



News2 Note

May 2015

The following graduate students in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences were inducted into the Virginia Tech Graduate School's [Academy for Graduate Teaching Assistant Excellence](#). Fall 2014 founding Members were: **Jennifer Henderson**, Science and Technology Studies; **Nicole Johnson**, Higher Education; **Erin Lavender-Stott**, Human Development; and **Maria Stack**, Education Research and Evaluation. **Katherine Ayers**, Sociology, was initiated as a Member in Spring 2015. Initiated this semester as Associates were: **Ryan Cook**, Counseling Education, **Jordan Laney**, ASPECT, and **Erin Lavender-Stott**, Human Development.

David Alexander, School of Education/Leadership, Counseling, and Research, published *The Law of Schools, Students, and Teachers*, 5th ed. (St. Paul, MN: West Academic Publishing, 2015), with Kern Alexander; as well as the following book chapters: "The Media and Contrarian the Social Messages about School Goals" with Theodore Creighton, "Today's Compelling Issues in Public School Law" with Patricia First and School of Education alumna **Jennifer Sughrue**, and "Transportation, School Safety and Dealing with Bullies" with Sughrue - all of which appear in *The Sage Guide to Educational Leadership and Management*, ed. Fenwick English (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2015), pp. 225-36, 289-306, and 307-28 respectively.

Aaron Ansell, Religion and Culture, and his book *Zero Hunger*, were featured as the first [April Visible Scholarship Initiative](#), a monthly celebration of research and creative scholarship in the liberal arts and human sciences sponsored jointly by the College and the University Libraries. Remarks by Ansell were featured at a reception on April 2. In addition, Ansell's book recently was recognized as the winner of the 2015 Brazil Section Book Award, given by the Latin American Studies Association; it was honored for "its innovative and original research, rigorous analysis and for its invaluable contribution to scholarly understanding of Brazilian politics, society and culture." The award will be presented at the association's annual conference in Puerto Rico on May 29.

The following students contributed to the Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management Hands On, Minds On Celebration on April 21, which included posters and presentations: **Catherine Balzer**, "AHRM Website Update," faculty advisor **Julia Beamish**; **Catherine Balzer**, **Amanda**

Brown, Kayla Franco, and Katherine Roulston, “VTechnos Kohl’s Case Study Invitational,” faculty advisor **Doris Kincade**; **Leighanne Bennett**, “Steam Technology: Emerging Into Our Homes,” faculty advisor **Margaret Carneal**; **George Bryan**, “Green Housing Products and Materials,” faculty advisor **Kathleen Parrott**; **Rachel Carter**, “Edith Boling Wilson 1915 Wedding Gown Design Recreation,” faculty advisor **LuAnn Gaskill**; **Zoe Dahl**, “Topics in Military Housing,” faculty advisor Kathleen Parrott; **Alexandria Hubbard**, “A Bathroom Design for the 21st Century User,” faculty advisor **Robert Siegle**, English and Director of the Center for 21st Century Studies; **Allyssa Hulker**, “Water Conservation in the Home,” faculty advisor Margaret Carneal; **Bryan Hunt**, “A Timeless Kitchen,” faculty advisor Kathleen Parrott; **Dan Nguyen**, “Senior Housing in Scandinavia,” faculty advisor **Rosemary Goss**; **Emily Parrish**, “Cryophoenix,” faculty advisor **Peggy Quesenberry**; **Mariana Torres-Cantu**, “Solar Energy Analysis and Design: Monterrey, Mexico,” faculty advisor Kathleen Parrott; and **Danielle Walther**, “Solar Power in the Home,” faculty advisor Margaret Carneal.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty members **Patti Fisher** and **Celia Hayhoe**, who passed away in March 2012, authored “Gender Differences in Saving Behaviors among Low- to Moderate-Income Households,” *Financial Services Review* 24.1 (2015): 1-13, along with Jean Lown.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty members **Erin Hopkins** and **Dustin Read** were awarded a \$10,000 grant from the NAIOP Research Foundation to study best practices in the planning and development of innovation districts throughout the United States.

The following students were recognized at the Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management scholarship and Awards Program on April 9. **Brad Coster** received the Consumer Studies Outstanding Senior Award. **Dan Nguyen** was the recipient of the James F. Kelly Outstanding Senior in Property Management Award and the AHRM Outstanding Senior Award. **Emily Preisendanz** received the National Kitchen and Bath Association Outstanding Student in Residential Environments and Design; see also p. 11. **Katherine Roulston** received the Fashion Merchandising and Design Outstanding Senior Award.

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences is pleased to welcome **Jill Ashton** as its [Director of Development](#). Ashton has more than a decade of higher education development experience, having served as the Director of Development for both the Graduate School and the College of Undergraduate Studies at Florida State University as well as the Director of Major Gifts at the Smeal College of Business at Penn State University. She earned degrees in Political Science and Art History from Florida State University.

The following ASPECT students presented papers at the Western Political Science Association Conference: **Richard Curtis**, “Did Someone Say Democracy: Post-Politics, Protest, and Expressive Capital”; **Sacha Engel**, “‘Germany’ and the Contagiousness of Monetary Stability”; **Mario Khreiche**, “On Political Possibilities and Social Constrains: A Complementary Reading of Hannah Arendt and Paolo Virno”; **Jennifer Lawrence**, “Aesthetic Eco-Resistance: A Marcusean Analysis of Oil Spill Art” and “Seeing Gender in the Tar Sands: A Feminist Framework for

Analyzing Women in the Biopolitical Regime of Tar Sands Production”; **Tyler Suggs**, “The (Legal) Culture of Death: The Representation of the Convicted in American Film and the Courtroom (1963 – 2008).” The conference was held April 2-4 in Las Vegas.

Two ASPECT students presented papers at the Third Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference: **Elizabeth Jamison**, “Imagined Power - The Influence of Business on Alabama Immigration Politics” and **Anthony Szczurek**, “What International Relations Theory Can Learn from Comparative Political Theory.” The conference was held April 16-19 in Chicago.

A House of Dust, a novel by **C. N. Bean**, English, was a finalist in the search by WriteMovies.com for feature-film material; it was rated among the top 2% of 1,000 manuscripts submitted.

Beverly Bunch-Lyons, History, published “[A Social Historian Retools and Reframes](#),” *Perspectives on History* 53.4 (April 2015): 28-29.

Five students who completed the C21S minor recently participated in the [Georgetown Development Initiative](#), placing second among twenty proposal teams from across the US; they are: Rachel Atkins, Geography, **Kelly Cline**, Sociology, **Kaitlyn Fitzgerald**, International Studies, **Caroline Malec**, International Studies, and **Lananh Nguyen**, International Studies. As a winner in the competition, the team will be partnered with a stateside NGO to carry out its project, titled “[Sri Lanka: An Empowering Solution for Infant Malnutrition](#).” In preparing the proposal, students were able to consult with two representatives from Sarvodaya, the largest people’s organization in Sri Lanka, who visited Virginia Tech April 6-7 to discuss international internships and the workings of grassroots NGOs with interested students and who pledged land, facilities, staff, and infrastructure to support the project. The visit was supported by an International Initiative Small Grant and organized by **Robert Siegle**, English and Director of the Center for 21st Century Studies.

María del Carmen Caña Jiménez, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, was recognized as the May 4 Researcher of the Week by the Virginia Tech Office of Research for her work related to an understanding of important social issues in context with Hispanic culture. Her research centers on the relationship between violence, space, and aesthetics in contemporary Colombian, Central American, and Peninsular narratives and cinemas. She has published articles and book chapters on issues such as memory, violence, and the narrative trope of childhood in recent narrative and cinema. Her current investigation examines the relationship between aesthetics, citizenship, and neoliberalism; she also is co-editing a book on contemporary Central American literature.

