



News2 Note

September 2011

Susan Allender-Hagedorn, English, published, "Public Perception of and Public Participation in Microbial Source Tracking," in *Microbial Source Tracking: Methods, Applications, and Case Studies*, ed. Charles Hagedorn, Anicet R. Blanch, and Valerie J. Harwood (New York: Springer, 2011), pp. 281-99.

Mark Barrow, Professor and Chair, Department of History, published "The Specter of Extinction: Taking a Long View of Species Loss," in *Environmental History* 16, no. 3 (July 2011): 428-32.

Yi-Chun (Yvonne) Chen, Communication, is one of three Co-Principal Investigators of a recently awarded NIH R01 grant (\$2.8 million). The project, titled "SIPsmartER: A nutrition literacy approach to reducing sugar-sweetened beverages," incorporates health and media literacy as an intervention tool and was awarded \$2.8 million in funding. The research team includes colleagues from Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise as well as Agriculture and Applied Economics, with Principal Investigator Jamie Zoellner and Co-PIs Paul Estabrooks and Wen You. The five-year project began in July 2011.

Congratulations to the MFA program in Creative Writing, Department of English, which was recognized by *Poets & Writers Magazine* as #23 among 400 MFA programs nationally, moving up nine positions since last year. The program continues to enjoy excellent ranking in other areas as well: 16th in poetry and 29th in fiction.

The research of **Roger Ekirch**, History, on sleep prior to the Industrial Revolution was profiled in: "The Myth of a Good Night's Sleep" in the Copenhagen *Dagbladet Information* on July 22; "An Interview with Professor Ekirch" on August 21 in the *Asahi Shimbun*, Japan's second largest paper; and "Die geraubte Dunkelheit" (Stolen Darkness) in the *Berliner Zeitung* on August 25. His 2005 book, *At Day's Close*, has been published in Russian translation (St. Petersburg: Azbuka, 2010); the work previously was translated and published in German, Dutch, Slovenian, Chinese, and Korean. Ekirch's book *Birthright* (W.W. Norton, 2010) served as the basis of an hour-long documentary on BBC television, "Kidnapped: A Georgian Adventure," which premiered on August 10.

Charlene Eska, English, published "Marriage by Purchase in Early Irish Law" in *Tome: Studies in Medieval Celtic History and Law in Honour of Thomas Charles-Edwards*, ed. Fiona Edmonds and Paul Russell (Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2011), pp. 183-91.

Michael A. Evans, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, published "A multimodal approach to coding discourse: Collaboration, distributed cognition, and geometric reasoning," *International Journal of Computer Supported Collaborative Learning* 6.2 (2011): 253-78, with Eliot Feenstra, Emily Ryon, and David McNeill.

Volume I, Issue I, of the CLAHS [Focus on Research](#) newsletter was published on the College website on August 26. Prepared by Associate Dean **Tom Ewing**, the newsletter focuses on grant and fellowship opportunities as well as tips on grant writing; in addition, each issue highlights research currently being conducted by a CLAHS faculty member.

Ted Fuller, Sociology, published "Moderate Alcohol Consumption and the Risk of Mortality," *Demography* 48 (August 2011): 1105-25.

Matthew Gabriele, Religion and Culture and coordinator of the Medieval and Early Modern Studies program, was recognized as the August 15 Scholar of the Week by the Office of the Vice President for Research. Gabriele's area of research is medieval studies, specifically the intellectual history of the European Middle Ages. His recent book, *An Empire of Memory: The Legend of Charlemagne, the Franks, and Jerusalem before the First Crusade* (Oxford University Press, 2011), complements *The Legend of Charlemagne in the Middle Ages: Power, Faith, and Crusade* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), an interdisciplinary volume of essays on the medieval legend of Charlemagne that he co-edited with Jace Stuckey. Gabriele's current research focuses on the intersection of religion and violence.

