



News2 Note

March 2010

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences congratulates the following CLAHS undergraduate researchers who were honored recently at the University level. **Mikhelle Taylor**, Interdisciplinary Studies, and **Erin Weiss**, History and Interdisciplinary Studies, were named ACC Scholars, two of eight Virginia Tech students chosen to receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Work from all disciplines was considered for this competitive scholarship program. Taylor's project is titled "Portugal vs. the Gods: the roles of Medievalism, Neo-Templarism, and Portuguese Brazilian identity in the building of Quinta da Regaleira." She will use the scholarship funds to travel to Sintra, Portugal, to examine the early 20th-century estate. More broadly, her project looks at how late 19th- and early 20th-century understandings of the Middle Ages shaped contemporary understandings of European (and Colonial) identities. **Matthew Gabriele**, Interdisciplinary Studies, serves as Taylor's faculty mentor. The title of Weiss's project is "A New Deal for Junkies: Changing Perceptions of Addiction and Treatment, 1935-1974." Her faculty mentor is **Robert Stephens**, History.

In addition, four of the six students selected to present their research at the Fifth Annual ACC Meeting of the Minds Undergraduate Research Conference are majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. **Heather Fine**, English, will present her literary analysis titled "The Better to Explore With: Curiosity in Alice in Wonderland and Little Red Riding Hood"; her faculty mentor is **Kathryn Graham**, English. **Erin Weiss**, History and Interdisciplinary Studies, will present her scholarship-winning work described above. The presentation by **Rebekah Torcasso**, Sociology, will be her work on "Perceptions of Sexuality after Sexual Assault"; her faculty mentor is **Katherine Allen**, Human Development. The College of Architecture and Urban Studies submitted the application of **Brittany Newman**, English and Art History. Newman's work, "West Meets East: Art, Politics, and Culture in Edo Japan," spans several disciplines across colleges; her faculty mentor is Ann-Marie Knoblauch, School of Visual Arts. The ACC Meeting of the Minds is an opportunity for students from ACC schools to present their research projects – as oral or poster presentations - and for faculty and administrators from across the ACC to share information about conducting undergraduate research. Students compete at the college level and then at the university level for a spot on the team. This year's conference will take place April 16-17 at Georgia Tech's Global Learning Center.

Sixteen Housing Option students in the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management participated in this year's National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA)/General Electric Charette Competition. In three hours students designed a kitchen for a young professional couple buying their first home, with resale value being an important priority. The design presentation included a floor plan,

elevation or perspective, product specifications, and a design statement. This year's national competition drew 509 entries from 33 colleges and universities. The three semi-finalist student winners from Virginia Tech, **Joseph Panzer**, **Teni Ladipo** and **Courtney Peloquin**, each received a \$50 scholarship and a Certificate of Achievement. In January Panzer was announced as one of ten national winners; he will receive a \$1000 scholarship. Panzer was awarded his master's degree in the Housing program in December 2009; he also completed the accredited program in kitchen and bath design. His advisor was **Kathleen Parrott**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management Ph.D. student **Youngjin Bahng** and faculty member **Doris Kincade** collaborated on "The relationship between temperature and sales of seasonal garments," presented at the annual meeting of the International Textiles and Apparel Association in Seattle (Bellevue), Washington, in October 2009.

Virginia Tech's Authors Recognition Day 2010 was held on February 24 in Newman Library. This year's event, the fourth annual, acknowledged and honored Virginia Tech authors for their academic contributions to the university. The occasion included introductory remarks, an introduction of the authors present, and a book talk. Many representative books were on display. A current list of the faculty whose authored, co-authored, and edited books were recognized – among whom are 49 different CLAHS faculty, including four individuals with two submissions and two with three - can be found [here](#).

Esther Bauer, Foreign Languages and Literatures/German, published "Penetrating Desire: Gender in the Field of Vision in Thomas Mann's *Zauberberg* and Christian Schad's *Graf St. Genois d'Anneaucourt*" in *Monatshefte* 101,4 (2009): 483-98.

