



News2Note

November 2016

Two ASPECT doctoral students gave papers at the International Studies Association – South Regional Conference, which was held October 14–15 in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. **Rob Flahive** presented “Asymmetric Lines: World Heritage and the White City Imaginary” and **Johannes Grow**’s paper was titled “Disciplinary Governance: The EU Crisis and the Success and Failure of EU Studies.”

Amy Azano, School of Education, guest-edited “[Gifted and Talented Students in Rural Settings](#),” a special issue of *Journal of Advanced Academics*, Volume 27, Number 4 (November 2016), with Kevin Besnoy.

Danille Christensen, Religion and Culture, published “(Not) Going Public: Mediating Reception and Managing Visibility in Contemporary Scrapbook Performance,” *Material Vernaculars: Objects, Images, and Their Social Words*, ed. Jason Baird Jackson (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2016), 40–104. The open-access version of the volume is available at the bottom of [this page](#).

David Cline, History, published [From Reconciliation to Revolution: The Student Interracial Ministry, Liberal Christianity, and the Civil Rights Movement](#) (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016).

ASPECT doctoral student **Michele Deramo** delivered a pecha kucha presentation titled “Performing Bantu” as part of a roundtable on “Voice the Local, Invoking the Nation: Digital Applications as Vehicles for Community Inquiry” at the Imagining America Conference, which was held October 6–8 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The following faculty in the College received a [Fall 2016 Design and Develop Award](#) from Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies (TLOS): **Monique Dufour**, History, to develop a new course, HIST 3714 War and Medicine; **Erin Hopkins**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, for the revision of AHRM 2674 Multifamily Property Management and

Operations; **Justin Lewis**, English, for the revision of ENGL 3844 Writing and Digital Media; and **Nneka Logan**, Communication, for the revision of COMM 4074 Organizational Communication.

ASPECT doctoral student **Taulby Edmondson** presented "'A Weakness for Lost Causes': *Gone with the Wind* and the Reconciliation of White American Civil War Memory" at the Reconciliation after Civil Wars: Global Perspectives Conference, which was held October 13–15 in Arlington, Virginia.

Roger Ekirch, History, gave an interview titled "[Why We Fear the Dark](#)" on October 24 to "Naked Scientists" at Cambridge University that will be broadcast on BBC Radio 5 and Australian National Radio. In addition, his work appeared in [Psychology Today](#) on October 1, the [Daily Mail](#) on October 24, and [ABC Radio Australia](#) on October 26.

Three undergraduate students in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences were among the 14 inaugural recipients of a [Fralin Undergraduate Research Fellowship](#): **Saalehah Habeebah**, a junior International Studies major whose faculty mentor is **Will Taggart**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Arabic; **Rachel Hargrave**, a sophomore Creative Writing major whose faculty mentor is **Abby Walker**, English; and **Andrew Pregnall**, a junior History and Biochemistry major whose faculty mentor is **Monica Dufour**, History. Each Fellow receives \$1,000 to conduct research with a Virginia Tech faculty mentor over the course of one academic year.

Matthew Gabriele, Religion and Culture, published "[Fact Checking the Middle Ages](#)" in the *Washington Post* on September 27; the article resulted in an [interview](#) with the show *Late Night Live* on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. In addition, Gabriele co-edited [The Legend of Charlemagne in Medieval Latin Texts](#) (Suffolk, UK: D.S. Brewer, 2016), with William J. Purkis. His contribution to the volume was "Frankish Kingship, Political Exegesis, and the Ghost of Charlemagne in the Diplomas of King Philip I of Francia," pp. 9–32. Gabriele also published "Debating the 'Crusade' in Contemporary America," *The Mediaeval Journal* 6 (2016): 73–92.

University Distinguished Professor of English **Nikki Giovanni**, received the [2016 Literary Lifetime Achievement Award from the Library of Virginia](#) on October 15 as part of the week-long Virginia Literary Festival in Richmond. The award recognizes outstanding and long-lasting contributions to literature by authors with Virginia ties. Author of more than two dozen volumes of poetry, essays, and edited anthologies, as well as 11 children's books, Giovanni has received numerous awards and more than 27 honorary degrees.

