



# News2Note

August 2016

**Clair Apodaca**, Political Science, published “Does the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative Realize its Goal of Poverty Alleviation?” *Journal of Poverty Alleviation and International Development* 7.1 (2016): 1–38, with Pamela Blackmon.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty members **Eunju Hwang** and **Kathy Parrott**, and undergraduate students **Leighanne Bennett**, a Property Management and Residential Environments and Design major, **Samantha Thomas**, a Property Management major, and **Kendall Hammer**, **Anna Hibbitts**, **Allyssa Hulker**, **Joe Mrava**, **Austin Parris**, **Emily Ware**, and **Adam White**, all Residential Environments and Design majors, presented “The Integrated Design Process in a Team Project” at the Environmental Design and Research Association Annual Conference, held May 18–21 in Raleigh, North Carolina. In addition, Hwang and students **Christina Crider**, a major in Family and Consumer Sciences, and **Garrett Powell** and **Alex Turbeville**, both Property Management majors, presented “Accessibility Assessment in Student Housing Communities” at the same conference.

**Elisabeth Austin**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, published “[The Material Ethics of Juana Manuela Gorriti’s \*Peregrinaciones de una alma triste\*](#),” *Decimonónica* 13.2 (2016): 1–17.

**Amy Azano**, School of Education, was the keynote speaker at the European Conference on Education, held June 29 to July 3 in Brighton, England; her presentation was titled “Leveraging Place and Moving toward Glocalized Learning.” In addition, she published “Using Children’s Picture Books about Autism in an Inclusive Classroom,” *The Reading Teacher* 70.1 (2016): 111–17, with alumnae **Miranda Sigmon** and **Mary Tackett**, who were awarded their doctoral degrees in May and August 2016 respectively.

**Julia Beamish**, Professor and Head of the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, published “U.S. Boomers’ Lifestyle and Residential Preferences for Later Life,” *Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering* 15.2 (2016): 255–62, with alumna **Hyun Joo Kwon**, who earned her Ph.D. in 2012.

**Carl Bean**, English, published the poem, "[Emily, the one who held on](#)," *BlazeVOX* Spring 2016. In addition, his screenplay, "The Lock Box," won the [Best Drama Screenplay under 20 Pages Award](#) at the GoWestFest in California.

**Leighanne Bennett**, a senior in Property Management and Residential Environments and Design, was initiated as a member of Alpha Sigma Gamma, the International Honorary Society of the American Real Estate Society. The organization recognizes property management and real estate students for sustained excellence in the classroom over the course of their studies.

**Rosemary Blieszner**, Alumni Distinguished Professor of Human Development, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and Assistant Vice Provost, Enrollment and Degree Management, was selected by the Board of the International Association for Relationship Research (IARR) as an Inaugural Fellow. The IARR is a multidisciplinary global society of scholars focused on the study of interpersonal ties; Fellows are association members who have made sustained, outstanding contributions to the field of scientific research into relationships in the areas of research, teaching, service, and/or application.

**Brian Britt**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Religion and Culture, published "Remembering Narrative in Deuteronomy," *The Oxford Handbook of Biblical Narrative*, ed. Danna Nolan Fewell (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), 157–67.

**Toni Calasanti**, Sociology, is president elect of the Southern Sociological Society. Of the 84 presidents in the society's history, five have been from Virginia Tech.

The College is delighted to welcome the following new tenure-track Assistant Professors: **Bradley Bowen**, School of Education; **Kaitlin Boyle**, Sociology; **Mauro Caraccioli**, ASPECT/Political Science; **Nicholas Goedert**, Political Science; **Sukaina Hirji**, Philosophy; **Eric Jardine**, Political Science; **Justin Lewis**, English; **Natalia Mielczarek**, Communication; **Bertranna Muruthi**, Human Development; **Annie Stevens**, School of Performing Arts/Music; **Dan Tamul**, Communication; **Daniel Wodak**, Philosophy; and **Hyesoo Yoo**, School of Performing Arts/Music.

