



# News<sup>2</sup> Note

September 2010

Air Force ROTC Cadets **Brian Tignor (English)** and **Sean Grindlay (Economics)** were selected as Distinguished Graduates during AFROTC Field Training conducted at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, in July. **TSgt Matthew McElroy, Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge (NCOIC)** was reassigned to Fort Meade, Maryland, and will depart in December 2010 after nearly five and a half years at Virginia Tech; he will be replaced by **TSgt Wendy Goetz**, who arrived in June from the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas. The Air Force ROTC Detachment was awarded the Jeanne M. Holm Center "Team Excellence Award" for April-June 2010 for its Air Force Fitness Course initiative and cadet achievements in fitness and academic excellence during the Spring 2010 academic term.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty members **JoAnn Emmel** and **Irene Leech** published "Low-income households' response to higher home energy costs," *Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal* 38,4 (June 2010): 372-86, with Hyun-Jeong Lee and Ruby H. Cox.

The Army ROTC and the College welcome **Colonel David Chase** as Commander and Professor of Military Science, **Lieutenant Colonel Frank Intini** as Executive Officer, and **Captain Adam Reeves** as MS II instructor. The Army ROTC reports another record-breaking freshman class, with 122 new Army cadets representing four countries and 20 states; most of them are pursuing a major in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. More than \$1 million in scholarships was awarded to the first-year class, bringing the total for Army ROTC scholarships to all current VT undergraduates to more than \$4 million. The Army ROTC continues to lead growth in the VT Corps of Cadets, representing 74% of the Corps' growth in the past two years. Army cadets now account for nearly half of the Corps, a significant increase from 25% in 2005. During the summer of 2010 the Army ROTC graduated and commissioned 48 new Second Lieutenants, the second-largest commissioning class in 10 years. Five cadets completed spring semester studying abroad - Ecuador, France, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Tajikistan - and one cadet spent the summer on a cultural immersion trip to Senegal. There were 41 VT Army cadets who attended specialty summer training, including Airborne School, Air Assault School, Mountain Warfare School, Northern Warfare School, Cadet Troop Leader Training, and USMA Cadet Field Training at West Point. Army ROTC rising seniors had another impressive summer at the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), a national assessment course that all Army ROTC cadets must successfully pass to earn a commission. In addition, the Army ROTC sent a record 69 rising seniors to the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), a national assessment course that Army ROTC cadets must pass to earn a commission; it was the only member of its Senior Military College Peer Group to achieve a

100% LDAC graduation rate. Ten VT cadets earned the Recondo award, a distinction for those who score at least 270 points on the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) with at least 90 points in each of three events, score over 80% in each of three land navigation events, and earn a “Satisfactory” or higher rating in all evaluated dimensions. On leadership evaluations, between 21% and 25% of the cadets earned the highest rating possible for their performances during the assessment program. More than half of the Army cadets achieved physical fitness excellence by earning over 270 out of 300 points on the Army Physical Fitness Test. Four cadets scored in excess of 300 points, and **Cadet Chase Blankenship**, a History major, scored 347 points on the extended scale, making him the top male of his 447 cadet regiment.

**Esther Bauer**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/German, published “The Power of the Look: Franz Kafka’s ‘The Cares of a Family Man’” in *Kafka's Creatures: Animals, Hybrids, and Other Fantastic Beings*, ed. M. Lucht and D. Yarri (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2010), 157-73.

**Dinah Arnott**, **Alexa Fraley**, and **Jennifer Huggler**, teachers from Virginia Tech’s Child Development Center for Learning and Research in the Department of Human Development, have been awarded a Research, Education and Teaching (RET) fellowship from the National Science Foundation to participate in an ongoing NSF-funded study on young children's use of multi-touch technologies in learning geometric concepts. The three will work with the research team led by **Michael A. Evans**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, and including scholars and students from the Department of Computer Science at Virginia Tech and the University of Chicago, as they investigate children's communication patterns learning geometry under varying socio-technical conditions. The CDCLR teachers, led by **Isabel Bradburn**, Human Development and Center Research Director, will learn an observational form of the communication protocol, advise the research team on applicability in the classroom with preschoolers, and develop their own curriculum based on the study concepts. Arnott, Fraley, and Huggler will present their results at the annual National Association for the Education of Young Children and at a symposium for teacher-researchers sponsored by NSF later in the academic year.

**Sam Cook**, Sociology, published “‘To Learn and to Serve’: American Indian Studies in Virginia” in *Alliances: Re/Envisioning Indigenous-non-Indigenous Relationships*, ed. Lynne David (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010), 196-210, with Karenne Wood.

