



# News2 Note

January 2014

Undergraduate students in the Appalachian Teaching Project (APS/SOC 4094 Undergraduate Community Research) reported on their community research about the Crooked Road at the annual Appalachian Teaching Project Conference, which was held on December 7 in Washington, D.C. Participating were CLAHS students **Walter Dryman**, Spanish, **William Gipe**, History, **Devon Johnson**, English, and **Nicholas Robb**, History; they were accompanied by **Anita Puckett**, Religion and Culture, who was the course instructor. The conference provided students from the 15 colleges and universities involved in the region-wide project an opportunity to present research findings, learn about the research conducted at other institutions, and understand more about the mission and goals of the Appalachian Regional Commission, a federal agency. Virginia Tech students partnered with the Crooked Road: Virginia's Heritage Music Trail to ascertain the heritage music history, traditions, and performance resources in Montgomery and Giles Counties, Virginia, in order to construct a wayside kiosk in each county. They also critically assessed the actual impact of the Crooked Road on communities' economies and viability of heritage music traditions. The project received a small grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to support local travel and conference participation.

**Elisabeth Austin**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, published "Darwin's Monsters and the Politics of Race in Eugenio Cambaceres's *En la sangre*," *Symposium* 67.4 (2013): 175-88.

**Amy Price Azano**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, published "Gifted Rural Students" in *Critical Issues and Practices in Gifted Education: What the Research Says*, ed. Jonathan Plucker and Carolyn Callahan, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Austin, TX: Prufrock, 2014), pp. 297-304.

**Brian Britt**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Religion and Culture, published "From Distortion to Displacement: Freud and the Mosaic Distinction," in *Judaism, Liberalism, and Political Theology*, ed. R. Rashkover and M. Kavka (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2013), pp. 305-20.

ASPECT student **Komal Dhillon** published "[Can the Global Transmit the Local for Diaspora](#)," a review of Arjun Appadurai's *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*, in *Spectra: The ASPECT Journal* 2.2 (November 2013), an online journal.

The following CLAHS graduate students were selected as 2014 Diversity Scholars by the Virginia Tech Graduate School Office of Recruitment and Diversity Initiatives: **Matthew Bennett**, English/Creative Writing; **Komal Dhillon**, ASPECT; **Briana-Allyn Ellison**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; **Jamie Sanchez**, ASPECT; and **Gary Wood**, Sociology.

**Peter Doolittle**, Assistant Provost for Teaching and Learning and Professor, School of Education/ Teaching and Learning gave a TED talk titled "[How Your `Working Memory' Makes Sense of the World](#)" at TED University as part of the TEDGlobal 2013 talks on June 10, 2013. The theme of the talks was "Think Again," and the event was held at the Edinburgh International Conference Center in Edinburgh, Scotland.

ASPECT student **Taulby Edmondson** published "Antebellum Fantasies and Southern Legacies: Memory and Sex in Turn of the Century New Orleans," a review of Emily Epstein Landau's *Spectacular Wickedness: Sex, Race, and Memory in Storyville, New Orleans* in *Spectra: The ASPECT Journal* 2.2 (November 2013), an online journal.

The First-Year Writing Program in the Department of English was honored as a [2013 University Exemplary Program](#). The three departments/programs selected for this year's honor were recognized for effectively implementing and assessing programs for first-year students that incorporate problem solving, inquiry, and integration of learning skills. The First-Year Writing Program offers 230 sections of its three courses to thousands of students each year, exposing students to a range of written, spoken, and visual forms of communication. The program's faculty and graduate students produce the primary textbook for all First-Year Writing Program courses; this year's textbook features essays and projects by more than 15 Virginia Tech students. Annual revenues from the program's custom textbook are used to bring national and international scholars of English composition to campus for a speaker series. Presented annually since 1994, the University Exemplary Department or Program Awards program and ceremony are funded through the Office of the Provost and facilitated by the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research; this year's winners will receive a portion of the \$40,000 award for their achievements. The recognition ceremony took place December 3 at The Inn.

