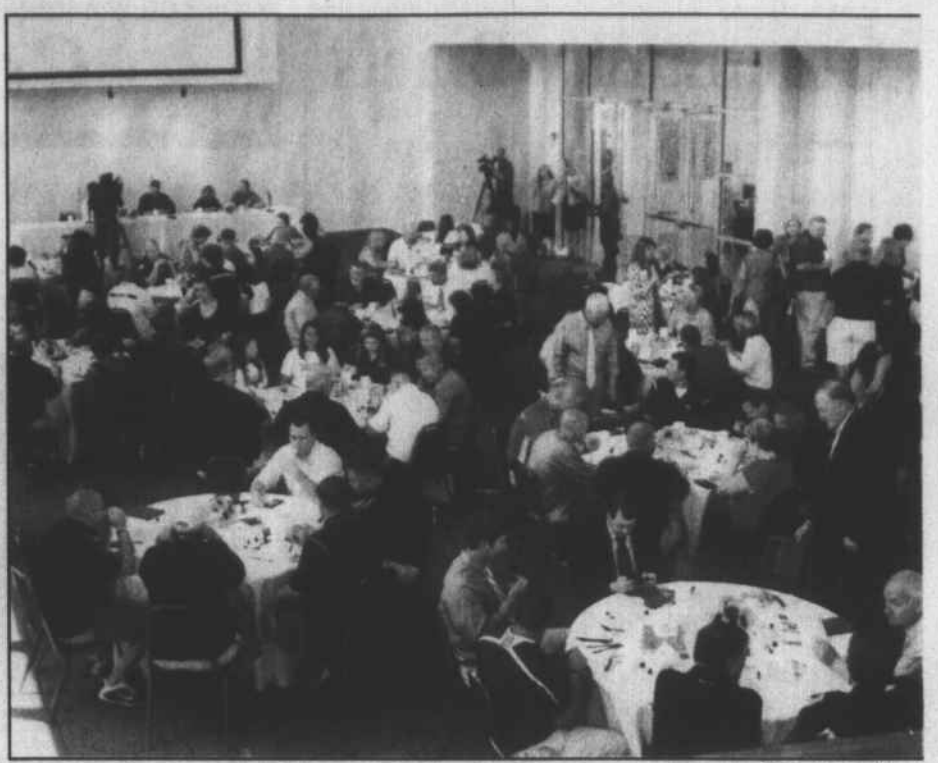


Former NFL players Jim Molinaro (L) and Ethan Albright (R) were the guest speakers during the New Bridge Invitational luncheon held at the Milton Rhodes Center.



Football coaches, cheerleading coaches, and athletic directors from around the state gathered at the Milton Rhodes Center for the New Bridge Invitational Luncheon on Wednesday, Aug. 12.

# Former NFL players speak on concussion prevention

## Matthew Gfellar Foundation spreads concussion awareness during annual luncheon

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

With the start of the 2015 football season right around the corner, most head football coaches don't have much time for anything, but on Wednesday, Aug. 12, coaches from around the state met to discuss concussions and football safety during a luncheon for the New Bridge Bank Invitational.

This year's luncheon was presented by the Matthew Gfellar Foundation, which was named after a student athlete who died after suffering a concussion during a high school game in 2008.

Matthew's father, Bob Gfellar, spoke during the opening of the luncheon and talked about the foundation's dedication to

spreading awareness of concussion prevention.

"We are really happy to be here to help bring awareness to a major problem in high school football," said Gfellar. "Although Matthew is no longer with us, through this foundation he will leave one forever."

During the luncheon, former NFL players Jim Molinaro and Ethan Albright were joined by certified athletic trainers in an open discussion on football safety, concussion protocol and prevention.

Ethan Albright, who played over 10 years in the NFL, said when he was growing up nobody was really thinking about concussions or injuries. He said when he played, many athletes didn't even report their injuries to trainers or coaches out of fear of being labeled as weak.

"Football has really changed over the years, and I think that is a good thing," said Albright. "Back when I was in high

school, we barely took water breaks because getting water was a sign of weakness. I'm glad the coaches and student-athletes have educated themselves on making the game safe."

Jim Molinaro, who played four years in the NFL with the Washington Redskins and Dallas Cowboys, also talked about the improvements in football safety.

"Football is a contact sport that can be very dangerous," said Molinaro. "There will always be some danger in playing such a violent contact sport, but with the improvements in technology over the years, I think the game of football is becoming safer every year."

Over the past decade football safety has come a long way, according to an article on ESPN.com last season concussions were down 25%.

Zachary Smith, a licensed athletic trainer, believes concussion prevention on the high school level still has a long way to

go.

"I agree football is a much safer sport than it was a decade ago on all levels, from Pop Warner to the NFL, but I think we still don't have enough funds to fully protect the athletes playing high school football."

According to Smith, a number of professional and college programs have technology that will notify trainers when a player has suffered a concussion or head injury. The technology will allow trainers to get those players out of the game or practice before it becomes any worse.

"It would be great to have that type of technology at every high school, but financially that is not possible, so it is up to the coaches and training staff to monitor the athletes and know the signs of someone who is suffering from a concussion."

For more information on the Matthew Gfellar Foundation visit [www.matthewgfellarfoundation.org](http://www.matthewgfellarfoundation.org).

## Randy Butt Joins WSSU Athletics Staff

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem State University Department of Athletics is pleased to announce that Randy Butt has joined the department as associate athletics director for business & finance.

Butt, who has extensive experience in the financial aspect of college athletics, comes to WSSU from Radford university,

the requirements of NCAA Regional Tournament host sites.

Another addition was unveiled in the spring of 2014 as Radford softball entered a new home featuring state-of-the-art dugouts, a press box and chairback stadium seating.

