



News2 Note

January 2015

Katherine Allen, Human Development, was the recipient of two [2014 annual awards](#) from the National Council on Family Relations: the Felix Berardo Scholarship Award for Mentoring as well as the inaugural Alexis J. Walker Award for Lifetime Achievement in Feminist Family Studies. The awards were presented at the council's annual conference, which was held November 19-22 in Baltimore. In addition, Allen delivered a keynote address at the conference: "Feminist Family Studies: Reflection and Critique."

The eight students who participated in the Fall 2014 Appalachian Teaching Project presented their undergraduate community research on the design, content, and location of The Crooked Road Wayside kiosks in Giles and Montgomery Counties, Virginia, at the project's [annual conference](#), which was held on December 5-6 in Arlington, Virginia. CLAHS students involved were: **Jessica Norman**, Human Development; **Helen Scholar**, Communication; and **Delia Tomlinson**, History. The title of the presentation was "[Cultural Sustainability through Nonprofits](#)." **Anita Puckett**, Religion and Culture, directed the project in partnership with The Crooked Road: Virginia's Heritage Music Trail organization.

At "[ASPECT Books at Newman Library](#)" the following ASPECT-affiliated faculty presented their latest works: **Aaron Ansell**, Religion and Culture, *Zero Hunger: Political Culture and Antipoverty Policy in Northeast Brazil* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014); **Matthew Heaton**, History, *Black Skin, White Coats: Nigerian Psychiatrists, Decolonization, and the Globalization of Psychiatry* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2013); University Distinguished Professor and Chair of Political Science **Timothy Luke** and Ben Agger, ed., *Gun Violence and Public Life* (Boulder, CO: Paradigm, 2014); and **Lydia Patton**, Philosophy, ed., *Philosophy, Science, and History: A Guide and Reader* (Oxford and New York: Routledge, 2014). The presentations took place on December 2.

Amy Price Azano, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, published "Motives, Methods, or Quality?: Making Sense of Howley, Howley, and Yahn," *Journal of Research in Rural Education* 29.11 (2014): 1-4.

C.N. Bean, English, published the poem "[The Parable of the Sewer](#)," *Deep South Magazine* (Winter 2014), online. Deep South Magazine nominated the poem for a Pushcart Prize.

Dwight Bigler, School of Performing Arts/Music, published two musical compositions, *City Called Heaven* and *I Dream a World* (Chicago: Walton Music Corporation, 2014); both are for SATB choir and piano.

Ryan Briggs, Political Science, published "Aiding and Abetting: Project Aid and Ethnic Politics in Kenya," *World Development* 64 (2014): 194–205.

Brian Britt, Chair and Professor in the Department of Religion and Culture, published "Identity and Survival in *Deutsche Menschen*," *Benjamin-Studien* 3 (2014): 83-104.

María del Carmen Caña Jiménez, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, was recognized as the December 8 Virginia Tech Teacher of the Week by the Center for Instructional Development and Education Research (CIDER). She was honored for her commitment to implementing instruction based on the communicative method of language learning. In higher-level content courses, she emphasizes the connection between cultural production and real social, political, and economic contexts, using technology such as teleconferencing to allow students to interact with experts abroad. Caña Jiménez is also the coordinator of Introductory Spanish and has taught 1000-level language courses as well as coordinated the GTAs that routinely teach at this level.

Melissa Coburn, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Italian, and her book titled *Race and Narrative in Italian Women's Writing* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2013), were featured as the [December Visible Scholarship Initiative](#) a monthly celebration of research and creative scholarship in the liberal arts and human sciences, sponsored jointly by the College and the University Libraries. Remarks by Coburn about her research were featured at a reception on December 3.

The film [Finding Traction](#), co-produced and co-directed by **Charles Dye**, School of Performing Arts/Cinema Studies, and Jaime Lynn Jacobsen, had its world premiere at the Banff Mountain Film Festival in Banff, Alberta, Canada, on November 9. On November 29 the film won the Best Action Film award at the [Danish Adventure Film Festival](#) in Copenhagen.

