



News2Note

August 2010

The Air Force ROTC and the College welcome **Lieutenant Colonel Jordan B. Davis** and **Major Justin Monday** (whose official promotion takes place in January) as the newest Assistant Professors of Aerospace Studies for AS 400 and AS 200. Newly commissioned Air Force Second Lieutenants **Peter W. Callo** (History), **Peter R. Laclede** (Political Science and History), **Ryan J. Merritt** (Aerospace Engineering), **Adam N. Smith** (Mechanical Engineering), and **Bryant J. Tomlin** (Aerospace Engineering) were selected as Distinguished Graduates during the Air Force ROTC Commissioning Ceremony on May 14. It should be noted that this year's commissioning class of 41 lieutenants was the largest at Virginia Tech in more than 25 years and was the second largest of the 144 detachments in the nation for the 2010 fiscal year. Air Force ROTC **Captain Dan Kresge** and **SSgt Corey Stokes** supported Field Training at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, from May to July, and **Captain Kimberly Smith**, AS 200 Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies, augmented and taught during the Detachment Commanders/Academic Instructors Course at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama from June to July 2010. Smith left the Virginia Tech AFROTC in July and is now assigned to Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts.

An International Academic Collaborative grant from the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) benefited several CLAHS students who participated in this summer's study abroad program in the Czech Republic. The \$4,000 award supplemented the program coordinated in collaboration with the Virginia Tech-Howard University Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence and provided support for students conducting independent research focused on a global security topic in Europe. Twelve students, among them five from CLAHS, spent part of the summer in Eastern Europe taking economics and global marketing classes and working on team projects related to economic issues. Four of the students identified a specific topic related to global security in Europe, prepared briefing materials, and developed a detailed analysis that simulated the types of materials required by policy and decision makers. The ACC-funded students will produce a website that can be shared with other ACC universities and a video for distribution via social media. The students were selected by Ashwin Amanna, co-director of the Intelligence Community Center of Academic Intelligence and a senior research associate in the Virginia Tech College of Engineering's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. **Yannis Stivachtis**, Director of International Studies in the Department of Political Science, and Leslie Pendleton, director of undergraduate affairs for the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, are working with Amanna as advisers on the global security project.

Two recent CLAHS graduates were named to *USA Today*'s prestigious All-USA College Academic teams. **Jennifer Lamb**, a May graduate with a double major in Political Science and Agricultural and Applied Economics, combined these disciplines to pursue opportunities in researching and policy-making for sustainable agriculture, taking into consideration disadvantaged populations. She was named a Harry S. Truman Scholar in 2009 and was recognized as the 2010 Undergraduate Woman of the Year. **Emily Barry**, who earned her bachelor's degree in Spanish with a minor in International Studies in December 2009, led a community development partnership with El Porvenir, Honduras, which focused on health, gardening, water sanitation, and youth empowerment. She received support for this initiative from the College's Undergraduate Research Institute.

During 2009-2010 the following CLAHS faculty and students received support from the Office of Academic Assessment. Assessment Education Grants were awarded to **Yasuo Miyazaki**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, and to **Craig Brians**, Political Science, along with **Ryan Mowery** and **Chelsea Hickey**, two of his students. **Marlene Preston**, Communication, **Sheila Carter-Tod**, English, and **Nancy Metz**, English, each received an Assessment Dissemination Grant. A Core Competency Assessment Grant (renamed Essential Learning Outcome Grant in Spring 2010) was awarded to each of the following: a group from Political Science and the University Libraries, with **Craig Brians** as Principal Investigator; **Jihyun Kim** and **Doris Kincade**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management; **Kelly Parkes** and **Sara Kajder**, both School of Education/Teaching and Learning faculty; and **Diana Ridgwell**, the College's Director of Student Development.

Mark V. Barrow, Jr., Professor of History, has been appointed chair of the Department of History.

Julia Beamish, Professor of Housing, has been appointed chair of the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management.

Brian Britt, Religion and Culture, published "Davidmachine" in *The Bible and Critical Theory* 6 (2010): 21.1-21.14 and "Göttliche Gewalt bei Benjamin und in der biblischen Erzählung" (Divine Violence in Benjamin and in Biblical Narrative) in *Profanes Leben - Walter Benjamins Dialektik der Säkularisierung* (Profane Life – Walter Benjamin's Dialectic of Secularization), edited by Daniel Weidner (Berlin: Suhrkamp, 2010), 263-86.

