



# News2 Note

September 2009

The professional development partnership between the Adult Learning and Human Resource Development program at the Northern Virginia Center and the Northern Virginia Community College Extended Learning Institute was highlighted at the Fifth Annual e-Learning Symposium held at George Mason University from June 3-5. ALHRD students **Bob Loser, Cindy Miller, Pat Daron, and Kim Monti**, along with faculty at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), presented *Working together at all levels: A look at successful implementation of online collaboration*, which focused on a significantly increased completion rate of community college students in a three-course Anatomy and Physiology requirement by integrating adult learning principles in the online environment. The presentation resulted from an application of content in Facilitation of Adult Learning in an Online Environment, an ALHRD class taught by **Clare Klunk and Paul Renard**.

**Biko Agozino**, Sociology and Director of Africana Studies, published "Guns, crime and social order in the West Indies" in *Criminology and Criminal Justice* 9,3 (August 2009): 287-305, with co-authors Ben Bowling, Elizabeth Ward, and Godfrey St Bernard.

Funded by the National Science Foundation in October 2008, the Gender in Science and Engineering Extension Project "Appalachian Information Technology Extension Services" (AITES) has completed the first year of a five-year grant project that ultimately will span five states and ten Appalachian counties. Currently, the project is underway in Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee; next year it will expand to include West Virginia and North Carolina. The AITES research team is based at the Virginia Tech Blacksburg campus, with **Peggy S. Meszaros**, William E. Lavery Professor of Human Development and Director of the Center for Technology Impacts on Children, Youth, and Families, as Principal Investigator and **Elizabeth G. Creamer**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, as Co-PI.

The AITES project is a comprehensive, research-based Extension program of training and consulting services. Its overarching goal is to develop community capacity through a sustainable program of change concentrating on educating the teachers, school counselors, and parents who are the supporters or "stokers" surrounding the girls. The goal is grounded in part in the mini-grant funded outreach efforts of middle and high school counselors as well as middle and high school teachers, Family and Consumer Science, and 4-H Cooperative Extension agents who comprise the AITES Community Cohort Teams (CCT). Through mini-grant activities key community stakeholders and

stokers are informed about the availability of IT jobs in their community, the diversity of jobs that require IT skills, and the importance not only of making girls aware of these opportunities but also of supporting their interests and futures in the IT field. More information about the AITES project can be found [here](#).

**Mark Barrow**, History, published *Nature's Ghosts: Confronting Extinction from the Age of Jefferson to the Age of Ecology* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009).

**Marcie Boucouvalas**, Human Development and Program Director of Adult Learning and Human Resource Development, was selected to represent the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) at the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris during July 2009. The theme of the Assembly was "The New Dynamics of Higher Education and Research for Societal Change and Development." Delegates, who attended by invitation only, included key administrative officials from universities around the world, along with senior level governmental officials and political decision makers from each country, UNESCO officials, representatives from multi-lateral organizations, and selected International NGOS such as ICAE. A resulting communiqué highlighted the role of higher education in serving societal needs in a global world. The Assemblies are significant international events that occur once every ten to twelve years and set the course for global initiatives.

The proposal "EAGER: Drummer Game: A Massive-Interactive Socially-Enabled Strategy Game," submitted by Co-Principal Investigator **Ico Bukvic**, Music, along with VT Computer Sciences colleagues Yong Cao, Principal Investigator, and Francis Quek, Co-PI, as well as Dane Webster, Co-PI, from the School of Visual Arts faculty, was selected by the National Science Foundation for funding. The proposal, funded in the Division of Information and Intelligent Systems for 2009-2010, received an award of \$149,648.

**Kathy Combiths**, English, published a poem, "Silence," about her maternal grandmother, in the new *Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Adriana Trigiani Volume I*, p. 77. Published by Shepherd University in West Virginia, the volume will be officially debuted on September 29 as part of the Appalachian Heritage Writers Project and Festival.

Students in the Department of Communication's study abroad class this summer in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland, chronicled their travels throughout Europe in an online magazine; the magazine's stories, photos, and video introduce readers to Virginia Tech's Center for European Studies and Architecture. Students enrolled in the magazine writing class of **Jenn Mackay**, Communication, were required to submit at least one story for the online publication, named for Virginia Tech's Villa Maderni, where students live and study while in Riva San Vitale. **Sara Spangler**, a major in Communication as well as visual communication design/graphic design in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, served as photo editor and **Jenna Nichols**, a Communication major, as webmaster. The student journalists wrote travel-writing style stories about their adventures, their fears, and the excitement of living in a new country; informational articles regarding the villa and the classes taught in it, the town of Riva San Vitale, and regional activities; and journeys and experiences outside of Switzerland. A link to the news release about *Maderni* can be found [here](#).

