



News2Note

April 2012

The 20th Annual Philosophical Collaborations Conference: Eros, Ontology, and Emotions featured **Jim Garrison**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, as the keynote speaker. In accordance with the conference's unique format, a graduate student working with the invited speaker also gave a keynote presentation on the same theme, chosen collaboratively. This year's student was ASPECT doctoral candidate **Aaron Stoller**. The result of the collaboration was two independent papers on the common theme of "The Human Eros, Eco-ontology, and the Aesthetics of Existence: A Pragmatist Response to Nietzsche on Nihilism." The conference, hosted by the Philosophy Department of Southern Illinois University, was held March 22-23.

Biko Agozino, Sociology, is the recipient of a Visiting Fellowship from the University of London School of Advanced Study, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. He will take up the Fellowship in May 2013.

Mark V. Barrow, Jr., Professor and Chair of History, received the 2012 Scholar Award in History from the Virginia Social Sciences Association. Each year since 1981 the VSSA has recognized outstanding scholarship and teaching in the social sciences through awards to higher education faculty in the Commonwealth. Barrow delivered an address, "Chapman's Parakeets: On the Role of Serendipity in Historical Research," as part of the Award Recipients Plenary Session at the 85th Annual Meeting of the VSSA on March 24 in Norfolk, Virginia.

ASPECT and the ASPECT Student Association sponsored the Conference on Sovereign Violence, March 12-13, with the following students in the program presenting the papers mentioned or participating as otherwise indicated: **Ryan Artrip**, "The Problem of Referentiality and Absolute Power: In Search of a Political System of Reference"; **Barbara Hassell**, "The Banality of Evil Continues"; **Jordan Hill**, "Two Counter-Memories: The Legacy of Michel Foucault's Work on Memory"; **Lyusyena Kirakosyan**, "Nonviolent Struggle: The New Frame for Brazilian Citizenship for the Disabled"; **Robert Kirsch**, "Economic Policy: Monetary Sovereignty or Sado-Monetarism"; **Shien-Hauh Leu**, "O Violence, Violence! Wherefore Art Thou Violence?"; **Scott Tate**, "'Where the Bastards Are': Spatial Tinkering and the Violence of Privileged Imaginaries in Belfast"; and **Marc Thomas**, "Your Brain on Racism: What Cognitive Science Can Teach us about Racism and How It Impacts Higher Education." Opening remarks were provided by Francois Debrix, Political Science and Director of ASPECT, and ASPECT

student **Tyler Suggs**. The conference was co-sponsored by the CLAHS departments of History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Religion and Culture; the Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention; and the CAUS Program in Government and International Affairs.

Two ASPECT students gave papers at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, held March 22-24 in Portland, Oregon. **Robert Kirsch** presented “Junk Bondage: The Real Consequences of Wasteful Finance,” and **Jennifer Lawrence** presented “The Resource Curse as a Fait Accompli? Casting Reasonable Doubt on Accepted Knowledge and Proposing New Solutions to Old Problems.”

Rosemary Blieszner, Department of Human Development Alumni Distinguished Professor and Associate Dean of the Graduate School, recently was reappointed by the Board of Visitors to a second 10-year term as an Alumni Distinguished Professor. Details about the appointment and some thoughts by Blieszner on aging and well-being, her areas of research, can be found [here](#).

David Brunσμα, Sociology, was appointed Executive Officer of the Southern Sociological Society by the society’s Executive Committee. The SSS is the oldest professional sociology society in the United States and the largest of the regional societies. With this appointment the offices of the society move to Virginia Tech. Brunσμα’s five-year term begins July 1.

María del Carmen Caña Jiménez, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, published “Tiempo/espacio, memoria/narrativa: la novela española finisecular” (“Time/Space, Memory/Narrative: The Turn-of-the-Century Spanish Novel”), *Letras Hispanas* 8.1 (2012): 34-45.

ASPECT student **Dana Cochran** was selected for the Graduate Humanities Fellows program for Spring 2012. The research focus of the program is topics related to the South Atlantic.

Travis J. Cross, Music, guest conducted the Shenandoah Conservatory Symphonic Wind Ensemble in Winchester, Virginia, on a performance of his work “And the grass sings in the meadows” on March 3. From March 15-17 he guest conducted the West Virginia All-State Band as part of the West Virginia Music Educators Association conference in Morgantown, West Virginia. He also led the Georgia State University Wind Orchestra in Atlanta as guest conductor on a performance of his work “Looking at the Stars” on March 27.

