The Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management was one of three academic units at Virginia Tech to receive a 2017 Exemplary Department or Program Award. This year’s awards theme recognized groups for effectively engaging students in hands-on, minds-on instructional environments. The department creates and extends knowledge in the fields of consumer studies, fashion merchandising and design, property management, residential environments and design, and family and consumer sciences. Its programs focus on major content areas with a breadth of understanding of the content from various perspectives such as the sciences, design, humanities, social sciences, and quantitative and computational thinking. The department’s requirement for Active Learning – including internships, undergraduate research and independent studies, and national and international study tours – highlights its commitment to hands-on, minds-on learning for students. Along with the other winners, the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management will receive a portion of the $40,000 award; a recognition ceremony will be held February 8 at The Inn at Virginia Tech.


Athenaeum, a suite of spaces and services in Newman Library dedicated to cultivating digital research skills of faculty and students, had its grand opening January 25. The suite consists of a modular classroom (124 Newman), a collaborative boardroom (126), and a media studio (127). The speakers at the grand opening were: Tom Ewing, Professor of History and Associate Dean...
for Graduate Studies and Research; **Sylvester Johnson**, Professor of Religion and Culture and Assistant Vice Provost for the Humanities; and Tyler Walter, Dean of University Libraries.


**Savanna Baxley**, a senior Residential Environments and Design major, presented her undergraduate research project, “Kitchen Design Strategies for Families of Children with Down Syndrome,” with co-authors **Kathleen Parrott** and **Eunju Hwang**, both Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty, at the Housing Education and Research Association annual conference, which was held October 8–11, 2017, in Lowell, Massachusetts.

The efforts of **Blythe Boyd**, a sophomore Fashion Merchandising and Design major, as an intern for the Office of Career and Professional Development came to fruition with the **Career Outfitters program**, which is being held February 1–2 in the Smith Career Center. Boyd coordinated and promoted the event, which helps provide Virginia Tech students with new or gently used professional clothing and accessories that are appropriate for job interviews.

**Glenn Bugh**, History, received a New Program Development Grant from the Global Education Office. The funds will be used to supplement his archive of sites and museums for Roman Britain (HIST 3294), a new course, and to lay the groundwork for potential itineraries and logistics for a three-week study abroad program in the United Kingdom.

The research of **Ico Bukvic**, School of Performing Arts, was highlighted on Radio IQ, the local public radio station, in an interview titled “**Music of the Spheres: Big Data Meets Big Sound.**” Bukvic – along with Gregory Earle, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Human-Centered Design graduate students Woohun Joo and Disha Sardana – is using the Cube in the Moss Arts Center as an experimental space to “teach a computer to transform data into sound.”


The College notes with sadness the death of **Herman Doswald**, former Professor of German, Head of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, on January 8. He joined the Virginia Tech community in 1979 and served as Acting Dean in 1986–1987 and as Dean from 1987 to 1994; he retired in 1996. Before coming to Virginia Tech, Doswald held appointments at the University of Kansas, California State University at Fresno, and Kent State University. The obituary published in the *Roanoke Times* can be found [here](#).

**Charles Dye**, School of Performing Arts, and Jaime Jacobsen, were awarded a $3,500 Film and Digital Media Grant from Humanities Montana in September 2017 for production of *The Lentil*
Underground 360: A VR Journey for the Organically Curious (LU360), which will take place this year.


Eric Lyon, School of Performing Arts, published “Elliott Carter’s Continuing Presence” in New Music Box, an online journal.

Senior Multimedia Journalism majors Harvey Creasey III and Humberto Zarco have been selected to intern with NBC during the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea. Creasey will serve as a runner for the Today show, which is airing live from PyeongChang during the games. Zarco will work as a footage logger at the International Broadcast Center. The students credit Communication faculty members Dale Jenkins, Bill Roth, and Jared Woolly for the preparation their courses provided for this experience.


The following graduate students in the College contributed to RE: Reflections and Explorations. A Forum for Deliberative Dialogue, ed. Max Stephenson, Jr., and Lyusyena Kirakosyan, RE:

ASPECT doctoral student Mary Ryan presented “The Democratic Kaleidoscope in the United States: Vanquishing Structural Racism in the US Federal Government” in the Dissertation Lightning Round at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting, which was held January 4–7 in Washington, D.C.


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