



News2 Note

August 2011

Politics of Postsecular Religion: Mourning Secular Futures by **Ananda Abeysekara**, Religion and Culture, was republished by the Social Scientists' Association of Sri Lanka in June in a South Asian edition. The work originally appeared with Columbia University Press in 2008.

The AFROTC at Virginia Tech welcomes **Col. John "Bama" Montgomery** as its new commander. A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Col. Montgomery comes to Virginia Tech from Nellis AFB, Nevada. He is a graduate of the USAF Weapons Instructor Course and the Army Command and General Staff College; he holds a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from the National War College, Washington, D.C. Also joining the AFROTC is **Lt. Geoffrey Moy**, who previously worked as an intelligence analyst at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. He earned his degree in Mechanical Engineering from West Virginia University and his commission through AFROTC.

Linda Anderson, English, was a delegate to the International Shakespeare Association's World Congress in Prague, Czech Republic, July 17-22, and participated in a seminar titled "Trauma and Memory in Shakespeare."

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty members **JoAnn Emmel** and **Irene Leech** received the 2010 Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal Best Article Award in Housing, Equipment and Interior Design at the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, in June. The article, "Low Income Households' Response to Higher Home Energy Costs," appeared in *Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal* 38,4 (June 2010): 372-86; it was co-authored with Hyun-Jeong Lee, an alumna of the doctoral program in AHRM, and Ruby Cox.

Rick Barrow, Site Coordinator, Southwest Virginia Assistive Technology System (SW VATS) at Virginia Tech, participated in the Youth Leadership Forum, held the week of July 18 in Richmond. The program seeks to empower young people with disabilities to further develop their leadership skills. Barrow displayed and demonstrated assistive technology that students might use to make learning easier. Some 35 students as well as 20 leaders and staff took part in the hands-on resource fair. **Susan Asselin**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, is Principal Investigator for the SW VATS project.

ASPECT student **Seth Barte** published a book review titled "John Lukacs and the New Age of Historical Thinking" on the scholarly blog *The Way of Improvement Leads Home*; the review appeared on June 18.

Damion Blake, an ASPECT student, was awarded a Latin American Security, Drugs, and Democracy (LASDD) Fellowship, jointly administered by the Social Science Research Council, the Open Society Foundation, and the Universidad de los Andes in Columbia, for dissertation fieldwork research. He was among 20 doctoral candidates and junior researchers at top-ranked research universities and Latin American Studies centers in the United States, Canada, and Latin America to receive this prestigious fellowship. Blake will return to his native Jamaica to study the place and power of the Jamaican don in the country's inner city communities; he will carry out his fieldwork during the fall semester. In the summer of 2012 he will participate in a post-fieldwork session in Bogota, Colombia.

Glenn Bugh, History, was elected Chair of the Managing Committee for the American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS). Unanimously elected by the representatives of 76 cooperating universities and colleges in the US and abroad, Bugh will serve in this capacity for five years, working with the Board of Trustees and the Director of ARCS in Sofia, Bulgaria, to provide leadership over all the programmatic and personnel needs of the Center.

The College is pleased to announce the following tenure and promotion decisions by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors at its June 6 meeting. Promoted to associate professor with tenure among the collegiate faculty were: **Janet Abbate**, Science and Technology in Society; **Jennifer Brill**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies; **Gena Chandler**, English; **Megan Dolbin-MacNab**, Human Development; **Michael Evans**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies; **Carlos Evia**, English; **William Glenn**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; **Helen Schneider**, History; **Rachel Scott**, Religion and Culture; and **Cynthia Smith**, Human Development. Promoted to the rank of professor were: **E. Thomas Ewing**, History; **George Glasson**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning; **Billie Lepczyk**, School of Education/Learning Sciences and Technologies; **Nancy Metz**, English; and **Jesse Wilkins**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning.

