



# News2 Note

August 2009

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences is pleased to welcome **Onwubiko Agozino** as director of Africana Studies. With a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology from the University of Calabar, Nigeria, Agozino earned his master's degree and Ph.D. in the United Kingdom at the University of Cambridge and the University of Edinburgh, respectively. He served on the faculty at Cheyney University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and the Liverpool John Moore University; immediately prior to coming to Virginia Tech, he was the criminology unit coordinator and deputy dean for graduate studies and research at The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago. Agozino's research interests include reparative justice, victimization of African women in the criminal justice system, Pan-African issues in criminology, and counter-colonial criminology. His tenure as Professor in the Department of Sociology begins in Fall 2009.

The Air Force ROTC recognizes the accomplishments of its students and the activities of its faculty and staff in recent months. Newly commissioned Second Lieutenants **Purvis "PC" Gaddis** (Sociology, 2009) and **Joshua Hess** (Aerospace Engineering, 2009) were selected as Distinguished Graduates during the Air Force ROTC Commissioning Ceremony on May 15. **Lt. Col. Keith Gay, Captain Jake Leck, and Staff Sergeant Kevin Fickes** supported Field Training at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, from May to July. Aerospace Studies instructor **Captain Kim Pond** taught during the Detachment Commanders/Academic Instructors Course at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, from April to May. During August **Staff Sergeant Corey Stokes** is attending the Combative Professional Development Training at Fort Riley, Kansas, providing administrative assistance to cadets from across the country participating in the training. The AFROTC welcomes **Captain Dan Kresge (Education, 1998, Virginia Tech)** as its newest faculty member in Aerospace Studies; he replaces **Captain Chris Andersen**, now assigned to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty member **Sophia T. Anong** and graduate student **Nicole Gerike**, along with S.A. DeVaney, presented "Saving Habits of American Households and the Economy" at the 2009 Joint Annual Meeting of the Agriculture and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) and the American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI), which was held July 26-28 in Milwaukee, WI.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty **Julia Beamish** and **Rosemary Goss** and alumna **Mira Ahn** received the 2008 Best Housing, Equipment and Design Article Award in the *Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal* for their article titled "Understanding Older Adults' Attitudes and Adoption of Residential Technologies." The award was presented on June 25 at the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences annual conference in Knoxville, TN.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty **Jessie Chen-Yu** and graduate students **Jiangman Guo** and **Beverly Kemp-Gatterson** published "Effects of household fabric softeners on thermal comfort of cotton and polyester fabrics after repeated launderings" in the *Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences* 37,4 (June 2009): 535-49.

Alumni Distinguished Professor of Spanish **Jacqueline Bixler**, Foreign Languages and Literatures, co-edited *Trans/Acting: Latin American and Latino Performing Arts* (Lewisburg, PA: Bucknell University Press, 2009), with Laurietz Seda.

**Rosemary Blieszner**, Human Development, has assumed the role of Associate Dean of the Graduate School; she is working half-time in the Graduate School as part of a team consisting of Associate Deans and Dean Karen DePauw. The Associate Deans assist with the academic functions of the Graduate School and with the Transformative Graduate Education initiatives (interdisciplinary research and graduate study, civic engagement and citizen scholar, GTA education, ongoing career development, ethics, mentoring, etc.). In collaboration with Vice President and Dean Karen DePauw, they share responsibility for admissions, academic progress, interpreting policies and procedures, and the day-to-day operations of the Graduate School.

**Todd Bowden**, a doctoral student in the School of Education/Teaching and Learning, was the winner of Governor Tim Kaine's "Learning Apps Development Challenge" to software developers to create wireless hand-held device applications that support instruction in middle school mathematics. Bowden's application, "Number Line," is designed to help students learn about fractions, decimals and percentages. Students earn points by placing equivalent fractions, decimals, and percentages in correct sequence on a number line. The application features multiple levels of increasing difficulty. The selection of "Number Line" as the winning entry was announced on June 27 at a meeting of state educational technology directors held in conjunction with the National Educational Computing Conference in Washington, D.C.; the prize was \$5,000.

