



News2 Note

December 2008

The following graduate students in the doctoral program in Adult Learning and Human Resource Development in Northern Virginia recently gave presentations at professional conferences. **Leslie Freeman Davidson** presented the concurrent session titled “Lifelong learning strategies for veterans with mild brain injury and PTSD: Organizational challenges” at the 57th National Adult and Continuing Education Conference in Denver, Colorado, on November 11-14; **Paul Renard**, Human Development, is her dissertation advisor. At the same conference **Jimmy Lee Powell** presented the concurrent session “Transfer of training: Initiation and maintenance”; his dissertation advisor is **Linda Morris**, Human Development. **Patricia Dowling Froggett** presented a paper and received the dissertation award for *Toward a deeper understanding of the nature of resistance in the experience of learning in the adult learning environment* from the International Society for Educational Planning (ISEP) at their 38th Annual Conference in Istanbul, Turkey, on October 16-18. Human Development faculty **Marcie Boucouvalas** and **Clare Klunk** serve as her dissertation advisors. **Marianne Evans Mount** received the Outstanding Student Research Award at the 27th Annual Midwest Research to Practice Conference in Adult, Continuing, Community and Extension Adult Education at Western Kentucky University on October 2-4; the award was for her paper titled “Presence in distance: The lived experience of adult faith formation in an online learning community.” **Marcie Boucouvalas** is her dissertation advisor.

Based on the results of a comprehensive accreditation review by the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA) that took place this year, the Housing option in the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management has been re-accredited by NKBA for the next five years. Congratulations to AHRM faculty **Kathy Parrott**, **Julia Beamish**, and **JoAnn Emmel** for their hard work and efforts in the review process.

Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management graduate student **Siwon Cho** and faculty member **Jessie Chen-Yu** co-authored and presented papers at two venues recently: the annual meeting of the International Textile and Apparel Association and the Symposium of Joint ITAA-KAMS in Schaumburg, Illinois, from November 5-8. Cho, who will complete her Ph.D. degree in the Apparel program this semester, was the first author of “Antecedences of consumer satisfaction/dissatisfaction with salesperson’s performance: A comparison between the elderly and adolescents” and “Influences of experiences and brand-self image congruity on perceived risk and purchase intention in apparel online shopping context.”

Ellen Bielema, a doctoral student in Teaching and Learning/School of Education, was named to the Americans with Disabilities Act Access Honor Roll. She was recognized as a student who has gone beyond the expected and taken a leadership role in providing accessibility or accommodations to persons with disabilities. Bielema works with **Susan Asselin**, Teaching and Learning/School of Education, as the Co-Director of the summer College Bound Program. The program, now in its tenth year at Virginia Tech, offers a three-day program to high school students with disabilities who want to attend college as well as to their parents. Bielema took primary responsibility for planning and delivering this year's program, which accommodated 28 high school students.

Marcie Boucouvalas, Human Development, co-edited *Education for millennium development* (Ibadan, Nigeria: Spectrum, 2008) with Rashid Aderinoye, and wrote the lead chapter of the volume, "Education for millennium development: The transpersonal challenge," 1-10. Boucouvalas also published "Human development and adult education: Personal, interpersonal, transpersonal" in *Adult education and training*, ed. J. Athanasou (Sydney, Australia: David Barlow Publishing, 2008), 19-34. In addition, she is serving a three-year term on the Board of Directors for the Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame and just recently was elected President of the Coalition of Lifelong Learning Organizations; the three-year commitment to the latter organization involves service this year as President-elect, next year as President, and the following year as immediate past president.

Brian Britt, Interdisciplinary Studies/Religious Studies, currently is serving as a Fellow/guest scholar at the Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung in Berlin, pursuing research on a project focused on Walter Benjamin and secularization; the residency is from November 12 to December 13. Britt's activities as a Fellow include regular meetings and seminars with colleagues in the "Religion-Repräsentation" research group, one of three research groups under the heading of "Europäische Kulturgeschichte" (European Cultural History). In addition, he will present "Beyond the Secularism of Bible as Literature" at the public conference titled "Bibel als Literatur – Kulturwissenschaftliche Perspektiven" from December 4-6 at the center.