The College is delighted to welcome the following new tenure-track faculty: **Catalina Andrango-Walker**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish; **Dwight Bigler**, Music; **David Cline**, History; **Alexander Dickow**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/French; **Priya Dixit**, Political Science; **Charlene Eska**, English; **Jeremy Ernst**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning; **Benjamin Jantzen**, Philosophy; **Tristram McPherson**, Philosophy; **Yulia Minkova**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Russian; **Nicole Ni**, Religion and Culture; **Sarah Ovink**, Sociology; **Kami Patrizio**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; **Anthony Peguero**, Sociology; **Ted Price**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; **Natasha Staley**, Theatre and Cinema; **Min Sun**, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; **Vinodh Venkatesh**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish; **Matthew Vollmer**, English; **LaDale Winling**, who will join History in January 2012; **Bartosz Wojdyski**, Communication; and **Zac Zimmer**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish. The following new faculty were hired with tenure: **Claire Apodaca**, Political Science, who will arrive in Blacksburg in August 2012; **David Brunsm**, Sociology; **Francois Debrix**, Political Science and Director of ASPECT; and **Anisa Zvonkovic**, Human Development.

Samuel Cook, Sociology and Director of American Indian Studies, was elected president of the General Anthropology Division of the American Anthropological Association, the largest section of the world's largest professional organization for anthropologists.

Travis J. Cross, Music, guest conducted the Winds of the Blue Ridge, a community ensemble based in Roanoke, in concert at the Hollins University duPont Chapel on May 8, as well as the Cave Spring High School Band, also in Roanoke, on May 9. From June 10–12 he served as impromptu conductor for the faculty-student horn ensemble on the finale concert of the inaugural National Brass Symposium featuring principal brass players from the major symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, New York, and Philadelphia; the event was held in Atlanta. Cross hosted the Virginia Tech Band Directors Institute in Blacksburg from June 26–29; intended as a regional summer conducting workshop, the institute attracted participants from 11 states and one international participant from India. On July 23 Cross begins a two-year term as National Vice President for Professional Relations for the Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Music Fraternity.

Francois Debrix, Political Science and new Director of ASPECT, published “Rethinking Democracy’s Emergence: Toward New Spaces of Grief and Survivability,” *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 29,2 (2011): 369-74; and “The Virtual Nomos?” in *Spatiality, Sovereignty, and Carl Schmitt*, ed. Stephen Legg (New York: Routledge, 2011), 220-26.

Jim Dubinsky, English and founding director of the Center for Student Engagement and Community Partnerships (CSECP), was named Executive Director of the Association for Business Communication (ABC). In this role he has overall responsibility for the programming and operation of the association, which is committed to “fostering excellence in business communication scholarship, research, education, and practice.” Dubinsky also serves as managing editor of the organization’s journals, *Business Communication Quarterly* and the *Journal of Business Communication*, as well as general editor of its website. The international academic organization celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2010. Dubinsky assumed these duties in July, at which time he relinquished his position as CSECP director and became Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of English. During Dubinsky’s tenure as director of the CSECP, he oversaw the creation of a number of initiatives and worked at the local, regional, national, and international level to forge partnerships. The center became the first organization on the Virginia Tech campus to house AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers, and in April 2011 one of its signature programs was the recipient of a Governor’s Award for Volunteerism and Community Service.

School of Education faculty members **Kelly Parkes**, Teaching and Learning, and **Brett Jones**, Learning Sciences and Technologies, published “Students’ Motivations for Considering a Career in Music Performance,” *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education* 29 (May 2011): 20-28.

The article “Sticks and Stones May Break my Bones and Words Hurt, Too” by **Jean Elliott**, CLAHS Communications Manager, was featured in the Summer 2011 issue of *Virginia Tech Research*, 20-28; it is available online [here](#).

Joseph Eska, Associate Professor of English, has been appointed chair of the Department of English.

Tom Ewing, Professor of History, has been appointed Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and Director of Diversity in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Ed Falco, English, has completed *The Family Corleone*, based on a screenplay by Mario Puzo; the novel is a prequel to Puzo's *The Godfather* and is scheduled for publication by Grand Central Publishers in June 2012. An announcement of Falco's selection for this assignment appeared in the [Los Angeles Times](#) in May; additional information can be in the [Virginia Tech News](#) and the [June 11 article](#) in the *Roanoke Times*.

At its June meeting the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors conferred the emeritus title on two CLAHS faculty:

James "Bud" Robertson, Jr., Alumni Distinguished Professor of History, came to Virginia Tech in 1967. His bachelor's degree was from Randolph-Macon College, and his master's and Ph.D. from Emory University. He held the C. P. "Sally" Miles Professorship at Virginia Tech from 1976 until his appointment as ADP in 1992. As a Civil War scholar, Robertson taught the largest course in the nation on the subject, an average of 300 students per semester, and authored or edited more than 20 books on the great American conflict; in this role he also made frequent television appearances and presented popular radio essays. Robertson was founding Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. He served as Executive Director of the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission and as a member of the executive committee of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission.

