



News2 Note

October 2010

A number of CLAHS faculty participated in a poetry reading at James Madison University on September 21 as part of “73 Poems for 73 Years: Celebrating the Life of Lucille Clifton.” Clifton was the 2007 winner of the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize and Poet Laureate of the state of Maryland at the time of her death on February 13, 2010. The tribute was co-produced by Virginia Tech University Distinguished Professor of English **Nikki Giovanni**, who directed a choral reading of the evening’s closing selection. Virginia Tech readers included English faculty members **Gena Chandler, Fred D’Aguiar, Virginia Fowler, Giovanni, Ennis McCrery, Erika Meitner, Aileen Murphy, Lucinda Roy, and Carolyn Rude; Paula Seniors**, Sociology; and **Terry Papillon**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Classics and Director of the University Honors Program.

Joyce Arditti, Human Development, gave two invited research presentations in China and Hong Kong in recent months. She presented “Beyond psychopathology: Operationalizing the theory of maternal distress” to an international medical audience at the EPS International Medical Conference on Trauma, held August 21-22 in Chongqing, China. Her presentation “Beyond psychopathology: Clinical implications of the theory of maternal distress” was sponsored by the Hong Kong University Family Institute and Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region. It was given on September 3 at Tsan Yuk Hospital in Sai Ying Pun, Hong Kong, to medical, nursing, social science, and social work faculty at the University of Hong Kong as well as practitioners and educators from the community.

Marcie Boucouvalas, Human Development, published “Re-visiting the Concept of *Self* in Self-Directed Learning: Toward a More Robust Construct for Research and Practice in a Global Context,” *International Journal of Self-Directed Learning* 6,1 (Spring 2009): 1-10. The study, which re-visited, updated, and augmented her earlier work from 1988, served as the lead article for this issue of the journal.

Isabel Bradburn, Child Development Center in the Department of Human Development, and Mary Beth Dunkenberger, Institute for Policy and Governance, were awarded a \$98,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) to evaluate a family child care pilot project and to design an eventual outcome study. The study, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will track an estimated 75 home child care providers across

the Commonwealth in a quality improvement project as part of the Virginia Star Quality Initiative to raise standards of care and education for young children in the state.

The College notes with sadness the death of **Clifton D. Bryant**, Professor Emeritus of Sociology. Bryant joined the Virginia Tech community in 1972 as chair of the Department of Sociology. Winner of six teaching awards and the College's Excellence in Research and Creative Scholarship Award during his tenure at Virginia Tech, he retired in 2007. The obituary published in the *Roanoke Times* can be found [here](#).

Mike Butera, a doctoral student in ASPECT, was an invited speaker for the seminar "Transmissions, a collaboration between sound theorists and artists" in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 21-22, where he gave a paper titled "Aesthetics between Affect and Symbol: A Phenomenology of Sound Art." In addition, he presented "Excessive Audition and its Resolutions in Acoustic Orders" at the conference Sound ACTs (Art, Culture, Theory) at the University of Aarhus, Denmark, held September 23-25.

Toni Calasanti, Sociology, was awarded one of two grants in the inaugural round of the VT-University of Kent Partnering Award Program sponsored by the Institute for Society, Culture, and the Environment. The purpose of the awards is to support travel in either direction to develop research plans or to facilitate small-scale data collection to provide preliminary data for research. Calasanti has been working in parallel areas of research with Professor Julia Twigg, School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent. The grant will allow them to bring together their expertise to explore issues of embodiment, gender, and aging. Calasanti will travel to Canterbury to work with Twigg in March and April of 2011; together they plan to prepare an application to the Economic and Social Research Council as well as to private funders in the United States.

Douglas F. Cannon, Communication, is a member of an inaugural group of public affairs professionals who have achieved the Accreditation in Public Relations+Military Communication certification. Certification is conferred by the Universal Accreditation Board of the Public Relations Society of America, the largest organization of public relations professionals in the world. The "APR+M" certification signifies that an individual meets all the qualifications of the well-established Accreditation in Public Relations (APR) credential and demonstrates rigorous knowledge relating to the practice of military public affairs. Cannon received initial APR certification in 1991.

The Office of the Vice President for Research recognized **Sheila Carter-Tod**, English, as the Virginia Tech September 20 Scholar of the Week for her investigation of issues of race, language, and empowerment within the field of composition studies. In collaboration with the Center for the Study of Rhetoric in Society and the Moton Museum, Carter-Tod is working on a project that explores the relationship between rhetoric and social action. Her current focus is a brief reflective memoir written by Barbara Johns, a student at Moton High School who fought for equality in education during the Brown v. Board of Education trial.

ASPECT doctoral student **Dana Cochran** presented "The Desegregation of Bluefield State College" at the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Conference on September 30 in Raleigh, NC.

School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies faculty member **Theodore Creighton**, and School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies doctoral student **Brad E. Bizzell** presented “Using a Leadership Practice Field to Develop Aspiring Principals” and “Worldwide Impact: Who’s Reading and Using Your Publications?” at the annual conference of the National Council of Professors of Educational Administration, which was held August 3-6 in Washington, D.C.

