



# News2 Note

March 2012

A symposium on *The Politics of Postsecular Religion: Mourning Secular Futures* by **Ananda Abeysekara**, Religion and Culture, was published in *Religion* 42.1 (2012). It consists of four responses to the book, which was published in 2008 by Columbia University Press: Joseph Walser, "Introduction to the Symposium," 127-29; Arvind Mandair, "Aporia and the Postsecular," 131-39; Jacob De Roover, "Religion, Difference, and the Promise of Liberal Political Theory," 141-49; and Mangalika de Silva, "The Uninheritable State the Post-public Sphere," 151-62.

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences is pleased to announce that three students nominated for the ACC Meeting of the Minds Conference 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 are: **Kristen Fowler**, a junior Music major, "The Tango: A Modern Interpretation," which will involve the performance of her composition by a saxophone quartet, faculty adviser **Kent Holiday**, Music; **Victoria James**, a senior in International Studies and English, "Después de la Guerra: An Examination of Argentina's Dirty War and Political History as a Post-Conflict Society," faculty adviser **Jason Weidner**, Political Science; and **Lara Mangum**, a senior English and French major, "Evelina and the French Connection: The Madame Duvall Subplot," faculty adviser **Nancy Metz**, English. The Seventh Annual ACC Meeting of the Minds undergraduate research symposium will be held at Virginia Tech March 30-April 1.

**Catalina Andrango-Walker**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, published "Cantando los salmos del Señor en tierra ajena: nostalgia, religiosidad y transculturación en el camino hacia la evangelización de la región andina" (Singing Psalms to the Lord in a Foreign Land: Nostalgia, Religiosity and Transculturation on the Path towards the Evangelization of the Andean Region), *Estudios coloniales latinoamericanos en el siglo XXI: Nuevos itinerarios*, ed. Stephanie Kirk (Pittsburgh, PA: Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana, 2012), pp. 167-80. Appearing in the same volume, pp. 41-69, is "Recordando las Indias del poniente: Episodios en la historia de una metageografía olvidada" (Remembering *las Indias del poniente*: Episodes in the History of a Forgotten Metageography), Andrango-Walker's translation of an article by Ricardo Padrón.

ASPECT students **Damion Blake, Elizabeth Jamison, Pamela Mullins, and Marc Thomas** were selected for the Graduate Humanities Fellows program for Spring 2012. The research focus of the program is topics related to the South Atlantic.

**Carol Bailey**, Sociology, was recognized as the February 20 Virginia Tech **Teacher of the Week** by the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research (CIDER). Bailey was honored for her dedication to learning-centered pedagogy in small as well as large classes.

The creative scholarship of **Dwight Bigler**, Music, was featured in the February [Visible Scholarship Initiative](#), sponsored jointly by the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and the University Libraries. A reception on February 27 featured remarks by Bigler about his composition "Miss Mackenzie."

**Brad Bizzell**, a faculty member in the School of Education's Training and Technical Assistance Center and a 2011 Ph.D. graduate of the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies program, co-edited *NCPEA Handbook of Online Instruction and Programs in Education Leadership* (Ypsilanti, MI: NCPEA Publications, 2012), with Janet Tareilo. **Ted Creighton**, a retired faculty member of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, served as an associate editor.

ASPECT student **Damion Blake** co-authored "The Influence of Violent Crimes on Health in Jamaica: A Spurious Correlation and an Alternative Paradigm," *Journal of Clinical Diagnostic Research* 6.1 (February 2012): 5-12, with Paul A. Bourne and Collin Pinnock.

**Brian Britt**, Religion and Culture, was awarded a fellowship from the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (German Academic Exchange Service). The fellowship provides three months of travel and research support to complete a book on the significance of the work of the German-Jewish thinker Walter Benjamin (1892-1940) to current debates in the humanities on religious tradition and human agency. Britt will be pursuing his research and writing on the project, tentatively titled "Walter Benjamin Today: Tradition and Agency," at the Walter Benjamin Archiv and the Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung in Berlin.

**David Brunσμα**, Sociology, published "The Structure and Process of Racial Identification of Multiracial Infants in the United States: A Research Note," *Ethnicity and Race in a Changing World* 1.5 (2012): 33-42, with Priya Dua.

**Richard Burian**, Professor Emeritus of the departments of Philosophy and Science and Technology Studies, published the following: "Genes," *Cambridge History of the Life and Earth Sciences*, ed. Peter J. Bowler and John V. Pickstone (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009): 432-50, with **Doris T. Zallen**, Science and Technology in Society; and "From genetic to genomic regulation: iterativity in microRNA research," *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 41.4 (2010): 407-17, with Maureen A. O'Malley and Kevin C. Elliott.