Richard Shingles, Associate Professor of Political Science, joined the Virginia Tech community in 1971. He earned his bachelor's degree and master's degree from Wayne State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Shingles' scholarship focused on the understanding of American political behavior through work in public opinion and voting behavior with an emphasis on political methodology. He taught a variety of undergraduate- and graduate-level courses, highlighting political methodology as well as the politics of race, ethnicity, and gender. Shingles served as advisor to numerous students on master's theses, guiding them in developing successful careers in both academic and government settings. He also worked to advance diversity at the department, college, and university levels.

Alexa Fraley, mentor teacher with the Child Development Center for Learning and Research and as of July 1 the new curriculum coordinator for the CDCLR, was a recipient of the 4th annual Virginia Tech Staff Leadership Award. The award is co-sponsored by the Department of Human Resources, University Organizational and Professional Development, and the Commission for Staff Policies and Affairs. Fraley was recognized was honored at the McComas Leadership Conference on May 5.

Thomas Gardner, English, published *John in the Company of Poets: The Gospel in Literary Imagination* (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2011).

Jim Garrison, School of Education/Teaching and Learning, gave a keynote address titled "Aesthetics, Ethics and Civic Action" at the Scholar-Practitioner Quarterly Spring Conference on May 20-21 in Philadelphia. The conference, titled "Fostering Civic Engagement: Revisiting the Role of the University and Aesthetics as a Language of Possibility," was co-sponsored by Saint Joseph's University.

William Glenn, School of Education/Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, published “A Quantitative Analysis of the Increase in Public School Segregation in Delaware: 1989-2006,” *Urban Education* 46,4 (July 2011): 719-40.

The Board of Visitors reappointed **Rosemary Carucci Goss**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, as Residential Property Management Advisory Board Professor. Established in 1995, the RPM Advisory Board Professorship recognizes a teaching scholar in the field of residential property management; selection is made by the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Details about Goss and the professorship can be found [here](#).

Johannes Grow, a senior German and International Studies major, participated in the International Research Experience Program at the Technische Universität Darmstadt during the summer. He pursued a project titled “European Integration and Multi-Level Governance” in the department of Social Science and History.

Aarnes Gudmestad, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish, published “Using sociolinguistic analyses of discourse-level features to expand research on L2 variation: Native and non-native contrasts in forms of Spanish subject expression,” *Selected Proceedings of the Second Language Research Forum*, ed. Luke Plonsky and Maren Schierloh (Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project, 2011), 16-30, with Kimberly L. Geeslin.

Rosella Aurora Harris, a senior majoring in Spanish as well as Animal and Poultry Sciences, received a \$3,000 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad. The Gilman Scholarship Program offers awards for U.S. undergraduate students receiving federal Pell Grant funding in order to support their participation in study abroad programs; the program encourages students to select destinations outside of Western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. Harris spent the first half of the summer as a volunteer on a llama and alpaca farm in Cuzco, Peru; during the second half she lived with a host family and participated in a study abroad program. Details about Harris’s award and the Gilman International Scholarship program area available [here](#).

Kwame Harrison, Sociology, took part in the NSF-funded “Text Analysis” Methods Mall 2011 Summer [Short Course on Research Methods](#) at the Duke University Marine Laboratory in Beaufort, North Carolina. In addition, he participated as a Summer Scholar in *Ethnomusicology and Global Culture*, a Summer Institute sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Institute was held on the campus of Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, from June 20 to July 1.

James Hawdon, Sociology, assumed leadership of the Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention on June 25. Details can be found [here](#).

Department of History students and faculty collaborated to produce *Edgar A. Long: Principal of Christiansburg Institute* during the spring semester. Contributing to the project were: senior **Katherine A. Goins**; **Erin M. Lord**, currently a master’s candidate in History and School of Education/Curriculum and Instruction; **Mallory Orrison**, who completed her B.A. in History in May 2011 and is now enrolled as a master’s student in the School of Education/Curriculum and Instruction; and faculty member **Tom Ewing**. **April Baker**, who graduated in May 2011 with a B.A. in English, completed the book design, with

guidance from her faculty mentor, **Jennifer Moody**. The book chronicles the life of this influential local figure, who attended the Tuskegee Institute and studied under Booker T. Washington and then guided the Christiansburg Industrial Institute as it became a prominent high school for African Americans in the early 20th century. Written with input from numerous Montgomery County teachers, the book will be used in fifth-grade history classes. Copies were distributed to every fifth-grade classroom in the county, to local university, school and public libraries, and to the Christiansburg Institute. The Department of History, the Office of the Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs, and the CLAHS Diversity Committee provided funding for printing.