School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies faculty member **David Alexander** and program alumna **Jennifer Sughrue** co-authored *The Challenges to School Policing* (Dayton, Ohio: Education Law Association, 2012), with Betty Cox and Luke Cornelius.

School of Education/Teaching and Learning doctoral students **Amanda Biviano** and **Jenny Martin** and faculty member **Katie Dredger** presented “Wikis, Blogs, and Face-to-Face Conferencing: Coaching Diverse Students in Differentiated Settings” at the Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy at Virginia Tech on February 8. Biviano also presented a poster titled “Service Learning as a Pedagogical Tool: Faculty's Insights” with fellow graduate students **Katie Barrow** and **Monica Kimbrell**, Human

Development; **Jennifer Cook**, **Beatriz Lima**, and **Jennifer Wagstaff**, School of Education/Counselor Education; and **Jonathan Manz**, School of Education/Educational Leadership.

Department of English/Rhetoric and Writing doctoral students **Franny Howes** and **Molly Scanlon**, along with Rhetoric and Writing alumnus **Daniel Lawson** presented the panel titled “The Panel as a Gateway: Comics, Multimodal Writing, and Rhetorical Transition” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in St. Louis, Missouri, on March 24.

Department of English chair **Joseph F. Eska** published “Script and language at ancient Voltino,” *Atti del Convegno Internazionale: Le lingue dell'Italia antica. Iscrizioni, testi, grammaticali. In memoriam Helmut Rix (1926-2004)*, ed. Giovanna Rocca (Alessandria: Edizioni dell'Orso, 2011), 93-113, with Rex E. Wallace.

Ed Falco, English and Director of the Master of Fine Arts program in Creative Writing, was featured on the public radio show “With Good Reason” the week of March 10-16 on its program titled “The Offer He Couldn't Refuse.” Falco is the author of the latest installment in the *Godfather* saga, a prequel to Mario Puzo's original. In *The Family Corleone*, to be published in June, Falco explains how Vito Corleone rose in the criminal underworld and how he became the Godfather. The program is available [here](#).

An essay by **Elizabeth Fine**, Religion and Culture, was translated into Ukrainian and published in an anthology in that country. “Lazy Jack: Coding and Contextualizing Resistance in Appalachian Women's Narratives” first appeared in *Appalachia and the South: Place, Gender, Pedagogy*, a special issue of the *National Women's Studies Association Journal*, 11.3 (1999): 112-17. It was published in Ukrainian as “Ледачий Джек: кодування та контекстуалізація опору в жіночих оповідях Аппалачі,” *Сучасна зарубіжна етнологія. Антологія* (Contemporary Foreign Ethnology. Anthology) Том 2 (Київ, 2010), 374-93.

The College notes with sadness the unexpected death of **Celia Hayhoe**, Family Resource Management Extension Specialist and Associate Professor in the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, on March 19. Hayhoe joined the Virginia Tech community in 2002. In 2006 she received the CLAHS Outreach Award and in 2007 she was the recipient of the Distinguished Fellow Award from the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education; during her career she served as president and as an executive board member of the association. The VT News *In memoriam* can be found [here](#).

The Higher Education (HED) Program in the School of Education recently awarded the Don G. Creamer Research Award to two of its students: **Tara Frank** for her project “Why Do They Leave? Departure from the Student Affairs Profession” and **Jonathan Manz** for “Measuring the Effectiveness of a Residential College.” The fund was established in 2005 to honor the work and distinguished career of Don G. Creamer, a driving force behind the Higher Education program for more than 20 years; this year's selection committee included Creamer, Bethany Flora, and chair **Diana Ridgwell**, CLAHS Director of Student Development.