Brian Britt, Religion and Culture, published "Robert Alter and the Bible as Literature" in *Literature and Theology* 24 (2010): 56-72.

John Burton, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, was named Interim Director for Distance Learning and Summer Sessions. A member of the Virginia Tech community since 1977, Burton's teaching and research focus on instructional technology. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a master's degree from Illinois State University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska.

Mike Butera, an ASPECT doctoral student, was an invited speaker at "Listening and Technology," a two-day international seminar at the University of Copenhagen held January 28-29. Butera gave an invited plenary address on his dissertation research, "Techniques of Listening and the Acoustic Order." The paper was very enthusiastically received, and he has been invited back to Denmark to speak at the Sound Studies conference in September 2010 at the University of Aarhus.

Four undergraduates in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences are spending this semester in the National Capital Region as participants in the Capitol Hill internship program. The students - **Brittany Brown**, a senior in International Studies; **Ashlee Goodwin**, a senior in Political Science; **Nicholas Jeffress**, a senior English major; and **Olivia Leonard**, a senior Political Science major – are in the offices of U.S. Senators from Virginia Mark Warner and Jim Webb; U.S. Representatives from Virginia Rick Boucher (9th district) and Jim Moran (8th district); and the Clark Group, a firm specializing in public and private sustainability, climate solutions, and renewable energy. The program, which is new this year, was

developed by Chris Yianilos, Director of Federal Relations at Virginia Tech's National Capital Region, working with Political Science faculty member **Richard Rich**. Students earn six credit hours for their work, Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; they can earn an additional three credit hours through an online course or an independent study arranged through their department.

Faculty members from various CLAHS departments as well as other colleges are collaborating on research projects that recently were awarded grant support. Principal Investigator **Christine Kaestle**, Human Development, along with Co-Principal Investigator **Yvonne Chen**, Communication, received funding from the Virginia Youth Tobacco Projects (VYTP) Small Grants Program of the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation (VTSF) to conduct research on anti-smoking issues this summer. Chen, as Principal Investigator, along with **Carlos Evia**, English, and faculty in Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise, received obesity research grant funding from the Fralin Life Science Institute and the Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE) at Virginia Tech. The group will evaluate the effectiveness of entertainment videos on modifying Latino adults' perceptions of factors that affect obesity, including nutrition and physical activity.

The chapter **Travis J. Cross**, Music, published in the second edition of *Teaching Music through Performance in Band*, Volume 1 (edited by Richard Miles, Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 2009, 576-89), is a teacher resource guide for the *Sinfonia V (Symphonia Sacra et Profana)* by Timothy Broege. The *Teaching Music through Performance in Band* series now comprises seven volumes and accompanying reference recordings covering the standard repertory for symphonic band and wind ensemble. In addition, Cross conducted the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA) District VIII All-District Symphonic Band at Gloucester High School in Gloucester, VA, from February 4–6.

Steven Daskal, Philosophy, published "Libertarianism Left and Right, the Lockean Proviso, and the Reformed Welfare State" in *Social Theory and Practice* 36 (2010): 21-43.

Department of Communication head **Robert E. Denton, Jr.**, co-edited *Communicator-in-Chief: How Obama Used New Media Technology to Win the White House* (Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2010). The volume examines the precedent-setting role new media such as Web 2.0, blogs, twitter, social networks, email, and video games, played in the 2008 presidential campaign that propelled Obama into the presidency. Also included is an overview of how campaigns communicate with the electorate in the 21st century and the implications of the new media technologies. Denton is the author, co-author, or editor of 20 books on American politics and campaigns.

