



News2 Note

January 2012

Ananda Abeysekara, Religion and Culture, published the following: a review essay titled "Buddhism, Power, Modernity," *Culture and Religion* 12.4 (December 2011): 1-9; and "The Untranslatability of Religion, The Untranslatability of Life: Talal Asad's Thought Unthought in the Study of Religion," *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 23.4 (2011): 257-82.

Onwubiko Agozino, Sociology and Director of Africana Studies, published "The Revolutionary Sociology of C. L. R. James," *Transition: An International Review* 106 (2011): 127-38.

Susan Ahn, an International Studies and Economics major, received a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad during the Spring 2012 term. Ahn is participating in the Spanish exchange program in Quito, Ecuador.

Among the presenters at the 2011 ARC Appalachian Teaching Project conference, held in Washington, D.C., on December 2, were eight students enrolled in HUM 4104, taught by **Anita Puckett**, Religion and Culture. The students presenting – with CLAHS students in bold - were: Meliha Aljabar (Public and Urban Affairs), **Luke Cox** (International Studies), **Daniel Crowder** (History), Ellen Koertge (Biological Sciences), **Andrew Proffitt** (Theatre & Cinema), Shasta Sowers (Agriculture Sciences), **Paul Vest** (Philosophy), and Dana Williams (Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise). Two additional HUM 4104 students, Daniel Freeman (Mechanical Engineering) and **Emily Ratliff** (History), were unable to attend the conference but contributed to the project. Titled "Undergraduate Community Research in Sustainable Agriculture," the presentation described the students' work with Montgomery, Giles, Floyd, and Grayson County farmers engaged in sustainable agricultural practices. Conference expenses were covered by a small grant awarded to Puckett from the Appalachian Regional Conference administered by the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services at East Tennessee State University. Puckett is serving as an ARC Appalachian Teaching Fellow this year.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management/Consumer Studies students **Virquan Harold** and **Samantha Searles** won the Virginia Energy Sense competition, which rewarded ideas on how schools and the state can help reduce energy use. Harold proposed a "Hokie Energy Tower" statue powered

completely by solar energy, with the Hokie holding up a marquee displaying the current daily energy consumption on campus; the premise was that displaying real-time energy use will encourage more faculty, staff and students on campus to stop and think about their own carbon footprint. Searles recommended the use of Granola, innovative power management software that adapts to usage patterns and adjusts system power settings to reduce energy waste; Granola can help students reduce their carbon footprint by as much as what one tree would save in a year's time. Each student won a \$250 gift card.

Mark V. Barrow, Jr., Chair of the Department of History, was selected as the winner of the 2011 Susan Elizabeth Abrams Prize, awarded biennially for the best book in the history of science published by the University of Chicago Press. Barrow received the recognition for *Nature's Ghosts: Confronting Extinction from the Age of Jefferson to the Age of Ecology* (2009). Established in 2003 by the University of Chicago Press, the nation's largest academic publisher, the prize honors a book that exemplifies originality, exceptional scholarship, and well-crafted prose.

The lecture "Black Women, Slavery, and Resistance in America" by **Beverly Bunch-Lyons**, History, which she delivered for her Fall 2011 class in Afro-American history, was broadcast as part of C-Span's *Lectures in History Series* on December 17 and 18. Bunch-Lyons, who works on Virginia Tech's National Capital Region campus, taped the lecture on the Blacksburg campus in October; it was her first face-to-face meeting with the students. The lecture was later broadcast on C-SPAN and is now archived [here](#). Details can be found in the [Virginia Tech News](#).

Travis J. Cross, Music, was a research associate for *Teaching Music through Performance in Band: Solos with Wind Band Accompaniment*, contributing 10 composer biographies to the volume, which was published in December 2011 by GIA Publications, Inc.

Department of English faculty members **Bernice Hausman** and **Kelly Pender** and doctoral student **Amy Reed** participated in a panel titled "Rhetoric, Bioethics, and Genetic Information" at the American Society for Bioethics and the Humanities, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in October. The research was conducted in spring 2011 and funded by a grant from ISCE, ICTAS, and the Fralin Institute.

Charlene M. Eska, English, published "Women and Slavery in the Early Irish Laws," *Studia Celtica Fennica* 8 (2011): 29-39.