As a member of Virginia Tech's Digital Arts Research Collective (DARC) team, **Ivica Ico Bukvic**, Music, is exhibiting three installations as part of the "Revo-overR" project. The installations, titled "Elemental" and "Cyrene Reefs" (two installations) are at the Taubman Museum of Art in Roanoke, which had its grand re-opening on November 8; the exhibit closes on March 1, 2009. The works suggest human interconnectedness; they react to the presence of visitors within the installation, moving and making sounds as the gestures and voices of the audience are processed by elements of the system. Bukvic is one of seven participating creative artists, technologists, and designers who comprise the team. Additional project contributors from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences are **Ann Kilkelly**, Interdisciplinary Studies, and **Michael Anthony Williams**, Theatre Arts.

Yvonne Chen, Communication, co-authored "Effects of a Peer-Led Media Literacy Curriculum on Adolescents' Knowledge and Attitudes Toward Sexual Behavior and Media Portrayals of Sex" in *Health Communication* 23,5 (2008): 462-72, with Bruce Pinkleton, Erica Austin, and Marilyn Cohen.

Travis J. Cross, Music, published a chapter for Volume Four of *Composers on Composing for Band*, ed. Mark Camphouse (Chicago: GIA Publications, 2008), 64-90. Each volume in the series features personal perspectives of selected band composers on topics such as the creative process,

orchestration, commissioning new works, teaching composition, and the future of the wind band. In addition, Cross served as guest conductor of the All New England High School Festival Symphonic Band. Hosted by Plymouth State University, the rehearsals and concert took place on November 24 at the Silver Center for the Arts in Plymouth, New Hampshire. The festival features two guest conductors who are also composers, and the concert includes some of each conductor's own music. The program for the November 24 concert included Cross's compositions "Rizzendo" and "Tribute."

Congratulations to the Department of English for the selection of Virginia Tech as a site for the National Writing Project (NWP). Department of English faculty **Aileen Murphy** and **Kelly Belanger** are the co-directors of the project; Belanger and English faculty **Diana George** are the Principal Investigator and Co-PI respectively on the grant proposal that brings funding for the project. Ph.D. students in the Center for the Study of Rhetoric in Society **Ashley Patriarca**, **Megan Fisher** and **Brian Gogan**, English faculty **Bernice Hausman**, English major and undergraduate intern **John Peery**, and **Cyndy Williams**, a part-time student in the Ph.D. program in Rhetoric and Writing and full-time Policy Analyst for the Proposal Development Team in the Office of the VP for Research, also contributed to the development of the proposal.

The NWP is a professional development network that serves teachers of writing at all grade levels, primary through university, and in all subjects. Its mission is to improve student achievement by improving the teaching of writing and improving learning in the nation's schools. The network includes nearly 200 sites, and support is provided in part by the U.S. Department of Education.

The first Virginia Tech Summer Institute for teachers is planned for 2009, with funding for graduate tuition for 15 public school teachers and one Virginia Tech faculty member. The teachers are all exemplary teachers nominated by their schools. Matching or in-kind funds are being provided by the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (CEUT), the Graduate School, and the Department of English.

William FitzPatrick, Philosophy, published "Moral Responsibility and Normative Ignorance: Answering a New Skeptical Challenge" in *Ethics* 118,4 (2008): 589-613.

The **Center for Gerontology** was featured in November on the Spotlight on Achievement page of the Virginia Tech website. For 30 years, the research, education, and outreach programs of the Center have enhanced the quality of life of older adults. Details about the Center and the research programs of its faculty affiliates can be found in the Spotlight archive at http://www.vt.edu/spotlight/achievement/2008-11-03_gerontology/2008-11-03_gerontology.html.

The James Piano Quartet premiered *Udolpho* by **Kent Holliday**, Music, at Green Memorial Chapel in Roanoke on November 8. Based on Anne Radcliffe's 1794 early Gothic novel *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, the composition was commissioned by the Virginia Music Teachers Association; it also will be performed at their state convention in Winchester, VA. Holliday's *A Musical Odyssey: Piano Music* was performed by pianists Emily Chua and Nicholas Ross at Sweetbriar College on November 19 and at Randolph College on November 20. The program will be presented at Virginia Tech on December 6th at 8 p.m. in the Salon Recital Hall.

Michael J. Hughes, Sociology, published *Sociology: The Core*, 9th edition (Boston: McGraw Hill, 2008), with Carolyn J. Kroehler.