In October and November 2009 faculty members and graduate students from the School of Education and undergraduates from Virginia Tech's VT ENGAGE directed a new after-school program at Shawsville Middle School. The program, *Studio STEM: Engaging Middle School Students in Networked Science and Engineering Projects*, is intended to introduce students to fundamental concepts of alternative energy resources, energy transfer and energy sustainability through a design-based after school studio in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Leading Studio STEM is **Michael A. Evans**, Learning Sciences and Technologies, with the assistance of **Brett Jones**, Learning Sciences and Technologies, and **Carol Brandt**, Teaching and Learning, as well as Christine Schnittka, University of Kentucky, Curriculum & Instruction. For six weeks twelve middle school students from Shawsville MS participated in a series of networked science and engineering projects that challenged them to solve real-world issues related to energy and the environment creatively using a design-based studio approach. **Andrea Motto**, a doctoral student in Teaching and Learning, and **Alex Gallo**, a master's

student in Teaching and Learning, led the instruction with volunteer facilitators from VT ENGAGE, all undergraduates in the College of Engineering and the College of Science. The program was made possible through the cooperation of Principal Dave Dickinson at Shawsville MS and was hosted by Richelle Price, Director of the Boys & Girls Club of the New River Valley at Shawsville.

JoAnn M. Emmel, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, along with Hyun-Jeong Lee, published "Energy Practice Clusters of Virginia Limited-Resource Households" in *Housing and Society* 36,2 (2009): 171-94.

Kenly Greer Fenio, Political Science, was invited to give two presentations, "Human Trafficking, HIV/AIDS, and Security in Southern Africa" and "Macro and Micro Responses to HIV/AIDS in Post-Conflict African Societies," at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs last fall. She also was invited to give a talk on survey research concerning human rights and civic activity titled "From Subjects to Citizens: Associations and Democratization in Post-Conflict Africa" for the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. In January Fenio was an invited participant in a workshop on urban health in Africa, held in Bamako, Mali, at Point Sud Research Center; there she spoke on health and democratization in her talk titled "AIDS as Good for Democracy? The Role of HIV Associations in Mozambique's Public Health System." In addition, Fenio was awarded a CLAHS Humanities Summer Stipend for 2010 to conduct research in southern Africa on the use of theatre in HIV oriented volunteer associations; her project is titled "HIV/AIDS Narratives in Street Theatre: Mobilization and Performance in the Public Realm in Mozambique."

Patti J. Fisher, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, along with Catherine P. Montalto, published "Effect of saving motives and horizon on saving behaviors" in the *Journal of Economic Psychology* 31,1 (2010): 92-105.

AFROTC Cadet Michael Foglietti, a Mathematics major, was selected as one of only 13 AFROTC cadets in the nation to attend Phase II of the United States Air Force Combat Rescue Officer (CRO) selection course. Foglietti was selected based on his demonstrated leadership potential and his extraordinary physical fitness, where he exceeded the demanding CRO physical fitness evaluation consisting of pull-ups, sit-ups, push-ups, 3.0 mile run, underwater swim, and 1500-meter surface swim. He achieved maximum points in three of the six events and scored a total of 670 out of a possible 700 points. Phase II of the USAF CRO selection course will be conducted March 20-26 at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington.

Jim Garrison, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, was the keynote speaker at the Soka Education Conference, held on February 13-14 at the Soka University of America in Aliso Viejo, California. The keynote was titled "Education for Social Justice: Theory and Practice."

Rosemary Blieszner and **Karen Roberto**, Center for Gerontology and Department of Human Development, published "Care partner responses to the onset of mild cognitive impairment" in *The Gerontologist* 50 (February 2010): 11-22. This is another article based on their research concerning families dealing with early memory loss.

University Distinguished Professor of English **Nikki Giovanni** edited *Best African American Fiction 2010* (New York: Random House, 2010). Details can be found [here](#).

The film *Gina, An Actress, Age 29* by **Paul Harrill**, Theatre & Cinema, was selected for inclusion on The Auteurs (<http://www.theauteurs.com>) online cinemathèque. Harrill's film is one of only 20 short films to be selected for inclusion on the website, which includes work by Buster Keaton, Luis Buñuel, and Jan Svankmajer.

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences was well represented at the Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy, organized by **Peter Doolittle**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies and director of the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research (CIDER). The event was held February 18-19 at The Inn.

