



News2 Note

April 2011

Ananda Abeysekara, Religion and Culture, delivered the Lester Lecture titled “The Un-translatibility of Religion, The Un-translatibility of Life: Talal Asad's Thought Unthought in Religious Studies” in the Department of Religion, University of Colorado, Boulder, on February 7. In the weeks preceding the lecture a panel of graduate students at Boulder was involved in seminars designed to critically engage his most recent book, *The Politics of Postsecular Religion: Mourning Secular Futures* (2008). More about the lectureship can be found [here](#). Abeysekara also published “The Im-possibility of Secular Critique: The Future of Religion's Memory,” *Culture and Religion* 11,3 (September 2010): 213-46.

Three Housing Option students in the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management participated in this year's National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA)/General Electric Charette Competition. More than 400 students from 28 colleges took part in the challenge, which tests students' abilities to apply their knowledge of kitchen design by producing a floor plan with specifications, a design statement, and a perspective or elevation of a kitchen featuring GE appliances—all within three hours. **Katelyn Shipe** was awarded second place; she received a \$4,000 scholarship. Both **Kevin Fields** and **Alexandria Van Nuys** were Honorable Mention recipients; each was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty **JoAnn Emmel**, **Kimberly Mitchell**, **Kathleen Parrott**, and department head **Julia Beamish** published “If you could be in charge: Student ideas for promoting sustainability in housing,” *Journal of Consumer Sciences* 35 (2011): 265-71.

Joyce A. Arditti, Human Development, published “Young Men's Reentry After Incarceration: A Developmental Paradox,” *Family Relations* 60,2 (2011): 205-20, with Human Development alumna **Tiffany Parkman**.

Linda Arnold, History, published “La Suprema Corte de Justicia. Entre el proyecto liberal y la visión conservador del país: la clausura de la Suprema Corte y la ley de justicia de 1855,” *Los caminos de la justicia en México, 1810-2010* (México: Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación, 2010), 141-57; and “Juicios verbales y conciliatorios,” *Diccionario histórico judicial en México: ideas e instituciones*, 3 volumes (México: Suprema Corte de la Nación, 2010), Vol. 2, 910-19.

The 14th annual Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Graduate Conference took place on March 25-26. The conference featured 28 presentations by graduate students from 12 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, University Unions and Student Activities, the Department of Science and Technology in Society, the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and the program in Women's and Gender Studies. Dr. Claudrena Harold, University of Virginia, delivered the keynote address. Participants also attended a screening of the documentary, *For Memories' Sake*, followed by a discussion with the film's writer-director and producer, **Ashley Maynor** and **Paul Harrill**, Theatre and Cinema.

Department of History graduate students presented the following papers: **David Blaha**, "Somali v. Goshu: British Colonialism's Effect on the Formation of Identity in Jubaland, 1895-1925"; **Dan Fischer**, "The De-politicization of Everyday Life: Consumer Culture and the Politics of the Individual"; **Jill Ketron**, "I Am Not a Woman Revolutionary but a Revolutionary Who Happens to Be a Woman"; **Stephen O'Hara**, "A Matter of Honor: Media Opposition to Political Dueling Following the Henry Clay-John Randolph Duel on the Potomac, 1826"; **Matt Saionz**, "Visions of Anglo Empire: Anglo-Texan Justifications for the Texan Santa Fe Expedition of 1841"; **Jacob Spraker**, "Chiropractors and the Containment of the Polio Vaccine: An Historical Inquiry into the Controversial Cure"; **Kimberly Staub**, "Religious Empowerment: Women's Impact on the Early Evangelical Movement, 1780-1820"; **Erin Weiss**, "A New Deal for Junkies: Changing Perceptions of Addiction and Treatment, 1835-1974"; **Laura West**, "Saving White America, Saving Black America: Postmillennial Thought and the American Colonization Society, 1800-1822"; and **Christopher Westfall**, "Union Above All Else: Evansville, Indiana's Republicans and the Emancipation Proclamation." ASPECT graduate students presented the following papers: **Joseph Forte**, "The De-Politicization of Everyday Life: Consumer Culture and the Politics of the Individual," and **Marc Thomas**, "Aid and AIDS in Africa." Full details of the conference are available [here](#).