**Ico Bukvic**, Music, and Eric Standley, School of Visual Arts, exhibited and presented *Cyrene Reefs & Elemental*, a sound sculpture and interactive display, at the New Interfaces for Musical Expression (NIME) Conference at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA, from June 4-6. The international conference explores interdisciplinary creations of artists and scientists. The display is a component from the Revo:over Exhibit.

**Morgan Cain Grim**, a 2009 Interdisciplinary Studies graduate from Floyd, VA, arranged the visit and performance of the Barcelona Institute of Gospel at Kentland Farm on July 15. The performance at Kentland was the first of many concerts that the Spanish gospel choir performed in Virginia and New York throughout July.

Cain Grim, who completed her Appalachian Studies major in just three years and was also the winner of this year's Steger prize for poetry, studied abroad during the summer of 2008. During this trip she met the group's director, Oscar Alberdi. When it was discovered that Cain Grim had been doing research on the Wake Forest community adjacent to the Kentland plantation, she was invited to share her knowledge of African American history with the gospel group.

She subsequently agreed to help the choir come to the United States, and, upon returning to Blacksburg, solicited sponsorship from Virginia Tech's Appalachian Student Organization, Appalachian Studies Program, Interdisciplinary Studies Student Organization, Spanish Club at Virginia Tech, the Office of Equity and Inclusion, the Black Student Alliance, Virginia Tech Humanities Program, and the Coal Mining Heritage Association of the New River Valley for the two-week visit of the 20-member touring group. The tour included the Auburn, NY, residence of Harriet Tubman, where the choir members met descendants of the abolitionist and also performed a "gospel opera" of her life. Subsequent performances took place in Wake Forest and Roanoke as well as at Floydfest8.

In June 2009 the VT Child Development Center for Learning and Research received a 4-star rating for providing quality care under the Virginia Star Quality Initiative, a quality rating and improvement system for early learning programs. The Center is among the first to receive such a rating.

Administrators of the center are: **Victoria Fu**, Director, **Karen Gallagher**, Assistant Director, **Lynn Ann Wolf**, Curriculum Director, and **Isabel Bradburn**, Research Director.

The VT Child Development Center for Learning and Research received funding in the amount of \$98,000 from the Virginia Department of Social Services to support the Virginia Star Quality Initiative for Continuous Quality Improvement Pilot - Phase III. Funds will be used to provide support to child care centers in the New River Valley to improve the quality of care for infants and preschoolers. Principal investigators are **Victoria Fu**, **Karen Gallagher**, and **Alexa Fraley**.

The following name changes in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences took effect July 1: The new name for the Department of Theatre Arts is the Department of Theatre and Cinema, and the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies is now the Department of Religion and Culture.

The College is pleased to announce the following tenure and promotion decisions by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors at its June 1 meeting.

Promoted to associate professor with tenure among the collegiate faculty were: **Sheila Carter-Tod**, English; **Jim Kuypers**, Communication; **Walter Ott**, Philosophy; and **Steven Salaita**, English.

Promoted to the rank of professor among the collegiate faculty were: **James Hawdon**, Sociology; **Joan Hirt**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; and **Patricia Raun**, Theatre Arts.

Promoted to advanced instructor among the collegiate faculty were: **Kathleen Fallon**, English; **Dale Jenkins**, Communication; **Julie Mengert**, English; and **Matthew Vollmer**, English.

Promoted to senior instructor among the collegiate faculty were: **Michael Bliss**, English; **Michael Dunston**, Music; **Nancy McDuffie**, Music; **Leslie Neilan**, English; **Herbert Patton**, English; **Linda Skinner**, English; and **Jane Wemhoener**, English.

The College is pleased to welcome the following new tenure-track faculty: **Esther Bauer**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/German; **Melissa Colburn**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Italian; and **Haiyan Zhu**, Sociology; as well as the following tenured faculty: **Onwubiko Agozino**, director of

Africana Studies and professor of Sociology; and **Wornie Reed**, director of the Center for Race and Social Policy and professor of Sociology.

