. He received a bachelor’s degree in nursing in 2001 and a master’s degree in nursing in 2003, both from Radford.

Ramsey also holds a Ph.D. from West Virginia University.

Speaking of his time at RU, Ramsey said, “I have witnessed SON develop and implement a strong Doctor of Nursing Practice program while maintaining a well-respected undergraduate program.” Ramsey said he wants to continue to support students and faculty to maintain RU’s reputation for graduating the best nurses.

Radford University selected for Princeton Review’s “Best In The Southeast”

Radford University has been named by The Princeton Review in its “Best in the Southeast” section of its “2014 Best Colleges: Region by Region” edition. RU previously earned this recognition in The Princeton Review’s 2008-2012 regional listings.

“The Princeton Review’s selection of Radford University is another indication of the high quality of RU’s education and the diversity of opportunities we offer our students,” said President Kyle. “RU is well known for being student-focused, and this latest news is recognition of the culture of success we find at Radford University. This is directly attributable to our dedicated faculty, our committed staff and our students, who are focused on becoming scholar-citizens.”

From the ‘Radford Students Say’ section under Academics & Majors, The Princeton Review reports: “The professors here would have to be Radford’s greatest strength,” says a communication major. Many faculty members are “very personable, affable, and helpful.” They “want to teach.” “They’re easy to get in touch with and easy to talk to and ask questions,” adds a sociology major. Also, “classes are smaller, which makes it easier to get one-on-one attention.”
Wintermester recognized for innovation

For the second year in a row, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) named RU an innovator. Radford University’s Wintermester, a five-week online mini-session between fall and spring semesters, was recognized for innovation in higher education in the 2013 edition of SCHEV’s “Innovation in Higher Education.”

Launched in December 2012, Wintermester is one of 10 programs recognized in the 2013 edition. Radford University’s Games, Animation, Modeling, and Simulation (GAMeS) Lab won the honor in 2012.

“Our Wintermester program allows our students, through online offerings, to accelerate their academic progress toward their degrees,” President Kyle said. “This is a goal, not only of Radford University, but of higher education in Virginia. To have another of our new programs recognized by SCHEV as an ‘innovation in higher education’ certainly validates these new academic initiatives.”

Wintermester was designed to help students progress more quickly in their degree programs by providing a variety of course offerings. Instruction is conducted online, allowing students to take classes from home during winter break and providing opportunities to hold part-time jobs during the break. Nearly 200 students enrolled in its first session.

RU makes the national service honor roll

Radford University was named in March to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

The honor roll recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities, CNCS said. This year’s honorees were announced at the American Council on Education’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

“We’re honored to receive this award,” said Tim Filbert, assistant director of Radford University’s Office of Community Engagement. “It recognizes the connections we’re making between learning on campus and learning through the wonderfully rich complexity of the communities of which we’re a part.”

Filbert said RU’s community service activities have affected the lives of hundreds of local young people in the past year.

CNCS is a federal agency that engages people in community service through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and the Social Innovation Fund.

By the numbers

150 RU students in academic service-learning experiences

6,000 hours working with youth

100+ schoolchildren tutored by students in mathematics

200 preschool children worked with RU students to develop early learning and social skills.

80 of those children were with the national Head Start program
The buzz started on campus when Radford University students learned Henry Winkler would be the keynote speaker at the 2013 McGlothlin Awards for Teaching Excellence. Though most were not even born when Winkler became a household name as The Fonz in the popular 1970s TV series “Happy Days,” they knew him from subsequent TV and movie roles.

The excitement went beyond the possibility of meeting a well-known actor, however. Winkler is known as a tireless advocate for those with learning challenges and those who teach them.

Winkler knows of the struggle firsthand. After a lifetime of trying to learn the way others thought he should, Winkler was diagnosed in his 30s with dyslexia. He was inspired to write a series of books based on the fictional character Hank Zipzer, a boy whose antics and challenges recall those of Winkler as a child.

Ahead of the McGlothlin event, held each spring at RU, students formed a book group to read and discuss the Zipzer series. The group was so impressed, its members wrote a list of the top 10 teaching lessons they learned from the books and presented the list to Winkler in the lobby of Preston Hall before the McGlothlin ceremony on April 18.

“The style of the list and some of the references within it relate directly to the book characters, events and writing style,” said Assistant Professor Patricia Talbot of RU’s College of Education and Human Development. She and Professor Betty Dore mentored the students and led the book group.

The project was a team effort. “We brainstormed across the group for about 24 hours until they comprised the list. It was quite a whirlwind of creativity,” Talbot recalled.

Students surprised Winkler with lessons learned.
The McGlothlin Awards for Teaching Excellence were established in 1999 by Tom McGlothlin, president of the Bristol-based McGlothlin Foundation and son of Sally Ann Cook, for whom RU’s Cook Hall is named. It is among the nation’s largest monetary awards honoring teachers.

Each year, two awards of $25,000 each go to educators from the Appalachian region of Virginia, Tennessee, West Virginia and Kentucky. Presented during the annual McGlothlin Celebration of Teaching on the RU campus, the awards go to one teacher from grades K-5 and one from grades 6-12. The winners must use $10,000 of the award for international travel to enrich their teaching.

The annual teaching awards are co-sponsored by the McGlothlin Foundation, Blue Ridge PBS, the Radford University College of Education and Human Development and the Radford University Foundation Inc. Several RU alumni have received first place: Jayanne Bridges ‘92; Elizabeth Campbell ‘95; Tamatha Farrell ‘95; Lisa Taylor, M.S. ‘05; and Steven Sizemore, M.S. ‘11.

Dore emphasized that, because the books were based on Winkler’s actual experiences, “it was a fantastic opportunity for the students to get an inside view of what some of the students in their own classrooms may be going through and why they act the way they do.”

The RU students were delighted by Winkler’s response. When they read their composition and presented him with a framed, printed version, he was surprised and seemed genuinely appreciative. “When Mr. Winkler said to us that he wished he had had teachers like us and that our future students were so lucky to have teachers as understanding as us, it truly touched my heart,” said junior Shannon Kessler, an elementary education major.

Student Meghan Ratcliffe said Winkler “had comments to say after every thing we said, which made me feel like he really enjoyed what we were doing.” The book discussions showed her that not all students learn the same way. “As educators, it is important to reach all students. I also learned that teachers really have to give our students grace and be there to encourage them.”

To read the list, go to www.radford.edu/magazine.

Winkler was keynote speaker at the McGlothlin Awards. Left to right: McGlothlin Foundation President Tom McGlothlin, President Kyle and Dean of the College of Education and Human Development Pat Shoemaker.
From its founding in the early 1900s, Radford University has placed a high value on the philanthropy and community service of its students, faculty and alumni. In the 2013 spring semester, one such cause caught the attention of the campus community: advocacy for the Wounded Warrior Project.

Founded in Roanoke in 2003, the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) has become one of America’s best-known and most-respected advocacy organizations. Through its own initiatives and by partnering with other charitable groups, WWP raises awareness of the needs of injured military veterans, helps those veterans to aid and assist each other, and provides them with programs and services.

Two particular events with Radford connections have benefited the WWP this year. Here are their stories.

**Pushing pedals is alumnus’ thank you**

By Ann H. Brown

Mechanicsville resident Carter Dages ’83 wanted to say “thank you” to America’s wounded warriors. To do so, he mapped out a bike path that follows the TransAmerica Trail to Oregon and then picks up the Western Express to San Francisco.

At the outset, Dages estimated it would take him three to four months to complete the ride. “Before embarking on the next chapter of my career, I now have the ability and the support of my family to dedicate my time and energy toward raising funds on behalf of this most worthy cause,” he said.

While working as the vice president and chief financial officer for Highway Service Ventures in Ashland, Dages shared building space with a U.S. Marine Corps Officer Recruiting Station. “I had ample opportunity to meet those enlisting and those who came back from service,” Dages said. “I was amazed and in awe of the parents dropping their kids off to serve.”

After 30 years working for himself and his family, Dages knew it was time to do something for others. In 2012, Highway Service Ventures was sold, and he saw the chance to begin his journey. Along the way, Dages stopped at locations of Rotary International, of which he is a member, to raise awareness of and solicit funds for his cause.

“The final compelling point for me, especially post-9/11, is that I think my freedoms, my way of life and my prosperity wouldn’t be what they are today if not for men and women who served,” he said. “The men and women who are wounded in battle surely had dreams and aspirations that may not be fulfilled, as mine have been, due to their injuries.”
In April, students on the Radford University campus embraced the WWP cause with the RU Ranger Club’s inaugural Warrior Games competition, a festival that brought hundreds of students, faculty and alumni together in a series of team challenges.

The purpose of the event, which the organization aims to make an annual affair, was to raise awareness of the Wounded Warrior Project “by inspiring Radford University students to give back to their nation’s heroes in an exciting and rewarding way,” said U.S. Army Capt. Chris Blanc, detachment officer in charge of military science at RU and Army ROTC scholarship and enrollment officer.

The Ranger Club, which provides ROTC cadets with an opportunity to train and gain experience outside of class, partnered with WWP to organize the event with the aim of engaging the RU campus and larger Radford community to raise awareness of the needs of injured and disabled military veterans across the country.

The 32 five-person teams competed in nine challenging events: the wire crossing, mechanical bull, pedestal joust, tug of war, slip and slide, cornhole tournament, obstacle course, tire flip and relay race. Ranger Club members and ROTC cadets were on hand to ensure the safety of participants and fans.

Students weren’t the only ones to join the fun. A team made up of faculty members from the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS) also took to the field. “Our leadership team is proud to have sponsored a faculty team in the Warrior Games,” said Kate Hawkins, dean of the college. “CHBS is the administrative home for RU’s ROTC program, but that’s not the only reason we sponsored a team. We sincerely respect and admire the commitment that America’s wounded warriors and those engaged with ROTC have made to defending freedom around the world.”

Despite thinking of themselves as a bit of comic relief for the day, the CHBS team did well in the tug-of-war, winning two out of three competitions, Hawkins said.

In addition to the Ranger Club, the RU chapters of Theta Chi and Alpha Sigma Tau co-sponsored the Warrior Games.

Theta Chi had already planned to sponsor an event benefiting WWP on its own, but when the fraternity heard about the Warrior Games, chapter President Jacob Edwards met with ROTC’s Blanc.

“Captain Blanc generously offered for Theta Chi to join the project and co-host the event,” Edwards said. “We never could have pulled off the outstanding undertaking that ROTC has strived for thus far. We were more than happy to throw in our support.”

The sisters of Alpha Sigma Tau were also eager to help out ROTC and the Wounded Warrior Project, said Olivia Hilton, noting that philanthropy is one of the uniting factors on campus.

“One of the main reasons we go Greek is to feel a part of something bigger and to contribute our share,” Hilton said. “We, as Greeks, strive to promote a better experience on Radford’s campus, and that includes being instrumental in offering programs that will fulfill those philanthropic goals and needs for the students.”
Future teacher can apply life’s lessons with help from Hattie M. Strong scholarship

By Ann H. Brown

Ginny Smith and her daughter Amyha spend special time together during Ginny’s busy semester.
Ginny Smith, an elementary education student at RU, was working through math problems with a fifth grade boy at Riverlawn Elementary School in Pulaski when he said, “I can’t.” She immediately felt connected with this child—she knew what he was experiencing. She said, “I know it’s hard. This is really hard. But there is a difference between ‘it’s hard’ and ‘I can’t.’ Those are two different things.”

Smith had just expressed her life’s theme to the young boy, passing along a philosophy that had gotten her through many difficulties. In the next several weeks, Smith saw the boy take initiative and start earning perfect scores on math exams. “I saw a rejuvenation of him. This was one of the proudest moments of my life,” she said.

There is a difference between ‘it’s hard’ and ‘I can’t.’

Smith grew up in the New River Valley but moved nine times while in elementary school as her family struggled to survive. While Smith was still in her senior year of high school, she became pregnant. “I was a single mom trying to provide for my daughter, Amyha. It was very difficult to make enough money to support us without a college degree.”

In 2009, Smith enrolled in Radford University’s elementary education program. “It was a lot

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About Hattie M. Strong

The Hattie M. Strong Foundation was incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1928. Its primary activity is the administration of a scholarship program aimed at college students enrolled in teacher-training programs at selected partnering institutions. It also administers a grant program in support of projects within the educational field, primarily in Washington, D.C., and usually limited to organizations that have been ruled tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code. The foundation’s current priority is to assist organizations that provide out-of-school-time programming.

Hattie M. Corrin, born in 1864, supported herself and her son by creating a combination hospital and hotel for gold miners in Alaska. She overcame challenges through her high energy, range of interest and ingenuity. To provide for herself and her son, she held a number of positions, including nurse, physician’s assistant, ticket agent and supervisor of a men’s club. In 1905, she married Henry Alvah Strong, the first president of Eastman Kodak Co., and dedicated the rest of her life to helping the less fortunate.
harder and demanded more of my time than community college,” she recalled. “It was a difficult adjustment, but one that seemed to be going relatively smoothly. However, during the last week of the semester, my best friend suddenly passed away on my daughter’s birthday. We were best friends since kindergarten. It devastated me.”

