



News2 Note

December 2009

Colors of the Robe: Religion, Identity, and Difference (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2002) by **Ananda Abeysekara**, Religion and Culture, was the subject of the panel “Heretics and Reformers in Theravada Buddhism” at the Annual South Asia Conference, held in October in Madison, Wisconsin. A symposium on Abeysekara’s *The Politics of Postsecular Religion: Mourning Secular Futures* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008) is forthcoming in the journal *Religion*. The latter book was also the subject of the paper “Exhausting Difference: Aporias in Postcolonial and Religious Identity” delivered by Susan Abraham of Harvard University at the Annual American Academy of Religion in November in Montreal, Canada.

The Virginia Tech **Air Force ROTC** detachment received an overall “Excellent” rating from the Air Education and Training Command Inspector General (IG) Team during the team’s Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) visit on November 17-18. UCIs are conducted approximately every three years where higher headquarters will ensure AFROTC detachments’ compliance with existing Air Force guidance. The rating validated that the Virginia Tech AFROTC detachment’s performance and operation exceeded mission requirements and that all activities were carried out in a superior manner. Additionally, the UCI confirms that Virginia Tech is going above and beyond in its mission of commissioning officers for service in the United States Air Force who will be leaders of exemplary character.

The Office of the Vice President for Research recognized **Mark V. Barrow Jr.**, History, as Virginia Tech Scholar of the Week for November 16. Barrow’s research is on the intersection between the history of natural history, wildlife conservation, and American culture. For several years he has been studying the changing attitudes toward human-induced extinction, primarily in the U.S., from the 18th century to the endangered Species Act of 1973. His most recent book, *Nature’s Ghosts: Confronting Extinction from the Age of Jefferson to the Age of Ecology* (University of Chicago Press, 2009), looks at how naturalists have engaged with the issue of human-induced wildlife extinction over the last two centuries. Barrow also is pursuing research on the cultural and environmental history of the American alligator; an article titled “Dragons in Distress: Naturalists as Bioactivists in the Campaign to Save the American Alligator” appeared in the *Journal of the History of Biology* in March 2009.

Esther K. Bauer, Foreign Languages and Literatures/German, published “Narratives of Femininity in Judith Hermann’s *Summerhouse, Later*” in the *Women in German Yearbook* 25 (2009): 50-75.

Ivica Ico Bukvic, Music, gave a talk at TEDx MidAtlantic, held at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore, Maryland, on November 5. The event brought together leading thinkers, activists, artists, philosophers, and entertainers from the MidAtlantic region who were challenged to give “the talk of their life” in 18 minutes or less. TED celebrates the convergence of Technology, Entertainment, and Design; the independent Mid-Atlantic TED event featured [20 invited speakers](#). Bukvic spoke on his recent research with the aural painting using tightly packed speaker array (a.k.a. DREAM interface) and the Linux Laptop Orchestra. His presentation can be found [here](#) and more about the orchestra is available [here](#).

Samuel R. Cook, Sociology, published “The Collaborative Power Struggle” in *Collaborative Anthropologies* 2 (2009): 109-14.

Congratulations to the School of Education recipients of the 2009 Don G. Creamer Research Awards. The following Educational Leadership and Policy Studies students received funding for their research projects: **Dexter Bush-Scott** and **Valerie Shayman**, “Assessing Case Management Services for Virginia Tech Employees and Students”; **Fulya Marsh**, “Revisiting Transition: Experiences of Middle Eastern Graduate Students in the United States”; and **Cara McFadden**, “Sense of Competence Scale-Revised (SCS-R): An Instrument Development and Validation Study for an Existing Instrument to Measure Traditional Age College Students Sense of Competence.” **Don Creamer**, Professor Emeritus in the School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Bethany Flora, and **Diana Ridgwell**, Director of Student Development in the College, served on this year’s selection committee. The grants were made possible by contributors to the Don G. Creamer Fund for Excellence.

Two students in the MFA Creative Writing Program in the Department of English recently were honored for their work. **Katherine Sullivan** was awarded the Virginia Tech/Poetry Society of Virginia Award for her poem “You Wonder.” The prize was sponsored by the Academy of American Poetry. **Jessica Broaddus** was the recipient of the Virginia Tech Fiction Prize for her story titled “Series of Doors.” Both Sullivan’s and Broaddus’s work will be nominated by Virginia Tech for the 2010 Intro Journals Project, an annual competition from the Associated Writing Programs; Sullivan’s poem also will be nominated for the 2010 edition of *Best New Poets*, which describes itself as “an annual anthology of 50 emerging writers.”

Jim Dubinsky, English and *Director of Student Engagement & Community Partnerships*, won the Maeda Gibbs Award for Outstanding Teaching from the American Business Communication Association, an international association with nine regions worldwide and more than 750 members. The Teaching Committee will honor Dubinsky with a plaque and a check at the ABC annual convention, and he will present a paper at the following year's conference plenary session. Details about the awards can be found [here](#).