**Fred D'Aguiar**, English, published a collection of poetry, *Continental Shelf*, which received a Poetry Book Society Choice designation. The Poetry Book Society is sponsored by the Arts Council of England. A description of the volume can be found [here](#).

**William C. Davis**, History, was named Scholar of the Year by the Virginia Social Sciences Association in spring. In addition, film rights to his book *The Pirates Laffite* have just been optioned.

Department of Communication head **Robert E. Denton, Jr.** published *The 2008 Presidential Campaign: A Communication Perspective* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2009); he has edited a volume on every U.S. presidential election since 1992. This volume is Denton's twentieth authored, co-authored, or edited book.

The third edition of *Planning Educational Facilities: What Educators Need to Know* by **Glen I. Earthman**, professor emeritus in the School of Education, was published by Rowman & Littlefield (2009). The completely revised edition includes chapters on new technology, green schools, and simulations.

The College is pleased to welcome **Kellie Fischer-Johnson** as Director of Development. Having served most recently as vice president of wealth management for LaSalle Bank in Chicago and as senior sales manager for Crowe, Chizek, and Company LLC, Fischer-Johnson has eight years of experience in higher education fundraising. She recently completed a master's degree in human resource management and has finished all but the final course and exam associated with the Certified Financial Planner designation. Fischer-Johnson joined the College's Leadership Team in August.

**Ted Fuller**, Sociology, along with Promjit Hornboonherm, Peerasit Kamnuansilpa, and Supawatanakorn Wongtanavas, published "Intergenerational Relationship and Well-being of Grandparents in Northeast Thailand" in the *Journal of Population and Social Studies* 17 (January 2009): 1-24.

**Karen Roberto**, Director, and **Rosemary Blieszner**, Associate Director, represented the Center for Gerontology at the XIXth IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, which took place in Paris in July. Blieszner organized and chaired a symposium titled "Changing Families/Emerging Issues and Needs" with scholars from the U.S., the Netherlands, and Japan participating. Roberto presented their co-authored paper, "Family Experiences with the Mild Cognitive Impairment Trajectory," in the symposium.

**Ellington Graves** was selected as a 2009-2010 Diggs Teaching Scholar. The Edward S. Diggs Teaching Scholar Awards were established in 1992 to recognize outstanding teaching and exceptional contributions to the teaching program and learning environment. Diggs Scholars are dedicated to promoting excellence, imagination and commitment to teaching and student learning. The awardees each receive a plaque, and they and their departments each receive a \$500 cash award. Each academic year the newest awardees lead the Diggs Roundtable, a series of presentations and a discussion relating to their recent work. Along with other 2009 faculty and staff award winners – previously announced winners from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were published in the May issue of *News2Notes* - Graves was recognized for his accomplishments at the 2009 Faculty/Staff Awards dinner, held on August 30 at The Inn.

**Kwame Harrison**, Sociology, published *Hip Hop Underground: The Integrity and Ethics of Racial Identification* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2009).

History faculty members **William C. Davis** and **James I. Robertson, Jr.**, edited *Virginia at War, 1864* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2009).

The College extends a warm welcome to **Cathy Hudgins** as the College's part-time grant writing coordinator, who will work one-on-one and in small groups with interested CLAHS faculty on a wide range of grant writing tasks. Through her professional writing company, she previously provided grant and professional writing assistance to private companies, state institutions, non-profits, and local human services agencies. Hudgins earned her M.A. in English from the University of Tennessee and her Ph.D. in Human Development from Virginia Tech.

**Jay A. Mancini**, Human Development and Senior Fellow of the Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE), and **Karen A. Roberto**, Human Development and Director of ISCE as well as the Center for Gerontology, co-edited *Pathways of Human Development: Exploration of Change* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2009). The volume is a product of an international summit sponsored by ISCE in 2008. Chapter contributors include Human Development faculty members **Megan L. Dolbin-MacNab**, **April L. Few**, **Angela J. Huebner**, and **Kee Jeong Kim**.