**Steven Daskal**, Philosophy, published "Fellow Citizenship and U.S. Welfare Policy" in the *International Journal of Applied Philosophy* 22,2 (2008): 281-301.

The College is pleased to announce the appointment of **Robert E. Denton, Jr.**, W. Thomas Rice Chair, as Head of the Department of Communication. Denton originally came to Virginia Tech in the summer of 1988 as Head of the Department. In 1996 he became the founding Director of the W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development and served in that position until July 2007. His areas of study include the presidency, political campaigns, media and politics. In addition to numerous articles, book chapters and scholarly presentations, Denton is the author, co-author, or editor of 20 books on the presidency, political campaigns, persuasion, and social influence. He was host of a weekly half-hour public affairs program on Blue Ridge Public Television for eleven years and has served as political analyst for WSL News Channel 10, the NBC affiliate in Roanoke, since 1992.

**Michele Eldredge**, Human Development/ALHRD, was selected for the Outstanding Standing Staff Award for her "consistently exceptional service to the University in the National Capital Region." Nominated from the EMBA program, Eldredge was recognized at Staff Appreciation Day in May.

Department of English faculty **Aileen Murphy** and **Kelly Belanger** served as co-directors of the Blue Ridge Writing Project at Virginia Tech, a four-week summer institute that took place in June and July. Nineteen kindergarten through college level teachers from southwest Virginia received fellowships to attend. The project consisted of writing groups, reading groups, and teacher demonstrations, with the goal of sharing best practices that the teachers can incorporate into their own classrooms in the fall.

**Charlene Eska**, English, published "Varieties of Early Irish Legal Literature and the *Cáin Lánamna* Fragments" in *Viator* 40,1 (2009): 1-16.

**Joseph Eska**, English, published "Remarks on the 3. plural preterite in *-us* in Continental Celtic" in *Die Sprache* 47 (2007-2008 [2009]): 108-19.

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures presented its Graduation Awards on May 16. **Amrita J. Raja** received the Outstanding French Major Award. The German Award winner was **Betsy Potter**. **Geoffrey Schrieber** was recognized with the Outstanding Spanish Major award. **Betsy Potter** was the recipient of the Outstanding Major Award for Excellence in Foreign Languages and Literatures and **Meagan Meyers** the Outstanding Non-Major Award for Excellence in the department.

**Jim Garrison**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, was the invited presenter of "The Philosophy of John Dewey" at the 3rd International Symposium in Education and Philosophy, commemorating 150 years since the birth of John Dewey, from July 27-29 at Sao Paulo University in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil.

**Deepu V. George**, a doctoral student in Family Therapy in the Department of Human Development, has been selected for the Global Dialogue for Responsibility program. George is one of six Virginia Tech students chosen to participate in the program, which will take place at the University of San Diego in

October 2009 and at Virginia Tech in April 2010; among the goals of the program are: to engage a cross-sector international leadership network of individuals bringing together students and leaders of international civil society organizations, institutions of higher education, and socially responsible businesses and industries of change; 2) explore relevant topics such as social responsibility, philanthropy, social venture partnerships, and civic engagement; and 3) build global awareness and recognition of transformational leadership, learning opportunities, programs and services.

**Diana George**, English, published *Reading Culture: Contexts for Critical Reading and Writing*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition (New York: Longman, 2009), with John Trimbur.

The Center for Gerontology was among 29 centers approved by the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) as a “Collaborating Centre,” one of only two centers approved from the United States, and one of only four approved in the North America region. More than 65 proposals from countries all over the world were submitted to the program, established by the IAGG to foster research and scientific development of gerontology and geriatrics.

The following CLAHS doctoral students were recipients of 2009-10 Center for Gerontology scholarships. The AARP Memorial Fund Scholarship was awarded to **Bradford B. Wiles**, Human Development. The Center for Gerontology Futures Board Scholarship recipient was **Brandy R. McCann**, Human Development. **Kenneth J. Harrah**, School of Education/Health Promotion, and **Sung-jin Lee**, Apparel, Housing, & Resource Management, received Peggy Lavery Gerontology Research and Professional Development Awards. **Jill S. Harrison-Rexrode**, Sociology, and **Matthew F. Komelski**, Human Development, were awarded S. J. Ritchey Scholarships. The Vetra R. Mancini & Jay A. Mancini Research Prize was presented to **Brandon E. Rodgers**, Human Development.

