



# News2 Note

October 2009

The Virginia Tech Air Force ROTC detachment held the third annual Matthew La Porte 5k Benefit Run on September 25. The event commemorated Cadet Matthew Joseph La Porte, a victim of the April 16<sup>th</sup> tragedy, who was a member of the Corps of Cadets and Air Force ROTC. Because La Porte loved to run, his classmates believed this event would be a fitting way to remember him. Approximately 400 people participated this year as individuals or as members of five-person teams. The run began with the firing of the Skipper cannon by Stan Cohen, class of 1949, and concluded with the presentation of awards to outstanding runners. Participants made donations to the Matthew La Porte Scholarship; cadets raised approximately \$8,500 in contributions to the first two 5k runs. This year's event was again a success and a great way to honor one of our own.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Aviation Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony took place on September 15 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, Major Frank H. McFadden, United States Marine Corps Reserve, retired, graduated from Virginia Tech in 1948 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. Major McFadden was recognized for his achievements and valor for service in the USMC during both World War II and the Korean War.

On September 10 the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management held the kick-off event for "Diversity among Consumers: A Year of Study," a series of speakers and projects sponsored by the department to enhance awareness and understanding of the needs and characteristics of diverse consumers in the U.S. market. The inaugural speaker was Sherry H. Quall, president of White Good & Company.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty members **Rosemary C. Goss** and **Julia O. Beamish**, with Susan Sirota, published "Multifamily: A Senior Housing Option" in *50+ Builder* (Summer 2009): 36-38.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty member **Kathleen R. Parrott** and 2008 Ph.D. graduate **J. A. Lloyd** presented "Social Identity and the Single Female Home Buyer" at the International Sociological Association Research Committee 43 Housing Conference: Housing Assets, Housing People on September 1-4 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Sociology Professor Emeritus **Clifton (Cliff) D. Bryant** co-edited *The Encyclopedia of Death and the Human Experience* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2009), a two-volume reference work, with Dennis L. Peck.

Political Science Instructor **Elisabeth Chaves** was selected as the winner of the Christian Bay Award for best paper presented at a New Political Science panel during the 2008 American Political Science Association conference. The paper, titled "The Internet as Global Platform? Grounding the Magically Levitating Public Sphere," was presented at last year's APSA conference. Chaves received the award at the annual APSA meeting in Toronto in September; her paper will be published in *New Political Science: A Journal of Politics and Culture*.

Communication emeritus faculty member **Edd Sewell** and undergraduate Communication major **Rana Faye** will represent Virginia Tech's Department of Communication at the 2009 conference of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association South on October 1-3 in Wilmington, NC. Their co-authored paper "Ethnic Identity in Punk Rock" is based on Mark Orbe's Co-Cultural Communication Theory and derives from Faye's research, which has been supported by two undergraduate research grants: one from the Undergraduate Research Institute and the other from the Undergraduate Diversity Research Grant program. Faye presented her initial research at the Virginia Tech 7th Annual Undergraduate Research and Prospective Graduate Student Conference last spring. She has interviewed minority punk rock musicians in New York City, Washington, D.C., and other cities for the project, which began several years ago in an independent study with Sewell.

**Samuel R. Cook**, Sociology, published "The Boundaries of Participatory Research: Lessons Learned in the Monacan Indian Nation" in *Participatory Development in Appalachia: Cultural Identity, community, and Sustainability*, ed. Susan E. Keefe, (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2009), 89-113.

Through collaboration between the School of Education and the School of Visual Arts, the Center for Creative Technologies in the Arts recently opened the doors to the Experiential Gallery for Creative Technologies, located in Kent Square. The gallery is run by **Liesl Baum**, School of Education, Truman Capone, Somiah Muslimani, Morgan Sayers, and Deb Sim, all from the School of Visual Arts, as well as students Bobby Beaton and Bryan Lawson. On September 23 a reception was held for members of the community, politicians, and Virginia Tech faculty. Exhibits include work from faculty across the university.

**Michael A. Evans**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, co-authored a report commissioned by the Office of Educational Technology, Virginia Department of Education, titled "Learning without Boundaries," which documents an initiative that sought to understand the technical, social, and policy implications of integrating wireless handheld devices in schools. More information about the initiative can be found [here](#).

**Ed Falco**, English, published his third novel, *Saint John of the Five Boroughs* (Denver: Unbridled Books, 2009), which has been described as "a stunning and layered novel about the effects of violence, both personal and cultural, on its characters' lives. It's about the way violence twists character, but also about the possibilities for redemption and change, for achieving a kind of personal grace." A brief characterization of the plot, an excerpt from the novel, and an interview with Falco can be found [here](#).

**William FitzPatrick**, Philosophy, published "[Thomson's Turnabout on the Trolley](#)" in *Analysis* 69 (2009): 636-43 and "[Recent Work on Ethical Realism](#)" in *Analysis Reviews* 69 (2009): 746-60.

**Jim Garrison**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, was an invited commentator and guest at the national conference on "Democratic Education in the Spirit of John Dewey" at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill on September 24-25. Garrison responded to Nel Nodding, Professor Emeritus, Stanford University (September 24), and Larry Hickman, Director, Center for Dewey Studies (September 25). In addition, he participated with them in a panel discussion.

**William J. Glenn**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and Director of NVC Education Program at Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia Center, with Lawrence O. Picus, Allan Odden, and Anabel Aportela, published "The equity of school facilities funding: Examples from Kentucky" in the *Education Policy Analysis Archives* 17 (14), available [here](#).

**Médoune Guèye**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/French, published "African Mythic Context and Postcolonial Philosophy in Aminata Sow Fall's *Le Jujubier du patriarce*" in the *Journal of African Literature and Culture* 6 (2009): 105-20.

