



# News2Note

September 2020

Congratulations to all academic advisors across the College for successfully navigating summer orientation, which took place completely online. Approximately 20 advisors conducted more than 1,000 virtual, 30-minute sessions with new CLAHS students. They provided guidance to students regarding Pathways to General Education, major requirements, and transfer credit while assisting students with course enrollment for the fall semester.

**Biko Agozino**, Sociology, published “Omumu na Omenala Ezi na Uno ndi Igbo (Education [or Learning] and Tradition in Igbo Families),” *Igbo Studies Review* 8 (2020): 165–75.

**Barbara Allen**, Science, Technology, and Society, published “Community-Based Participatory Research in the News: A Qualitative Case Study of the Online Media Characterization of a French Health Study,” *Science Communication* 42.2 (2020): 172–94, with Catherine dP. Duarte and Alison Cohen.

ASPECT doctoral student **Nada Berrada** presented “Contextualizing Everyday Practices of Agency among Moroccan Youth” virtually at the “Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies 2020 Conference for Arab Graduate Students in Western Universities” in Doha, Qatar, on August 11.

**Rosemary Blieszner**, Alumni Distinguished Professor in the Center for Gerontology and Department of Human Development and Family Science, published “[Friendship in Later Life: A Research Agenda](#),” *Innovation in Aging* 3.1 (2019), with **Aaron Ogletree**, a 2013 Human Development and Family Science alumnus, and Rebecca Adams.

**David Brunsmma**, Sociology, was the [recipient of the Founder’s Award for Scholarship and Service](#) from the American Sociological Association’s Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities. The award recognizes career excellence in substantive academic scholarship and professional and/or community service. Past winners also have engaged in significant mentorship of junior

colleagues and graduate students, which is among Brunnsma's accomplishments. Brunnsma is only the tenth recipient in the history of the award.

ASPECT doctoral student **Jay Burkette** published "[Imperial Law as Identity Politics: A Subjective Perspective](#)," *SPECTRA: The ASPECT Journal* 7.2 (2020): 13–24.

School of Education faculty members **Matthew Fullen** and **Gerard Lawson**, doctoral student **Justin Jordan**, and recent Ph.D. graduates **Jonathan Wiley** and **Jyostana Sharma** published "[Heartbreaking Referrals, Professional Disgrace: The Impact of Medicare Ineligibility on the Counseling Profession](#)," *Adultspan Journal* 19.1 (2020): 3–21.

School of Education faculty member **Matthew Fullen**, doctoral student **Jordan Westcott**, and recent alumna **Julianna Williams** published "Knowledge Is Power: An Analysis of Counseling Professionals' Medicare Policy Proficiency," *Journal for Social Action in Counseling and Psychology* 12.1 (2020): 44–56.

ASPECT doctoral student **Rob Flahive** was selected through a competitive process to participate in the National Humanities Center Summer 2020 Graduate Student Summer Virtual Residency workshop titled "Passionate Teaching in a Research Environment: How to Create Meaningful Online Learning Experiences." The five-day program, which took place in July, modeled best practices for undergraduate teaching in the digital world.

Center for Gerontology and Department of Human Development and Family Science faculty members **Rosemary Blieszner**, Alumni Distinguished Professor, **Nancy Brossoie**, **Karen Roberto**, University Distinguished Professor and Director of the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment, and **Tina Savla** published "[Mastery and Longevity in Spousal Caregivers of Persons with Dementia](#)," *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B: Social Sciences* 75.7 (2020): 1558–62, with Zhe Wang and Jiafeng Zhu.

Center for Gerontology and Department of Human Development and Family Science faculty members **Rosemary Blieszner**, Alumni Distinguished Professor, **Karen Roberto**, University Distinguished Professor and Director of the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment, and **Tina Savla** published "[Where You Age Matters: Individual- and County-Level Predictors of Formal and Informal Care in Rural Appalachia](#)," *Journal of Aging and Health* 31.5 (2019): 837–60, with **Rebecca Bivens**, a 2016 Human Development and Family Science alumna; and "[A Long and Winding Road: Dementia Caregiving with Grit and Grace](#)," *Innovation in Aging* 3.3 (2019), with **Brandy McCann**, Center for Gerontology.

ASPECT doctoral student **Hannah Glasson** published a review of Cary Wolfe's [What is Posthumanism?](#) in *SPECTRA: The ASPECT Journal* 7.2 (2020): 30–33.

**Rachel Hachem**, a senior Creative Technologies in Music major, [led a collaborative project between Virginia Tech's Linux Laptop Orchestra \(L2Ork\) and Sensel, Inc.](#), to create software capable of communicating with a device that can translate finger pressure into sound and light.

