



# News2Note

April 2019

The following graduate students presented papers at the annual ASPECT Graduate Conference titled “Rethinking Otherness in the Age of Neoliberalism”: **Judson Abraham**, ASPECT, “The Question of ‘Corporatism’ in Left-Populist Discourse”; **Caroline Alphin**, ASPECT, presented “Bulletproof Neoliberals: Reframing the Biohacker as an Intensified Accelerationist”; **Nada Berrada**, ASPECT, “The Neoliberal State and Youth Policy in Morocco”; **Allie Briggs**, ASPECT, “The Perfect Crime: Race as Technology and Modern Liberal Sovereignty”; **Jay Burkette**, ASPECT, “Utopia as a Verb: Mutual Aid as Its Process”; **Linea Cutter**, ASPECT, “Spaces of Empire in Popular Culture: A Critical Analysis of *To the Bone*”; **Joshua Earle**, Science, Technology and Society, “The Problem of the Sexy Cyborg: Race, Gender, and Otherness in Transhumanism”; **Jordan Fallon**, Political Science, “‘Omar Comin’: Black Subversive Marginality and Neoliberal Subjectivity”; **Rob Flahive**, ASPECT, “Aesthetics of the Other: Reinscribing Colonial Urbanism through Preservation”; **Jenni Gallagher**, History “‘Remove Him to the Poorhouse’: Poor-Relief in Montgomery County, VA, 1830–1880”; **Ruth Grene**, Hispanic Studies, “Views of the Subaltern in Mexican Film”; **Johannes Grow**, ASPECT, “The Geopolitics of the ECSC”; **Robert Hodges**, ASPECT, “Two Differing Intentions Toward Alternating the International System: A Discussion of al-Qaeda and Islamic State Goals”; **Jack R. Leff**, Science, Technology, and Society, “Enclosable Futures: How Prisons Render Prisoners’ Futures for ‘Public’ Consumption”; **John R. Legg**, History, “White Lies, Native Revision: Public Memory and the U.S.–Dakota War of 1862”; **Leigh McKagen**, ASPECT, “An Imperial Journey: Castaway Narratives in *Star Trek: Voyager*”; **Mohammed Pervaiz**, ASPECT, “Valorizing and Other-ing Bodies: Examples in Historical and Contemporary Turkey”; **Sarah Plummer**, ASPECT, “Panoptic Policing: A Theory of Surveillance as Resistance”; **Shaun Respass**, ASPECT, “Why/When Suicide Offends the Neoliberal Us”; **Mary Ryan**, ASPECT, “The Last Gasp: How Racial Crisis Threatens U.S. Democracy”; **Patrick Salmons**, ASPECT, “Althusser’s Reproduction of Race in Society”; **Katy Shepard**, ASPECT, “Art as the Creative Process, Identity Building, and Liberation”; **Faith Skiles**, ASPECT, “Decidedly Neo-Confucian: Western Missionaries’ Ordering of Space in Korea”; **Spenser Slough**, ASPECT, “Consumerism, Material Culture, Gender, and Performance as Historical Method in Investigating Commonplace Financial Records of Rural Communities”; **Emma Stamm**, ASPECT, “Algorithmic Determinacy and Interpretative Psychedelic Science”; **Alexander Stubberfield**,

ASPECT, “State of the Art: The Habitat Quantification Tool and the Environmental Defense Fund”; **Anthony Szczurek**, ASPECT, “Sacred Climate Futures: Hindutva Imaginaries of Climate Change (2015–2018)”; **Madison Tepper**, ASPECT, “Radical Counterperformance: Invoking Bodily Affect as to Global Capitalism”; **Molly Todd**, ASPECT, “Affective Juxtaposition and the Border Crossing Experience of Pixar’s *Coco*”; **Shelby Ward**, ASPECT, “State In/security and War Tourism: Sri Lankan Identity Politics and Tourism Mapping Practices”; **Sara Wenger**, ASPECT, “The Strange Case of Aura Dolls: Posthuman Anxiety and the Sex Work Debate”; **Zachariah Wheeler**, ASPECT, “Back to the Future: Symbolic Revolution, Aporia, and the Death of Neoliberalism”; **Tara Wilson**, Political Science, “Evaluating the Provable Successes of the United Nations Human Rights Council”; and **Sengul Yildiz-Alanbay**, ASPECT, “Constructing the ‘Other’ through a Discourse of Compassion: The Representation of the Iconic Image of Alan Kurdi in Turkey’s Foreign Policy Towards the EU.” The conference took place March 21–23 on campus.