Alex Hamilton, a senior Political Science and History major, was the recipient of the October 2016 [Aspire! Award for Curiosity](#). He serves as the Newman Catholic Community's student campus minister and created its Apologetics Series, which focuses on foundational subjects and current topics within Catholicism and other religions.

ASPECT doctoral student **Jordan Laney** presented "Who's Gathered Here? A Close Listening to Bluegrass Festivals in the Berea College Archives," a reflection of her time as the Appalachian

Sound Archives Fellow at Berea, at the Celebration of Traditional Music, held October 13–16 at the college. Laney also gave a paper titled “Re-historicizing Our Romance with Bill Monroe: The Unfinished Story of Carlton Haney’s and Ralph Rinzler’s Contributions to the Creation of the ‘Father of Bluegrass’” on the panel “Musical Voices and Dance at the Crossroad: The Unfinished Story of the Diversity and Regional Synthesis of Southern Music and Dance and Its Black and Global Roots” at the American Folklore Society Conference, which was held October 19–22 in Miami, Florida. In addition, Laney published “[The Unnoticed Contextual Realities of Hillbilly Elegy](#)” on the Virginia Tech graduate student commentary blog RE: Reflections and Explorations on October 10.

M. David Litwa, Religion and Culture, published [Desiring Divinity: Self-deification in Early Jewish and Christian Mythmaking](#) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016).

Alexis Priestley, a doctoral student in Rhetoric and Writing, published “‘The Worst Offense Here is the Misrepresentation’: *Thug Kitchen* and Contemporary Vegan Discourse,” *Critical Perspectives on Veganism*, eds. Jodey Castricano and Rasmus R. Simonsen (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), 349–71, with **Sarah Lingo** and **Peter Royal**, both of whom earned their M.A. in English in 2016.

ASPECT doctoral student **Mary Ryan** presented “Death and the Devil in August Wilson’s *Fences*” at An August Occasion: A National Conference on the Life and Legacy of August Wilson, which was held October 6–8 at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Suchitra Samanta, Sociology/Women’s and Gender Studies, published “An Interpretive Auto/Biographical Reading of Studio-Posed Photographs: Telling My Mother’s Life in Colonial and Post-colonial India,” *Biography. An Interdisciplinary Quarterly* 39.2 (Spring 2016): 172–96.

Brian Thorsett, School of Performing Arts/Music, presented a masterclass for graduate-level singers and performed a recital with pianist Martin Majkut and cellist Michal Palzewicz at Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon, on October 1–2. On October 7–9 he sang the role of Evangelist in Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* with the California Bach Society in San Francisco, Berkeley, and Palo Alto. With pianist **Richard Masters**, School of Performing Arts/Music, and San Francisco Opera cellist Emil Miland, he premiered David Conte’s *Love Songs* and Eric Chaote’s *...and fall* for the opening concert of San Francisco Conservatory’s 100th Anniversary Season, held October 11. On October 14–15 Thorsett performed excerpts from Victor Herbert operettas with the Theatre Comique in San Francisco. In addition, he sang the tenor solos in Handel’s *Alexander’s Feast* with the North Carolina Master Chorale in Raleigh on October 22.

Samantha Vasquez, a senior German and International Studies major, was the recipient of a 2016 Foreign Languages Association of Virginia (FLAVA) College/University Recognition Award. The award recognizes student academic achievement as well as devotion and accomplishments in learning German. Vasquez received free membership in FLAVA for the 2016–2017 year and

free registration for the fall conference, held October 6–8 in Williamsburg, where the award was presented.

Peter Wallenstein, *History*, published “Slavery under the Thirteenth Amendment: Race and the Law of Crime and Punishment in the Post-Civil War South,” *Louisiana Law Review* 77.1 (2016): 1–20.

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