Brad Bizzell, a doctoral student in the School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, presented "Professional Development of School Leaders in Virginia's Rural Appalachian Region" at the 34th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference on March 11-13 at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, KY.

A revised version of *Half-Life*, a composition by **Ivica Ico Bukvic**, Music, won first prize at the first international laptop orchestra composition commission sponsored by Montana State University. Originally for L2Ork (Linux Laptop Orchestra), the revision is for L2Ork and solo narrator. Details can be found [here](#).

Beverly Bunch-Lyons, History, was selected and served as an evaluator for the Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship Award in February. The highly selective scholarship provides full tuition for outstanding minority students planning to attend a college or university. The approximately 80 evaluators are selected from higher education institutions across the United States by a staff member of the Gates Foundation, higher education administrators who work with the Gates Foundation, and the United Negro College Fund.

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors recently conferred the emeritus title on **Carol Burger**, Associate Professor of Sociology and coordinator of the Gender and Science Equity Program at Virginia Tech. Burger earned her bachelor's degree from Dominican University and the Ph.D. from Virginia Tech, joining the faculty at Virginia Tech in 1984. Dedicated to gender equity issues in science in her research and teaching, Burger co-edited *Reconfiguring the Firewall: Recruiting Women to Information Technology across Cultures and Continents*, authored numerous publications, and received the College's Outreach Excellence Award as well as the University's Sporn Award for Excellence in Teaching. Founder and editor of the *Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering*, Burger was the recipient of several prestigious National Science Foundation grants, including the Women in Information Technology: Pivotal Transitions from School to Career grant.

Travis J. Cross, Music, guest conducted the Westchester Symphonic Winds in concert at the Tarrytown Music Hall in Tarrytown, NY, on March 13.

Human Development faculty member and alumna **Karen DeBord** was interviewed by WDBJ7 regarding her early childhood development and parenting expertise. The interview can be accessed [here](#).

School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies faculty members **Barbara Lockee** and **John Burton** were invited to co-present the keynote address at the Research Dissemination Conference, a special strand within the annual convention of the National Science Teachers Association, in San Francisco on March 10-13. Their presentation, "From Silent Films to Virtual Worlds: A Historical Look at the Research on Educational Technology," featured more than 100 years of research on the use of technological innovations for teaching and learning.

Roger Ekirch, History, appears in the documentary *The City Dark*, which premiered in March at the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin, TX. The film explores how the disappearance of darkness affects humans and the natural world. The film trailer is available [here](#).

The 6th Annual English Undergraduate Research Conference, titled "Borders, Boundaries and Bridges," took place on March 25 in Shanks Hall. The 2011 conference featured 60 Virginia Tech students who presented papers or original works of creative writing in 21 sessions; another 32 students participated in poster presentations, the digital narrative movie booth, and the ePortfolio showcase. Some 22 undergraduate majors were represented among the students participating in this year's conference. There were 349 individuals pre-registered for the conference, and for the second year in a row, Blacksburg High School students also participated in the conference. Words of welcome were provided by Department Chair **Carolyn Rude** and CLAHS Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs **Rachel Holloway**. During lunch recent alumni from the department were on hand to greet and speak with the students. 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.

Diana Ridgwell, CLAHS Director of Student Development, presented the conference awards. The Composition award was presented to **Jacob Andersson** for his presentation titled "Young Men and Relationships with Women: What Do Men Really Want?" **Adrienne Rush** received the Creative Writing award for "How to laugh." The Literature, Language, and Culture award was given to **Leslie**

Cohen, for “The Dreadful Funkiness of Passion’: Female Sexuality as Political Act and Discourse in *The Bluest Eye* and *Sula*.” **Mary C. Hawes** received the Professional Writing award for “Single Sourcing Technical Documents with Darwin Information Typing Architecture (DITA).” **Katie McCann** garnered the Poster award for “Gender Stereotype Reinforcement in Picture Books and Its Effects on Pre-School Aged Children.” 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; among the winners was CLAHS major **Davey Sours**, International Studies.

