



News2 Note

January 2010

On December 18 the Air Force ROTC held its Fall 2009 commissioning ceremony in War Memorial Chapel and the following cadets were commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the United States Air Force. **2Lt Bryan T. Blank** (Psychology) will report to Tyndall AFB in Florida as an Air Battle Manager. **2Lt Joseph M. Daniele IV** (Political Science) will attend pilot training at Vance AFB in Oklahoma. **2Lt Darius P. Estavillo** (Economics) will report to Goodfellow AFB in Texas as an Intelligence Officer. **2Lt Stephan L. Frye** (Geography) and **2Lt Shawn P. Tupta** (Chemistry) will attend pilot training at Columbus AFB in Mississippi.

A team of undergraduates enrolled in Humanities 4104 Community Heritage Project with **Anita Puckett**, Religion and Culture, in Fall 2009, was among fifteen groups of college and university students to make a presentation at the Appalachian Teaching Project 2009 held on December 4-5 in Washington, D.C. This year's theme was "Strengthening Community Assets to Shape a Positive Future for Appalachia." Interdisciplinary Studies students **Kyle Barthelson**, **Meghan Follo**, **Jaelyn Grysko**, **Brian Hanlon**, **Kelly Lee**, **Kellsey Lequick**, **Anne Silveira**, and **Amanda Spicer**, and International Studies student **Colleen Doyle** presented "Creating Cultural Capital through Assessing Prices Fork Elementary Community Impact," in which they described their efforts to document the contributions of Prices Fork Elementary School in creating and sustaining a sense of community in the area and serving as a viable community center for local activities and functions. The results of the project were displayed on a poster exhibited at the conference; they also will be archived at the new Prices Fork school, which will be constructed in the near future, and as part of a museum collection at the current school, should it be restructured as a community center after its closure. The conference was hosted by the Appalachian Regional Commission with the Consortium of Appalachian Colleges and Universities.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty member **Doris H. Kincade** and Ph.D. alumna **Sook-Hyun Kim** published "Evolution of a New Retail Institution Type: Case Study in South Korea and China" in *Clothing and Textiles Research Journal* 27,4 (2009): 301-10.

Alumni Distinguished Professor of Human Development **Rosemary Blieszner**, who serves as associate director of the Center for Gerontology and associate dean of the Graduate School at Virginia Tech, delivered the keynote address at Virginia Tech's 2009 fall University Commencement ceremony on December 18.

The Linux Laptop Orchestra, founded and directed by **Ivica Ico Bukvic**, Music, made its debut on the Virginia Tech campus on December 4. The group is the first Linux-based orchestra in the world with focus on ultra-affordable design; it joins the Macbook orchestras of Princeton and Stanford, the only other such groups at universities in the United States. The laptop group is known as “L²Ork” in honor of the operating system that is freely available for download online. The debut featured compositions by Bukvic as well as music technology major **David Mudre**. In the spring of 2010 the Music Lab at Jefferson Center in Roanoke will be outfitted with a five-station laptop orchestra and partner with Virginia Tech; fifth-graders from the Girls’ and Boys’ Club will be the initial participants. L²Ork is an initiative of the Digital Interactive Sound and Intermedia Studio in the Department of Music and has received funding from numerous sources, among them the Department of Music, the School of Education, the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment, as well as corporate sponsorships through MSI Computer and Roland Corporation. Details about the orchestra and Bukvic can be found [here](#) as well as in the [article](#) published in the *New River Valley Current* on December 17.

Department of Communication head **Robert E. Denton, Jr.**, edited *Communicator-in-Chief: How Barack Obama Used New Media Technology to Win the White House* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2010), with John Hendricks. Within the volume, Denton authored the chapter “Political Campaigns and Communicating with the Electorate in the Twenty-First Century.”

The Center for Instructional Technology Solutions in Industry and Education (CITSIE) and the Virginia Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology co-sponsored the 2009 Virginia Educational Technology Conference and Innovate 2009 from October 28-30 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. **Ken Potter**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, served as the program chair; **John Burton**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, coordinated the selection and appearance of the featured speakers; and **Jane Falls**, Coordinator of the Educational Technology Lab in the School of Education, served as technology director for the conference. The concurrent conferences provided unique opportunities for technology leaders and teachers charged with planning and implementing technology in Virginia's schools to experience today's instructional and administrative innovations and shape tomorrow's technologies. The conferences featured hundreds of presentations and exhibits addressing the five major components of Virginia's new long-range educational technology plan: environment, engagement, application, tools, and results. Featured speakers included Superintendent of Public Instruction Patricia Wright, Garfield creator Jim Davis, Attorney General Bill Mims, Senior Assistant Attorney General Gene Fishel, NBC News Correspondent Luke Russert, and Living in Digital Times founder Robin Raskin.