The first number of the *Virginia Tech Undergraduate Historical Review*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (Spring 2012) was recently published. Founding editor **Robert Stephens**, History, created the journal with the support of funds provided by the Diggs Teaching Scholar Award he received in 2010. The Department of History plans to issue two numbers per year of the journal. History M.A. students **Stephen O'Hara** and **Heather Lennon** serve as Managing Editors. The *VTUHR* editorial board consists of the following History majors: **Victoria Heath**, **Alison Hight**, **Brian Marshall**, **Rebecca Middour**, **Gabi Seltzer** (also a Philosophy major), and **Waheed Sheriff**. The inaugural issue included the following articles by History majors: **Chris Whitney**, "The Silent Decade: Why It Took Ten Years to Ban DDT in the United States," 9-26; **Rae Kennedy**, "The Cold War Propaganda of Project Apollo," 27-44; **Myles Dauterive**, "Going Critical: Three Miles Island and the Federal Reform of the Nuclear Power Industry," 45-71; and **Luke Kalnajs**, "The New Life of Latvians in America," 72-88. A copy of the journal is available [here](#).

Congratulations to **Kent Holliday**, Music, who was awarded the 2012 Barto Prize for his original piano solo composition titled *Incantations from the Popol Vuh*. The work is based on the Mayan Council Book called the *Popol Vuh*, an adventurous saga about the hero twins Hunapu and Xblanque and their quest for good triumphing over evil. The prize was created by Tzimon Barto in 2006 to recognize the best piano solo composition based on a literary work; it is given every two years. Barto himself performed the composition during a concert at Bay State Theatre in Eustis, Florida, on March 24; the work also becomes part of his repertoire for the next two years. More about the prize can be found [here](#). Holliday was also one of six finalists in the Alienor International Harpsichord Competition.

Angela Huebner, Human Development, published "Advice to the therapists working with military families" in the *National Council on Family Relations Report* 57.1 (Spring 2012); the article is available [here](#).

Human Development faculty member **Andrea K. Wittenborn** and master's student **Bonnie Culpepper** published "Treating depression in men: The role of Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy," *Contemporary Family Therapy* 34 (2012): 89-103, along with Ting Liu.

The Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment (ISCE) conferred the following 2012 Summer Scholar Awards on CLAHS faculty: Principal Investigator **John Burton**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, for "Training Modules for Farm Workers and Families: Skin Cancer Prevention by Intelligent Self-management of Cumulative Ultraviolet Exposure," with Co-PIs Kerry Redican, College of Veterinary Medicine/Population Health Sciences, Robert D. Grisso, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences/Biological Systems Engineering, and Don C. Ohanehi, College of Engineering/Mechanical Engineering, \$17,506; PI **Katrina Powell**, English and director of Women's and Gender Studies, for "Empowerment Programs in Sri Lanka: Measuring Impact across Rehabilitation," with Co-PI **James Hawdon**, Sociology and director of the Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention, and team member **Donald Shoemaker**, Sociology, \$20,000; and PI **Doris Zallen**, Science and Technology in Society, for "Development of a Web-Based Aid to Guide Decisions Regarding Genetic Testing for Predisposition to Alzheimer's Disease," \$17,200.

In addition, **Bernice Hausman**, English, was selected as one of two ISCE Senior Fellows for Fall 2012. The Senior Fellows program is designed to support faculty who are pursuing an innovative research agenda that has strong potential for significant future funding; it provides an opportunity for faculty

to prepare to lead a project by developing new expertise in a research area or further developing an existing area of research.

ASPECT student **Eli Jamison** presented “Strengthening Objectivity: Accessing ‘Cultural Knowledge’ in Feminist Epistemology” at the Virginia Tech Women's and Gender Studies Mini-Conference on March 16.

First-year ASPECT student **Holly Jordan** participated in the Southeast University Model Arab League, which was held March 16-18 at Converse College in Spartanburg, SC. She earned Best Delegate for her representation of Mauritania in the Heads of State Committee. On March 22 Jordan was awarded the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations’ “Model Arab League Lifetime Achievement Award” for her eight years of service to the Southeast, Northeast, and National Model Arab League Conferences. The award has been given seven times in the last 25 years; Jordan is the third student to have received this recognition.

Doris Kincade, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, published “A Historical Review of Environmental Factors and Business Strategies for U.S. Apparel Manufacturing Industry 1973-2005,” *Research Journal of Textile and Apparel* 15.4 (2011): 102-14, with AHRM alumna **Hyejune Park**. The paper was the winner of the journal’s Excellent Paper Award for 2011.