As part of the conference, the Alpha Rho Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society, welcomed the following new members: **Jennifer Allen, April Baker, Shaye Baker, Mary Eileen Barber, Kimberly Bassler, Caitlin Bellinger, Kelly Boggs, Aunye Boone, Kelly Brady, Derek Michael Breitenbach, Adam Bruce, Rachel Bryant, Katie Buell, Leigh Anne Coble, Jennifer Cox, Monica Caropreso, Anne Cunha, Mark John Dewyea, Caitlin Edwards, Paul Erba, Odessa Fellows, Phillip Allen Ford, Tess Gardner, Katlyn Griffin, Sean Hunt, Esther Hwang, Sarah Joseph, Shea Kahler, Anthony Kalaskas, Kaitlin R. Kellam, Haley Lee, Sanglin Lee, Eva Luton, Tristan Mandeville, Alexa McDevitt, Benjamin Casey McGrath, Jasmine McKinney, Leah Norod, Kasey Owen, Victoria Payne, Mia Perry, Keith Allen Pillow, Jr., Jaimie Elisabeth Pollard, Juliane Preisser, Sarah Rhea, Caroline Robey, Jennifer Romeo, Christina Rowell, Sarah Ryan, Katherine S. Solomon, Ryan Callis Stebbins, Michele Stulga, Allyson Caroline Taylor, Kimberly Walter, Shelby Elise Ward, Rebecca Williams, Vanessa Williams, Caitlin Williamson, and Shannon Yen.** All are English majors.

Ed Falco, English, published a collection of short stories titled *Burning Man* (Dallas, TX: Southern Methodist University Press, 2011).

Matthew Gabriele, Religion and Culture, published *An Empire of Memory: The Legend of Charlemagne, the Franks, and Jerusalem before the First Crusade* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2011).

Nikki Giovanni has won an NAACP Image Award, her seventh, for Outstanding Literary Work - Poetry. The award recognizes the edited collection, *100 Best African-American Poems* (Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks MediaFusion 2010). More information can be found [here](#).

Brian Gogan, a doctoral student in English/Rhetoric and Writing, presented “Registering Textbook Visuals: Business Communication, Baudrillard, and Implicitness” as part of the Association for Business Communication panel at the 2011 Modern Language Association Convention in Los Angeles, California, January 6-9.

The following CLAHS students participated in the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) Annual Research Symposium on March 23: **Katie Barrow**, Human Development, “Participatory Journalism and Perceptions of Late Life IPV”; **Lauren Bayliss**, Communication, “Honduras and the Scene of the Crisis”; **Brad E. Bizzell**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, “Professional Development of School Leaders in Virginia's Rural Appalachian Region”; **Jada E. Brooks**, Human Development, “Talking about Sexuality and Religion: Making the Private Public in an Undergraduate Classroom”; **Michele James-Deramo**, ASPECT, “Discerning Transformative Moments During the Refugee Trajectory: An Ethnographic Study of One Woman’s Experience”; **Jongmin Lee**, Science and

Technology in Society, "Regulating the Environment by Engineering Regulation: CHES Controversy and the Naturalization of Monitoring, 1970-1979"; and **Cora Olson**, Science and Technology in Society, "Detection Practices and Policies for Anabolic Androgenic Steroids among Elite Athletes: How Anti-Doping Policy and Detection Practices Gender Elite Athletes."

The Graduate School recognized the following CLAHS students at its 10th Annual Graduate Education Week Awards Banquet on March 25. The Social Sciences, Business, and Humanities Outstanding Dissertation Award was presented to **Brandy McCann**, Human Development. Human Development faculty member **Katherine Allen** was honored as the Outstanding Dissertation Advisor. The dissertation of **Andrew Arnette**, Sociology, was selected for 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 **Jessica Broaddus**, English/Creative Writing. The CLAHS Outstanding Doctoral Student was **Laura Boutwell**, Sociology; both will be honored at the College's ceremony on April 14. **Dorothy Atkinson**, Theatre and Cinema, **Lawrence Johnson**, Sociology, and **Daniel Lawson**, English/Rhetoric and Writing, were honored with a Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Excellence Merit Certificate. Recognized as Who's Who Among Students in American University and Colleges were CLAHS students **Deepu George**, Human Development, and **Michelle McLeese**, Sociology.

