The Army ROTC Program awarded 11 campus-based scholarships to the following first- and second-year Cadets (CLAHS majors are in bold): Matthew DegliObizzi, International Studies; Nicholas Kimmel, Mechanical Engineering; Madeleine Mitcham, International Studies; Ethan Parkhill, Physics; Edgar Patuga, Statistics; Amanda Quinn, Human Nutrition, Food, and Exercise; Noah Staples, Aerospace Engineering; Henry Stephens, Physics; and Nathan Underwood, International Studies. The scholarships were awarded in recognition of the Cadets’ scholastic, athletic and leadership performance at Virginia Tech and their potential for greater leadership responsibilities as Army officers. The awards cover full college tuition, mandatory fees, and textbooks; they also provide a monthly living stipend.


María del Carmen Caña Jiménez, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, published the following: “Cartografías del ser, la ciudad y la nación: violencias en La Rambla paralela” [Cartographies of the Self, the City, and the Nation: Violences in La Rambla paralela], Cincinnati Romance Review (2014): 216-31; and “Vida resurgida y neoliberalismo en Tikal Futura de Franz Galich” [New Life and Neoliberalism in Tikal Futura by Franz Galich], Latin American Literary Review 42.84 (2014): 68-87.

Oral history interviews conducted by David Cline, History, were highlighted in a recent VT Spotlight on Impact. The videos were prepared by Cline as part of the Civil Rights History Project, which was initiated by Congress and managed by the Smithsonian and the Library of Congress; they will be part of the collection of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, set to open in 2016.

The following CLAHS students participated in “Cultivating Peace: A Student Research Symposium for Violence Prevention,” sponsored by the Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention and held at The Inn February 6-8. Presenting papers were: Madeline Burnham, International Studies,

A project conducted by the Counselor Education class of Gerard Lawson, School of Education/Leadership, Counseling, and Research, resulted in the introduction of a “good Samaritan” bill in the General Assembly to protect individuals seeking help for drug or alcohol overdose victims. Students working on a Legal and Ethical Issues in Counseling project in EDCO 5204 Orientation to Professional Counseling, taught in Summer 2014 in Roanoke, came across good Samaritan legislation, which Lawson in turn brought to the attention of Sen. Chap Petersen, who introduced the legislation, now Senate Bill 892.

François Debrix, Political Science and ASPECT Director, gave an invited plenary presentation titled “Shadows of Constructivism: From Social Theory to Political Ideology” at the “Reclaiming Constructivism in International Relations” conference, organized by the Department of Political Science at the University of Utah and held in Salt Lake City on February 23.

The following CLAHS students were selected as 2014-2015 VT Graduate School Diversity Scholars: Nada Heddane, a master’s student in Political Science; Claudia Howell, a doctoral student in the School of Education/Counselor Education and Supervision; Whitley Johnson, a master’s student in the School of Education/Higher Education and Student Affairs; Jordan Laney, ASPECT; Devon Lee, a doctoral student in Sociology; Miguel Martinez, a master’s student in the School of Education/Higher Education and Student Affairs; Zerrin Ondin, Instructional Design and Technology; Sarah Steelman, a doctoral student in Human Development/Marriage and Family Therapy; and Anthony Szczurek, ASPECT. Details about the students and their Diversity Scholars Projects can be found on the Graduate School’s Diversity Spotlight website.

Finding Traction, a film co-directed and co-produced by Charles Dye, School of Performing Arts/Cinema, and Jaime J. Jacobsen, won Best Mountain Sports Film at the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival in Vancouver, Canada; the award ceremony was held February 21. The film also was broadcast on February 23 on Montana PBS / KUSM-TV, where it reached approximately 400,000 viewers. In addition, Indian Relay, which Dye produced and directed, was voted Best Action Film at the 17th Annual Native American Indian Film and Video Festival of the Southeast in Columbia, South Carolina; it was screened November 23, 2014.

School of Education faculty member Brett Jones, Learning Sciences and Technologies, and Elementary Education doctoral student Miranda Sigmon presented “Creating a Version of the MUSIC Model of Academic Motivation Inventory for Elementary School Children” at the annual
meeting of the Eastern Educational Research Association. In addition, Jones and Education Psychology doctoral student Jessica Chittum presented “The Motivation Profiles of Students in Science Class” at the same conference, which was held February 25-28 in Sarasota, Florida.


Jean Elliott, CLAHS Director of Communications, was among 20 Virginia Tech faculty and staff recognized for their commitment to inclusivity and diversity and awarded a Diversity Advocate Certificate after having completed 58 hours of training on unconscious bias, privilege, oppression, and related topics. The ceremony took place on February 11 at The Inn.