**Amy Azano**, School of Education, published “A Place for Local in Critical Global Literacies,” *English Journal* 108.3 (2019): 108–10.

**Shannon Bell**, Sociology, was invited by the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center at the University of Maryland to serve as a Distinguished Lecturer in its Postdoctoral Scholar Immersion Program. She presented a workshop on conducting interviews and analyzing interview data analysis and gave a talk on her book, [\*Fighting King Coal: The Challenges to Micromobilization in Central Appalachia\*](#), on March 4–5.

ASPECT doctoral student **Nada Berrada** presented “What is the State in Morocco Doing for the Youth? Unpacking the Neoliberal Discourse on Education, Employment, and Political Participation” at the Year of Morocco International Conference on Gender, Identity, and Youth Empowerment in Morocco, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Georgia, March 15–16.

The [22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Graduate Conference](#) was held March 29–30 in Owens Banquet Hall and the Graduate Life Center; it featured 20 presentations by students from seven U.S. institutions, including Virginia Tech. Department of History graduate students organized the conference; faculty from the Department of History served as discussants. Presenting papers were the following master’s students in History: **Nick Bolin**, “‘The Population Problem’: Origins of American and Indian Concerns Over Population”; **Taylor Boyd**, “Establishing a Narrative: Local Historical Memories of the Martinsville Seven Case in Martinsville, Virginia”; **Jeff Felton**, “The Realities of Defeat: The Turning Points of the Civil War in Virginia, September–December, 1864”; **Heath Furrow**, “‘We Can Do Very Little with Them’: British Discourse on Shi’is in Iraq”; **Jenni Gallagher**, “‘Remove Him to the Poorhouse’: Poor-Relief in Montgomery County, VA, 1830–1880”; **John Legg**, “Changing Perspectives: The Contested Memories of the U.S.–Dakota War of 1862”; **Kaitlyn Martin**, “The Thesmophoria and the Women of Thebes”; **Marlee Putnam**, “A Jane of All Trades: Janet Taylor’s Contributions to Victorian Navigation”; **Spenser Slough**, “Forgetting by Avoidance: African American Burial Grounds, Forgotten History, and Jettisoned Memory in Northwest Wake County, NC, 1870–2018”; **Kathryn Walters**, “20,000 Fewer: The Wagner-Rogers Bill and the Jewish Immigration Crisis”; **Ryan Wesdock**, “The Floatplane Controversy: Proscription, Procedure, and Protection

in Carroll County”; and **Emily Wild**, “The Complexities of Womanhood: The Identities of Female Quaker Unionists in the Civil War.”

**Nicholas Copeland**, Sociology, published [\*The Democracy Development Machine: Neoliberalism, Radical Pessimism, and Authoritarian Populism in Mayan Guatemala\*](#) (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2019).

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences was well represented at the [showcase of the Council on VT History](#), which was unveiled on March 20 at Newman Library. Featured were: “From Orange to Maroon,” a history of Virginia Tech presented by **Peter Wallenstein**, History; “If This Place Could Talk. Visualizing 150 Years of Virginia Tech’s History” by **Paul Quigley**, History; “VT Stories,” stories of alumni, faculty, staff, and community members gathered by **Katrina Powell**, English, and her team; and “Voices in the Stone,” live performance in theatre, dance, and music coordinated by **Paul Steger**, Professor of Theatre and Director of the School of Performing Arts. All projects will be completed for Virginia Tech’s sesquicentennial in 2022. Established in 2017, the [council](#) explores how Virginia Tech might recognize and acknowledge its history in the context of today and the Beyond Boundaries vision for the future.

**François Debrix**, ASPECT Program Director and Professor of Political Science, published “Confronting Horror: International Relations beyond Humanity,” *Routledge Handbook of Critical International Relations*, ed. Jenny Edkins (London: Routledge, 2019), pp. 77–88.

**Roger Ekirch**, History, was invited to join the [Society of American Historians](#), an organization that seeks to “identify and celebrate distinguished historical writing.” Membership, which is by invitation only, currently stands at about 400 scholars.

**Charlene Eska**, English, published [\*A Raven’s Battle-Cry: The Limits of Judgment in the Medieval Irish Legal Tract Anfuigell\*](#) (Leiden: Brill, 2019).