School of Education faculty members **Patricia P. Kelly**, Professor Emerita, Teaching and Learning and the Center for Research and Development in International Education (CRADIE) and **Josiah Tlou**, Professor Emeritus, Teaching and Learning and CRADIE, along with **Kerry Redican**, formerly of the School of Education and now Professor and Co-Director, Master of Public Health Program, Department of Population Health Sciences, Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, received a U.S. Department of State Federal Assistance Grant for \$440,326 for their project "Partners in Developing Community Health Strategies and Communication for the Grassroots Level in Malawi, Zambia, and the United States." The award will provide funding for an exchange program with partners in Malawi and Zambia to develop health strategies for the education of women and children in reproductive health, nutrition, hygiene, and sanitation and to prepare a study of health care-givers in these three countries.

Roger Ekirch, History, was the recipient of the Scholar Award in History from the Virginia Social Science Association; the award was presented at the association’s annual conference at Virginia State University in Petersburg on March 27. At the behest of the *New York Times*, he wrote columns relating to “[sleep violence](#)” and [nightmares](#) for the paper’s online op-ed page that appeared on March 31 and August 1 respectively. He also served as the chief commentator in a two-hour History Channel special titled “Afraid of the Dark” that began airing over the summer. In the wake of Ekirch’s groundbreaking research on the history of sleep and its modern implications for insomnia, he served as the keynote speaker at the annual awards dinner of the National Sleep Foundation in Washington, D.C., on March 5. In addition, he will be the keynote speaker at the yearly meeting of the Virginia Academy of Sleep Medicine in Richmond on October 8.

Mariana Falconier, Human Development, published “Relationship satisfaction in Argentinean couples under economic strain: Gender differences in a dyadic stress model,” *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* 27,6 (September 2010), 781-99, with Norman Epstein. It is available [here](#).

Patti J Fisher, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, published “Uncertainty and Household Saving in the United States,” *Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal* 39,1(2010), 57-74.

On behalf of the College and the University community, we express our condolences to the family of **David Campbell Gayle**, a sophomore in Political Science, who died unexpectedly on September 25. Gayle was a 2009 graduate of Norfolk Collegiate School. The *Virginia Tech News* “In memoriam” can be found [here](#).

William Glenn, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and Interim Director of the Northern Virginia Center Education Programs, published “Regulating Student Internet Communications: A 2010 Update,” *International Journal of Educational Leadership Preparation* 5,3 (July-September 2010), available [here](#) on the Connexions website.

Aarnes Gudmestad, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, published "Exploring the roles of redundancy and ambiguity in variable subject expression: A comparison of native and non-native speakers," *Selected Proceedings of the 12th Hispanic Linguistics Symposium*, ed. Claudia Borgonovo, Manuel Español-Echevarría, and Philippe Prévost (Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press, 2010), 270-83, with Kimberley Geeslin.

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences is pleased to announce the recipients of a \$4,000 Humanities Summer Stipend for 2011: **Ananda Abeysekara**, Religion and Culture, for his project "Theravada Buddhism, the Use of Pali, and the Question of the Untranslatability of Life in Modern Sri Lanka"; **Chad Lavin**, Political Science/ASPECT, for "Eating Anxiety: The Political Economy of Digestion and the Decline of Liberal Sovereignty"; and **Rachel Scott**, Religion and Culture, whose project is titled "Modern Islamic Historiography." Abeysekara and Scott were nominated by Virginia Tech for the National Endowment for the Humanities stipend competition as the senior and junior scholar respectively. In addition, an \$8,000 Humanities Symposium Award was granted to **Brett Shadle**, History, and **P.S. Polanah**, Sociology/Africana Studies, for their symposium titled "Whiteness Beyond the West," planned for Fall 2011.

Mathis Kennington, a doctoral student in Human Development, was awarded the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Minority Fellowship, sponsored through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The fellowship is nationally competitive and open to MFT doctoral students in the U.S.; awards are based on merit and the student having a strong foundation researching mental health and substance abuse issues among minority populations.

Minjeong Kim, Sociology, published "Gender and International Marriage Migration," *Sociology Compass* 4,9 (2010): 718-31, and "Gender Politics and Global Householding in International Student/Scholar Families," *Politics and Gender* 6,2 (2010): 288-95.

The Department of Music hosted Artist-in-Residence Robert Chafin from August 31 to September 14. Chafin is an international operatic tenor and a Virginia Tech alumnus. During his residency he performed for music students and during a Department of Music Convocation he spoke about his career path. Chafin also worked with students in the Opera Workshop course and coached voice majors individually on musical style, dramatic investment, and lyric diction. As the final activity during his residency, Chafin will perform a recital with Department of Music faculty members **Tracy Cowden**, **Wallace Easter**, and **Nancy Harder** on Thursday, October 7.

Amy Nelson, History, co-edited *Other Animals. Beyond the Human in Russian Culture and History* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010) with Jane Costlow. Focusing on the interaction of animals and humans in Russian literature, art, and life from the eighteenth century to the present, the collection includes essays by contributors from Canada, Finland, Germany, the Russian Federation, and the United States.