Smith withdrew from RU and took two years off, working as a preschool teacher in Christiansburg. This past semester Smith spent three full days in a fifth grade classroom at Riverlawn Elementary, and successfully completed four education classes scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays, all while taking care of her daughter who will turn 8 on Halloween. Then her schedule became even more intense the last two and a half weeks of the semester with being full time at Riverlawn five days a week. “My daughter has been so supportive up until this past semester, when I didn’t have as much time to spend with her. Financially we struggle, but I want to give her at least my time. Before, I would help out in her classroom and volunteer at school. But this semester I wasn’t able to. It was hard on both of us,” Smith said.

It was hard, but Smith knew she could reach her goal. “During the semester, I kept telling Amyha, ‘Only one month left, only two weeks left, hold on, Mommy has only one week left!’ And we made it!”

During the last week of the semester, she submitted an application packet for the Hattie M. Strong Foundation (HMSF) Scholarship. The $5,000 scholarship is given to a student teacher who has exhibited outstanding success and enthusiasm in field experience before the final year of the program, has financial need, and has at least a 3.0 grade-point average in the two semesters prior to the final year of the program. Since 2012, RU education students Stephanie Ryan, Daphne Walter, Brittany Williams and Meagan Funck have received the scholarship.

Smith said this scholarship has changed her life. “It has increased the amount of hope I have for my future. As a single mom, one thing going wrong can mess up so much. I’m so thankful for the money, support and their belief in my abilities.”

Smith will graduate in December 2013 and will be the first person in her family to finish college. “I know my daughter will remember my graduation day and be inspired to go to college.”

In fall 2013, Smith will be student teaching in a first grade class at Riverlawn Elementary. Thanks to the Hattie M. Strong Foundation, she will use her personal experiences, her passion for teaching and her love of children to benefit others. “I will be able to encourage those who may think they can’t do it,” she said. “I know it’s hard, but they can do it. I did.”
Delegate Crockett-Stark ‘69, M.S ‘79, is retiring, but the legend will endure

By Chad Osborne

Mention the name Annie B. to nearly anyone in Southwest Virginia, and you most likely will get a smile in return, and a darn good story.

Pardon my salty words, as the lady herself might say.
The magazine of Radford University

Annie B., as she is affectionately known to almost everyone, has devoted much of her leadership talent to her hometown of Wytheville and Wythe County. And, for the past eight years, she has blazed a purple streak across Richmond, serving as a member of Virginia's House of Delegates for the 6th District.

Earlier this year, Annie B. decided that, at age 71, it was time for her to step down from politics. She will retire in January when her term expires, but the decision didn’t come easily.

A lifetime of service

Anne B. Crockett-Stark began her political career in 1978 when she became the first woman elected to the Wytheville Town Council. She ran because she wanted to get wheelchair ramps installed at schools in the town, including her school, Scott Memorial Elementary. There was a young girl there who suffered from osteogenesis imperfecta tarda, a congenital bone disorder, and Annie B. wanted to help her.

Annie B. said being the only woman on the town council was an uphill struggle at times—“they didn’t know what to do with me”—but she overcame obstacles by putting forth extra effort.

Later, she had entertained the idea of running for mayor of Wytheville, but “I married him instead,” she said, laughing again while referring to her late husband Carl Stark.

She resigned from town council in 1982 when the two were married, continuing to work as an educator and guidance counselor, raising her two daughters from her first marriage and earning a master’s degree in community college counseling.

Annie B. remained active in the community. She’s proud of being one of the co-founders of Wytheville’s Chautauqua Festival, now in its 29th year. She’s also a charter member of a women’s community service organization, now called the Links Club, and she has served as liturgist for Lutheran Mountain Ministry.

However, Annie B. could not stay out of politics. In 1999, folks asked her to run for the Wythe County Board of Supervisors.

“I ran and I won,” she said. In 2003, she became the first female county chair in Wythe County.

“I think women can have a different perspective on issues sometimes,” Annie B. said, recalling her days on the board of supervisors. She told of the time she questioned how housing appraisals were carried out in her county. “After I asked for and never received an invitation to follow them for a day to see how they do things, they finally told me the houses were picked at random,” she said.

Born to run... for office

One reason Annie B. ran for a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates was to follow a childhood dream. That dream is understandable considering she grew up in a family of politicians, and her grandfather, Samuel R. Crockett, served in the House of Delegates in 1936-37 and 1940-41.

“I always wanted to follow in his footsteps,” Annie B. noted with pride.

Her father, James E. Crockett, also was a politician, serving as Wythe County’s clerk of the court for 26 years and on the county’s board of supervisors. He also was a magistrate.

Her brother, Sam, is the Wythe County treasurer, and her sister Susan was the county clerk in Wichita, Kan., for four years.

Her other brother, James E. Crockett Jr., known as “Sonny,” was a dentist and an at-large member of the Wythe County Board of Supervisors.

“Politics is in our blood,” Annie B. said of her family’s public service tradition. As usually is the case, she followed with a joke. “There’s been a Crockett in politics here since Wythe County was formed in 1790, reprobates, most of them, I’m sure.”

Anne B. Crockett-Stark ’69, M.S. ’79, embraces life and family, in this case nephew Jay Crockett.
When you see Annie B., you may think she’s a fan of pop icon Prince. There’s always a hint of purple in her wardrobe.

Some folks say purple is her favorite color, but as Annie B. tells it, there’s much more to the story. “What really happened was, I used to bleach my hair white in the 60s,” she began. “Lo and behold, the first day of my teaching job I had been to Hungry Mother (State Park in Marion) in a purple bikini, purple scarf, and one my children went out in the water too far.”

Of course, Annie B. ran into the lake to rescue her child. “I had just bleached my hair—and we’re talking, what, 50 years ago—and it soaked up the dye. I could not get it out.”

From Hungry Mother Park she went to her beautician, who “scrubbed it down to a light lavender,” she said. Her mother, who had made clothes for Annie B. since she was a child, took action toward accessorizing her daughter’s new ‘do.

“‘My third husband, (Doc) loved purple,’ she said. “All that’s on our tombstone, except for the town seal for him and county seal for me, on the top it says, ‘We live life in deep purple.’”

A strong family work ethic

Annie B. credits her work ethic to her mother and father, who made their two girls and two boys work around the house and at her grandmother’s farm.

Annie B. applied the same family work ethic when it came to her education. She dropped out of high school, but later completed her studies and graduated seventh in her class. While living in Myrtle Beach, S.C., with her first husband, Annie B. worked as a waitress and saved her tips in a sock. “I didn’t believe in banks,” she said.

Her mother had her ways of helping, babysitting the kids while Annie B. concentrated on her studies and occasionally “accidentally” cooking one too many pot roasts and sharing it with Annie B. and her daughters.

Working 8 days a week

During her eight years in Richmond, Annie B. has served her constituents on the Counties, Cities and Towns Committee, where she chairs a subcommittee; and the committees of Science and Technology, and Health, Welfare and Institutions. Her district includes all of Wythe and Carroll counties, parts of Smyth County and the towns of Saltville and Marion. During her first six years in office, she represented all of Bland and parts of Tazewell, Giles, Pulaski and Wythe counties.

Annie B. is well known through a YouTube video in which she tells a story about one of her constituents, an 82 year-old woman who encountered an intruder in her home. The video displays Annie B.’s passion for the Castle Doctrine. Look it up, and listen for the line, “Do you want to eat breakfast with the devil?”

Annie B. said she is most proud of introducing a bill that established a crisis and emergency management plan for higher education institutions across the Commonwealth.

She has also introduced bills involving eminent domain, absentee voting for people 65 and older, and the Virginia Retirement System.

“I like this job because of all the interesting things I’ve learned and all the people I’ve met,” she said. “There are things I never realized the state does for its people. In the House, you don’t have the luxury of just concentrating on education or on just health and welfare. You have to be involved in it all.”

Danny Gordon, a longtime radio personality in Wytheville, has known Annie B. since she was a middle school guidance counselor.

“Nobody will work as long and hard as she did in the House of Delegates, and we’ve had some great ones,” Gordon said. “Because she took the time and had the passion, every day she was doing something for her constituents.”

The right time

“In my heart, I knew it was time for me to quit. I’m not sure what God has in mind for me,” she said. “I think some people don’t step aside soon enough.”
Alumni return for Winter Jam homecoming

Aaron McDowell ’10 enjoys a basketball game.

Left to right, Shannon Woodfin ’06 and Jenny Fugate show Highlander spirit.

Professor Ginger Burgraff, left, celebrates the 40th anniversary of the School of Nursing with friends.

Nenita Fisher-Cromer ’92, right, enjoys Highlander Hoopla with a friend.

Alumnae meet up at the alumni hoops game.

Robin Brooks ’90 and Dale Brooks celebrate at Highlander Hoopla.

Alumnae meet up at the alumni hoops game.

Left to right, RU supporters and fans George Harvey and Peggy Cirelli ’51.

Greeks raised funds for Southwest Virginia Special Olympics at the Polar Plunge.
Alumni Homecoming Winter Jam, held March 1–2, was an occasion of celebration. RU alumni, friends and guests found ample opportunities to reminisce on the old and celebrate the new with everything from reunions, classroom lectures and a gala to basketball games, a sorority anniversary and the infamous Polar Plunge. A highlight was the 40th anniversary of the School of Nursing featuring guest speaker President Kyle and alumni Elizabeth Merwin ’76, executive vice dean of Duke University’s School of Nursing.
Floyd County Teacher of the Year
Lisa Bolt ’02

By Bonnie Erickson

“I was named Floyd County Teacher of the Year, and I am now competing at the regional level. Radford University gave me a solid foundation to begin my teaching career. My experiences at Radford helped shape me as a teacher, and I continue to take classes to learn the newest techniques that I can apply in my classroom. I learned at Radford that you need to continue your education throughout your life to help you become the best educator you can be.”

in 1913—before microwaves, iPhones, Kindles and drive-through dining—parents in Southwest Virginia whose daughters aspired to be teachers proudly sent them off to college. There was little need to ask which college; it would be the State Normal and Instructional School of Women in Radford.

In the century since, Radford has gone through several name changes, gone coed and expanded its mission, but one principle has stayed the same. As the school’s first president, John Preston McConnell, stated, “Good teaching required good courses, whether it prepares teachers for rural or city schools.”

Pat Shoemaker, current dean of Radford University’s College of Education and Human Development, reflected recently that, in the 25 years since she joined Radford as a faculty member, the School of Teacher Education and Leadership has changed and grown tremendously, expanding from about 300 students to more than 800, served by more than 60 faculty and staff members. It now boasts multiple university and school grant and research initiatives.

“Throughout this growth, the school has also increased focus on individual candidate-centered, candidate-supported professional development,” Shoemaker said. “I believe the ‘partner school model,’ which supports collaboration between school and university faculty in designing, implementing, and evaluating programs, has been a major reason for the success of our programs and our candidates.”

Employers hiring RU graduates often say they perform like more experienced teachers, Shoemaker said. “In addition to being well prepared, follow-up studies show that RU candidates are more likely than other first-year hires in the state to stay in the profession.”
RU’s reputation as the ideal place to pursue education-oriented careers is evidenced by its ranking as one of the top teacher preparation programs in the U.S. The National Council on Teacher Quality ranked RU eighth in the category of Institutions Housing Multiple Strong Programs, receiving 3 out of 4 stars. The success of our alumni speaks for itself.

Katrina Cometa ’79, Teacher of the Year in Pulaski County.

Jeanne Dunaway ’83, appointed principal of Madison County Elementary School in Gurley, Ala.

Catherine Berry, M.S. ’86, an assistant superintendent in the Wake County, N.C., school system.

Gina Patterson ’91 will serve as leader of the Virginia School Boards Association, a public education advocacy group based in Charlottesville.

Jayanne Kellam Bridges ’92 was one of three Eastern Shore Community College graduates recognized as distinguished alumni. Bridges earned her associate degree from Eastern Shore and her bachelor's degree from RU. She is a former winner of a McGlothlin Award for Teaching Excellence.

Wendy Bolt, M.S. ’95, appointed vice president for enrollment and student services at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College in Ohio.

Kateri Layne ’01, Teacher of the Year at Sycamore Park School in Culpeper.

Justin Iroler, M.S. ’05, appointed principal of Galax High School.

Joseph Yost ’06, M.A. ’08, 12th District Delegate in the Virginia General Assembly, honored as 2013 legislative champion of the year. He serves on the House of Delegates’ Education Committee, which addresses issues concerning K-12 and higher education.

Kathy Barton ’12, Bedford County Teacher of the Year. She teaches fourth grade at Thaxton Elementary School in Thaxton.

Rick Menear ’12, appointed principal at Piney Grove Middle School in Stokes County, N.C.

Editor’s note: This list comprises awards and promotions reported to the university and the School of Teacher Education and Leadership. If you or a colleague has been recognized, please send details to alumni@radford.edu for inclusion in a future edition of The Magazine of Radford University.
RU grants exceed $5 million dollar mark

RU’s faculty members go above and beyond in their scholarship and research and they have the grants to prove it. During the 2013 fiscal year, RU faculty members have been awarded a total of more than $5.3 million from external sources to fund research, travel and educational outreach programs across the commonwealth, the country and the world.

