



# News2 Note

September 2012

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty member **Kathleen Parrott**, along with program alumnae **Sunjin Lee** and **Mira Ahn**, published “Exploring housing challenges of low-income minority populations in the southern United States,” *Cityscape* 14.1 (2012): 73-98.

ASPECT student **Seth Barte** published a book review essay titled [“Christopher Lasch, Conservative?”](#) in the online journal *The University Bookman* (Spring 2012). The essay reviews *Hope in a Scattering Time: A Life of Christopher Lasch* by Eric Miller.

ASPECT student **Damion Blake** presented his doctoral research at the second workshop/conference of the Drugs, Security, and Democracy (DSD) Fellowship group of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), held in Bogotá, Columbia, July 23-28. A member of the 2011-2012 Fellowship cohort, Blake joined 19 other SSRC Fellows who made presentations about the progress of their research projects related to security, violence, policing, drug trafficking and governance in Central/South and Latin America and the Caribbean region.

**Rosemary Blieszner**, Human Development, was featured on the public radio show “With Good Reason” the week of Aug. 21-31 on its program [“The Wisdom of Age.”](#) She discussed a study that looked at how patients and their family members coped with mild cognitive impairment (MCI).

**Meredith Dean**, Religion and Culture, published “Organizing Appalachian Women: Hope Lies in the Struggle,” *Transforming Places: Lessons from Appalachia*, ed. Stephen L. Fisher and Barbara Ellen Smith (Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2012), 109-21, with Edna Gulley and Linda McKinney.

**François Debrix**, ASPECT Director and Professor of Political Science, published “Reading Daniel Deudney’s *Bounding Power: Republican Security Theory from the Polis to the Global Village*,” *Political Geography* 31.5 (2012): 389-98, with Mat Coleman, John Agnew, Alexander Murphy, and Daniel Deudney.

**Priya Dixit**, Political Science, published "Toward a Completely Constructivist Critical Terrorism Studies," *International Relations* 26 (June 2012): 199-217, with Jacob Stump.

The research of **Roger Ekirch**, History, on the history of "segmented sleep" and its importance to understanding insomnia appeared prominently in articles in *La Vanguardia* (Barcelona) on June 1, *Vox Objetiva Magazine* (Brazil) on June 1, the *London Times* on June 18, the *Financial Times* on June 22, the *Wall Street Journal* on August 3, the *San Francisco Chronicle* on August 9, *Latercera* (Santiago, Chile) on August 11, the *New Zealand Listener* on August 13, and *Semana Magazine* (Bogotá) on August 21. In addition, Ekirch was interviewed on "Kvanthopp," Radio Vega in Finland on June 7 and on "The Sunday Edition with Michael Enright," CBC Radio on June 17. *The City Dark*, a feature documentary film in which Ekirch appeared as a commentator, aired on *Points of View* on PBS television on July 5.

**Patti Fisher**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, published "The relationship of saving motives to saving habits," *Journal of Financial Counseling and Planning* 23.1 (2012): 79-95, with Sophia Anong.

Alumni Distinguished Professor of English **Tom Gardner** published "Close Reading" and "The Long Poem," *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*, editor in chief Roland Greene, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2012), 268-69 and 813-14.

**Aarnes Gudmestad**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, published "Acquiring a variable structure: An interlanguage analysis of second-language mood use in Spanish," *Language Learning* 62.2 (2012): 373-402.

Army ROTC Administrative Assistant **Debra Harry** was recognized for her 20 years of service in an article in the [Corps Review](#) 22.3 (Summer 2012): 25. Congratulations to Ms. Harry as she celebrates this milestone.

ASPECT student **Holly Jordan** spent ten days in June and July in Lebanon as a recipient of a National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' "Lebanon Summer Fellowship." She met with social activist groups, cultural leaders, and members of political parties. During the upcoming fellowship year she will share her experiences in Lebanon through a series of lectures and seminars as well as reflective essays on her blog, which is linked to her [website](#).

**Minjeong Kim**, Sociology/Women's and Gender Studies, published "Gendered Desire and Heteronormativity in the Transnational Matchmaking Process," in *Social Production and Reproduction at the Interface of Public and Private Spheres*, ed. Marcia Texler Segal, Esther Ngan-Ling Chow, and Vasilikie Demos, *Advances in Gender Research* 16 (Bradford, UK: Emerald Group Publishing Limited, 2012), 15-38.

ASPECT student **Lyusyena Kirakosyan** presented "Is promoting disability rights conducive to a stronger democracy in Brazil?" at the Second Forum of Sociology in Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 1-4.

**Bettina Koch**, Political Science, published "Priestly Despotism: The Problem of Unruly Clerics in Marsilius of Padua's *Defensor Pacis*," *Journal of Religious History* 36.2 (2012): 165-83.

**Chad Lavin**, Political Science, published "Tipping Point Discourse in Dangerous Times," *The Canadian Review of American Studies* 42.2 (August 2012): 142-63, with Chris Russell.

**Marc Lucht**, Philosophy, published "Animal Rights in a Democratic Context," *Skepsis: A Journal for Philosophy and Inter-disciplinary Research* 22.3 (2012): 412-28. This issue of the journal was dedicated in honor of Lucht. In addition, the paperback edition of his edited volume *Kafka's Creatures: Animals, Hybrids, and Other Fantastic Beings* was published (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2012).

ASPECT student **Christian Matheis** presented two papers at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Congress of the International Feminist Journal of Politics: "Feminists in Solidarity: A Critique of Structural-Positional Relations within Theories of Oppression and Equality" and "The Legend of the Whiteness Monster: Getting Feminists in 'the West' Beyond 'Whiteness'". The congress was held at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa, August 2-4.

**Corinne Noirot**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/French, published "At the Helm, Second in Command: Du Bellay and La Mort de Palinure," *Virgilian Identities in the French Renaissance*, ed. Phillip John Usher and Isabelle Fernbach (Woodbridge, UK: Boydell and Brewer, 2012), 189-212.

**Kelly A. Parkes**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, published "Examining preservice teachers' reflective practice with and across multimodal writing environments," *Journal of Technology and Teacher Education* 20.3 (2012): 229-49, with Sara B. Kajder. She also was the invited plenary speaker, along with James Rath, at the Society for Music Teacher Education Symposium in Greensboro, North Carolina, in September 2011; their lecture was titled "Evaluating dispositions in music teacher education." In addition, Parkes was awarded a grant from the National Association for Music Education in May to fund a two-year research project to study the assessment of student learning. The research project, "Blind peer review of portfolios to measure student growth in music: A pilot study," will yield findings that will contribute to the advancement of the field of music education, specifically in the ways K-12 music teachers in the state of Virginia measure their students' learning.

**Karl Precoda**, Theatre and Cinema, along with **Thomas N. Ratliff**, who graduated with a Ph.D. in Sociology in 2012, published "Aesthetic or Movement? Fascism, Italian Neorealist Cinema, and Social Activism through Film," *The Art of Social Critique: Painting Mirrors of Social Life*, ed. Shawn Chandler Bingham (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2012), 439-62.

**Diana Ridgwell**, Director of the Undergraduate Research Institute, and **Dylan Greenwood**, a 2009 Political Science graduate and founding editor of *Philologia*, are featured on the cover of *How to Start an Undergraduate Research Journal*, ed. D. Alexis Hart (Washington, D.C.: Council on Undergraduate Research, 2012), part of the CUR series published to help faculty and other

researchers create research and learning opportunities for students. A description of *Philologia* by Ridgwell is included in the Best Practices section, 78-80; *Philologia* was one of only 14 US and UK undergraduate research journals featured.

Virginia Tech's chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, was named an "Honor Chapter" for its outstanding activities in 2011-2012 honoring excellence in the study of the Spanish language, contributing to cultural understanding and upholding the goals of the society. **Sarah Sierra**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, was instrumental in earning this honor, awarded to only 14 chapters nationwide in 2012. Award selection is based upon the annual reports submitted by each of the 585 chapters every May; the National Executive Committee chooses 10-15 "Honor Chapters" annually.

This month the final volume of a 16-volume series titled [Founding Elections in Eastern Europe](#) edited by **Charles Taylor**, Political Science, and Hans-Dieter Klingemann, Wissenschaftszentrum-Berlin, was published by Edition Sigma, Berlin. The first volume appeared in 1995. Taylor and Klingemann have collaborated for the past 20 years on this project, which was initiated shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall and new governments throughout Eastern and Central Europe were established. The goals of the series were to: help integrate political scientists, especially younger ones, into the greater community of the discipline; assure careful documenting and archiving of polling data that surrounded the early free elections in their countries; and make available to Western political scientists the analysis and insights of Eastern European scholars. With support from the Thyssen Foundation, Taylor and Klingemann held conferences with young scholars to archive their data and edit their analysis of the evolving political party systems, the candidate recruitment, public opinion, new electoral laws, and government formations.

Two CLAHS faculty and one student took part in ["Hands-on, Minds-on,"](#) a National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates directed this summer through the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Undergraduate Research Institute; the project focused on understanding and preventing societal violence. **Jimmy Ivory**, Communication, and **Cynthia Smith**, Human Development, served as two of the five Virginia Tech faculty mentors. **Patricia Coia**, a junior in Human Development, was one of the ten student participants – and the only one from Virginia Tech. Each faculty member worked with two students; Ivory's students pursued the project "Reinforcing Anti-Violence Attitudes through Exposure to Violent Media Content; Smith's students, of whom Coia was one, worked on "The Socialization of Children's Emotions." All ten students discussed their projects and experiences in the program at a presentation on July 24.

**Brittany Usiak**, a senior in Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, was honored as a 2012 Outstanding Student by the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA). She was one of 17 top kitchen and bath design students at NKBA-accredited colleges across North America so recognized. The association made its announcement during the Educators' Forum at the NKBA's 2012 Kitchen & Bath Industry Show (KBIS) in Chicago.

**Andrea K. Wittenborn**, Human Development, was the guest editor for a special section titled “New Research Findings on Emotionally Focused Therapy” in the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy* 38 (2012); in that issue she published “New research findings on Emotionally Focused Therapy: Introduction to special section,” 18-22, with Susan Johnson; “Augmenting antidepressant medication treatment of women with emotionally focused therapy for couples,” 32-38, with Wayne Denton and Robert Golden; and “Exploring the influence of the attachment organizations of novice therapists,” 50-62.

### *Alumni Highlights*

This month’s News2Note features accomplishments by alumni from the School of Education.

**John Bailey**, who earned his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2009, was appointed to the position of Director of School Plants and Facilities for Chesapeake City Public Schools.

**Thomas Brewster**, who earned his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2000, was appointed [Superintendent of the Pulaski County Public Schools](#) on August 8. He has been employed with Pulaski County Public Schools since 2006, serving as Coordinator of Student Services from 2006-2008, Assistant Superintendent of Administration from 2008-2010, Interim Superintendent in 2010, and most recently as Deputy Superintendent from 2010 until his appointment last month.

**Sandra Brown**, who earned her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2009, was named the Principal of Virginia Beach Middle School.

**Mark Church**, who earned his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2007, was appointed Interim Superintendent of Franklin County Public Schools. Previously he served as Director of Technology for the county.

**Paul Andrew (Andy) Cox**, a 2011 Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Ph.D. graduate, was named Assistant Professor and Director of the Teacher Education Program at the University of Virginia’s College at Wise. Prior to his appointment, he served as Principal of Abingdon Elementary School in the Washington County, Virginia, Public Schools.

**Matthew Haas**, who earned his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2002, was named Assistant Superintendent of the Albemarle County Schools.

**William R. Hite, Jr.**, a 2001 Ed.D. graduate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, has been appointed [Superintendent of the Philadelphia school district](#), the third-largest school system in the nation. He will assume the position in the coming months. Hite served as Superintendent of Prince George’s County Public Schools in the Washington region since 2009, having served as Interim Superintendent beginning in 2008.

**Dana Kelley**, who earned her M.A. in Counseling in 1998 and her Ed.S. degree in 2011, was appointed as East Hall Special Education Coordinator at Benjamin Franklin Middle School by the Franklin County School Board. Prior to this appointment, Kelley served as a Visiting Teacher and Counselor in the Franklin County school system and as a Crisis Clinician for the Piedmont Community Services Board.

**Cindy Klimaitis**, who earned her Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in 2009, was named Principal of Fort Lewis Elementary School by the Roanoke County School Board. Prior to her appointment, she served as Assistant Principal at Burlington Elementary School also in Roanoke County.

Educational Leadership and Policy Studies 2003 Ph.D. graduate **Lillian Lowery** was named [Superintendent of the State of Maryland's public schools](#). In 1988 Lowery served as an English teacher at Madison High School. She rose to the position of principal of Fairfax High School and then assistant superintendent of the Fairfax County, Virginia Public Schools, a post in which she oversaw more than two dozen schools. In 2006 she became superintendent of Christina Public Schools, Delaware's largest school system, and three years later was named Secretary of Education for the state of Delaware.

**John Mayo**, who earned his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2012, was named Assistant Superintendent of Middle Schools in Baltimore County, Maryland.

**Greg Mullins**, who earned his M.A. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2011, was appointed Assistant Principal of Honaker Elementary School by the Russell County School Board.

**Ken Nicely**, who earned his Ed.D. in May 2012 and was honored as the Educational Leadership Outstanding Student for 2012, was named [Director of Secondary Education and Technology](#) by the Roanoke County School Board in August. Prior to his appointment to his new post, Nicely served as Principal of Hidden Valley Middle School in Roanoke County.

**Elaine J. O'Quinn**, who earned her Ph.D. in 1998 in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in English Education, was awarded the 2012 North Carolina Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence. O'Quinn teaches in the Department of English at Appalachian State University in Boone. The award, which consists of a cash prize and a commemorative bronze medallion, is made each year to one teacher at each of the UNC schools.

**Keith Perrigan**, who earned his Ed.D. in 2010 and currently serves as Principal of Patrick Henry High School in Washington County, Virginia, was elected President of the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals (VASSP) by his fellow high school principals at the 85th Virginia Middle and High School Principals Conference and Exposition held in Williamsburg in July. Perrigan has been the VASSP Region Seven Director since 2007 and Principal of Patrick Henry since 2005. Before assuming an administrative position, Perrigan taught children with emotional disabilities.

**David Reitz**, who earned his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2012, was named an Assistant Principal at Nansemond River High School in the Suffolk Public Schools.

**Tracy Richardson**, who earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2012, was named [Principal of E.C. Glass High School](#) in Lynchburg. She previously served as the principal of Monelison Middle School in Amherst County.

**H. Alan Seibert**, who earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2000, was named [Superintendent of the Year for Region VI](#) in Virginia; the region is comprised of 15 school divisions in western Virginia. Seibert currently serves as Division Superintendent in the Salem City Schools.

2010 Ed.D. Educational Leadership and Policy Studies graduate **Kevin Siers** was appointed [Principal of Christiansburg High School](#) by the Montgomery County School Board. Previously he served as Superintendent of the Monroe County, West Virginia, public schools.

**Cecil Snead**, who earned his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2005, was appointed [Superintendent of the Buckingham County Public Schools](#) on August 8. Previously Snead served as Director of Secondary Education and Technology in the Roanoke County school division, where he has been employed since 1998. Prior to that time, he worked in the Floyd County Public Schools.

**Steve Staples**, a 1990 Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Ph.D. graduate, was selected by the Board of Directors of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents as its new [Executive Director](#). Staples previously served as President of VASS, a faculty member at the College of William and Mary, the 1997 Virginia Superintendent of the Year, York County Schools superintendent, the principal of Hopewell High School, and the assistant superintendent in Montgomery County. He assumed his new position on July 1.

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