**Patricia P. Kelly**, School of Education Professor Emerita and director of Malawi Study Abroad, took students for a month-long teaching and learning experience in that sub-Saharan country. Kelly, a Fellow in the School of Education's Center for Research and Development in International Education, invited Radford University and North Carolina A & T University to join as program partners. Students learned about educational issues by teaching in primary schools and studied political, economic, and historical issues through readings and lectures; in addition, they visited villages, game parks, churches, orphanages, farms, and museums. A daily account of the 2009 trip can be found [here](#).

**Chad Lavin**, Political Science and ASPECT, published "[Pollanated Politics, or, The Neoliberal's Dilemma](#)" in *Politics and Culture* 2009, Issue 2 (April). He also published "[The Year of Eating Politically](#)" and edited a symposium titled "[Eating and the Imagination of Politics](#)," both for *Theory & Event* 12,2 (June 2009). In addition, on June 8 Lavin was featured on the CBC Radio One program "The Current"; he discussed the drive to assign responsibility in politics. You can listen to the broadcast by clicking on the link to the audio at the bottom of this [page](#).

**Susan Magliaro**, Director of the School of Education and Associate Dean for Professional Education, has been appointed by the Virginia Board of Education to the Advisory Board for Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) for a three-year term. ABTEL advises the VA Board of Education and submits recommendations on matters concerning P-12 licensure, the regulation of school personnel, the standards for approving preparation programs, and related matters as designated by the Virginia Board of Education.

Three doctoral candidates in Marriage and Family Therapy, **Narkia Green**, **Darren Moore**, and **Tenille Richardson**, were chosen in the first two classes of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration Minority Doctoral Fellowships. The

SAMHSA Doctoral Fellowships, regarded as among the most prestigious in the mental health world, are awarded in the Public Health Service "Core" mental health disciplines of Psychiatry, Psychology, Psychiatric Nursing, Social Work, and Marriage and Family Therapy to doctoral students interested in substance abuse issues who are committed to culturally sensitive clinical practice and research. AAMFT SAMHSA Fellows receive a yearly stipend of \$20,000 for three years, plus expenses-paid travel to the annual AAMFT conference and to various special training programs exclusively for Fellows. The awards emphasize the commitment of the field of family therapy in general and of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program in particular to clinical excellence and diversity. Further information can be found at the [MFT program website](#) as well as the [AAMFT website](#).

**Matthew McCall**, who earned his M.A. in Philosophy in May and currently is an instructor in the department, presented "The Points of the Picture: Hertz and Wittgenstein on the Picture Theory" at the 32nd International Wittgenstein Symposium, August 9-15, at Kirchberg am Wechsel, Austria.

**Erika Meitner**, English, is one of the 2009 winners in the National Poetry Series competition. The NPS will sponsor publication of her second collection of poetry, *Ideal Cities*, in 2010 with HarperCollins. Details about the series can be found [here](#).

**Kimberly J. Mitchell**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, was awarded the Richard E. Zody Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Planning, Governance & Globalization. Virginia Tech's School of Public and International Affairs made the award in April 2009.

**Marian Mollin**, History, published "Women's Struggles within the American Radical Pacifist Movement" in *History Compass* 7,3 (May 2009): 1064-90.

LAHS 2984 Intro to Undergraduate Research, developed and taught by **Diana Ridgwell**, CLAHS Director of Student Development, is featured in *Developing Undergraduate Research and Inquiry* by Mick Healey and Alan Jenkins, published by the Higher Education Academy. The 2009 volume briefly discusses the course in its case study section. LAHS 2984 exposes first-year students to undergraduate research; creation of the class was funded by a VT Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (CEUT) grant.

Alumni Distinguished Professor of English **Lucinda Roy** was named "VPW 2009 Newsmaker of the Year" by the Virginia Press Women. The award will be presented on September 25 at the VPW Fall Conference. Details can be found [here](#).

**John Ryan**, chair of Sociology, was a keynote speaker at the International Conference, "Towards Knowledge Democracy: Consequences for Science, Politics and Media," August 25-27, in Leiden, Netherlands.

**Matt Sayball**, who earned his M.A. in Philosophy in May and currently is an instructor in the department, presented "What are Penumbra Connections?" at the Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference in Melbourne, Australia, held July 5-10.

**Don Shoemaker**, Sociology, is the Co-Principal Investigator on a \$500,000 grant recently funded by the National Science Foundation. Titled “CTRNET: Integrated Digital Library Support for Crisis, Tragedy, and Recovery,” the project began August 15 and runs for three years. Other investigators on the project are PI Edward A. Fox and Co-PIs Andrea L. Kavanaugh, Naren Ramakrishnan, Steven D. Sheetz.