Congratulations to **Toni Calasanti**, Sociology, the new chair-elect of the Behavioral and Social Sciences section of the Gerontological Society of America. Calasanti will serve a four-year term and, as chair elect, will be responsible for the 2011 program in Boston.

Jessie Chen-Yu, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, along with Keum-Hee Hong and Yoo-Kyoung Seock, a previous graduate student at AHRM and currently Assistant Professor at the University of Georgia, published "Adolescents' Clothing Motives and Store Selection Criteria: A Comparison between South Korea and the United States" in the *Journal of Fashion Marketing and Management* 14, 1 (2010): 127-44.

Dana Cochran, a student in the ASPECT program, presented "Bramwell, West Virginia: A Town of Millionaires" and also was included in a panel that dealt with "Places of Development" at the Appalachian Studies Association 33rd Annual Conference in March in Dahlonega, Georgia. On July 23

Cochran conducted a creative writing workshop, the first workshop in a Personal Enrichment Series sponsored by the town of Bramwell.

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: **John Ambrosone**, Theatre & Cinema; **Mido Chang**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; **Tracy Cowden**, Music; **Anthony Kwame Harrison**, Sociology; **Serge Hein**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; **Ji-Hyun Kim**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management; **Kee Jeong Kim**, Human Development; **Heidi Anne Mesmer**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning; **Yasuo Miyazaki**, School of Education/Education Leadership and Policy Studies; **Scott Nelson**, Political Science; **Brett Shadle**, History and ASPECT; and **Anastasia Vogt Yuan**, Sociology. Awarded tenure was Associate Professor **Norma Day-Vines**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Promoted to the rank of professor was **Mark Barrow**, History.

The College is pleased to welcome the following new tenure-track faculty: **Rachelle Brunn** and **Lakshmi Jayaram**. Both are in the Department of Sociology, with a split assignment between Sociology and Africana Studies.

Jennifer Cover, a Ph.D. student in English/Rhetoric and Writing, published *The Creation of Narrative in Tabletop Role-Playing Games* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2010).

Travis J. Cross, Music, spent a week in residence at Northwestern University, adapting several orchestrations and working on the music team for *Starry, Starry Night: A Celebration of Music Theatre and Dominic Missimi*. The one-night-only gala concert on May 24 featured several Broadway stars and Chicago performers and marked the retirement of the head of the music theatre program at Northwestern. In addition, Cross was commissioned by the Eagan (Minnesota) High School wind ensemble, band boosters, and class of 2010 to write a piece in celebration of the school's twentieth anniversary. The resulting work, "Things That Never Were," was premiered by the Eagan High School Wind Ensemble in concert on June 2 and at commencement exercises on June 5. Most recently, Cross co-orchestrated a medley of tunes by Broadway composer Neil Bartram from the new musical *Not Wanted on the Voyage* for the annual Taste of Chicago Broadway in Chicago showcase at the Petrillo Music Shell in Grant Park on June 28.

The School of Education Awards and Recognition Celebration took place on May 5 in Owens Banquet Hall, with a welcome by Director **Susan Magliaro** and opening comments by Dean **Sue Ott Rowlands**. Nine schools in the Commonwealth were recognized with 2010 Excellence in Education Awards. Awards and scholarships were presented to 102 students, with more than \$123,000 in scholarship monies being distributed. Four faculty received awards and another four faculty members and one graduate student were recognized for awards and honors they had received recently from Virginia Tech and from external agencies. The list of 2010 Excellence in Education Award winners is available [here](#), and the 2010 College and School of Education Award winners can be found [here](#).

At its June meeting the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors conferred the emeritus title on four CLAHS faculty:

Jay Mancini, Professor of Human Development, joined Virginia Tech in 1977. He earned his bachelor's degree from King's College, a master's degree from Kansas State, and the Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Mancini's research on the wellbeing of military families, youth at risk for developmental problems, and evidence-based inventions to support community capacity enhancement resulted in more than 100 scientific publications and Cooperative Extension reports, research collaborations with scholars around the world, and extensive federal and foundation funding. Mancini served as department head, held leadership positions in national professional organizations, and was named fellow of the National Council on Family Relationships. He now holds an endowed professorship at the University of Georgia.