Margaret A. Eggleston, a Ph.D. student in Human Development, received a Love of Learning Award from the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society in the United States. Eggleston was among only 50 students nationwide to be recognized with the award, which helps fund post-baccalaureate studies and career development. Phi Kappa Phi has chapters on more than 300 select college and university campuses in North America and the Philippines.

Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors.

Joseph Eska, English, published "The emergence of the Celtic languages," and, with D. Ellis Evans as second author, "Continental Celtic," 28-54, two new chapters in the second edition of *The Celtic languages*, ed. Martin J. Ball and Nicole Müller (London: Routledge, 2009), 22-27 and 28-54 respectively.

Michael A. Evans, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, was selected to serve as a faculty consultant on mobile learning to the 2009-10 Educational Enhancement Collaboration Grants and the IDEAS team, sponsored by the Center for Creative Technologies in the Arts and Design (CCTAD). The mission of the [Center](#) is to combine the arts and creative uses of technology to teach Virginia public school students. On October 29 Evans and **Marshall G. Chaney**, a graduate student in School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, exhibited their work on the Learning Without Boundaries project at Innovate 2009, a unique showcase that is part of the 2009 Virginia Educational Technology Conference. Innovate 2009 explores technologies and products that may still be in development but have the potential to transform education. Displayed by Evans and Chaney were Studio STEM, an after school design-based science and engineering program, and MathScapes, an educational application for the iPod Touch.

For the second year the Department of Human Development awarded grants to doctoral students to conduct independent research. Recipients this fall were: **Leslie Freeman Davidson**, "Subjective well-being: Spouses of returning soldiers with mild and moderate brain injury"; **Christian Jordal**, "The 'Blended' Marriage: A grounded theory of how mixed orientation couples learn to commit, sexually identify, and gender themselves"; **Bryce Jorgensen**, "Family Commitment and time together: The influence of spirituality"; **Matthew Komelski**, "Exploring an introductory Taiji program for nursing staff"; and **Isha Williams**, "Children's sense of God related to self-care."

Human Development chair **Shannon Jarrott** presented an invited keynote titled "Intergenerational work with persons who have dementia: Perspectives and international examples of practice and research" as well as a workshop to practitioners and researchers on November 30 in Madrid, Spain. The trip was sponsored by the Centro Alzheimer Fundación Reina Sofia, the Consejería de Familia y Asuntos Sociales, and the Comunidad de Madrid.

Daniel W. Mosser, English, with Linne R. Mooney, published "The Belvoir Castle (Duke of Rutland) Manuscript of John Lydgate's Fall of Princes" in the *Journal of the Early Book Society* 12 (2009): 161-72.

Corinne Noirot-Maguire, Foreign Languages and Literatures/French, published "Vian et le vers coquin: le coup d'essai des *Cent sonnets*" in *Europe* 967-68 (Nov.-Dec. 2009): 135-43. A presentation of this special issue is available [here](#).

Katrina M. Powell, English, edited "Answer at Once": Letters of Mountain Families in Shenandoah National Park, 1934-1938 (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2009). The volume is a follow-up to her 2007 book, *The Anguish of Displacement: The Politics of Literacy in the Letters of Mountain Families in Shenandoah National Park* (Charlottesville: The University of Virginia Press).

AFROTC Cadet Brett Rogers, Computer Engineering, recently was selected as one of only 39 senior AFROTC cadets in the nation invited to participate in the Advanced Course in Engineering (ACE) Cyber Security Boot Camp. The ten-week camp conducted at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, NY, develops future Air Force officers into the next generation of cyberspace leaders through education, problem solving, military internship - and weekly eight-mile runs.

Science and Technology in Society faculty members **Barbara Allen**, National Capital Region, and **Daniel Breslau**, Blacksburg, co-chaired the 2009 annual meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S), held October 28-31 in Washington, D.C. This is the first time since 2005 that the meeting has been held in the United States. The meeting attracted more than 1,000 attendees. 4S is the oldest and largest scholarly association devoted to understanding science and technology in society. Details about the organization of the meeting by Allen and Breslau can be found [here](#).

Donald J. Shoemaker, Sociology, published the sixth edition of *Theories of Delinquency* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010).

Daisy Stewart, professor and Associate Director of the School of Education, was interviewed by the Washington Post regarding the importance of technical skills for candidates on the job market today. The November 1 article can be found [here](#).

Dale Wimberley, Sociology, published "Setting the Stage for Cross-Border Solidarity: Movement Spillover and Early Mobilization in the Nicaragua Labor Rights Campaign" in the *Labor Studies Journal* 34,3 (September 2009): 318-38.

Alumni Highlights

Alice Shen, who earned her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the Department of English in 2009 was named the winner of The Southeastern Theatre Conference's Charles M. Getchell New Play Award. *Entitled*, the winning play, will receive a staged reading and an adjudication by a select panel of judges at SETC's annual conference next March in Lexington, KY. Shen teaches at Tarrant County College in Fort Worth, Texas.

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