Michael A. Evans, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, published "A critical-realist response to the postmodern agenda in instructional design and technology: A way forward," *Educational Technology Research and Development* 59.6 (2011): 799-815; "Interactive tabletops in education," *International Journal of Computer Supported Collaborative Learning* 6.4 (2011): 491-514, with Pierre Dillenbourg; and "A multimodal approach to coding discourse: Collaboration, distributed cognition, and geometric reasoning," *International Journal of Computer Supported Collaborative Learning* 6.2 (2011): 253-78, with co-authors Eliot Feenstra, Emily Ryon, and David McNeill.

Mariana K. Falconier, Human Development, published “Female demand/male withdraw communication in Argentinean couples: A mediating factor between economic strain and relationship distress,” *Personal Relationships* 18 (2011): 586-603, with Norman B. Epstein.

Jessica Folkart, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, was recognized as the November 14 Virginia Tech Teacher of the Week by the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research (CIDER). Folkart was honored for the student-centered approach to teaching that she brings to the training of undergraduates, graduate students, and K-12 teachers in the state of Virginia. With a goal of captivating and teaching students to think critically and analytically, Folkart helps students understand the logic and structure behind the topic at hand and empowers them to be teachers who can identify an answer, discuss it, and defend it. She has infused her approach in the revisions she introduced to the Spanish undergraduate curriculum and the master’s degree in Hispanic Studies at Virginia Tech that she helped to create.

Laura Eubanks Gambrel, a doctoral student in Human Development, was awarded the first Dissertation Grant by the Family Process Institute for her proposal titled “The Mindful Transition to Parenthood Program (MTPP): Developing and Evaluating a Psychoeducational-Experiential Intervention for Couples.” Her adviser is Human Development faculty member **Fred Piercy**. More about Gambrel and the award can be found [here](#).

Along with faculty of the Center for Gerontology, two doctoral candidates discussed their research findings at the 64th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America held on November 18-22 in Boston. **Lauren S. Ermann**, doctoral student in School of Education/Counselor Education, with **Nancy Brossoie**, Center for Gerontology, **Karen A. Roberto**, Human Development, and **Rosemary Blieszner**, Human Development, presented “Taking care of a parent with Mild Cognitive Impairment: An exploration of coping mechanisms.” **Stefan Psymowski**, doctoral student in Human Development, with Roberto and Blieszner, presented “Adjustment to Mild Cognitive Impairment: Perspectives of male care partners and their spouses.”

On November 8 the Department of History collaborated with the National Park Service Booker T. Washington National Monument on a one-day workshop for teachers on *The Life and Legacies of Booker T. Washington*. Participants included teachers from several different districts in the region, pre-service teachers enrolled in Virginia Tech licensing programs, and volunteer historians from the National Monument; funding was provided by the National Park Service, and the workshop was organized by the Department of History and Continuing and Professional Education at Virginia Tech. Virginia Tech participants included faculty members **David Cline**, History, **Virginia Fowler**, English, **David Hicks**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, **Daniel Thorp**, History, and **Peter Wallenstein**, History; as well as students **Katherine A. Goins**, a senior History and Biology double major, **Erin M. Lord**, a master’s student in History and School of Education/Curriculum and Instruction, and **Mallory Orrison**, a History alumna (B.A. 2011) enrolled as a master’s candidate in the School of Education/Curriculum and Instruction. The event was organized by **Tom Ewing**, Associate Dean and History, **Laura West**, English, and Goins, with assistance from Cline, Hicks, Lord, Thorp, and Wallenstein, as well as **Mark Barrow**, History, and **Sharon Zuckerwar**, School of Education.

History faculty members **Robert P. Stephens, Kathleen Jones, and Mark V. Barrow, Jr.**, published "The Book Project: Engaging History Majors in Undergraduate Research," *History Teacher* 45.1 (November 2011): 65-80.

W. Wat Hopkins, Communication, published "When Does F*** not Mean F***?: FCC v. Fox Television Stations and a Call for Protecting Emotive Speech," *Federal Communications Law Journal* 64 (2011): 1-45.

Along with Human Development faculty member **Shannon Jarrott**, two doctoral students in the department gave presentations at the 64th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America held on November 18-22 in Boston. Jarrott and student **Kelly Munly**, along with Becca Levy, presented a research poster titled "Future older selves: Intergenerational contact and attitudes towards older adults and own aging." **Chih-Ling Liou** and Jarrott presented a paper on Liou's dissertation research, "Experiences of Taiwanese elders in two different adult day centers."