**Douglas Cannon**, Communication, was appointed to the Universal Accreditation Board of the Public Relations Society of America. The Board is the credentialing agency for nine public relations

professional organizations and the Department of Defense. Cannon also chairs the Board's council on credentialing military public affairs practitioners.

The Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management hosted the inaugural Alfred and Shirley Wampler Caudill Lecture in Consumer Affairs on February 16. Featured was Jim Guest, president and chief executive officer of Consumer Report, who presented "How to be a Smart Consumer and Engaged Activist in the 21st Century." The series was endowed by Donald W. Caudill, who earned his doctoral degree in Consumer Studies in 1993, to honor his parents; Caudill currently is a professor of marketing at Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina. More about this event can be found [here](#).

**Jessica R. Chittum**, a doctoral student in the School of Education/Educational Psychology, presented a poster titled "Crayons and college students: Instructional strategies that work in all educational settings" at the Fourth Annual Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy at Virginia Tech, held February 8-10.

**Carlie Compter**, a student in the Roanoke Principal Preparation Program administered by the School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, was selected by the Virginia Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) as its 2011 Virginia Teacher of the Year. The CEC Teacher of the Year Award recognizes an individual who currently provides services to students with exceptional needs and their families. Compter currently serves as a teacher in the Roanoke Valley Regional Program at G. W. Carver Elementary School in Salem.

**Travis J. Cross**, Music, guest conducted the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association District 16 High School Wind Ensemble at Briar Woods High School in Ashburn, Virginia, from February 2-4. He also served as guest conductor for the University of Massachusetts Amherst Honor Band Day on February 11. Cross guest conducted four of his works with the Indiana State University Symphonic Band and Concert Band in Terre Haute, Indiana, on February 21, and another work with the Georgia Institute of Technology Concert Band in Atlanta on February 23. His February activities concluded on the 26<sup>th</sup>, when he guest conducted the United States Army Field Band on tour at Eastern Montgomery High School in nearby Elliston.

School of Education/Educational Psychology students **Lauren H. Bryant** and **Jessica R. Chittum** presented "Reviewing to learn: Can critiquing peer-reviewed manuscripts improve graduate student academic writing skills?" at the 2012 Eastern Educational Research Association Annual Conference, Hilton Head, South Carolina, on February 15-18. Their faculty advisor is **Brett Jones**, Learning Sciences and Technologies.

School of Education/Curriculum and Instruction doctoral candidate **Lee Rakes** and Learning Sciences and Technologies faculty member **Brett Jones** presented "Creating conditions conducive to flow: The role of visualization and level of challenge in facilitating flow experiences during Army ROTC marksmanship training" at the 2012 Eastern Educational Research Association Annual Conference in Hilton Head, South Carolina, on February 15-18.

School of Education faculty at Virginia Tech and College of Education faculty at the University of Kentucky were awarded \$1.3 million from the National Science Foundation for a three-year project titled "Studio STEM: Engaging Middle School Students in Networked Science and Engineering Projects." **Michael A. Evans**, Learning Sciences and Technologies, serves as the Principal Investigator; other collaborators include: **Brett Jones**, Learning Sciences and Technologies; Tiffany Drape, Office of Educational Research and Outreach; Christine Schnittka, University of Kentucky; and Carol Brandt, Temple University. The project uses engineering design activities that integrate digital modeling, social media, and game development tools to engage youth in investigating concepts and skills to integrate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Studio STEM provides teacher workshops and opportunities for middle school student at Eastern Elementary/Middle School in Pembroke, the Macy McClaugherty School in Pearisburg, and Shawsville Middle School. It employs a team-based approach, led by teachers selected from the schools and assisted by undergraduate science and engineering majors who serve as facilitators. A second major component of the project is career exploration; the middle school students receive information about related careers from local businesses as well as through the Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council, the Science Museum of Western Virginia, the Center for the Enhancement of Engineering Diversity in the College of Engineering, VT-ENGAGE, and the Boys and Girls Club of the New River Valley. Funding is through the Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers program at the NSF. Additional support has been provided by VT's Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment, and the Scieneering Program. More information about the grant can be found [here](#).

Research by **Roger Ekirch**, History, was featured in "[The Myth of the Eight-Hour Sleep](#)," which appeared in the *BBC News Magazine* on February 22. The article references Ekirch's discovery of how people slept in a fundamentally different fashion before the Industrial Revolution and includes a discussion of the modern implications of this discovery for sleep science. It was reprinted in numerous newspapers and inspired various other feature articles recently in the international press. In addition, Ekirch's scholarship on this subject was discussed by George W. Sledge, M.D., immediate past president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, in his article "[Perchance to Dream](#)," in the February 27 issue of *Oncology Times*.