Crandall Shifflett, Professor of History, came to Virginia Tech in 1979. His bachelor's degree was from Minnesota's St. John's University and his master's and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Virginia. During his career at Virginia Tech Shifflett authored four books, two articles, and numerous encyclopedia and dictionary entries relating to the history of the United States. He pioneered digital scholarship by creating and administering *Virtual Jamestown*. He shared his understanding of American history with public school teachers throughout the Commonwealth and advanced the cause of liberal studies by serving on the boards of directors of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and the Virginia Council for History Education.

William Snizek, Alumni Distinguished Professor of Sociology, became part of the Virginia Tech community in 1972. He holds a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a master's degree and Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University. A Senior Research Fulbright Fellow to the Netherlands and the author of 11 books and research monographs as well as more than 75 refereed journal articles and book chapters, Snizek was recognized with numerous teaching awards, among them ten Excellence in Teaching Certificates, the Alumni Teaching Award, the W.E. Wine Award, the Sporn Award for Excellence in Teaching of Introductory Subjects, the Diggs Teaching Scholar Award, the Students' Choice Award, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award.

Richard Stratton, Associate Professor in the Department of Learning Sciences and Technologies in the School of Education, was a member of the Virginia Tech community since 1977. He earned his bachelor's degree from Tarkio College in Missouri, a master's degree from Georgia Southern University, and a Ph.D. from Florida State University. Stratton served as program area leader for the Health Promotions program in the School of Education. A recipient of the Virginia Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Honor Award, he was elected and appointed to multiple American Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance committees. Stratton also collaborated with the Department of Athletics, preparing many of the student-athletes for sports management and performance careers.

Joseph F. Eska, English, published "Contact and the Celtic languages" in *The handbook of language contact*, edited by Raymond Hickey (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), 538-49.

Michael A. Evans, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, published "Using Commercial-Off-the-Shelf Video Games to Facilitate Habits of Mind: Spore™ in the Seventh Grade Life Science Classroom" in *Design and Implementation of Educational Games: Theoretical and Practical Perspectives*, ed. Pavel Zemliansky and Diane Wilcox (Hershey, PA: Information Science Reference, 2010), 262-77. More information can be found [here](#). In addition, Evans received a Theme Team Program award from the STELLAR organization, which represents the effort of the leading institutions

and projects in European Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL) to unify a diverse community of educators and technologists. In May Evans began collaborating with faculty and research scientists from four institutions in the EU to investigate the theme “Orchestrating Technology-Enhanced Learning in Future Learning Spaces.” Details about the program are available [here](#).

The following faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences were recognized for their accomplishments with a 2009-2010 Virginia Tech Faculty/Staff Award. Details regarding these award winners can be found on the [2010 University Awards website](#).

Ivica Ico Bukvic, Music, received the XCaliber Award for excellence as an individual involved in innovative approaches to technology-assisted learning and creativity. Bukvic received the award based on a number of research and creative activities he has been engaged in since coming to Virginia Tech in 2006. Among them are the formation of the [Digital Interactive Sound and Intermedia Studio](#), which involves both graduate and undergraduate students from all disciplines in the creative technologies process, as well as the Linux Laptop Orchestra, L2Ork, project.

John Burton, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, was the recipient of the Alumni Award for Excellence in International Outreach. Burton’s establishment of the Instructional Systems Development Program, with graduates from China, South Korea, Australia, Japan, Canada, Egypt, Malawi, South Africa, Mexico, and Brazil, and his co-founding of the Center for Research and Development in International Education, which works to develop the educational infrastructure in many countries, were key to his successful nomination.

Peter Doolittle, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies and Director of the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research, was awarded the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching. Doolittle’s expertise in the areas of college teaching and multimedia learning has garnered him recognition on the Virginia Tech campus and beyond through the faculty development workshops he has conducted and presentations he has made. He has implemented extended campus degree programs across the state.

Kelly Parkes, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, was recognized with the XCaliber Award for excellence as an individual involved in teaching with technology. Parkes was cited for her teaching of graduate level music education classes and her supervision of interns. Having joined the VT faculty in 2006, she is developing the music education graduate studies program and currently serves as the program area leader for music within her department.

Michelle Raines, administrative assistant in Theatre & Cinema, received the 2010 President’s Award for Excellence. Raines was recognized for 13 years of consistently outstanding administrative support to the faculty in the department. Her extraordinary efforts in 2009, when the department restructured its curriculum and moved into new facilities, were of particular note.