The first Virginia Tech student to select Creative Technologies in Music as a major, Hachem wrote code and led the development of the software under the mentorship of **Ico Bukvic**, Performing Arts and Director of L2Ork. The partnership between L2Ork and Sensel, a tech company specializing in computer interaction, began in 2018.

**Dennis Halpin**, History, was recognized by the Baltimore City Historical Society with an [award](#) “to persons who have published and are respected in the academic and professional historian community” for his book, [A Brotherhood of Liberty: Black Reconstruction and Its Legacies in Baltimore, 1865-1920](#) (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019).

Department of History master’s student **Jessica Brabble**, **Tom Ewing**, Professor of History and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, and **Ariel Ludwig**, a May 2020 Ph.D. graduate in Science, Technology, and Society, published “[Why Was There a Backlash Against Face Masks During the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918?](#)” on *HistoryExtra*, the official website for BBC History Magazine, BBC History Revealed, and BBC World Histories Magazine, on July 24.

The Virginia Tech Center for Humanities recently [was awarded \\$500,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation’s Theology Program](#) to support “Future Human, Human Futures,” a project that combines religion, ethics, and technology to tackle fundamental questions of what it means to be human in a technological age. **Sylvester Johnson**, Director of the Center and Professor of Religion and Culture, serves as the Principal Investigator. The three-year project will enable researchers in religion and theology to engage with experts in technology and innovation domains, such as artificial intelligence, synthetic biology, and cybernetics. Among the planned activities are a series of summer research institutes and a partnership with [Do Good X](#), an accelerator designed for early-stage social entrepreneurs who are passionate about developing businesses that accomplish good in the world.

**Brenda Husser**, Office Manager and Chief Academic Advisor in the Department of Sociology, was recognized as the August 2020 [Advisor of the Month](#) by the Office of Undergraduate Advising. The Advisor of the Month program recognizes outstanding academic advisors based on evidence of qualities and practices such as quality of information and advice, strong interpersonal communication skills, implementation of a “support and challenge” environment, and accessibility.

Science, Technology, and Society doctoral student **Cheri Johnson** was awarded an NSF Dissertation Improvement grant for her dissertation research titled “Boundary Walkers: Insights into Expertise and Practices of Translation between Indigenous Knowledge and Western Natural Science at the Climate Change Forefront.” In addition, Johnson is the recipient of this year’s National Capital Region VT Alumni Scholarship.

**Brett Jones**, Education, published “[Engaging Second Language Learners Using the MUSIC Model of Motivation](#),” *Frontiers in Psychology* 11 (2020), 1204; and “[The Cognitive Training Version of the MUSIC® Model of Motivation Inventory: A Follow-up Validity Study](#),” *Schizophrenia Research* 216 (2020): 516–19, with Alice Saperstein, Alice Medalia, and Marie Hansen.

The College notes with sadness the death of **Christine Kaestle**, Professor of Human Development and Family Science, on July 16. The recipient of the College's Excellence in Research and Creative Scholarship Award as well as a Certificate of Teaching Excellence Award, Kaestle served as Director of the Human Sexuality Studies Graduate Certificate Program. The Virginia Tech "In memoriam" can be found [here](#).

**Timothy Luke**, University Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science, published "[The Social Crises, Political Conflicts and Cultural Contradictions of 'Nixonland': Tracing Constitutional Crisis in the USA from Nixon to Trump](#)," *Fast Capitalism* 17.1 (2020): 109–27.

The Covid-19 electroacoustic composition "Strongarm a Loose Crown" by **Eric Lyon**, Performing Arts, had its premiere on August 14 at the Irish Sound, Science and Technology Association event, ISSTA 2020: Sonic Practice Now. The work features performances by School of Performing Arts faculty members **Jason Crafton**, **Kyle Hutchins**, and **Alan Weinstein**.

**Carol Mullen**, Education, published [Revealing Creativity – Exploration in Transnational Education Cultures](#) (Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2020); and [Veteran Teacher Resilience – Why Do They Stay?](#) (Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2020), with **Lee Brantley Shields**, a 2020 Educational Leadership and Policy Studies alumnus.

**Su Fang Ng**, Clifford A. Cutchins III Professor in the Department of English, published "Reading Ancient Fables from the East: Pierre-Daniel Huet's Two-Origin Etiology of Romance," *Beyond Greece and Rome: The Ancient Near East in Early Modern Europe*, ed. Jane Grogan (Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2020), pp. 93–112.

**Charles Nichols**, Performing Arts, premiered *For the Love of One* on July 16, performing electric violin and computer telematically with his band Modality for the Network Music Festival; the performance was streamed online from Birmingham, United Kingdom, on July 16.