$250,000
Laura Jacobsen and Agida Manizade
Secondary Mathematics Professional Development Center
This project supports high school teachers to improve their mathematics content, pedagogy, and assessment of high school math.

$292,343
Veronica Lewis
Student Support Services
Grant money supports Project SUCCESS which aims to enhance academic skills, develop leadership potential, assist with financial literacy planning, encourage graduate school education, and support cultural enrichment activities in a comfortable, relaxed environment. The office operates under the umbrella of the Federal TRIO programs and is financially supported by the United States Department of Education.

$612,283
Virginia Burggraf
Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship HRSA 12-062
Radford University’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) program will use the grant to help support 10 full-time and 20 part-time students. The grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through its Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship, which supports advanced nursing education specialty programs.

$714,504
Bill Kennan and Joseph Scartelli
Residential Governor’s School Cost Proposal
The grant supported RU’s fourth annual hosting of nearly 400 of the Commonwealth’s most talented high school students attending the Virginia Summer Residential Governor’s Schools in the Humanities and the Visual and Performing Arts.

$1,011,488
Kenna Colley, Ginni Bussey and Leslie McArthur-Fox
Training and Technical Assistance Center
The TTAC at Radford University serves public schools, teachers, students and parents of Southwest Virginia through assistance that brings about systematic change in the way schools serve children and youth. TTAC services are provided primarily through embedded professional development.
**RU faculty put grants to work worldwide**

By Dan Waidelich

Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. “It is a wonderful thing for her and for our campus,” Minner said.

The program operates in more than 155 countries worldwide. Baker is one of about 1,100 U.S. faculty members and other professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program in 2013-14.

**Math education continues to flourish**

Closer to home, the Virginia Department of Education awarded a $250,000 grant in March to Radford University faculty members Laura Jacobsen, associate professor of education, and Agida Manizade, assistant professor of mathematics, for the Secondary Mathematics Professional Development Center project. Supported by the Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition, the project is designed for high school teachers interested in improving their knowledge for teaching algebra and statistics, Jacobsen said.

As part of the program, 16 high school teachers can participate in a two-week program through NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts. The program focuses on innovative design and simulation-based engineering and science (SBE&S) and prepares the teachers with the resources to incorporate SBE&S into their courses.

RU mathematics professors can collaborate with NASA scientists to incorporate science, technology, engineering and mathematics applications into RU’s applied statistics, mathematical modeling and Euclidean and non-Euclidean geometry courses.

Pat Shoemaker, dean of RU’s College of Education and Human Development, said, “Our college takes great pride knowing that Laura and Agida are leading this extensive project and impacting how high school teachers are teaching math across the state.”

The grant is the fourth in four years awarded by the Virginia Department of Education to Jacobsen and Manizade for related projects. “Teachers and their students across the commonwealth benefit from the dedication of Dr. Jacobsen and Dr. Manizade to graduate mathematics education,” said Sandra Moore, director of RU’s School of Teacher Education and Leadership. “We are fortunate to have both of these distinguished women at Radford University.”

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**Professor of English receives Fulbright**

On the global stage, English Professor Moira P. Baker, director of the Women’s Studies Program, was awarded a Fulbright Scholar Grant to lecture at J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek in Croatia during the 2013-14 academic year. The grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, was extended for Baker’s project “Toward a Writing-centered Pedagogy: Writing to Learn and Learning to Write in the American Studies Classroom Abroad.”

President Kyle said, “As a director of a bi-national Fulbright Foundation Board, I am particularly aware of the Fulbright Program’s prestige. I am especially pleased and proud that another member of our Radford faculty has been named as a Fulbright Scholar.”

“This program was created over 66 years ago and is the flagship international education exchange program sponsored by the U.S.,” Kyle said. “This recognition is, indeed, an honor for Moira and for Radford University. She will now forever be known as a Fulbrighter!”

Baker cited key advocates for her Fulbright application process, including RU Department of English Chair Rosemary Guruswamy, Dean of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences Kate Hawkins and Provost Sam Minner.

“Moira is a great choice for this,” Minner said. “I supported her application, and I was thrilled to hear that she was accepted.”
Music Therapy makes hearts sing

By Dan Waidelich

Eric Stachelski had simple instructions for the students at the alternative high school where he used to teach music: Pick up an instrument and play.

With no boundaries or rules about what sounds they could make, the small ensemble of students improvised. The songs could be loud, aggressive or repetitive. It didn’t matter, as long as they created the music together. For a group labeled “at risk,” the music provided an opportunity to learn appropriate social behavior, social integration and positive emotional expression.

“We discussed what the music we created might mean or how it made us feel,” he said. “We discussed how to change the music to create different moods. We discussed being a leader, giving support, creating unity in the group and many other issues that would come up. It was through experiencing active music-making in a group that they could gain insight about themselves.”

Stachelski, originally from Chicago, is a graduate student in the master’s degree program in music therapy at Radford University, the only public institution in Virginia to offer a music therapy program. His work with students at the alternative high school in Blacksburg and with developmentally challenged children in Montgomery County Public Schools illustrates the clinical work that can be done by music therapists, each a special mixture of musician, counselor and caregiver.

At its heart, music therapy is the use of music and music experiences to address the specific therapeutic needs of people with disabilities. Music therapy is used to help people with conditions such as physical disabilities, learning and autism spectrum disorders, and people with substance-abuse and addiction issues.

“Music therapists do not just sing songs or play instruments. Music therapists use all aspects of...”

Music Therapy at Radford
A history

The story of music therapy at Radford started in the early 1980s, when institutions nationally were embracing the field as an academic discipline. “As high school students started looking at programs, they would see music therapy and say, ‘Oh, that’s a new thing,’ so there was a lot of interest that way,” Borling said.

In 1981, RU’s Department of Music, then chaired by Gene Fellin, hired Joseph Scartelli, who had recently received his Ph.D. in music education with a music therapy emphasis from the University of Miami.

“I chose to come to Radford because they wanted somebody to come in and write a program from scratch,” said Scartelli, now dean of RU’s College of Visual and Performing Arts. “When I came to Radford, Gene Fellin assigned me my teaching load, and in my spare time I had to establish clinical sites. I wrote up my proposals to get the program approved with the National Association of Schools of Music and with the National Association for Music Therapy (now the American Music Therapy Association).”

For more than 30 years, Jim Borling, professor of music and the director of music therapy at Radford University, has used music to help people heal themselves. For the past two decades, he has become further known for his use of music therapy process in the treatment of addiction. He has published several textbook chapters on the subject.

Continued on page 23
Callie Dupree, a senior music major from Lynchburg with concentrations in music therapy and percussion, discovered music therapy as a high school student and knew it was for her. Since Radford is still the only public institution in the state with a music therapy program, it was a natural choice.

“The faculty here at RU is amazing,” Dupree said. “The professors are always willing and ready to help and answer any questions you may have. The other students in the program are also very helpful.”

Dupree’s clinical interest is the treatment of children with developmental disabilities. She has provided music therapy services in local schools, ranging from basic instrument playing and movement activities with pre-K students at Radford’s McHarg Elementary School to the therapeutic analysis, rewriting and digital rerecording of popular songs with students at Radford High School.

“My particular pride of what we’ve built when I go to conferences and I see that this program can hold its own against any program in the country,” Scartelli said.

Today, RU offers both a Bachelor of Music with a concentration in music therapy and a Master of Science in Music with a concentration in music therapy. Undergraduate students not only receive intense training but also study in depth the behavioral and natural sciences (such as psychology, anatomy and physiology) and sociology. Because music therapy frequently has applications for a wide range of people with psychological, physical, emotional, social or cognitive challenges, the curriculum is structured to provide an intensive coverage of these areas throughout the four-year program.
Counseling through tunes

When Brent Beeson ’10, M.S. ’12, ditched his suit-and-tie career to study music therapy, Radford University was his choice. Now Beeson is the activity director and music therapist at Adult Day Services at Virginia Tech, a program that provides personal care, health monitoring, meals and therapeutic activities for older adults.

Why did you become a music therapist?

It’s a second career for me. I was a commercial lender in banking for 15 years. I always liked the people side of the banking, but the administrative side and some of the practices where you’re trying to boil everybody down to a number or a credit score didn’t really represent life very honestly. There was more going on with my customers than just their financials, and my creativity was not encouraged. I still wanted to work with people but work with them in a more direct way. I had started playing guitar in sixth grade and played saxophone and bass in high school. I did band and chorus and different types of musicals and then thought I had to get a real job, so I got a finance degree. I came to find the creative spirit of the profession I’m in now was there, but it was stifled when I was a banker. As I started to work as a music therapist, I found those reasons, which were sort of selfish in terms of me doing something I enjoyed more, are not the primary reason I do what I do. It’s much more about working with the clients. It’s rewarding to be able to work with them through music to achieve goals that are beneficial to them.

What does your current job entail?

This center serves 15 to 18 seniors every day, and I plan their therapeutic activities. Part of it, because we’re at Tech, is that we have students coming through. Whenever the main semesters are going on, we have field study students in the human development department who will come and do 10 or 20 hours on the floor a week for the semester. We have a program where the undergraduate music therapy students from Radford come over. They do group therapy, and I supervise them. A good part of my job during a semester is to supervise and train students to provide therapy. Being a music therapist, I provide some group therapy myself. When the student side of things is working well, it frees me up to provide some individual music therapy. That can range from working with people that have advanced dementia and who need more anxiety and stress relief to people who are still fairly high-functioning but may have a lot of grief and loss issues.

How did you find your way to Radford University?

Jim Borling turned out to be the reason I would be at Radford. When I first went to meet him, I was on my lunch hour at the bank, and I showed up in my shirt and tie. He must have thought, “Wow, this guy wants to be a music therapist?” Over time, he has not just been the program director and an excellent teacher but sort of a father figure to me. I did my undergraduate internship at the Veterans Administration hospital in Salem, and in addition to working with people who were there for medical reasons, I did work with groups on the psychiatric ward and the substance-abuse unit. Those are pretty intense places to be. The undergraduate degree sort of trains you to generally go in and lead a group, but to be able to do work at the level it needs to be done in that setting? You don’t really have that until you go through the graduate process. That was my motivation for going back to a graduate program, and I knew the Radford graduate program focuses on counseling in music therapy, which not all programs do.
The teamwork and initiative of eight Radford University undergraduate science students has earned them a grant to develop an affordable water purification system with global potential.

“To clean water of deadly stuff, we’re transforming simple sugars with common chemicals and combining the resultant carbon nanoparticles with sand, a ubiquitous material,” said Dennis Godward, a senior chemistry major.

The College of Science and Technology (CSAT) team of chemistry and geology students—Elizabeth Crook, Madelein Ford, James Freeman, Dennis Godward, Jacob Shelton, Craig Slate, Matt Sublett and Rebekah Webster—was selected from more than 45 collegiate teams that won Phase I grants of $15,000 for this year’s People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) competition, hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in April in Washington, D.C.

“This project is an example of interdisciplinary research with real-world applications,” said Chemistry Professor Francis Webster, a project investigator along with Chemistry Professor Cindy Burkhardt. “The team worked days, nights and weekends for the past year and competed successfully with graduate and undergraduate researchers from top research institutions across the nation.”

Their objective was to design and develop a sustainable technology to protect people’s health and the environment while promoting economic development. The RU team developed a synthetic humic acid material as an inexpensive adsorbent that can remove water pollutants, including arsenic, heavy metals and organic contaminants, while improving existing sand filtration technology.

J. Orion Rogers, dean of the College of Science and Technology, said, “Dr. Webster and the chemistry department faculty members are the embodiment of what Radford University does best. They take motivated students to places they never imagined they could go intellectually and achieve success they never dreamed was possible.”

“The results and applications from this project and the experience of conducting and presenting their research will enable these students to solve even bigger scientific problems as graduate students and professional scientists,” Rogers said.

Joining RU as winners of this year’s P3 awards are teams from Loyola University of Chicago, University of Massachusetts Lowell, San Jose State, Georgia Southern University and two teams from Cornell University. This year’s competition featured about 300 student innovators showcasing their projects before a panel of expert judges convened by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
**Passion, experience and work ethic**

By Mike Ashley ‘83

Used with permission from Play by Play magazine

Mike McGuire is in a new job closer to home thanks to some old lessons learned back at home.

Perhaps McGuire’s rapid ascent in the world of college women’s basketball coaching can best be attributed to some of the old school values and valuable relationships forged on the playing field and basketball courts of his Vinton home.

“A big part of why I’m coaching now is because of all the coaches I had growing up in the Vinton area,” he says from his new office, the one reserved for the head women’s basketball coach at Radford University. “They all just had a tremendous impact on me—teaching me the game, teaching me how to compete, and life lessons. Not only did I learn a lot but we also had some success and I just really enjoyed the competitive part of it. Those experiences have obviously been a big part of my life and why I’m in coaching and why I wanted to work with young people.”