**Brett Shadle**, History, now serves as one of two book review editors for *H-Africa*, an H-Net Network discussing Africa’s history, culture, and African Studies.

Sigma Delta Pi, Virginia Tech’s chapter of the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, was named an “Honor Chapter” for its outstanding activities in 2008-09. Each May all 564 chapters of Sigma Delta Pi submit an annual report detailing their activities and projects for the academic year. Based on the reports, the National Executive Committee chooses approximately ten “Honor Chapters” annually. This recognition is based upon the caliber of chapter projects that reflect the Sigma Delta Pi mission of honoring excellence in the study of the Spanish language, contributing to cultural understanding, and upholding the goals of the society. The chapter’s adviser, **Antonio Fernández-Vázquez**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, was instrumental in earning this national honor that was awarded to only nine chapters in 2009. With its national office at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, Sigma Delta Pi is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies, the nation’s only certifying agency for college and university honor societies.

Sociology faculty members **James Hawdon** and **John Ryan** published “Social Capital, Social Control, and Changes in Victimization Rates” in *Crime Delinquency* 55 (2009): 526-49. The abstract is available [here](#).

*For Memories’ Sake*, a documentary directed by **Ashley Maynor**, Visiting Assistant Professor in Theatre & Cinema, and produced by **Paul Harrill**, Theatre & Cinema, was awarded the Jury Award for Best Documentary at the 2009 University Film & Video Conference. In the half-hour documentary, Maynor explores the life of her grandmother Angela Singer and her grandmother’s hobby of photography.

**Peter Wallenstein**, History, published the chapter “The Struggle to Learn: Higher Education in Civil War Virginia” in *Virginia at War, 1864*, edited by William C. Davis and James I. Robertson, Jr. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2009), 99-119. Recently published as well were a new paperback edition of Wallenstein’s *From Slave South to New South: Public Policy in Nineteenth-Century Georgia* (1987) and a paperback edition of his *Higher Education and the Civil Rights Movement: White Supremacy, Black Southerners, and College Campuses* (2008). This past summer Wallenstein served as a workshop leader on “Brown v. Board and Massive Resistance in Virginia” at a Summer Teachers Institute of the Virginia Historical Society, in Richmond; in addition, he gave a community presentation titled “Virginia History - The View from Blacksburg, Saltville, and Abingdon, rather than Jamestown, Williamsburg, or Richmond” at the Museum of the Middle Appalachians in Saltville, Virginia, as part of the Virginia Highlands Festival.

**Janell Watson**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/French, is the new editor of the *minnesota review*, which is now housed on the Virginia Tech campus. The *minnesota review* is a literary and cultural studies journal that emphasizes politically engaged criticism, fiction, and poetry. The journal is available in print and electronically and has a circulation of 1,300.

## *Alumni Highlights*

Featured this month are alumni from the School of Education.

**Brian Binggeli**, a 2001 School of Education graduate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, was selected in April 2009 as the new superintendent of Florida's Brevard Public Schools. The school district is the tenth largest in the state, with 9,000 employees, 73,000 students at 85 traditional schools and eight charters, and a \$1 billion budget. Binggeli previously served as cluster superintendent of Fairfax Public Schools in Virginia.

**Alison Brandon**, who earned her M.A. from the School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, recently received the Betty L. Harrah award for Journal Manuscript of the Year from the Association of College and University Housing Officers-International. The article, "Where you live influences who you know: Differences in student interaction based on residence hall design" in the *Journal of College and University Student Housing* 35,2 (2008): 62-79, was based on Brandon's master's thesis; assisting with the article were **Joan B. Hirt**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, and **Tracey Cameron**, a Ph.D. candidate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. All three individuals received plaques.

**William A. Owings**, who earned his doctorate in educational administration and supervision from Virginia Tech in 1987 and currently is a professor of educational leadership in the Darden College of Education at Old Dominion University, is the new editor of *Journal for Effective Schools (JES)*, a national, referred journal published twice yearly. Owings is the author of nine books and monographs, most of them with co-author Leslie Kaplan. In 2008 Owings and Kaplan were jointly awarded the Virginia Educational Research Association's Charles Edgar Clear Research Award for "significant and sustained research and scholarship to Virginia." Owings joined the ODU faculty in 2002 as graduate program director for educational leadership; he previously held a similar position at Longwood University. Moving from English teacher to superintendent of schools, he shifted to higher education in 1999.

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