Communication graduate student **Eric Olson** has been selected to participate in the 2010 Invitational Master Student Institute sponsored by the School of Communication and Information at Rutgers University. He is among only 22 students chosen both nationally and internationally to participate in the event, which will take place on the Rutgers campus in New Brunswick, New Jersey, on October 22-

24. Students will participate in workshops and career panel discussions; in addition, they will have social and networking opportunities. A description of the institute can be found [here](#).

The U.S. premiere of *fig. 1*, a one-woman play featuring Dean **Sue Ott Rowlands**, Theatre & Cinema, took place September 24-26 and October 1-3 at Studio A of the Valentine Theatre in Toledo, OH. This production by the Glaciy Theatre Collective, of which Ott Rowlands is the Founding Artistic Director, was designed by Czech scenographer Jaroslav Malina and directed by Bruce Hermann, Ohio State University. Details about the play's premiere at the Gender, Bodies, Technology conference in spring can be found [here](#) and about its international premiere in Prague [here](#).

Kelly A. Parkes, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, received Virginia Tech's 2010 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award for her efforts in advancing research-based practice in the development of music educators. Presented by the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research, the award recognizes faculty members who have dedicated themselves to the examination and investigation of higher education teaching and learning. Parkes' work focuses on motivation and self-efficacy of pre-service teachers, and in 2008 she presented her ideas on the use of rubrics for the assessment of instrumental music. Details about her work and the award can be found [here](#). In addition, Parkes published the following: "Recent Research in Applied Studio Instruction – Practice Time and Strategies," [The Journal of Research in Music Performance](#) 1,2 (2010), online; as well as "Assessing student learning in music performance class: What works, what doesn't, and what we can do about it" and "The use of criteria-specific performance rubrics for student self assessment: A case study," both in *Proceedings of the Practice of Assessment in Music Education: Frameworks, Models, and Designs. The Second International Symposium on Assessment in Music Education*, ed. Timothy S. Brophy (Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 2010), 351-66 and 455-60 respectively.

Katrina Powell, English and Director of Women's and Gender Studies, was an invited panelist for the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute on September 24 in Syria, Virginia. She spoke to the Institute's 31 participants, who are natural resource leaders from state agencies, local government, nonprofits, and the private sector. Powell presented her research on displacement in the Shenandoah National Park, as a way to discuss displacement concerns in contemporary conservation situations.

Department of English chair and professor **Carolyn Rude** published "Teaching Technical Editing" in *New Perspectives on Technical Editing*, ed. Avon J. Murphy (Amityville, NY: Baywood Publishing Company, 2010), 51-65.

Juan Carlos Sanchez Sierra, a doctoral student in ASPECT, published "Discourse, Practices and Historical Representations in Two Guerrilla Groups: The ELN and MPLA, Colombia-Angola, 1956–1986," *War and Peace in Africa: History, Nationalism, and the State*, ed. Toyin Falola and Raphael Njoku (Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 2010), 285-324. The article is Sanchez Sierra's thesis, which he completed as a requirement for his master's degree in History at Virginia Tech.

David Hicks, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, and **Tom Ewing**, History, were awarded a Teaching with Primary Sources grant sponsored by the Library of Congress. The project develops curriculum materials and pedagogical strategies for use by teachers on the topic of the controversial October 1901 dinner between President Theodore Roosevelt and the African American educator,

Booker T. Washington. The project also is part of the College's collaboration with the Christiansburg Institute on an initiative to document and broaden understanding of Booker T. Washington's significance as a national leader in African American educational history.

For Memories' Sake, a documentary directed by **Ashley Maynor**, Theatre & Cinema, and produced by **Paul Harrill**, Theatre & Cinema, was screened by special invitation at an international conference at University College in Cork, Ireland, titled "Saving Private Reels: Presentation, Appropriation and Re-contextualisation of the Amateur Moving Images" on September 19. On September 24 there was a screening of the documentary at the Library of Congress Audiovisual Conservation Center as part of the Packard Campus public programs, which aim "to celebrate the extraordinary range of creativity and exuberance inherent in the recorded forms of American culture and entertainment since the late 19th century."

Human Development doctoral student **Bradford Wiles** was awarded a Graduate Student Research Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services. The grant provides \$29,800 of funding for a year for him to conduct his research on a project titled "Shared Reading, Guided Participation, and Mind-mindedness among Appalachian Head Start Mothers," under the supervision of his dissertation committee chair, **Victoria Fu**, Human Development. Receipt of the grant was made possible through a Doctoral Student Research Grant from the Department of Human Development, which Wiles used to conduct pilot data.

Alumni Highlight

Frank H. Ayers, Jr., who earned his bachelor's degree in History with the education option in 1974, was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer of the Prescott Arizona Campus of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in September 2009. Details can be found [here](#). In his recent correspondence with Dean sue Ott Rowlands, Ayers noted: "I believe my undergrad preparation at VT prepared me for the wide array of challenges I have faced and allowed for a broader perspective. It also started a lifetime habit of reading history, which is still a great addiction to this day."

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