Two School of Education faculty members **Katherine Cennamo**, Learning Sciences and Technologies, and **Gerard Lawson**, Leadership, Counseling, and Research, were recipients of the [2014 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Awards](#). Cennamo was recognized for her research on the practice of instructional design which looks at how educators can structure their teaching in a way that maximizes student learning. Lawson was recognized for his work on triadic supervision, in which a supervisor in the profession monitors and evaluates the work of two counseling students while ensuring that quality service is provided to clients. The awards are presented annually by the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research to one or two Virginia Tech faculty members who have shown ongoing dedication to scholarship in the realm of higher education teaching and learning.

ASPECT Ph.D. student **Sascha Engel** delivered a My Take Gallery Talk about Betsy Bannan's "Fly Over" installation in the Francis T. Eck Exhibition Corridor at the Moss Arts Center. The talk took place December 6 at the Center.

Two Department of English faculty members are among the recent [Pushcart Prize winners](#). Recognized as 2015 winners were: **Bob Hicok** for his poem "[Why We Must Support PBS](#)," which first appeared in *Field* 89 (Fall 2013): 97; and **Matthew Vollmer** for his essay "For Beds," which was first posted in October 2013 as a [web feature of the New Orleans Review](#). Hicok also was honored as a 2014 winner for the poem "Getting By," which was first published in *Frequencies, Volume One: Chapbook and Music Anthologies*, by Bob Hicok, Molly Gaudry, and Phillip B. Williams (Blacksburg, VA: Yes Books, 2013), p. 31.

Department of English Chair and Professor **Joseph Eska** published "Comments on John T. Koch's Tartessian-as-Celtic enterprise," *Journal of Indo-European Studies* 42 (2014): 428-38.

Alumni Distinguished Professor of English **Thomas Gardner** published [Poverty Creek Journal: Lyric Essays](#) (North Adams, MA: Tupelo Press, 2014). Gardner also presented the graduation address at University Commencement for undergraduates on December 19 in Cassell Coliseum; he included excerpts from several of his journal essays in his address.

Amy Gillick, School of Performing Arts/Music, and Eli Tilevich, Computer Science, were awarded a Science, Engineering, Art, and Design Mini Grant from the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology to develop a web-based application for music educators and performers that will systematically evaluate the difficulty of music scores.

Human Development faculty members **Katherine Allen** and **Karen Roberto**, who is also Director of the Center for Gerontology and Director of the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment, published "Older women in Appalachia: Experiences with Gynecological Cancer," *The Gerontologist* 54 (December 2014): 1024-34.

Professor Emerita **Christine Kiebuszinska**, English, "Witkacy and Ghelderode: Goethe's *Faust* Transformed into a Grotesque Cabaret." *Witkacy 21st Century Perspectives*. Ed. Kevin Anthony Hayes & Mark Rudinicki. The Witkacy Convention and Heritage Company Limited: London, 2014, pp. 207-220. The article originally appeared in *The Polish Journal of Aesthetics* 31.4 (2013): 1-14.

Bettina Koch, Political Science, published "Religious Dissent in Premodern Islam: Political Usage of Heresy and Apostasy in Nizam al-Mulk and Ibn Taymiyya" in *Religion, Power and Resistance from the Eleventh to the Sixteenth Centuries: Playing the Heresy Card*, ed. Karen Bollermann, Thomas M. Izbicki, and Cary J. Nederman (Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), pp. 215-36.

A musical interlude by **Charles Nichols**, School of Performing Arts/Music was performed at Graduate Commencement on December 19 in Cassell Coliseum. The piece, titled *Commencement Address*, was composed specifically for this event and was performed by the Virginia Tech Brass Ensemble, which was conducted by **Jay Crone**, School of Performing Arts/Music.

Phillip Paglialonga, School of Performing Arts/Music, published “Forming a Single Lip Clarinet Embouchure,” *Bandmasters Review* 16.2 (December 2014): 11-13.

The following CLAHS students recently accepted the invitation to become members of Phi Beta Kappa: **Elsa Daku**, French and Finance; **Elkin Girgenti**, English; **Erica Goodfriend**, Sociology; **Devon Johnson**, English; **Amy Lewis**, Sociology and Public and Urban Affairs; **Janani Ravi**, English and International Studies; and **Rebecca Wescott**, Political Science and Philosophy.