Kwame Harrison, Sociology, published "'We're Talking About Practice(-Based Research)': Serious Play and Serious Performance in the Practice of Popular Music Ethnography," *Journal of Popular Music Studies* 23,2 (2011): 221-28; and "Reading *Billboard* 1979-1989: Exploring Rap Music's Emergence through the Music Industry's Most Influential Trade Publication," *Popular Music and Society* 34,3 (2011): 309-27, with Craig E. Arthur. Harrison also was recognized as the August 8 Virginia Tech Teacher of the Week by the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research (CIDER). Harrison was honored for his commitment to developing learner-centered classroom communities in the courses he teaches, which include AFST 1714 Introduction to African American Studies and SOC 4114 Sociology of Popular Music. Twice the recipient of the Department of Sociology's Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award (in 2007 and 2011), Harrison garnered the 2011 Edward S. Diggs Teaching Scholar Award.

ASPECT student **Jordan Hill** published the second edition of *Intentionally Interdisciplinary: Master's Interdisciplinary Program Directory*. The directory is available online [here](#).

The Virginia Tech Pi Xi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society, has received a 2011 Best Chapter Award from the society. Each year Phi Alpha Theta presents Best Chapter Awards to chapters that excel in promoting the mission of the honor society on the local level. Chapters compete in six divisions based on student enrollment at their institutions; the Pi Xi Chapter was the winner for universities with more than 23,000 students. Faculty members **Marian Mollin** and **Glenn Bugh** served as advisors during the award year.

Human Development faculty member **Shannon Jarrott** and doctoral student **Laura Gambrel** published "[The bottomless file box: Electronic portfolios for learning and evaluation purposes](#)," *International Journal of ePortfolio* 1.1 (2011): 89-94. The journal is edited by **Peter Doolittle**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies and Director of the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research (CIDER) and Eddie Watson.

ASPECT student **Michele James-Deramo** published "Perceptions of Aid Organizations in Kakuma Refugee Camp" in the Opinion section of the August 2011 *Kakuma News Reflector - A Refugee Free Press*. The independent news magazine is produced by Ethiopian, Congolese, Ugandan, Rwandan, Somali, Sudanese and Kenyan journalists operating in the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.

Chad Lavin published "David Simon's Economy of Risk" as part of a Critical Exchange on the HBO Program *Treme* in the journal *Contemporary Political Theory* 10.3 (2011): 393-411. In addition, his piece titled "[The Vegetarian Lesson](#)" appeared in the August 14 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in the Opinions and Ideas section. Lavin recently was appointed Reviews Editor of *New Political Science*, the official journal of the Caucus for a New Political Science, an Organized Section of the American Political Science Association.

Barbara Lockee, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies and Associate Director of Educational Research and Outreach, was the keynote speaker at the Asia-Pacific Conference on Technology Enhanced Learning in Xi'an, China, which took place August 12-14. The title of her talk was "Moving Forward by Looking Back: The Evolution of Instructional Technology for Language Learning."

Eric E. McCollum, Human Development at the Northern Virginia Center, co-edited *Solution-Focused Brief Therapy: From Practice to Research Informed Practice* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011) with Cynthia Franklin, Terry S. Trepper, and Wallace Gingerich. Solution-Focused Brief Therapy is a widely used approach to psychotherapy.

Wornie Reed, Sociology and Director of the Center for Race and Social Policy, edited the *Handbook of African American Health: Social and Behavioral Interventions* (New York: Springer, 2011), with Anthony Lemelle and Sandra Taylor. In this volume he authored "Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning," pp. 103-12, as well as "Increasing Cultural Competency among Medical Care Providers," pp. 227-34; the latter was written with Ronnie Dunn and Kay Colby. Reed also served as an invited panelist at the Harlem Book Fair on July 23 for the session "The Obama Administration's Early Years: A Critique." Reed's presentation, entitled "Social Justice in the Age of Obama," was broadcast live on C-Span.

Karen Roberto, Human Development, Director of the Center for Gerontology, and Director of the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment, is one of three co-PIs on a project recently awarded \$1.2 million from the National Science Foundation. The four-year project, titled "Non-Intrusive Multi-Patient Fall-Risk Monitoring in Health Care Facilities," has as its Principal Investigator Thurmon Lockhart, Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. More about the grant can be found [here](#).

ASPECT student **Nina Salmon** recently was named Assistant Director of the Lynchburg College Symposium Reading (LCSR) program and the Senior Symposium Program at Lynchburg College. The goal of the LCSR program is to incorporate readings from the classics, or core texts, with contemporary ideas.