The College is pleased to announce the following tenure and promotion decisions by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors at its June 6 meeting. Promoted to the rank of Professor were: **Jessica Folkart**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish; **David Hicks**, School of Education; **Robert Hicok**, English; **Jim Kuypers**, Communication; **Katrina Powell**, English; and **Brett Shadle**, History. Promoted to Advanced Instructor were: **Jared Gibbs**, English; **Annie Hesp**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish; and **Nancy López-Romero**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish.

Two College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences faculty members are part of a transdisciplinary team that [received \\$2 million from the National Science Foundation to create a new curriculum model for undergraduate engineering students](#). The Principal Investigator is Luke Lester, Electrical and Computer Engineering; participants from the College are **Matthew Wisnioski**,

Science and Technology in Society, as one of three Co-Principal Investigators, and **Jeremy Ernst**, School of Education and Director of the Office of Educational Research and Outreach, who is providing his expertise in the area of integrative STEM education.

**Elizabeth Crone**, School of Performing Arts/Music, was the invited guest artist for the 2016 Suzuki Association of the Greater Washington Area's Summer Flute Institute from July 5 to 9. During the institute she worked in residency leading master classes and flute choirs as well as teaching private lessons to students of all ages.

**William "Jack" Davis**, retired Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, [received the John Y. Simon Award](#) from the Ulysses S. Grant Association. The award is presented each year to a person the association deems to have advanced knowledge about Grant; Davis was recognized for his scholarship and writing on the Civil War, including *Crucible of Command: Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee – the War they Fought, the Peace they Forged* (Da Capo Press, 2015).

**Jim Dubinsky**, English, [was awarded funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities \(NEH\) to co-director a Summer Institute on Veterans in Society: Ambiguities and Representations](#), with Bruce Pencek, University Libraries. The [institute](#), whose participants were college and university teachers, explored the question of what it means to be a military-service veteran in the United States and how an examination of this question can build a foundation for veterans' studies as an academic field of inquiry. The program, which took place July 10 to 29, was based in Blacksburg but included visits to Civil War sites as well as the Library of Congress and Arlington National Cemetery.

The film *Finding Traction*, co-produced and co-directed by **Charles Dye**, School of Performing Arts/Cinema, was awarded a 2016 Northwest Regional Emmy Award for Documentary – Topical at the awards ceremony on June 4.

**Roger Ekirch**, History, published "[Echoes from the Presidential Election of 1800](#)," *Huffington Post*, 7 June 2016.

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors conferred the emeritus title on the following faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences during its June 6 meeting:  
**Carol Ann Bailey**, Associate Professor of Sociology, joined the Virginia Tech community in 1987 and made significant research contributions in the areas of qualitative sociology and evaluation research through her scholarly publications. A member of the university's Academy of Teaching Excellence, she received the Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence in 1992, the William E. Wine Award for Teaching Excellence in 2009, and numerous other honors for her teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Bailey served as advisor and mentor to many students; she was actively involved in the university's McNair Scholars Program. Bailey earned her bachelor's degree from the College of Charleston and her master's degree and doctorate from Washington State University.

**Marcie Boucouvalas**, Professor of Human Development, was a part of the Adult Learning and Human Resources Development graduate program at the Northern Virginia Center in Falls Church since 1980. She directed the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy programs, teaching a variety of courses and advising and mentoring numerous students. Boucouvalas served as editor of the *Journal of Transpersonal Psychology*, Director of the Commission for International Adult Education, and immediate past president of the Coalition of Lifelong Learning Organizations. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, her master's degree from Brown University, and her doctorate from Florida State University.

**John Burton**, Professor of Learning Sciences and Technology in the School of Education, became a member of the Virginia Tech community in 1977 and served in a number of administrative positions, including Chair of Teaching and Learning, Associate Director of the School of Education, and Interim Director for Distance Learning and Summer Sessions. Burton's teaching and research focused on instructional technology, with emphasis on innovative online delivery of graduate courses. In 2010 he was recognized with the Alumni Award for Excellence in International Outreach. Burton earned his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, his master's from Illinois State University, and his doctorate from the University of Nebraska.

**Diana George**, Professor of English, served as director of the program in first-year writing for six years and brought it to national prominence; she also served as director of the university's Writing Center. She made significant contributions to the fields of composition and visual rhetoric and was the author or coauthor of four books and 56 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and reviews. George held leadership positions in the National Writing Centers Association and the Council of Writing Program Administrators. She was the recipient of the College's Graduate Advising Award in 2011 and its Excellence in Administration Award in 2014. A member of the Virginia Tech community since 2005, George earned her bachelor's degree, master's degree, and doctorate from the University of Missouri.