Peggy Quesenberry, a classified staff employee for 27 years and currently a Trainer/Instructor in the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, was recognized for the [completion of four Virginia Tech degrees during this time](#), including a Ph.D. from Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management in December. Prior to joining the Virginia Tech community, she worked in apparel production industry.

ASPECT student **Melissa R. Schwartz** delivered a My Take Gallery Talk about painter Odili Donald Oditia, whose installation work currently is on exhibit at the entryway of the Moss Arts Center. The talk took place October 11 at the Center.

Brett Shadle, History, partnered with Kenya Law and the Virginia Tech Discovery Commons to offer a [freely accessible digital archive of the Kenya Gazette](#). The [Kenya Gazette](#) is the official record of laws, ordinances, and appointments made by the colonial and independent governments of Kenya; the database currently covers the years from 1977 to 1989. The database is Virginia Tech’s contribution to the movement to provide free access to legal information in Kenya, pioneered by Kenya Law. The online archive was presented at the Law via the Internet Conference, which was held September 29-October 1 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Sociology students **Erica Goodfriend**, senior, and **Christine Cozette Comer**, BS/MS candidate, traveled with faculty mentor **James Hawdon**, Director of the Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention, to the University of Turku in Finland on November 3 for a four-day research collaboration with fellow sociology students who had visited Blacksburg last spring. The four students pursued the project titled “Computer Use among American and Finnish College Students: A Cross-National Comparison of Online Privacy Concerns,” which deals with cultural factors that may influence the relationship between information technology use, online behaviors, and issues of privacy. While in Turku, Goodfriend and Comer worked on data collected from a survey distributed to Virginia Tech and Turku students earlier in the semester. The four students will submit the completed paper to a peer-review journal early next semester.

Raji Singh Soni, Religion and Culture, was awarded the 2013-14 A. C. Hamilton Prize for a doctoral dissertation of outstanding merit by the Department of English at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario. His dissertation is titled “Dissident Secularism: Queer Exegesis, Transatlantic Modernism, and the Discipline of Modernity.”

Shaun Taylor, a senior Political Science major who graduated in December, was selected as [Virginia Tech’s Outstanding Fraternity President of the Year](#). A member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, Taylor was the youngest president in the chapter’s history when he was elected in

January 2013. During his tenure, Tau Kappa Epsilon received Virginia Tech's Fraternity Chapter of the Year award and was recognized as one of the top TKE chapters in the nation. The Virginia Tech award recognized Taylor's leadership as well as his efforts to challenge the stereotype and culture of fraternities.

ASPECT student **Marc Thomas** presented "Exploring Youth Participation in Civil Society" at the National Youth Conference, which was held November 27 at the University of the West Indies (Mona).

The following students were recipients of awards from the CLAHS Undergraduate Research Institute (URI) in Fall 2014: **Andrew Barber**, Political Science, "Applying Theories of Money to Digital Currency"; **Jennifer and Jessica Davison**, Theatre and Cinema, "Turn of the Century Foley Artist"; **Nancy Fowlkes**, History, presentation of "Bethsaida in the Gospels: A Dynamic Portrait" at the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion conference; **Elizabeth Kania**, Music, "Exploring the Trumpet" in Greece; and the following for the presentation of papers at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference of Undergraduate Scholarship (MARCUS): **Derek Litvak**, History, "Falling Sacrifice to Despotism: Virginians Respond to the Intolerable Acts of 1774"; **Amanda Parmiter**, History, "The Creation of a Functioning Society in the Andersonville Prison"; **Morgan Sykes**, History, "Separate is Not Equal: The Successful Integration of African American Women into VPI during the Mid-1960s"; **Seth White**, History, "A Violent Turn West: The Troubles Inside the Kansas Territory"; and **Elizabeth Jade Womack**, Applied Economic Management, "Why Ignore Adam Smith?: Adam Smith, an Advocate for the Poor." In addition, the following academic units were awarded URI grants in support of their undergraduate research initiatives: ASPECT, History, Religion and Culture, and Sociology.

Sociology doctoral student **Gary Wood** published a review of *Living Out Islam: Voices of Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Muslims* in *Sociology of Islam* 2 (2014): 1-2.

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