Aarnes Gudmestad, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, published "Assessing the use of multiple forms in variable contexts: The relationship between linguistic factors and future-time reference in Spanish," *Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics* 4,1 (2011), 3-32, with Kimberly L. Geeslin.

Kwame Harrison, Sociology, published "Sociology and Cultural Studies," *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy and Music*, ed. Theodore Gracyk and Andrew Kania (New York: Routledge, 2011), 557-68.

Richard Hirsh, History and Science and Technology in Society, published "Historians of Technology in the Real World: Reflections on the Pursuit of Policy-Oriented History," *Technology and Culture* 52 (January 2011): 6-20. In addition, Hirsh recently was invited to serve as a member of the Renewable Energy Stakeholder Group on Local Outreach. The Renewable Energy program is run by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality; the DEQ has been working to implement 2009 legislation dealing with Small Renewable Energy Projects by developing regulations for wind, solar, and similar media.

History department faculty members **Heather Gumbert** and **Robert Stephens**, have been named as faculty principals of the new Honors Residential College, which will open in the fall in East Ambler Johnston Hall; 330 University Honors students will reside in the college. Gumbert and Stephens will facilitate lectures, social activities, and educational programs for the residential college. More about their appointment can be found [here](#).

Thomas H. Hohenshil, Professor Emeritus in the School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, was presented with the American Counseling Association Fellow Award at the annual convention in March. The award is presented to a member who has been recognized nationally and internationally for significant and unique contributions to professional practice, scientific

achievement, and teaching and training. Hohenshil currently serves as an associate editor for the *Journal of Counseling and Development*.

Michael Hughes, Sociology, and Steven A. Tuch, published "Whites' Racial Policy Attitudes in the Twenty-First Century: The Continuing Significance of Racial Resentment," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 643 (March 2011): 134-52.

Recent elections by the National Council on Family Relations have resulted in the appointment of several Human Development faculty and alumni to organizational leadership roles. **Joyce A. Arditti** was elected to a two-year term (2011-2013) as Chair-Elect of the Research and Theory Section and **April Few-Demo** to a three-year term (2011-2014) as a National Elections Council member. **Kristen Benson**, who earned her Ph.D. in the program in 2001, was elected the Student/New Professional Representative in the Feminism & Family Studies Section, and **Bryce Jorgensen**, a 2004 Ph.D. recipient, was elected the Student/New Professional Representative in the Religion and Family Life Section.

Human Development department chair **Shannon Jarrott** led an invited workshop, "Intergenerational Programs: Meeting Diverse Community Needs by Connecting Generations," at the Virginia Association of Activity Professionals in Harrisonburg, VA, on March 25. She was invited to present on her experiences developing intergenerational programs that connect young and old persons to achieve mutual benefits for participants and the larger community. Jarrott also was awarded a five-year grant for the Sustainable Community Programs initiative with the Children Youth and Families at Risk program at the National Institute for Food and Agriculture. She will partner with Virginia Cooperative Extension Specialist Karen Gehrt, Virginia Cooperative Extension agent Tracy White, Human Development adjunct faculty member and alumna Karen DeBord, and project evaluator Donna-Jean Brock to conduct the study. The grant will connect older adults with at-risk children ages 0-5 in early childhood education settings for regular intergenerational programming.

Kelsey Jeffreys, a senior in Human Development, presented a poster titled "Understanding Maternal Assertive Verbal Control: Contributions of Maternal Personality and Child Behavior" at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development in Montreal, Canada, held March 31-April 2. She was awarded funds from the CLAHS Undergraduate Research Institute, the McNair program, and the Department of Human Development to support her travel to the conference. Jeffreys' advisor, **Cindy Smith**, Human Development, along with Human Development graduate student **Kimberly Day** were co-authors on the presentation.

K. Jill Kiecolt, Sociology, **Rosemary Blieszner**, Human Development Alumni Distinguished Professor, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and Associate Director of the Center for Gerontology, and **Jyoti Savla**, Human Development, published "Long-Term Influences of Intergenerational Ambivalence on Midlife Parents' Psychological Well-being," *Journal of Marriage and Family* 73,2 (2011): 369-82.