Among the thirteen student presenters at the 2008 International Leadership Conference held at the Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico from October 22-26 were four students from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences: **Marcela Uribe**, a graduate student in Curriculum and Instruction/School of Education; **Chris Valdes**, a junior majoring in History and Psychology; **Casey Windmuller**, a senior Communication major; and **Alison Wood**, a senior majoring in Spanish and Interdisciplinary Studies. The two sessions at this year's conference focused on the theme of "Leadership Hokie Style"; students spoke about personal leadership involvement and the community of student leaders at Virginia Tech. Begun in 2004, the exchange of students and faculty members between Virginia Tech and Monterrey Tech serves to promote and expand international understanding and friendships.

Jay A. Mancini, Human Development, received the 2008 Alumni Distinguished Research Award from Kansas State University; in conjunction with that honor he presented "Building communities and supporting families: Theory and research in prevention science" as the Distinguished Alumni Research Award Lecture in the College of Human Ecology at Kansas State in October. In addition, Mancini gave the plenary address titled "Building communities and supporting immigrant and refugee families: Implications from social organization theory" at the On New Shores Conference at the University of Guelph, in Ontario, Canada, in November.

Ellen Mendyk, a double major in French and International Studies, attended the 54th General Assembly Conference of the Atlantic Treaty Association, where she was a United States delegate for the Youth Atlantic Treaty Association; the conference took place in Berlin from November 9-12. Titled "NATO Talk around the Brandenburger Tor," the event featured speeches by Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, and Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, Secretary-General of NATO on the first day. Embassy visits were the highlight of the second day. Mendyk attended discussion panels at the Russian and American embassies on the topic of the key challenges facing NATO.

Political Science faculty **Karen Hult** and **Charles Walcott** published "George Akerson's Legacy: Continuity and Change in White House Press Operations" in *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 38 (December 2008): 593-608. Hult also co-authored two essays, "Office of the Staff Secretary" (with Kathryn Dunn Tenpas) and "White House Counsel's Office" (with MaryAnn Borrelli and Nancy Kassop) in the "Institutional Memory Series" of the White House Transition Project, and prepared organization charts for the project that depict the offices during the administration of George W. Bush. The information is available online at <http://WhiteHouseTransitionProject.org>.

Elizabeth Potter, a double major in German Studies and International Studies, was awarded a Rotary Club Cultural Scholarship to spend 3 months studying Russian at the Pushkin State Institute of the Russian Language in Moscow; she plans to spend Fall Semester 2009 at the institute. Potter is an Honors student and a member of the collegiate honor society Phi Kappa Phi. More information about the Rotary Club's Ambassadorial Scholarship Program is available at: <http://www.rotary.org/en/StudentsAndYouth/EducationalPrograms/AmbassadorialScholarships/Pages/ridefault.aspx>. In addition, Potter was awarded a Social Entrepreneur Grant for *Teach for Jamie*, the volunteer German language and culture program that she directs. The award, given by the Center for Student Engagement and Community Partnerships, will be used to support the efforts of the "German Club at Beeks Elementary School," where Teach for Jamie is active this semester.

Air Force ROTC Cadet **Joseph Rickley**, a junior Accounting major, has been selected for membership in Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society. ODK is a national Leadership Honor Society that recognizes the top tier of leadership within the student body, faculty, and alumni of a university. The scholastic and leadership achievement of Cadet Rickley was highly recognized by the committee and general membership. His selection was unanimous across the committee due to his outstanding leadership within the University, the Corps of Cadets, and the Air Force ROTC.

On November 29 Alumni Distinguished Professor of History **James I. Robertson** signed copies of his CD set, "The Many Faces of the Civil War," at the Volume II Bookstore in Blacksburg. The two-disk collection features 36 of Robertson's Civil War essays that ran for fourteen years on public radio stations in and around Virginia; topics range from Abraham Lincoln to the origins of "Taps" to camp mascots such as Sallie, the terrier of the 11th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment. Produced by Paul Lancaster of Virginia Tech University Relations, "The Many Faces of the Civil War" provides insights into the heavy cost of the conflict through the eyes of a social historian. Robertson directs the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies (VCCWS); proceeds from the sale of the CD set go to the center. An excerpt from the essay "Hardtack" is available on the center's website at <http://www.civilwar.vt.edu>.

Donald Shoemaker, Sociology, co-authored "A Digital Library for Recovery, Research, and Learning from April 16, 2007 at Virginia Tech" in *Traumatology* 14,1 (2008): 64-84. Along with Filomin C. Gutierrez he also published "Self-Reported Delinquency of High School Students in Metro Manila: Gender and Social Class" in *Youth and Society* 40 (2008): 55-85.