Human Development faculty members **Jyoti (Tina) Savla, Karen A. Roberto, and Rosemary Blieszner**, along with Psychology graduate student Matthew Cox and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences colleague Frank Gwazdauskas, published "Effects of daily stressors on the psychological and biological well being of spouses of persons with mild cognitive impairment," *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences* 6 (2011): 653-64.

History major **Dennis Hundley** was awarded his bachelor's degree at Mary Washington University Hospital days before succumbing to cancer; he graduated summa cum laude and as a Commonwealth Scholar. The commencement ceremony can be viewed [here](#). The College expresses its deepest condolences to the Hundley family.

Shannon Jarrott, Human Development, received the *Making the Case* award for her work evaluating the impact of All Ages (intergenerational) work. Sponsored by the British foundation Across All Ages, the award serves to highlight good and innovative practices by centers for all ages; build relationships between practitioners, policy makers and others concerned with promoting better intergenerational relationships; and develop the [United for All Ages](#) network.

Stephen King, Music, served as guest conductor for the Winds of the Blue Ridge at the band's fall concert on November 13 at duPont Chapel on the Hollins University campus.

Timothy W. Luke, University Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science, published "Environment and Risk," *Routledge International Handbook of Contemporary Social and Political Theory*, edited by Stephen P. Turner and Gerard Delanty (New York: Routledge, 2011), 248-58; and "Actualized affinities: a nation's memories as accumulating artefacts and appropriating aesthetics from the times of reconstruction," *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 17, Issue Supplement S1 (2011): S56-S68.

The Fall 2011 Issue of *The New River: A Journal of Digital Writing and Art* appeared, edited by English master's student **Christopher Linforth** and MFA student **Briana P. Stout**, is now available. The issue can be viewed [here](#).

At a ceremony on December 15, seven students in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences were inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest, largest, and most selective honor society for all academic disciplines. The students who accepted the invitation to join were: **Emilie Elaine Bouchet**, Spanish; **Kayla Sue Czech**, Communication; **Ashley Lauren Lewis**, International Studies and History; **Eric Michael Lofgren**, History and Economics; **Tiffany Diep Luu**, Political Science; **Grace Elizabeth Pearsall**, English; and **Kathryn Lee Taylor**, History.

Fred Piercy, Human Development, published a commentary titled "[Attend to those in your presence](#)" in the *Roanoke Times*.

The short story "The Pawn" by **Scott Loring Sanders**, English, was re-broadcast on December 22 by [My Audio Universe](#) as part of its winter edition. The hour-long radio show, carried by many public radio stations across the country, features professionals reading previously published literary work. Sanders' story was nominated for the Pushcart Prize.

Emily Satterwhite, Religion and Culture, published *Dear Appalachia: Readers, Identity, and Popular Fiction since 1878* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2011).

Jyoti (Tina) Savla, Human Development and Center for Gerontology, was recognized as the December 5 Scholar of the Week by the Office of the Vice President for Research. Savla was honored for her research on the biopsychosocial aspects of daily stress facing family caregivers of older adults. As a research methodologist, she has supported research looking at stress and caregiving in different circumstances, parent-child relationships, parental socialization, and, most recently, the psychological and biological well-being of spouses of persons with mild cognitive impairment. The last-mentioned area of research was the focus of a recent *VT News* article titled "[Mild cognitive impairment distresses health of caregiver.](#)"

Last semester the [Visible Scholarship Initiative](#) was introduced: the collaboration between the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and the University Libraries highlights the stages of research and creative scholarship in the liberal arts and human sciences and illustrates how faculty address key questions, employ varied methods, and produce significant results that makes it possible to acknowledge and encourage research and creative activities that engage challenging questions and demonstrate sophisticated understanding. Featured last semester were **Laura Zanotti**, Political Science, *Governing disorder: UN peace operations, international security, and democratization in the post-Cold War era*, and **Brian Britt**, Religion and Culture, *Biblical Curses and the Displacement of Tradition*.

Alumni Highlight

Jenny Werner, who graduated in 2000 with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, published *My Padres Baseball Game* (Herndon, VA: Mascot Books, 2011), which tells the story of a girl watching a baseball game with her father. In September Werner held a book signing with the San Diego Padres. Five team players signed a copy of the book, which was auctioned on the internet: the proceeds went to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of San Diego.

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