Presenting papers and workshops at the conference were the following, all of whom are faculty unless otherwise identified: **Kelly Parkes**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning; **Sara Kajder**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning; Communication graduate students **Erin Cooper**, **Elizabeth Johnson**, **Sarah Long**, and **Drew Shade** and faculty member **Marlene Preston**; **Katherine Cennamo**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies, and **Carol Brandt**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning; **Biko Agozino**, Sociology and Director of Africana Studies; School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies faculty member **Laura Welfare** and graduate student **Corrine Sackett**; **Richard Shingles**, Political Science; graduate students **Chloe Ruff**, **Samantha Blevins**, **Mapopa Sanga**, **Sam Jennings**, **Joseph Malapile**, and **Luka Ngoyi**, all from the School of Education/Teaching and Learning; graduate students **Luisiana Cano**, Human Development, **RayeCarol Cavender**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, and **Laura Farmer**, **Molly Hall**, and **Corrine Sackett**, all from the School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; **Chih-ling Liou** and **Kelly Munly**, graduate students in Human Development, and **Penny Burge**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; Political Science undergraduate majors **Ryan Mowery** and **Tyler Garaffa** (graduated May 2009) and faculty member **Craig Brians**; **Michael Alexander**, **Mark Barrow**, **Heather Gumbert**, **Matthew Heaton**, **Dennis Hidalgo**, **Helen Schneider**, **Regan Shelton**, and **Dan Thorp**, all from the Department of History, and **Emily Satterwhite**, Religion and Culture; **Kimberly Mitchell**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management; **Britta Long**, **Chloe Ruff**, and **Jennifer Snyder**, graduate students in the School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies; and **Jasmine Graham** and **Michelle Ghoston**, graduate students in the School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Posters were presented by: **Andrea Motto**, graduate student in the School of Education/Teaching and Learning; **Aimee Brenner** and **Samantha Blevins**, graduate students in the School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies; **James Dubinsky**, English and Director of the Center for Student Engagement and Community Partnerships; **Peter Doolittle**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies and Director of CIDER; **Reed Taylor**, graduate student in ASPECT, and **Craig Brians**, Political Science; **Ashley Patriarca** and **Molly Scanlon**, graduate students in English, **Robert Baldwin**, graduate student in the School of Education/Teaching and Learning; Political Science undergraduate majors **Ryan Mowery** and **Tyler Garaffa** and faculty member **Craig Brians**; **Terry Wildman**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies; **Elza Cruz**, **Brian Moseley**, and **Yavuz Samur**, graduate students in the School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies; ASPECT students **Martin Saavedra** and **Reed Taylor**; and **Brian Gogan**, graduate student in English.

The following CLAHS students have been named members of the Highty-Tighties at Virginia Tech for the upcoming academic year: **Lindsey Beadle**, senior in Sociology, **Thomas Boelzner**, freshman in History, **Aaron Bonovitch**, sophomore in History, **Tobias Boyle**, junior in Political Science, **Matthew Buffington**, junior in Political Science, **Jonathan Corns**, junior in History, **Julie Deisher**, sophomore in English, **Trevor Hill**, junior in History, **Laura Hinton**, junior in French, **James Houser**, junior in Political Science, **Jacob Mathews**, junior in History, **Angelica Michaux**, senior in Sociology, **Joseph Morris**, freshman in Political

Science, **Yelena Nazaroff**, freshman in International Studies, **Myat Nyunt**, sophomore in Interdisciplinary Studies, **Ryan Rodriguez**, freshman in History, **Travis Taggart**, senior in Political Science, **Kyle Treubert**, freshman in Political Science, and **Adrien Wilkins**, sophomore in English. Founded in 1893, the regimental marching band is the oldest continuously performing musical organization at Virginia Tech. The Highty-Tighties performed at the inaugural celebration for President Barack Obama at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.; they also perform regularly at Virginia Tech football games.