Kylee Chatham, a senior in Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management/Residential Environments and Design, presented a webinar titled “Securing the Internship: Tips for the Student and the Employer” on March 20 as part of the National Kitchen and Bath Association Student Webinar Series.

Fred D'Aguiar, English, was named the [Clifford A. Cutchins III Professor of English](#) by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. The author of six novels, seven collections of poetry, four plays, six short stories, and 26 essays, his work has been produced for television, film, and radio and has been translated into many languages. Twice the recipient of the Phi Beta Kappa Sturm Award for Excellence in the Creative Arts, D'Aguiar enjoys an international reputation, most notably in the British Commonwealth: he is the recipient of honorary doctorates from the University of Kent and the University of London. He served as co-director of the Creative Writing Program from 2003 to 2006 and has advised and mentored numerous Master of Fine Arts students; he frequently volunteers as a judge for creative writing contests and engages with Blacksburg schools to teach students about creative writing and how to read poetry. D'Aguiar joined the Virginia Tech community in 2003; from 2006 to 2012 he held the Gloria D. Smith Professorship in Africana Studies. The Clifford A. Cutchins Professorship in English was established in 1989 through a gift from the Sovran Financial Corporation to recognize excellence in teaching and scholarship; those honored hold the position for a five-year period.

Dean's Faculty Fellowships for 2014-2015 were awarded to: **Nicholas Copeland**, Sociology; **Bettina Koch**, Political Science; **Patricia Raun**, School of Performing Arts/Theatre; **Andrew Scerri**, Political Science; and **LaDale Winling**, History.

The CLAHS Diversity Committee awarded eight Departmental Diversity Grants for 2014-2015 initiatives in the College. **Sheila Carter-Tod**, English, received support for "Developing a Bridge to Enhance First-Year Student Success through Writing Partnerships." **David Cline**, History, garnered funding for "Virginia Tech LGBTQ Oral Histories." **April Few-Demo**, Human Development, and others, were awarded funding for "Inclusive Excellence Values and Curricular Change." **Dennis Halpin**, History, received support for "Legacies of Reconstruction." **Zhange (Nicole) Ni** and **Raji Singh Soni**, both Religion and Culture, were awarded a grant for "Growing Tiger, Roaring Dragon: Rethinking Categories of Difference in South and East Asia." **Ashley Shew**, Science and Technology in Society, was awarded funding for "The ADA at 25 Years: Lived Experience and Further Directions."

The film [Finding Traction](#), co-directed and co-produced by **Charles Dye**, School of Performing Arts/Cinema, won the Best Women in Adventure Film Gold Award and Best Running Film Silver Category at the Sheffield Adventure Film Festival in Sheffield, England on March 16.

The School of Education held its Annual Awards Banquet on April 22. Honored for earning scholarship support for 2014-2015 were the following students: **Chandler Gilmore**, **Michael Shumate**, and **Tabitha Young**, Career and Technical Education; **Arielle Estes**, Counselor Education; **Michael Rath**, **Elizabeth Galbreath**, **Blair Enoch**, **Nichole Booker**, **Rebecca Yearout** and **Lamisha Compton**, Educational Leadership; **Patricia Coia**, **Jessica Sain**, **Lindsay Skolrood**, **Kristina Tandy**, and **Julia Needham**, Elementary Education; **Alexandra Tobasco** and **Molly Bond**, English Education; **Leigh Ann Coble**, ESL and Multicultural Education; **Eric Ames**, **Laura Keith**, and **Elizabeth Richardson**, History and Social Studies Education; **Jani Purtee**, **Wendy Grimshaw**, and **Tyler Love**, Integrative STEM Education; **Benjamin Slaughter**, Music Education; **Jennifer Maguire** and **Leilani Green**, Science Education; and undergraduates **Emily Colon**,

Rebecca Henderson, Kristen Obenchain, Caitlin Storcks, and Morgan Sykes. Honored as the 2014-2015 Outstanding Student in their respective program area were the following: **Ryan Cook**, Counselor Education and Supervision; **Sharon Pope**, Educational Leadership; **Jacob Grohs**, Educational Psychology; **Ryan Brock Mutcheson**, Educational Research and Evaluation; **Melissa Ryan**, Elementary Education; **Emily DeNoon**, English Education; **Charlotte Kimmel**, ESL and Multicultural Education; **Gabriella Porcacro**, Higher Education; **Brian Boyle**, History and Social Studies Education; **Michelle Ervine**, Instructional Design and Technology; **Michael Grubbs**, Integrative STEM Education; **Tessa Anwyll**, Mathematics Education; **Kevin Cheatham**, Music Education; and **Christina Skiles**, Science Education.

Tom Ewing, Associate Dean and History, was awarded funding through a cooperative agreement from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to present a free workshop titled "[Images and Texts in Medical History: An Introduction to Methods, Tools, and Data from the Digital Humanities.](#)" The event, designed for scholars and librarians in the field of medical history, will be held April 11-13, 2016, at the National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health. Cooperating as well are Great Britain's Wellcome Library, a world-renowned repository of medical history, the Wellcome Trust, and the American Association for the History of Medicine. Additional information can be found on the [workshop website](#).

On April 8 the annual College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony took place in Owens Banquet Hall. Presenting this year's awards was Associate Dean for Graduate Study and Research **Tom Ewing**. Recipients of an Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award were **Mark Barrow**, History, and **Peter Graham**, English. The winner of the Faculty Land Grant Scholar Award was **Anita Puckett**, Religion and Culture. The Excellence in Graduate Student Advising Award winner was **Karen Hult**, Political Science. Excellence in International Initiatives Awards were presented to: **Nyusya Milman-Miller**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Russian, and **Helen Schneider**, History. **Anisa Zvonkovic**, Human Development, garnered the Excellence in Administration Award. Excellence in Research and Creative Scholarship Awards were presented to: **Dwight Bigler**, School of Performing Arts/Music; **Fred D'Aguiar**, English; **Roger Ekirch**, History; **Elizabeth Fine**, Religion and Culture; **Bernice Hausman**, English; **Paul Sorrentino**, English; and **Vinodh Venkatesh**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish. Certificate of Teaching Excellence (CTE) Award winners were: **Gena Chandler-Smith**, English; **David Cline**, History; **Jennifer Lawrence**, English; **Rachel Scott**, Religion and Culture; **Sarah Sierra**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish; and **Peter Wallenstein**, History.

Thomas Gardner, English, and his book *Poverty Creek Journal*, were featured as the second [April Visible Scholarship Initiative](#), a monthly celebration of research and creative scholarship in the liberal arts and human sciences sponsored jointly by the College and the University Libraries. Remarks by Gardner and **Patricia Raun**, Director of the School of Performing Arts, took place at a reception on April 29.

Traci Gardner, English and Assistant Director of Professional Writing, delivered the keynote address at the Student Success in Writing Conference in Savannah, Georgia, April 17; the

address was titled “Ten Ways to Use Digital Tools in the Writing Classroom”; the abstract and presentation materials are available [here](#).

The following students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology were the recipients of scholarships at the 19th Annual Center for Gerontology Awards and Recognition Ceremony on April 21. AARP Memorial Fund Scholarships were awarded to: Neda Norouzi, doctoral student in Architecture and Design Research, and **Aaron Ogletree**, master’s candidate in Human Development. The Center for Gerontology Futures Board Scholarship was presented to **Sujee Kim**, a doctoral student in Human Development. The S. J. Ritchey Scholarship was awarded to **Emma Potter** and **Raven Weaver**, doctoral students in Human Development.

