



News2 Note

April 2010

The following Air Force ROTC cadets have been selected to attend various United States Air Force Professional Development Training (PDT) opportunities this summer at different locations throughout the world. **AFROTC cadet Micah Hafich**, Mathematics, will attend Space Operations PDT at Vandenberg AFB in California June 14-18. **AFROTC cadet Jonathan Smythe**, International Studies, will participate in the Cadet Summer Language Immersion Program (CSLIP) in Germany May 21-June 18. **AFROTC cadet Matthew Simpson**, Civil and Environmental Engineering, was selected for the Field Engineering and Research Lab (FERL) PDT at a location yet to be determined. This PDT, sponsored by the Air Force Academy's Civil Engineer Department, exposes cadets to hands-on experiences in surveying, construction methods, and construction materials at the FERL; the "construct first, design later" approach provides students with a solid foundation for learning scientific theory and engineering design principles in more advanced courses of the civil and environmental engineering curriculum. **AFROTC cadet James Schempp**, Geography, will participate in the Air Force Academy Free Fall (AFAFF) PDT at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, July 29-August 8. **AFROTC cadet William Kim**, Aerospace Engineering, will attend the Operations Air Force PDT at Dyess AFB in Texas June 3-13.

On display in the Wallace Gallery until April 2 is an exhibit titled "Housing around the World." The eight poster projects that comprise the exhibit were completed by students in AHRM 3604 Housing and the Consumer, most of whom are AHRM majors. Student teams interviewed an individual from another country, researched housing in that country, and then displayed the information in a poster format. **JoAnn Emmel**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, who teaches AHRM 3604, organized the exhibit.

Kristy Arnold, a doctoral student in the School of Education/Educational Policy and Leadership Studies, won the American Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD) research award. The award recognizes one student each year who has embarked on research in the area of multicultural counseling. **Norma Day-Vines**, School of Education/Educational Policy and Leadership Studies, serves as the dissertation chair for Arnold's study titled "A Qualitative Examination of African American Counselors' Experiences of Addressing Issues of Race, Ethnicity, and Culture with Clients of Color."

The 13th annual Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Graduate Conference took place on March 19-20. The conference featured 16 presentations by graduate students in history from 11 different institutions, including Virginia Tech; Virginia Tech Department of History faculty served as discussants for most of the sessions. The conference was sponsored by the VT History Graduate Student Association, the Department of History, the Graduate Student Assembly, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lectureship Program, and the Women and Minority Artists and Scholars Lecture Series. Department of History graduate students presented the following papers: **Catherine C. Alford**, "Dr. John Minson Galt and Mental Health Reform"; **Nicole Faut**, "Images of Che Guevara"; **Jillian E. Ketron**, "Poder Feminino: The Use of Traditional Gendered Symbols in Chilean Women's Protests in the 1970s"; and **Brian Quinn**, "Civil War Re-Enactors." ASPECT doctoral student **Reed W. Taylor** presented "Theorizing Feminism in Pre-Modern Islamic Political Thought: Averroes on Plato's Republic."

Thank you to all faculty and staff in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences who donated to the 2009 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC). At the awards program on March 10 the College was recognized for having collected the largest total dollar contribution: \$24,463.00. The total Virginia Tech contribution was over \$206,000. Special thanks to **Karen Watson**, CLAHS Director of Academic Support, who represented the College on the Virginia Tech CVC Steering Team.

Department of Communication faculty member **Robert Magee** collaborated with several graduate students on presentations at the Southeast Colloquium of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, on March 11-13. With graduate student **Elizabeth Johnson**, Magee presented "Health Campaigns and Video Messages: The Role of Regulatory Focus and Self Esteem on Behavioral Intentions," which highlighted results of an experiment in health communication concerning eating disorders. Along with students **Erin Cooper**, **Gordon Curry**, and **Elizabeth Johnson**, as well as two students in marketing, he presented "Web Sites and Attitude Toward Charities: The Role of Color and Knowledge Activation," which incorporated the results of an experiment concerning communication technology and color.

