Two ASPECT doctoral students gave papers at the International Studies Association – Northeast Regional Conference, which was held November 4–5 in Baltimore, Maryland. Robert Flahive’s paper was titled “The Modernist Cartel: DOCOMOMO and the Transformation of the World Heritage List” and Johannes Grow presented “After EUropean Empires: European Integration and the Remains of Empire.”

ASPECT doctoral student Judson Abraham presented “The Bernie Sanders Campaign: American Populist Socialism” at the Radical Philosophy Association Conference, which was held November 10–13 in Lexington, Kentucky.


Amy Azano, School of Education, was one of the faculty speakers at the 2016 TEDxVirginia Tech, which was held November 10. The theme of this year’s event was Spark, that is, the moment of inspiration that sets an individual on course to research a certain topic question, a set norm, create or perform a piece of art, or start a journey. Azano’s talk was titled “The Rurarilities of Autism.”

C. N. Bean, English, won two prizes for his short screenplay Twists of Closure. He was the October 2016 1st Place Winner prize in the Hollywood International Moving Pictures Film Festival and will be attending a red carpet event on January 7 at the historic Raleigh Studios in Hollywood, California, where winners will be introduced to agents, producers, directors, and others in attendance. He also won the 1st Runner Up prize in the 2016 South Carolina Underground Film Festival, which was held November 11–12 in Charleston, South Carolina.
ASPECT doctoral student **Nada Berrada** published “Hogra and Youth Inclusion in the MENA Region” on the Virginia Tech graduate student commentary blog **RE: Reflections and Explorations** on November 11.


Pianist **Tracy Cowden**, School of Performing Arts/Music, gave performances of a program titled “Biculturalism in Flute and Piano Music” with Tabatha Easley, flute, at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, and Wheaton College Conservatory of Music and Elmhurst College, in Wheaton and Elmhurst, Illinois, respectively, between November 13 and 15, as well as a masterclass for flute and piano students at Ball State University.

Two faculty members were recipients of a Global Partnership Project Award for 2016–2017. **Toni Calasanti**, Sociology, was awarded funding for research on aging in the United States and Finland with Ilkka Pietilä and Hanna Ojala of the University of Tampere, Finland. **Aarnes Gudmestad**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, received support for “Crosslinguistic Influence and Grammatical Gender Marking in Second-Language Spanish” with Amanda Edmonds, University of Paul-Valéry, Montpellier, France.


**Annie Hesp**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, was recognized as the November 6 Virginia Tech Teacher of the Week by the Center for Instructional Development and Education Research (CIDER). She was honored for encouraging students to relate their coursework to their personal interests as well as to potential employment opportunities. Her pedagogy often involves a series of discrete activities and tasks that build toward a larger project in which students are expected to apply their new-found knowledge. Examples are: the Camino de
Santiago summer program, in which Hesp leads students on a medieval pilgrimage route across northern Spain; the Introduction to Spanish Translation course, where students design and carry out a real-world translation task for a business or organization that might need their services; and Medieval Literature, in which student are challenged to question their expectations as they reflect and engage with texts. Hesp notes that the most valuable marker of her success as an instructor is the sustained and enthusiastic mentoring relationship she has with so many past and current students.


Kristen Koopman, a doctoral student in Science and Technology Studies, was a winner of the inaugural science fiction contest held by Issues in Science and Technology, published by the National Academies. Her story, titled “You’re a Mile Away and You Have Their Shoes,” appeared in the Summer 2016 issue.

ASPECT doctoral student Jordan Laney presented “‘Rule 7: The Only Rule Is Work’: An Unconventional Path to Thriving in Higher Education” at the Second Annual Commonwealth Graduate Education Day, held November 4 at the College of William and Mary; and “What’s Cooking in Kathleen’s Kitchen? Exploring Feminized Performances and Spaces in Bluegrass Festivals” at the Carolina Bluegrass Summit/Bluegrass Symposium, which was held November 12 at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Timothy Luke, University Distinguished Professor of Political Science, published “Sustainabilization: A Critique of Green Economy(s)” in the inaugural issue of the Colorado Critical Review 1.1 (Fall 2016). The article elaborates and expands on his plenary address, delivered November 16, 2015, as the kick-off event for the Colorado Critical Interdisciplinary Speaker Series at the University of Colorado–Denver.