Ji-Hyun Kim, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, published "The Mediating Effect of Perceived Service Risk on Perceived Value of Internet Apparel Shopping: From the Quality-Risk-Value Approach," *Journal of Global Academy of Marketing Science* 20,4 (2010): 307-18, with Mary Lynn Damhorst.

Gerard Lawson, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, was named the American Counseling Association's Robert Rencken Emerging Professional Leader award recipient for 2011. Lawson is the Immediate-Past President of the Virginia Counselors Association and the Virginia Association for Counselor Education and Supervision. He has served as President of the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (SACES) and is currently President-Elect of the national Association for Counselor Education and Supervision. At Virginia Tech, he serves as the faculty advisor for Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Honor Society and the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) liaison. The School of Education recognized him as its Outstanding Advisor in 2009.

Second-year ASPECT doctoral student **Shien-Hauh Leu** presented "Pedophilia, Agency and Exploitable Subjects" at the Association for the Study of Law, Culture and Humanities 14th Annual Conference on March 11-12 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Timothy W. Luke, Political Science, published "Digital Citizenship" in *Emerging Digital Spaces in Contemporary Society*, ed. Phillip Kalantzis-Cope and Karim Gherab-Martin (Hampshire, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), 83-96.

In the past year **Jeff Mann**, English, published two books: *Binding the God* (Maple Shade, NJ: Bear Bones Books/Lethe Press, 2010) and *Ash: Poems from Norse Mythology* (Bar Harbor, ME: Rebel Satori Press, 2011); and two essays: "Bear Culture 101 (No Prerequisite)," *The Gay and Lesbian Review Worldwide* 17.5 (September-October 2010): 22-24, and "Loving Tim: Or, My Passionate Midlife Affair," *Best Gay Stories* 2010, ed. Steve Berman (Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press, 2010), 33-50. The following short stories also appeared in print: "As It Flies," *Biker Boys*, ed. Christopher Pierce (Berkeley, CA: Cleis, 2010); 179-96; "Black Sambuca," *Blood Sacraments*, ed. Todd Gregory (Valley Falls, NY: Bold Strokes Books, 2010), 1-22; "Demon Seed," *Saints+Sinners 2010: New Fiction from the Festival*, ed. Amie M. Evans and Paul J. Willis (Bar Harbor, ME: Queer Mojo/Rebel Satori, 2010), 24-43; "Good Boy," *I Like to Watch*, ed. Christopher Pierce (Berkeley, CA: Cleis, 2010), 104-13; "Kissing the Joy," *College Boys*, ed. Shane Allison (Berkeley, CA: Cleis, 2010); 186-201; "Saving Tobias," *Best Gay Erotica 2011*, ed. Richard Labonté (Berkeley, CA: Cleis, 2010), 56-74; "Scruff-Cub," *Bears in the Wild: Hot and Hairy Fiction*, ed. R. Jackson (Maple Shade, NJ: Bear Bones Books/Lethe Press, 2010), 55-66; and "Whitby," *Men at Noon, Monsters at Midnight*, ed. Christopher Pierce (Herndon, VA: STARbooks, 2010), 37-47. Mann also published these poems: "Concerning Sigurd's Appearance: A Sodomite's Fantasy" and "Valhalla Revised," *Icarus: The Magazine of Gay Speculative Fiction* 6 (Fall 2010): 8 and 34 respectively; "[The Mountaineer Queer, Diagnosed as Dying, Runs Amok](#)," *Vinyl Poetry* 1 (August 22, 2010), web; "Daddy's Cabbage," *Appalachian Heritage* (Summer 2010): 94-95; "[Russian Samovar](#)," *Blue Fifth Review* 10,4 (May 28, 2010); "Feasting in the Aftermath," *Anthology of Appalachian Writers* 2 (2010): 116; "4x4" and "Here's to the Death of Our Enemies," *Knockout* 3.1 (Spring 2010): 42-44 and 55 respectively; "Not Taking Off My Shirt on Waikiki Beach," "Café Beignet," "A Visit to Pulaski Furniture," "Forgettable" and "Wild," *Ganymede Unfinished*, ed. Bryan Borland (New York: Sibling Rivalry Press, 2010), 46-49, 49-50, 50-51, 52-53, and 54-55 respectively; "Genital," *Decomposition: An Anthology of Fungi-Inspired Poems*, ed. Renée Roehl and Kelly Chadwick (Sandpoint, ID: Lost Horse Press, 2010), 83; "Creecy Greens," "Digging Potatoes," "Goldenrod Seeds," "Homecoming," "Locrian," "Maple Syrup," and "Mountain fireflies," *The Southern Poetry Anthology, Volume III: Contemporary Appalachia*, ed. Jesse Graves, Paul Ruffin, and William Wright (Huntsville,