Named RU’s eighth women’s basketball coach on April 24, McGuire is actually in his second go-round in the valley on top of the mountain. He left William Byrd High School in 1995 to play baseball for the Highlanders but that didn’t take, mostly because McGuire’s heart has always been on the hardwoods.

“He showed a lot of leadership qualities, not only in basketball but also within the school in everything he did,” recalls his Byrd basketball coach Paul Bernard. “He was kind of a leader and a role model the way he carried himself and the way he worked, and that’s why he was such a great point guard for us. We were very successful with him leading us.”

Bryan Harvey, who had guided McGuire in AAU play when McGuire was just 14, was coaching the girls basketball team at Glenvar and the boys junior varsity back when the girls played in the fall and the boys played in the winter.

“(Harvey) called me and said I should think about coaching,” says McGuire. “He said why don’t you come out and see how we practice, how we do things and maybe you can help with the boys JV team in the winter.”

And the rest is history.

“I started hanging out for a couple of weeks and I was hooked,” McGuire admits. “From that winter on, I was 20-years-old and I was hooked. I’ve been coaching ever since.”

Harvey, now a three-time USA South Conference Coach of the Year at Ferrum, had begun his coaching career as an undergrad and like Bernard, he saw a lot of the right stuff in McGuire to help want to launch his career. “He’s very focused and driven,” says Harvey.

When the William Byrd girls head job came open that offseason, one of McGuire’s former baseball coaches, Gary Walthall, now the athletic director there, came calling with McGuire’s first varsity head job. “I was 25 years old, and he gave me my first head coaching job,” says McGuire. “I played for him and Rodney Spradlin at Byrd, and they both taught me so much. Continued on page 28

Radford played women’s basketball for 17 years before ever suffering a losing season, and the Lady Highlanders won nine of the first 10 Big South titles before Liberty began a seemingly annual ascension to the crown and the automatic NCAA berth.

Women’s basketball coaching legend Pat Barrett forged the program with local stars like Charlene Curtis from William Fleming, Nan Millner from Martinsville, Cindy Warring and Lynn Richmond from Cave Spring, Pebbles Maynard from Franklin County and then followed with Patrinda Toney, once the Big South’s all-time scorer, from Bassett, Patti Fisher from Northside and Rebecca McNeil from Christiansburg.
Roanoke native Mike McGuire has women’s basketball poised for greatness
McGuire was named state Coach of the Year, Regional Coach of the Year and River Ridge Coach of the Year in 2007 and 2008. He bumped his high school coaching record up to 105-52, going 55-5 at Hidden Valley with a lineup that included Abby Oliver, Abby Redick, and Kylee Beecher, who all earned Division I scholarships, and turns out, opened up the Division I basketball door for their coach, too.

In recruiting Oliver to Richmond, coach Mike Shafer became interested in McGuire, as well. After an assistant who had been recruiting Oliver left, Shafer called McGuire to make sure Oliver was okay with the change and still committed to the Spiders. Then he offered McGuire the job that had just opened.

“I was floored,” recalls McGuire. “I never expected to make that move. I thought maybe after high school coaching I would move into administration or maybe be a high school athletic director or something like that. But, I was 30, and I was thinking, ‘Shoot, I need to try this.’”

Now McGuire had to make a big adjustment. He would come to love his time at Richmond—and why not, the Spiders were 91-50, with three 20-win seasons while he was there—and Shafer was generous in giving his assistants opportunities to branch out and have a hand in all aspects of the program.

“The game doesn’t really change,” he says of moving to college. “It’s faster and a little more physical but that was actually fun seeing the women play at such a high level. In terms of getting used to being on the road by yourself recruiting or staying in hotel rooms, that was tough.”

McGuire got the hang of it. In 2012, The National Women’s Basketball Insider named him one of the top 14 mid-major assistant coaches in the country for his role as recruiting coordinator, schedule-maker and academic mentor, in addition to the other coaching nuts and bolts he so ably performed.

‘An understated competence’

Radford athletic director Robert Lineburg, a former long-time college basketball assistant himself (and also a Radford-to-Roanoke transfer as a player), likes to point out how thorough the Highlanders were in their vetting of a new coach for a program that once ruled the Big South Conference, but hasn’t had a title since 1996.

“I interviewed 17 people for that job,” he says. “Mike was very, very sure of himself, sure of who he is and it came across to me that he knows exactly how he wants to play and the type of kid he wants in the program.”

McGuire remembers learning basketball and baseball, first from his father, Charles, and then baseball under Vinton coaching legend Ricky Carr, whose son, Chris, a McGuire teammate at Byrd and Radford, today guides the Terriers’ varsity nine. Walthall, Spradlin, and Bernard chipped in, too, and each has a part in McGuire’s journey to a dream job.

“I’m not here today without those kinds of influences,” he says.

“This is going to be a critical summer for us to get to know the kids and work to put them in position
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The Magazine of Radford University is the university publication for alumni, faculty, staff and friends of RU. Published twice a year by the university, the magazine presents a rich medley of feature stories, news and vibrant photography that keeps readers informed of developments on campus—from faculty research initiatives and alumni accomplishments to student and academic life.

You can view the online version to include multimedia and bonus content at www.radford.edu/magazine.

Back to the Future

Radford was still winning championships and going to the NCAA Tournament when McGuire was a student at the school. He remembers watching the team practice and the way eclectic former coach Luby Lichonczak pushed them hard in practice. Expect to see that style again.

But McGuire knows rebuilding the once-great program is about more than just the hard work on the hardwoods. He first gravitated to the women’s game because he liked the way basketball fundamentals play a bigger role in how the game unfolds, rather than just the raw athleticism that rules the men’s game. He has stayed in women’s coaching because it can be more rewarding.

“I think the women are more open than the guys,” says someone who has X’ed and O’ed in both locker rooms. “I learned awhile back that a big piece for the women is acceptance. They all want to be accepted and get along, and feel they have a role. The relationship piece with the women’s game is really, really good. It’s something I’ve really enjoyed and look forward to see where it can lead in 20, 30 years down the road. It should be fun.”

McGuire could bring in four new players next year, and five in 2015, so he can change the face of the program and as he works on the culture right now. He also didn’t waste time assembling a staff, hiring a couple with local ties, too. First well-respected Fran Recchia, who played at Virginia Tech and was head coach at William Byrd, will be recruiting coordinator. Abby Oliver was hired last month as Director of Basketball Operations, teaming with McGuire for a fourth time if you count AAU competition.

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The Highlanders have only three players taller than 5-9 (including 6-2 Roanoker La-She’ Walker) and not much proven punch in the paint. McGuire is thinking about extending his defense and taking advantage of some athleticism on the 11-player roster. He’s going to demand more intensity and effort, and from an initial scan of video from last year, he thinks he has some pieces with which to work.

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Radford was still winning championships and going to the NCAA Tournament when McGuire was a student at the school. He remembers watching the team practice and the way eclectic former coach Luby Lichonczak pushed them hard in practice. Expect to see that style again.

But McGuire knows rebuilding the once-great program is about more than just the hard work on the hardwoods. He first gravitated to the women’s game because he liked the way basketball fundamentals play a bigger role in how the game unfolds, rather than just the raw athleticism that rules the men’s game. He has stayed in women’s coaching because it can be more rewarding.

“I think the women are more open than the guys,” says someone who has X’ed and O’ed in both locker rooms. “I learned awhile back that a big piece for the women is acceptance. They all want to be accepted and get along, and feel they have a role. The relationship piece with the women’s game is really, really good. It’s something I’ve really enjoyed and look forward to see where it can lead in 20, 30 years down the road. It should be fun.”

McGuire could bring in four new players next year, and five in 2015, so he can change the face of the program and as he works on the culture right now. He also didn’t waste time assembling a staff, hiring a couple with local ties, too. First well-respected Fran Recchia, who played at Virginia Tech and was head coach at William Byrd, will be recruiting coordinator. Abby Oliver was hired last month as Director of Basketball Operations, teaming with McGuire for a fourth time if you count AAU competition.
The Magazine of Radford University

Returning to their roots

Left to right: Fran Recchia, Brett Self, Mike McGuire, Britney Anderson and Abby Oliver

Women’s basketball coaching staff includes many familiar faces

By Brian Cox

When RU Athletics Director Robert Lineburg introduced Mike McGuire as the seventh head coach of Radford women’s basketball, he cited McGuire’s ties to Southwest Virginia as one of the reasons he chose the Vinton native.

When McGuire hired his staff, its members too were strongly rooted in Southwest Virginia.

He did not have to look far for his first hire. Serving the 2012-13 season as the top assistant coach at Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tenn., Fran Recchia returns to the Radford women’s basketball coaching staff, where she was on staff from 2010 to 2012.

“Fran’s return brings so many positives to our program in terms of her familiarity with the university, the Big South Conference and recruiting the Commonwealth of Virginia,” said McGuire.

After spending one season away, Recchia returns to the area where she has been a familiar face since her playing days at Virginia Tech in 2001. In addition to her role as the Highlanders’ recruiting coordinator, Recchia will be responsible for perimeter player development, scouting, academics and will serve as the compliance liaison.

Although McGuire’s next hire, Brett Self, did not have ties to the area, that did not deter McGuire from bringing the Pintlala, Ala., native on board.

“Brett is a young, passionate coach I have known for a few years now,” McGuire said. “I have watched him on the road over the past three years and admired his work ethic. He has high integrity and is one I will rely on heavily with different aspects of our program.”

Self has tasted success at Belmont, Wagner and Auburn. At RU, Self will serve as the scouting coordinator. His other primary duties will be post player development, recruiting, academics and scheduling.

A local standout in girls basketball at Blacksburg High School and later at Virginia Tech, Britney Anderson was given her first college coaching opportunity by McGuire, who followed her closely during her playing days at Blacksburg High School. “She is a great communicator and has a great presence about her. She will relate well to our student-athletes, and I am excited about her as a recruiter as well,” McGuire said.

At Radford, Anderson will serve as the community service and camp coordinator, along with wing player development. In addition, she will assist in recruiting and scouting.

Anderson starred as a forward for the Virginia Tech women’s basketball team from 2003-07. She guided the Hokies to three NCAA Tournament appearances (2004-06) and a WNIT appearance in 2007.

Having spent the past six-plus years together at Hidden Valley High School and the University of Richmond, McGuire and new director of women’s basketball operations, Abby Oliver, look to continue their winning combination.

“I had the opportunity to coach Abby for six years and think the world of her. She has always been a tireless worker with an uncommon passion for basketball and competing,” McGuire said.

Oliver had a stellar playing career at Richmond, leading the Spiders to the WNIT each of her four years. In addition to leading the Atlantic 10 Conference in scoring her senior season (16.5 points per game), the first-team all-conference selection was the NCAA Division I Free Throw champion (94 percent) and the 2011-12 University of Richmond Athlete of the Year.

The Roanoke native ended her decorated career as the program’s seventh leading scorer, dropping in 1,488 points. She played for Elizur Netanya in Israel this past year.

McGuire inherits eight returnees off a squad that finished 16-14 overall and 9-9 in Big South play. The Highlanders earned the sixth seed for the 2013 VisitMyrtleBeach.com Big South Women’s Basketball Tournament and advanced to the semifinals for the second straight year.
The Radford University Department of Athletics vision is to strive to be a national program through all sports by consistently competing for conference championships, participating in post-season play, and earning recognition as one of the premier athletics programs in the Big South Conference.

Highlander Athletics is embarking on a project to renovate the men’s and women’s basketball locker rooms at the Dedmon Center. These new facilities will offer our student-athletes lounges, new lockers and benches, and an updated design to the decades-old facility. The renovated locker rooms will be a signature piece for the recruitment of the best and brightest prospective student-athletes.

**The fundraising goal for the project is $150,000.**

You can play an integral role in taking RU’s basketball programs to the next level of excellence. As we move forward to a new era in Highlander basketball, please consider making a gift to the Radford Basketball Capital Projects Fund.

*Gifts of any size directly impact the success of Highlander Basketball.*

For more information about the Radford Men’s and Women’s Basketball Locker Room Project, contact Ja’Marcus Hampton at (540) 831-6236 or jhampton5@radford.edu.
With cash, prizes and national recognition on the line, college fishing is a sophisticated submarine hunt with big bass as the quarry. The Fishing Club, one of RU’s 21 sports clubs, competes at the highest levels of collegiate fishing and has enjoyed success, as well as the quest for the big ones.

In June 2012, Brett Meyn and Blaine Chitwood, representing Radford University, won the National Guard FLW College Fishing Northern Conference event on North Carolina’s Kerr Lake by a mere ounce with five bass weighing 10 pounds, 7 ounces. The victory earned the team $5,000.

Wind gusting up to 15 miles per hour, Meyn said, was key to their victory. “Without the wind we would not have been able to catch our bass. We were targeting secondary points with grass, and the wind was pushing the bait fish in those areas for the bass to feed on. Without the wind, there would have been no bait fish to lure the bass.”

With seconds to spare and an ounce to the good, the RU team capped a weekend of serious fishing. At the most recent FLW College event, on Smith Mountain Lake in April, the RU team of Justin Witten and Philip Cox finished fifth to earn $500.