Department of History master's candidates **Catherine C. Alford**, **Joseph Forte**, and **Mark Summers**, along with faculty member **E. Thomas Ewing**, presented "From Slavery to School: The Founding Era of the Christiansburg Institute in the New River Valley" on February 2 in the Graduate Life Center as part of Black History Month at Virginia Tech.

Abbey Hoekzema, a Cinema Studies student in Communication, was awarded a \$500 Undergraduate Diversity Research Grant for the production of a short documentary film. The film looks at three "Destination Imagination" teams at different Virginia schools as they explore and overcome obstacles on their uncertain road to competition. Hoekzema's faculty advisor for the project is **Ashley Maynor**, Theatre & Cinema.

Congratulations to **Kent Holliday**, Music, on being selected as winner of the 2009-2010 Virginia Music Teachers Association Commissioned Composer Competition. Holliday received the honor on the strength of his composition titled *Danza Desenfrenada*. As competition winner, Holliday received a commission for a new work to be premiered at the 2010 VMTA Conference in the fall. The commission carries a cash award of \$1,500, which will be presented at the premiere performance. In addition, the new composition will be submitted as an entry for the Music Teachers National Association-Shepherd Distinguished Composer of the Year.

Congratulations to the Department of Human Development on the publication of its first electronic newsletter, which summarizes recent news about the department's faculty, staff, students, and alumni. The newsletter can be found [here](#).

Sara Kajder, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, published *Adolescents and Digital Literacies: Learning Alongside Our Students* (Urbana, IL: National Council of Teachers of English, 2010). The volume is part of an invited NCTE research imprint titled Principles in Practice, whose aim is to offer case studies of classroom practices demonstrating research-based, rigorous instruction while offering possibilities for rethinking instructional practices.

The Office of the Vice President for Research recognized **Jim Kuypers**, Communication, as Virginia Tech Scholar of the Week for January 25. Kuypers' studies have focused on rhetorical criticism and political communication, such as presidential crisis communication. His interests include the roles the mainstream U.S. media play in shaping public arguments about contemporary political, cultural, and social issues, ethics in criticism, and the moral/poetic use of language within public debates. Kuypers is the author of *Presidential Crisis Rhetoric and the Press in the Post-Cold War World* (1997), *Press Bias and Politics: How the Media Frame Controversial Issues* (2002), and *Bush's War: Media Bias and Justifications for War in a Terrorist Age* (2006). With **Robert E. Denton**, head of Communication, he is co-author of *Politics and Communication in America: Campaigns, Media, and Governing in the 21st Century* (2008). Kuypers's latest edited volume, *Rhetorical Criticism: Perspectives in Action* (Lanham:

Lexington Books, 2009), features nineteen chapters by leading rhetoric scholars and offers the most comprehensive introduction to rhetorical criticism available.

Chad Lavin, Political Science, with Chris Russill, published “The Ideology of the Epidemic” in *New Political Science* 32,1 (March 2010): 65-82. The article can be accessed via the [New Political Science website](#).

Three CLAHS faculty have been selected as Virginia Tech 2010 Class of Multicultural Fellows. They are: **Susan Asselin**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, **Elizabeth Fine**, Religion and Culture, and **Barbara Ellen Smith**, Sociology and Director of Women’s Studies. Established in 1999 as an initiative of the Office of the Dean of Students, the Department of Political Science Department, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs (now the Office for Equity and Inclusion), the Multicultural Fellows Program is a network of faculty, staff, and administrators who provide leadership and promote multiculturalism at Virginia Tech and the larger community.

Amy Nelson, Department of History, published “Laikas Vermächtnis: Die sowjetischen Raumschiffhunde” [“Laika’s Legacy: The Soviet Space Dogs”] in *Tierische Geschichte: Die Beziehung von Mensch und Tier in der Kultur der Moderne* [*Animal History: The Relationship Between Humans and Animals in the Culture of the Modern Age*] eds. Dorothee Brantz and Christof Mauch (Paderborn: Schöningh, 2009), 103-22.

