



# News2Note

January 2023

**Catalina Andrango-Walker**, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, published [\*La construcción de la santidad en la región andina. La vida de la beata Juana de Jesús \(1662-1703\)\*](#) (*The Construction of Sanctity in the Andean Region. The Life of the Lay Woman Juana de Jesús (1662-1703)*) (Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, 2022).

Planning, Governance, and Globalization doctoral student **Shukriya Bradost** was a participant in the virtual panel titled "[The Fight for Equal Rights in Iran](#)," which was hosted on December 7, 2022, by the German Institute for Global and Area Studies in Hamburg, Germany; and the Washington Institute for Near East Policy's virtual talk titled "[Kurds Against the Iranian Regime: Internal and Regional Implications](#)," which took place December 13, 2022.

**Ralph Buehler**, Public and International Affairs, Planning, Governance, and Globalization doctoral student **Denis Teoman**, and Urban and Regional Planning master's student **Brian Shelton** published "[Radfahren und Radplanung in Frankfurt am Main und Washington, D.C.](#)" (Cycling and Bicycle Planning in Frankfurt am Main and Washington, D.C.), *Mobility Design. Die Zukunft der Mobilität gestalten. Band 2. Forschung*, ed. Kai Vöckler et al. (Berlin, Germany: JOVIS Verlag, 2023), pp. 140–48.

ASPECT doctoral student **Reed Byg** presented "Critical Mapping Strategies for Food Access in Urban Spaces" at (Re)imagining Collective Food Futures: A Panel Presentation with Graduate Student Fellows, which was part of Virginia Tech's Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation Speaker Series. The presentation took place virtually on November 30, 2022.

School of Education Instruction and Curriculum master's student **Thomas Cummins** was [awarded the inaugural Future Music Teacher Award by the Virginia String Teachers Association](#). The award recognizes collegiate string pedagogy or music education majors who have exhibited the highest levels of leadership, dedication, and achievement across institutions of higher learning in the state of Virginia. Cummins received the award at the Virginia Music Educators Association Conference, which was held November 17–19, 2022, in Richmond, Virginia.

During its most recent meeting the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors conferred the emeritus title on the following faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences:

**Gary Downey**, Alumni Distinguished Professor of Science, Technology, and Society, was recognized for his innovation and leadership as a scholar, teacher, and mentor in the field of science and technology studies. He co-founded the subdiscipline of engineering studies and the Making and Doing movement in the field. Author of five books and 55 peer-reviewed articles and chapters, he taught a wide variety of courses and chaired numerous master's and Ph.D. student committees. Downey joined the Virginia Tech community in 1983. Among his honors were the William E. Wine Award in 2004 and Virginia's Outstanding Faculty Award, the state's highest honor for faculty, in 2011; he was elected president of the Society for the Social Studies of Science in 2012. Downey earned two bachelor's degrees from Lehigh University and a master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

**Nikki Giovanni**, University Distinguished Professor of English, has made countless contributions to poetry, African American literature, and the international Black community. Her scholarship includes 21 books of poetry, hundreds of additional poems, 12 children's books, seven edited books, eight books of nonfiction, and numerous uncollected pieces. She has been awarded an honorary doctorate degree by more than 30 colleges and universities and was named Woman of the Year by *Ebony Magazine*, *Mademoiselle Magazine*, and *Ladies Home Journal*. Among her other honors are the Maya Angelou Lifetime Achievement Award, the Literary Lifetime Achievement Award, the 50 Great African-American Women Award, and the N.A.A.C.P. Image Award. At Virginia Tech she was named the first Gloria D. Smith Professor of Black Studies. Giovanni earned her bachelor's degree from Fisk University.

**Amy Nelson**, Associate Professor of History, pursued research and teaching focused on Soviet history, animal studies, and digital history. The author or co-author of two books and more than 15 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, she served as the Principal or Co-principal Investigator on grants researching Soviet history, digital humanities, and the use of technology in teaching and learning. A member of the Virginia Tech community since 1992, Nelson taught both undergraduate and graduate courses; directed or served on numerous master's and Ph.D. student committees; and was honored with eight college- and university-level teaching and advising awards, including the Diggs Teaching Scholars Award in 2015. Nelson earned two bachelor's degrees from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

**Karen Swenson**, Associate Professor of English, joined the Virginia Tech community in 1988 and engaged in scholarship focused on Old Norse, medieval, and Renaissance literature and mythology. She was the author of two books and many essays and gave frequent presentations based on her academic work. Swenson taught a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses ranging across the literature curriculum. She was an early adopter and innovator of online teaching and was honored with several awards for her work. She provided many years of distinguished service to the department, college, and university through dedicated service on numerous committees, including the personnel, admissions, and graduate committees. Swenson earned her bachelor's degree and master's degree from Portland State University and a master's degree and Ph.D. from Cornell University.

**Catheryn Foster**, Education, published "[Instrumental Music Education in Rural North Carolina: A Descriptive Study](#)," *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education* 234 (2022): 63–88, with Melody Causby.

**Cana Itchuaqiyaq**, English, and co-author Rebecca Walton won the 2023 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) Technical and Scientific Communication Award in the category of Best Article on Philosophy or Theory of Technical or Scientific Communication for "[Reviewer as Activist: Understanding Academic Review through Conocimiento](#)," *Rhetoric Review* 40.4 (2021): 378–94. They will receive the award at the award presentation session of 2023 CCCC Annual Convention, which will be held February 17 in Chicago, Illinois.

**Sylvester Johnson**, Director of the Center for Humanities and Assistant Vice Provost for the Humanities, [has been promoted to Associate Vice Provost for Public Interest Technology](#). In his new role, Johnson will build consensus across disciplines and colleges for research, teaching, and public engagement to develop and enhance Virginia Tech's impact as a national leader in public interest technology.

ASPECT doctoral student **Andreza Jorge** chaired and moderated the panel "Covid-19, Mulheres Negras e os Valores Civilizatorios Afro-brasileiros" (Black Women and Afro-Brazilian Civilizing Values) at the Alari Second Continental Conference on Afro-Latin American Studies, which took place December 7–9, 2022, at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Janine Joseph**, English, published a book of poems titled [Decade of the Brain](#) (New Gloucester, Maine: Alice James Books, 2023).

Planning, Governance, and Globalization doctoral student **Laura Keenan** published "[How Ukraine Seized the Initiative on the Digital Front in the War with Russia](#)," *Modern War Institute* at West Point, September 1, 2022.

**Theodore Lim**, Public and International Affairs, was awarded a [Stage 1 Civic Innovation Challenge Planning Grant from the National Science Foundation](#). The grant supports rapid implementation of community-driven, research-based pilot projects that address heat resilience priorities. Lim and his six-person team of faculty from the colleges of Engineering, Natural Resources and Environment, and Veterinary Medicine as well as the Sanghani Center for Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics are partnering with the City of Roanoke to help residents survive, adapt, and thrive through high temperatures and heat waves. The grant began in October and runs through April 2023. The team currently is conducting workshops with Roanoke leaders in academia, government, public schools, nonprofits, and other community-based organizations to identify concerns and needs. Based on the information gathered, the researchers will develop a proposal to create a citizen science program that will train city youth to collect, monitor, and communicate data on temperatures in the city and how residents experience heat.

**Barbara Lockee**, Professor of Education and Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, published "[Designing a Framework to Facilitate Metacognitive Strategy Development in Computer-Mediated Problem-Solving Instruction](#)," *Journal of Formative Design in Learning* 6.2 (2022): 127–43, with 2019 alumna **Qing Zhang**.

**Carol Mullen**, Education, published "'[Navigating Uncharted Waters': New Teacher Mentoring and Induction](#)," *Research in Educational Administration and Leadership* 7.4 (2022): 751–85, with Educational Leadership and Policy Studies alumna **Mattie Fallen**.

**Liesel Ritchie**, Sociology, was awarded \$320,000 as the Virginia Tech Principal Investigator for "Strengthening Charitable Food System Capability for Effective Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery" with the national non-profit organization, [Feeding America](#). The purpose of the two-year project is to conduct applied research that supports Feeding America's disaster planning and preparedness activities with Food Banks in ten midwestern U.S. states. With Virginia Tech as the lead, the work will be conducted in collaboration with Feeding America's National Office, the University of South Carolina, Arizona State University, and the Bill Anderson Fund. Funding for the project, which began January 1, is \$320,000.

**Ashley Shew**, Science, Technology, and Society, published "[Disabled Dimensionality: Normative Expectations' Impacts on Disabled Perceptions and Spatialities](#)," *L'Espace politique* 45.3 (2021), with Enka Blanchard.

The following students were inducted into the Virginia Tech chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology, on December 8, 2022: **Erin Dooley**, Religion and Culture; **Savannah Greene**, Humanities for Public Service; **Ivanna Guzman**, Humanities for Public Service; **Cara Patrick**, Material Culture and Public Humanities master's student; **Rachel Poteet**, Religion and Culture; and **Avery Rabb**, Humanities for Public Service.

**Edward Weisband**, Edward S. Diggs Chair in the Department of Political Science, [delivered the keynote address at the Virginia Tech Fall 2022 University Commencement ceremony](#), which took place December 16, 2022.

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