College fishing traces its roots to the early 1980s. RU’s club was formed in 2009. Varsity Bass, a leading sports blog devoted to college fishing, lists more than 300 active clubs nationwide, with at least one school represented in each of the lower 48 states. Virginia has nine teams, including Christopher Newport University, Virginia Commonwealth University, VMI and Virginia Tech.

College anglers fish in one of two national tournament series run
by the organizations Bassmaster (B.A.S.S.) and FLW Outdoors, organized by the Association of Collegiate Anglers or regional groups.

“It is awesome that these organizations give us the chance to compete against the best,” said Meyn, a senior majoring in geospatial science and president of the Radford club. “RU has been really helpful in helping us get the chance to fish in Florida, New York and Arkansas.”

“We’re not down by the river with a can of worms,” Meyn said. “We spend eight to ten hours a day on the boat, we scout and practice-fish the lakes and are using topo maps, GPS and sonar to find the fish.”

As a result of its tournament win at Smith Mountain Lake in 2012, RU qualified for the B.A.S.S. National Championship in Little Rock, Ark.

According to the most recent BassRankings.com, RU is No. 27 of 113 schools ranked, with a score 599.953.

Meyn said RU and Tech both consider Claytor and Smith Mountain lakes as their home waters and that the two teams go head to head regularly. In 2012, one of the VT-RU fishing matchups, dubbed the New River Brawl, was featured on ESPN.

“We see each other a lot, and we go back and forth, but I love it when we beat them,” Meyn said.

Fishing Club members are full-time students who share a passion for the outdoors. They embrace late nights of map study and research, frigid mornings speeding across the waters of their favorite lakes and the financial responsibilities of maintaining their gear and boats.
RU community of student-athletes earns top conference honors for academics

For the third time in five years, Radford University student-athletes have attained the Big South Conference's highest percentage of Presidential Honor Roll citations among the 12-member institutions. Of the 228 Highlander student-athletes in the 2012-13 academic year, 141 (61.84 percent) attained at least a 3.0 grade point average for the year.

“To have eight member institutions above 50 percent and nearly half of all student-athletes make the Presidential Honor Roll for the fourth consecutive year is a reflection of the outstanding individuals in the Conference and their priorities,” said Big South commissioner Kyle Kallander.

“This is a wonderful recognition for Radford University and its student-athletes,” said President Kyle. Radford director of athletics, Robert Lineburg, gave credit to the emphasis on academics displayed by the coaching staff, the hard work put in by student-athletes, and the dedication shown by the office of student-athlete support services.

“We are proud of the academic success of our student-athletes,” said associate director of athletics and senior woman administrator Stephanie Ballein. “Our success is the result of teamwork; a commitment to academics by our administration and coaches and the support received from faculty and staff, advisors, and campus support services.”

RU’s Rhodes selected 2012-13 Big South female Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Megan Rhodes in action against UNC.

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Radford senior women’s soccer standout Megan Rhodes added to her already impressive resume as she was named as the female 2012-13 Big South Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Rhodes, a 2013 recipient of the George A. Christenberry Award, the Big South’s highest academic honor for having a 4.0 grade point average during her career, is the second RU female student-athlete (Chelsea Kelley 2010-11) in the last three seasons and the first Big South women’s soccer player to receive this award.

Men’s soccer standout, Patrick Colas (2005-06), was the first Highlander to earn the distinction.

“I am incredibly honored to be receiving this award,” said Rhodes, a native of Blacksburg. “I never imagined I would be presented with so many unique opportunities throughout my collegiate academic and athletic careers.”

Rhodes graduated summa cum laude with a degree in elementary education and Spanish. She will continue her education at Vanderbilt University’s Peabody School of Education in the Learning and Instruction graduate program.

“This award is recognition of one of the most impressive students I have had the honor to know,” said President Kyle.
Chuck Hayes
Grammar guru
and actor, too!

By Leslie King
It is just a bit of ink and three written words, but they capture a concept: Art is Control.

The young actor stands with his sleeve rolled up and wrist exposed to show those words often spoken by a Radford University theatre professor, Charles “Chuck” Hayes. Though the high school student with the tattoo has never met the man who spoke them, those three words have been gospel for him since he heard them from a Hayes disciple.

The sequence started with RU alumnus Pat Miller ’83, a former stand-up comic who occasionally adjudicates Virginia High School League Theatre Festival competitions. A few years ago, Miller spoke to a group of competitors who had just finished a scene.

“You always have to be in control of your movements and motions. You always have to be in control because art is control,” he advised them during the critique, hearing in his head the voice of Professor Hayes. “‘Art is Control’ is something Chuck beat into our heads regularly and religiously—and still does,” Miller said.

The mythology

There are many Chuck-Hayes-isms that have gained similar popularity since 1968, when Hayes came to what was then Radford College. In his four decades of service, Hayes has influenced, inspired and affected generations of students. He was granted professor emeritus status in 2008, and his influence is still touching hundreds of people.

Hayes played leading roles in numerous areas beyond theatre: administration of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, hosting the Governor’s School at RU for the first time, bringing the Virginia Thespian Conference to campus, a student exchange program with Middlesex University in London and, most recently, helping to coordinate a redesign of the RU website.

An area in which his contributions may be less well known is sports. For eight years, he was the faculty athletics representative.

Known early on as one of the campus grammar police, Hayes seemed particularly attentive to adverbs, so much so that another tattoo might read, “-ly, that’s an adverb!”

“Chuck was always a stickler for proper grammar and correct word usage,” said Mark Curran ’82. “If a student would say something like, ‘Tonight’s rehearsal went by quick,’ Chuck would immediately respond with, ‘Quickly! That’s an adverb!’ He never let lazy or sloppy language slide.”

This worked as an advantage for Hayes, Curran said. “As students, we never wanted to let him down because we knew he had very high standards. We worked hard to make sure we lived up to those standards.”

Hayes is also passionate about promptness, stating it this way: “To be on time is to be late; to be early is to be on time; to be late is to be dead.”

The professional

Beyond the philosophy, grammar and promptness, a quality mentioned time and again when people speak of Hayes is his professionalism.

Professor Joseph Scartelli, dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, said his first thought of Hayes is, “Very professional. He even dressed it. He was always very white-shirt-and-tie, everything pressed, everything extremely presentable.”

Hayes set an example for his students throughout his 40 years of teaching at RU. To prepare for his daily role of professor, he rose at 5 a.m. and was in work mode by 8 a.m.

“I went to military school,” Hayes said. “Probably some of that is from there. When I first came to Radford, coat and tie were required of all professors.”

A certain aloofness is associated with the professorial stereotype, but
it does not apply to Hayes’s relationship with his students.

“He’s hard to describe because he was always very professional but at the same time, he wasn’t stiff,” said Leah Morehead ’04. “He knew how to have a good time, especially when working on shows. He knew that there had to be an element of fun in it or else it was just miserable.”

At the same time, she said, “He didn’t tolerate a lot of nonsense. If you were trying your best, he would go out of his way to help you. If you were fooling around, he was very firm. He had patience. He knew that we were young and a little crazy sometimes.”

A lifelong influence

Many of Hayes’ students pursued careers in theatre and have been successful. Though comedian Miller is now retired from theatre, he still speaks of what he learned from Hayes. “Chuck gave me acting skills that are invaluable, I mean, it transfers really well.” He credits his RU training with paving the way for him to do feature film work.

Dozens of other alumni have gone on to careers in film, television and commercials. They have directed off-Broadway shows, opened theatre companies, performed as professional puppeteers, even gained fame in exhibitionist theatre. Many who pursued other paths say Hayes and his theatre teaching affected their professional development, too.

Alumnus Mark Curran, now president and chief executive officer for Lion’s Share Federal Credit Union, believes his training with Hayes helped him in the business world. “It gave me self-confidence. It gave me the ability to speak in front of groups. It gave me the ability to lead. Being able to direct productions helps me to lead other people.”

Alumna Morehead is involved with community theatre and has just started a career as coordinator of alumni records and events at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, W.Va.

She credits Hayes with being a guiding light in the confusion of youth. She also still turns to him as a mentor. “I talk to him a lot. Any time I am stressed with big decisions, stressed with community theatre, I send a Facebook message to Chuck. He’s always there—‘Do this and it will happen.’ He always has a very calm but helpful response.”

Rooted at RU

“When I came, I was only going to stay about two years and leave,” Hayes said. “And I’ve been lucky, I’ve had several job opportunities or interest expressed in me going somewhere else. But every time I would think about it, the university would change in a direction I wanted to go.”

He was hired to teach in the new Department of Dramatic Arts and Speech. Theatre performances were held in Founder’s Hall, and the production budget was $100.
“We did become our own department. We did get our own building. We did go coeducational. Every time I would feel like, ‘I’m getting boxed in here, I need to go somewhere else,’ Radford would open up and go in another direction. So I stayed.”

In the late 1990s, Hayes realized his potential as a playwright, and RU produced his first play, “Jackie-Jean and Her Sisters.” The production was among the 60 plays with which he was involved at Radford and cemented his position as a fixture in RU theatre history.

“First and foremost, he is an artist. You can’t fake that stuff,” Scartelli said. “I think in some areas it is possible to teach students things by learning them yourself the week before, but you can’t do that in the arts. Chuck was an extraordinarily accomplished artist. After that you add in the character traits, the work ethic—he held students’ feet to the fire as well as his own feet to the fire.”

Alumnus Miller adds a final thought about Hayes. “I say he was tough, but I think the thing that made him so great is that, not only was he tough on you, but you felt that if push came to shove he’d have your back. At the end of the day, after all the rigors and rigidity and the way this had to be done, he just basically had your back.

“We certainly had our moments,” Miller said. “What great relationship doesn’t?”

Alumnus T. Truman Capone M.F.A. ’94 exhibits internationally

Chromatmos I, above, and Chromatmos II, two works of art by T. Truman Capone M.F.A. ’94 of Blacksburg were accepted to the international exhibition “Small Wonders” in Florence, Italy. Capone is professor emeritus,
Prominent New York artist Dorothy Gillespie brought her distinctive style to RU with colorful sculptures seen on the lawn and in offices and hallways across campus. The university was saddened to learn of her passing on Sept. 30, 2012. She was 92.

She grew up in Roanoke and attended the Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore before moving to New York in the 1940s. Considered one of America’s foremost female artists, she was among the first to introduce “environments” and “happenings” to the art vocabulary.

The Radford University Art Museum campaign’s for a new gallery in the 1980s was led by Gillespie, who also advised on its design. She engineered a major bequest of more than 250 works from the estate of famed New York gallery dealer Betty Parsons. The museum later received a significant gift of nearly 300 works on paper by celebrated American artist Adolf Dehn.

“Dorothy Gillespie’s impact on the visual arts at Radford University cannot be overestimated. Not only did she essentially engineer the nucleus of the university’s art collection, but she also continued to help augment it over the years,” Professor Steve Arbury said.

On Feb. 14, 2013, the Radford University Arts Society honored Gillespie’s contributions at the second annual Give Your Heart to Art benefit. The Valentine’s Day event provided an opportunity for art lovers to celebrate the rich arts tradition at the university, said Kathleen Harshberger, a charter member of the group.

As part of the event, Roanoke filmmaker Gerry McCarthy, a longtime friend of Gillespie, showed one of the four documentaries he has produced on her life and work.

director and creative founder of the new School of Visual Arts at Virginia Tech. His work has been included in more than 95 National Collage Society exhibitions.
Last spring, one of Radford University’s public spaces was filled with the brilliant light of blown glass sculptures, thanks to a collaboration between the Department of Art and the School of Teacher Education and Leadership.

Under the direction of Parker Stafford, an RU adjunct faculty member and glass artisan, art students helped create glass fixtures that are brightening the Peters Hall courtyard.

Stafford’s key ally was Ann Roberts, an associate professor in the School of Teacher Education and Leadership. Roberts’ office looks out on the courtyard and she had long had an interest in improving the space. After working with Neal Thompson of RU Landscape Services, she secured permission for faculty stewardship of the space.
# Fall arts calendar highlights

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<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>Martin Jones, guest pianant</td>
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<td>Sept. 29-Oct. 5</td>
<td>The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek by Naomi Wallace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 29-Oct. 5</td>
<td>The Baltimore Waltz by Paula Vogel</td>
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<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>Jason Vieaux, guest guitarist</td>
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<td>Oct. 17-19</td>
<td>RU Fall Dance Fest 2013</td>
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<td>Oct. 17-20</td>
<td>The Dining Room by A.R. Gurney</td>
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<td>Oct. 30-Nov. 8</td>
<td>M.F.A. studio art and graphic design show</td>
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<td>Nov. 5-15</td>
<td>Student ceramics show</td>
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<td>Nov. 11-22</td>
<td>B.F.A. studio art and graphic design show</td>
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<td>Nov. 14-16</td>
<td>An evening of ballet</td>
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<td>Nov. 16</td>
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<td>Dec. 5-6</td>
<td>Madrigal dinners</td>
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Z.L. Feng
Watercolorist Extraordinaire
By Dan Waidelich
Watercolor is one of the oldest, most widely appreciated painting media. The vivid pigments and evocative brushstrokes that define it have proved popular with the artists worldwide and have devotees at Radford University.