The Spanish flu research of Tom Ewing, History and Associate Dean, was featured in a February 27 article on big data, which was published in the Chronicle of Higher Education. The article notes Ewing’s leadership of the project, support garnered for it from the Digging Into Data grant program of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the collaborative nature of the work, which has involved colleagues in the Department of Computer Science, Discovery Analytics Center, Department of English, Universities Libraries, and the National Library of Medicine.

Shelli Fowler, English and Senior Director for Networked Pedagogies and Professional Development, has been asked to serve as Associate Director and Faculty-in-Residence for the Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Bryn Mawr Summer Leadership Institute 2015. An alumna of the HERS Bryn Mawr Summer Institute 2013, Fowler will provide strategic instruction and on-site support to those attending the immersive residential leadership program, which takes place on the Bryn Mawr College campus, July 13-25, 2015.

Anita Franklin, a doctoral student in the School of Education/Educational Research and Evaluation, was selected to serve on one of several mathematics panels reviewing NAEP and ACT Explore assessments for grade 8 students as part of the Content Alignment Institute. As one of 16 reading and 16 mathematics educators from across the United States invited to participate, she reviewed and analyzed the subject content of one of two national assessments that provide key information on student achievement. The institute took place February 9-13 in Bethesda, Maryland. All expenses were paid for Franklin’s participation, and she received an honorarium as well.

CLAHS students who are members of Virginia Tech’s Regional International Organizations (RIOs) club participated in the International Model NATO that took place February 12-15 in Washington, D.C. The delegation, which represented Denmark, consisted of the following: International Studies major Rasika Pande, who led the delegation and served on the North Atlantic Council; History major Lance Ekelund, Political Affairs Committee; Political Science majors Andrew Lindsay and Eric Schneider, Defense Planning Committee; International Studies major Thomas Denson, Nuclear Planning Group, International Student major Jona Lewis, Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, and International Studies majors Brandon Curley and Lucy Miller, Committee on Emerging Security Challenges. Lindsay and Schneider received the Best Delegate Award, and Virginia Tech was presented with an Overall Honorable Delegation Award for representing the country. ASPECT student Holly Jordan prepared the students for their participation in this event.


ASPECT student Jordan Laney presented “From Lawn Chairs to Bar Stools: Notes on the Relationship between Bluegrass Festivals, Space, and Neoliberal Place-Making” at the International Association for the Study of Popular Music – US Branch 2015 Conference, held in Louisville, KY, on February 19-22.


The following pieces by Eric Lyon, School of Performing Arts/Music, were premiered: “Noise Injected Time Machine” for big band by the Free Sound Ahn-Somble at The Cell in New York City on February 7; and “Little History of Photography” for clarinet and live computer processing by Marianne Gythfeldt, who commissioned the work, and Lyon at Spectrum NYC on February 8. In
addition, his String Quartet #3 with Computer Enhancements was performed by the Flux Quartet at the Skirball Center for the Performing Arts in New York City on February 27.

ASPECT student Christian Matheis presented “Politics and Pentagons: For Whom Does Phenomenology Advance Political Philosophy?” on a panel hosted by the Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World at the American Philosophical Association Central Division conference, held February 19-21 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Deborah Milly, Political Science, and her book New Policies for New Residents: Immigrants, Advocacy, and Governance in Japan and Beyond were featured as the February 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 Milly were featured at a reception on February 18.

Neighbors Growing Together was cited as a Program of Distinction by the national coalition Generations United; such programs are recognized for best practices and service to the intergenerational community. The program was first honored in 2012 and is one of nine organizations cited in 2015. The mission of Neighbors Growing Together, which is housed in the Department of Human Development, is to improve the lives of people across the lifespan through intergenerational collaboration involving teaching, research, and outreach. Shannon Jarrott serves as Director of Virginia Tech Intergenerational Programs.

The following compositions by Charles Nichols, School of Performing Arts/Music, were performed: Gestures, five movements for solo violin, by Nicole Paglialonga at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne on February 19 and at the Music Department of the University of Central Florida in Orlando on February 16; and Current Threat Level, for computer music accompanying video of dance, at the World Electro-Acoustic Listening Room in the Recital Hall of California State University, Fullerton, on February 28.


Pallavi Raonka, a doctoral student in Sociology, presented “Grassroots Lessons: Implementation of Pension Schemes for Single Women and the Elderly in Jharkhand, India” on February 5 as the first Women and Gender in International Development Discussion Series talk of the semester.