Virginia Tech History professors **James “Bud” Robertson, Jr.**, and **William C. Davis** were featured June 8 on the public radio show *With Good Reason* on its program entitled “Horses and Water in the Civil War.” The podcast is available [here](#).

Six of the seven participants in the Spring 2011 Hokies on the Hill Internship Program were CLAHS students. **Susan Al-Eryani**, a senior majoring in Political Science, worked for Congressman Jim Moran. **Conor Hand**, a junior Political Science major, was assigned to the office of Senator Jim Webb. Communication and Political Science major **Madeline Hennings** interned in the office of Representative Frank Wolf. **Sarah Rhee**, a junior majoring in English, served in the office of Senator Mark Warner. Political Science senior **Mai Lan Rodgers** worked for Holland and Knight, an international law firm in Washington, D.C. **Max Schick**, a senior in Political Science, completed his internship experience with The Clark Group, an environmental consulting firm specializing in government relations. The program, now in its second year, is facilitated with assistance from Chris Yianilos, Director of Federal Relations, National Capital Region; and Professor of Political Science **Richard Rich**. Details are available [here](#).

The following Human Development faculty and graduate students made presentations at the Generations United 16th International Conference July 26-29 in Washington, D.C. **Shannon Jarrott**, Human Development Faculty and Executive Director, Adult Day Services and Child Development Center for Learning and Research, doctoral student **Chih-Ling Liou**, and master’s candidate **Andrea Mendes** presented a poster titled “Content analysis of non-familial intergenerational program evaluation: Where to from here?” Jarrott and doctoral student **Kelly A. Munly** presented a poster titled “Future older selves: The association between intergenerational contact and aging attitudes” and conducted a roundtable on “Environmental influences on shared site care participants during intergenerational programming.” Jarrott led a symposium titled “Strategies of evaluation research that can insure the effectiveness of intergenerational programs,” with Sally Newman, Elza de Souza, and Cathy Tompkins. At the conference the Department of Human Development's intergenerational program, Neighbors Growing Together, was recognized with the Generations United Program of Distinction, awarded to intergenerational programs demonstrating best practices and indicators of sustainability. In addition, Human Development faculty members Shannon Jarrott and **Cindy Smith** received the Brabazon Evaluation Research Award in recognition of their contribution to the intergenerational evaluation research field with their publication “The complement of research and theory in practice: Contact theory at work in non-familial intergenerational programs,” *The Gerontologist* 51 (2011): 112-21. While in Washington, the Virginia Tech representatives visited the offices of Senator Mark Warner and Representative Morgan Griffith to advocate and educate the representatives and their staff about the importance of intergenerational programs to the fabric of American society.

Minjeong Kim, Sociology, was appointed editor of "World on the Move," the Newsletter of the American Sociological Association section on International Migration. Kim also was the recipient of the 2011 Ally of the Year Award from the LGBT Caucus at Virginia Tech.

Katherine Lodge, a junior Political Science major, was one of two student leaders of the Roanoke-based Virginia Tech Pilot Street Project/Coalition for Refugee Resettlement to receive the 2011 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Award, along with fellow student Brittany Gianetti and project manager Will Evans. The project, which was established in 2006 and which helps resettled refugees transition into their new home, is a partnership among Virginia Tech's Center for Student Engagement and Community Partnerships, Catholic Charities' Office of Refugee and Immigration Services, and the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority. In 2010-2011 it provided more than 864 hours of instructional English classes to adults, in addition to other types of programming for all ages. VT students serve as mentors to individuals and families, tutor, and volunteer in English classes. Details about the award and the project can be found [here](#).

Three CLAHS undergraduates – all English majors - were among those who participated in the first summer of internships through London Calling, the summer study abroad program in the Department of English. Junior **Monica Caropreso** served as a primary school teaching assistant at a London grammar school; senior **Sean Simons** interned with *VERGE*, a new publication for pre- and college-aged students, where he researched, interviewed, and wrote various articles; May 2011 graduate **Peter Velz** worked as editor and researcher for a business-research-marketing firm. The program will continue to offer highly competitive internship opportunities to qualified VT students who are part of the London Calling program; information is available from [Jane Wemhoener](#), Department of English.