Sue Magliaro, Professor Emerita in the School of Education, received the 2016 Friend of Education Award from the Virginia Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and the Association of Teacher Educators in Virginia at their joint fall meeting, which was held October 6–7 at Roanoke College in Salem.

The electronic exhibit “Men Who Served: VPI in World War One” was on display in the second-floor lobby of Newman Library from November 7 to 11. The project, a collaboration between the Department of History and the University Libraries, is an online project and database featuring research about VPI WWI soldiers by Virginia Tech students and faculty. Tom Ewing, History and Associate Dean, helped coordinate the exhibit; Daniel Newcomb, a master’s student in History and the School of Education, and Nicholas Runkel, a senior Political Science and History major, coordinated research for the exhibit. Two dozen first-year students enrolled
in HIST 1004 Introduction to History, taught by Trudy Harrington Becker, History, contributed significantly to the research project; several students made remarks at the November 10 exhibit reception.

Music faculty members Tracy Cowden and Richard Masters in the School of Performing Arts toured the state of Washington from September 30 to October 2, performing a two-piano program at the Steinway Gallery in Seattle (to be broadcast on Seattle Public Radio), Eastern Washington University, and Pacific Lutheran University. Among the featured works on their program was a new work by Carter Pann, a recent Pulitzer finalist.


Pratama Yudha Pradheksa, a master’s student in Science and Technology Studies, was an invited participant in the Wilson Center’s 2016 Asia-Pacific Nuclear History Institute and workshop, which was held November 5–12 in Seoul, South Korea.


The Ph.D. program in Security Governance was approved by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors at its November meeting. The program, which specializes in security-related dimensions of governance aimed at securing and fostering healthy, safe, strong, and resilient communities, will be housed in the Department of Political Science. Pending approval by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the degree program will begin in Fall 2017.

Last month the College’s Staff Association raffled a Virginia Tech Football autographed by 2016 coaches. The proceeds from the raffle were $360, which benefitted the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Staff Association Scholarship. Thanks to the organizers and to those who supported the raffle.

Annie Stevens, School of Performing Arts/Music, performed a 50-minute keyboard showcase concert with her duo, Escape Ten, at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 10. The program included seven works composed and/or arranged exclusively for the duo, including four world premieres.


The following students were recipients of grant support from the College’s Undergraduate Research Institute in Fall 2016. Receiving Research Grants were: Jacob Courington, a senior Music Performance and Biochemistry major, senior recital composition; and Madison Hill, a junior Cinema major, “Figaro,” a music video project. Awarded Travel Grants were: both John Chandler, a senior Music/Vocal Performance major, and Allison Harris, a junior Music/Vocal Performance and Mechanical Engineering major, for a duo performance at the National Opera Association Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition, January 4-8, 2017, Santa Barbara, California; Amy Southall, a senior Professional and Technical Writing and Literature and Language major, “Z-Devoicing in the South, A Function of Where You Are From and Where You Are Going,” Southern Conference on Linguistics, March 8-11, 2017, Charleston, South Carolina; Jessica Taylor, a junior Music Education major, performance at the Richmond Flute Fest, November 5, Richmond, Virginia; and Emily Walters, a senior Literature and Language and Professional and Technical Writing major, “Decoupage vs. Dreadnought: Gendered Words in New Zealand English,” Georgetown University Round Table, March 10-12, 2017, Washington, D.C. In addition, the Department of History and the Department of Religion and Culture were each awarded an University Research Institute grant in support of undergraduate research activities.

Peter Wallenstein, History, discussed his research on the landmark Supreme Court Case, *Loving v. Virginia*, in an interview with columnist Dan Casey that informed a *Roanoke Times* article on the subject on October 29. His comments are also a part of the *Huffington Post* article from November 4. The ruling in the case struck down Virginia’s 1924 outlawing of interracial marriages.

Alan Weinstein, School of Performing Arts/Music, performed with the Kandinsky Trio, guitarist Kurt Rosenwinkel, and bassist Paul Langosch at the Moss Arts Center on November 5. Beethoven’s Trio in C Minor and “Natural Bridge” by John D’earth were the featured works.

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