Students in the RU Department of Art have always had the chance to stretch their creative muscles with access to watercolor classes and renowned instructors in the medium. Today, under the guidance of longtime faculty member Z.L. Feng, Radford is producing some of the nation’s finest watercolorists.

Feng has been an important force in the Art Department for more than two decades, first as a student and then a teacher. Originally from Shanghai, Feng grew up working primarily in Chinese brush painting, an ancient technique involving ink and rice paper. Brush painting is similar in many ways to Western watercolor, the tradition Feng was eager to explore when he came to Radford as a graduate student in 1986.

“I really started watercolor when I came here for my master’s,” Feng said. “When I came to study here I knew I could see more American and European masters.”

Already recognized in China for his talents, Feng soon began exhibiting his portraits, landscapes and illustrations in juried shows. His work has received national acclaim, including many Best in Show awards and Gold Medal honors in major U.S. competitions.

Feng’s artwork can be found in numerous private and corporate collections across the country, including Walt Disney Co., Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. and Orlando International Airport as well as the permanent collections of the Springfield Art Museum in Springfield, Mo., and the Radford University Art Museum. His work is also in private and corporate collections in Singapore and China.

Feng’s success in the professional art world and his dedication as a faculty member have allowed for the development of an RU School of Watercolorists because, although watercolor is a popular art form, Radford has one of only a handful of graduate programs in the country that allows students to concentrate their studies on the medium.

“I want to have more and more talent,” Feng said. “Building up the RU reputation and image is important. If I continue to have new work coming out, it would also be a good way for people to know that Radford has an art program.”

Radford’s M.F.A. in Studio Art prepares graduates for future careers as professional artists, graphic designers or high school teachers. The program is designed to be flexible and allow artists to concentrate on their chosen disciplines: painting, drawing, photography, graphic design, jewelry or metalworking and ceramics.

Many of the students who pursue painting at the graduate level come, at least in part, to study with Feng. Current M.F.A. in Studio Art student Nathan Popp chose Radford due to the special attention he received from the professor.

“I was researching schools and professors of art,” said Popp, who holds a B.F.A. in watercolor from University of North Texas in Denton. “I emailed professors all over, and Feng was the only one to reply. He invited me to come see Radford.”

Popp began his studies at RU in 2011 and since then has been both challenged and rewarded by the watercolor work taking place on campus.

“A lot of people say watercolor is a difficult medium to master because there’s no leeway,” Popp said. “Once you put something down on the paper it’s there permanently. There is this delicacy to watercolor. In class, Feng has a lot of very good insight, but he doesn’t’ like to tell us exactly how he does it. He wants us to figure out how to do it ourselves and become better. He is not trying to make clones of himself. He is trying to help us create our own voice as new, emerging artists.”

Local artist Cheng Fen Yeh (M.S., M.F.A. ’09) is a nationally recognized watercolorist and former Feng student. Yeh and Feng have many similarities. Both were trained in traditional Chinese ink painting and they now create striking watercolor landscapes and portraits.

“Professor Feng teaches you the more classical way. It’s not abstract, and I like his craft and style,” says Yeh.

Feng knows all of his students’ strengths and always has constructive advice for improving weak areas, Yeh said.

Although watercolor is only one aspect of the university’s comprehensive art program, Radford has become an important stop for many watercolorists seeking to further their education.

For painters just starting out, the professor has some advice to offer: “You need to work hard and practice to get your feel,” Feng said. “With watercolor you feel it. You can touch and you know if you like it or you don’t, but if you really like this medium, then you are crazy about this medium. You can make magical things happen.”
As the Radford Softball team loaded to travel to the 2013 Big South Softball Championships, head coach Maggie Johnson had a question for the team: “Do you want to see what your home field is going to look like next season?” Without hesitation, the Highlanders, accompanied by the coaching staff, hurried off the bus and made their way inside the Dedmon Center.

Greeted by Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg and members of the construction firm, the team gathered in the Highlander Room as a projection screen began scrolling through renderings of the project.

“The development of Radford’s new softball facility means so much to the players and coaches that words can barely describe,” senior pitcher Stephanie Dameron said.

Now that the 2013 season is over and all activities at Radford Softball Field have come to an end, the biggest renovation in the facility’s history is taking place, to be completed before the start of the 2014 season.

The main focus is on spacious, up-to-date dugouts, chair-back stadium seating and a press box. In addition, a state-of-the-art sound system, along with upgrades to the bullpens and batting cages, and the addition of flagpoles featuring the Big South Conference schools are in the works.

“Past and present players and coaches have worked tremendously hard to put forth a quality program on and off the field, and the success has led to the support from the university in improving our facility,” Johnson said.

Over the past decade, Radford Softball has produced as much success as any other Highlander sports program. Since winning a then-school-record 39 games in 2005, the Highlanders have averaged 38 wins the past nine seasons, posted four 40-win campaigns, including the current school record of 46 in 2008, and earned victories over top-level programs such as Florida State, North Carolina, Virginia Tech, Oregon State, Mississippi State, Virginia and Hawaii.

In addition, the Highlanders won a conference-record four straight Big South regular-season championships (2009-12) and claimed their first two league tournament titles in 2009 and 2010. Those titles led to appearances in the 2009 and 2010 NCAA Tournament, where they won the first NCAA game in Radford Athletics history (2009) vs. Campbell and followed up the next year by reaching the regional final against Women’s College World Series semifinalist Georgia in Athens, Ga., also a first in the annals of RU Athletics.

“All of us have played in big-name stadiums such as Georgia, Tennessee and Virginia Tech,” Dameron said. “Yes, all fields have the same basic dimensions, dirt and grass. However, there is something special about preparing for a game against one these programs at your home field.”

Senior infielder Jessie Hutchens said, “To me, this new stadium represents the hard work and passion from the players who have already finished up their time here. I wish they could have had the chance to embrace and enjoy every bit of it.”

RU has already hosted three Big South Tournaments and three nationally televised contests on the ESPN networks. The facility upgrade will allow the program to showcase its talents from a state-of-the-art stadium that will provide better viewing for spectators and more efficient access for media.

The complex will have a similar look to the RU baseball stadium, which ended its first phase of renovations before the 2012 season. Following demolition of the old dugouts, construction began of the new dugouts.
on both the home and visitor sides. Renovated to fit the changing needs of the program, the recessed dugouts will include a deeper bench area with steps up to the field, restrooms and expanded storage space.

The upgrade features chair-back seats and a facility capacity at just under 500 fans. The seating will be raised, giving the spectator an unobstructed view of the entire field.

“We can’t wait for everyone to enjoy what this new stadium has to offer,” Hutchens said. Dameron added, “Not only do we benefit from the stadium, but our fans do as well. An improved facility that can hold fans, family and friends provides a new sense of confidence within us as players.”

Situated above the seating will be a new press box with ample room for media and working staff, a clear view of the entire complex and a separate room, along with rooftop access, for video and radio broadcasts.

“The fact that Radford Softball is getting a new stadium is incredible,” Hutchens said. “I have been waiting for this moment to come since my freshman year, and it means a lot.”

It will also be a welcome sight for Johnson, who just completed her first season as head coach but spent two previous stints as an assistant coach (2004-08, 2012) for Radford. Her guidance as an assistant paved the way for the consistent success of the program. Radford enjoyed a stretch of nine 30-plus win seasons, numerous school records, two professional athletes (Ashley Carlson ’08 and Kristen Shiffl ett ’11), including the first female professional draft pick in Shiffl ett, and a national award winner in Chelsea Kelley ’11, who took home the 2011 Lowes Senior CLASS award.

“This new stadium represents the hard work and passion from the players who have already finished up their time here.”

Jessie Hutchens

Carlson, who was the program’s first professional athlete (NPF Chicago Bandits), added, “Being a proud alumna of RU Softball, it is wonderful news to hear Radford University is investing in a stadium for its softball program. Not only will the program be able to use this as a great recruiting tool, but it will also allow the current team members to have a sense of extra pride in their home field. This will be a huge stepping stone for the future of our program!”

Over the years, the program has drawn in talent from across the country, but Johnson realizes that a new and improved facility can draw a bigger pool of talented players to the New River Valley.

“Our current and incoming players are anxious to get to work in the new facility, and we look forward to bringing in new talent that is proud to play in a quality facility,” Johnson said.

“A huge ‘thank you’ goes out to Robert Lineburg, the Athletics Department and President Kyle and her office in facilitating this project,” Johnson said. “We are grateful to see the amount of support our program has received from the university.”
The grass isn’t the only thing that’s green this year at RU.

For the fourth year in a row, Radford University is recognized by The Princeton Review for its commitment to building and maintaining a sustainable, environmentally friendly campus.

The Princeton Review included RU in its “Guide to 322 Green Colleges: 2013 Edition.” Radford has been listed every year since the green colleges guide’s first publication in 2010 in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Center for Green Schools.

The Princeton Review singled out RU for receiving the Environmental Protection Agency’s Energy Star certification for five buildings, four of which are residence halls (Floyd, Norwood, Stuart and Ingles).

“This recognition by The Princeton Review is a reflection of the unwavering commitment of our administration, faculty, staff and students to Radford University’s goal of being a model of sustainable campus practices,” President Kyle said. “We are particularly pleased The Princeton Review noted that Radford is the only Virginia university to achieve the Environmental Protection Agency’s Energy Star certification for residence halls. Being recognized for these accomplishments is certainly an indicator that we are making strides toward our goal of being the Commonwealth’s greenest campus.”

Energy Star building certification means a particular structure is among the top 25 percent in the nation for energy efficiency compared with similar buildings, said RU Sustainability Coordinator Julio Stephens.

“Energy Star certified buildings produce 35 percent less greenhouse gas emissions than the national average for the same type of building, and they also use 35 percent less energy than the national average,” Stephens said.

The Princeton Review calls its publication the “only free, comprehensive guide that focuses solely on colleges that have demonstrated a strong commitment to the environment and to sustainability.”

Curriculum, staff and services accent sustainability

At 2012 Winter Commencement, RU awarded its first Certificate in Sustainability and Environmental Studies to Maya Azzi of Charlottesville, who majored in biology with a concentration in environmental biology. The certificate is significant because it is multidisciplinary, said Professor Mark Wagstaff of the RU Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism. He chairs a committee of faculty and staff members who support the integration of sustainability into the university’s curricula.

In March, RU hired a recycling coordinator. In this role, Pavan Muddanna supervises the university’s recycling programs as part of RU Sustainability and is responsible for waste reduction, product reuse and support for all areas of campus recycling.

The housekeeping products and equipment used to maintain campus buildings received Green Seal environmental certification. An independent, non-profit, science-based organization in Washington, D.C., Green Seal promotes the use of sustainable products and services. Its voluntary certification program awards an eco-label to indicate that a product or service is safer for human health and the environment.
Refurbished buildings also win kudos

In further recognition of the campus’s green leanings, in January Madison Hall became Radford University’s second LEED Gold building, joining Jefferson Hall, which received LEED Gold status in 2012.

“Not only did we get our first LEED Gold building, but we got our second soon after,” said RU Sustainability Coordinator Julio Stephens.

LEED—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—is a voluntary program that provides verification of environmentally friendly construction and remodeling by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). Gold is the second-highest level of LEED certification, behind platinum and ahead of silver and certified.

According to the USGBC, LEED-certified buildings lower operating costs, reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, reduce waste sent to landfills, conserve energy and water, and are healthier for occupants.

This year’s green colleges guide published by The Princeton Review profiles 320 institutions of higher education in the United States and two in Canada that demonstrate a strong commitment to sustainability in their academic offerings, campus infrastructure, activities and career preparation.

RU was cited for its vehicle sharing program, for partnering with the City of Radford to provide the RU Transit bus service and for energy-efficiency measures that “continue to keep Radford ahead of the curve.” The guide also commended RU students who have participated in sustainability efforts.

Stephens said the latest designation by The Princeton Review is “another great recognition of Radford University’s ongoing sustainability efforts. Being included for the fourth straight year will only help to build on previous successes and attract even more sustainability-minded students.” And once those students arrive on campus, “it is our responsibility to expand students’ thoughts and minds about sustainability and to educate and get them thinking about the issues we will face in the future.”

In its 2013 guide, The Princeton Review reported that 68 percent of more than 7,000 college applicants it surveyed valued information about a college’s commitment to the environment. So, yearly recognition for sustainability efforts goes a long way toward reaching and attracting forward-thinking, environmentally conscious students, Stephens said.
Honoring RU’s past by building for the future

Radford University celebrates more than 100 years of service through the learning, living and personal growth that happen every day on campus. Thousands of students each year make Radford their home and leave the university with not just an education but an experience that they carry with them through their challenges and accomplishments in life.

The university is proactive in maintaining a positive living and learning environment on campus through new construction of state-of-the-art facilities and renovations to RU’s historically rich buildings to meet the modern needs of students. Join us as we tour the latest projects planned and underway on our campus.

McConnell Library Reading Room

The McConnell Library’s reading room was a part of the original structure and now houses the library’s circulation desk. It features elaborate molding and traditional touches. This summer, the ornate ceiling and lighting within the reading room were restored and updated, including replacement of the original ornate plaster entablature.

