



News2 Note

March 2011

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences is pleased to announce that all four of its nominees for the ACC Meeting of the Minds Conference, selected in the first round of competition at the College level, were chosen in the second round at the University level to represent Virginia Tech. CLAHS participants on the five-member VT team are: **Jessie Cohen**, English, “The Dreadful Funkiness of Passion’: Female Sexuality as Political Act and Discourse in *The Bluest Eye* and *Sula*,” faculty adviser **Ginney Fowler**, English; **Andrew Gibbs**, History and Economics, “Yes but....’: Oscar Blayton and the Unenthusiastic Integration of the College of William and Mary,” faculty adviser **Peter Wallenstein**, History; **Philipp Kotlaba**, International Studies and Psychology, “Ethnicity and Citizenship in Germany and Turkey: An Ironic Perspective,” faculty adviser **Edward Weisband**, Political Science; and **Emily Love**, English, “Dickens and the Manipulation of the Passions: The Case of Mrs. Joe,” faculty adviser **Nancy Metz**, English. The Sixth Annual ACC Meeting of the Minds undergraduate research symposium will be held at the University of Miami in April.

The Spring 2011 issue of the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management newsletter *Connecting with AHRM* is available [here](#).

Elisabeth Austin, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, published “Insufficient Motherhood and Ideological Psychosis in Clorinda Matto de Turner’s *Aves sin nido*,” *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos* 34,3 (2010): 517-36.

Virginia Tech’s Authors Recognition Day 2011 was held on February 17 in Newman Library. This year’s event, the sixth annual, acknowledged and honored Virginia Tech authors for their academic contributions to the university. The occasion included welcome remarks by administrators and a book talk by **Katrina Powell**, English and Director of Women’s and Gender Studies, who was the winner of the Phi Beta Kappa’s 2010 Albert L. Sturm Award for Excellence in Faculty Research. Many books were on display. A current list of the faculty whose authored, co-authored, and edited works were recognized this year can be found [here](#). Among these are 27 CLAHS faculty members, including one individual with three submissions.

The Office of the Vice President for Research recognized **Jessie Chen-Yu**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, as the Virginia Tech February 14 Scholar of the Week for work to improve consumers' satisfaction with apparel products and apparel shopping. Chen-Yu offers research-based information and practical implications for merchandisers to develop specific marketing strategies and provides educational suggestions for consumers to make better choices in textile products. Her current projects focus on the investigation of factors impacting consumer satisfaction and dissatisfaction with apparel products in online shopping at the product-receiving stage, and the examination of the effects of climate, washing action, fabric softeners, and repeated laundering on the ultraviolet radiation transmission, durability, dimensional change, and colorfastness of woven cotton fabric.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty member **Jessie Chen-Yu** and lab specialist **Janet Wimmer** received research funding from NanoSonic, Inc., to assist in the development of novel textiles for incorporation into Navy divers' dry suits to provide multi-threat protection against puncture, abrasion, and laceration. The two-phase project consists of "Textile Testing I: Effect of Weathering on Tearing Strength of Novel Textiles for Navy Divers' Dry Suits" and "Textile Testing II: Air Permeability of Novel Textiles for Navy Divers' Dry Suits."

Tracy Cowden, Music, presented a concert with pianist Erica Sipes on February 13 in the Recital Salon at Virginia Tech. As the *Colla Piano* duo they presented "From the Salon to the Sublime," a program of works by Liszt, Schubert, Chopin, Casella, Moszkowski, and Abril. Cowden also performed a series of concerts in February with trumpeter John Adler from their Origin Classical recording *Confronting Inertia* at the University of Wyoming, the University of Denver, the University of Northern Colorado, and the University of Colorado-Boulder.

Patti J. Fisher, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, published "Loss Aversion and Saving Behavior: Evidence from the 2007 Survey of Consumer Finances" in the *Journal of Family and Economic Issues* 32.1 (2011): 4-14, with Catherine Montalto. The article may be found [here](#).

The *Encyclopedia of Drug Policy*, Volumes 1 and 2 (Los Angeles: Sage, 2011), edited by **James Hawdon**, Sociology, and Mark A. R. Kleiman, was published.

Angela Huebner, Human Development, was the guest speaker at the University of Minnesota Military Youth and Family Colloquium on February 23. Her keynote speech presented her work on the impact of military deployment on youth and their families. She also made presentations in several graduate level courses focusing on youth studies and adolescent health/public health; met with faculty at the Institute for Child Development to discuss her work and learn about projects in the area at the University of Minnesota; and engaged in discussions with extension professionals about military families' experiences from an ecological perspective. Information about the colloquium is available [here](#).