Travis J. Cross, Music, conducted the District 196 Middle Level Honor Band at Apple Valley High School in Apple Valley, Minnesota, on March 12. On March 14 he guest conducted the Hopkins Westwind Concert Band on one of his compositions in a performance at Edinborough Park in Edina, Minnesota. On March 16 Cross conducted the Montgomery County All-County Band at Christiansburg High School. On March 28 and 29 he served as composer-in-residence at Pleasant Valley High School in Pleasant Valley, Iowa, where the high school band and chorus presented the premiere of his latest commissioned composition, "When in Our Music."

Steven Daskal, Philosophy, published "Absolute Value as Belief" in *Philosophical Studies* 148 (2010): 221-29.

School of Education faculty members **Brett D. Jones**, Learning Sciences and Technologies, and **Kelly A. Parkes**, Teaching and Learning, co-authored "The motivation of undergraduate music students: The impact of identification and talent beliefs on choosing a career in music education" in the *Journal of Music Teacher Education* 19,2 (2010): 41-56.

JoAnn M. Emmel, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, along with Rebecca Lovingood, Carol Michael and Joseph Wysocki, published "Association of Home Equipment Educators - The Changing Face of Home Equipment Education" in the *Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal* 38,3 (March 2010): 333-44.

The English Department's 2010 Undergraduate Research Conference took place on March 26 in Shanks Hall. This year's conference featured 65 student presentations of papers or original poetry in 17 sessions and an additional 29 students who participated in the Poster Session and ePortfolio Showcase. Some 379 individuals were pre-registered for the conference, the department's fifth annual event. The day's events concluded with official recognition of the student authors, presentation of conference awards, the initiation ceremony for Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, and a reception.

The conference awards were presented by **Rachel Holloway**, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs. The Composition award was presented to **Nora McGann** for her presentation titled "Bilingualism and the Question of Mandated Foreign Language Immersion in Elementary Schools." The Creative Writing award was awarded to **Drew Knapp** for "Bird Fly East." The Literature, Language, and Culture award was given to **Audra Vasiliauskas** for "The Pain and Irony of Love: Classical Allusions and Female Agency in Eliza Haywood's *Love in Excess*." **Alexandra Orchard-Hays** received the Professional Writing award for "Knowledge, Possibility, and the 21st-Century Student." **Grace Pearsall** was the recipient of the Poster award for "Hidden in 'A Place Apart': The Human Cost of Isolation in Frost's 'Revelation' and Hawthorne's 'The Minister's Black Veil.'"

As part of the conference the Alpha Rho Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society, welcomed the following new members: **Rebecca Bullard, Marybeth Butler, Julia Callahan, Rachel Castonguay, Candice Chu, Rachel Dinkins, Allison Donohue, Marianne Duchane, Brooke Gendron, Caty Gordon, Ally Hammond, Mary C. Hawes, Claire Holman, Sarah Holzman, Victoria, James, Lauren Kaye, Monica Lauw, Marlaina S. McElheny, Lara J. Magnum, Thomas Minogue, Katelyn Noland, Kara Olenick, Grace Pearsall, Hung-Vuong Alexander Pham, Thomas Murray Ragsdale, Hannah Roth, Andraya Vantrease, Olivia Walsh, Katherine Williams, and Nicole Williamson**. All are English majors.

The conference awards ceremony also included recognition of the following students enrolled in English composition courses in Fall 2009 or Spring 2010 whose work is included in the Pearson Composition Textbook 2010; CLAHS majors are: **Max Brooks**, English, and **Monica Moore**, Philosophy and Humanities, Science, and Environment.

Matthew Gabriele, Religion and Culture, will be a Visiting Lecturer at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia, from April 8-9. He will meet with students and give a public talk titled "How Did Crusading Change after 9/11?"

Deepu George, a Ph.D. student in the Marriage and Family Therapy Program in the Department of Human Development, has been selected as Virginia Tech's graduate student representative to the Board of Visitors for 2010-2011. His appointment was confirmed by the Board last month, following a final round of interviews.