Sue Magliaro, Director of the School of Education and Associate Dean for Professional Education, was appointed to the Science Museum of Western Virginia Board of Trustees.

Elizabeth Struthers Malbon published "Characterization in Mark's Story: Changing Perspective on the Narrative Process" in *Mark as Story: Retrospect and Prospect*, ed. Kelly R. Iverson and Christopher W. Skinner (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011), 45-69.

New ASPECT student **Christian Matheis** published "Campus Resources & Supports for LGBTQIA Students, Faculty and Staff," *Gender and Higher Education*, ed. Barbara Bank (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011), 273-80. He also presented "Feminists in Solidarity: A Critique of Structural-Positional Relations within Theories of Oppression and Equality" in July at the Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World conference in Corvallis, Oregon.

Katherine Mawyer, a junior Communication, Professional Writing, and Popular Culture major, was one of two students awarded an annual scholarship by the Virginia Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. Applicants from across the state vied for the \$1,500 award. Mawyer, who plans a career in broadcast sports journalism, has completed several sports-related internships, including stints with WTVR-TV (Channel 6) in Richmond, the New River Valley Bureau of the *Roanoke Times*, the Richmond Kickers, and Clear Channel Communications.

Eric E. McCollum, Human Development, published *Couples Therapy for Domestic Violence: Finding Safe Solutions* (Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association, 2011), with Sandra M. Stith and Karen H. Rosen. The book reports on work done in the Marriage and Family Therapy program at the Northern Virginia Center in Falls Church to develop and test a new model for helping couples who have experienced domestic violence and who wish to end the violence and remain together. The work was originally begun as a project funded by the National Institute on Mental Health.

Tristram McPherson, Philosophy, published "Against Quietist Normative Realism," *Philosophical Studies* 154,2 (June 2011): 223-40.

In March, **Erika Meitner**, English, published a collection of poems titled *Makeshift Instructions for Vigilant Girls* (Tallahassee, FL: Anhinga Press, 2011). Her essay, "This is Not a Requiem for Detroit," *Virginia Quarterly Review* 87,2 (Spring 2011): 124-29, appeared in the magazine's "Ruin & Rebirth" issue, along with seven of her poems: "Post-Industrialization," "All That Blue Fire," "Layoff Notices Have Been Rescinded," "Borderama," "Outside the Abandoned Packard Plant," "Inside the Frame," and "Outside the Frame," 130-47. The work was part of a year-long documentary poetry project on the city of Detroit that *VQR* commissioned Meitner to create, alongside photojournalist Ryan Spencer Reed and radio journalist Jesse Dukes. Meitner also published the following poetic works: "Ghostbox," *Salt Hill* 27 (Spring 2011): 36; and "Morningside Spiritual," *Barrelhouse* 9 (Spring 2011, in the section "Sex, Drugs, and Rock and Roll"): 142-43. In addition, she was featured on the *PBS NewsHour* on April 25, 2011, reading "Miracle Blanket" from her book *Ideal Cities* for their Weekly Poem feature. Her poem "Campaign Speech" was chosen as the Poem of the Day at *Poetry Daily*, posted 20 May 2011 (web), and her poem "Instructions for Vigilant Girls" was chosen as the Poem of the Day at *Verse Daily*, posted 2 March 2011 (web). Meitner's "Elegy with Construction Sounds, Water, Fish," was selected by poet Kevin Young for inclusion *The Best American Poetry 2011*, ed. David Lehman and Kevin Young (New York, NY: Scribner, 2011).

Department of Music students and their professors performed in and around Blacksburg on June 24-26 to tout the Vocal Arts and Music Festival as well as their department. The Virginia Tech students, all Music majors, were: junior soprano **Claire Davenport**, senior baritone **Daniel Gonzales**, sophomore tenor **Jordan Hatchett**, senior soprano **Ashley Hodges**, senior soprano **Paige Russell**, junior soprano **Tori Salisbury**, sophomore mezzo-soprano **Becca Wiles**, and junior baritone **Jeremiah Witte**. Participating faculty members were **Theodore Sipes** and **Ariana Wyatt**. Details about the performances can be found [here](#).

