



News2Note

October 2008

The Virginia Tech Air Force ROTC detachment recently held the second annual Matthew La Porte 5K Benefit Run. The event was held on September 5, 2008, to commemorate Cadet Matthew Joseph La Porte, a victim of the April 16th Tragedy, who was a member of the Corps of Cadets and Air Force ROTC; La Porte loved to run, therefore his classmates believed the event would be a good way to remember him. This year 430 people participated in the event as individuals or as members of five-man teams. Participants made donations to the Matthew La Porte Scholarship; more than \$4520 was raised. Cadet **John Steger**, a History major in the Army ROTC, and Cadet **Kimberly Vowell**, a Wildlife Science major in the Navy ROTC and Regimental Sergeant Major, won the fastest male and female awards, and the Tactical Applications Company received the fastest five-man team award.

The 11th Annual Aviation Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held on September 16, 2008, at the Virginia Tech/Montgomery Executive Airport; the event was planned and executed by the Air Force ROTC detachment in collaboration with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. This year's inductee, Lieutenant Colonel LeRoy T. Burrows, United States Army Reserve (Retired), graduated from Virginia Tech in 1960 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and was commissioned in the U.S. Army.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty **Doris Kincade** and **Jihyun Kim** were awarded funding for their project title "The impact of cotton in the textile and apparel industry: Professional perspectives." The grant is funded by Cotton Incorporate and the Cotton Board.

For the third year in a row the VT Army ROTC cadets were recognized for their #1 Leader Development and Assessment Course performance among all six Senior Military Colleges. The performance this year exceeded last year's in five of the eight evaluation categories, including Graduation Rate, which increased from 99% to 100%. Virginia Tech's cadets placed first in six of the eight categories and second in the remaining two.

The Center for Applied Technologies in the Humanities (CATH) in the Department of English was recognized for its work in an article in the July/August issue of *Fine Books and Collections*. Titled "Whale Hunting: Taking watermarks online," the article draws attention to the Virginia Tech Gravell

Watermark Archive, an online resource developed through the CATH in partnership with the American watermark expert Thomas L. Gravell and the University of Delaware library. Department of English faculty **Daniel Mosser, David Radcliffe, and Ernest Sullivan** were instrumental in bringing the project to fruition.

Yvonne Chen, Communication, is serving as chair the Barrow Minority Doctoral Student Scholarship for the Communication Theory and Methodology Division (CT&M) of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) for the 2008-2009 year. The scholarship honors Professor Lionel C. Barrow, Jr., of Howard University in recognition of his pioneering efforts in support of minority education in journalism and mass communication.

On August 27 the Jocelyne Couture-Nowak Memorial Terrace Garden was dedicated in a ceremony at the Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion. **Jocelyne Couture-Nowak**, Adjunct Professor of French in Foreign Languages and Literatures, was a victim of the April 16 tragedy. The terrace adjoins the Pavilion of the Hahn Horticulture Garden and serves as a tribute to Couture-Nowak, whose flower-filled home gardens were enjoyed and admired by many; the flowers in the terrace garden are in her favorite palette of colors.

The following new first-year students were awarded a Dean's Scholarship by their respective departments or programs: **Rachel Fox**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management; **Briana Blanchard, Zachary Crizer, Anne Deekens, Whitney Fortin, Katherine Mawyer, and Ross Tudor**, Communication; **Monica Gaebe, Sydney Morgan, Jennifer Skidmore, and Allison Wilkes**, English; **Nicholas Denny and Rena Glavas**, Foreign Languages and Literatures; **Katharine Goins**, History; **Melissa Ann Coates and Kathryn Humphrey**, Human Development; **Elizabeth Margaret Levy and Kathleen Matthews**, Interdisciplinary Studies; **Nicholas Alasomuka, Sanali Dayal, and Katherine Shaia**, International Studies; **Rachel McGiboney**, Music; **Gabrielle Seltzer and Phillip Sisti**, Philosophy; **James Houser, Alex Kreitler, and Joshua Reynolds**, Political Science; **James Greene and James Hartman**, Sociology; **Alexander Beard and Patricia Costello**, Theatre Arts.