**Laura Gillman**, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, contributed to the fields of Women's and Gender Studies and Latina feminisms and authored two major works, *Discovering the Comic in Don Quixote* and *Feminisms Unbound*. Part of the Virginia Tech community since 1999, Gillman served as Director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program and assisted in the transition of the program to the Department of Sociology. She was appointed a Dean's Faculty Fellow from 1999 to 2000 and was awarded the College's Diversity Award in 2005 and its Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award in 2014. Gillman earned her bachelor's degree from the University of California, San Diego, her master's degree from New York University, and her doctorate from the University of Wisconsin.

**David Jacobsen**, Associate Professor of Music, taught flute and saxophone and performed on both instruments locally, nationally, and internationally in recitals, chamber music concerts, and as a soloist. His performances included recitals at the World Saxophone Congress in 2000 and 2003. Many of Jacobsen's students continued their study of music in prestigious graduate programs and a number of them were national University Symphonic Wind Ensembles soloist winners. A member of the Virginia Tech community since 1988, Jacobsen served as Assistant Department Head for seven years. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, his master's degree from Northwestern University, and his doctorate in

musical arts from the University of Illinois.

**Susan Magliaro**, Professor of Education Psychology in the School of Education, made significant contributions to her field through work in K-12 outreach and service through the Virginia Department of Education. She served in numerous leadership roles, including Director of the Southwest Virginia Professional Education Consortium, Chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning, Director of the School of Education, and Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Magliaro was honored with a variety of awards for her professional activities. In 2014 she was appointed to Virginia's Standards of Learning Innovation Committee by Governor Terry McAuliffe. She earned her bachelor's degree from East Stroudsburg University, her master's degree from Iowa State University, and her Ed.D. from Virginia Tech.

**Deborah Mayo**, Professor of Philosophy, joined the Virginia Tech community in 1979 and brought international visibility to the university through her scholarship in the philosophy of statistics, principles of inference, and the philosophy of science. She held leadership positions in professional organizations and served as a visiting professor at the Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Among her professional honors and awards was the 1998 Lakatos Award in Philosophy of Science. She taught both undergraduate and graduate courses and served on numerous master's degree and doctoral committees. She earned her bachelor's degree from Clark University and her doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Peggy Meszaros**, William E. Lavery Professor of Human Development, served as Dean of the College of Human Resources, Senior Vice President and Provost from 1995 to 2000, and Director of the Center for Information Technology Impacts on Children, Youth, and Families. In 2011 she and Elizabeth Creamer, School of Education, were awarded a \$2.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation to investigate ways to engage females in information technology career fields in five states, including Virginia. She taught a variety of courses and advised numerous graduate students; she also supported Virginia Cooperative Extension. Meszaros earned her bachelor's degree from Austin Peay University, her master's degree from the University of Kentucky, and her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland.

**Robert Siegle**, Professor of English, pursued interdisciplinary work on post-modern literature, architecture, and Buddhism and published three books and 30 peer-reviewed articles. A recipient of Fulbright awards to India and Sri Lanka, he engaged in internationalizing the curriculum at Virginia Tech and served as Director of the College's Center for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Studies; in this role he led nomadic study abroad programs to Morocco, Turkey, and Sri Lanka. He frequently served as a publication and grant reviewer. Siegle was recognized with the 2004 Diggs Teaching Scholar Award and the 2009 X-Caliber Lifetime Achievement Award. He earned his bachelor's degree from Emory and Henry College and his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Doris Zallen**, Professor of Science and Technology Studies and Humanities, made significant contributions to the fields of genetic testing and medical ethics and authored *To Test or not to Test: A Guide to Genetic Screening and Risk* (Rutgers University Press, 2008). She played a central role in developing a curriculum for teaching the humanistic dimensions of science and technology. She founded the Choices and Challenges project, which she directed for 23 years; for this and other outreach activities she was recognized with the 2006 Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence. Among her other awards was the Outstanding Faculty Award of the State

Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Zallen earned her bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College and her master's degree and Ph.D. from Harvard University.