**Laura Gillman**, Sociology, published "Inter-American Encounters in the Travel and Migration Narratives of Mayra Montero and Cristina Garcia: Towards a Hemispheric Decolonial Feminism," *Signs* 39.2 (2014): 509-35.

**Aarnes Gudmestad**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, published "Variationist Approaches to Second Language Spanish" in *The Handbook of Spanish Second Language Acquisition*, ed. Kimberly L. Geeslin (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014), pp. 80-95.

Annie Hesp, **Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish**, published "Creating Community: Diary Writing in First-Person Narratives from the Camino de Santiago," *Studies in Travel Writing* 17.1 (2013): 78-94.

The following CLAHS faculty received an award of \$10,500 from the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment – Global Issues Initiative 2013 Research Support Program for the project titled "Security, Inequality, and Gender in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Peru": Principal Investigator **Ilja Luciak**, Political Science, and co-PIs **Nick Copeland**, Sociology, and **Zac Zimmer**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/ Spanish. The program is designed to enhance faculty scholarship in the social sciences and humanities directed toward global issues with significant implications for the United States.

ASPECT student **Jennifer Lawrence** presented "(De)visualizing Disaster" at the 2013 Dupont Summit on Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy, held December 6 at the Whittemore House in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the Dupont Summit is to promote interdisciplinary dialogue about pressing issues related to science, technology and the environment; the conference mirrors the interest of the Policy Studies Organization and its partners in promoting conversation about current policy concerns.

**Timothy W. Luke**, University Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science, published "[All that is Solid: Writing, Reading and Publishing in Post-modern Capitalism](#)," *tripleC: Communication, Capitalism & Critique* 11.1 (2013): 575-80, with Ben Agger, and "Technology," in *Critical Environmental Politics*, ed. Carl Death (Abingdon: Routledge, 2014), pp. 267-76.

**Jeff Mann**, English, published the poem "The Perils of Tres Leches Cake" in *Between: New Gay Poetry*, ed. Jameson Currier (New York: Chelsea Station Editions, 2013), pp. 40-41; and the novel excerpt "Eagle Rock" in *New Gay Fiction*, ed. Jameson Currier (New York: Chelsea Station Editions, 2014), pp. 195-227. In addition, his book of poetry, *A Romantic Mann*, won a Rainbow Award in December 2013 and was included in *Out in Print*'s "[Best 13 Reads of 2013](#)"; the Rainbow Awards are an international competition for LGBT books, and *Out in Print* is the USA's premier online site for reviewing LGBT books. Two of his works have been released as audiobooks: his collection of short fiction, *A History of Barbed Wire*, narrated by Sherman Koltz (Audible Audio Edition, October 2013, 7 hours and 22 minutes); and his first novel, *Fog: A Novel of Desire and Reprisal*, narrated by Julian Davis (Audible Audio Edition, December 2013, 7 hours and 1 minute).

**Anthony A. Peguero**, Sociology, published "Racial and Ethnic Stereotypes and Bullying Victimization," *Youth and Society* 45.4 (2013): 545-64, with Lisa M. Williams.

The following CLAHS students accepted the invitation to become members of Phi Beta Kappa in Fall 2013: **Jonathan Boyer**, History; **Joshua Dobbs**, English; **Michael Fuller**, German and Computer Science; **Kirstain McCormick**, History; **Michael Niedzwiecki**, Political Science; **Alison Regan**, International Studies and Geography; and **Andrew Van Horn**, English and Political Science. The initiation took place on December 19.

The 12-poster exhibit "[Protect Yourself against Influenza: Newspaper Advertisements during the 1918 Epidemic](#)" was on display in the Wallace Gallery through December 3 and currently is being displayed at the Science Museum of Western Virginia through January 30. The exhibit is directed by **Tom Ewing**, History and Associate Dean; **Brooks Tiffany**, a senior English major, [designed the posters](#), with assistance provided by **Jennifer Mooney**, English. The exhibit grew out of research begun as part of the Epidemiology of Information project, funded by the Digging into Data Challenge administered by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Claire Robbins**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, was recognized as the December 9 Virginia Tech Teacher of the Week by the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research (CIDER). Robbins teaches graduate courses that focus on student development theory, qualitative research in higher education, supervised practice in student affairs and higher education, and diversity, equity, and inclusivity. Her student development theory course (EDHE 5314) offers several examples of her teaching philosophy and use of learner-centered pedagogies.