Dean **Sue Ott Rowlands**, Theatre and Cinema, performed her one-woman show, *Mud Nostalgia*, at a number of venues internationally and nationally from May 27 to June 11: the Prague International Fringe Festival, the Mill Theatre in Jaszbereny (Hungary), the University of Debrecen (Hungary), the University of Szeged (Hungary), and the Simmons Center Theatre in Duncan, Oklahoma. The play explores the tradition of the Appalachian region through the unique spiritual practices of the mountain holiness religions, specifically the serpent-handling churches.

Lydia Patton, Philosophy, published "Anti-psychologism about Necessity," *History and Philosophy of Logic* 32,2 (2011): 139-52.

Kelly Pender, English, published *Techne: From Neoclassicism to Postmodernism: Understanding Writing as a Useful, Teachable Art* (Anderson, SC: Parlor Press, 2011).

Congratulations to the following spring initiates into Phi Alpha Theta, the undergraduate history honor society: **Scott Brennan, Michael Gilmore, Rena Glavas, Sarah Ashley Haynes, Tommie Hubbard, Charles James, Timothy Johnson, Elizabeth Kiefer, Daniel Newcomb, Benjamin Spiers, Stephanie Washburn, T. Cody Watson, Rachel Webb, and Chris Whitney**. The students were formally inducted on May 3.

On May 13 the following students in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest academic honor society, on the basis of their outstanding academic performance. The newest members of the Mu chapter of Virginia are: **Gretchen Allen**, Communication; **Thomas Anderson**, International Studies; **Michael Cash**, History; **Lindy Cranwell**, Spanish; **Thomas Dodd**, Political Science; **Kate Douglass**, History; **Graham Downey**, Political Science; **Kathleen Dwyer**, English; **Paul Erba**, English; **Kathryn Galland**, Communication and Spanish; **Amy Gay**, English and Classical Studies; **Chelsea Gillenwater**, English and Communication; **Rena Glavas**, Classical Studies and History; **Sarah Grant**, Communication; **Danielle Harris**, International Studies and Spanish; **Claire Holman**, English; **Elise Jason**, Communication; **Monica Judkins**, Political Science; **Anna Klele**, Communication; **Kristen Kovach**, Communication; **Annah Latane**, International Studies and Applied Economic Management; **Michael Leber**, History; **Lauren Lerosen**, English; **Claire Little**, English and Philosophy; **Benjamin Loftis**, Philosophy and Psychology; **Emily Love**, English; **Lindsey MacDonald**, English; **William Mitchell**, Communication; **John Myers**, History; **Julie Norfleet**, Interdisciplinary Studies; **Samuel Norman**, Political Science; **Mallary Orrison**, History; **Sarah Pelham**, Philosophy; **Ryan Prest**, History and Classical Studies; **Kristen Robinson**, Interdisciplinary Studies; **Adrienne Rush**, English; **Daniel Sargeant**, International Studies and Spanish; **Catherine Sun**, Communication; **Leslie Tate**, International Studies and Public and Urban Affairs; **Amanda Weiss**, Communication; **Emily Whitesell**, English; **Caitlin Williamson**, English and Communication; and **Benjamin Wontrop**, History.

Fred Piercy, Human Development, has been appointed editor of the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, the flagship journal of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and the largest family therapy journal in the world. Piercy will serve as editor-elect in August and will assume duties as editor-in-chief in January. More about the journal and Piercy's appointment can be found [here](#).

Joseph C. Pitt, Philosophy, published *Doing Philosophy of Technology. Essays in a Pragmatist Spirit* (Amsterdam: Springer, 2011).

P.S. Polanah, Sociology, and **Karl Precoda**, Theatre and Cinema, published "In the Vortex of Modernity: Writing Blackness, Blindness and Insight," *Journal of Modern Literature* 14,3 (2011): 31-46.

The following graduate students in the Department of Political Science were recognized with awards for the 2010-2011 academic year: **Kent Morris**, M.A. Thesis Award; **Rachel Lopez** and **Jennie Trefren**, Graduate Political Science Fellowship for outstanding first-year M.A student; and **Chelsea Hickey**, Graduate Political Science Fellowship for most promising entering M.A. student.

Political Science faculty member **Craig Brians** and alumnus **Tyler Garaffa** (B.A., Political Science and Economics, 2009) published a Special Review Essay titled "Two Views of a Conference Presentation. An Undergraduate's First Research Conference Experience," *Journal of Political Science Education* 7,2 (April-June 2011): 240-42.