Amy Gillick, School of Performing Arts/Music, published “Practicing Solo Reconsidered: Collaborative Warm-up and Preparatory Technical Routines for Double-Reed Students,” *The Double Reed* 38.1 (2015): 150-52, with Eli Tilevich.

ASPECT student **Johannes Grow** presented “EU: A Visual/Neoliberal Project” at the EUSA Graduate Student Conference, held March 27-28 at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dennis Halpin, History, was named co-winner of the 2015 Joseph L. Arnold Prize for Outstanding Writing on Baltimore’s History for his manuscript, “‘For My Race against All Parties’: Building a Radical African-American Activist Foundation in Baltimore, 1870s-1885.” The prize is awarded by the Baltimore Historical Society.

Kwame Harrison, Sociology and Gloria D. Smith Professor of Africana Studies, published “Hip Hop and Race” in *The Routledge Reader on the Sociology of Music*, ed. John Shepard and Kyle Devine (Oxford and New York: Routledge, 2015), pp. 91-99.

Richard Hirsh, History, was interviewed by BBC/PRI The World for a [radio news story dealing with the new Tesla battery](#).

The Department of History Undergraduate Research Showcase and Student Awards Ceremony was held in the atrium of Major Williams on April 10. The following History undergraduates were recognized for their achievements: **Earl Cherry** was awarded the History Prize for “With All Deliberate Peace: Integration and Resistance West of the Blue Ridge”; **Sydney Vaile** received Honorable Mention. Recognized with the Curtis Prize was **Anna Pope** for “Gender, Race, and Education: Battling State Bigotry and Tyranny in Virginia, 1958”; **Amanda Parmiter** received Honorable Mention. The Undergraduate Digital History Prize was given to Earl Cherry, who also received the History Prize for the paper mentioned above. At that same event, the following graduate students were recognized: **Alexandra Dowrey** received an Outstanding Thesis Award 2013/14 for “The Classics and the Broader Public in Philadelphia, 1783-1788: Avenues for Engagement”; **Alison Hight** also received an Outstanding Thesis Award 2013/14 for “What are ye, little mannie?: The Persistence of Fairy Culture in Scotland, 1572-1703 and 1811-1927.” The Graduate Digital History Prize went to **Rosemary Zlokas** for

the [website](#) she designed to accompany her thesis on campus beauty culture during the 1940s. **Rosemary Zlokas** also received the Exemplary Graduate Assistant Award.

The following CLAHS faculty members were recipients of an Incentive Grant during 2014-2015: **Aaron Ansell**, Religion and Culture; **Ryan Briggs**, Political Science; **Katie Carmichael**, English; **Shannon Jarrott** and **Ila Schepisi**, both Human Development; **Anthony Peguero**, Sociology; **Barbara Ellen Smith**, Sociology; and **Catherine Ulrich** and **Jesse Wilkins**, both School of Education/Teaching and Learning.

The winners of the Jamie Bishop Memorial Scholarships for 2015-2016 are: Rachel Hall, an Interior Design major and German minor, who will complete a six-week intensive German language course at the Free University in Berlin; **Logan Hyer**, a German and International Studies major, who will intern with the *Studierendenwerk* (Student Support Services) in Karlsruhe, Germany, for 10 weeks this summer; and Feiyu Lu, a Materials Science and Engineering major and German and Mathematics minor, who will spend the 2015-2016 academic year at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences as a participant in its UAS7 Study and Internship Program.

ASPECT student **Elizabeth Jamison** presented “Silencing Business Interest in Public Policy Making: Poultry Processing and Alabama Immigration Politics” at the 2015 International Research Society for Public Management Conference, which was held March 30-April 1 in Birmingham, England. In addition, she conducted two day-long workshops titled “Emotional Intelligence as Measure of Leadership” as part of leadership development certificate programs offered by the VT Roanoke Center; these were held February 13 and 27.

Benjamin Jantzen, Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy, won a [National Science Foundation \(NSF\) Faculty Early Development \(CAREER\) Award](#) to study how to enable machines to carry out scientific research on their own. The approximately \$440,000 over five years in grant support will allow Jantzen to pursue the project’s goal of creating a robot scientist by developing computer algorithms that can automatically choose the variables to be considered. He will lead two summer initiatives as part of his research: a weeklong session titled “Philosophy and Physical Computing” for Philosophy and Computer Science graduate students from around the country and “Robot Scientist,” a two-day workshop for middle school students that will be hosted at the Science Museum of Western Virginia in Roanoke. The [CAREER Award](#) for especially promising junior faculty members is one of the NSF’s most prestigious.

Shannon Jarrott, Human Development, received the Engaged Faculty Member Award for 2015 from VT Engage. The award recognizes faculty members who demonstrate exemplary engaged scholarship, including leadership in advancing students’ civic learning, fostering reciprocal community partnerships, building institutional commitments, and other means of enhancing higher education’s contributions to the public good.

The documentary [Letter to the City Yet to Come](#), produced by **Rohan Kalyan**, Political Science, and his brother, Goray Kalyan, was chosen as an official selection for the 2015 New York Indian Film Festival. The 11-minute film deals with the impact on New Delhi and its residents of the December 2012 gang rape and subsequent death of a young woman; it was screened May 9.

Apparel, Housing, and Research Management faculty member **Doris Kincade** and 2012 alumna **Raye Cavender** published "Management of a Luxury Brand: Dimensions and Sub-Variables from a Case Study of LVMH," *Journal of Fashion Marketing and Management* 18.2 (2014): 231-56.

Jim Kuypers, Communication, won the Eastern Communication Association's Everett Lee Hunt Award for Outstanding Scholarship for his book *Purpose, Practice, and Pedagogy in Rhetorical Criticism* (Lexington Press, 2014). The Hunt Award is presented to those who have provided "a major contribution to the understanding of rhetoric and communication as a human function in the contemporary world; a means of explaining and realizing public responsibilities beyond the discipline of communication; and/or an intellectual and humane instrument for merging diverse fields of knowledge in a way that infuses them with moral purpose and public significance."

Christine Labuski, Sociology, published "The (Mis)Measure of Trans," *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* 2.1 (2015): 13-33, with Colton Keo-Meier. In addition, she received an [American Summer-Short-Term Research Publication Grant](#) from the American Association of University Women for her project titled "(Wo)Men Working: Gender, Labor, and Vulnerability in the Bakken Oil Fields."

ASPECT student **Jordan Laney** posted "Beyond (internal) Colonization, Blame, and Binaries: Working towards a Relational Economy" on the Virginia Tech graduate student commentary blog [RE: Reflections and Explorations](#) on April 9. In addition, she presented with **Elizabeth Fine**, Religion and Culture, "Sick No More: Singing a Musician Home in the New River Valley of Virginia" at the 2015 Appalachian Studies Association Conference, which was held March 27-29 at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City; she organized and moderated a panel at the conference as well. Laney also was elected in March to the Steering Committee of the Appalachian Studies Association; she will serve a two-year role as the student at large representative and co-chair of Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners.

Matthew LaPorte, a Political Science major who was one of 32 students and faculty members who lost their lives on April 16, 2007, was recognized posthumously by the Air Force with the [presentation of the Airman's Medal](#) for his heroic act credited for saving lives that day. The presentation took place on April 9 at Westview Cemetery. The Airman's Medal recognizes an individual serving in any capacity with the Air Force who has distinguished himself or herself by a heroic act, usually at the voluntary risk of his or her life but not involving actual combat.