Congratulations to the MFA program in Creative Writing, Department of English, which was recognized by *Poets & Writers Magazine* as #35 among 527 MFA programs nationally, positioning it in the top 7%. In addition, the VT program is ranked #10 in poetry, and its trend in ranking is “up.” All of the programs that rated higher in either case have been established for a longer time; the MFA in Creative Writing at VT admitted its first full class in the fall of 2005. The complete listing is available [here](#).

**Bob Darrow**, a graduate student in Science and Technology in Society, participated this summer in a research project at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. RPI Professor David G. Hess received a \$249,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to support a 10-week graduate training seminar and additional research sponsored by the organization's Science and Technology Studies Program. Eight graduate student assistants – Darrow among them - were recruited from around the country to take part in the seminar. Each student conducted interviews and field research to develop a detailed case study of a city and state. Based on a survey of 30 state governments and 25 cities, the study identifies 15 best

practices and policies for each of the states and cities. The full report of the team, *Building Clean-Energy Industries and Green Jobs*, was set for release on August 1.

**JoAnn Emmel**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, published “Small electrical food preparation appliances” in *Consumer technology: Energy and equipment*, ed. J. McFadden, J. Rasdall, and F. Hunt (Columbus, OH: Association of Home Equipment Educators, 2010), X1-X19.

The College is pleased to note the following promotions to advanced instructor, which were announced by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors at its June 1 meeting. Promoted were: **Zana Combiths**, **Serena Frost**, and **Steve Oakey**. All three are from the Department of English.

From August 10-13 **Mariana Falconier**, Human Development and Clinic Director of the Center for Family Services in the Marriage and Family Therapy Program, was the invited guest of Professor Guy Bodenmann, Department of Psychology, University of Zurich, where she presented the colloquium “Dyadic Coping in Hispanic Couples and Measurement Issues in the Dyadic Coping Inventory – Spanish Version” as well as her adaptation of Bodenmann’s Couples’ Coping Enhancement Training (CCET) program to issues of economic stress. Falconier worked with Bodenmann and his team on two different manuscripts, one on the validation of the Dyadic Coping Inventory in a Spanish-speaking population, which Bodenmann created, and the other on the mediating role of dyadic coping between immigration stress and relationship satisfaction in Latino couples. Bodenmann also reviewed the manual for *TOGETHER*, the adaptation of the CCET program made by Falconier and **Celia Hayhoe**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, to help couples deal with marital and economic strain.

**Jim Garrison**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, published nine additional issues of his dialogues with Daisaku Ikeda, a prominent Japanese educator and religious leader, and Larry A. Hickman, director of the Center for Dewey Studies, in the popular Japanese publication *Todi* (Lighthouse): No. 592 (January 2010): 52-86; and Nos. 593 (February 2010) through 600 (September 2010): 52-65 in all eight issues. In addition, Garrison was the guest of the Faculdade de Filosofia (Faculty of Philosophy) at the Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil, where he presented a public lecture titled “Dewey and Derrida: Beyond Pragmatism, Poststructuralism, and Postmodernism.” During his August visit he also taught “John Dewey’s Philosophy of Education,” a mini-course, and met with two different research teams interested in the philosophy of John Dewey.

**Aarnes Gudmestad**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, with Kimberly L. Geeslin, published “An Exploration of the Range and Frequency of Occurrence of Forms in Potentially Variable Structures in Second-Language Spanish,” *Studies in Second Language Acquisition* 32,3 (2010): 433-63.

**Richard Hirsh**, History and STS, has been appointed to serve on the 2010 Energy Advisory Committee for the Virginia House of Delegates' Joint Commission on Technology and Science.

Department of History faculty members **Mark Barrow** and **Amy Nelson** recently made contributions to the emerging field of animal studies. Barrow published “The Alligator's Allure: Changing Perceptions of a Charismatic Carnivore” and Nelson authored “The Legacy of Laika: Celebrity, Sacrifice, and the Soviet Space Dog” in *Beastly Natures: Animals, Humans, and the Study of History*, ed. Dorothee Brantz (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2010), 127-45 and 204-21 respectively. Both papers were

presented originally at a conference on animals and history that the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., organized at the Literaturhaus in Cologne, Germany.

**Tom Hohenshil**, Professor Emeritus in Counselor Education in the School of Education and a graduate of Kent State University, was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Education, Health, and Human Services at his alma mater.