A team of undergraduates, directed by **Tom Ewing**, History and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, [presented its research findings at a forum in Washington, D.C., on July 13](#). The research focused on the history of tuberculosis in the United States, and the forum was titled [Microscopic Foes of Mankind: Understanding Tuberculosis in American History](#). Participating students were May 2016 alumnae **Courtney Howell**, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Russian, and **Rachel Snyder**, History and Applied Economic Management, current Virginia Tech undergraduates Jay Pandya, Mathematics, and Luis Villavicencio, Computer Science, as well as two students each from George Mason University and the University of Virginia.

Two faculty members from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences were among the latest [inductees into the academies of Faculty Leadership and Faculty Service](#). **Matthew Gabriele**, Religion and Culture, was appointed to the Academy of Faculty Leadership; he was recognized for his leadership in a number of activities and programs that have created cultural change at the university. **Marlene Preston**, Communication, was appointed to the Academy of Faculty Service, earning recognition for work on general education curriculum revisions, the Common Book Committee, and assessment initiatives.

**Lauren Farrar**, a junior Music major, was invited to sing the role of Nettie in *Carousel* and to cover the role of Susanna in Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* at the Bethesda Music Festival in June.

ASPECT doctoral student **Robert Flahive** published "Trial of the Status Quo: The Politics of Mediated Justice in the Special Tribunal for Lebanon," *Arab Studies Journal* 24:1 (Spring 2016): 68–88, with Sari Hanafi and Are Knudsen.

**Rhiannon Hasenauer**, a junior in Human Development, was one of six Virginia Tech undergraduates to receive a [2016 Atlantic Coast Conference Creativity and Innovation grant](#) to pursue research and creative scholarship during the summer. In July she served as a [volunteer teacher in the Villa Soleada Bilingual School](#). Hasenauer's research project, titled "The Future of Honduras," includes a digital storytelling project. Her faculty mentor is **Katherine Allen**, Human Development.

**Bernice Hausman**, Edward S. Diggs Professor in the Humanities, has been appointed Chair of the Department of English.

**Matthew Heaton**, History, [was awarded funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities \(NEH\) to direct a Summer Seminar on Race and Mental Health in History and Literature](#). Intended for schoolteachers, the program took place July 10–30; participants traveled to Blacksburg for the first and third weeks and to Washington, D.C., for the second. The focus of the [seminar](#) was an exploration of W.E.B. DuBois's writing and other historic and literary portrayals of mental health among Africans and African Americans.

**Erin Hopkins**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, published “Program Efficiency Analysis within the Environmental Landscape,” *Environment Systems and Decisions* 36.2 (2016): 209–16.

**Karen Hult**, Professor of Political Science, has been appointed Chair of the Department of Political Science.

Congratulations to **Captain Robert V. James III**, Commanding Officer of the Naval ROTC unit at Virginia Tech, on his retirement from the United States Navy after 30 years of service. Prior to coming to Virginia Tech in January 2014, he served as Commanding Officer of the *USS Michigan*. The retirement ceremony took place on May 27.

**Sharon Johnson**, Associate Professor of French in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, has been appointed Director of the Women’s and Gender Studies program. In addition, she published “Cultural Blindness and Ambiguity: Reading (for) and Writing about Rape,” *French Cultural Studies* 27.2 (2016): 113–34.

**Gregory Justice**, School of Performing Arts/Theatre Arts, was the closing keynote speaker for the Conference on Teaching Large Classes, held at Virginia Tech on July 21. He presented “The Art of Teaching Large Classes: Using Acting Techniques in the Teaching/Learning Process.”

**Melanie Kiechle**, History, published “Navigating by Nose: Fresh Air, Stench Nuisance, and the Urban Environment, 1840-1880,” *Journal of Urban History* 42.4 (2016): 753–71.

**Elaine Lewis**, a senior Communication major, was one of four Virginia Tech students who participated in the [2016 BattleFrog College Championship](#), which aired on ESPN from June 30 to July 2. BattleFrog competitions are obstacle course races created by Navy SEALs and SeaBees.

**Timothy Luke**, University Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science, published “What is Critical,” *Critical Policy Studies* 10.1 (2016): 113–16.