The following individuals in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences participated in the "[Living Library](#)" project hosted by Newman Library on March 31: graduate students **Emily Haugen**, Human Development, **Christian Matheis**, ASPECT, and **Hoa Nguyen**, Human

Development; faculty members **Kathryn Graham**, English, **Alice Kinder**, English, **Neal King**, Sociology, **Anita Puckett**, Religion and Culture and Director of the Appalachian Studies Program, and **Petra Rivera-Rideau**, Sociology; **Ryan Rideau**, Director of Undergraduate Diversity Initiatives; and **John Wall**, Human Development Project Advisor.

Timothy Luke, University Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science, published “Sustainable Business: A Critique of Corporate Social Responsibility Policies and Practices” in *Routledge International Handbook of Sustainable Development*, ed. Michael Redclift and Delyse Springett (London: Routledge, 2015), pp. 323-36.

A solo violin piece titled “Variations on a Song by Talking Heads” composed by **Eric Lyon**, School of Performing Arts/Music, was performed by Pauline Kim Harris of String Noise in the Perspective Gallery in Squires on April 7, and on April 14 String Noise performed four of Lyon’s “Rock Arrangements” at the Church of the Advent Hope in New York City. In addition, Lyon’s 124-channel electroacoustic piece “Shakers” was premiered at the Spring Showcase of the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology and the Digital Interactive Sound and Intermedia Studio, held May 4 in the Moss Arts Center.

History majors **Earl Cherry**, **Derek Litvak**, and **Morgan Sykes** presented papers at the MadRush Conference, which was held March 21 at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. The conference features undergraduate research in the humanities and social sciences.

Nancy Mason, a History major and Religion and Culture minor, was named the [2015 College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Outstanding Senior](#). A member of the Phi Alpha Theta history honor society as well as the advisory board for the Office of Undergraduate Research, Mason has completed three undergraduate research projects, is participating in two others, and has been invited to present her research at several conferences this year. These include the National Council of Undergraduate Research conference (see p. 10), and the Mediterranean Studies Association conference, where she will present “Bethsaida in the Gospels: A Dynamic Portrait”; the conference will be held May 27-30 in Athens, Greece. Mason was interviewed recently by [WVTF/Radio IQ about her research](#). Her volunteer work includes church activities, serving as a volunteer actress for Kidzlife in Salem, the Bridges Language Partners Program, ACROSS international outreach program, Roanoke Rescue Mission, and The Big Event. The Outstanding Senior Award recognizes exceptional academic achievement and leadership by a graduating senior from each of the university’s eight colleges. Recipients have a minimum grade point average of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale and are selected by faculty and students within the respective colleges. Mason was honored at the Student Recognition Banquet sponsored by the Office of the President, Division of Student Affairs, and VT Alumni Association that was held April 11.

ASPECT student **Christian Matheis** presented “From Anti-Racist Self-Deception to Liberatory Commitments” as one of two keynotes for the NAACP event, “Racism: The Power of Illusion,” which was held April 7 in the Graduate Life Center.

Shekila Melchior, a doctoral student in the School of Education/Counselor Education, [was selected for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program](#). Melchior is the communications coordinator for MHC Dreamers, an organization that advocates for and works with undocumented individuals and families as well as Hispanic and Latino populations; she also serves on the minority recruitment and retention committee with local public schools and as the Graduate Residential Fellow in West Ambler Johnston. She is one of 23 doctoral-level counseling students selected for a fellowship award and the third Virginia Tech School of Education student in as many years to be selected. Melchior will receive \$20,000 to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority population.

The following assistant professors in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences were awarded mentoring grants from the Office of the Provost: **Ryan Briggs**, Political Science; **Katie Carmichael**, English; **Charles Dye**, School of Performing Arts/Cinema; **Laura Farmer**, School of Education/Leadership, Counseling, and Research; **David Jon Felt**, History; **Carmen Gitre**, History; **Dennis Halpin**, History; **Caitlin Jewitt**, Political Science; **Jung Eun Lee**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management; **Dustin Read**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management; **Trevor Stewart**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning; and **Abbie Walker**, English.

Carol Mullen, School of Education/Leadership, Counseling, and Research, published "Digital Youth in Brick and Mortar Schools: Examining the Complex Interplay of Students, Technology, Education, and Change," *Teachers College Record* 117.5 (2015): 1-19, with Craig Peck, Kimberly Hewitt, Carl Lashley, John Eldridge, and Ty-Ron Douglas.

Six CLAHS majors were among the 12 Virginia Tech students invited to present their research at the [2015 National Conference on Undergraduate Research](#), which was held April 16-18 at Eastern Washington University. Their abstracts were selected from more than 3,700 submissions. Students who presented papers were: **Cindy Hoang**, Communication, "A Reexamination of the Role Multiplicity, Efficacy, and Funding of Pennsylvania Public School Resource Officers in the Aftermath of the Sandy Hook Tragedy"; **Alexandria Hubbard**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management/Residential Environments and Design, "Bathroom for the 21st Century User"; **Matthew Johnson**, English, "Don Juan in Love (and Lust)"; **Nicholas Lucchesi**, Political Science and Biological Sciences, "Self-Sufficiency, Violence, and Resilience: An Exploration of Survivalist Practices in the Resettlement Process"; **Nancy Mason**, History, "Bethsaida In the Gospels: A Dynamic Portrait" and "China During the 1920s-1940s: Interactions Between Orientalism and Ideals of Domestic Science"; and **Michelle Oh**, Sociology and History, "Technological Age of Hate: How Does the Type of Websites with Hate Material Affect the Level of Self-Esteem?"

Charles Nichols, School of Performing Arts/Music, premiered his computer music composition *Naos Tou Olympiou Dios*, with choreography by Audra Allen and J. Lillian Gray, at 60x60 Dance Louisiana at the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts Dance Department in Natchitoches, LA, on April 10-11. In addition, he presented a keynote lecture, "Mapping Sensors to Musical Parameters," at the Virginia Governor's School Maker Conference in the Moss Arts Center on April 17.

The following CLAHS faculty members were awarded a Niles Research Grant during 2014-2015: **Danna Agmon**, History; **Catalina Andrango-Walker**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish; **Jennifer Bondy**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning; **Tracy Cowden**, School of Performing Arts/Music; **Jay Crone**, School of Performing Arts/Music; **David Jon Felt**, History; **Carmen Gitre**, History; **Christine Labuski**, Sociology; **Nneka Logan**, Communication; **Yasuo Miyazaki** and **Elizabeth Creamer**, both School of Education/Leadership, Counseling, and Research; **Natasha Staley**, School of Performing Arts/Theatre; **Abby Walker**, English; and **Dale Wimberley**, Sociology.

Corinne Noirot, Foreign Languages and Literatures/French, was the recipient of the College's 2014-2015 Humanities Symposium Award.