University Distinguished Professor of English **Nikki Giovanni** won an NAACP Image Award for Literary Work - Poetry for *Bicycles: Love Poems*. This is Giovanni's sixth Image Award. A listing of the winners in Literature Categories can be found [here](#).

The Graduate School recognized the following CLAHS students at its 10th Annual Graduate Education Week Awards Banquet on March 25. The Graduate Woman of the Year was **Michelle McLeese**, Sociology. The Social Sciences, Business, and Humanities Outstanding Dissertation Award was presented to **Heather D. Switzer**, who graduated in December with a Ph.D. in Planning, Governance, and Globalization from the School of Public and International Affairs in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. Switzer currently is Adjunct Professor in Women's and Gender Studies in the Department of Sociology as well as a research associate with Virginia Tech's Institute for Policy and Governance; she earned both a master's and a bachelor's degree in English at Virginia Tech. Switzer's co-advisors, **Bernice Hausman**, English, and University Distinguished Professor of Political Science **Timothy Luke**, who also serves as interim director of ASPECT and as Program Chair for Government and International Affairs in the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), were honored as the Outstanding Dissertation Advisors. Sociology Ph.D. student **Jill Harrison**'s dissertation was selected to receive the Graduate School's Outstanding Dissertation Honorable mention in the Social Sciences, Business and Humanities. Recognized as the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Outstanding Master's Student was **Joseph Forte**, History. The CLAHS Outstanding Doctoral Student was **Laura Gambrel**, Human Development. **Laura Pennington**, Political Science, was recognized with the Graduate Service Excellence Award. **Laura Boutwell**, Sociology, was selected as the Honorable Mention Recipient for the Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Excellence Award. Recognized as Who's Who Among Students in American University and Colleges were CLAHS students **Tracey Cameron**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, and **Michelle McLeese**, Sociology.

The following graduate students in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences participated in the 26th annual Graduate Student Associate Research Symposium on March 24: **M. Emrah Aktunc** (Philosophy), **Judith Brown** (Human Development), **Timothy Burrows** (Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies), **Arthur Conroy** (Human Development), **Yeonjeong Park** (Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies), **Juan Carlos Sanchez Sierra** (ASPECT), **Alex Schmitt** (Music), **Derek Whisman** (English), and **Xiaochen Zhang** (ASPECT). Poster presentations were made by: **Youngjin Bahng** (Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management), **John Butler** and **Laura Eubanks Gambrel** (Human Development), **Dave Dannenberg** (Education/Teaching and Learning), **Kerry Dirk** (English), **Yeonjeong Park** (Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies), **Kristen Pujari** (Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies), and **Reed Taylor** (ASPECT).

There were 205 oral presentations, posters, and videos presented at this year's symposium. CLAHS winners of 2010 GSA Research Symposium Awards from among the presenters listed above were: Northern Virginia Center (National Capital Region) Video-Conferencing: Brown, \$500 for "The Consequences of Telecommuting: The Affects and Effects on Non-Telecommuters." Oral Presentation: Whisman, \$250 for "A Devil of a Coincidence: Study on Milton and Gower"; first prize for CLAHS Poster Session: Bahng, \$500 for "How can retailers utilize weather forecasts in assortment planning for seasonal goods? Strategies from the analysis of sales data of a retailer"; second prize for Poster Session: Pujari, \$250 for "Safety vs. Autonomy: The Struggles of Adult Children Assisting Parents with Mild Cognitive Impairment"; and Butler and Gambrel, \$250 for "Multimethod and Mixed Methods Research in Marriage and Family Therapy: A Content Analysis"; and Performance Session: Schmitt, \$500 for "Clichés for Wind Quintet: A Study of Different Styles."

Bob Hicok, English, published a collection of poetry (his fifth), *Words for Empty and Words for Full*, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010. This is Hicok's fifth poetry collection. Details can be found [here](#).

In his [op-ed piece](#) published in the *Roanoke Times* on March 4, **Richard Hirsh**, History, sought to explain the reasons for the big electricity rate hikes in Virginia and possible ways to mitigate future increases through the use of energy-efficiency programs. Hirsh conducts research on energy history and policy.