[Mapping the Fourth of July in the Civil War Era](#), a crowdsourced digital archive of primary sources, [was launched at the beginning of July](#) by **Paul Quigley**, History and James I. Robertson Jr. Professor in Civil War Studies; **David Hicks**, School of Education; and Kurt Luther, Computer Science. The website is funded by a National Historical Publications and Records Commission grant and invites visitors to transcribe, tag, and discuss primary sources.

**Carol Mullen**, School of Education, published “Alternative Mentoring Types,” *Kappa Delta Pi Record*, 52.3 (2016): 132–36.

In June **Charles Nichols**, School of Performing Arts/Music, presented his composition *At the Boundary*, for amplified string quartet and computer, performed by the Klang String Quartet at the NY Phil Biennial concert of the New York City Electronic Music Festival at National Sawdust in Brooklyn, New York, and by the Beo String Quartet at the Charlotte New Music Festival in

Charlotte, North Carolina, as well as his composition *Current Threat Level*, for computer music and video, at the Sala Accademica of the Conservatorio di Santa Cecilia in Rome, Italy. In July he served for two weeks as an artist in residence at the Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts in Saratoga, Wyoming. He also performed with his band Modality at the DAT Conference in Missoula, Montana, and in shows in Chicago, Illinois, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Columbus, Ohio, before returning to Blacksburg for a performance at CubeFest.

Three College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences undergraduates were among the six winners of [2016 Odyssey Fellowships](#) from the University Honors Program. **Thomas Jacobs**, a double major in Literature and Language and Biological Sciences, was recognized with the Jerry and Leslie Gough Fellowship to travel this summer to Sichuan University of Medicine Hospital in Sichuan Province, China, where he observed the practice of traditional Chinese medicine in conjunction with modern medical practices. **Maria Jernigan**, a Philosophy, Spanish, and Theatre Arts major, was awarded the Class of 1954 Fellowship to study models of project-based learning in public school classrooms in Colorado, Australia, and New Zealand in the summer of 2017. **Gargie Nagarkar**, a Sociology major, received the Class of 1956 Ut Prosim Fellowship; she will travel to India next summer to develop health and hygiene lessons for underserved populations.

**Aaron Ogletree**, a doctoral candidate in Human Development and Gerontology Certificate student, was appointed as the Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization representative to the Gerontological Society of America's Mentoring Committee. The sole new appointee this year to this organization for graduate students and new professionals, Ogletree will serve one year as junior representative and then a year as senior representative.

ASPECT doctoral student **Mohammed Pervaiz** presented "Historicism, Reform and the 'Ulama during the British Colonial Period" at the conference titled "Critical Muslim Studies: Decolonial Struggles and Liberation Theologies," which was held from May 23 to June 3 in Granada, Spain.

**Anita Puckett**, Religion and Culture and Director of the Appalachian Studies program, published "Walking the Fence Line of The Crooked Road: Engaging in the Marketplace of Tourism while Empowering a Place-Based Civic Commons," *Appalachia Revisited: New Perspectives on Place, Tradition, and Progress*, eds. William Schumann and Rebecca Adkins Fletcher (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2016): 185–209.

Religion and Culture faculty members **Anita Puckett**, also Director of the Appalachian Studies program, and **Emily Satterwhite**, as Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator respectively, received a \$5,000 grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities for a project titled "The Central Role of the Humanities in Advancing Appalachian Community Revitalization." The funds will support humanities-focused public activities at the 40th annual Appalachian Studies Conference, which will be held March 9–12, 2017, on the Virginia Tech campus.



ASPECT doctoral student **Mary Ryan** presented “Shame and Austerity in the Global Prison Industrial Complex” at the London Conference on Critical Thought, which was held June 24–25 at Birkbeck, University of London, as well as “Structural Racism in the U.S. Government” at the Summer Institute in American Philosophy, which took place July 11–16 at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Ryan’s attendance at the institute was supported by a Graduate Travel Grant from the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy.

**Suchitra Samanta**, Sociology/Women’s and Gender Studies, published “Making Visible Asians and Asian Americans in Introductory Women’s Studies Courses: The Personal Voice in Pedagogy, Making Feminist Connections across Diversity,” *Feminist Teacher* 25.2–3 (2016): 94–110.

