

ASPECT doctoral student Caroline Alphin presented “Cyborg Neoliberalism: Problematizing the Body/Insecurity/City Nexus through Genre” at the “Freedom After Neoliberalism Conference,” which was held June 9–10 at the University of York in York, United Kingdom.


Michael Bliss, English, published *Laurel and Hardy’s Comic Catastrophes: Laughter and Darkness in the Features and Short Films* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2017).

Ivica Ico Bukvic, School of Performing Arts, received a $149,930 National Science Foundation grant titled “Spatial Audio Data Immersive Experience (SADIE),” which focuses on the immersive study of geospatial data using the spatial sound in the Virginia Tech Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology Cube. Bukvic serves as the Principal Investigator; Greg Earle, Electrical and Computer Engineering, serves as the Co-Principal Investigator.

Pianist Tracy Cowden, School of Performing Arts, performed at the Staunton Music Festival in the world premiere of Jiya Learns to Dance by Eric Guinivan with Airi Yoshioka, violin, Mary Boodell, flute, Ed Matthew, clarinet, Carl Donakowski, cello, Brian Smith, percussion, and Eric Guinivan, conductor. The festival took place August 11–20.


The Korean translation of Engineers for Korea by Gary Downey, Alumni Distinguished Professor in Science and Technology in Society, and Kyonghee Han was named a 2017 Sejong Book by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism. The certification honors books that “have high value as academic texts and improve the public’s reading culture” and carries an award of ten million Won ($8,900) to pay for distributing copies across the country.

Roger Ekirch, History, was interviewed about his book, American Sanctuary: Mutiny, Martyrdom, and National Identity in the Age of Revolution, for “Impertinent Questions with A. Roger Ekirch,” Humanities: The Magazine of the National Endowment for the Humanities 38.2 (Spring 2017), and was one of four sleep specialists interviewed for the BBC World News radio program, “The Inquiry,” which aired June 29.


Traci Gardner, English, was awarded the 2017 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) Technology Innovator Award. The award is designed to recognize and honor a member of the field who has made long-term, innovative contributions to the computers and writing community. Gardner was recognized with this honor at the 33rd Computers and Writing Conference, which was held June 1–4 in Findlay, Ohio.

Wat Hopkins, Communication, was reappointed to his sixth three-year term as editor of *Communication Law and Policy*, the peer-reviewed, quarterly journal of the Law and Policy Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Four faculty in the College are members of six teams of investigators who received 2017-2018 Scholars Awards from the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment. Sociology faculty members James Hawdon, Director of the Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention, and John Ryan, Chair, will explore cross-national online extremism risk, exposure, and participation. Cynthia Smith, Human Development, will examine children’s self-regulation in interactions with parents to see how those processes contribute to children’s developing self-regulation and general cognitive and emotion development with colleagues Richard Ashley, Martha Ann Bell, Julie Dunsmore, and Angela Scarpa. Abby Walker, English, will collaborate with Mike Bowers to explore the brain’s response to shifts in dialect and the potential for poor comprehension.


As part of a developing collaboration between Okayama University and Virginia Tech, 15 students in the VT in Japan program participated in a workshop organized by the Virginia Tech School of Education and presented by Okayama University students on August 2 at the Welfare Conference Center in Kyoto, Japan. The American and Japanese students engaged in discussions, mostly in Japanese, about cultural differences and the challenges that can arise when international student live together, and proposed solutions for the case studies they examined. Given the success of this event, next year’s VT in Japan program, which is led by Yasuko Kumazawa, Foreign Languages and Literatures, will include a trip to Okayama University and a one-night stay on an island near the university.


Eric Lyon, School of Performing Arts, served as Director of the Spatial Music Workshop and Artistic Director for Cube Fest, which was held August 3–6 at the Moss Arts Center. Lyon gave two 3D performances of the album “Led Zeppelin II” and premiered the 139-channel version of his composition “Starfish” with the solo trumpet part performed by Jason Crafton, School of Performing Arts.
Vickie Martin, senior fiscal technician for the Office of Educational Research and Outreach in the School of Education, was recognized as one of 21 Virginia Tech employees nominated to represent the university in the statewide Governor’s Award program; she was nominated in the career achievement award category. Martin was honored for her fiscal expertise, ability to manage and process grants and contracts, knowledge of international budgets and financing, and problem-solving skills. Her career spans 42 years at Virginia Tech.


Carol Mullen, School of Education, published “Creativity in Chinese Schools: Perspectival Frames of Paradox and Possibility,” International Journal of Chinese Education 6.1 (2017): 27–56; “What Are Corporate Education Networks? Why Ask Questions?” in Kappa Delta Pi Record 53.3 (2017): 100–06; and “Critical Issues on Democracy and Mentoring in Education: A Debate in the Literature,” The SAGE Handbook of Mentoring, ed. David Clutterbuck, Frances Kochan, Laura Lunsford, Nora Domínguez, and Julie Haddock-Millar (Thousand Oaks, California: Sage, 2017), pp. 34–51. In addition, as the 2017 Living Legend awardee, Mullen gave the keynote presentation titled “Creativity, the Other Side of Exam-centric Mania: Living the ‘I’ in ICPEL 2017” at the awards banquet of the National Council of Professors of Educational Administration conference (the association was renamed ICPEL in 2017), which was held July 31 to August 4 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.