This semester the Department of Human Development awarded micro-grants to six doctoral students in support of independent research. The students will use funds for a range of purposes, including training, instruments, and equipment. **Laura Gambrel** received support for her dissertation research proposal, “Mindfulness-based secure attachment priming for couples”; her work will focus on developing a mindfulness intervention with couples to active felt security. **Annabelle Goodwin’s** award-winning proposal is titled “An exploration of feminist family therapists’ resistance to and collusion with oppression”; in her study she will explore the ways in which feminist family therapists encourage exploration of, resistance to, and collusion with, oppression. **Adrienne Ivory** received a micro-grant for “The effects of profanity in video games”; her proposed study will examine the effects of profanity in video game content on aggression, presence, arousal, and enjoyment among users. “Developing attachment bonds with incarcerated Latino fathers: A funding proposal for a mixed methods study” is the title of **Mathis Kennington’s** research project; the purpose of the study is to explore the non-residential fathering experience of incarcerated Latino men using the Adult Attachment Inventory and qualitative self-report surveys and interviews. **Julie Leventhal** will pursue research on “The Mother-Child Transmission of Conflict Resolution Strategies”; the purpose of her work research is to better understand how children learn how to resolve peer conflict, specifically from their mothers. **Bradford Wiles** received a grant for “Shared reading, guided participation, and mind-mindedness among Head Start mothers”; Wiles will implement a home-based shared reading intervention with rural Head Start families to promote mothers’ scaffolding of children.

Jihyun Kim, Apparel, Housing and Resource Management, published “Affective and Cognitive Online Shopping Experience Effects of Image Interactivity Technology and Experimenting With Appearance” in *Clothing and Textiles Research Journal* 28, 2 (2010): 140-54; the article was co-authored with Hyun-Hwa Lee and Ann Marie Fiore.

Simone Lambert, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, was awarded the 2010 Addictions/Offender Educator Excellence Award presented by the International Association of Addiction and Offender Counselors. The award was presented at the IAAOC breakfast on March 21 during the American Counseling Association Conference in Pittsburgh. Virginia Tech students and alumni, who nominated Lambert, were there to show support as she received her award.

Roland Lazenby, Communication, published *Jerry West: The Life and Legend of a Basketball Icon* (New York: Random House/ESPN, 2010). The book has garnered impressive reviews and on March 21 reached number seven in the non-fiction category of the *LA Times* best-seller list. More information about the book can be found [here](#).

Nicole Lien, an MAED licensure student in Science Education in the School of Education/Teaching and Learning, was awarded a Knowles Teaching Fellowship and is a member of the 2010 Biology Cohort. The Knowles Science Teaching Foundation (KSTF) was established to increase the number of high quality high school science and mathematics teachers in the United States. Designed to assist future teachers’ needs as they go through a teaching credential program and continue through the beginning years of teaching, the KSTF has one of the most comprehensive fellowship programs in the United States to

support up and coming educators. KSTF Teaching Fellowships combine both extensive professional and financial support. The total award is valued at \$150,000 over the course of the five-year fellowship; each fellow receives tuition assistance, monthly stipends, grants for professional development and teaching materials. More information is available [here](#).

Lyndsay McKeever, a junior majoring in Humanities, Science, and the Environment in the Department of Science and Technology in Society, was one of two Virginia Tech undergraduates among 19 high school and college students nationally who were selected to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties, COP15, held from December 7-18, 2009, in Copenhagen, Denmark. McKeever, who also has a minor in Environmental Policy and Planning, serves as vice president of the Environmental Coalition at Virginia Tech. The conference has taken place annually since 1995; participating at the 2009 meeting were 115 heads of state, including President Barack Obama. Student participants took part in plenary sessions and workshops. Prior to the conference, the students met with youth leaders from around the world at the Conference of Youth on December 5-6. More details can be found [here](#).