University Distinguished Professor and Department of Political Science chair **Timothy W. Luke** published the following : “Culture and War,” *The Renewal of Cultural Studies*, ed. Paul Smith (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2011), 219-29; “Environmentality,” *The Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Society*, ed. John S. Dryzek, Richard B. Norgaard, and David Schlosberg (New York: Oxford University Press USA, 2011), 96-112; and “From ‘Am I an American’ to ‘I am an American!’ Cynthia Weber on Citizenship, Identity, and Security,” *I am an American: Filming the Fear of Difference*, ed. Cynthia Weber (Bristol, U.K.: Intellect, Ltd., 2011), 205-09. In addition, Luke was honored at the combined Western Political Science Association annual meetings and the tenth anniversary celebrations for the Environmental Political Theory Workshop, an international network of social and political theorists developing critical approaches to the analysis of ecology, policy, and politics as well as new frameworks for teaching about the environment and politics. The anniversary celebration's concluding roundtable, “Great Works in Environmental Political Thought,” featured Luke’s *Ecocritique: Contesting the Politics of Nature, Economy, and Culture* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997), as one of three benchmark works that continues to anchor and orient contemporary scholarship in this area of political thought.

The Spring 2012 issue of “Pedagogy in Practice,” the magazine of Virginia Tech’s Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research (CIDER), features articles by several CLAHS faculty: “Assessment of Advising and Mentoring Graduate Students,” **Penny Burge**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; “Ground Up Pedagogy: Teaching and Stuttering,” by **Anthony Kwame Harrison**, Sociology; “Introducing an LGBTQ Course,” **Minjeong Kim**, Sociology; and “Embedding Reflective Practice in Student Learning” by **Kelly Parkes**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning. A link to the new issue is available [here](#).

Katrina M. Powell, English and Director of Women's and Gender Studies, published "Rhetorics of Displacement: Constructions of Identity in Forced Relocations," *College English* 74.4 (2012): 297-322.

Religion and Culture faculty members **Anita Puckett**, **Elizabeth Fine**, and **Betsy Taylor** published "Who Knows? Who Tells? Creating a Knowledge Commons," *Transforming Places: Lessons from Appalachia*, ed. Stephen L. Fisher and **Barbara Ellen Smith**, Sociology (Champaign-Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2012), 239-51, with Mary Hufford and Ann Kingsolver.

ASPECT student **Martin Saavedra** presented "Financial Literacy and the Mortgage Crisis" at the conference on Race, Class, Gender, and Ethnicity, at the Law School, University of North Carolina, held in Chapel Hill on February 25.

Dear Appalachia: Readers, Identity, and Popular Fiction since 1878. (University of Kentucky Press, 2011) by **Emily Satterwhite**, Religion and Culture, was featured in the March [Visible Scholarship Initiative](#), sponsored jointly by the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and the University Libraries. A reception on March 27 was held in recognition of this scholarship and featured remarks by Satterwhite. The previous week, on March 23, Satterwhite received the Weatherford Award for the best non-fiction monograph in 2011-2012 for *Dear Appalachia*; the award was presented at the Appalachian Studies Organization Conference in Indiana, Pennsylvania.

Barbara Ellen Smith, Sociology, edited *Transforming Places: Lessons from Appalachia* (Champaign-Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2012) with Steve Fisher.

The first meeting of the Graduate Humanities Fellows involved in the South Atlantic Humanities Project took place at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville on March 23. The Virginia Tech participants were Faculty Humanities Fellow **Clare Dannenberg**, English, **Tom Ewing**, Associate Dean and History, and eight graduate students: **Damion Blake**, ASPECT; **Dana Cochran**, ASPECT; **Vince DeGeorge**, Theatre and Cinema; **Elizabeth Jamison**, ASPECT; **Jennifer McCloud**, School of Education; **Pam Mullins**, ASPECT; **Marc Thomas**, ASPECT; and **Laura West**, History. Following a presentation on Digital History by Robert Nelson from the University of Richmond, the students engaged in a discussion of the implications of digital humanities for scholarship, engagement, and teaching. The Virginia Tech Graduate Humanities Fellows and University of Virginia South Atlantic Studies Fellows in the Public Humanities will meet three additional times this semester, with two sessions in Blacksburg and one in Charlottesville.