Carol Sue Slusser, enrollment services coordinator in the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Office in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, received the 2010 Provost’s Award for Excellence in Advising. Prior to her current position, Slusser spent nearly 17 years helping students and faculty as an advisor for the Interdisciplinary Studies Program. In that role, she worked with students from orientation to graduation, providing academic guidance as well as personal and career guidance.

Robert Stephens, History, received the 2010 Edward S. Diggs Teaching Scholars Award. Stephens was recognized for his commitment to helping students develop critical reading and writing skills, his use of technology and incorporation of “hands-on” opportunities to learn history into his courses, and his knowledge of and enthusiasm for the discipline he teaches. Stephens was among a team of faculty who

created modules for the Digital History Reader, a multi-year project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Rose Filippell, International Studies, was awarded a Boren Scholarship. One of the most prestigious awards granted in the United States for international study, the Boren is worth as much as \$20,000 and is awarded by the National Security Education Program (NSEP). Boren scholarships support undergraduate study in areas of the world critical to U.S. interests but often underrepresented by typical study abroad programs. Filippell will use her scholarship for fall semester studies at the American University in Cairo, Egypt; she has spent two months this summer studying Arabic in Tunisia with the support of a U.S. Department of State Critical Languages Scholarship. This summer Filippell also spent time in El Porvenir, Honduras, helping to implement service projects as part of a partnership between the residents of El Porvenir and Virginia Tech's University Honors Program and Center for Student Engagement and Community Partnerships.

Patti Fisher, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, published "Gender Differences in Personal Savings Behaviors" in the *Journal of Financial Counseling and Planning*. 21,1 (2010): 14-23.

The article "The Word on the Street: Public Discourse in a Culture of Disconnect" by **Diana George**, English, originally published in the 2002 issue of *Reflections: A Journal of Writing, Service Learning, and Community Literacy* has been reprinted in *Writing and Community Engagement: A Critical Sourcebook*, edited by Thomas Deans, Barbara Roswell, and Adrian Wurr (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010).

Rosemary Goss, who holds the Residential Property Management Advisory Board Professorship in the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, received the Recognition of Eminence Award from Alpha Sigma Alpha, a women's organization that exists to promote high ideals and standards for its members throughout their lives. Goss is one of only ten members in Alpha Sigma Alpha history to receive the award, the organization's most distinguished honor.

Queen Harrison, a May 2010 graduate in Sociology, made track history by becoming the first woman to sweep the 100- and 400-meter hurdles at the NCAA championship meet. She also earned the national title at the indoor competition in the 60-meter hurdles. Harrison concluded her Virginia Tech career as a six-time All-American, as well as the first female U.S. Olympian in the institution's history.

New ASPECT student **Barbara Hassell** participated in the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Seminar at Stanford University this summer from June 20 to July 20. The seminar was titled "Shanghai and Berlin: Cultures of Urban Modernism in Interwar China and Germany." Each seminar consists of 16 participants, including two current full-time graduate students in the humanities, working in collaboration with one or two leading scholars. Participants have access to a major library collection and time reserved to pursue individual research and study projects.

Four of the five participants in the inaugural Hokies on the Hill Internship Program, which took place in the National Capital Region in Spring 2010, were CLAHS students. **Nicholas Jeffress**, a 2010 English and Political Science graduate, served in the office of Congressman Rick Boucher. **Olivia Leonard** worked for U.S. Senator Mark Warner and **Ashlee Goodwin** for Congressman Jim Moran; both completed their Political Science degrees in May 2010. **Brittany Brown**, a 2010 International Studies graduate, worked in

the office of U.S. Senator Jim Webb. Instrumental in developing the internship program was Chris Yianilos, Virginia Tech's Director of Federal Relations, who collaborated with **Richard Rich**, Political Science. Students earned six credit hours for working Monday through Thursday and an additional three credits for other activities, including classroom seminars. An additional three credit hours was possible through an online course or an independent study. Details about the students' experiences and the internship program in general can be found [here](#).

Michael Hughes, Sociology, was elected Chair of the Mental Health Section of the American Sociological Association.

Timothy Luke, University Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Interim Director of ASPECT, has been appointed chair of the Department of Political Science.

Eric E. McCollum, Human Development and Program Director for the Marriage and Family Therapy program at the Northern Virginia Center in Falls Church, published "Using Mindfulness Meditation to Teach Beginning Therapists Therapeutic Presence: A Qualitative Study" with Diane R. Gehart in the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy* 36,3 (July 2010): 347-60. McCollum's techniques were the subject of this Virginia Tech [news release](#) in April.