**William J. Glenn**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and Interim Director of Northern Virginia Center Education Programs, published “Assessment for learning in K-12 science departments: A case study” in the *Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation* 6,12 (2009): 44-51.

**Paul Harrill**, Theatre and Cinema, was awarded the Arts Council of the Blue Ridge's 2009 Perry F. Kendig Outstanding Visual Artist Award. Since its television premiere in April, Harrill's film *Quick Feet, Soft Hands* has been broadcast on nearly 50 public television stations nationwide, including those in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Portland, Charlotte, and Detroit.

Sociology doctoral candidate **Jill Harrison-Rexrode** has been accepted as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Brown University's Center for Gerontology and Healthcare Research. Located on the campus of Brown University in the city of Providence, Rhode Island, the center is nationally prominent in researching the diverse health and social service needs of elderly and other persons with chronic illnesses.

**Celia Hayhoe**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, has been selected to assist with the Poverty Reduction Taskforce, which was created by Governor Tim Kaine on May 7. The group, which consists of public and private partners, will make policy recommendations to combat poverty in the commonwealth. Hayhoe, a family resource management specialist for Virginia Cooperative Extension, has been named to the asset-development working group.

**Paul Heilker**, English, was an invited speaker at the [Summer Seminar in Rhetoric and Composition](#) at Michigan State University on June 5. He also has been invited to speak at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual [Spilman Symposium on Issues in Teaching Writing](#) at Virginia Military Institute on September 26.

The College is pleased to announce the appointment of **Rachel Holloway**, Communication, as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs. Winner of the Virginia Tech Certificate of Teaching Excellence and the Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising and well-known for her advocacy of undergraduate education and her participation in curriculum, strategic planning, recruitment, orientation and development activities, Holloway has served as chair of the Public Relations Division of the National Communication Association and member of the Department Heads Council Executive Committee. In her new position, she provides guidance regarding undergraduate research, scholarship awards, and university initiatives such as the development of the College's response to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Holloway joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 1989 and served as the head of the Department of Communication from 2002 until June 30, 2009. Her first day as Associate Dean was July 1.

**W. Wat Hopkins**, Communication, has been named the Roy H. Park Distinguished Visiting Professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill for the spring semester of 2010. He will teach a course in communication law, work with graduate students, and present his research during a colloquium series.

**Angela Huebner**, Human Development, was interviewed for an article that appeared in the issue of *Newsweek* dated June 15. The article, titled "[Children of Conflict](#)," focuses on children of parents deployed by the military since 9/11 and the effects the deployment can have on adolescents' development.

Human Development faculty member **Megan Dolbin-MacNab** and doctoral students **Brandon Rodgers** published "Bridging the generations: A retrospective examination of adults' relationships with their kinship caregivers" in the *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships* 7 (2009): 159-76.

The Department of Human Development recently announced its scholarship award winners. **Marla Belian**, an undergraduate Human Development major, received the Lena L. Giannotti Scholarship for Family and Child Development in recognition of her outstanding extracurricular leadership and community service. **Ashlie Donaldson**, an undergraduate Human Development major, received a Sadie H. Williamson Scholarship for her commitment to a career working with children and their families. **Lauren Fenner**, an undergraduate Human Development major, was the recipient of a Harold A. Schlenker Scholarship in recognition of her service at Virginia Tech's Adult Day Services. **Christen Lanzara**, an undergraduate Human Development major, received the Kathleen Wampler Scholarship for her commitment to the Child Development Center for Learning and Research. **Krystal Laviena**, an undergraduate Psychology and Human Development major, was a recipient of a Sadie H. Williamson Scholarship in recognition of her commitment to a career working with children and their families. **Julie Leventhal**, a doctoral student in the Human Development Child and Adolescent Development program, received a Margaret Barnes Intergenerational Scholarship in recognition of her contributions to the *Neighbors Growing Together* intergenerational community at Virginia Tech's Adult Day Services and Child Development Center for Learning and Research; she also was awarded the Shang-Ling and