The Department of History was awarded funding from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities for its grant application for the Christiansburg Institute collaborative instructional project involving the department and Montgomery County middle school teachers. The award will provide stipends for six teachers and the project evaluator. **Tom Ewing**, History, serves as the Principal Investigator for the grant, which will serve to build relationships across the schools and community and should lead to more opportunities for collaboration in the future.

Charlene Eska, English, published *Cáin Lánamna: An Old Irish Tract on Marriage and Divorce Law* (Leiden: Brill, 2010).

Michael A. Evans, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, and Eric Woods, an undergraduate Computer Science major, were invited to participate in an international workshop on multi-touch tabletop computing and tangible user interfaces for education at the Alpine-Rendezvous Workshop held from November 30 to December 2 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. The title of their presentation was "Multi-Touch, Tangible Computing Applications for Instruction: Facilitating Discourse and Co-Construction in Early Elementary Mathematics." The workshop was sponsored by STELLAR, a consortium of European universities and industrial partners to promote research and development of Technology-Enhanced Learning.

As the title indicates, **Ed Falco**, English, is the subject of "Interview With Ed Falco" by Graeme Harper in *New Writing: The International Journal for the Practice and Theory of Creative Writing* 6,2 (2009): 150-61. Harper is Director of Research in the College of Arts and Humanities at Bangor University in Wales, and the college has been pursuing collaborations with the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech. The interview, which focuses on Falco's writing and teaching, also includes a discussion of proposed initiatives between the creative writing programs at the two institutions.

Jim Garrison, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, published the first of a projected 16 dialogues with Daisaku Ikeda, a prominent Japanese educator and religious leader, in the popular Japanese publication *Todi* (Lighthouse), No. 591 (December 2009): 52-67. The dialogues will appear initially in Japanese, after which they will be supplemented and compiled into a more scholarly book published first in Japanese and eventually in English. Garrison also read an invited keynote paper, "Dewey and Ikeda on the Wisdom of Religious Humanism" at the Sixth Annual Ikeda Forum for Intercultural Dialogue at the Ikeda Center for Peace, Learning and Dialogue in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on November 14, 2009.

The Office of the Vice President for Research recognized **Brett D. Jones**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, as Virginia Tech December 14 Scholar of the Week for the study of student motivation and the effects of high-stakes, standardized testing on educators and students. He published eight journal articles related to student motivation in peer-reviewed journals during the past year. Over the past two years Jones received one million dollars in funding from the National Science Foundation to conduct research related to his scholarship. His current research focuses on three primary questions: What are students' and educators' beliefs and needs related to motivation, learning, and achievement? How do students' beliefs and needs affect their motivation, learning, and achievement? How can educators intentionally design learning environments that foster students' motivation, learning, and achievement? With two colleagues, Jones is writing a six-book series titled "Teaching for Learning" that provides higher-education faculty with comprehensive and research-based guidance in how to motivate and teach college students.

Peggy S. Meszaros, William E. Lavery Professor of Human Development and Director of the Center for Information Technology Impacts on Children, Youth, and Families, was awarded the 2009-2010 Southern Region Lifetime Achievement Award by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and Human Environmental Sciences Alumni Association. The award is presented annually to a graduate who has exhibited extraordinary contributions benefitting the Southern Region. Meszaros's funded research in bringing more females in Appalachia to Information Technology careers and development of substance abuse prevention interventions for adolescents and their families were two contributions mentioned, along with over 80 peer-reviewed manuscripts and four books. In addition, along with J. Colvin,

Meszaros published "Cutting the wireless cord: College student cell phone use and attachment to parents" in *Marriage and Family Review* 45,6-8 (2009): 717-39.

Kelly A. Parkes, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, was selected to serve as a faculty consultant for arts assessment and K-12 education 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. In addition, Parkes published "Teacher efficacy: its importance in music teacher education curriculum" in *Collaborative action for change: Selected proceedings from the 2007 symposium on music teacher education*, ed. M. Schmidt (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2009), 141-54.

