



# News2 Note

September 2008

**Ananda Abeysekera**, Interdisciplinary Studies, published *The Politics of Postsecular Religion: Mourning Secular Futures*. The book is part of the series "Insurrections: Critical Studies in Religion, Politics, and Culture" by Columbia University Press. In addition, a new paper-back edition of his first book, titled *Colors of the Robe: Religion, Identity, and Difference* and originally issued in 2002, was published this summer by the University of South Carolina Press. In 2003 *Colors of the Robe* won the American Academy of Religion's Best First Book Award.

**Captain Chris Andersen**, Air Force ROTC, received the AFROTC Southeast Region's "Lance P. Sijan USAF Leadership Award" for academic year 2007-2008. A competition from a total of 38 AFROTC detachments in the Southeast Region, the award recognizes Professional Leadership, Leadership Image, and Community Involvement.

The Appalachian Studies Program held its annual end-of-the-year potluck on May 1 on the porch of Solitude. Several hundred students turned out to enjoy Appalachian folk music and dishes typical of the region, mostly supplied by the students themselves.

The **Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management** was one of three departments on the Virginia Tech campus to receive a 2007-2008 Exemplary Department Award. The theme of this year's nomination was excellence in student support and advising.

The Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management (AHRM) was pleased to award numerous scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year, including the following. AHRM Outstanding Graduate Student Awards went to **Larinda Cole, Anne Dillard, Cynthia Horkey, and Jessica Lloyd**. Recipients of the Alfred and Shirley Wampler Caudill Scholarship were **Chris Balas Spence, Nicole Gerike, Laura Harris, and Cynthia Horkey**. The American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC) Scholarship went to **Megan Orange**. **Julie Karaffa** was the recipient of the Belk Scholarship. The James F. Kelly Outstanding Senior Award went to **Rommy Karam**. **Sara Johnson** was recognized with the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA) Outstanding Student Award. Oris Glisson Scholarships went to **Siwon Cho** and **Amber Roth**. The Resource Management Scholarship was awarded to **Matthew Jones**. **Nicole Gerike** was the recipient of the Settle Award. Sutherland-Purdy Scholarships were awarded to **Nancy Ballhagen** and **Donna Chan**.

The endowed Residential Property Management scholarships awarded are as follows. The AvalonBay Communities Scholarship went to **Kaitlyn McClellan**. **Amber Kingery** was the recipient of the Dean Janet Johnson Honored RPM Student Scholarship. **Gerald Bowen** garnered the Joanne and Roby Monday Scholarship. The Richard Bighinatti/Beacon Communities Scholarship was awarded to **Lee Holden**. The Southern Management Corporation Residential Property Management – Ed Paylor Scholarship went to **Mike Davies**. The Russ Marshall Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Artur Vande-Hei**.

The following are the annual Residential Property Management Scholarships. The Archstone-Smith Scholarship went to **Kemal Whyte**. The Bozzuto/Camden Properties Scholarship was awarded to **Laura Mandeville**. **Nicholas Romanies** was the recipient of the Buckingham/JPI Scholarship. The C.B. Richard Ellis/AIMCO Scholarship was awarded to **Jack Carroll**. **Allison Stone** was the recipient of the Drucker & Falk/Colonial Properties Scholarship. **Laura LaTouche** received the Equity Residential/Greystar Scholarship. **Vanessa Lavin** was awarded the JBG Companies Scholarship. **Yalda Ghamarian** was recognized with the Kettler/HHHunt Scholarship. **Caroline McBride** was recognized with the Legum & Norman/Home Properties Scholarship. The Post Properties/Management Services Scholarship went to **Kimberley Weller**. The Roseland Property Company/Lincoln Property Company Scholarship was awarded to **Lauren Dunlevy**. **Amanda Aunet** garnered the S.L. Nusbaum/F&W Management Scholarship. The recipient of the Winn Residential Scholarship was **Jessica Griffin**.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty **Julia Beamish**, **Kathleen Parrott**, and **JoAnn Emmel** presented a two-day workshop titled “Explore Your Dream Kitchen” August 6-8 in the recently renovated Center for Real Life Kitchen Design in Wallace Hall.

Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management faculty **Rosemary Goss** and **Kathleen Parrott** offered a new European Study Abroad course in the Housing area in Summer 2008 with site locations in Germany and the Czech Republic; ten students participated. The focus of the course was Globalization of Housing and Property Management.

The inspirational story of **Carolyn Barnes**, a 2008 Political Science graduate who was the College’s Outstanding Student, is featured on the MY HERO website. Associated Press writer Sue Lindsey tells how Barnes’s childhood experiences, including an unstable home life and receiving public assistance, shaped her goals for the future; key among them is her desire to design public and private programs to empower the poor. Having graduated from Virginia Tech in three years, Barnes has just begun a five-year fellowship program in Public Policy and Political Science at the University of Michigan. Barnes’s story can be found at: [http://myhero.com/myhero/hero.asp?hero=Poverty\\_Graduate\\_AP](http://myhero.com/myhero/hero.asp?hero=Poverty_Graduate_AP). The MY HERO website archives stories of individuals whose hope and courage in the face of challenges serve to encourage and inspire readers.