Department of Human Development doctoral student **Kelly Munly** published "Mobile direct observation treatment for TB patients: A technical feasibility pilot using mobile phones in Nairobi, Kenya" in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* (July 2010) 39,1: 78-80, with co-authors J. Hoffman, J. Cunningham, A. J. Suleh, A. Sundsmo, D. Dekker, F. Vago, E.K. Igonya, and J. Hunt-Glassman.

Dean **Sue Ott Rowlands**, Theatre & Cinema, premiered her one-woman play, *fig. 1*, at the Divadlo Inspirace (Inspiration Theatre) in Prague, Czech Republic, from May 28 through June 5 as part of the Prague Fringe Festival. A modern adaptation of Anton Chekhov's *The Kiss*, *fig. 1* was written by Mark Evans Bryan. **C. J. Mellides**, an undergraduate Theatre Arts major who graduated in May, accompanied Ott Rowlands to Prague as stage manager and lighting designer for the production. The travelling set was built by Theatre Arts MFA candidates **Travis Gilmore** and **Jamie Lindemann**, under the supervision of **Randy Ward**, Theatre & Cinema. Details can be found [here](#).

On May 14 the following students in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest academic honor society, on the basis of their outstanding academic performance. The newest members of the Mu chapter of Virginia are: **Shaun Baker** (English), **Kimberly Bien** (Spanish), **Elizabeth Bilash** (International Studies), **Elisabeth Bogart** (Political Science), **Curtis Brown** (History), **Julia Callahan** (English), **Kaitlin Cannavo** (English), **Hayley Dodd** (English), **Rachel East** (Communication), **Sara Equi** (Interdisciplinary Studies), **Heather Fine** (English), **Kelley Hower** (English), **Kerry Kaleba** (Theatre Arts), **Carl Kaufman** (Political Science), **Caitlin Laverdiere** (English), **Philip Loving** (International Studies), **Bristol Lowder** (English), **Mary Lynch** (History), **Laura Matthews** (Political Science), **Margaret Miller** (English), **Caitlin Murray** (English), **Richard Mustian** (History), **Hannah Pierce** (Music), **Megan Quigley** (English), **Allyson Raines** (Sociology), **Amanda Ritchie** (Sociology), **Lauren Rossi** (Communication), **Kathleen Rowe** (Interdisciplinary Studies), **Kathryn Saltz** (Political Science), **John Steger** (History), **Mikhelle Taylor** (Interdisciplinary Studies), **Morganne Tinsley** (English), **Lindsay Voigtsberger** (Communication), **Thomas Waddell** (Communication), **Hayden Wayland** (International

Studies), **Erin Weiss** (History), and **Chelsea Wright** (English). Chapter Historian Emerita **Linda Plaut**, emeritus faculty in Interdisciplinary Studies, spoke on the history of Phi Beta Kappa and Mu of Virginia, and chapter president **Mark Barrow**, History, addressed the initiates.

Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research **Fred Piercy**, Human Development, was the plenary speaker and workshop leader on the topic “Professional Issues for the Marriage and Family Therapist” at the two-day Utah Association for Marriage and Family Therapy annual conference on May 21-22 in Park City, Utah.

Katrina Powell, English, has been appointed Director of Women’s and Gender Studies.

Sociology doctoral student **Thomas Ratliff** received a highly competitive National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Award in the amount of \$5,530 for his proposal titled “Social Protest and Policing Styles in the United States.”

Diana Ridgwell, CLAHS Director of Student Development, was awarded an Instructional Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$2,000 from the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research (CIDER) for “LAHS 3004: Professional Seminar.”

Juan Carlos Sanchez Sierra, a third-year Ph.D. student in ASPECT, attended the VI Congreso de CEISAL (Conseil Européen de Recherche en Sciences Sociales sur l’Amérique Latine), June 30 to July 3, in Toulouse, France, where he chaired a panel on nation, memory and youth in Latin America in the second half of the 20th century and presented “Fear and Memory: Insurgent Recruitment in Colombia 1963-1990.”