On December 17 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: **Emily Barry** (Spanish), **Diana L. Campbell** (English), **Nathan J. Denny** (Music), **Kathleen D. DeSouza** (English), **Madeline P. Hillyer** (English), **Amy J. Lucas** (International Studies), **Isabel A. Smith** (Sociology), **Sara J. Sugrue** (English), and **Kristen N. Walker** (English). Chapter co-historian **Andrew Becker**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Classics, offered a history of Phi Beta Kappa and of Mu of Virginia, and chapter president **Mark Barrow**, History, presented the address to the initiates.

The Student National Association of Teachers of Singing in the Department of Music shared their talents by performing at the Montgomery County Christmas Store on December 11. Both the store volunteers and the shoppers appreciated the fine entertainment. Senior Music major **Nicole Bonfiglio** serves as president of the association this year.

The Women in Leadership and Philanthropy (WLP) Council recognized two women in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences with leadership awards at the Circle of Excellence Conference on May 31, 2009.

Kelsie A. Ostergaard, a member of the Air Force ROTC as well as the Corps of Cadets and a major in Civil Engineering, was the recipient of the 2009 undergraduate Woman in Leadership Award. Her accomplishments include service as Wing Commander of the Air Force ROTC Detachment at Virginia Tech, responsible for 200 cadets and 20 cadet staff members; resident advisor for 53 cadets; volunteer with the Boy Scouts and activity leader for "Engineering Day" for the Girl Scouts; volunteer with the YMCA and Habitat for Humanity; team captain for the Relay for Life and coordinator for all Corps of Cadets teams; and leader of the Corps' Hotel Company, which won the Beverly S. Parrish Jr. Gold Cord Award. While in leadership roles in the traditionally male ROTC and Corps, she maintained excellence in her academics, serving as a role model for other cadets and motivating and inspiring those around her. Upon graduation, Ostergaard will serve as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, further demonstrating her service and embodying the values engraved on the university's pylons.

Ashley Tomisek, a master's candidate in Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies, received the 2009 graduate Woman in Leadership Award. She is a member of the office staff of the Women's Center at Virginia Tech and has made significant contributions to the center's educational, outreach, and service initiatives. These include her leadership of the Women's Leadership Conference Student Advisory Committee; the Receptionist Team, the fundraising arm of International Women in Need (IWIn); the Cornerstone Project, a group of volunteers who turn empty apartments into warm and welcoming

homes for women and children leaving abusive home environments; and TEKOA, a residential treatment facility for young girls aged 12 to 18 who have been removed from their homes. Tomisek received the 2008 Advancing Women Award for her exemplary leadership in support of women at Virginia Tech. She is deeply engaged in professional associations through the Department of Sociology and the Women's and Gender Studies program, including Alpha Kappa Delta International Honor Society, the American Sociological Association, the Sociologists for Women in Society, the Southern Sociological Society, and the Southeastern Women's Studies Association.

More information about the award winners can be found [here](#).

Matthew Vollmer, English, won an NEA award in fiction for 2010. Early in 2009 he published *Future Missionaries of America*, a highly praised collection of short stories, and currently he is at work on a novel. A list of the winners of the 2010 Grant Awards: Literature Fellowships: Creative Writing (Prose) can be found [here](#).

Alumni Highlight

Alexis B. Bozzo, a 2007 CLAHS graduate with degrees in Interdisciplinary Studies and Political Science who completed her master's degree in urban and regional planning at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2009, was selected to participate in the Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) program. Established in 1994 by the University of Oregon, the program provides graduate students with 11 months of experience and gives rural Oregon communities young, innovative workers. To date the program has placed more than 300 participants in every county but one in the state. Participants have written more than 520 grants, garnering more than \$3.5 million for rural Oregon. Bozzo is serving as the Downtown Development Coordinator for the city of Sherwood, located near Portland, Oregon; Sherwood was her top choice, and she was also the city's first choice. Bozzo meets daily with business owners and hears their concerns; she also plans events to draw people downtown.

In 2007 Bozzo founded the annual Jeremy Herbstritt Memorial 5K Run/Walk in Pennsylvania, in honor of her boyfriend, who was killed on April 16.

More about Bozzo can be found [here](#).

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