The following CLAHS students accepted the invitation to become members of Phi Beta Kappa this semester: **Chloe Benner**, Classical Studies; **Emily Blair**, English; **Katherine Boyd**, Sociology and Psychology; **Nicole Capriola**, Spanish and Psychology; **Katherine Carlin**, History; **Natalie Cauley**, French and Economics; **Earl Cherry**, History; **Hee Yoon Chung**, International Studies; **Anna Clark**, Sociology; **Colleen Correll**, English; **Dawn Cutler**, Political Science; **Margaret Dozier**, Spanish and Industrial and Systems Engineering; **William Farrar**, History; **James Flanagan**, International Studies; **Samantha Freeburn**, English; **Carley Frye**, Political Science; **Sadie Gary**, Sociology; **Jane Gates**, History; **Kevin Hopkins**, German and Economics; **Joseph Mack**, English; **Michaelanne Makuch**, Sociology; **Nancy Mason**, History; **Kirsten Melone**, History; **Christopher Peter**, History; **Brittanie Peterson**, Human Development; **John Pierce**, English; **Michaela Pitman**, Political Science; **Rose Quesenberry**, International Studies; **Elisabeth Rosenbaum**, International Studies; **Sarah Rouzer**, Political Science and Economics; **Melissa Schaefer**, Sociology; **Christopher Schweinhart**, Philosophy and Computer Science; **Colleen Sheehan**, English; **Julia Sherry**, International Studies; **Katherine Spicknall**, English; **Maegan Stebbins**, English; **Zachary Stilwell**, History; **William Strickland**, Philosophy and Biological Systems Engineering; **Lisa Thai**, International Studies; **Taylor Thesing**, Multimedia Journalism; **Kara Van Scoyoc**, International Studies; **Leah Williams**, History; **Rebecca Williams**, History; Political Science; **Jenna Zschaebitz**, Human Development. The initiation takes place on May 14.

Emily Preisendanz, a senior in Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management/Residential Environments and Design, [was recognized as a top design student by the National Kitchen and Bath Association](#). She was one of 27 students honored for academic success, internship, work, and volunteer contributions to the kitchen and bath industry. Preisendanz was a representative to the AHRM Student Leadership Council and recipient of the AHRM Housing Study Tour Travel Award. She completed three internships and since 2013 has been a volunteer with and leader of the Virginia Tech Nicaraguan Orphan Fund.

The following CLAHS staff were nominees for the President's Awards for Excellence and the Governor's Awards for 2015: **Carlene Arthur**, Operations Coordinator for the Center for Gerontology and Institute for Society, Culture and Environment; **Janet Francis**, Undergraduate Advisor in the Department of History; **Vickie Martin**, Fiscal Technician for the School of Education; **Doris Shelor**, Budget Manager for the Department of Religion and Culture; and **Terry**

Zapata, Administrative Assistant/Office Manager for the Department of Philosophy. The nominees were recognized at a reception in their honor on March 31 in the President's Suite at Lane Stadium.

Paul Quigley, James I. Robertson, Jr., Associate Professor of Civil War History and Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, published the editorial "[Looking Forward from Appomattox](#)" in the *Roanoke Times* on April 5, in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the surrender of the Confederate army.

Dustin Read, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, won a best paper award at the 2015 American Real Estate Society conference for his manuscript titled "Examining the Importance of the 'Linchpin' Parcel in Land Aggregation." The manuscript, co-authored with Michael Seiler and Artie Zillante, was recognized for its contribution to practice.

The Department of Religion and Culture held its Third Annual Undergraduate Research Day on April 25. Presenting their research were the following students: **Mary Claire Gibson**, Religion and Culture and French, "Martyrdom: Looking at the Bible to See the Roots of a Post-Biblical Concept"; Molly Hilt, Biological Sciences, Sam Winter, General Engineering, Paul Wotring, Psychology, and Chris Youngs, Agricultural Sciences, "We Didn't Know We Could Do This': Reflections from the First Bluegrass Class at VT"; **Vince Marcantonio**, International Studies, "Copts: Hanif or Haram?"; and **Samuel Ross**, Religion and Culture, "Travel and Trade in Old Norse Culture."

Human Development professor **Karen Roberto**, Director of the Center for Gerontology and the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment, was awarded a [University Distinguished Professorship](#) by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors at its March meeting. The rank is bestowed on no more than 1 percent of Virginia Tech faculty whose scholarly attainments have attracted national and international recognition. Roberto's research as a family gerontologist has focused on rural older women, coping with chronic conditions, family care partners of people with mild cognitive impairment, and elder abuse. Her groundbreaking work in the latter two areas has attracted attention nationally and internationally and her studies on elder abuse have been cited at least half a dozen times in proposals for federal legislation in this area. Roberto joined the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech in 1996 as the director of the Center for Gerontology; in 2006 she became the founding director of the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment, establishing an infrastructure to advance the university's extramural funding portfolio in the social sciences and humanities. Roberto joins fellow CLAHS faculty **Nikki Giovanni**, English, and **Timothy Luke**, Political Science, as a University Distinguished Professor.

Scott Sanders, English, published a short essay titled "[4-20](#)" in the online journal *Hippocampus* on April 1.

ASPECT student **Julie Walters Steele** received a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities for the coordination of a program titled "The Legacy of Kitty Reynolds," which was

held April 11 at Mt. Olivet East Christian Church in Martinsville, Virginia. The program explored the life of Kitty Reynolds, who was enslaved at Rock Spring Plantation, now a Virginia Tech Commonwealth Campus Center known as The Reynolds Homestead.

The [2015 Steger Poetry Prizes](#) were announced at a reading in April that also celebrated the 10th anniversary of the award. This year's competition garnered more than 85 entries. Sophomore Wildlife Conservation major Gretchen Dee won first prize, \$1,100, for her poem, "Whole." The second-place prize of \$500 was awarded to **Alexandra Hill**, a junior Creative Writing and Political Science major, for "How to Tell Your Dad." First-year Wildlife Conservation major **Michelle Wright** was the recipient of the third-place prize, \$300, for "Spoken Word: To Be Woman." Earning honorable mention status were the following: **Emily Blair**, English; **Lane Clarke**, English; Michaela Goldammer, Mechanical Engineering; **Dale Hiles**, Sociology; **Sarah McCliment**, Creative Writing and Literature and Language; **Nneoma Nwankwo**, Political Science and Public and Urban Affairs; and Smrithi Srikanthan, Chemical Engineering. The event concluded with a reading entitled "Three Hours with Nikki Giovanni," written by junior Creative Writing major **Aimee Hahn**, which was a salute to Giovanni sayings in the classroom. The winners were recognized by University Distinguished Professor **Nikki Giovanni** and former Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger, the award's benefactor.

Annie Stevens, School of Performing Arts/Music, presented a performance on May 1 at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia with her percussion duo, Escape Ten. The performance also featured legendary jazz vibraphonists and the renowned marimba soloist, Leigh Howard Stevens.

The 15th [STGlobal Science and Technology in Society Conference](#) featured presentations by some 55 graduate students from institutions that are members of the STGlobal Consortium; among the presenters were the following Virginia Tech doctoral students in the Science and Technology Studies program: **John Bozeman**, **Jennifer Carter**, **Charles de Souza**, **Philip Egert**, **Mel Eulau**, **Richard Hilberer**, **Kristen Koopman**, **Dan Miller**, **Chrissy Vu**, and **Edward Wolfgang**. Carter and STS doctoral student **Bryn Whitley** chaired the conference's planning committee; Egert, Miller, and STS doctoral student **Chelsea Ford-Gladieux** served on the planning committee. The conference, which featured presentations by some 55 graduate students, was held April 10-11 in Washington, D.C. Professor **Barbara Allen**, co-director of the Science, Technology and Society program in the National Capital Region, helped found the consortium, which currently includes Arizona State University, Drexel University, George Mason University, Georgetown University, George Washington University, and Virginia Tech.