Gary Downey, Science and Technology in Society, was awarded the 2008 Sterling Olmsted Award by the Liberal Education Division of the American Society for Engineering Education. The awards committee recognized his distinguished contributions to scholarship about and contributions toward the improvement of the practice of engineering education. These contributions include his scholarly publications, his service to numerous organizations, including the ASEE, and most importantly his work as co-founder of the International Network for Engineering Studies (INES). He secured NSF funding for a workshop on engineering studies, hosted and developed a website for the nascent group, and led successful efforts to establish the journal *Engineering Studies* (Routledge).

James Dubinsky, English, was appointed director of the Center for Student Engagement and Community Partnerships; the purposes of the center are to coordinate partnerships, service, and experiential learning activities and to develop faculty and partner capacity for community-university engagement. The center houses the former Service-Learning Center as well as VT-ENGAGE. Dubinsky co-chaired Virginia Tech's Task Force on Student Engagement, serves as vice-chair of the board for the

YMCA at Virginia Tech, and is a recent winner of the College's award for outreach as well as the university's teacher-scholar award; his research focuses on community-university partnerships.

Jim Garrison, Foundations of Education, School of Education, recently received the Scholarly Achievement Award from the Institute of Oriental Philosophy at Soka University in Japan. While in Japan, Garrison, in his capacity as President of the John Dewey Society, presented the first ever John Dewey Society Lifetime Membership Award to Daisaku Ikeda, president of Soka Gakkai International.

Hip Hop Speaks to Children, edited by University Distinguished Professor of English **Nikki Giovanni** and just published by Sourcebooks, has won a NAPPA Gold Award. NAPPA is the National Parenting Publications Award; only 30 entries out of 375 were awarded the gold. The book is "a celebration of poetry with a beat." An audio CD that accompanies the collection includes 30 performances, some performed by the artists who created them. More information about the book can be found at <http://www.sourcebooks.com/products/literature/childrens/9781402210488-hip-hop-speaks-to-children-with-audio-cd.html>.

As a member of the editorial board of *Cityscape*, the research journal of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), **Rosemary Carucci Goss**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, was one of ten participants invited to Washington, D.C., to provide input on housing issues to the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research. The comments from the September 15 meeting will be forwarded to HUD Secretary Preston for consideration as HUD develops its Five-Year Plan that will be given to the next president. Goss's comments focused on rental housing, aging, and energy issues.

The short film "Quick Feet, Soft Hands" by **Paul Harrill**, Communication, has been selected to screen at the 11th Annual IndieMemphis Film Festival, October 9-16, and the 21st Annual Dallas Video Festival, November 6-9.

Human Development faculty **Joyce Arditti** and **Jay A. Mancini** have been appointed to the Family Outcomes Advisory Board of Family Justice, headquartered in New York City. Family Justice is a national nonprofit institution dedicated to developing innovative, cost-effective solutions that benefit people at greatest risk of cycling in and out of the criminal justice system. Arditti and Mancini provide consultation on developing and assessing prevention and intervention methods.

Brett Jones, Learning Sciences and Technologies, School of Education, Nicholas Polys, and Michael Ermann are the Co-Principal Investigators of a recently funded National Science Foundation (NSF) project, whose Principal Investigator is Mehdi Setareh, College of Architecture and Urban Studies. The project, titled "Integrating Web-Based Visualization with Structural Systems Understanding to Improve the Technical Education of Architects," will run for four years. The main research goal is the design and implementation of a knowledge base focusing on building structures and a state-of-the-art virtual environment system for building design. Jones will examine how these systems impact the education of architecture students.

Chad Lavin, Political Science, published *The Politics of Responsibility* (Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2008).

Ilja Luciak, Political Science, recently published the following: "Joining Forces for Democratic Governance: Women's Alliance Building for Post-war Reconstruction in Central America" in *Gendered Peace: Women's Search for Post-war Justice and Reconciliation*, ed. Donna Pankhurst (New York and London: Routledge, 2008), 229-63; "Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector and Gender" in *The Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit*, eds. Megan Bastick and Kristin Valasek (Geneva: DCAF, OSCE/ODIHR, UN-INSTRAW, 2008), available online at <http://www.un-instraw.org/en/gps/security-toolkit/parliamentary-oversight-2.html>; and "Gender Dimensions in War and Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean," a consultant report prepared for the United Nations' Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), Project on the National Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (March 2008).

Jenn Mackay, Communication, co-authored with Wilson Lowrey and Amanda Brozana the article "Toward a Measure of Community Journalism," *Mass Communication and Society* 11,3 (2008): 275-99.