Student Fitness and Wellness Center

Students will have a new space to stay fit in fall 2014. The 111,000-square-foot $32 million Student Fitness and Wellness Center will include wellness, fitness and recreation space in a visually open and expansive multi-height building between Hurlburt Hall and the Covington Center.

If you would like to tour the RU campus or organize an alumni event to honor some of your most beloved spaces on campus, please call the Alumni Relations Office at (540) 831-5248 or email alumni@radford.edu.
**Center for the Sciences**

The Center for the Sciences is set for completion in 2015. In addition to teaching and research laboratories, the 114,000-square-foot $49.5 million building will include advanced classrooms and labs, new space for the Museum of the Earth Sciences and a spherical RU Planetarium.

**Residence hall renovations continue**

Renovations of residence halls have enhanced the standard of living in the buildings and also the facilities’ energy efficiency. Renovations to Madison, Jefferson, Washington and Moffett Halls are complete to make them accessible to those with disabilities, cooler in the summer with the latest air-conditioning technologies, and warmer in the winter with more energy-efficient heating systems. The next three residence halls slated for renovation are Pocahontas and Bolling Halls in 2014 and Draper Hall in 2015.

Dalton Dining Hall has a new look this fall thanks to a renovation to its facilities. Extended windows now provide customers with panoramic views of the Hurlburt Student Center and College of Business and Economics. New flooring, lighting upgrades and updated kitchen equipment were installed along with a variety of seating that includes a large community table, high-top window-facing seats and soft seating with couches and armchairs. This renovation introduces new dining options including myPantry, Xhibition Kitchen and Baker’s Crust.
In one of their final actions of the 2012-13 academic year, the Radford University fraternities and sororities came together to plant a tree.

The sugar maple on the Draper Lawn reflects the aspirations for the future of the students in the RU Greek community as well as a recommitment to the roots of their organizations.

As part of a three-year campus-wide realignment upon organizational values, the Greek groups, representing the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council and National Pan-Hellenic Council, crowned a year of philanthropy and community service on Earth Day.

The roots of the Greek community on the RU campus run deep, harkening back to 1929 when Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, RU's first fraternal organization, was formed surreptitiously during a sabbatical by vaunted dean of students M'Ledge Moffett. Fraternities were formed on campus in 1973 when the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity was begun.

The tree-planting was one of many highlights of a year in RU fraternal life that included being honored with the inaugural Michael A. McRee Fraternal Values Award by the Fraternal Values Society (FVS). The award acknowledges excellence in central fraternal values such as community, charity, responsibility and accountability by Radford University's Tau Chapter of the FVS.

“The RU Greek system is enjoying a renaissance as it reconnects with the founding values and principles of their organizations,” said Robert Marias, assistant director of Student Activities—Greek Life. “The membership is turning the values proposition of their organizations into positive experiences for themselves and others.”

“Being a good sister is a matter of balance,” said Katie Kaciban, president of the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority, whose sorority values include generosity, growth, integrity, learning, responsibility and enjoyment. “One of the benefits of sisterhood is the social support and a structure that helps us work things through.”

### Greeks go global

RU’s Greek community gathered on Earth Day to plant a sugar maple on Draper Lawn.

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**By the numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012-13 RU Greek community</th>
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<tr>
<td>1,000 members</td>
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<td>$45,000+ raised in a variety of philanthropic activities</td>
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<td>[$20,000 increase over the previous year]</td>
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<td>21 recognized organizations</td>
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<td>27,000+ hours of community service</td>
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**By Don Bowman**

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Greeks go global

**RU’s Greek community gathered on Earth Day to plant a sugar maple on Draper Lawn.**
A major ASA focus is support for Special Olympics. Annually, the sisters of the Radford chapter pitch in to help at the Special Olympics at the Dedmon Center, host a Special Olympics Awareness Week on the RU campus and plunge into the icy New River for the organization during the annual Winter Homecoming Polar Plunge. They also don formal attire and dancing shoes as regular guests at the Special Olympics holiday dances.

“We always go all out for Special O,” said Katie Kaciban, president of the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority. “It is completely worth it to see the smiles.”

As president of the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity, the 2013 Interfraternity Council chapter of the year, Dustin Kidd is learning leadership as he guides his 27-man organization to living some of its core values like responsibility, knowledge, honor and integrity.

“As a president, I hope to create an environment where we earn our fun based on achievement, contributions and academics,” he said. “If we can get

Continued on page 56
outside our comfort zones, we can grow as a group and individuals.”

Mark Shanley, RU’s vice-president of Student Affairs, is a firm believer in celebrating what RU’s Greek organizations do well. “Greek organizations offer remarkable dimensions in which young people can find a voice, work with others, make mistakes and learn from them,” he said. “These groups build leaders, connect students with campus experiences and provide enduring memories and relationships in a healthy, fun outlet.”

“The RU Greek community is well on the way to establishing higher expectations for itself and its members,” he said. “It is enjoying the full breadth of the experience: a vibrant social environment rich in leadership, academic, philanthropic and service opportunities.”

Winter Jam, RU’s winter alumni gathering, saw another classic example of alumni and actives coming together as the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority celebrated its 60th anniversary on the RU campus. More than 150 alumni and active sisters gathered for a High Tea and a Sweetheart Ball, to commemorate the AST founding at RU in 1953.

“The anniversary was a wonderful example of how Greek life is more than it appears, it is lifelong connections,” said AST President Olivia Hilton, a senior criminal justice and public relations major from Front Royal.

The High Tea took place in the Muse Banquet room that was festooned with annual sorority composite pictures and other memorabilia of sisterly life that deal with AST’s core values of intellect, graciousness, respect, connection and excellence. AST’s motto is “active, self-reliant and trustworthy” and Hilton said one of the celebration’s many highlights was entertaining AST’s oldest living alumna Shirley Walton ’57, who remains an active part of the Radford chapter’s activities. Walton was one of six speakers representing each of AST’s decades on the RU campus who reflected on the sorority’s values and their experiences then.

“Planning the anniversary weekend was a blast,” said Hilton, who prior to serving as AST president was the chapter’s alumni liaison. “It really helped to show our sisters the way they can be active alumni.”

The celebration weekend was one of several philanthropic and service projects undertaken by the sorority during the year. A longstanding fundraising initiative by the sisters is the 24-hour Swing-A-Thon on behalf of one of AST’s national philanthropies, the Pine Mountain Settlement School in Harlan, Ky. A new initiative undertaken by AST this spring was “Girls Night Out,” a festive campus-wide Thursday night, at which more than 250 RU women gathered for a night of fun and games in the Hurlburt Student Center.
Juanita Gregory Schmid ’63 fondly remembers her four years at then Radford College. She and her graduating classmates will be celebrating their 50th reunion in October at Alumni Homecoming and Reunion Weekend. She’s looking forward to seeing how the campus has grown and changed since her time at RU.

“I remember when we went back for our 25th reunion, and we said, ‘Look at that! There are guys in shorts playing football on the grass that we were not even allowed to walk on!’” Schmid said. The punishment for walking on the grass was to get “campused.” “If any of us walked on the grass we would get a slip that said, ‘You are campused for the weekend,’ which meant that you would use your weekend time to study in the library, but that was about it.”

Wearing shorts wasn’t even in the vocabulary during Schmid’s time at RU with Dean M’Ledge Moffett and President Charles Knox Martin Jr. When Radford College women attended a Virginia Tech football game, they were required to wear heels and gloves. “We were never allowed to wear slacks or jeans except at night to and from one dorm to another or to the Cove [a campus social spot]. Then we had to have a long raincoat over them,” Schmid said.

She remembers one time when they were allowed to wear slacks to class. “That was one Saturday in February or March after a few weeks of it snowing every Thursday. The snow was piled up on the sides of the walkways, and for this one Saturday they said we could wear long pants—of course, covered by our long coats.”

When Schmid graduated, Radford College was connected to Virginia Tech. Her diploma lists the relationship as “Women’s Division of V.P.I.” During the 20 years that Martin served as president, from 1952 to 1972, he oversaw the dissolution of the Radford College-VPI marriage and the advancement of Radford College as its own individual institution.

Schmid has stayed in touch with many of her college friends, especially roommate Katherine Harlow Clements. In fact, Schmid and Clements are next-door neighbors in Rockbridge County. After teaching mathematics for 34 years, Schmid still views her four years at Radford as one of the best times of her life. “If I had to pick any four years, I would relive those four fun and instructional years at Radford College,” she said.

It’s been a four-hour drive, and the excitement is at a peak. All the hard work and preparation is about to be put into action. As the bus pulls up to a Richmond hotel, final reminders are given before dozens of students step off—some looking around wide-eyed, others quietly confident.

On a crisp, clear day in January, the students are participating in Radford University Advocacy Day 2013 at the General Assembly in Richmond. Sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA), the trip provides an opportunity for about 40 young women and men to share information about RU while learning the legislative process.

The students are divided into small groups, and appointments are made with the group members’ delegates and senators. Each group is accompanied by a member of the RU Board of Visitors or RU staff.

“It is so refreshing to have young people to come to my office,” said Senator Phillip Puckett. “They are so eager to tell their story. The stories are uniquely different but often have a common thread. There is no question to the benefit to the university.”

In addition to small-group sessions, the students meet with leadership in the General Assembly to gain a different perspective on how Virginia’s government operates.

“Having students from Radford University visit the General Assembly is a wonderful opportunity for both students and legislators,” House Speaker William Howell said. “We make a lot of decisions in Richmond that will have an impact on their future, and I think it’s important that they are involved as much as possible. I look forward to visiting with more students in the future.”
Current SGA President Zach McCoy ’14 has made the trip three times. Starting his freshman year, he saw the trip as an educational opportunity. “It really provided me a sense of pride for RU,” McCoy said. A political science major, he believes talking with legislators has helped him focus on his career goals. The months leading up to the trip are important too. There is an application process and, once the students are chosen, several training sessions. “The preparation is important,” McCoy said. “The more research we can do beforehand, the more confident we are in the delivery of our message.”

Advocacy Day has other benefits for the students. “The students see the priorities of the university in the context of competing interests,” said Margaret Hrezo, chair of RU’s Department of Political Science. “It also helps them think on their feet, build collaborative relationships with fellow students and work cooperatively with administration and the Board of Visitors.”

“Advocacy Day was among my favorite experiences at RU,” said Martin Mash ’07, a second-year law student at the University of Virginia. “In addition to being able to work closely with stakeholders from across the university community, Advocacy Day was one of my first experiences working with the General Assembly. Many years later, having worked for the U.S. Senate, I see much more clearly how important Advocacy Day was in helping to spark my interest in public service.”

Stephen A. Musselwhite of Vinton, a former rector of the RU Board of Visitors, reflected on the significance of Advocacy Day, not only for the students but also for those who counsel and mentor them. “Of all the things I did while on the board,” he said, “I miss this the most. It truly puts a spotlight on our students, who are second to none.”
A culture of support is what Radford University’s Office of the Dean of Students is fostering with Step UP! and Do Something, a new program designed toward encouraging students to intervene when they see friends and fellow students in concerning situations, whether it be making poor academic decisions or leaning toward riskier behaviors.

The Step UP! program teaches students the strategies and techniques to intervene directly or indirectly in both emergency and non-emergency situations. The program addresses a variety of situations where bystander intervention would be beneficial, such as academic integrity, hazing, alcohol and drug use/abuse, bullying and sexual assault.

Over the past year, the Office of the Dean of Students reached more than 700 students in what Associate Dean of Students Susan Trageser calls a bystander intervention training program.

“The goal of Step Up! is to help students become active bystanders, to help them develop confidence and build skills toward taking a second look at a situation and then figuring out a safe and or appropriate response,” Trageser explained.

The associate dean lists a long line of examples of how students can help fellow students, from providing a ride home after a night out, suggesting a friend stay in on a Thursday night to study for the next day’s midterm, or steering a friend away from people looking to cause trouble.

“We want students to learn to intervene early,” Trageser said. “If you know your roommate hasn’t been to class and they haven’t left their room, ask, ‘is everything ok? Is there something you need?’ We want our students to be aware of what is going on around them, recognize and notice things early.”

“Interventions do not need to be grand gestures”, Trageser explained. “It can simply be checking in with somebody, creating a distraction, making a phone call for help, or when there’s not an immediate concern for harm or risk, talking to someone the next day and seeking advice.”

The Step UP! bystander intervention program is based on direct peer-to-peer intervention, Trageser explained. The Office of the Dean of Students is training students who are influencers and opinion makers on campus to provide a framework that explains the bystander effect, reviews relevant research and teaches the skills for intervening successfully.

“Research shows that bystander intervention is one of the most effective ways to reduce harm and risk,” Trageser noted.

“Our initial goal was to target student leaders such as Greek leaders, resident directors and resident assistants in housing and student athletes,” Trageser said of the training selection process.

The associate dean said the Dean of Students Office worked with New Student Programs to train Quest assistants and parent orientation guides. “We wanted to train those students so they could integrate the messaging into their conversations with parents and new entering students,” Trageser explained.