Isabel S. Bradburn, Human Development, and **Karen A. Roberto**, Human Development, Director of the Center for Gerontology, and Director of the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment, received an NIH R13 award to facilitate a set of interdisciplinary working group meetings for two

years in order to develop competitive research teams to submit NIH proposals. The project, titled “Intergenerational Obesity: Developing an Ecological Research Agenda,” will run from March 2011 to February 2013; approximately 20 VT scholars from almost all colleges, including an anticipated six from CLAHS, will participate.

The 2010 summer trip to Malawi organized by **Patricia Kelly**, Professor Emerita of Teaching and Learning/School of Education, was featured as the Spotlight on Impact story on the Virginia Tech website in February. While in Malawi, participants engaged in service learning by teaching in local schools for a month; during side trips they also had the opportunity to learn about sustainable agriculture practices, health issues, and cultural history. The group included Virginia Tech undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and staff – among them **Jean Elliott**, CLAHS Communications Manager and author of the article. The complete story can be found [here](#). **Heidi Lawrence**, a doctoral student in Rhetoric and Writing, was one of six Virginia Tech graduate students who presented a poster at the 6th Annual Graduate Student Research Forum on February 3 in Richmond. Her poster title was “The Persuasive Appeal of Vaccine Refusal: The Antivaccination Movement in 21st Century America.”

Three Department of Music faculty members served as guest conductors around the Commonwealth the weekend of February 3-5, when each of the 16 districts in Virginia held an honor band festival. **Travis J. Cross** guest conducted the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors (VBODA) District XI Concert Band at W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax. The District VIII Concert Band at Bruton High School in Williamsburg was led by guest conductor **Tony Marinello**. **David McKee** was featured as guest conductor of the VBODA District I Concert Band at Atlee High School in Mechanicsville. The district bands feature approximately 200 of the finest high school band students from each district selected by audition and guest conducted by leading music educators from around the nation.

On February 25 **James I. Robertson, Jr.**, Alumni Distinguished Professor of History and executive director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, received a standing ovation on the floor of the Virginia House of Delegates in Richmond as part of a tribute to his 43-year teaching career at Virginia Tech. [House Joint Resolution No. 862](#) records Robertson’s accomplishments and commends him for his achievements. The event was reported by the [Roanoke Times](#) and the [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#).

Ila Schepisi, Human Development and Activities Director for Adult Day Services program, completed certification requirements as a specialist in geriatric therapeutic recreation with the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation. Established in 1981, the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification is a non-profit, international organization dedicated to professional excellence for the protection of consumers through the certification of recreation therapists.

The Office of the Vice President for Research recognized **Rachel Scott**, Religion and Culture, as Virginia Tech February 21 Scholar of the Week for her work in Islamic studies. Scott’s general area of research is modern Islamic thought, focusing on contemporary Islamic thinking on pluralism, citizenship, religious authority, and the relationship between religion and state, and, more recently,

Islamic historiography. Her current research looks at interpretations of the past within modern Islamic thought, with particular reference to the concept of the golden age, the idea of decadence and decline, and taqlid versus itjihad. Scott's book, *The Challenge of Political Islam: Non-Muslims and the Egyptian State*, was published by Stanford University Press in 2010. Scott is also an affiliated faculty member in ASPECT.

Dan Thorp, History and Director of the Curriculum for Liberal Education, published "New Zealand and the American Civil War," *Pacific Historical Review* 80,1 (2011): 97-130.

Jenny Watson, a doctoral student in the School of Education/Career and Technical Education, was awarded a \$4,000 Family and Consumer Sciences Graduate Fellowship at the conference of the Association for Career and Technical Education.

Alumni Highlights

This month alumni from the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management are highlighted.

Sung-jin Lee, who earned her Ph.D. from the Housing program in 2010, won the Tessie Agan Award for outstanding graduate research paper at the Housing Education and Research Association's Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon, November 3-6, 2010. Her paper was titled "Housing Satisfaction of Asian and Pacific Island Elders in the United States"; **Kathleen Parrott**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, served as Lee's major advisor.

Raymond E. Forgue, who earned his Ph.D. in consumer studies in 1980, was inducted into the Human Environmental Sciences Hall of Fame at the University of Kentucky on October 15, 2010.

Ed (Edward) Wang, who graduated from the Residential Property Management Program in 2009, was invited to a State Department luncheon in honor of Hu Jintao, the president of China, on January 19. Wang is a former Virginia Tech offensive tackle who now plays for the Buffalo Bills; he is the first Chinese-American to play in the NFL, having been drafted by the Bills last year.

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