Helen Schneider, History, has been invited to the University of Oxford to serve as a research associate. During her two-year appointment, which begins this fall, she will join a team of researchers based in the History Faculty to work on the project “The Persistence of Conflict: China’s War with Japan: Experience, Legacy, and Memory, 1931 to the Present.” The focus of her research will be the Sino-Japanese War’s impact on ideas of gender and social reform in China. The research associate position allows Schneider to develop the topic through collaboration and will provide opportunities for her to return to China for further archival research. In addition, she will assist in investigations into the lasting effects on the war on Chinese identity, deliver lectures on modern Chinese history, and mentor Oxford undergraduates and graduates in their directed research. While at Oxford, she also plans to begin a longer-term project that will investigate the impact of post-war international aid on both sides of the Chinese civil war, the Nationalists’ and the Communists’ efforts to reconstruct a powerful and socially stable China, and the gendered aspects of international relief.

Rachel Scott, Religion and Culture and ASPECT, published *The Challenge of Political Islam: Non-Muslims and the Egyptian State* (Stanford University Press, 2010).

Paula Seniors, Sociology, was selected as the first Virginia Tech South Atlantic Humanities Faculty Fellow. As Faculty Fellow, Seniors will spend fall semester at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities in Charlottesville, where she will pursue research on her project titled “‘For Freedom Now’ – African American Woman Radical Activists (1958-1984): Mae Mallory, the Monroe Defense Committee and

African American Woman Sojourners of the Grenadian and Nicaraguan Revolution.” The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences awarded Seniors \$10,000 to support housing and travel and provide for a stipend during her residency at the VFH. In addition, Seniors published “Jack Johnson, Paul Robeson and the Hypermasculine African American Übermensch” in *The Harlem Renaissance Revisited: Politics, Arts, and Letters*, edited by Jeffrey O. G. Ogburn (Maryland: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010), 155-76.

Thomas Sherman, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, received the Baldwin Memorial Town and Gown Award on May 18 for his efforts to improve the relationship between the town of Blacksburg and Virginia Tech. A former vice mayor, Sherman served on the town council for 12 years, retiring in January. In addition to the award, he was given a \$500 check for his favorite charity. Mayor Ron Rordam presented the award at the annual meeting of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley. More about this honor can be found in the [NRV Current article](#).

Donald Shoemaker, Sociology, is Co-PI on a planning grant recently funded by the Center for Community Security and Resilience (CSSR) in Arlington. The grant partners Virginia Tech and IBM to investigate methods for the utilization of social media sources to meet a variety of city, county, and community needs. It includes leveraging and further developing a platform for collecting large amounts of public information relevant to Arlington County and its community, archiving collected social media data over a period of time into a digital library, correlating multiple information sources, and studying analytic applications for city, county, and community services. The data collected will be used to develop a large grant proposal by the end of the year. Sociology graduate student **Travis Whalen** is serving as the graduate assistant from VT. Both Virginia Tech and IBM will receive \$7,500.

Margaret “Peggy” Skelton, Associate Professor Emerita in the former College of Home Economics and subsequent director of its Cooperative Extension Family Resource Program, passed away on July 19 at the age of 79. Professor Skelton created numerous scholarships, among them scholarships for students in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and she will be remembered as a great friend of the College. Details can be found in the Virginia Tech News [In Memoriam](#) from July 21.

Paul Sorrentino, English, was named Clifford A. Cutchins III Professor of English by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors in June. Promoted to the rank of professor in 1984, Sorrentino held a National Endowment for the Humanities grant in 1996-1997 and a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2008-2009. The author of six books, two dozen articles and book chapters, and multiple notes and reviews, Sorrentino currently is completing a biography of Stephen Crane - he is the founder and editor of Stephen Crane Studies. Recipient of the State Council for Higher Education for Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award and the University’s William E. Wine Award, Sorrentino also was recognized with VT’s Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching and three certificates of teaching excellence from the College during his career. The Clifford A. Cutchins Professorship in English was established in 1989 through a gift from the Sovran Financial Corporation to recognize excellence in teaching and scholarship; those honored hold the position for a five-year period.

The College notes with sadness the death of **JD (John Daniel) Stahl**, Professor of English, on July 15. Stahl came to Virginia Tech in 1982. He was the recipient of the 2008 William E. Wine Award for excellence in teaching and served 1999-2000 as president of the Children's Literature Association. The

obituary published in the *Roanoke Times* can be found [here](#); the tribute by **Nancy Metz**, Department of English is available [here](#).

Marjorie Stealey, a doctoral student in the School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Center, was named the Secondary Principal of the Year by the Virginia Association of Secondary Principals. Stealey serves as principal of Norview High School in the Norfolk Public Schools.