Jay Mancini, Human Development, was selected to receive Kansas State University's 2008 College of Human Ecology Distinguished Research Award. The award recognizes a Human Ecology graduate's significant success in research that applies Human Ecological theory to studies that contribute to the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. Mancini will be recognized at the Legacy of Excellence Recognition Banquet October 17, 2008.

Ashley Maynor, Visiting Assistant Professor in Communication and local filmmaker, has been named one of three recipients of the 2008 Southern Humanities Media Fund competition to receive a grant for her latest documentary film. The Southern Media Humanities Fund is dedicated to supporting artists exploring the American South and its changing cultural climate. The Arts Council of the Blue Ridge is partnering with Maynor as the fiscal agent and outreach partner for her project.

Cadet **Ryan J. Meritt**, a senior in the Air Force ROTC, was awarded the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) Congressional Medal of Honor Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually to one outstanding student committed to serving in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps and enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). Recipients exemplify the spirit of courage, selflessness, service to country, and pursuit of academic and military excellence in their academic and military endeavors as well as their extracurricular activities. Primary criteria for selection are a candidate's demonstrated leadership performance and potential, and strong commitment to serve in the United States Armed Forces.

Peggy Meszaros, William E. Lavery Professor of Human Development and Director of Center for Information Technology Impacts on Children, Youth, and Families, and **Elizabeth Creamer**, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, School of Education, are the recipients of an award from the National Science Foundation for \$2,479,111, effective October 1, 2008. The five-year, five-state research project will extend research findings related to the issue of women pursuing careers in information technology (IT) and will explore building community capacity to support Appalachian middle and high

school girls' choice of an IT career. Meszaros is the Principal Investigator on the grant, Creamer serves as the Co-PI.

Deborah Milly, Political Science, was an invited Japan Policy Fellow with the Japan Chair of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., in spring. In conjunction with that experience, she presented a roundtable and published an article, both titled "Will Japan Get Immigration Right?" The article appeared in the newsletter *Japan Chair Platform* of June 26, available online at http://www.csis.org/component/option,com_csis_pubs/task,view/id,4539/type,3/.

Captain Thomas Rubenstein, Major Trent Gibson (now at Quantico), and **Lieutenant Donald Lee**, Naval ROTC unit members, were recognized with an Advancing Women Award from the Virginia Tech Women's Center. The center honors individuals in the VT community who support our mission and work to promote and celebrate women and their achievements on this campus. The 13th annual awards ceremony took place at The Inn on September 16.

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences is pleased to welcome **Jocelyn (Jocey) Sanders** to the position of Assistant Director of Development. Prior to coming to Virginia Tech in June 2008, Sanders worked in Development and Alumnae Relations at Hollins University, most recently as a Major Gifts Officer.

Laura Sjoberg, Political Science, was chosen as a Visiting Scholar by the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Michigan for Summer 2008. In addition, as a participant in the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan during the summer, she attended a four-week program in statistical and quantitative methods for political and social sciences. Since January Sjoberg has published the following: "Why Just War Needs Feminism Now More Than Ever" in *International Politics* 45,1 (January 2008): 1-18; with Caron Gentry, "Reduced to Bad Sex: Narratives of Violent Women from the Bible to the War on Terror" in *International Relations* 22,1 (March 2008): 5-23; "The Norm of Tradition: Gender Subordination and Women's Exclusion in International Relations" in *Politics and Gender* 4,1 (March 2008): 73-80; "Scaling IR Theory: Geography's Contribution to Where IR Takes Place" in *International Studies Review* 10,3 (August 2008): 471-99; and with Caron Gentry, "Profiling Terror: Gendering the Logic of Suicide Terror and other Narratives" in *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft (Austrian Journal of Political Science)* 2008/2: 181-96.