Comments about social justice in Appalachia by Barbara Ellen Smith, Sociology, are featured in Episode Seven of Save Our Towns, a monthly internet video series by Virginia Tech’s Office of Outreach and International Affairs to guide and inspire leaders throughout Appalachia working to create prosperity in their town.

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences is pleased to welcome Janice Tawney as its Associate Director of Development. An alumna of William and Mary College, Tawney has a strong background in sales, account management, and marketing as well as experience in health care services, higher education teaching, and consulting.
The following students were recipients of awards from the CLAHS Undergraduate Research Institute (URI) in Spring 2015. Awarded grants for research were: Corey Koepper and Nicholas Coogan, both Theatre and Cinema, for production of a short film titled Awake in the Dark; the team of: History majors Andrew Climo, Grace Hemmingson, Scottie Lynch, and Nancy Mason, Biology majors Phoebe Bredin and Murphy Massey, and HNFE major Julie Clements, for the poster exhibit on “The Dreaded Disease: A History of Tuberculosis in Virginia, 1865 – 1920”; International Studies sophomore John Marcantonio for participation in the Yiddish Institute at Vilnius University as part of his project titled “Ethnicity and Security in Lithuania”; Miranda Marques, a junior English major, for “Gender and Grammaticality Judgments”; and Travis Whaley, a senior Piano Performance, Music Composition, and German major, for archival work in Germany on “Beethoven’s Compositional Process and the Evolution of the Waldstein Sonata, op. 53.” Receiving support for conference travel were: Earl Cherry, a senior History and Classical Studies major, “With All Deliberate Peace: Integration and Resistance West of the Blue Ridge,” Virginia Social Sciences Association Annual Meeting in Norfolk; the team of: junior Theatre and Cinema and Marketing major Austin DeShayes, Multimedia Journalism major Molly McCarvill, Architecture major Jack Chacon, and Management majors Hartley Erickson and Andrew Hart, “Commercial Break,” 15th Annual Campus MovieFest Hollywood Premiere in Los Angeles; Melissa Haas and Nicolette Thompson, a senior and junior respectively in Residential Environments and Industrial Design, “Accessory Dwelling Unit Design for Older Korean Family,” Environmental Design Research Association’s 46th annual conference in Los Angeles; Cassandra Hanson, a first-year Music Performance major, “Studying Bohuslav Martinu’s Clarinet Sonata in the Czech Republic,” International Clarinet Summer Workshop in Domazlice, Czech Republic; junior English major Matthew Johnson, “Don Juan in Love (and Lust),” 10th Annual Student Byron Conference, Messolonghi, Greece; Demetria Lee, a junior English, Political Science, and Philosophy major, “A Bishop, a Monk, and a Philosopher Walk into a Void: Comparing Three Idealists,” Pacific University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, Forest Grove, Oregon; junior History major Derek Litvak, “The Error of a Land Gone Weary: James Madison’s Address to the Agriculture Society of Albemarle,” JMU Madrush, Harrisonburg, and “To Chop off One’s Hand: The True Meaning Behind George Mason’s Opposition to the Constitution,” Virginia Social Sciences Association Annual Meeting, Norfolk; senior History major Nancy Mason, “Bethsaida and the Gospels: A Dynamic Portrait,” Mediterranean Studies Association, Athens, Greece; Skyler Mueller, a sophomore History and English major, “'Cry if you Need To': Drake and Hegemonic Masculinity,” International Association for the Study of Popular Music, Louisville, KY; and Morgan Sykes, a junior History major, “The Aspartame Controversy of 1981: The Hidden Truth Behind the Not-So-Sweet Artificial Sweetener,” JMU Madrush, Harrisonburg.” The URI provided support for undergraduate research activities and events organized by the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management and the Department of English. In addition, it contributed funding for CLAHS students attending the International Model NATO in February in Washington (see p. 4 above); and APS/RLCL 2984 Bluegrass: Appalachian Roots and Influences students who attended the Appalachian State University Fiddlers Convention and Luthiers Gathering, where they engaged in fieldwork as part of their research projects.

The tenth annual Virginia Tech Authors’ Day took place February 24. The event honored authors’ academic contributions to the University and was sponsored by the University Libraries, Office of the Vice President for Research, Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost, and the Mu
(Virginia Tech) Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. The featured speaker was Paul Quigley, History, who discussed his book *Shifting Grounds: Nationalism and the American South, 1848-1865*, for which he was awarded Phi Beta Kappa’s 2014 Albert L. Sturm Award for Excellence in Faculty Research. A current list of the faculty who authored, co-authored, and edited works and musical compositions were recognized this year can be found here; among the 43 CLAHS faculty are four individuals with two submissions and two with three.

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