Students in the Senior Symposium Course attend weekly lectures presented by a variety of experts, professionals, and scholars and read selected core texts in order to integrate ideas and explore contemporary issues through the lens of classical texts.

The book *The Challenge of Political Islam: Non-Muslims and the Egyptian State* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2010) by **Rachel Scott**, Religion and Culture, was a finalist for the American Academy of Religion's 2010 "Best First Book in the History of Religions."

Paula Seniors, Sociology, was awarded a Diversity Initiative Grant from the Office of Graduate Recruiting and Diversity. The grant will be used to support students from her Africana Studies Pro Seminar as they travel to the Association for the Study of African American Life and History Convention in Richmond in October.

The following students spent much of the summer studying and travelling in Sri Lanka: Rob Calvey, a fourth-year student in Architecture; **Molly Cook**, a May International Studies graduate; **Angie Moran**, who graduated in May with a degree in IDST, and **Aubrey Sozer**, who earned a degree in Communication in May. The students completed courses on Buddhism, the Sinhala language, and the Pali language at the Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy (SIBA), staying with host families and participating in a cultural exchange with the SIBA students. A Memorandum of Understanding between Virginia Tech and SIBA was signed in July.

Jessica Stephenson, a doctoral student in the School of Education/Teaching and Learning, was selected to participate in the Sandra K. Abell Institute for Doctoral Students held in Colorado Springs at the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study from July 23 to 38. Stephenson, a student in Science Education, was one of 41 doctoral students and eight mentors from around the world who gathered at the BSCS to consider research questions, theoretical frameworks, methodologies, and analysis.

Alumni Highlights

This month alumni from the School of Education are highlighted.

Kim Allen, who earned her doctoral degree in 2010 as a member of the Richmond Center cohort, was appointed principal of Hopewell High School in Hopewell, VA.

Walter R. (Rick) Clemons, a member of the doctoral cohort in Hampton Roads who earned his doctoral degree in 2009, was appointed Superintendent of Schools in Northampton County, VA, effective July 1.

Kris Day, who earned her Ph.D. in Counselor Education in 2010, was recently announced as the 2010 Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Outstanding Dissertation Award winner.

Matt Haas, a 2002 graduate of the doctoral program in Hampton Roads, was appointed Executive Director for Human Resources, Policy, Strategic Planning, Discipline and Secondary Education and Budget Development in the Albemarle County Schools.

Laura Hebert, who earned her Ed.D. in 2010, was named principal of L. C. Byrd High School in Chesterfield County.

Sandra Hedrick, who earned her doctoral degree at the Richmond Center in 2011, was named Coordinator of Special Education by the Gloucester County Board of Education beginning August 9.

Jean Infantino, who completed her doctoral studies at the Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Center in 2005, was named Executive Director of Administrative Services/Clerk of the Board by the Chesapeake Board of Education effective July 1.

Lorraine Lange, who earned her Ed.D. in 1988 and currently serves as Superintendent in Roanoke County, was named 2011 Virginia Superintendent of the Year by the Virginia Association of School Superintendents. Lange, whose school district includes more than 14,000 students, was selected from among eight regional Superintendents of the Year.

Pam Smith, a member of the 2007 Abingdon Principal Preparation Cohort, was named Assistant Principal of Virginia Middle School by the Bristol Virginia City School Board in May.

Dawn A. Watkins, who earned a B.A. in English and a M.A. in Higher Education, received the Order of Fraternal Excellence Award from the Fraternity Executives Association. The award is conferred upon a college or university administrator who has attained a level of professional accomplishment, relating to the college fraternity, which is of such excellence as to merit signal recognition by the Association. Watkins, the former Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at Washington and Lee University, is only the 15th recipient of this honor since it was created in 1984.

Sandra Witcher, a 2001 graduate of the doctoral program in Hampton Roads, was named Senior Director of Special Education in the Norfolk Public Schools.

Wendy Wyatt, who graduated in 2009 from the Principal Preparation Program in Hampton Roads, was named Instructional Supervisor/Virtual-Secondary for Gloucester County Public Schools as well as part-time Assistant Principal for Virtual Virginia.

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