Chen-Te Fu Scholarship for her commitment to research in child and adolescent development. **Aaron Weintraub**, a doctoral student in the Human Development Adult Development and Aging program, was awarded a Margaret Barnes Intergenerational Scholarship and a Harold A. Schlenker Scholarship; these scholarships recognize his contributions to the *Neighbors Growing Together* intergenerational community at Virginia Tech's Adult Day Services and Child Development Center for Learning and Research as well as his commitment to a career involving work with older adults.

**Brenda Husser**, office manager and academic advisor in Sociology, has met the *Pathways to Excellence* requirements during the 2008-2009 *Excellence in Action* year, becoming a 2008-2009 *Member of Excellence* of the International Association of Administrative Professionals.

All four projects selected for support in the 2009 Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment (ISCE) summer research stimulus grant program involved CLAHS faculty. **Joyce A. Arditti**, Human Development, is the Principal Investigator of the project titled "Cumulative Disadvantage and Single Mothers: Operationalizing the Theory of Maternal Distress." Working with Co-PI Joseph G. Grzywacz, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Arditti is developing and piloting an instrument assessing maternal distress. **Ivica Ico Bukvic**, Music/CCTAD, is the Principal Investigator for "Virginia Tech's Linux Laptop Orchestra – Coupling Traditional Arts, Creative Technologies, and Scientific Research into a Compelling Platform for Creativity, Education, and Outreach." Collaborating with Co-PI Thomas Martin from the College of Engineering, Bukvic is designing and developing a pilot iteration of the VT Linux Laptop Orchestra (L2Ork) for campus use, but with an eye toward K-12 dissemination, particularly in the underrepresented communities of the Appalachian region. Principal Investigator Bernice L. Hausman, Co-PI **Katrina M. Powell**, team members **Clare J. Dannenberg** and **Paul V. Heilker** – all from the Department of English - and consultants **Richard Hirsh**, History, and Jay Clayton, English at Vanderbilt University, are pursuing "Discourse Analysis and Multidisciplinary Research: Partnering to Address Contemporary Social Problems." The research group seeks to contribute its expertise in the study of discourse to problems that require insights from the humanities as well as the social and natural sciences. Focusing on the cultural aspects of problems whose solutions are perceived to be technological or managerial, they are seeking partners to develop projects in the areas of: gender, ethnic, and class disparities; displacement and trauma; energy and culture; and risk and health. **Katherine Cennamo**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, is serving as a Co-PI, with Virginia Tech colleagues from Architecture and Physics, on "Phoebe's Field: Exploring Physics through Narrative and Metaphor," a traveling exhibition designed to make the abstract physics of fields concrete and relevant to middle school students. The exhibit focuses on electromagnetic fields and uses the metaphors of sound and wind fields to explain the more complex concept of electromagnetism.

Established in 2006, ISCE's purpose is to strengthen the university's competitive position in the social sciences, humanities, and arts. The summer program provides funding to help faculty develop interdisciplinary proposals to funding agencies to support research and scholarship in the social sciences, arts, and humanities.

**Tugrul Keskin**, Sociology, was awarded the Sociologists without Borders' distinguished R.H. Tawney Award. The award is named for the scholar-activist who taught at the London School of Economics his entire career and has been described as a humanist, an advocate of a decent and inclusive society, a

champion of labor and universal education, and a fierce critic of inequality. The award was made at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in San Francisco in August.

**Ann LaBerge**, Science and Technology in Society, was awarded the Stanley Jackson Prize from the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* for her paper on the history of low fat ideology. The prize honors Jackson, former editor of the journal, and is awarded for the best paper in the journal in the prior three years. LaBerge was recognized with a poster, an announcement on the *JHMAS* website, a certificate, and a cash award.