Corinne Noirot-Maguire, Foreign Languages and Literatures/French, published “Conjurer le mal: Jean de La Taille et le paradoxe de la tragédie humaniste” [“Expelling Evil: Jean de la Taille and the Paradox of Humanist Tragedy”] in *EMF: Studies in Early Modern France* 13 (February 2010): 121-43. The title of Volume 13 is “Spectacle.”

Fritz Oehlschlaeger, English, published *Procreative Ethics: Philosophical and Christian Approaches to Questions at the Beginning of Life* (Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books/Wipf and Stock, 2010). More information about the volume is available [here](#).

Department of Philosophy faculty members **Steven Daskal** and **Philip Olson**, along with Brian Johnson from the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland, submitted a \$140,000 grant proposal titled “Assessing the Effectiveness of Virtue Education in Crime Prevention” to the Arete Initiative’s Science of Virtues program. Out of over 700 submissions, their proposal was chosen as one of 40 finalists. As finalists, Daskal and Olson participated in the first annual Science of Virtues conference at the University of Chicago, where they presented and defended their proposal.

Fred Piercy, Human Development and Associate Dean, co-authored two recently accepted journal articles with current and former graduate students. “Gender and diversity topics taught in COAMFTE (family therapy) programs,” written with Human Development Ph.D. graduate **Ebony Joy James-Winston**, was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*. **Carolina Castanos**, recent doctoral graduate in Human Development, and Piercy wrote “The Wiki as a Virtual Space for Qualitative Data Collection,” accepted in *The Qualitative Report*. Piercy also served as the qualitative methodologist on a three-year, multi-phase, multi-site participatory research grant titled “How Farmers Learn” with Principal Investigator Nancy Franz, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and extension specialists from Tennessee, Louisiana, and Georgia. The research team recently had articles accepted for publication in the *Journal of Extension*, the *Journal of Rural Social Sciences*, and *The Qualitative Report*.

Political Science faculty members **Yannis Stivachtis** and **Laura Zanotti**, along with Max Stephenson, director of the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance (IPG), received \$55,339 in funding from the International Olympic Truce Center for their research project titled "Sports and Peace-Building in Post-Conflict Societies." The project, which is being administered by the IPG, includes extensive collaboration with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPO) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The outcome will be a handbook that could be used by UN Peacekeeping Forces as well as NGOs working in the field.

The following CLAHS first-year undergraduate students received an award through the Presidential Scholarship Initiative for the current academic year: **Jon Clark**, International Studies, **Edmari Del Valle**, Human Development, **Samantha Jeffreys**, Theatre Arts, and **Tori Miller**, International Studies. The Presidential Scholarship Initiative supports qualified in-state students; the average high school GPA of the students who received scholarships this year was 3.85.

Anita Puckett, Religion and Culture, was recently promoted to the status of Fellow in the Society for Applied Anthropology. The promotion resulted from a nomination by a senior member and was based on her experience and seniority. She is expected to be a source of expert advice and counsel for the Officers and Board.

Alumni Distinguished Professor in English **Lucinda Roy** was invited by Dr. Helene Gayle, President and CEO of the humanitarian organization CARE, to be part of a small delegation of women leaders who visited Sierra Leone in January. The goal of the trip was to help in the development of a global strategy focused on reducing the number of women dying in childbirth around the world. The delegation toured hospitals and clinics in the capital Freetown and in the Koinadugu District, a remote area of Sierra Leone where it is extremely difficult for women to obtain medical care. Following the trip to West Africa, the delegation was invited to 10 Downing Street to meet with Mrs. Sarah Brown, wife of Prime Minister Gordon Brown, and report on their findings. More information about the trip can be found [here](#).