Two students with a minor in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, **Thomas Bensing** (History) and **Darcy Satterwhite** (Marketing Management), presented papers at the 4th Annual Undergraduate Medieval Conference at Longwood University on March 26-27. Bensing spoke on the image of Saladin in Christian sources and Satterwhite's talk focused on Edward, the Black Prince, during the Hundred Years' War. The papers were written originally for HUM 4104: The Medieval Hero; the course was taught in Fall 2009 by **Matthew Gabriele**, Religion and Culture, who served as both students' faculty mentor.

Erika Meitner, English, published "On Rita Dove" in *Best African American Essays*, edited by Randall Kennedy (New York: Ballantine Books, 2010), 292-99.

On March 11 **Norma Day-Vines**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, and **Beverly Bunch-Lyons**, History, were the invited guests of local CTV host, Deborah Leaner on *Ms. Deborah's Tearoom*. The thirty-minute talk show features topics of local and national interests. Day-Vines and Bunch-Lyons were invited to discuss the history and politics of skin color in African American communities; the two currently are working on a book that deals with the topic. *Ms. Deborah's Tearoom* can be viewed on Verizon Fios Channel 42 and Comcast Cable Channel 76 in the metropolitan areas of Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

Undergraduate Music majors **Alex Schmitt**, **Lee Seidner**, and **Daniel Twentey** participated in the 2010 College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Southern Division Intercollegiate Band. They were among 75 students from colleges and universities throughout the southeastern United States selected to perform under the direction of Jerry F. Junkin, Artistic Director and Conductor of the Dallas Wind Symphony and Professor of Music at the University of Texas at Austin, at the CBDNA Southern Division conference at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, MS, on February 26.

Department of Music faculty members **John Adler**, trumpet, and **Tracy Cowden**, piano, presented recitals at Bowling Green State University (Ohio), Western Michigan University, and Grand Valley State University (Michigan) from March 19-21. The concerts, funded in part by a grant from the School of Performing Arts & Cinema, introduced audiences to the recently commissioned works from *Confronting Inertia*, Adler's and Cowden's recording that was released in October 2009 by Origin Classical

(<http://www.originclassical.com/c/recordings.php>). They will repeat the concert at The Ohio State University on April 20.

Corinne Noirot-Maguire, Foreign Languages and Literatures/French, has been awarded a Katharine F. Pantzer Jr. Fellowship in Descriptive Bibliography by Harvard University's Houghton Library for six weeks of residential study in 2010-2011. The Houghton Library is the rare book library at Harvard College. Noirot-Maguire's book project on the works of Jean de la Taille, a soldier-poet and humanist playwright of the French Renaissance, earned her this internationally competitive Visiting Fellowship.

Walter Ott, Philosophy, published "Locke's Exclusion Argument" in the *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 27,2 (April 2010): 181-96.

Two School of the Performing Arts & Cinema buildings were recognized recently by the U.S. Green Building Council for their sustainability. On February 5 Theatre 101 and the Henderson Hall renovation project were awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, the first buildings on the Virginia Tech campus to earn such designation. Theatre 101 is the new home of the Department of Theatre & Cinema. Henderson Hall houses faculty members in the Department of Music as well as some faculty from the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. Details about the certification can be found [here](#).

In Fall 2009 11 undergraduate and 14 graduate students in College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences were inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest, largest, and most selective honor society for all academic disciplines. Undergraduates who accepted the invitation to join were: **Shaun Baker**, English; **Kerry Biechman**, Political Science; **Elisabeth Bogart**, Political Science; **Diana Campbell**, English; **Stephanie Connelly**, Sociology; **Angela Deady**, German; **Hayley Dodd**, English; **Sara Equi**, English; **Kelli Erk**, History; **Caitlin Laverdiere**, English; and **Aimie Taylor**, Interdisciplinary Studies. New graduate student members were: **Quentin Alexander**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; **Dorothy Atkinson**, Theatre & Cinema; **Emily Blanchette**, Science and Technology in Society; **Maria Bocanegra**, Political Science; **Dexter Bush-Scott**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; **Amanda Daquila**, History; **Robert Davis**, Science and Technology in Society; **William Davis**, English; **Thomas Kowalski**, Learning Sciences and Technologies; **Catherine Kropff**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies; **Nicole Rishel**, Political Science; **Leslie Wheelock**, Human Development; **Joseph Wilder**, History, and **Jennifer Wright**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning.