Faculty members Joseph Pitt, Philosophy, and Ashley Shew, Science and Technology in Society, co-edited Spaces for the Future: A Companion to Philosophy and Technology (New York, New York: Routledge, 2017). Shew’s individual contribution to the volume was “Animals in Philosophy of Technology” and Pitt’s was “Transcendence in Space,” pp. 108–16 and 340–45 respectively.

Three Political Science faculty published chapters in Biopolitical Disaster, ed. Jennifer L. Lawrence and Sarah Marie Wiebe (Abingdon, United Kingdom, and New York, New York: Routledge, 2018). They are: François Debrix, also Director of ASPECT, “Dealing with Disastrous

ASPECT doctoral student Shaun Respess presented “Heroism and Conventional Morality: A Pedagogical Approach” at the Virginia Humanities Conference, which was held April 7–8 at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia.

ASPECT doctoral student Mary Ryan presented “The Democratic Kaleidoscope in the U.S.: Vanquishing Structural Racism in the U.S. Federal Government” at the Managing Racial Capital Workshop and Symposium, which was held June 30 to July 1 at the JFK Institute for North American Studies, Free University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany. Ryan also published a poem titled “Purpose,” Clockhouse 5 (2017): 129.


The essay titled “Finding My Amputee Brethren” by Ashley Shew, Science and Technology in Society, was posted on Nursing Clio, the collaborative history of medicine blog on July 27.

Stephanie Smith, Communication, was selected as a Kopenhaver Center Fellow for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication’s (AEJMC) annual conference. As a fellow, Smith completed a one-day workshop for professional development and networking with other pre-tenure women faculty members throughout the U.S. She also was selected to give a Great Ideas for Teaching (GIFT) presentation at AEJMC’s conference based on her Case Studies in Public Relations group project.

Natasha Staley, School of Performing Arts, served as Voice and Text Director on The Taming of the Shrew and The Tempest at the New Swan Shakespeare Festival in Irvine, California, from June 2 through July 16.

Jane Stein, School of Performing Arts, served as the costume designer for Arsenic and Old Lace, performed by the Peterborough Players July 19–30 in Peterborough, New Hampshire, and the
New England premiere of Israel Horovitz’s *Out of the Mouths of Babes*, performed by the Gloucester Stage Company August 11 through September 2 in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

**Brian Thorsett**, School of Performing Arts, was tenor soloist in a performance and recording of the world premiere of Scott Gendel’s *Barbara Allen* with the Santa Clara Chorale and San Jose Chamber Orchestra on May 12 and in Dvorak’s *Stabat Mater* with the Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra under Ming Luke on June 4–6. He served as soloist in Bach’s *Magnificat* at the Shenandoah Bach Festival on June 18, and on June 30 he gave the world premiere of the orchestrated version of David Conte’s *American Death Ballads* in London, United Kingdom, with the Goodensemble under Michael Poll. Thorsett and **Richard Masters**, School of Performing Arts, gave the European premiere of David Conte’s “American Death Ballads” and Joseph Stillwell’s “Two Yeats Songs” as well as the world premiere of Eric Choate’s “two sandburg settings” at the European American Musical Alliance in Paris, France, on July 4. On July 16 Thorsett teamed with pianist Miles Graber to present a recital of Schubert *Lieder* in a lecture recital for the Mendocino Music Festival in Mendocino, California, and on August 18 and 19 he appeared as tenor soloist in Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, California.

The website for the Virginia Tech Laboratory for the Study of Youth Inequality and Justice (YIJ) is now live. Since it was established in 2015, the YIJ Lab has received support from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, the VT Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Justice. **Anthony Peguero**, Sociology, serves as Lab Research Director.

**Peter Wallenstein**, History, served as the executive editor for a series of social studies books from Five Ponds Press designed to align with Virginia’s revised Standards of Learning. Four new volumes, for kindergarten through third grade, appeared under the rubric “Our World”: *Our Community: Life in Virginia; Our State: Virginia Then and Now; Our United States: Our Lives, Our Lands, Our Legends; and Ancient World Cultures: Their Lives, Lands, and Legends*. Four revised volumes, for grades four through seven, appeared under the rubric “Introduction to History and Social Science”: *Our Virginia, Past and Present* (3rd edition); *Our America, to 1865* (3rd edition); *Our America, 1865 to the Present* (3rd edition); and *Our State and Nation: Civics and Economics* (2nd edition).

**Brandi Watkins**, Communication, was awarded an Educator Fellowship by The Plank Center for Leadership in Public Relations. The program provides public relations educators with a two-week summer fellowship designed to enhance professional development, leadership skills, and industry networking. During the fellowship, Watkins worked with the public relations agency Ketchum in Chicago, Illinois.

**Madeline Yaskowski**, a junior majoring in German and International Studies, was selected as a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) 2017–2018 Young Ambassador; she is one of 29 undergraduates in North America chosen for this honor. Young Ambassadors have studied or interned recently in Germany and are interested in promoting study in Germany at their home
universities and colleges. Yaskowski, who completed an internship with the Studierendenwerk Karlsruhe in the summer of 2016, is the fifth Virginia Tech student to be selected to participate in this program; Virginia Tech has had continuous participation since 2011.

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