Congratulations to **Judith Shrum**, Foreign Languages and Literatures, who received the Anthony Papalia Award for Excellence in Teacher Education at the convention of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) in Orlando, Florida, on November 21. Shrum was recognized for her long-standing record of excellence in the preparation and continuing education of foreign language teachers and the valuable service she has provided and continues to provide to the field of foreign language teacher education. Among the accomplishments noted in her nomination were: the ability to lead and recruit students into foreign language teaching; innovative teaching abilities; mentoring of students; the impact of her co-authored methods textbook and other publications; workshops and conference presentations at the local, state, regional, and national levels, as well as grant-funded projects and consultancies; national projects related specifically to teacher education standards and assessment; her role in the design of a national foreign language agenda; a leadership role in assisting ACTFL in implementing the new ACTFL/NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) Program Standards; her service as an ACTFL/NCATE Program Reviewer and as a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Praxis II Content Knowledge Exam in Foreign Language since 2006.

Eric Sutherland, D.O. at the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine and a Ph.D. in Health Promotion in the School of Education, placed first in the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) student poster and presentation competition among 99 entries at the National Convention in Las Vegas. The AOA represents more than 61,000 physicians, and approximately 7,000 members attended the convention this year. Sutherland's poster, "Telesonography Adoption and Use to Improve the Standard of Patient Care within the Dominican Republic," highlighted key findings from his research at the VCOM Veron Clinic in the Dominican Republic. Sutherland is currently in his first year of residency

and completing his Ph.D. requirements. His doctoral committee members are School of Education faculty **John Burton, Fred Rawlins, Kerry Redican, and Dean Sutphin.**

The expertise of **John Tedesco**, Communication, regarding Senator Obama's use of the Internet during the recent presidential campaign was featured in a number of media outlets. He was quoted in CBS radio and television interviews as well as in print nationally and internationally. Details can be found at <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/11/07/earlyshow/main4581759.shtml>, http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=4582909n%3fsource=search_video, and <http://story.birminghamstar.com/index.php/ct/9/cid/d805653303cbbba8/id/427516/cs/1/>. In addition, Tedesco was interviewed during the Choices and Challenges forum by WVTF, the local National Public Radio affiliate, and was featured on Virginia Tech's *Soundlines*, a feed to radio stations.

Najm Al-Din Yousefi, a Ph.D. candidate in Science and Technology in Society, served as editor for a special issue, Volume 41, No. 4 (September 2008), of *Iranian Studies*. Yousefi edited wrote one article, "Secular Sciences and the Question of `Decline`" and a prelude, translated two articles from Persian, edited four additional articles, and collaborated with co-editors from Harvard and San Francisco State on the introduction. *Iranian Studies* is the journal of the International Society for Iranian Studies and is published by Routledge.

Alumni Highlight

Two CLAHS alumnae were recognized last month as Hokie Heroes by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Begun in 2006 and sponsored by the University Bookstore, the program honors VT Corps of Cadets alumni who are currently deployed.

Major **Kara Gittes Miller**, who received a degree in Political Science in 1999, is stationed at Joint Base Balad as a member of the 332 Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (EAMXS), United States Air Force. She is responsible for leading the aircraft sortie generation efforts at the base. During her senior year in the corps, Miller was the Executive Committee Chairman, charged with administering the highest level of the Cadet Disciplinary System. She also served as the Cadet Member-at-Large for the 1999 class council. Miller hails from a military family: both of her parents and grandfathers served in the military. Her twin sister Jennifer also graduated from the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets in 1999 and is currently a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve.

Special Agent **Christina Royal**, who received a degree in Sociology in 2006, is currently deployed on detached duty to Baghdad, Iraq. In 2006 Royal was the Undergraduate Student Leader of the Year at Virginia Tech. She also served as the Regimental Commander, the top leadership position in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, and was the first African-American female cadet and the fourth female cadet to hold this position. Royal's mother, Pearl, who raised seven children as a single parent, was named the Virginia Tech Parent of the Year in 2004 based on Christina's submission. Her brother is also a Tech alumnus: Eddie Royal was a star wide receiver for the Hokies and now plays for the Denver Broncos.

Hokie Heroes are featured during the radio broadcast of Virginia Tech football games, in the *Corps Review* magazine, and on the corps alumni website at: <http://www.vtcca.vt.edu/>.

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