Butt joined Radford from Virginia Tech, where he spent 21 years working in the Hokies' accounting office. Since 1994 he has been in charge of the Athletic Business Office, first as the Business Manager.

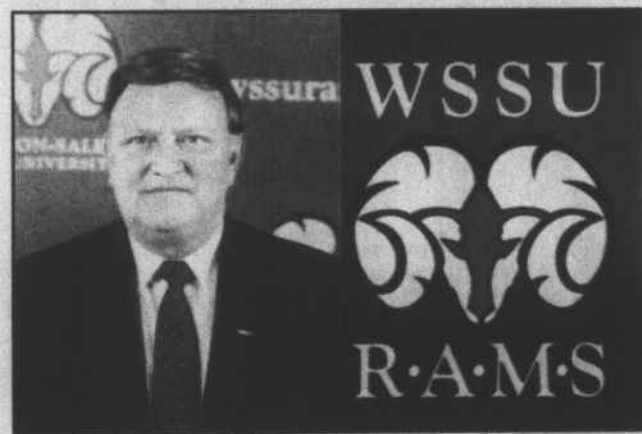
In 1998, he was promoted to the Director of Financial Affairs and then in 2000, he was named Assistant Athletics Director for Financial Affairs. He was again elevated in 2003 to Associate Athletics Director for Financial Affairs.

Butt began his career at Virginia Tech in 1986 as a Fiscal Technician following three years as an accountant with Woody Distributors and the Kroger supermarket chain.

"I thank our Lord for opening this door for me and my family, and also thank Virginia Tech for helping to guide my career in athletics administration," Butt added.

A graduate of nearby Eastern Montgomery High School (formerly Shawsville High School), Butt received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the National Business College in Roanoke, Virginia. He has a Master's Degree in Health and Physical Education from Virginia Tech.

Butt is married to the former Debi Shutters (Radford University class of 1990) and has three daughters: Mallory, Casey and Lianna.



where he was responsible for all financial operations, and created a fiscally responsible monitoring and reporting structure for Radford Athletics.

In addition, he oversaw the internal day-to-day operations of the athletics department, including facilities, finance, human resources and event management.

Butt was instrumental in enhancing existing and creating new revenue streams to boost the financial stability of the athletics department at Radford.

Radford's athletics facilities reaped the benefits of Butt's financial expertise. In April 2011, Radford baseball played for the first time in its brand-new stadium, which was the department's first capital project funded entirely through private donations made to Radford Athletics. For the first time ever, the Highlanders had the capability to host night games. The stadium features lighting standards that meet

# Have a Story Idea?

Let us Know [news@wschronicle.com](mailto:news@wschronicle.com)

## WINSTON-SALEM DASH BASEBALL

Series vs. Myrtle Beach Pelicans (Cubs Affiliate)

**Tuesday, August 18, 7:00 pm**  
\* All-You-Can-Eat Night - All fans can enjoy FREE All-You-Can-Eat hot dogs, hamburgers, and cheeseburgers.

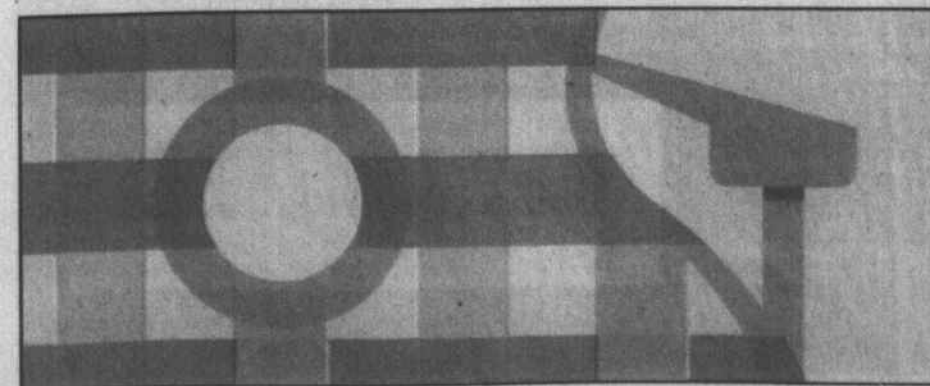
**Wednesday, August 19, 7:00 pm**  
**Thursday, August 20, 7:00 pm**  
\* Thirsty Thursday - \$1 beer specials presented by

Series vs. Carolina Mudcats (Braves Affiliate)

**Friday, August 21, 7:00 pm**  
\* Faith Night - Pre-game concert  
\* Post-game Fireworks show presented by   
\* Post-game Kids Run The Bases

**Saturday, August 22, 6:30 pm**  
\* Post-game Kids Run The Bases

**Sunday, August 23, 2:00 pm**  
\* Pre-game Autographs, \$1 hot dogs and sodas through 2nd inning  
\* Post-game Kids Run The Bases  
\* Pups in the Park  
-Bring your dog and participate in pre-game dog parade presented by   
-Pooch Passes must be purchased in advance by calling 336.714.6888



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# 2015 DOWNTOWN SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

WINSTON SALEM NORTH CAROLINA

DOWNTOWN JAZZ | FRIDAYS / 6-9 PM AT CORPENING PLAZA  
PRESENTED BY WINSTON-SALEM FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
NEXT EVENT AUG 28 PAUL BROWN, OPENING ACT - URBAN STANDARD

SUMMER ON TRADE | SATURDAYS / 7-10 PM AT SIXTH & TRADE  
PRESENTED BY TRULIANT FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
NEXT EVENT AUG 15 VAGABOND SAINTS SOCIETY TRIBUTE TO BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN