



News2Note

April 2022

Danna Agmon, History, was awarded the Society for French Historical Studies 2022 William J. Koren prize for “the most outstanding article on any period of French history” for “[Historical Gaps and Non-existent Sources: The Case of the Chaudrie Court in French India](#),” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 63.4 (2021): 979–1006.

Four ASPECT doctoral students gave presentations at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association Conference: **Reed Byg**, “Methods of Undoing: Integrating Ecosemiotic Methodologies into Food Studies”; **Hannah Glasson**, “Biological Cybernetics, Spontaneous Organization, and Neoliberalism: The Intertwining of Ecological Affect and Extractive Capitalism”; **Luther McPherson**, “The Control of Political Imaginaries: Locating the Political in the work of Michel Foucault”; and **Leah Ramnath**, “Institutionalizing a Racialized and Gendered Environmentalism in State Agencies.” The conference took place March 10–12 in Portland, Oregon.

The [25th Annual Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Conference](#) featured 22 presentations by students from 12 institutions globally. Department of History graduate students organized the conference; faculty from the Department of History served as discussants. The following Virginia Tech students presented papers; all of them are master’s students in History, unless otherwise noted: **Erica Blake**, “‘She Was Not Sorry It Burned’: The Fire of 1930 and Monacan Resistance at the Bear Mountain”; **Mary Culler**, “The Battleground of Democracy: Imagery in the Poetry of *The Suffragist*”; **Savannah Flanagan**, “Secret Meetings: How Moravian Single Sisters’ Disobedience Shaped the Evolving Policies of the Moravian Church”; **Savannah Lawhorne**, “Remembering Space, Place, and Spectacle: A Case Study on the Haunting of DeJarnette Sanatorium”; **Derek Pearson**, “The Steep Climb to Low Earth Orbit”; **Muhammed Shah Shajahan**, ASPECT doctoral student, “‘Spectacular History’: An Analysis of the Construction of History in Bollywood”; **Samuel Wentworth**, Curriculum and Instruction master’s student, “One Dog for Everything”; **Kiana Wilkerson**, “‘I Am Not Your Mammy’: Black Women Representation in Brotherman”; **Alfonso Zavala, Jr.**, “Reign of Terror in Clinton:

Political Violence, Race, White Supremacy, and the Beginning of the ‘Mississippi Plan’ in 1875.” The conference took place at Hahn Horticultural Garden and the Graduate Life Center on March 18–19.

Two graduate students from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences were among five Virginia Tech students [selected for induction into the Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society in 2022](#): **Anaid Shaver**, Counselor Education, and **Johnny Woods, Jr.**, Higher Education. The society was established in 2005 and named for the first African American to earn a doctoral degree in the United States; it “seeks to develop a network of scholars who exemplify academic and personal excellence, foster environments of support, and serve as examples of scholarship, leadership, character, service, and advocacy for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in the academy — exemplifying the spirit and example of Dr. Bouchet.” Virginia Tech is one of 16 Bouchet Society chapter institutions. The 2022 Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Scholars were recognized at a reception on campus on March 23; they will be inducted in April via a virtual ceremony originating at Yale University.

ASPECT doctoral student **Reed Byg** published a [review](#) of *Interspecies Politics, Nature, Borders, States* by Rafi Youatt, *New Political Science* 43.4 (2021): 508–10.

School of Education faculty members **Brett Jones** and **Yasuo Miyazaki** and Educational Research and Evaluation doctoral student **Mengyun Li** published “[Motivational Climate Predicts Student Evaluations of Teaching: Relationships between Students’ Course Perceptions, Ease of Course, and Evaluations of Teaching](#),” *AERA (American Educational Research Association) Open* 8.1 (2022): 1–17, with Stephen Biscotte.

School of Education faculty members **Brett Jones** and **Jesse “Jay” Wilkins** and Educational Psychology doctoral student **Hande Fenerci-Soysal** published “[Measuring the Motivational Climate in an Online Course: A Case Study Using an Online Survey Tool to Promote Data-Driven Decisions](#),” *Project Leadership & Society* 3 (December 2022), 100046.

Lillian Frost, Political Science, published “[Report on Citizenship Law: Jordan](#),” Global Citizenship Observatory (GLOBALCIT) Country Report, 2022/02, Global Governance Programme (Fiesole, Italy: European University Institute, 2022).