**Jyoti (Tina) Savla**, Human Development and Center for Gerontology, was awarded the [status of Fellow](#) in the Behavioral and Social Sciences section of the Gerontological Society of America. She was recognized at the annual meeting of the society, which took place November 20-24 in New Orleans.

The research of **Manisha Sharma**, Sociology, on sex selection in India was featured in the Winter 2014 issue of *Stanford Social Innovation Review* in the article, "[Blurred Images, Better Futures](#)," by Suzie Boss.

**Ashley Shew**, Science and Technology in Society, published "[Engines of Second Creation: Stories about Nanotechnology](#)," *Bulletin of Science and Technology in Society* 33.1-2 (February-April 2013): 21-27.

**Debra Stoudt**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/German and Associate Dean, co-edited *A Companion to Hildegard of Bingen*, Brill's Companions to the Christian Tradition (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2014), with Beverly Mayne Kienzle and George Ferzoco. Her specific contributions to the volume were: "Introduction" with Beverly Kienzle, 1-13, and "The Medical, the Magical, and the Miraculous in the Healing Arts of Hildegard of Bingen," pp. 249-72.

**Michelle Sutherland**, who graduated in December with majors in Political Science and Philosophy, published "[What If Wealthy College Kids Were Required to Do Low-Wage Jobs?](#)" in *The Atlantic*. The article grew out of Sutherland's participation in the Virginia Tech Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention's "Working Conference on the Causes and Consequences of Group Violence," hosted in cooperation with colleagues at the École de Gouvernance et d'Économie de Rabat in Rabat, Morocco, as well as from conversations with EGE students attending Virginia Tech this year.

**Dan Thorp**, History, published "The Beginnings of African American Education in Montgomery County," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 121.4 (2013): 314-45.

**Vinodh Venkatesh**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, published “‘Yo no estoy completo de la mente’: Ethics and Madness in Horacio Castellanos Moya’s *Insensatez*,” *Symposium* 67.4 (2013): 219-230; and “Mirrors, Lipstick, and Guns: Performing Revolutionary Masculinity in *La mujer habitada*,” *Hispanic Research Journal* 14.6 (2013): 496-504.

The following CLAHS faculty were awarded a Visible Scholarship Initiative mini-grant: **Danna Agmon**, History; **Elisabeth Austin** and **Catalina Andrango-Walker**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish; **David Cline**, History; **Tracy Cowden**, School of Performing Arts/Music; **James Dubinsky**, English; **Erika Grafsky**, Human Development; **Dennis Hidalgo**, History; **Richard Hirsh**, History; **Sharon Johnson**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/French; **Melanie Kiechle**, History; **Nneka Logan**, Communication; **Deborah Milly**, Political Science; **Paul Quigley**, History; **Michael Saffle**, Religion and Culture; **Brett Shadle**, History; **Donald Shoemaker**, Sociology; **Nadine Sinno**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Arabic; **Janell Watson**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/French; **Matthew Wisnioski**, Science and Technology in Society; and **Zac Zimmer**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish. The purpose of the mini-grants is to serve as an incubator for research in the liberal arts and human sciences that uses library resources and fosters partnerships between scholars and librarians. The grants, funded by the College and University Libraries, ranged from \$200 to \$1,000. The faculty funded have committed to participating in the Visible Scholarship Initiative by discussing their research in progress or presenting its final product.

**Sally Wieringa**, Graduate Programs Support Technician and Publications and Web Assistant in the Department of English, was appointed to the Commission on Graduates Studies and Policies. Wieringa represents the Staff Senate on the commission.

### *Alumni Highlight*

**Laura Eubanks Gambrel**, who earned her Ph.D. in Human Development in 2013 and is now an assistant professor at LaSalle University (PA), received the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Outstanding Dissertation Award for 2013. Gambrel was honored with the nationally competitive award at the association’s October 2013 conference.

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