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences raised \$114,039 from 1,061 donors as part of Virginia Tech Giving Day on March 19. As the unit at Virginia Tech with the second highest number of donations in the Vice President Participation Leaderboard Challenge, the College received a donation of \$750 from Virginia Tech Vice President of Advancement Charles Phlegar. Within the College, the Marching Virginians Annual Fund received \$500 and Adult Day Services received \$250 from Dean Blieszner as the units in the College with the most gifts on Giving Day. The College also met challenges from Lara and Henry Hadad, Dr. Harald McNair, Donna Mitchell, and James “Jay” Muscatello.

The following CLAHS students were recipients of study abroad scholarship for Summer Session II and Fall 2019 that were awarded by the Global Education Office. Awardees of Global Education Scholarships were: **Abigail Arft**, Russian, Switzerland, and **Gianna Turzi**, Sociology, Switzerland and Africa. **Benjamin Hopkins**, Political Science, and **Autumn Kirven**, National Security and Foreign Affairs, received a Steger Center Scholarship for “European Affairs in a Global Context.”

The following graduate students were selected for the [2019 cohort of the Global Perspectives Program](#): **Diana Devine**, a doctoral student in Child and Adolescent Development; and **Savannah Paige Murray**, a doctoral student in Rhetoric and Writing. Developed in 2005, the [Global Perspectives Program](#) is an immersive experience that aims to better prepare graduate students to succeed as future faculty members and global citizens.

The following faculty and students in the College were honored at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Education Week Awards Banquet. School of Education faculty member **Nancy Bodenhorn** was the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Outstanding Mentor Award winner. The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Outstanding Graduate Student Awards went to master's student **Jenni Gallagher**, History. **Emily Harmon**, History, received the William Preston Society Outstanding Thesis Award for Social Sciences, Business, Education, and Humanities. **Leigh McKagen**, ASPECT, was the recipient of the Graduate Teaching Excellence Award as an Instructor of Record. The awards banquet took place on March 28.

Four students from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences were among the 10 selected for the [2019 Graduate School Diversity Scholars](#) cohort. The students are: **Trichia Cadette**, Theatre Arts; **Devin Koch**, Creative Writing; **Sarah Plummer**, ASPECT; and **Patrick Salmons**, ASPECT. The students will present their Diversity Scholars projects on May 2 in the Graduate Life Center. A description of each Diversity Scholar's project is available at the link above.

**Anthony "Kwame" Harrison**, Sociology, published "[Hip Hop Ethos](#)," *Humanities* 8.1,39 (2019), with Craig E. Arthur.

**James Hawdon**, Sociology and Director of the Center for Peace Student and Violence Prevention, published "[We Don't Like Your Type Around Here: Regional and Residential Differences in Exposure to Online Hate Material Targeting Sexuality](#)," *Deviant Behavior* 40.3 (2019): 385–401, with Mathew Costello and Joseph Rukus.

The music of **Eric Lyon**, School of Performing Arts, was performed at the following concerts in New York City. LyonFest 2019 presented three concerts in Brooklyn featuring his music and arrangements. On March 10 his composition "Three Melodies for Vibraphone" was performed by NYC-based percussionist Cory Bracken on "Sound Connections: Performers as Composers" in Brooklyn. The concert "Beats and Chaos" on March 13 at Areté Venue and Gallery featured performances by both NYC-based performers and Virginia Tech faculty members **Jason Crafton**, **Jay Crone**, **Kyle Hutchins**, and **Alan Weinstein**; it included the world premiere of "Coronation" for trumpet and computer, performed by Jason Crafton. A second concert at Areté presented solo and duo works composed for String Noise. In addition, on March 14 the violin duo String Noise performed the complete set of Lyon's Rock Arrangements at Spectrum NYC, including songs from such bands as R.E.M., X, Bad Brains, Minutemen, and Flipper. From March 28–30 Lyon was the composer-in-residence at the University of South Florida, Tampa.

**Jeff Mann**, English, co-edited [LGBTQ Fiction and Poetry from Appalachia](#) (Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2019), with Julia Watts.

ASPECT doctoral student **Leigh McKagen** presented “She’s the Captain: Examining *Star Trek*’s First Female Captain” and “Always Traveler, Never Refugee: Adventure Narratives and Empire Amongst the Stars” at the Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, which took place March 21–24 in Washington, D.C.