Yannis Stivachtis, Political Science, is the President-elect of the Virginia Tech Gamma Omega Chapter of Phi Beta Delta, the Honor Society for International Scholars. In March he received the Most Favorite Faculty Award from the Office of Residence Life. Stivachtis has published the following since January: co-edited with Meltem Muftuler-Bac, *Turkey-European Union Relations: Dilemmas, Opportunities and Constraints* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2008); the edited volume *Global Affairs in a Turbulent World: Perspectives and Controversies* (Athens: ATINER, 2008); "Europe and the 'Turk': An English School Approach to the Study of EU-Turkish Relations" and with Nicholas A. Sarokhanian, "Fulfilling the Copenhagen Political Criteria: A Comparison between Turkey, Bulgaria, and Romania," both in *Turkey-European Union Relations*, 17-39 and 279-301 respectively; "EU Enlargement and Political Conditionality: Consolidating Democracy in Bulgaria and Romania" and with Scott G. Nelson,

"Prudence, Legitimacy, and International Relations: Learning the Lessons of Iraq," both in *Global Affairs in a Turbulent World*, 143-168 and 33-56 respectively; "Civilization and International Society: The Case of European Union Expansion" in *Contemporary Politics* 14,1 (March 2008): 71-89; "Power in the Contemporary International Society: International Relations Meets Political and Social Theory - A Critical Appraisal of U.S. Foreign Policy" in *Journal of Political and Military Sociology* 36,1 (Summer 2008): 85-101; "Migration, Identity, and the Politics of Security" in *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* 2,1 (2008): 85-108; "Anti-Americanism: Can the U.S. Do Anything about It?" in *Journal of International and Cross-Cultural Affairs* 2,1 (2008): 1-16; and a review of Stephen Holmes, *The Matador's Cape: America's Reckless Response to Terrorism* (2007) in *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 38,2 (2008): 366-68.

Tiffany Trent, English, was awarded the Society for Children's Writers and Book Illustrators (SCBWI) Work-in-Progress Grant for 2008. Last year there were more than 400 applicants for the grant.

The Undergraduate Academic Affairs Office brought together 202 faculty, staff and first-year students on September 1 for its third annual "Connect to the CLAHS Community" event. "Connect" features table discussions led by faculty members, CLAHS Student Ambassadors, and student leaders; it is designed to welcome the new first-year and transfer students to the College and help them make connections with faculty and continuing students. The event takes place during the second week of the semester so that faculty and staff can address any unanswered questions about academics and student life the new students might have.

Beth Waggenpack, Communication, co-authored *Communication: Principles of Tradition and Change*, published by Kendall/Hunt Publishing. The other authors of the new basic communication textbook are Samuel P. Wallace, Kimberly N. Rosenfeld, and David L. Bodary.

Charles Walcott, Political Science, has been elected president of the American Political Science Association's Presidency Research Group. Walcott had served the group previously as secretary-treasurer and vice president. The PRG is the association's official organized section on presidency research.

Janell Watson, Foreign Languages and Literatures/French, published the following: "Theorising European Ethnic Politics with Deleuze and Guattari" in *Deleuze and Politics*, eds. Ian Buchanan and Nicholas Thoburn (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2008), 196-217; and "Schizoanalysis as Metamodeling" in *Fibreculture* 12 (2008), special issue on "Models, Metamodels and Contemporary Media," edited by Gary Genosko and Andrew Murphie, available online at: http://journal.fibreculture.org/issue12/issue12_watson.html.

Alan Weinstein, Music, performed in May at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, with his piano trio; the Kandinsky Piano Trio consists of Benedict Goodfriend, violin, Weinstein, cello, and Elizabeth Bachelder, piano. In its review of the performance, the *Charleston Post and Courier* called them a trio of "stunning talent" whose "sparkling technique got everyone's attention."

Laura Zanotti, Political Science, published: “Normalizing democracy and human rights: discipline, resistance and carceralization in Croatia's Euro Atlantic Institutions” in the *Journal of International Relations and Development* 11(2008): 222-50, and “Imagining democracy, building unsustainable institutions: The United Nations Peacekeeping Operation in Haiti” in *Security Dialogue* 39,5 (October 2008): 539-61. In addition, in the summer Zanotti served for a third year as a Visiting Professor at Trento University, School of International Studies, where she taught a Ph.D. seminar on the relevance of Foucault for the study of International Relations.

Alumni Highlight

This month we are pleased to introduce a new feature, namely the recognition of accomplishments by one alumna or alumnus of a program in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Here is our first former student in the limelight:

Heather Davis Epkins, a 1996 Virginia Tech alumna in communication studies and currently a student in the Ph.D. program at the University of Maryland, has just been awarded a pre-doctoral fellowship from START, Symposium on Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, a DHS-funded research center at the University. A former press secretary on Capitol Hill for a federal congressman as well as a former journalist, Epkins is studying how the media in Washington, D.C., cover terrorism.

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