**Katalin Parti**, Sociology, published [Juvenile Justice and Schools: Policing, Processing, and Programming](#) (San Diego, California: Cognella, 2020), with Doshie Piper, J. Renee Trombley, Georgen Guerrero, and O. Oko Elechi.

**Anthony Peguero**, Sociology, published "Can Family and Neighborhood Cohesiveness Buffer the Association Between Family Economic Hardship and Children's Peer Victimization?" in *Families in Society* 101.3 (2020): 382–94, with Jun Sung Hong, Eun-Jee Song, Chi-Fang Wu, and Alexandra C. Schmaeman.

*Time Garden: Morning*, for computer music accompanying motion capture dance in virtual reality, by School of Performing Arts faculty members **Scotty Hardwig** and **Charles Nichols**, with Zach Duer, had its premiere at the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Special Interest Group on Programming Languages International Conference on Functional Programming

International Workshop on Functional Art, Music, Modelling and Design; the event took place online on August 28 from Jersey City, New Jersey.

**Dustin Read**, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, and Sam Kuprianov, a Real Estate and Finance major, coauthored "[Using Capital Improvements to Create Competitive Advantage in the COVID-19 Era](#)," a research report for the National Association for Industrial and Office Parks, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association.

**Ashley Reed**, English, published [Heaven's Interpreters: Women Writers and Religious Agency in Nineteenth-Century America](#) (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2020).

**Patrick Ridge**, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, published "[Thunder and Terror: Storm as Allegory in Tatiana Huezo's Tempestad](#)," *Screening the Indigenous Experience in Contemporary Latin American Cinema*, special issue of *Diálogo* 23.1 (2020): 69–84.

Department of Sociology doctoral students **Melissa Ripepi** and **Amy Ernstes** as well as faculty member **Anthony Peguero** published "Immigration Policy and Justice in the Era of COVID-19," *American Journal of Criminal Justice* 45.4 (2020): 793–809, with Holly Venture Miller.

Department of Sociology faculty members **Thomas Dearden** and **Katalin Parti** as well as Professor and Interim Chair **Jim Hawdon** published "Cybercrime in America amid COVID-19: The Initial Results from a Natural Experiment," *American Journal of Criminal Justice* 45.4 (2020): 546–62.

**Annie Stevens**, Performing Arts, released an album, [Our Favorite Things](#), with her percussion duo, Escape Ten, on July 24. Released on the Parma Recordings label, the album features several new compositions commissioned by the duo.

Two College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences faculty members were honored with a 2020 Albert Lee Sturm Award from the Mu of Virginia chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. **Carmen Giménez Smith**, English, received the [Sturm Award for Excellence in Performance and Creative Arts](#) for her book of poems [Be Recorder](#) (Graywolf Press, 2019); the committee lauded the timeliness and candor of Giménez Smith's poetry, as well as its technical artistry. **Danna Agmon**, History and ASPECT Core Faculty, received the [Sturm Award for Excellence in Research](#) for her book titled [A Colonial Affair: Commerce, Conversion, and Scandal in French India](#) (Cornell University Press, 2017), which was selected for its clarity of presentation and persuasive argumentation.

**Rebecca Weaver-Hightower**, Professor and Chair of the Department of English, co-edited [Cinematic Settlers: The Settler Colonial World in Film](#) (New York, New York, and Abingdon, United Kingdom: Routledge, 2020), with Janne Lahti. Her individual contribution to the volume was "Introduction: Reel Settler Colonialism: Gazing, Reception, and Production of Global Settler Cinemas," pp. 1–10, with Lahti.

**Alan Weinstein**, Performing Arts, served as the music director for the documentary film, [The Blech Effect](#) (2020), directed by David Greenwald and produced by Ground Control Pictures.

**John Wells**, Education, published “Technology Education Pedagogy: Enhancing STEM Learning,” *Pedagogy for Technology Education in Secondary Schools: Research Informed Perspectives for Classroom Teachers*, ed. David Barlex and P. John Williams, Contemporary Issues in Technology Education (Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing, 2020), pp. 219–44, with Didier Van de Velde; and “[Evidencing STEM Content Knowledge Transfer: Abstraction in Technological/Engineering Design Challenges](#),” *Journal of Technology Education* 31.1 (Fall 2019): 19–31, with Fred J. Figliano.

ASPECT doctoral student **Sara Wenger** published a review of Jerry Rafiki Jenkins’ *The Paradox of Blackness in African American Vampire Fiction* in *Foundation: The International Review of Science Fiction* 49.136 (2020): 125–27.

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