Maaz Gardezi, Sociology, [received a National Science Foundation grant](#) for his project, “[Testing a Responsible Innovation Approach for Integrating Precision Agriculture Technologies with Future Farm Workers and Work](#).” The project originated in 2020 as a collaboration between South Dakota State University, where Gardezi was an assistant professor at the time, and the University of Vermont. Gardezi and his collaborators research how farmers use precision agriculture technologies and facilitate responsible design of the tools themselves, with the help of computer scientists, engineers, and agronomists at the partner universities. Using a living laboratory approach, the researchers’ goal is to observe farmers using the new technologies in their natural farm settings. Gardezi also has created research opportunities for social science students interested in working with precision agriculture technologies: Sociology postdoctoral

associate **Edward Prutzer** and Criminology junior **Megan Schaefer** currently are working on the project.

Julie Gerdes, English, is leading “Analyzing and Improving Vaccine Uptake among Latinx Populations in Southwest Virginia,” one of [five projects](#) dealing with challenges across the Commonwealth that were approved by the Virginia Tech Council on Vibrant Virginia for 2021. Gerdes’ grant is co-funded by the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment and the Virginia Cooperative Extension. The project partners with Casa Latina, a nonprofit organization that serves the Spanish-speaking community in the Roanoke Valley, to conduct participatory action research on communication about COVID-19 and vaccination in local Latinx communities. By working alongside community members and framing vaccination as part of participants’ everyday experience, the project aims to address fears and misinformation with a combination of small-group listening sessions, stakeholder workshops, and a larger health promotion event. Additional information about this project and Gerdes’ other research can be found [here](#).

Aarnes Gudmestad, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, published “Eliciting Variable Structures Across Tasks,” *The Routledge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition and Sociolinguistics*, ed. Kimberly Geeslin (New York, New York: Routledge, 2022), pp. 224–36.

Matthew Heaton, History, coedited [The Oxford Handbook of Nigerian History](#) (New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 2022) with Toyin Falola. His individual contributions to the volume were “Introduction,” pp. 1–18, with Falola, and “European Contact with Nigeria and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade,” pp. 207–22.

Human Development and Family Science faculty member **Jody Russon** and doctoral student **Samantha Simpson** published “[Demonstrating Attachment-based Family Therapy for Transgender and Gender Diverse Youth with Suicidal Thoughts and Behavior: A Case Study](#),” *Family Process* 61.1 (2022): 230–45, with Lauren Smithee, Suzanne Levy, and Guy Diamond.

Jennifer Johnson [was appointed Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology](#). Johnson, who earned her Ph.D. from the University of Virginia, most recently served as Chair of the Department of Sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University. Among her principal areas of research are digital sexual media, sexual and relationship health, and social network analysis. Johnson assumed her Virginia Tech position in July 2021.

Instructional Design and Technology doctoral student **Maram Khayyat** presented “Cognitive Load Measurement of Using Interactive Virtual Reality Google Cardboard in Learning English Vocabulary as a Second Language” at the Eastern Educational Research Association annual conference, which took place February 3–4 in Clearwater, Florida.

Timothy Luke, University Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science, published “[Resourcification: A Non-essentialist Theory of Resources for Sustainable Development](#),” *Sustainable Development* 29.6 (November/December 2021): 1249–56, with

Hervé Corvellec et al. The article was developed with colleagues at Lund University as part of Luke's Pufendorf Institute Visiting Research Fellowship in 2020.

Leigh McKagen, History, published "Always Explorers, Never Refugees: Adventure and Manifest Destiny amongst the Stars," *Posthumanist Nomadisms across Non-Oedipal Spatiality*, ed. Java Singh and Indrani Mukherjee (Wilmington, Delaware: Vernon Press, 2021), pp. 183–96.

The following faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences were awarded mentoring grants from the Office of the Provost during the 2021–2022 academic year: **Natalie Ferand**, Education; **Maaz Gardezi**, Sociology; **Laura Iancu**, Performing Arts; **Shakil Rabbi**, English; **TeKisha Rice**, Human Development and Family Science; **Clara Suong**, Political Science; **Travis Webster**, English; and **Fabian Wendt**, Political Science.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute fellowships were awarded to **Catalina Andrango-Walker**, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, and **Su Fang Ng**, Cutchins Professor of English, for their participation in the seminar "Mapping the Early Modern World," which will take place July 18 to August 12 at the Newberry Library in Chicago.