The following faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences were awarded mentoring grants from the Office of the Provost during the 2018–2019 academic year: **Andrea Baldwin**, Sociology; **Koeun Choi**, Human Development and Family Science; **Carolyn Commer**, English; **Amanda Demmer**, History; **Donna Fogelsong**, School of Education; **Tameka Grimes**, School of Education; **Scotty Hardwig**, School of Performing Arts; **Bryan Klausmeyer**, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures; **Karen Kovaka**, Philosophy; **Allan Lumba**, History; **Justin Perkinson**, School of Performing Arts; **Desiree Poets**, Political Science; **Audrey Reeves**, Political Science; **Jody Russon**, Human Development and Family Science; **Balbir Singh**, Religion and Culture; **Ming Chew Teo**, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures; and **Tingting Zhao**, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures.

**Carol Mullen**, School of Education, published “[Advancing Racial Equality through Insights from Canadian Indigenous Art and Literature](#),” *International Journal for Cross-Disciplinary Subjects in Education* 9.4 (2018): 3886–90.

Playing electric violin and computer, **Charles Nichols**, School of Performing Arts, premiered three new pieces of ambient psychedelic rock with his band Modality on March 1. Performing telematically from his office at Virginia Tech, he streamed audio over the internet to join the band at the Missoula Art Museum in Missoula, Montana.

ASPECT doctoral student **Sarah Plummer** presented “Breaking Bread: Community and Communion at Bread and Puppet Theater” at the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, which took place March 9 in Greenville, North Carolina.

The Department of Religion and Culture was one of three academic units at Virginia Tech to receive a [2019 Exemplary Department or Program Award](#). This year’s theme was “Collaborating Beyond Department/Program Boundaries for Exceptional Student Learning.” The Department of Religion and Culture was honored for its merging of technological innovation with conceptual and ethical insights of the humanities, engaging with the land-grant mission in multifaceted ways, and commitment to the rigorous study of cultural and religious diversity locally as well as globally. The award recipients were honored at a reception hosted by the Office of the Provost and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

**Alexys Rivers**, a junior Creative Writing and Art major, was awarded a [Fund for Education Abroad scholarship](#). Rivers will be participating in the London Calling! 2019 program this summer.

**Brett Shadle**, History, published "[Reluctant Humanitarians: British Policy Toward Refugees in Kenya During the Italo-Ethiopian War, 1935-1940](#)," *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 47.1 (2019): 167–86.

ASPECT doctoral student **Emma Stamm** published "Everyone Alive Wants Answers," *Tears in the Fence* 69 (March 2019).

The following students were awarded scholarships from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences in support of study abroad participation. For Summer Session I of 2019: **Tahreem Alam**, Multimedia Journalism and International Relations, Oman; **Sidiratu Bangura**, International Relations, Oman; **Nyaima Brackner**, Russian and National Security and Foreign Affairs, Latvia; **Annika Klingen**, Political Science and Russian, Latvia; **Roberto Ramos-Diaz**, National Security and Foreign Affairs and French, Oman; **Shannon Reilly**, National Security and Foreign Affairs, Oman; **Alexys Rivers**, Creative Writing and Studio Art, United Kingdom; **Melanie Sutphin**, National Security and Foreign Affairs, Oman; **Sarah Van Hook**, Creative Writing, Ghana. For Summer Session II of 2019: **Katharine Cox**, History and Chemical Engineering, Denmark, and **Kymerly Stallard**, Political Science, India. For Fall 2019: **Halcyeon Guy**, International Relations and Criminology, Switzerland.

**Lee Vinsel**, Science, Technology, and Society, and Andrew Russell, SUNY Polytechnic University, received [a grant for \\$189,193 from the Alfred Sloan Foundation](#) to address the chronic neglect of maintenance in organizations and industries.

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Virginia Tech Authors Recognition Event took place March 21 in Newman Library. The event honored authors' academic contributions to the University; the list of faculty and students who authored, co-authored, and edited works or who were recipients of Open Access Subvention Fund support for journal articles can be found [here](#). There were 55 individuals from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, which constituted 45% of the university total; among them were seven authors with two contributions. The featured speakers, both from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, were **Melanie Kiechle**, History, and **Tyechia Thompson**, Innovative Programs.

ASPECT doctoral student **Shelby Ward** presented "Re-mapping the Postcolonial in Displacement: The Lessons Learned from Sri Lankan Travel Poetry" at the Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, which took place March 21–24 in Washington, D.C.

Please submit items for inclusion in upcoming **News2Note** newsletters to Associate Dean Debra Stoudt at [dstoudt@vt.edu](mailto:dstoudt@vt.edu).