The following CLAHS students were awarded scholarships from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences this semester in support of study abroad participation. For Winter 2015: **Catherine Fravel**, History and English, London. For Spring 2015: **Peter Guevara**, History and Classical Studies; Rome; **Alexis Mixon**, History, Paris; **Elizabeth Patrick**, Political Science and Communication, Switzerland; **Jenna Sawyer**, Theatre Arts, Switzerland; **Marin Shipe**, Communication and French, France; **Rachel Snyder**, History and Applied Economic Management, University of Kent, UK; **Stephanie Tripodi**, International Studies, Quito; and

Amberly Westermeyer, Music, London. For Summer Session I: **Courtney Dowse**, International Studies and Russian, Latvia; **Deborah Goldeen**, Music and Theatre Arts, London; **Amanda Gordon**, French and Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, Paris; **Megan Hall**, Human Development, Rome and Switzerland; **Savannah Hazelwood**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, Paris/London/Florence/Rome; **Daron Hennessey**, English and Communication, Switzerland; **Mehan McPherson**, English, London; **Ashley Stant**, English, London; **Lauren Steele**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management; Paris/London/Florence/Rome; and **Katy Stiles**, Communication, Switzerland. For Summer Sessions I and II: **Andres Morana**, International Studies, Jordan. For Fall 2015: **Marissa Gillwald**, International Studies, Switzerland and Africa; **Ling Guo**, Political Science, Hong Kong; **Gillian McCreeedy**, Political Science and Public Relations, Switzerland and Africa; **Alexander Riley**, Human Development, Switzerland and Africa; **Zoe Riviere**, Human Development and Psychology, Switzerland and Africa; **Kayla Schroeder**, History, Switzerland and Africa; **Taylor Simpson**, International Studies and Spanish, Spain; **Katherine Talley**, International Studies, Morocco.

The research of eight undergraduates is featured as part of a [poster display](#) titled “That Dread Disease: Materials Related a History of Tuberculosis in America.” They are: Phoebe Bredin, Geography and Biological Sciences; **Andrew Climo**, History; Julie Clements, Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise; **Nancy Mason**, History; **Grace Hemmingson**, History; Veronica Kimmerly, Chemical Engineering and Mathematics; **Scottie Lynch**, History major; and Murphy Massey, Biological Sciences. **Tom Ewing**, Associate Dean and History, serves as the project director; advisors included Joseph Falkinham, Biological Sciences, and Newman Library data curators and librarians Shane Coleman, Andrea Ogier, and Patrick Tomlin. [The posters](#) explore medical research on tuberculosis, data about victims, public health measures, recommended cures, and the significance of race. They are being exhibited through June at the following locations: Claude Moore Health Sciences Library at University of Virginia; Science Museum of Western Virginia in Roanoke; Newman Library at Virginia Tech; and Staunton Public Library.

Four CLAHS graduate students gave presentations as part of the South Asia Symposium held April 8 on the Virginia Tech campus: **Komal Dhillon**, ASPECT, “A Different Sameness: Pigmentocracy, Caste, and Colonialism in India”; **Saadia Rais**, Sociology, “Communication Technology and Diaspora: Short Film as Quantitative Research”; **Pallavi Raonka**, Sociology, “Assessing the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) Initiative, and Well Construction in Rural India”; and **Anthony Szczurek**, ASPECT, “International Relations and Indian Political Thought.”

History major **Morgan Sykes** was selected as the [2015-2016 Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors](#). Co-founder and president of Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society designed to promote fellowship among future and current educators, Sykes has served as a Hokie Ambassador and a Hokie Camp counselor and this year is general manager of the newly created College Mentor for Kids program. Last month she presented her research on the aspartame controversy at the ACC Meeting of the Minds conference. She is a member of Kappa Delta sorority and the Golden Key International Honor Society. The two student representatives, one undergraduate and one graduate, are appointed

to one-year terms; they serve as ex-officio members on the Commission of Student Affairs and sit on a committee of the governing board.

Undergraduate research accomplishments in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences during this academic year were celebrated at the 2015 Celebration of Undergraduate Research, which took place on April 15 in the Multipurpose Room in Newman Library. **Marc Lucht**, Director of the Undergraduate Research Institute, provided words of welcome. Lucht, along with **Ryan Rideau**, CLAHS Director of Undergraduate Diversity Initiatives and Assistant Director of the URI, recognized a number of College students and faculty for their engagement in undergraduate research. Among them were 2014-2015 URI grant recipients and their mentors as well as the Department Research Day grant recipients; these individuals were acknowledged earlier this academic year in *News2Note*. Recognized as well were CLAHS students accepted to present their research at the ACC Meeting of the Minds Conference (identified in the April issue of *News2Note*) and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (see p. 10). There was one URI Scholar, **Peter Johnston**, Philosophy and Religion and Culture, and three Undergraduate Diversity Scholars: **Earl Cherry**, History and Classical Studies; **Devon Johnson**, English; and **John Wall**, Human Development and Psychology. Words of thanks were extended to the URI Ambassadors: **Mark Casper**, **Erica Corder**, **Katarina Frustaci**, **Ling Guo**, **Joseph Sorrentino**, and **Cassidy Turner**, as well as URI Graduate Assistant **Jessica Hill**. The assistance of the *Philologia* Faculty Advisory Board was acknowledged: **Patricia Fisher**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management; **Kwame Harrison**, Sociology; **Kee Jeong Kim**, Human Development; **Nancy Metz**, English; **Joseph Pitt**, Philosophy; **Luke Plotica**, Political Science; **Emily Satterwhite**, Religion and Culture; **Debra Stoudt**, Associate Dean and Foreign Languages and Literatures/German; and **Peter Wallenstein**, History; as was additional manuscript reviewing by **María del Carmen Caña Jiménez**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish. The event continued with a celebration of the [unveiling of Volume VII of *Philologia*](#), the undergraduate research journal in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Recognized for this accomplishment were members of the 2015 editorial board (with CLAHS students highlighted in bold): editor-in-chief **Demetria Lee**, English, Philosophy, and Political Science; managing editor **Margaret Smith**, English; associate editors **Jade Alston**, Political Science and Philosophy; **Tyler Gass**, Political Science; **Tina Homayoun**, International Studies and Economics; **Ren Nicholson**, Communication; **Daniel Nozick**, English; and **Emily Oliver**, History and Spanish; and layout editors **Elizabeth Howe**, English, and **Emily Walters**, English. Next year's editor-in-chief, Emily Walters, was introduced. Following the recognition of current editorial board members and the new editor-in-chief, Lee unveiled Volume VII. The 107-page issue contains research manuscripts and creative scholarship solicited and edited by the student editorial board, with assistance from the faculty advisory board and the faculty reviewers, as well as featured articles written by the student editorial board. Research articles are authored by: the team of **Sarah Dagon**, Sociology and Spanish, **Michael Goodwin**, Finance and Spanish, **Anthony Nguyen**, International Studies and Spanish, and **Blair Graham**, Biochemistry and Spanish; the team of **Sara Emsley**, History, **LeAnn Rhodes**, Political Science, **Katy Shepard**, Philosophy, Political Science, and Studio Art, and **Kaitlin Winfree**, Political Sciences; **Corey Harlow**, who graduated with a B.A. in Political Science in December 2014 and is now a master's student in Political Science; **Gizem Korkmaz**, who graduated with a B.A. in Political Science in May 2014;

Political Science; **Derek Litvak**, History; **Christina Muehlbauer**, Philosophy and Biology; Jay Ruckelshaus, a Philosophy and Political Science major at Duke University; **Eric Schneider**, Political Science; and **Sydney Vaile**, History and Political Science. Contributors to the creative scholarship section are: **Daron Hennessey**, English, and **Miranda Marques**, English. The featured articles, written to showcase research programs or projects not in research paper format, are by Lee and Gass, Homayoun, and Nozick. The seventh volume of *Philologia* was printed and distributed with support from the CLAHS Undergraduate Research Institute, the Office of the Dean, and the University Honors program; copies were printed for distribution not only campus-wide but for guidance counselors throughout the state of Virginia and undergraduate research offices at colleges and universities in the region. The celebration concluded with a Flamenco dance performance by VT Olé, directed by María del Carmen Caña Jiménez, who performed with the group; and with closing remarks by **Robert Stephens**, Associate Dean and History.