**Andy Scerri**, Political Science, published “Deep Ecology, the Holistic Critique of Enlightenment Dualism, and the Irony of History,” *Environmental Values* 25.5 (2016): 1–25.

**Brett Shadle**, History, published “Debating ‘Early Marriage’ in Colonial Kenya, 1920–50,” *Marriage by Force? Contestation over Consent and Coercion in Africa*, eds. Annie Bunting, Benjamin N. Lawrance, and Richard L. Roberts (Athens: Swallow Press/Ohio University Press, 2016): 89–108.

**Doris Shelor**, budget manager for the departments of Religion and Culture and Science and Technology in Society, was recognized by Virginia Tech as [one of six employees nominated in 2016 to represent the university in the statewide Governor’s Award program](#); she was nominated in the career achievement award category. Shelor was recognized for her assistance with various types of tasks, her understanding of the university’s administrative processes, the performance of duties beyond what her position requires, and the quality of her work.

**Stephanie Smith**, Communication, was one of nine individuals selected nationally to [participate in the 2016 annual Fellowship for Educators program](#) of the Plank Center for Leadership in Public Relations at the University of Alabama. Smith was hosted by Cox Communications in Atlanta. The summer fellowship exposes professors to current day-to-day operations of the public relations function and helps create an exchange of information and ideas that will enhance the professional development of both the educators and the hosts. Educators take part in research projects, training sessions, and presentations as well as assist with company projects.

Three College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences faculty members were honored with a 2016 Sturm Award. **Aaron Ansell**, Religion and Culture, received this year’s Sturm Research Award for *Zero Hunger: Political Culture and Antipoverty Policy in Northeast Brazil* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014). Two faculty members from the Department of English, **Ed Falco** for *Toughs* (Unbridled Books, 2014) and **Matthew Vollmer** for *Gateway to Paradise: Stories* (Persea, 2015), were the recipients of the Sturm Creative Arts Award. The awards were announced at the Phi Beta Kappa initiation ceremony on May 12.

**Pamela Teaster**, Professor in the Department of Human Development, has been appointed Director of the Center for Gerontology.

**Brian Thorsett**, School of Performing Arts/Music, along with collaborators Noah Luna and Brenden Guy, was the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from the Kurt Weill Foundation (New York) to present the West Coast premiere of Marc Blitzstein's *Airborne Symphony*. The performance, in which Thorsett was soloist, took place on May 28 at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Concert Hall; the concert also featured his performance of songs from Korngold's "Constant Nymph" and "Give us this night." Earlier in May Thorsett gave a recital in Berkeley, California, with pianist Ming Luke, performing Scott Gendel's "I'm afraid it's you." On May 14–15 he soloed in Bach's *Mass in B minor* with the San Francisco Bach Choir, and on May 21–22 he was the soloist in Haydn's *Creation* with the Southern Oregon Repertory Singers and Portland Baroque Orchestra in Ashland, Oregon. Performances in June included solos in Britten's *War Requiem* with the Berkeley Community Chorus on June 3–5; recitals of Bach cantatas and arias for the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival in Charlottesville and Harrisonburg, Virginia, on June 9 and 12; and soloist duties in Verdi's *Requiem* in Belgium at the Concertgebouw in Bruges on June 27 and in Ypres Cathedral on June 28 as well as in Germany at the Liederhalle in Stuttgart on June 30. Thorsett performed David Conte's "American Death Ballads" at the National Association of Teachers of Singing annual convention, held July 8–12 in Chicago. He sang Beethoven's "An die ferne Geliebte" on July 21 and Bach's *Mass in B minor* on July 23, both at the Mendocino Music Festival in Mendocino, California.

The Vaccination Research Group—comprising **Tarryn Abrahams**, a doctoral student in Science and Technology Studies; **Bernice Hausman**, Edward S. Diggs Professor in the Humanities and Chair of the Department of English; and alumnae **Heidi Lawrence**, Ph.D., Rhetoric and Writing (2013), and **Kari Putterman**, MFA Creative Writing (2015)—presented findings from its current research on vaccine skepticism and parental beliefs to the Health Communication Science Office of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on May 27.

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