ASPECT student **Heba El-Shazli** participated in a panel discussion on the Arab Spring Movement on February 28; the event was sponsored by the Americans for Informed Democracy Club at VT.

**Michael A. Evans**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, published the following: "Interactive tabletops in education," *International Journal of Computer Supported Collaborative Learning* 6.4 (2011): 491-514, with Pierre Dillenbourg; "Procedural ethos: Confirming the persuasive in serious games," *International Journal of Gaming and Computer-Mediated Simulations* 3.4 (2011): 70-80; and "A critical-realist response to the postmodern agenda in instructional design and technology: A way forward," *Educational Technology Research & Development* 59.6 (2011): 799-815.

**Matthew Heaton**, History, published "Thomas Adeoye Lambo and the Decolonization of Psychiatry in Nigeria," *Science and Empire: Knowledge and Networks of Science Across the British Empire, 1800-1970*, ed. Brett M. Bennett and Joseph M. Hodge (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), 275-96.

History master's student **Stephen O'Hara**, faculty members **Kathleen Jones** and **Robert Stephens**, and department chair **Mark Barrow** published "[Romancing the Capstone: National Trends, Local Practice, and Student Motivation in the History Curriculum](#)," *Journal of American History* 98.4 (2012): 1095-13. The article explores how History departments at a variety of colleges and universities across the nation relate the capstone experience to the rest of their undergraduate curriculum.

**Shannon E. Jarrott**, Human Development, served as the lead editor of a special issue of *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*. Titled *Shared site intergenerational programs: Common space, common ground*, Volume 9 (2011), included the article "Creating community capacity at a shared site intergenerational program: 'Like a barefoot climb up a mountain,'" 418-34, co-authored by Jarrott, Human Development alumni **Matt M. Morris**, **Audrey J. Burnett**, and **Christina M. Gigliotti**, as well as Dana Stauffer and Andy S. Stremmel.

**Brian Jones**, a doctoral student in the School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies program at the Hampton Roads Center, was named the principal of Creekside High School in Fulton County, Georgia.

**Jihyun Kim**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource management, published "Toward Developing a Mobile Channel Extension Model: Roles of Compatibility, Subjective Norm, and Media Influences," *Journal of the Korean Society of Clothing and Textiles* 35.12 (2011): 1425-39, with H.-H. Lee.

**Michael Moehler**, Philosophy, published "A Hobbesian Derivation of the Principle of Universalization," *Philosophical Studies* 158 (2012): 83-107.

Music faculty members **Alan Weinstein** and **Tracy Cowden** played a recital of cello and piano sonatas composed by Beethoven, fellow faculty member **Kent Holiday**, and Rachmaninoff as part of the Sunday Recital Series at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia. The program was repeated on the Faculty Series at Virginia Tech and Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina.

Four CLAHS undergraduate students are participating in the inaugural Nano in Society Project, a collaboration between VT's Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS) and the College. **Sarah Golden**, Political Science, **Albert Jesmer**, International Studies, **Andrew Wanamaker**, Political Science and Statistics, and **Katherine Williams**, English, are part of an interdisciplinary research team working this semester on the Nanotechnology Consumer Product Inventory with faculty, graduate students, and program managers from ICTAS and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. The four are earning undergraduate research credit hours for their 10 hours per week of research, meetings, and presentation/report preparation. They are being mentored by faculty and staff from ICTAS, the Office of Undergraduate Research, and the CLAHS Undergraduate Research Institute; at the end of the semester they will present the results of their research to academics and policymakers. Faculty mentors include **Craig Brians**, Political Science; **Tom Ewing**, History and Associate Dean; Matt Hull, NanoScale Science and Engineering and NanoBio Interface Thrust Areas, ICTAS; Mike Hochella, Jr., Geosciences; **Irene Leech**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management; Sean McGinnis, Materials Science and Engineering; **Diana Ridgwell**, CLAHS Undergraduate Research Institute; Eric Vejerano, Civil and Environmental Engineering; Tomalei Vess, University Office of Undergraduate Research; and Peter Vikesland, Civil and Environmental

Engineering. Todd Kuiken, a research associate at the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, is serving as an external advisor to the project.

**Jerome “Jerry” Niles**, Dean Emeritus of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, was named Interim Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs. Niles succeeds John Dooley in this position, effective April 1. More about the appointment can be found [here](#).

**Katrise Perera**, a doctoral candidate in the School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies program, was named division superintendent of the Isle of Wight County Schools, located in the Hampton Roads metropolitan area.

Political Science senior **Logan Vidal** and faculty member **Craig Brians** published “Demographic Change and Evolving Voting Patterns in Virginia,” *Virginia Issues and Answers* 17.1 (Winter 2011-2012): 18-25.