The following faculty and staff members in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences were winners of a 2015 University Faculty/Staff Award. Additional details regarding these award winners can be found [here](#).

Katherine Allen, Human Development, was the recipient of the [Alumni Award for Excellence in Graduate Academic Advising](#). Since joining the Virginia Tech community in 1989, Allen has chaired 38 doctoral degree or master's degree student committees and served as a member of 117 additional graduate student committees. Her role as a graduate student advisor has been recognized several times in recent years at the departmental, college, and university levels and last year she received the competitive National Council on Family Relations' Felix Berardo Mentoring Award from the primary professional organization in her discipline.

Carlene Arthur, Operations Coordinator for the Center for Gerontology and the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment (ISCE), was recognized with the [President's Award for Excellence](#). Administrative Assistant for the Center for Gerontology since 2004, Arthur assumed administrative responsibilities for ISCE as well beginning in 2006. She oversees administration, personnel and payroll, grant fiscal management, academic support, and community engagement and was recognized for her competence, enthusiasm, dedication, and good humor. Arthur played a key coordinating role in the renovation of the Wallace Annex, which began in 2013; the building is now the home of the center and of ISCE.

Trudy Harrington Becker, History, garnered the [William E. Wine Award](#) for her teaching achievements. She has taught undergraduate classes at all levels, including the first-year experience course for first-year History students, HIST 1024: Ancient History, the department's senior seminar, as well as online and education abroad courses for almost 20 years. Director of Undergraduate Studies in the department, she serves as faculty advisor to some 50 History majors. Harrington Becker's teaching excellence has been recognized with two Certificates of Teaching Excellence, the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Alumni Award for Excellence in International Education.

Heather Gumbert, History, received the [Diggs Teaching Scholars Award](#) for her teaching-enhancement project that employs educational technology for developing collaborative, inquiry-based courses with interdisciplinary application. She and her students are using an open-source data visualization application in an upper-division course to construct a timeline

of World War II. Each week students publish on the timeline one “moment” inspired by the reading; the resulting entry includes text by students as well as images, videos, sound clips, maps, and other data. Gumbert teaches in the University Honors program and was a founding principal of the Honors Residential College.

Anthony “Kwame” Harrison, Sociology and Gloria D. Smith Professor of Africana Studies, garnered the [Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching](#). Harrison’s love of teaching inspire students to exceed their own expectations for learning, intellectual development, and personal growth; his success in this regard has been recognized with other teaching awards as well. In addition, Harrison promotes undergraduate research opportunities, supervising undergraduate research projects and serving on the faculty editorial advisory board of *Philologia*, the undergraduate research journal of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Amy Nelson, History, was the recipient of the [Diggs Teaching Scholars Award](#) for “Networked Learning Communities in Hybrid Courses,” a teaching-enhancement project that uses blogs syndicated to a main course website. Students write original research posts on topics of their choosing, using print materials, sources available on the open Web, and databases provided by University Libraries. Nelson’s success in the classroom has been recognized several times in recent years with the receipt of awards including two Certificates of Teaching Excellence, the Carroll B. Shannon Excellence in Teaching Award, and the Alumni Teaching Award.

Katrina Powell, English and Director of Women’s and Gender Studies, received the [Diggs Teaching Scholars Award](#) for “Transgressive Archives as Activism,” a methodological approach that combines teaching, research, and outreach objectives to disseminate academic scholarship in innovative and public ways. Her teaching incorporates reflective, autobiographical, active engagement exercises and writing; these allow students to explore what archives of particular spaces might look like and how to create archival material in innovative ways. Powell teaches courses in autobiography, research methods, and rhetorical theory; her own research deals with displacement narratives regionally and transnationally.

Marlene Preston and **Brandi Quesenberry**, both Communication, were awarded the [XCaliber Award](#) for a team making outstanding contributions to technology-enriched active learning. They were recognized for Virtual Public Speaking, a course they co-designed and co-taught that uses WebEx to offer students real-time audience interaction and provide them with a rigorous “public” speaking experience. Student engagement in the scaffolded learning activities has resulted in improved ability to create a speech thesis as well as manage anxiety before and during a speech. Preston and Quesenberry were lauded for their ability to transfer the department’s traditional, highly sought-after public speaking course to create a multimodal, interactive online course.

Jennifer Sano-Franchini, English, was the recipient of the [XCaliber Award](#) for an individual making extraordinary contributions to technology-enriched active learning. In her Issues in Professional and Public Discourse, a senior-level capstone course, students explore how technical and professional writing influence — and are influenced by — public discourse through a focus on feminism and interaction design. The mixture of online pedagogy, discussion, collaboration, and hands-on problem-solving reinforces the themes and goals of the course. Sano-Franchini’s seven years of industry experience in document design and professional writing inform her research and teaching practices.

Peter Wallenstein, History, was recognized with the [Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching](#). A champion of undergraduate research, Wallenstein sees teaching and research as vitally related, promotes research in all his classes, and encourages students to present their work at conferences and publish it. His co-authored monograph on T. Marshall Hahn, Jr.'s presidency as well as his single-authored history of Virginia incorporated and acknowledged his students' research. Wallenstein is a founding member of the College's Undergraduate Research Institute and co-chairs the Faculty Advisory Board of the Virginia Tech Office of Undergraduate Research.

Jane Vance, Religion and Culture, curated "[The Art of Precision and Reach](#)," a show at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine in Roanoke that runs through July and had its opening reception on April 21.

Vinodh Venkatesh, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, was recognized as the May 4 Virginia Tech Teacher of the Week by the Center for Instructional Development and Education Research (CIDER). He was honored for his creation of a hybrid cultural space in his classes, where critical reflection includes a personal connection to the subject matter; his teaching approach involves the inclusion of popular culture, music, art, comics, and films in his classroom on a daily basis. Venkatesh also has created and taught an online and in-person course on Spanish for the medical profession, which includes conversations with professionals in the field who are both local and national.

The following History majors gave papers at the Virginia Social Science Association Conference, held at Norfolk State University on March 28: **Earl Cherry**, "With All Deliberate Peace: Integration and Resistance West of the Blue Ridge," and **Derek Litvak**, "To Chop off One's Right Hand: The True Meaning behind George Mason's Opposition to the Constitution." The event was held March 28 at Norfolk State University.

The Department of History's 2015 volume of the [Virginia Tech Undergraduate Historical Review](#) includes research by the following History students: **Earl Cherry**, "Tales from Fincastle Hall: How a Community College Grew Up"; **Rachel Goatley**, "The Spanish Influenza in Southwest Virginia: 1918-1919"; **Danielle Ingalls**, "Letters of Audacity: North Carolinian Women and Their Desperate Plea for State Support During the Civil War"; May 2014 graduate **Andrea Ledesma**, "Keep up the Fight: Eudora Ramsay Richardson and the Evolution of Feminism After Suffrage"; **Anna Pope**, "Gender, Race, and Education: Battling State Bigotry and Tyranny in Virginia, 1958"; and **Morgan Sykes**, "The Aspartame Controversy of 1981: The Hidden Truth Behind the Not-So-Sweet Artificial Sweetener."