ASPECT doctoral student **Martin Saavedra** presented a conference paper at the Fourteenth Annual LatCrit Conference sponsored by LatCrit, Inc., and American University - Washington College of Law; the conference, "Critical Outsiders Theory and Praxis in the Policymaking of the New American Regime," was held in Washington, D.C., on October 1-4, 2009. During the event Saavedra participated in a roundtable about Latina/o public intellectuals. His comments on the political roles played by the Latina/o public intellectual were accepted as a paper titled "Engaged Intellectuals: Comments on the Crisis of the Latina/o Public Intellectual" for the *American University Journal of Gender, Social Policy, and the Law*.

Theodore Sipes, Music, performed his "Love.Songs" recital at Longwood University on February 12 and at Southern Illinois University Carbondale on February 23. The recital is a collaborative effort with Erica Sipes, pianist. The Sipes created a blog, <http://lovesongsrecital.blogspot.com>, with videos, articles and program information about the recital. The program and blog drew the attention of Greg Sandow, noted music critic and author, who praised the innovation of the program on his closely followed blog, "Greg Sandow on the future of Classical Music."

AFROTC Cadet Adam Smith, a Mechanical Engineering major, was selected by the Dean of the College of Engineering to receive the Category 5 Society of American Engineers (SAME) ROTC Award of merit for the 2009-2010 academic year. Smith has an excellent record in academics, the Corps of Cadets, and in Air Force ROTC. The award will be presented by the College of Engineering during the annual Virginia

Tech Corps of Cadets Award ceremony on April 15. Smith will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on May 14 and then attend Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

Alan Weinstein, Music and cellist of the Kandinsky Trio, was the featured Artist/Teacher at the West Virginia Music Teachers' Association Conference at Fairmont University in November, where he performed and served as an adjudicator. Other recent performances by Weinstein include the Performing Arts Series at VMI in Lexington in September, the Jacksonville Arts Center Series in Floyd in October, the Community Arts Series in Richlands, Virginia, in November, and the University Chamber Music Series at VT in February.

Andrea K. Wittenborn, Human Development, was awarded \$20,000 from the Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation at the New York Community Trust for her proposal titled "Stage II Randomized Clinical Trial of Emotionally Focused Therapy for Comorbid Depression and Marital Distress." As a Fahs-Beck Fellow, Wittenborn will use the funding from the two-year grant to conduct a randomized clinical trial of emotionally focused therapy for couples. The CLAHS Dean's Faculty Fellowship she was awarded last year provided initial funding for the investigation and pilot data for the grant proposal; the new award will expand upon that work.

Alumni Highlights

Andrew Selsky, who graduated in 1978 with a degree in Communication and a minor in International Relations, recently was appointed by the Associated Press to the position of Africa Editor. A veteran correspondent, Selsky will be based in Johannesburg, South Africa; he will be in charge of AP bureaus throughout sub-Saharan Africa and will oversee a regional desk operation designed to strengthen news coverage across the continent in text, photos and video. The Africa Desk is the fifth of the AP's international regional desks; the others are in Bangkok, London, Mexico City, and Cairo. Selsky will oversee the following bureaus - Johannesburg; Nairobi, Kenya; Harare, Zimbabwe; Lagos, Nigeria; and Dakar, Senegal - and a network of correspondents across 45 countries. AP's Africa staff covers wars and disasters and also has chronicled strides toward democracy and alleviating poverty; in addition, it covers an arts and culture scene that has an impact far beyond the continent. As chief of Caribbean news since 2005, Selsky has directed coverage in more than 30 countries and territories in the Caribbean, including the U.S. military detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. His Guantanamo coverage was a finalist for both the Investigative Reporters and Editors award in 2007 and the Daniel Pearl Award for Outstanding International Investigative Reporting in 2008. Selsky joined the AP in 1984 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and worked in Los Angeles before moving to Central America, where he covered the civil wars of the 1980s for the AP. He returned to the United States to work in Kansas City, Missouri, and then the International Desk in New York before heading back overseas. Selsky served as bureau chief for Colombia and Spain-Portugal and covered southern Africa as a Johannesburg-based newsman from 1997-2000, when he reported extensively on the AIDS pandemic and South Africa's transition from apartheid.

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