Two CLAHS faculty members were among the three recipients of 2010 Albert L. Sturm Awards from the Virginia Tech chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. The Sturm Award for Research was presented to **Katrina Powell**, English, for a pair of books, *The Anguish of Displacement: The Politics of Literacy in the Letters of Mountain Families in Shenandoah National Park* and '*Answer at Once': Letters of Mountain Families in Shenandoah National Park: 1934-38*'. The Sturm Award for Creative Arts was presented to **Matthew Vollmer**, English, for his short-story collection *Future Missionaries of America*; Vollmer's work recently was recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts, which awarded him a \$25,000 Literature Fellowship in Prose. The third recipient was Carol Burch-Brown of the School of Visual Arts, who received the Sturm Award for Creative Arts. The awards honor the memory of Albert Lee Sturm (1911-1998), a founding member of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter at Virginia Tech and University Research Professor in Political Science. They recognize scholarship that contributes significantly to the advancement of liberal learning, honoring excellent work that is recognized as significant by a wider scholarly audience, not just a narrow group of specialists. Burch-Brown, Powell, and Vollmer will be honored at a formal reception to be held early in the spring semester.

Karen Swenson, English, was recognized with an Honorable Mention in the international Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award competition. Her entry was a wiki created for ENGL 1654, Introduction to Science Fiction and Fantasy. Details are available [here](#).

Alfonso Vergaray, a second-year Ph.D. student in ASPECT, was one of 25 current students, recent doctorates, and post-docs from throughout the world selected to participate in the international interdisciplinary summer school on "The Capability Approach on Social Order" at the University of Tübingen in Germany. While at the school Vergaray presented an essay and engaged in daily seminars with the other participants and with philosopher Martha Nussbaum.

The Virginia Tech design team comprised of May 2010 Theatre & Cinema graduates **Adam Ressa** and **Jessica Long**, along with two students from James Madison University, placed third in the nation in Disney's 19th ImagiNations Design Competition. One of six finalist teams, the group won a ten-day trip to Imagineering's studios in southern California. There they made professional presentations to the panel of judges, interviewed for internships, and participated in the competition. Professor **Randy Ward**, Theatre & Cinema, served as the team's adviser and mentor.

Alumni Highlights

Featured this month are alumni from the School of Education:

Alice Anderson, who earned her doctoral degree in Vocational-Technical Education in 1992, was appointed dean of the School of Education at Purdue University Calumet in Hammond, Indiana; she assumed the position on July 1. Previously Anderson served as the dean of the College of Education at the University of Findlay in Findlay, Ohio, and as Interim Associate Dean at Radford University, where she was founding director of the School of Teacher Education and Leadership.

Rosa Atkins, who earned her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2000 and who serves as Division Superintendent of the Charlottesville City Public Schools was named Virginia Superintendent of the Year by the Virginia Association of School Superintendents on May 4 at its annual conference in Roanoke. Selection for this honor is based on significant service to the school division, extended success in the profession, and written responses on current issues in education. The award recipient is chosen by a blue ribbon committee including the VASS President, the President of the Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the President of the Virginia School Boards Association, and a VASS Business Affiliate Member.

Laura Fornash, Director of State Government Relations for Virginia Tech, was appointed Deputy Secretary of Education for the state by Governor Bob McDonnell on March 26. Fornash has spent her professional career at Virginia Tech, serving as the institution's restructuring project director with the responsibility of managing implementation of the 2005 Restructuring Act; from 2001 to 2005 she was director of the Virginia Tech Richmond Center/state legislative liaison and prior to 2001 she held the position of Director of Information Technology Programs and Director of the Virginia Tech Richmond Center. Fornash received her bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech in 1991; she earned a master's degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management in 1998, when the program was housed in the College of Human Resources and Education.

Green Run High School, whose principal is **George Parker**, a May 2010 graduate of the School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, was selected as one of three high schools in the nation for the College Board's 2010 Inspiration Award. Located in Virginia Beach, Green Run was selected for improving its academic environment and helping underserved students achieve equitable access to college. Of special note is the school's *Advanced Via Individual Determination Program* (AVID), which prepares students for a rigorous course curriculum while motivating them to attend college after graduation. Green Run received a \$25,000 award, which was presented during an assembly on April 27; the award will be used to continue its initiative to better prepare students for honors and advanced placement courses as well as to expand various interventions for struggling students.

Please submit items for inclusion in upcoming **News2Note** newsletters to
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