

April 14, 2011



CSAT Bi-weekly Newsletter

From the Dean's Desk

Newmyer Awarded Goldwater Scholarship

Radford University junior biology major and Richmond native Brandon Newmyer has been awarded the 2011 Goldwater Scholarship from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program. The scholarship provides up to \$7,500 per year for educational expenses.

The Goldwater Scholarship is considered the most prestigious honor in the U.S. conferred upon undergraduate students studying the sciences. In 1986, the program was established by the United States Congress in honor of former U.S. Senator Barry M. Goldwater to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers by awarding scholarships to students who intend to pursue careers in these fields. Competition for the award is intense. Other institutions represented in the list of this year's recipients include Yale, Harvard, and the University of Virginia.

Newmyer was recognized for the work he has completed in neuroscience with his mentor, Mark Cline, Associate Professor of Biology.

"When Brandon arrived at Radford for new student orientation at Quest, he took advantage of Dr. Cline's invitation to work in his research laboratory," said College of Science and Technology Dean J. Orion Rogers.

"Brandon is the embodiment of taking advantage of opportunities, and Dr. Cline is an

example of a faculty member who helps students find their passion in learning. This achievement is tangible evidence that Radford University is a destination for motivated students to learn from extraordinary faculty members and to achieve success they never dreamed was possible."

Together Cline and Newmyer have authored seven publications of their original research in scientific journals including *Physiology and Behavior*, the *Journal of Neuroendocrinology*, *Behavioural Brain Research* and *Neuroscience Letters*. Newmyer served as first author of three of the publications, and he currently has three more papers in preparation. He has also received a research grant from the Virginia Academy of Science.

According to Cline, it is Newmyer's uncommon work ethic that is key to his success. "He puts in long hours and accepts that research more commonly goes in an unexpected direction which requires many rethinks and restarts," said Cline. "In short, Brandon has obtained a level of expertise that is very uncommon for an undergraduate, and this is because of hard work."

Newmyer is thankful to both Cline and the university for providing him with an opportunity and an environment in which he can succeed.

"I couldn't be more grateful for this honor," said Newmyer.

er. "I think that with this on my resume, I will have an incredible advantage in getting into whatever graduate program that I choose. I know for a fact that none of this would have been even remotely possible without Radford and Dr. Cline. I would never have had any of the amazing opportunities that I have had so early in my career at any other university."



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Upcoming Events:

- April 17, 3-5 p.m., CSAT STEM Club River Clean Up Day
- April 20, 2-8 p.m., Earth Day Festival, Heth Lawn
- May 1, 4-7 p.m., CSAT Spring Picnic, Bisset Park, shelter 1

Geology Professor Receives Statewide Award

Stephen Lenhart, executive director of RU's Museum of the Earth Sciences and Associate Professor of Geology, recently received the 2011 William Barton Rogers Individual Award from the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) for his science education efforts in the museum. This award is one of six Jefferson Awards that, according to VMNH, capture the spirit of our nation's third president, who was an early student of natural science.

The award is given to a person who has shown significant support for the natural sciences in Virginia through contributions to research, science education or other relevant programs to VMNH, and named for the third president of the National Academy of Sciences and founder of Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Virginia native William Barton Rogers.

The RU Museum of the Earth Sciences is an outreach educational resource of the geology program in the College of Science and Technology and the "brain-child" of Lenhart. In 2005, he dreamed of creating a museum focused on the related fields of geology, oceanography and physical anthropology. And in January 2007, with university support, generous donations, hard work and his creativity, the dream became a reality.

Lenhart designed the museum's physical layout, planned and prepared the exhibits and acquired specimen donations such as

the stunning Via Opal. He also coordinates the museum's lecture series, a total of 28 lectures since the Museum's opening, which features scientists from across the country who discuss the latest findings in the Earth sciences.

In 2010, more than 2,000 kindergarten through 12th grade students visited the museum with their schools as a part of their Standards of Learning preparation, and in March, 2010, the 13,000th visitor stepped through the museum door. In addition to school field trips, the museum is open to the public Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10 a.m. to noon during the fall and spring semesters.

Lenhart said he was honored to have been selected for the award. He says that the museum was a team effort, and many faculty and staff have contributed their expertise to its design and construction. He also adds that so many supporters have provided contributions or donations and many students have volunteered their time and effort. "I've just served as sort of a 'band leader' for the whole thing. The museum is not complete, but no museum is ever complete," says Lenhart.

During the April 8 ceremony, the honor was presented to Lenhart by RU geology program coordinator Skip Watts. Each year, the

VMNH Foundation honors Virginians who have made significant contributions to the natural sciences in Virginia during the annual Thomas Jefferson Awards Ceremony.

To learn more about the Museum of the Earth Sciences, visit www.radford.edu/~mes.