**James Klagge**, Philosophy, published "Eliminativism and the Mental" (in Russian) in *Epistemologia & Filosofia Nauki* (Moscow) 24,2 (Spring, 2010): 17-27; and "Das erlösende Wort" in *Language and World*, Vol. 2, eds. V. Munz et. al. (Frankfurt: Ontos Verlag, 2010), 245-55.

**Eric McCollum**, Human Development and Program Director for the Marriage and Family Therapy program at the Northern Virginia Center in Falls Church, published "Voices of experienced meditators: The impact of meditation practice on intimate relationships" in *Contemporary Family Therapy* 32 (2010): 135-54, with Irene Pruitt, a former master's student; as well as "Is solution-focused brief therapy evidence-based?" in *Families in Society* 91 (2010): 300-06, with Johnny S. Kim, Sara Smock, Terry S. Trepper, and Cynthia Franklin.

The 2010 McNair and NAOP Summer Research Symposium included several student and faculty participants from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. **Biko Agozino**, Africana Studies/Sociology, served as the adviser to Reginald McDaniel, Jr., an undergraduate Sociology major at Northern Kentucky University; **Sam Cook**, Sociology, mentored **Lauren Porter**, a VT undergraduate in American Indian Studies and Psychology, as well as Jessica McCauley, an anthropology student at the University of Virginia; **Elizabeth Fine**, Religion and Culture, mentored Aaron Turner, a University of Memphis undergraduate majoring in journalism and photography; **Anita Puckett**, Religion and Culture, served as mentor to Yunina Barbour-Payne from Northern Kentucky University. **Cindy Smith**, Human Development, was adviser to **Kelsey Jeffreys**, a senior majoring in Human Development.

*Ideal Cities*, the second book of poems by **Erika Meitner**, English, was published by HarperCollins (New York, 2010). The volume was a 2009 National Poetry Series winner; more information is available [here](#). In addition, the following poems by Meitner recently appeared in print: "Christmas Towns" and "In Dispraise of Heat," *The American Poetry Review* 39.4 (July/August 2010): 38; "Yiddishland" and "Niagara," *Indiana Review* 32.1 (Summer 2010): 22-25; "69," *Gargoyle* 56 (Summer 2010): 101-02; "To Whom it May Concern:" in *Subtropics* 10 (Summer 2010): 49-50; "Ideal Cities," *The New Republic* 241.4884 (10 June 2010): 43; "Terra Nullius," *Ninth Letter* 7.1 (Spring/Summer 2010): 62; "In Praise of Heat," *Barn Owl Review* 3 (Spring 2010): 46; and "Elegy with Construction Sounds, Water, Fish," *Virginia Quarterly Review* 86.2 (Spring 2010): 202-03. She also published these works in online venues: "[Inconsequential Alchemy](#)," *Painted Bride Quarterly* 82, and "[Big Box Encounter](#)," *Slate*.

**Daniel W. Mosser**, English, published *A Digital Catalogue of the Pre-1500 Manuscripts and Incunables of the Canterbury Tales* (Birmingham, UK: Scholarly Digital Editions, 2010) and "The Paper Stocks of the Beryn Scribe," *Journal of the Early Book Society* 13 (2010): 63-93.

**Corinne Noirot-Maguire**, Foreign Languages & Literatures/French, was awarded a short-term residency grant (*Séjour d'étude*) for June 2011 at the French-based Fondation des Treilles. Les Treilles is a philanthropic organization providing full logistical support and a stimulating interdisciplinary

environment for recognized artists, scientists, and scholars. Awardees are chosen annually through an international competition. Noirot-Maguire will use this writing residency to advance her book project on Jean de la Taille, a soldier-poet and humanist playwright of the French Renaissance.

**Pupung Purnawarman**, a Ph.D. candidate in Instructional Design and Technology in the School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, won the 2010 Graduate Student Paper Competition sponsored by the Eastern Educational Research Association for his paper titled "Impacts of teacher written feedback with explicit corrective comments on student writing in ESL/EFL contexts." Purnawarman presented his research paper at the EERA annual meeting held in Savannah, Georgia, on February 10-13. He will be acknowledged in the upcoming EERA newsletter and at next year's conference.

Department of Religion and Culture faculty members **Matthew Gabriele** and **Benjamin Sax** were awarded a Diversity Enhancement Grant from CIDER for their new Fall 2010 course titled "Jews and Christians: Creating Difference." They will use the funds to invite a number of guest speakers to the course and to fund a special film screening.