The documentary film, *Rothstein's First Assignment*, by **Katrina Powell**, English and Director of Women's and Gender Studies, and directed by Richard Knox Robinson, was selected for screening at the Seattle International Film Festival on May 27 and 28.

Thomas Ratliff, a doctoral student in Sociology, published "The Context of Workplace Sex Discrimination: Sex Composition, Workplace Culture and Relative Power," in *Social Forces* 89,4 (2011): 1165-1188, with Kevin Stainback and Vincent J. Roscigno.

James "Bud" Robertson, Jr., Alumni Distinguished Professor of History and Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, served as chair of "Military Strategy in the American Civil War," the third annual signature conference of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission. The event took place in Cassell Coliseum on May 21; an overview is available [here](#).

Mark Sanders, Professor Emeritus in the School of Education/Teaching and Learning, presented keynote talks on integrative STEM education in Seoul and Daegu, Korea, this summer. In addition, he will be serving on the National Academy of Engineering's new "Integrated STEM Education Study/Committee."

Paula Marie Seniors, Sociology, published "Exile and Erasure: The African-American Cinderella and the Asian-American Prince" in *Images That Injure*, ed. Susan Dente Ross and Paul Martin Lester (Santa Barbara: Praeger Press, 2011), 133-48.

Tory Smith, a 2001 German and Mechanical Engineering graduate, was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship; he will use the annual stipend of \$30,000 for three years to study vehicle dynamics and control in the masters/Ph.D. program in Mechanical Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. In 2007 Smith participated in the intensive German language program at the Technische Universität in Darmstadt, Germany; the following year he returned to the TU Darmstadt to complete an undergraduate NSF research project dealing with automotive engineering (*Fahrzeugtechnik*). More about Smith can be found [here](#).

Sociology faculty **James Hawdon** and **John Ryan** published "Social Relations that Generate and Sustain Solidarity after a Mass Tragedy," *Social Forces* 89,4 (2011): 1363-84.

J. D. Stahl, Professor of English, who passed away in July 2010, was awarded the Anne Devereaux Jordan Award for Outstanding Achievement in Children's Literature by the Children's Literature Association. The posthumous recognition in the form of this lifetime achievement award was presented to Stahl's family at the association's annual conference banquet in Roanoke on June 25.

The College notes with sadness the death of **Jeffrey Stewart, Jr.**, Professor Emeritus in the School of Education/Teaching and Learning, on June 10. Stewart served on the faculty for 35 years, retiring in 1992.

Ioannis Stivachtis, Political Science, edited *Human and State (In)Security in a Globalized World*, 2nd ed. (Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2011).

John Tedesco, Communication, is one of three co-PIs for the research project titled "Participation on the Town Square in the Era of Web 2.0," which recently was awarded \$749,999 in funding over three years by the Social-Computational Sciences program in the Division of Social and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation. Andrea Kavanaugh, Virginia Tech Center for Human/Computer Interaction, serves as the project's PI. The project begins August 15.

Anisa Zvonkovic, Professor of Human Development, has been appointed head of the Department of Human Development.

Alumni Highlights

This month alumni from the Department of Human Development are highlighted.

Phyllis Greenberg, who earned her Ph.D. in Human Development and Graduate Certificate in Gerontology in 1998, was the recipient of the 2011 Dutch Kastenbaum Award for Minnesota Outstanding Gerontologist of the Year. Greenberg is Associate Professor in the Department of Community Studies at St. Cloud State University.

Raeann R. Hamon, who earned her M.S. and Ph.D. (1988) in Human Development, was elected to Fellow status in the National Council on Family Relations. Hamon serves as Distinguished Professor of Family Science and Gerontology and Chair of Human Development and Family Science at Messiah College in Grantham, PA.

Brandy McCann, who was awarded her Ph.D. in December 2010, received one of the two 2011 Outstanding Dissertation Awards given by the Virginia Tech Graduate School. Her dissertation, "Intimacy and Family among Single, Working-Class Women: A Focus on Rural Appalachia," was selected in the Outstanding Dissertation in the Social Sciences, Business and Humanities category. McCann currently is an assistant professor at the University of Louisiana, Monroe.

Susan Perkins, a 2010 Ph.D. recipient, won the nationally competitive American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Outstanding Dissertation Award for her dissertation, "Influential client factors: understanding and organizing therapists' perceptions of client factors that influence reported outcome of therapy." Perkins currently is Assistant Professor of Marriage and Family Counseling at Northwest Nazarene University in Boise, Idaho.

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