Su Fang Ng, Cutchins Professor of English, published "William Dampier's 'Sagacious' Worldmaking," *1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era* 27 (2022): 182–96.

The composition *Sonder* by **Charles Nichols**, Performing Arts, for flute, alto saxophone, and computer, was premiered February 26 with a video performance by Performing Arts faculty members **Elizabeth Lantz**, flute, and **Kyle Hutchins**, saxophone, at the International Conference on Saxophone Pedagogy and Performance, streamed from the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Friends and colleagues of James "Bud" Robertson, Jr., created the [Robertson Memorial Endowment](#) at Virginia Tech in his name. The endowment will support the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, scholarships, and outreach programs in local communities and schools throughout the region. This year's [Civil War Weekend at Virginia Tech](#), which took place March 25–27 at the Inn at Virginia Tech, honored the life and work of Robertson, an acclaimed Civil War historian and Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, who passed away in 2019. Robertson became the founding director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies in 1999 and created the Civil War Weekend; the first event was held 31 years ago.

Sports Media and Analytics majors **Sam Alves**, **Kevin Didomenico**, **Wyatt Krueger**, **Andy Loce**, **Jake Lyman**, **Darius Maddox**, and **Sean Pedulla** [participated in the 2022 Atlantic Coast Conference \(ACC\) Men's Basketball Tournament](#), the first five providing media coverage and the last two as members of the Virginia Tech team. The tournament took place March 8–12 in Brooklyn, New York.

Rob Stephens, History, published “Germany’s Role in the Modern Global Drug Economy,” *The Oxford Handbook of Global Drug History*, ed. Paul Gootenberg (New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 2022), pp. 389–407.

ASPECT doctoral student **Molly Todd** presented “Community Newspapers, Creative Production and Collective Agency Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic: Exploring Social Resilience in the Maré and Rocinha Favelas of Rio de Janeiro,” coauthored with **Desirée Poets**, Political Science, Vanessa Guerra, and Max Stephenson, Jr., at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, which was held virtually February 25 to March 1.

The annual [Virginia Tech Authors Recognition Event](#) took place March 28 in Newman Library. The event honored authors’ academic contributions to the University. Because the 2020 and 2021 annual celebrations were cancelled, recognition this year was of publications from 2019 to the present. The list of faculty and students who authored, coauthored, and edited works or who were recipients of Open Access Subvention Fund support for journal articles can be found [here](#). There were 140 entries from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, with many faculty members listed multiple times; these constitute 52 percent of the total number of entries.

Peter Wallenstein, History, published “Commemoration, Controversy, and Campus Buildings: A Case Study – Virginia Tech, 1997–2020,” [Virginia Social Science Journal](#) 55 (2021–2022): 28–47.

Shelby Ward, Political Science, published “Postcolonial ‘Geography Lessons’ from Sri Lanka: Travel, Globalization, and Diaspora,” *Posthumanist Nomadisms across Non-Oedipal Spatiality*, ed. Java Singh and Indrani Mukherjee (Wilmington, Delaware: Vernon Press, 2021), pp. 111–26.

John Wells, Education, published “[Technological/Engineering Design Based Learning: Assessing Student Critical Thinking and Problems Solving Abilities](#)” with Susheela Shanta and “[High School Pre-Engineering Students’ Engineering Design Cognition](#)” with Matthew D. Lammi and John Gero, *International Journal of Technology and Design Education* 32.1 (March 2022): 267–85 and 311–31 respectively.

ASPECT doctoral student **Sara Wenger** published a [review](#) of the second edition of *Fundamental Feminism: Radical Feminist History for the Future* by Judith Grant, *New Political Science* 43.4 (2021): 514–15.

Jesse “Jay” Wilkins, Education, published “[Construction of Subitized Units Is Related to the Construction of Arithmetic Units](#),” *Educational Studies in Mathematics* 109.1 (2022): 137–54, with Andy Norton and School of Education alumna **Beth MacDonald**.

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