The following CLAHS students presented their research and creative scholarship at the [2015 Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research Conference](#), which was held April 24 in Squires Student Center. Oral presentations were given by: **Taylor Allen**, Human Development; **Eleanor Boggs**, History; **Vatia Caldwell**, Sociology; **Alexander Castellano**, History; **Earl Cherry**, History; **Kaitlyn Fitzgerald**, International Studies and French; **Dara Green**, History; **Hannah Haymes**, Human Development; **Alexandria Hubbard**, Residential Environments and Design; **Emily Hurley**, Political Science; **Danielle Ingalls**, History; **Derek Litvak**, History; **Amanda Parmiter**, History; the

team of **Kathleen Smith** and **Caryn Crotty**, both Human Development, **Miranda Marques**, English, and **Kendall Bullock**, Sociology; **Morgan Sykes**, History; **Travis Whaley**, Music and German; and **Seth White**, History. Posters were presented by: **Alexander Castellano**, History; the team of: Julie Clements, Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise, **Nancy Mason**, **Grace Hemmingson**, and **Scottie Lynch**, all three History; **Brianna Early**, Human Development; the team of: Lauren Furtner, Psychology, **Elizabeth Graviano**, Human Development, and Qirrat Jessani, Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise; **Elizabeth Gardiner**, Human Development; **Bilan Jama**, International Studies; the team of **Madison Lanier**, **Emma Nadia Dosky-McQuade**, **Sara Lepley**, and **Kate Monick**, all four Communication, and **Christine Heyward**, English; **Charley Martin**, Human Development; **Alec Masella**, English; **Nancy Mason**, History; **Ashley Meier**, Human Development; **Erica Tiedemann**, Human Development. Also part of the event was a performance by the VT Olé - Flamenco Dance Group; performing were: **Caroline Amodeo**, Music and Spanish; Alex Clark, Biochemistry; **Natalia Estevez**, Mechanical Engineering and Theater Arts; Kristen Fread, Biochemistry; **Amanda Kranz**, International Studies; **Tracy Laux**, Business Information Technology and Spanish; Tiffany Moreira, Aerospace Engineering; **Chelsea Rinn**, Spanish; and **Olivia White**, International Studies and Geography. The group's faculty advisor is **María del Carmen Caña Jiménez**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish.

Peter Wallenstein, History, published "[Brown v. Board of Education and Segregated Universities: From Kluger to Klarman – Toward Creating a Literature on Federal Courts and Undergraduate Admissions](#)," *Virginia Social Sciences Journal* 50 (2015): 11-23.

Travis Whaley, Music and German, was among seven Virginia Tech undergraduates awarded a [2015 Atlantic Coast Conference Creativity and Innovation grant](#) to pursue research and creative scholarship opportunities this summer. His project is titled "Beethoven's compositional process and the evolution of the Waldstein Sonata, op. 53" and he will conduct research in June at the Beethoven-Haus in Bonn, Germany. His faculty mentor is **Debra Stoudt**, Associate Dean and Foreign Languages and Literatures/German.

The following CLAHS majors participated in the annual Women's and Gender Studies student conference on April 17. Undergraduates presenting papers were: **Vatia Caldwell**, Sociology and Psychology, "Defending and Refuting Feminist Ideologies through the Work of Lil' Kim"; **Nikki Clemons**, English, "Merging 'Ace' and Race: Redefining the Politics of Silence surrounding Asexual Black Women"; **Lydia Jamil**, Political Science, "How Workplace Discrimination against Muslim and Arab American Women Has Been Erased: Intersectionality, Models of Discrimination, and the Need for Collaboration"; **Matthew Lyness**, Sociology, "Queering the Boondocks: An Intersectional Approach to Queer Ruralities" and "Erecting Barriers: Psychiatric Evaluation and Partner Consultation when Prescribing Viagra"; **Andrea Monzon**, Sociology, "Vaginoplasty: Ineffective Solution for an Imaginary Problem?"; **Anu Sharma**, Sociology, "Embedding Intersectionality into Feminist Anti-Globalization Discourse and Practice: The Re-centering of Asian Immigrant Women within Capitalist Heteropatriarchy"; **Anu Sharma**, **Claire Wiklund**, and **Miles Le**, Sociology, "The Illusion of Multiculturalism: A Critique of the Institutionalization of Diversity as It Reproduces Hegemony at Virginia Tech"; **Sydney Topp**, Sociology, "Creating Intersectional Bodily Schemas: An Approach to Female Phantom Genital

Pain” and “Phantom Genitals: Neuroanatomy and the Female Body Image”; and **Clint Whitten**, English, “Snow White through the Looking Glass.” Undergraduate students who read their creative writing during a session titled “Fiction and Feminist Conversations” included: Abby August, University Studies; **Sydney Byrd**, Human Development; **Bria Elly**, English; **Nicole Fryling**, Communication; **Carlie Jansen**, Human Development; **Ashley Meyer**, English; and **Niki Selz**, Human Development. Undergraduates presenting posters on the theme of “Women, Literacy, and Activism” included: **Natalie Cauley**, French and Economics, and **Nicole Fryling**, Communication, on Nepal; **Emily Hughes**, Communication, **Jenny Lemley**, Political Science, and **Emily McBride**, Communication, on Ethiopia; **Kirsten Malone**, History, and **Carly Redrow**, Communication, on Pakistan; and **Allison Riddle**, Political Science, on Morocco. Graduate students presenting papers were: **Emily Gary**, Human Development, “Patriarchy in Short Creek: a Radical Feminist Exploration of Female Oppression in the FLDS”; **Lauren Taylor**, Education, “Engagement of Female Students in Residence Halls at Virginia Tech”; **Shelby Ward**, ASPECT, “The Power Relations in Self-Governance: Claiming Situated Knowledge as Democratic Transformation”; and **Kristi Wilson**, Sociology, “Talking Points: Women, Sexuality and Pornography: Analysis of the Anti-Porn Movement of the 1970s and 80s.” Reading her poetry was **Mariana Sierra**, English. The following first ever Barbara Ellen Smith Awards for Outstanding WGS Student Conference Papers (from this conference) were presented. The undergraduate winner was Arielle Mesa, Psychology, for “Historical Invisibilities: The Erasure of Intersectional Biracial Identities from Multiracial Studies and Black Feminist Thought”; the graduate winners (a tie) were: Stephanie House-Niamke, Public Administration, and Public Affairs, for “Womanist Theology: A Comparative Analysis on the Impact of Womanism in the Black Church”; and **Sarah Steelman**, Human Development, for “Externalizing Identities: An Integration of Narrative Therapy and Queer Theory.” Joining WGS faculty member **Barbara Ellen Smith** in planning the conference were Sociology graduate students **Katie Ayers** and **Jennifer Turner** and undergraduates **Anu Sharma** and **Sydney Topp**. Faculty members **Sharon Johnson**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/French, **Christine Labuski**, Sociology and Women’s and Gender Studies, and **Katy Powell**, English and Director of Women’s and Gender Studies, served as the review committee for the student paper awards.

Zac Zimmer, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, published “The Enclosure of the Nomos: Appropriation and Conquest in the New World” in *The Anomie of the Earth: Philosophy, Politics, and Autonomy in Europe and the Americas*, ed. Federico Luisetti, John Pickles, and Wilson Kaiser (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2015), pp. 137-55.

News2Note will be on hiatus until August. Please submit items for inclusion in the August newsletter to Associate Dean Debra Stoudt at dstoudt@vt.edu.