**Mary Ann Lewis** stepped down as Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences on June 1 to take a position as Virginia Tech's first Director of First Year Experiences. The newly established position, which is located in the Office of the Provost, provides leadership for the improvement of experiences for Virginia Tech's first-year and transfer students. In addition, she has responsibilities for aspects of new student orientation as well as the University Honor System, the Common Book Project, and computer requirements for all incoming students.

A member of the Virginia Tech community for 33 years, Lewis served as Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences since the college was created in 2003. From 1996 to 2003 she was Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Human Resources and Education and Assistant Dean and coordinator of teacher education from 1983 to 1996 in the former College of Education, where she served as an Assistant Professor and coordinator of student teaching from 1976 to 1983. Lewis has served on numerous academic related committees and commissions at Virginia Tech, including the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, the University Academic Appeals Committee, the SACS QEP Implementation Committee, the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning, and the Task Force on Enhancing Student Engagement.

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences thanks Mary Ann Lewis for her outstanding service to and support of the college and wishes her the best in her new position.

**Elizabeth Struthers Malbon**, Religion and Culture, edited *Between Author and Audience in Mark: Narration, Characterization, Interpretation*, which was published by Sheffield Phoenix Press (UK) in March. This summer Malbon's *In the Company of Jesus: Characters in Mark's Gospel* (2000) was published in a French translation: *En compagnie de Jésus: Les personnages dans l'évangile de Marc* (translated by Marie-Raphaël de Hemptine; introduced by Camille Focant, Paris: Le Cerf and Brussels: Edition Lessius, 2009). In July she presented two lecture tours of the Early Christian sarcophagi in the Museo Pio Cristiano in the Vatican Museums to participants of the international meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Rome.

**Eric E. McCollum**, Human Development and Program Director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Master's degree program in Northern Virginia, was named as one of the D.C. area's Top Therapists in the July issue of the *Washingtonian*, a monthly magazine distributed in the capital area. The selection was made by polling therapists in the area regarding to whom they would send a family member who needed mental health care. McCollum was one of about 200 non-physician professionals listed from Washington, D.C., and the Maryland and Virginia suburbs. In all, ten graduates of or adjunct instructors in the Northern Virginia MFT program were named as top therapists by the *Washingtonian*.



As Co-Principal Investigator working with colleagues at the University of Virginia, **Peggy Meszaros**, Human Development and Director of the Center for Information Technology Impacts on Children, Youth, and Families, has been awarded a grant for more than \$500,000 from the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation. The grant, which began on July 1 and runs for three years, is titled "Partnering with youth and parents to design and test a tobacco and drug use prevention program." In addition, Meszaros, along with faculty colleague **Elizabeth Creamer**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, and **Soyoung Lee**, a doctoral student in Human Development, published "Understanding the role of parental support for IT career decision-making using the theory of self-authorship" in *International Journal of Consumer Studies* 33 (2009): 392-95.

Sociology Ph.D. student **Roderick Neal** has been awarded a dissertation fellowship from the Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholars Program.

The induction of new members of Phi Beta Kappa took place on May 15. Among the outstanding undergraduates who were initiated were the following seniors from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences: ; **Evan Alexander Chapple**, English; **Katherine Elizabeth Dillon**, International Studies; **James Daniel Dunn**, Political Science; **David Frederick Ellrod**, History; **Matthew Peter Ells**, Political Science; **Kelli Melissa Erk**, History; **Aimee Lane Fausser**, International Studies; **Wade Alexander Gelbert**, Political Science; **Katherine T. Grant**, Communication; **Karissa Marie Griffin**, Political Science; **Morgan Rochelle Cain Grim**, Interdisciplinary Studies; **Alyssa N. Haak**, English; **Melanie Beth Jacobs**, Interdisciplinary Studies; **Stuart Alexander Keefe**, Political Science; **Jennifer N. Lamb**, Political Science; **Omar Maglalang**, Communication; **Lindsay Gravatt Maxwell**, Sociology; **Elizabeth Ann McLain**, Music; **Ellen Soraya Mendyk**, International Studies; **Sherri Metzler**, International Studies; **Ryan Mowery**, Political Science; **Joseph M. Muffler**, English; **Jonathan Douglas Murrow**, German; **Stephanie Lynn Nelson**, Communication; **Amy Marie Snowberger**, Political Science; **Anika Swartz**, English; **Audra Vasiliauskas**, English/Classical Studies; **Jason William Vick**, Political Science; **Nora Fenton Vitello**, Music; **Lauren Kathleen Waddell**, English/Psychology; **Alexander Barrett Weaver**, Communication; **Jonathan Richard Weible**, History.