“We talk about what they want their community to look like and how they want Radford to be viewed. As members of the community, they have the responsibility to shape the community,” Trageser said. “One of the characteristics of a Highlander is: Highlanders are protective, and so they look out for one another, and part of that means being an active bystander or stepping up and noticing things that don’t seem quite right.”

Graduate student Alex Samson worked in the Step UP! program this past academic year.

“I love the simple message to Step UP!,” Samson said. “It challenges and empowers everyone to recognize these problems and situations and intervene effectively in order to safely help others.”
**Class Notes**

To submit a class note, please visit [www.radford.edu/alumnireport](http://www.radford.edu/alumnireport) or call 1-888-4RUGRAD.

Photographs may be submitted as a .jpg with a resolution of at least 300 dpi. If you submitted a class note and it does not appear in this issue, please look for it in the next magazine.

**Weddings, births and announcements**

‘53 Joyce Ann Maddox Randolf, Houston, Texas, retired from University of Texas School of Nursing as coordinator of special programs.

‘58 Nancy Akers and husband George, Roanoke, were honored with the Margaret Sue Copenhaver Education Award at Roanoke College.

‘61 Diane Spresser has retired from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Arlington. Before her tenure at the NSF, Spresser, professor emerita of mathematics at James Madison University (JMU), was on the JMU faculty for 27 years, the last 16 as department head. She joined the NSF as program director for teacher enhancement in mathematics in 1994 and, in subsequent years, served as acting division director and as senior program coordinator for the math and science partnership program. She was the recipient of several NSF awards for leadership and management excellence, as well as a director’s award for superior accomplishment.

‘66 Patti Wilkins Benton, Anne Harrison Sell, Kendall Westbrook Rhodes and Helen Whitehurst Walton, Alpha Sigma Tau sisters ’66, reconnected via visits in Portsmouth; Jacksonville, Fla.; and Lexington, Ky.

‘68 Deidra Powell, Rocky Mount, retired from Franklin Respiratory and Medical Inc. after almost 23 years in human resources and accounts payable with the organization.

Joanna G. Angle, Chester, S.C., was named South Carolina Tree Farmer of the Year by the South Carolina Tree Farm Committee. She was honored in November at the South Carolina Forestry Association’s annual meeting in North Charleston.

‘69 Louise Stone, Paris, post-retirement, was recently hired as a career specialist at the University of Kentucky.

‘73 Margaret Jane Feher, Lynch, Ky., began her 21st year as a primary teacher at Cumberland Elementary School in Harlan County and is a member of Mountain Trail Post 5171 Ladies Auxiliary.

Karren Snead Ferrell, Luray, retired in July 2012 as a kindergarten teacher of 38 years from Stanley Elementary School in Page County.

‘74 Janet Brett, Waldorf, Md., retired from Agriculture Research Service in December 2011.

Kathy Amend married Joe Amend at McGeheysville United Methodist Church in McGeheysville in January 2012.

Kathy Ellis Slavin, M.S. ’77, of Rural Retreat retired from Mount Rogers Community Services Board on Sept. 1, 2012, after 12 years. She celebrated her 35th wedding anniversary June 24, 2013.


‘75 Martin F. Smith, Annapolis, Md., is a special assistant to the health officer, Anne Arundel County Health Department.


‘83 Jeanie Robinson, teacher at Caldwell Middle College in Hudson, N.C., was selected as an outstanding K-12 geography educator for 2012 by the National Council of Geography Educators. She received her award in October 2012 at the national conference in San Marcos, Texas.

‘84 Keith Dawn, Staten Island, N.Y., was appointed associate publisher of the Staten Island Advance on May 20, 2013.

‘85 Dale Ardizzone, Lancaster, S.C., has been promoted to chief operating officer of Inspiration Networks.

Robert P. Chappell Jr., Roanoke, a Virginia State Police officer, recently wrote and published a book titled “Child Identity Theft: What Every Parent Needs to Know” (Rowman & Littlefield). The book, the first in America on the topic written by a law enforcement officer, is available in 38 countries and across the United States. Chappell retired from the U.S. Army Reserve with 25 years of service as a lieutenant colonel and was awarded the Bronze Star for service in Iraq, 2005-06.


Callie M. Dalton, Roanoke, was appointed to a four year term on the Radford University Board of Visitors by Gov. Bob McDonnell beginning July 1.

‘86 Tammy Holloway and husband Jim, Cape Charles, recently opened Bay Haven Inn of Cape Charles, a bed and breakfast on the Eastern Shore in May 2013.

Cynthia Gunn on Aug. 6, 2012.


Tim_triplets Mack Alexander, Dylan Wade husband Mike announce the birth of Richmond.

of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Benedict XVI. He is currently the rector of the Roman Catholic Church by Pope recently appointed a monsignor in spectrum.

professional women and men pursuing careers across the communications

NFPW is a nationwide organization of annual conference in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Achievement during the organization's named the 2012 National Federation

Hubbard on Aug. 18, 2012.

announce the birth of Bethany Ann

Leon Hubbard and wife Annette announce the birth of Bethany Ann Hubbard on Aug. 18, 2012.

Sandy Lewis Ahlskog, Frederick, Md., is a teacher at Brookhaven Elementary and married to Mark Ahlskog. They have two children, one a senior at Virginia Commonwealth University and the other a freshman at East Tennessee State University.

Jennifer L. Bowie, Toano, is the chief of curriculum at the Joint Deployment Training Center.

Curtis J. Martin II, Atlanta, was presented the Presidential Award for his exemplary service to the legal profession by the National Bar Association.

Deborah Griffis Gunn and Donald Gunn announce the birth of Alexander Gunn on Aug. 6, 2012.


Angela M. Jackson, Ggaba, Uganda, East Africa, is the volunteer head mistress of DOORS Primary School.

Dawn Stultz Vaugh, Martinsville, was named Crime Stoppers Officer of the Year for 2013.

Tracy Arwood, Pickens, S.C., was promoted to assistant vice president for research compliance at Clemson University.

Michael S. Hurt, Midlothian, was appointed to a four year term on the Radford University Board of Visitors by Gov. Bob McDonnell beginning July 1.

Eric L. Merrill, Sacramento, Calif., has received multiple Microsoft certifications, most recently the MCTS: SQL Server 2008, Business Intelligence and Development Certification.

Scott Simons, Rockingham, president of Valley Honda in Staunton, was recently featured in Automotive News as one of the candidates chosen for the 40 Under 40 article.

Susan Foley, Delray Beach, Fla., presented Improving Dementia Care Services at the New Mexico Conference on Aging on Aug. 21, 2012, in Albuquerque. She is a licensed certified nursing assistant specializing in dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.


Kathy Crane was awarded the Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award for Fauquier County.

Wesley Whitworth, Clare, Ireland, is the senior systems engineer for Phoenix Technology Solutions and has worked for Microsoft, HP and IBM.

Melody A. Thomas, Richmond, daughter of Donna F. Preissner ’72, married Gregory A. Thomas on April 28, 2013.

Amy and Michael Salkauskas announce the birth of Boden Asher on Sept. 11, 2011.

Brooke Frost married Julio Morant at the Jefferson Center in Roanoke on June 9, 2012.

Anne and Russell Smith, Chesterfield, announce the birth of their second son, Henry Jackson Smith, on March 27, 2012.

Laura Neff-Henderson, Blacksburg, was elected to serve as a National Assembly delegate, Public Relations Society of American (PRSA), in January 2013. She is the employee communications manager at Virginia Tech and was appointed to the board of directors for the Girl Scouts Virginia Skyline Council in January 2013. Neff-Henderson and her husband welcomed their third child into the world on April 27, 2012.

Nick Sadler, Raleigh, N.C., earned a Master of Public Administration degree from North Carolina State University on May 12, 2012.

Scott William Flor and Andrea Carbaugh Flor ‘04, Scotland, Pa., announce the birth


Krissy Spahr, Dayton, Ohio, is an acute care nurse practitioner at Miami Valley Hospital for trauma and acute surgery.

Kristi and Donald Casey announce the birth of Abigail “Abby” Jane Casey on March 14, 2012.

Amy Fields Davis, Richlands, is a guidance counselor at Richlands High School.

Brandy Nicole Perry, Bothell, Wash., a crime analyst, was assigned to the Greater Puget Sound Financial Fraud and Identity Theft Task Force on Dec. 3, 2012.

Emily and Jason Ince announce the birth of Calvin Jefferson on June 1, 2012.

Jayme Fletcher, Woodsboro, Md., announces the birth of Madelynyne Rae Fletcher on May 28, 2012.

Katie Camper, Boonesboro, married KB2 Marketing in October 2012, focused on building client success through marketing strategy, Web presence, social media and branding.

Robbie and Amy Davis were married on June 17, 2007, and announce the birth of their first child, Brayden Keith, on Feb. 14, 2010.

Jessica Johns, Christiansburg, was promoted to assistant director, New Student Programs, at Virginia Tech.


Ashley Thomas and Joseph “Ty” Donahue were married on Sept. 22, 2012, at Knots Landing in Ocean Isle Beach, N.C.

Cory Koliscak and Claudia Undurraga married were married on Sept. 15, 2012, at Crosskeys Vineyard in Mount Crawford.


Ashley M. Zahorian Selg, Norfolk, started Something Like Real Pictures LLC on May 1, 2010. She and her husband, Raymond, announce the birth of Clare Marie Selg on July 5, 2011. She graduated with a Master of Fine Arts degree from Regent University in August 2012 and is an adjunct professor at Regent.

Erica Lynn Frith married Matthew Claborne Ellis Hubbard ‘06 on Oct. 12, 2012, at Sundara in Boones Mill.

Heather Ursano, M.S. ’09, is a teacher at Narrows Elementary/Middle School.

Jimmy and Judi ’08 Blankenship announce the birth of their son, Owen David, on June 25, 2012.

Katherina Abu-Jaber, Boulder, Colo., was married in 2006 and owns a speech therapy business that is now four years old. She works with children from birth to 3 years old in their home environment.

Megan C. Delph, Siler City, N.C., is the assistant director for Residence Life at the University of North Carolina Greensboro.

Misty Smith-Klein received her certificate of professional leadership in 2012 from Hollins University. She and her husband live in Roanoke with their two young sons.

Nina Interbartolo, York, is a production assistant to the local government cable channel videographer/editor.

Stephanie Harmon married John Winebrenner, Richmond, on Oct. 8, 2011.

Ashley Crawford Greer, Roanoke, married Jason Greer at Amhrein’s Winery in Bent Mountain on July 28, 2012.


Jeremy McLaughlin, M.S. ’07, Abingdon, is a physics teacher at Sullivan Central High School.


Ashleigh Farley, did an handsome Master of Arts in Communications from Queens University in Charlotte, N.C., in May 2013.

Brittany and Daniel Quesenberry ’06, announce the birth of their twins, Lily Grace and Mason Lee, on Dec. 8, 2012.

Jessica Breece married Zach Fitzjarrell on April 26, 2012 and celebrated the birth of their daughter, Addison Grace Fitzjarrell, on Nov. 14, 2012.

Melissa G. Brown, M.S. ’11, Miami, Fla., is the public relations and marketing manager at Bass Museum of Art.

Holly A. Hinte, Boston, is judicial law clerk for the Massachusetts Probate and Family Courts.

Courtney Nicole Lerch married Alan Dale Cummins Jr. at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Blacksburg on May 26, 2012.

Amy Hodgson, Woodbridge, married Christopher Willey of Herndon on Dec. 8, 2012.

Alan Kates married Claye Paca ’10, Blacksburg, on June 25, 2012.


Juliiann Abercrombie married Robbie Winn in Gainesville on Sept. 29, 2012.

Kelsey Criswell, Mechanicsville, is a fourth grade teacher at Cold Harbor Elementary.

Kimberly Hope Farmer, Appomattox, married Douglas Craig Pijanowski Jr., in Phenix on April 21, 2012.

Lisa Robinson Yost, Blacksburg, is the coordinator of housing and homeless programs at New River Community Action.

Alyssa Gavitt, South Boston, is the marketing specialist for Halifax Regional Health System.

Shaun C. Whiteside was awarded Best in Show for his painting “Rise” at the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art’s New Waves 2012 exhibition.

Emma Jeanette Wilson married Andrew J. Watling in Bedford on April 17, 2013.

James Ryan Bowyer, Fayetteville, N.C., is the assistant director of Campus Life at Methodist University.


Mandy Basham Wade, Christiansburg, married Michael Dale Wade at Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren in Floyd on April 26, 2013.

Amanda Smith, Frederick, Md., will marry Kevin Gervais on May 17, 2014, in Maryland.
Radford University is on NCAA probation until February 23, 2014, due to violations of NCAA bylaws by the University’s prior men’s basketball coaching staff. The terms of the probation and other penalties include reprimand by the NCAA, vacation of four men’s basketball wins from the 2010-11 academic year, reduction in men’s basketball official recruiting visits for the 2011-12 academic year, limits on international men’s basketball student-athletes, reduction of two men’s basketball scholarships in total across the 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years, a $2,000 fine, and enhanced NCAA rules compliance education.
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