**James Robertson**, Alumni Distinguished Professor of History and Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, presented the keynote address at the dedication ceremony for the new Confederate monument in front of the Franklin County courthouse on August 7. The replacement monument, commissioned after the original was damaged, honors those from Franklin County who served in the Civil War from 1861 to 1865.

The thesis of **Matthew Schuler**, who completed his M.A. in Philosophy in May and is serving as an instructor in the department for 2010-2011, was selected for the annual William Preston Society Master's Thesis Gold Watch Award in the category of Humanities and Fine Arts. The work, titled "The Problem of Evil as the Problem of Pain," was selected by a committee of the associate deans of research and graduate studies from all eight colleges. It will be submitted to the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools in October as Virginia Tech's nomination for the organization's annual thesis award in this category. Schuler will be presented with the Gold Watch Award at the annual meeting of the William Preston Society on September 17.

**Esti Sheinberg**, Music, presented two invited pre-concert talks in Tel-Aviv, Israel, as part of the launching ceremony of two CDs and a DVD featuring 20<sup>th</sup>-century works performed by Liora Vinik, recorder, Liora Ziv-li, piano, and Yossi Levi, guitar; the recordings feature 20<sup>th</sup>-century works, in particular Israeli *lieder*. Sheinberg spoke about the "Sonata for Recorder and Piano" by Austrian composer Hans Ulrich Staeps and *Nigunim* by Israeli composer David Zehavi. Vinik presented Virginia Tech's Newman Library with the gift of the recordings.

Virginia Tech's chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, was named an "Honor Chapter" for its outstanding activities in 2009-10. Chapter Lambda Psi also received the prestigious Octavio Paz Award that was granted to only six chapters nationwide for maintaining "Honor Chapter" status for the complete triennium of 2007-10. This was Virginia Tech's second consecutive Octavio Paz Award and its eighth consecutive year as an Honor Chapter. **Antonio A. Fernández-Vázquez**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, who retired this year after 29 consecutive years as Virginia Tech's Sigma Delta Pi chapter adviser, was instrumental in earning this national honor, awarded

to only 12 chapters in 2010. Award selection is based upon the annual reports submitted by each of the 575 chapters every May; the National Executive Committee chooses approximately 10 "Honor Chapters" annually.

**Barbara Ellen Smith**, Sociology/Women's and Gender Studies, has been elected to the 14-member board of the Working America Education Fund, the national political education arm of the AFL-CIO. Smith was nominated to the board because of her research on workers in the U.S. South.

Department of Theatre and Cinema faculty members **Paul Harrill** and **Ashley Maynor** were selected recently to participate in the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers, the nation's only regional tour of independent filmmakers. On their tour, which will take place in March 2011, Harrill and Maynor will screen three of their films for audiences in 11 cities from Charleston to Baton Rouge. Southern Circuit is a program of SouthArts (formerly the Southern Arts Federation) and is supported in part by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

**Dale Wimberley**, Sociology, published "Quality of Life Trends in the Southern Black Belt, 1980-2005: A Research Note," *Journal of Rural Social Sciences* 25,1 (2010): 103-18. The article can be found [here](#).

**Andrea Wittenborn**, with A. J. Faber, published "The role of attachment in children's adjustment to divorce and remarriage" in the *Journal of Family Psychotherapy* 21 (2010): 89-104. In addition, she was an invited participant in the 15<sup>th</sup> Summer Institute on Longitudinal Methods: Analysis of Longitudinal Dyadic Data, Methodology Center, held at Pennsylvania State University on June 7-9.

**Laura Zanotti**, Political Science, published "UN integrated peacekeeping operations and NGOs: Reflections on Governmental Rationalities and Contestation in the Age of Risk" in *International Peacekeeping* 17,1 (2010): 150-67.

### *Alumni Highlight*

**Emily Barry**, a 2009 graduate with a B.A. in Spanish and currently a master's degree candidate at Virginia Tech in the School of Public and International Affairs in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, was awarded a Boren Fellowship for international study. Barry will use the fellowship, worth as much as \$30,000, to travel to Sri Lanka in November to work as an assistant to A.T. Ariyaratne, the founder and president of Sarvodaya, the country's largest disaster-relief and community development organization. During her eight-month stay in Sri Lanka, she also will study the Tamil language. This is not Barry's first project in another country. As an undergraduate in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, she founded a partnership between Virginia Tech's University Honors Program and the community of El Porvenir, Honduras, where she assisted residents in planning and coordinating human service programs in water sanitation, women's health education, youth empowerment, and nutrition and community gardening. Her work was supported by a grant from the Center for Student Engagement and Community Partnerships. More about Barry and her awards can be found [here](#).

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