Sociology chair **John Ryan** served as a facilitator at the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences Chairs Seminar in Savannah, Georgia, February 24-26.

**Suchitra Samanta**, Religion and Culture and Sociology/Women’s and Gender Studies, published *Sanctuary: Stories of Kolkata, its gods and its people* (Kolkata: Dasgupta-Alliance, 2012), a collection of her short stories set in contemporary Kolkata. Details can be found [here](#).

**Benjamin Sax**, Religion and Culture, was named faculty principal of the Residential College at West Ambler Johnston. The facility will open in Fall 2012 and will house more than 800 students; it will be open to students from all majors, disciplines, and class years. The residential college model offers an intensive small-college experience for students at a large research university, and the diversity of ages and academic disciplines fosters learning from peers, faculty, and staff. Details can be found [here](#).

Sociology faculty member **James Hawdon** and department chair **John Ryan** published “Space, Sentiment, and Social Structure after Critical Incidents: Toward a Theory of Recovery,” in *Handbook of Critical Incident Analysis*, ed. Richard W. Schwesler (Armonk, New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2012), 70-90.

The seventh annual Virginia Tech Authors Day was held on February 23. The event honored the authors’ academic contributions to the University and was sponsored by the University Libraries, in partnership with the Provost’s Office, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and Virginia Tech’s chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. The featured speaker was Associate Dean **Tom Ewing**, History, who discussed his book *Separate Schools: Gender, Policy and Practice in Postwar Soviet Education*, for which he was awarded Phi Beta Kappa’s 2011 Albert L. Sturm Award for Excellence in Faculty Research. A current list of the faculty whose authored, co-authored, and edited works were recognized this year can be found [here](#): among the 49 CLAHS faculty and students are six individuals with two submissions.

**Vinodh Venkatesh**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, published “Androgyny, Football, and Pedophilia: Rearticulating Mexican Masculinities in the Works of Enrique Serna,” *Revista de Literatura Mexicana Contemporánea* 49 (2011): 25-36.

**Alan Weinstein**, Music, held master classes in chamber music and cello performance at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, as well as at the Greenville Fine Arts Center, where he also participated in a one-day residency. He was featured as a guest artist for the Tennessee Cello Workshop at the University of Tennessee, where he performed music by fellow faculty member **Kent Holiday**, adjudicated junior and collegiate competitions, and gave a series of cello master classes. Weinstein also served as an adjudicator and clinician for the Sonata Fest competition held at Milligan College and East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee.

**Laura Zanotti**, Political Science, and Max Stephenson, School of Public and International Affairs, published ["Implementing the Liberal Peace in Post-conflict Scenarios: The Case of Women in Black-Serbia,"](#) *Global Policy* 3.1 (February 2012): 46-57. In addition, Zanotti, along with Stephenson and Nancy McGehee, Hospitality Management, was awarded a Global Issues Initiative (GII) grant from the Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE) to support travel to Haiti to explore a project focused on the connections among higher education, cultural/volunteer tourism, and development in Haiti.

### *Alumni Highlights*

This month alumni of the School of Education are featured.

**Scott Braband**, who earned the Education Specialist degree in 2000 and the Ed.D. in 2003, was named Division Superintendent by the Lynchburg City, Virginia, School Board. Previously Braband served as Assistant Superintendent for Cluster IV in Fairfax County, Virginia.

**Donald "Rusty" Fairheart**, a 2009 Ed.D. graduate of the program in Richmond, was named the Executive Director of the Southeastern Cooperative Education Program (SECEP), a regional public school program serving special education and alternative education students in the cities and counties of Chesapeake, Franklin, Isle of Wight, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Southampton, Suffolk and Virginia Beach.

**Lisa Harris**, a 2008 Ed.D. graduate of the Hampton Roads cohort, joined the Virginia Department of Education as the State Foreign Language Specialist. Harris previously served as the Foreign Language Specialist (along with several other duties) with the Norfolk Public Schools.

**Yvonne Holloman**, who earned her Ed.D. degree in 2007 in the Hampton Roads program, was named Associate Director of the Office of School Improvement in the Virginia Department of Education.

**Lorraine Lange**, an Educational Leadership and Policy Studies alumna from 1988, was one of four finalists for National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators. Lange was recognized for her excellent leadership of the Roanoke County, Virginia, Public Schools, where she has served as division superintendent since 2006. In particular, she was cited for her leadership in instruction and technology.

**Donald Robertson**, who was awarded his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2007, was named Assistant Superintendent for Educational Leadership and Assessment in Virginia Beach City Public Schools. Previously Robertson served as principal of Salem High School in Virginia Beach.

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