TX: Texas Review Press, 2010), 140, 141, 144-45, 146, 147-48, 142-43, and 138-39 respectively. In 2011 Mann was the winner of the Established Poets' Contest, Metrorail Public Art Project.

Matthew Murch, a senior Psychology major with a minor in Religion, presented a paper titled "Eating, Meeting, and Meaning: Food Events in the Gospel of Mark" at the Southeastern Commission on the Study of Religion in Louisville, Kentucky, on March 5. His faculty sponsor for this undergraduate paper competition was **Elizabeth Struthers Malbon**, Religion and Culture.

The concert "Music and Memories of the Civil War," presented by the Department of Music on March 20, included students and faculty from across the Virginia Tech campus. Serving as narrator for the event was History Alumni Distinguished Professor and Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies **James "Bud" Robertson, Jr.** Theatre student **Patty Costello**, Associate Vice President for University Relations Larry Hincker, Senior Vice President and Provost Mark McNamee, CLAHS Dean **Sue Ott Rowlands**, and Theatre and Cinema head **Patricia Raun** performed as guest speakers with the Symphonic Wind Ensemble for Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*. The new transcription of "Letter to Mrs. Bixby" by **Travis Cross**, Music, part of a seven-movement work called *Letters from Lincoln* by Michael Daugherty, was premiered at the concert, with **Theodore Sipes**, Music, singing the baritone solo, and members of the Symphonic Wind Ensemble providing accompaniment.

Inducted into the Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society on March 29 were **Robert Staley**, School of Education, and **Karen Watson**, Director of Academic Support, as well as CLAHS undergraduate students **Michelle Flickinger**, International Studies, and **Lydia Michailow**, Human Development. The ceremony also included recognition of Phi Beta Delta essay contest winners. First place was awarded to **Rachel Fitzgerald**, Political Science, for "International Experience and the Reconstruction of Identity."

Wornie Reed, Sociology and Director of the Center for Race and Social Policy, published *Racial Profiling: Causes and Consequences* (Dubuque, IA: Kendall-Hunt Publishing, 2011), with Ronnie A. Dunn.

Rhetoric and Writing doctoral students in the Department of English **Megan Fisher**, **Brian Gogan**, and **Ashley Patriarca**, with English faculty member **Kelly Belanger**, published an online Directory of Rhetoric and Writing Research Centers, available [here](#). They also drew upon their work in the English Department's Center for the Study of Rhetoric in Society to lead a webinar titled "Researching Publics and Informing Policies through the Research Center" on February 2; the webinar was sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English.

Three doctoral students in the Rhetoric and Writing program in the Department of English gave papers at the Writing Research Across Borders II. 4th International Conference on Writing Research, held February 17-20 at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA. **Kerry Dirk** and **Brian Gogan** presented "Writing, Disciplinarity, and Meta-Awareness: An Empirical Investigation," and **Matthew Sharp** spoke on "University Identity as Visual Argumentation."

Cheryl Ruggiero, English, published a number of works recently. Now in print are a chapbook titled *Old Woman at the Warm Spring* (Georgetown, KY: Finishing Line Press, 2011) and these poems:

"Charioteer," *The Dawn Treader* 13 (Winter 2010): 32-33; "Translations from the Collective Unconscious: Ritual Song to Bless the Traveler," *Abyss & Apex* 34 (2nd quarter 2010), web; "Tourist," *Wolf Moon Journal* (May 2010), web; and "[Spring on 28th Street](#)," *Word Salad Poetry Magazine* XVI,II (Summer 2010). The following stories have appeared: "[Sad Dog](#)," *Luna Station Quarterly* 004 (Winter 2010), web; "Eleven Eleven," *Crimewave 11: Ghosts*, ed. Andy Cox (Ely, UK: TTA Press, 2010), 114-20; "[Botch's Astronomy](#)," *The Three-Lobed Burning Eye* 19 (May 2010), web; "A Boy Named Emory," *Floyd County Moonshine* 2,3 (Spring 2010), 41-42; "[Sunshine Memories](#)," *Luna Station Quarterly* 005 (Spring 2011), web, with **Susan Allender Hagedorn**, English; "Dancing at Mulate's," *Birmingham Arts Journal* (Spring 2011), web; "[Botch and Taxes](#)," *Mirror Dance* (Spring 2011), web; and "Designer Deities," *Bewildering Stories* 423 (March 14, 2011), web, as well as in [Cezanne's Carrot](#) (Spring 2011), web.

Scott Sanders, English, published two stories, "[The Pawn](#)," *Prime Number: A Journal of Distinctive Poetry and Prose* 2 (July-September 2010), web; and "[Donations](#)," *Every Day Fiction*, web.

Sociology doctoral student **Melissa Burgess** and **Biko Agozino**, Sociology and Director of Africana Studies, published the book review "A Review of Africana Methodologies from Molefi Kete Asante, Terry Kershaw and Ama Mazama: The Africana Paradigm We Need to Embrace," *The Western Journal of Black Studies* 35,1 (2011): 67-73.

Paul Sorrentino, English, published *Stephen Crane: A Documentary Volume*, Dictionary of Literary Biography (Detroit, MI: Gale, 2010). Details about the volume are available [here](#).

The following students and faculty were recipients of support from the CLAHS Undergraduate Research Institute (URI) in its Spring 2011 round of awards. **Alexander Adkins**, a History major, was awarded a grant for his project titled "Iraq through the *New York Times*"; his faculty advisor is **Michael Alexander**, History. **Andrew Gibbs**, a History and Economics major, received support to present a paper at the Virginia Social Science Association Annual Conference; his faculty advisor is **Peter Wallenstein**, History. History and Classical Studies major **Alison Hight** received a research grant to pursue work on a project titled "Beyond the Broomstick: Witchcraft in Early Modern Scotland"; **Michael Alexander**, History, serves as her faculty advisor. **Matthew Howard**, an English and Psychology major, garnered support to give a presentation at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference; his faculty advisor is **Steven Salaita**, English. Human Development major **Kelsey Jeffreys** was awarded grant support for her presentation at the Society for Research in Child Development; **Cynthia Smith**, Human Development, is the faculty advisor. Psychology major **Matt Murch** was the recipient of support for his presentation at the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion; his faculty advisor is **Elizabeth Struthers Malbon**, Religion and Culture. Human Development majors **Kayla Reed** and **Kelsey Andleton** were awarded funding for their project, "The Impact of Divorce: Waiting Until Your Children Go to College"; their faculty advisor is **Diana Ridgwell**, CLAHS Director of Student Development. **Caron Sinnenberg**, a major in Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, received support for her project, "Fallen from an Ostrich Wing: Historic Investigation into 1920s Costume and Art"; **Ji-Hyun Kim**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, serves as her faculty advisor.

In addition, the URI provided funding to the Departments of Political Science (**Craig Brians**) and Religions and Culture (**Peter Schmitthener**) in support of Department Research Day in their respective units.

Alumni Highlights

This month alumni from the Department of English are highlighted.

Weston Cutter, a 2009 MFA recipient, published his first book, a collection of short stories titled *You'd Be a Stranger, Too* (Buffalo, NY: BlazeVox Books, 2010). Publication information is available [here](#) and a review can be found [here](#). Cutter is an assistant professor of English at Northwestern College in Orange City, IA.

Sylvia M. DeSantis, who earned her M.A. in 1993, published *Academic Apartheid: Waging the Adjunct War* (Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011); the volume will appear in May. DeSantis is an educational/curriculum specialist who currently works in the Justice and Safety Institute at Penn State University.

Valerie Penton Kibler, who earned her B.S. in English in 1988, was named 2010 National Journalism Teacher of the Year. Kibler teaches at Harrisonburg High School in Harrisonburg, VA, and advises the school's *Newsstreak*. She attributes her love for teaching to some of her professors at Virginia Tech. More about Kibler and her award can be found [here](#).

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