Three of the eight 2010 Provost Summer Sessions Grant Program Awards were made to faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Now in its fourth year, the program is geared towards enhancing students' learning, discovery, and engagement experiences; this year's award cycle solicited proposals focused on one or more of the following: the Curriculum for Liberal Education, the first year experience, global issues, and high enrollment courses. The award-winning faculty and courses are as follows: **Theodore Fuller**, Sociology, for SOC 3504 Population Trends and Issues; Department of Human Development head **Shannon Jarrott**, for HD 2314 Human Sexuality; **Michael Saffle**, Religion and Culture, for HUM 1604 Introduction to Humanities and the Arts.

The following students in the Rhetoric and Writing doctoral program in the Department of English gave presentations at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Louisville on March 17-20: **Amy Reed** and **Jennifer Cover**, "The Slow Death of a University Writing Program: Politics and Legacy

at a Large Research University”; **Megan Fisher**, “Reflection in Context: Encouraging and Valuing the Student's Voice in Assessment”; **Kerry Dirk**, “Teacher Authority and the Wiki”; and **Tim Lockridge**, “Collective Revision: How Unsanctioned Fan Communities Rewrite Popular Culture.” The “4 C’s Conference” is the largest of the professional association meetings in this field.

Theodore Sipes, music, was baritone soloist with the Saginaw Valley State University choirs and orchestra in Johannes Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem*. The work was performed on Friday, March 26, in Saginaw, Michigan, and on Sunday, March 28, in Bay City, Michigan. This was Sipes' third appearance with Eric Nisula, director of choirs at SVSU.

Department of Sociology doctoral student **Jill Harrison** and department chair **John Ryan** published “Diffusion of Technology in Higher Education Classrooms: The Case of the Laptop” in *Interaction in Communication Technologies and Virtual Learning Environments: Human Factors*, edited by Angela T. Ragusa (Hershey, Pennsylvania: Information Science Reference, 2010), 130-45.

In March Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (FLL) Senior Instructor of Spanish **Elizabeth Calvera** visited the twelve Virginia Tech students currently spending the semester at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador as part of the student exchange program the department coordinates. Among the students are the following College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences majors: **Jessica Clark** (Spanish and Economics), **Leigh Anne Coble** (English), **David Dopico** (Spanish), **Rachel Fitzgerald** (Political Science), **Haley Freking** (International Studies and Spanish), **Kristen Gardner** (Communication), **Michelle Lang** (International Studies and Business), **Allison Liming** (International Studies and Spanish), and **Carly Stephens** (Spanish and Biology). While in Quito, Calvera met with the university president, the provost, and the director of International Programs. She spent an afternoon talking with several students from the university in Quito who will be applying to study at Virginia Tech for the academic year 2010–2011. Several of the VT students sat in on part of the meeting, and their contagious Hokie enthusiasm set the tone: the Ecuador students now can hardly wait to come to Blacksburg.

Department of Theatre & Cinema faculty members **Ashley Maynor** and **Paul Harrill** were invited to screen their respective films *For Memories' Sake* and *Quick Feet, Soft Hands* at the 17th James River Film Festival, which was held March 19-25 in Richmond, Virginia. In addition, Harrill and Maynor were guest panelists at the South by Southwest Film Festival and Conference in Austin, Texas, in March. Maynor’s film also received a screening on March 27 and 29 at the Lyric Theatre in Blacksburg; more information about the documentary can be found [here](#).