En route to the Virginia Tech-Alabama football game in Atlanta, the Marching Virginians stopped at Lakeside High School's football stadium in Evans, Georgia, on Friday, September 3. There the 370 band members performed before and during the football game at Lakeside High School, the alma mater of Ryan Clark, a member of the Marching Virginians who lost his life on April 16, 2007. The Marching Virginians also played alongside the bands of Lakeside High School and Evans High School, the game rivals, as part of the tribute. The stadium was filled to capacity and by halftime more than \$2,000 had been raised for the Ryan Clark Scholarship and Community award, established by Clark's mother to help a student in Richmond or Columbia (Georgia) County with college expenses.

The Marriage and Family Therapy program in the Department of Human Development now has four Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Minority Doctoral fellows among its Ph.D. candidates. The American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists recently added **Isha Williams** to its cohort. She joins **Darren Moore**, **Tenille Richardson**, and **Narkia Green** from the MFT program. The fellowship includes a generous award to support student expenses, travel to the annual AAMFT conference, and special networking and training opportunities for fellows.

**Deborah Mayo**, Philosophy, was recognized by the Office of the Vice President for Research as the September 7 Scholar of the Week. She received the recognition for developing a philosophy of science and reasoning in the face of uncertainty and error. Her research has involved developing an account of experimental inference in science based upon statistical reasoning and the idea of learning from error. Mayo is the author of *Error and the Growth of Experimental Knowledge* (1996, Chicago), which won the 1998 Lakatos Prize, awarded the most outstanding contribution to the philosophy of science during the previous six years. She is involved in organizing and funding interdisciplinary projects on the study of E.R.R.O.R. (Experimental Reasoning, Reliability, Objectivity and Rationality in Science, Statistics, and Modeling), and in 2006 a conference, ERROR06, was held at Virginia Tech. The conference resulted in a volume containing exchanges between Mayo and leading contributors to philosophy of science, statistics, and economics (Cambridge University Press, 2009; co-edited with Aris Spanos, Economics,

Virginia Tech). Mayo holds a visiting appointment at the Center for the Philosophy of Natural and Social Science at the London School of Economics.

**Marian Mollin**, History, was awarded a Humanities Summer Stipend for Summer 2010 for “The Power of Faith: Understanding the Life and Death of Sister Ita Ford.” She also was nominated to apply for an NEH Summer Stipend for the project.

*Confronting Inertia*, a CD recorded by Department of Music faculty **John Adler** and **Tracy Cowden** will be released on October 20<sup>th</sup> by Origin Classical, a record label based in Seattle, Washington. The recording features six new compositions for trumpet, piano, and electronics by composers across the country, and explores new concepts of art and sound, blending jazz harmonic and stylistic language with contemporary compositional techniques. More information can be found [here](#).

**Scott Nelson**, Political Science, published *Sovereignty and the Limits of the Liberal Imagination* (New York: Routledge, 2009). A description of the book is available [here](#) on the Routledge website.

**Walter Ott**, Philosophy, published *Causation and Laws of Nature in Early Modern Philosophy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009). A brief description can be found [here](#).

**Lydia Patton**, Philosophy, has been selected as a Fellow of the University of Pittsburgh Center for Philosophy of Science for the 2009 fall term. Founded in 1960 by the distinguished philosopher Adolf Grünbaum, the center established an Annual Lecture Series and a supporting series of volumes as its inaugural activities. In the subsequent decades, the activities were expanded to include the Visiting Fellows Program and international agreements with Konstanz, Germany; Athens, Greece; Coruna, Spain; and Catania, Italy. The Center supports a full calendar of events, including weekly lunchtime talks, monthly lectures, workshops and international conferences. Patton will pursue her own project, “Modeling Necessity”; present a lecture based on her work in progress in October; attend lectures, seminars, and reading groups at the Center; and conduct research in the Archives for Scientific Philosophy, which are housed at the Center.

The short story “Potatoes” by **Cheryl Ruggiero**, English, won 3rd Place in the 2009 Sherwood Anderson Short Story Contest. The contest is offered annually in Marion, Virginia, where Anderson lived from 1925 until his death in 1941. It draws entries from across the country and is part of the annual Sherwood Anderson Festival celebrating Anderson and his influence on the early modernist movement.

Sociology chair **John Ryan** was appointed to the Advisory Council of the Academy of Critical Incident Analysis at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. The Academy for Critical Incident Analysis was established with the support of the Dart Foundation to promote and disseminate scholarly research relating to the emergence, management, and consequences of critical incidents. The ACIA sponsors scholarship and research, hosts conferences and symposiums, and maintains research archives of incident records.

**Paula Marie Seniors**, Sociology, is a winner of the 2009 Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Award for her book *Beyond Lift Every Voice and Sing: The Culture of Uplift, Identity, and Politics in Black Musical Theater*, published by Ohio State University Press.

The Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs brought together 234 faculty, staff, continuing students, and first-year students on August 31 for its fourth 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 CLAHS first-year as well as transfer students to the College and helps them make connections with faculty and continuing students. The event takes place during the second week of the semester and provides students with the opportunity to ask questions about academics, student life, and involvement in co-curricular activities that will enhance their education. Thanks to all who served as discussion leaders.

### *Alumni Highlights*

**Kathleen H. Beach**, who earned her M.A. in English in 1972, published a children's picture book for flower girls and ring bearers. Double-titled *Madison's Mixed-up Flower Girl Magic* and *Aiden's Amazing Ring Bearer Act*, the two stories start from each end of the book and meet at the wedding in the middle. The book, intended for children ages 3-8, is co-authored by Kathy's daughter Stephanie B. Weeber and illustrated by award-winning watercolorist Maryann Leake Baisley.

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