On March 7 the CLAHS Staff Association held its annual spring meeting, which included reports about this year's activities. The Scholarship Committee, chaired by **Brenda Husser**, Sociology, raised \$363 through a raffle, with all proceeds going to the CLAHS Staff Association Scholarship fund. The Special Projects Committee, chaired by **Geraldine Hollandsworth**, Communication, sponsored a community service project to benefit Mountain View Humane/The Waldron-Ricci Spay Neuter Clinic in Christiansburg. Thanks to the generous support from staff, faculty and students, a truckload of supplies and \$600 in cash contributions were delivered to the clinic. At the meeting the 2012-2013 officers were elected; they are: President **Tish Glosh**, Sociology; President-Elect **Leigh Ann Teel**, Office of the Dean; Secretary **Sandra Ross**, English; Treasurer **Brenda Husser**, Sociology;

Parliamentary Advisor **Linda Fountaine**, History; Staff Senate **Jennifer Hanratty**, International Studies, **Karen Nicholson**, Political Science, and **Kimberly Dodson**, Communication; Staff Senate Alternates **Linda Fountaine**, History, **Geraldine Hollandsworth**, Communication, and **Sally Wieringa**, English.

The following students were recipients of support from the CLAHS Undergraduate Research Institute (URI) in its Spring 2012 round of awards. Communication majors **Imani Holmes**, **Courtney Lofgren**, and **Katie Mawyer** received support for presentation at the National Association of Communication Centers 11th Annual Conference: Next-Gen Communication Centers. Their faculty advisor is **Brandi Quesenberry**, Communication. **Karalynn Drechsel**, a Theatre and Cinema major, garnered support for her "Theatrical Sculpture"; **Jane Stein**, Theatre and Cinema, serves as her faculty advisor. **Michael Perry** was awarded a grant for the production of his short film titled "Write It Like You Mean It"; his faculty advisor is **Paul Harrill**, Theatre and Cinema. **Jessica Smyth**, a major in Humanities, Science, and Environment, was recognized with support for her project titled "Climate and Gender in Sri Lanka"; her faculty advisor for this international undergraduate research experience is **Katrina Powell**, English and Director of Women's and Gender Studies. **Elizabeth (Jade) Womack**, a Sociology and International Studies major, received an award to support her presentation titled "The Implications of being Bi-Racial and Bi-Ethnic for the Modern Day America" at the Virginia Social Science Association Annual Conference at Old Dominion University; her faculty advisor is **Peter Wallenstein**, History.

In addition, the URI provided funding to the Departments of English (**Jim Dubinsky**), History (**Mark Barrow**), Music (**Ariana Wyatt**), and Religion and Culture (**Peter Schmitthenner**) in support of Department Research Day in their respective units.

The Virginia Tech String Project gave two presentations at the national conference of the American String Teachers Association in Atlanta on March 23. Director **Vernon Burnsed**, Master Teacher **Yi-wen Evans**, graduate student **Ariele Wildt**, and student teachers **Matt Majors** and **Kathleen Gately** presented in the "Emerging Programs" and "Best Practices" sessions at the conference.

At its March meeting the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors conferred the emeritus title on **Dennis Welch**, Associate Professor of English. Welch joined the Virginia Tech community in 1981. He earned his bachelor's degree from Loyola University and his master's and Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. A member of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, and the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Welch made significant contributions to the understanding of English literature through his work on William Blake as well as other American and British writers. He taught a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses during his career at Virginia Tech, placing strong emphasis on student learning and excellence in writing.

Laura West, a master's candidate in History, **Katharine Goins**, a senior History and Biological Sciences major, and **E. Thomas Ewing**, Associate Dean and History, published "Approaching Booker T. Washington as Public History," *Public History News* 32.2 (March 2012): 12. The article discusses the Booker T. Washington workshop held in November 2011 at Virginia Tech.

Elizabeth (Jade) Womack, a first-year student in Sociology and International Studies, was recognized as an Honorable Mention Delegate for her representation of Mauritania in the Social Affairs Committee at the Southeast Regional Model Arab League, Converse College, Spartanburg, SC, on March 16-18.

Alumni Highlights

Mira Ahn, who earned her Ph.D. from the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management in 2004 received the Housing Education and Research Association's Early Career Housing Award at the Housing Education and Research Association annual conference in Baton Rouge, LA, October 14, 2011. Ahn currently is a faculty member at Texas State University.

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