The following awards were made by the Undergraduate Research Institute for Spring 2010. English majors **Orlando Dos Reis**, **Kevin Gillespie**, **Caty Gordon**, **Debbie Houchins**, **Lisa Minner**, **Katie Noland**, **Mika Rivera**, **Adrienne Rush**, **Nate Taylor**, and **Tim Unkenholz** received support to participate in the Sweet Briar College Creative Writing Conference; their faculty advisor is **Aileen Murphy**, English. **Megan Carey**, a double major in Theatre and Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, was awarded support for “Modern Adaptations of Historical Wedding Dresses”; her faculty advisor is **Jihyun Kim**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management. **Katherine Coe**, a Piano/Music Technology major in the Department of Music, received an award to participate in the Carter Larsen Piano Competition; **Tracy Cowden**, Music, is her faculty advisor. Classical Studies major **Alexandria DeSio** was awarded a grant to support her presentation of “Hearing Horace” at the 106th Annual Conference of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South; her faculty advisor is **Andrew Becker**, Foreign Languages and

Literatures/Classical Studies. **Jennifer Lamb**, a Political Science and Agricultural and Applied Economics major, received an award to support her presentation of “Reforming Blood Timber and Blood Diamonds in West Africa” at the Association of American Geographers’ Annual Meeting; her faculty advisor is Keith Moore, OIRED. History and Classical Studies double major **Ryan Prest** received support to pursue his research on the Valerii Flacci; **Trudy Harrington Becker**, Religion and Culture, is his faculty advisor. The URI also provided funding to **Tracy Cowden**, Music, for Department Research Day.

The Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) program sponsored the forum “Teacher Responses to Expressions of Violence” on March 2 in the Torgersen Museum Room. The panel explored ways to limit and respond to threats and expressions of violence in the classroom, followed by a general discussion. Panelists were **Ann Kilkelly** (Theater Arts and WGS), **Neal King** (Sociology and WGS), **Bob Leonard** (Theater Arts), **Lucinda Roy** (English), and **Barbara Ellen Smith** (Sociology and WGS). The public forum was designed particularly for instructors of any rank and department interested in discussing these issues.

Laura Zanotti, Political Science, published “UN Integrated Peacekeeping Operations and NGOs: Reflections on Governmental Rationalities and Contestation in the Age of Risk” in *International Peacekeeping* 17,1 (2010): 17-31. Research for the article was supported by a Niles Research Fellowship from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Alumni Highlights

Featured this month are alumni from the School of Education:

Laura Levi Altstaedter, who earned her Ph.D. in the Department of Teaching and Learning in December 2009, published “Motivating students’ foreign language and culture acquisition through Web-based inquiry” in *Foreign Language Annals* 42,4 (2009): 640-57, with Learning Sciences and Technologies faculty member **Brett Jones**. Altstaedter also presented a paper titled “Does peer feedback work in the foreign language writing class?” at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Annual Convention held in December 2009 in San Diego, California. In addition, she recently was trained and certified as a reviewer of ACTFL/NCATE reports. While at Virginia Tech, Altstaedter served as a Spanish instructor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

Bob Holt, who earned his M.S. in Adult and Continuing Education in 1978 and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Higher Education Administration in 1982, recently was elected president of the faculty of Southwestern Community College in Sylva and Franklin, North Carolina. Holt teaches real estate and business management courses at the college.

Douglas D. Martin, Virginia Tech’s Director of Employee Benefits and University Services, retired January 1, 2010, after over 40 years of service to the University. He is a CLAHS alumnus, having earned an M.A. in Education and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration. At his retirement ceremony, Martin received a Resolution of Appreciation from the Virginia Retirement System for his work on retirement plans at the University and the state level. In October 2009 he was the keynote closing speaker at the State Personnel Conference, and during his tenure at Virginia Tech he served on the national TIAA/CREF Advisory Board and was a member of a number of state-wide committees.

The dissertation research of **Donna Wood**, who earned her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2007, was included recently in the [What Works Clearinghouse](#) (WWC) research on interventions intended to strengthen adolescent literacy skills. Wood's research was one of seven studies that met the WWC research eligibility standard out of 101 studies reviewed.

Please submit items for inclusion in upcoming **News2Note** newsletters to Associate Dean Debra Stoudt at dstoudt@vt.edu.