Left: Steve Lenhart

Photo by the Martinsville Bulletin



Freshman Chemistry Student Awarded Prestigious Fellowship

Recently, freshman chemistry major Rebekah Webster was awarded a \$4,000 Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship from the American Physiological Society (APS) to receive a 10-week summer stipend for hands-on research experience in biology associate professor Mark Cline's lab.

Webster will be developing an hypothesis regarding a neuropeptide and how it affects appetite in rats and chickens, designing experiments, troubleshooting experiments, collecting data, analyzing data, writing a publishable article and presenting results. Only 20 students from across the nation received this award. Three of them are from Virginia – Webster from Radford and two students from the College of William and Mary. Other recipients hail from Cornell University, Juniata College, Williams College, University of Kentucky, University of Utah, Barnard College, University of Puerto Rico, University of New England, McGill University, and South Dakota State University.

In addition to the student stipend, the fellowship includes a \$300 grant to the faculty advisor and up to \$1,300 travel award to the student for attending and presenting their data at the APS annual meeting in experimental biology or an APS Fall Conference.

The APS Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowships program funds up to 24 fellowships during the summer. According to the organization's website, "these fellowships support full-time undergraduate students to work in the laboratory of an established inves-

tigator. The intent of this program is to excite and encourage students to pursue a career as a basic research scientist."



Rebekah Webster

Chemistry Students Present Research and Receive Honor at Meeting

RU chemistry students Alex Noble, David Houff, Rebecca Mayfield, Jacob Shelton and Brittany Wike presented their research at the 19th Annual Undergraduate Research Poster Session during the Virginia Blue Ridge Section of the American Chemical Society.

Also during the meeting, hosted by Radford University in Muse Banquet Hall, graduating chemistry major and Grundy native Terri Stacy received the 2011 James Lewis Howe Award. She is one of 11 students from across the Blue Ridge region to receive this award.

The award is named after James Lewis Howe, who was a Professor of Chemistry and Head of the Department of Chemistry at Washington and Lee University. "As one of the most distinguished chemists in the Blue Ridge Section, we have chosen to name our annual awards to outstanding students in his memory," says the section's literature.



Left: Terri Stacy and faculty mentor Joe Wirgau.

Top right: Chemistry students Alex Noble, David Houff, Rebecca Mayfield, Jacob Shelton and Brittany Wike

Bottom right: Rebecca Mayfield and faculty mentor Joe Wirgau



Environmental Club Takes Lead in Earth Day Festival

The Environmental Club will be hosting the 2011 Earth Day Festival on Wednesday, April 20 from 2—8 p.m. on the Heth Lawn. More than 30 campus clubs, local vendors and community environmental groups will participate in the festivities. Activities include live music by the Elmwood Band and Double U, a balloon launch by the Department of Geospatial Sciences, a tree planting ceremony, a relief fund drive for Japanese Earthquake survivors by the Red Cross Club, a used clothing drive for the Radford Clothing Bank by the RU Fashion Society, and a canned food drive by the Highlander Helpers' backpack club. The Graduate Art Student Association will also offer an Earth Day Art Sale during the festival.

The event is sponsored by the RU Environmental Club, RU Student Government Association, Club Programming Committee, RU SusatainABILITY and R-Space.





CSAT STEM Club News

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The Smithsonian Trip on April 2 hosted by the CSAT STEM Club went very well. We filled the bus, and everyone had a great time. There were people from different majors and everyone was able to go to the different museums, see the White House, and to even see the Lincoln Memorial and other famous places around D.C. The trip was a huge success, and the club would like to thank everyone who joined us!

As the semester comes to a close, the CSAT STEM Club will be hosting its service project on Sunday, April 17 from 3 - 5 p.m. The service project will be a cleanup of the river, and all volunteers will be meeting across the Dedmon Center bridge, in parking lot Z. We will be serving pizza after the event.

We are also accepting nominations for officers until Wednesday, April 13. Elections will be held on RU involved. To vote, you must be a member on RU Involved, you must have at least five points, and dues must be paid. Elections will take place on Sunday, April 17 at 5 p.m., and continue until Monday, April 25 at 5 p.m. The winners will be announced on Tuesday, April 26 during the CSAT STEM Club meeting.

The CSAT STEM Club will also be participating in the Earth Day Festival on Wednesday, April 20. The club will have a table where members will be giving out "treats for trash." The club will also have a display board of trivia facts. Earth Day Festival participants who stop by our table will have the opportunity to make a bird feeder using recycled water bottles.

The Spring Picnic will be held on Sunday, May 1, which is the Sunday before exam week, from 4 - 7 p.m. in Bissett Park's shelter one. We will be serving hamburgers and hot dogs.

Jasmine Jackson
Secretary of CSAT STEM Club

CSAT STEM Club Trip to the Washington, D.C.