**Elizabeth (Betsy) Potter**, a May 2009 graduate in German and International Studies, was awarded a National Security Education Program (NSEP) Boren Fellowship to study in Irkutsk, Russia in the spring and summer of 2010. Her study in Irkutsk will take place after she completes her Rotary Cultural Scholarship in Russia. In Irkutsk Potter will take Russian language, history, and international relations classes while working independently on a research project on Russian political participation.

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences is pleased to welcome **Wornie Reed** as director of the Center for Race and Social Policy. Having earned a B.S. in secondary education from Alabama State University and his master's and Ph.D. degrees in sociology from Boston University, Reed has served in academia for 33 years. He chaired the Department of Black Studies and developed and directed the William Monroe Trotter Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts at Boston and he was a professor of sociology and urban studies at Cleveland State University where he also directed the Urban Child Research Center. He also held positions at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Morgan State University, and in the Department of Sociology and the School of Medicine at Washington University. Prior to coming to Virginia Tech he served as director of the Africana Studies Program at the University of Tennessee. Trained as a medical sociologist, Reed has taught courses,

conducted research, and published numerous articles on medical care, health and illness, urban communities, and criminal justice. In 2000 and 2003 he was the recipient of Regional Emmys for his work with Public Health Television, Inc., on the Urban Cancer Project, a research and video-based project aimed at reducing cancer disparities among African Americans.

Department of English chair **Carolyn Rude** published "Mapping the Research Questions in Technical Communication" in the *Journal of Business and Technical Communication* 23,2 (April 2009): 174–215.

Science and Technology in Society faculty **Daniel Breslau, Brandiff Caron, Eileen Crist, and Saul Halfon** received support from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities for the 2010 Choices and Challenges project titled "Animal Minds."

**Paula Seniors**, Sociology, published *Beyond Lift Every Voice and Sing: The Culture of Uplift, Identity, and Politics in Black Musical Theater* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2009).

Sociology faculty members **James E. Hawdon** and **John Ryan** published "Hiding in Plain Sight: Community Organization, Naïve Trust and Terrorism," which appeared as the lead article in *Current Sociology* (Journal of the International Sociological Association) 57,3 (2009): 323-44.

The Student Virginia Education Association's 2009 Excellence Chapter Standards Award was presented to the Virginia Tech chapter of the association. Congratulations to **Dawn Knight**, a doctoral candidate in the School of Education/Teaching and Learning and president of the Virginia Tech chapter of the Student Virginia Education Association, and other students in the chapter on receipt of this award.

**Anastasia S. Vogt Yuan**, Sociology, published "Sibling Relationships and Adolescents' Mental Health: The Interrelationship of Structure and Quality" in the *Journal of Family Issues* 30 (2009): 1221-44.

### *Alumni Highlight*

**Kristin Noble**, a 2003 Housing, Interior Design, and Resource Management graduate in Residential Property Management (RPM), was named Property Manager of the Year at the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)'s Pillars of the Industry Awards Ceremony in San Diego, CA, on March 18, 2009.

Noble has been employed with Kettler since 2002, when she was hired as their first intern; coincidentally, she was hired by Kimberly J. Mitchell, now a faculty member in AHRM, who was Kettler's Vice President of Operations at the time.

NAHB presents the annual awards to honor excellence in apartment design, development, marketing and operations. They are considered the most recognized national awards in the multifamily housing industry and winners are selected from thousands of entries.

Noble is actively involved with the RPM Advisory Board and enthusiastically recruits RPM students for internships and full-time employment.

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