**Juanisha Brooks**, a senior with a double major in Communication and Psychology, was awarded an International Radio Television Society 2008 Summer Fellowship; she was one of 300 college students selected from among 800 applicants nationwide. The fellowship covered all expenses during her nine-week internship in New York City. Brooks lived on the campus of NYU and interned at New York 1 News, a 24-hour station that is one of the most watched in the city. She worked in the news department on production of the weekly program *One on One*, which interviews influential New

Yorkers each week. More information about the IRTS fellowship program can be found at [www.irts.org/programs/sfp/sfp.html](http://www.irts.org/programs/sfp/sfp.html).

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences is pleased to welcome **Colonel Mike Bumgarner** as Professor of Military Science for the Army ROTC program and as Commander of the New River Battalion. Bumgarner has just returned from a year in Iraq, where he served as the Senior Advisor to seven Iraqi Generals at the Baghdad Police College; the BPC is the sole officer (lieutenant)-producing academy for all Iraqi police, with more than 7000 officer candidates in training daily. Bumgarner has commanded from platoon to brigade level; with his brigade command in Guantanamo Bay he served as the Commander of the Joint Detention Group. His staff assignments include tours at the Pentagon and the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. He has served in seven different states and five foreign countries at 15 different Army posts. Bumgarner is a graduate of the Canadian War College and the FBI National Academy; he was commissioned in to the Military Police Corps through the ROTC program at Western Carolina University in 1981.

**Toni Calasanti**, Sociology, has been selected as a Visiting Fellow of the Centre of Gender Excellence at Linköpings University in Sweden. The purpose of the Centre is to carry out new research and become the foundation for a more permanent Sweden-based European Collegium for Advanced Transnational and Transdisciplinary Gender Studies. Calasanti will be in residence in Sweden for about three weeks at the end of the Fall 2008 semester.

**Sheila Carter-Tod**, English, was appointed to serve as a member of the Committee Against Racism and Bias in the Teaching of English for the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). Her three-year term will begin after the 2008 Annual Convention scheduled for November 20-25 in San Antonio. The charge for the committee is to investigate and make recommendations to counteract racism and racial bias in teaching materials, methods, and programs for English and language arts; to develop guidelines for Teacher Quality for Educators who Teach Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students; to advise the NCTE executive committee with recommendations for professional development of inservice and preservice teachers regarding teaching linguistically and culturally diverse students; to create principles for assessment for linguistically and culturally diverse students; to participate in developing NCTE as the professional home for conversations about English Language Learners in English-dominant classrooms; and to identify the research base for recommendations, and to recommend research on matters for which no research base can be identified. The National Council of Teachers of English, with 60,000 individual and institutional members worldwide, is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education. For more information, please visit [www.ncte.org](http://www.ncte.org).

**Katherine Cennamo**, Learning Sciences and Technologies, School of Education, received funding from the Science of Design Program of the National Science Foundation. She is the principal investigator for the grant titled "Collaborative Research: Investigating and Refining the Studio Experience as a Method for Teaching Human Computer Interaction."

The College Diversity Committee made four diversity proposal awards for 2008-2009 to three different departments. The winning departments, with the proposal titles, were: History for "Segregated Public Schools in Southwest Virginia"; Philosophy for "A Diverse Graduate Applicant Pool"; and Theatre Arts

for “Stage a Change: A Documentary Theatre Project on Classroom Climate” and “Virginia High School Performing Arts Visit Program.”

The College is pleased to announce the following tenure and promotion decisions by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors at its June meeting.

Promoted to associate professor with tenure among the collegiate faculty were: **Eva Brumberger**, English; **Saul Halfon**, Science and Technology in Society; **Celia Hayhoe**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management; **Brett Jones**, Learning Sciences and Technologies, School of Education; **Gerard Lawson**, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, School of Education; and **Ioannis Stivachtis**, Political Science. Tenured at the currently held rank of associate professor among the collegiate faculty was **Edward Wolfe**, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, School of Education. **Katherine Cennamo**, Learning Sciences and Technologies, School of Education, was promoted to the rank of professor among the collegiate faculty. Promoted to associate professor in the non-tenure track was **Marlene Preston**, Communication.

Promotion to advanced instructor among the collegiate faculty were: **Robin Allnutt**, English; **Michael Bliss**, English; **Alison Galway**, Human Development; **Jennifer Lawrence**, English; **Karl Precoda**, Interdisciplinary Studies; **Linda Skinner**, English; **Emily Stallings**, Communication; and **Joan Watson**, Interdisciplinary Studies. For the first time instructors with more than 10 years of exceptional performance were eligible for promotion to the highest rank of senior instructor; promoted to senior instructor among the collegiate faculty were: **Mark Armstrong**, English; **Gertrude Becker**, Interdisciplinary Studies; **Elisabeth Bloomer**, English; **Elizabeth Calvera**, Foreign Languages and Literatures; **Robert Canter**, English; **Kathryn Graham**, English; **Susan Hagedorn**, English; **JoAnn Harvill**, English; **Steve Kark**, English; **Alice Kinder**, English; **David McKee**, Music; **Jennifer Mooney**, English; **Stephen Mooney**, English; **Mary Moore**, English; **Aileen Murphy**, English; **Suzanne Reisinger**, English; **Janene Roberts**, Interdisciplinary Studies; **Cheryl Ruggiero**, English; **Geraldine Saffle**, English; **Michael Smith**, English; **Mary Ellen Verdu**, Human Development; and **Gyorgyi Voros**, English.

At its meeting in June the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors conferred the emeritus title on three CLAHS faculty: **Thomas C. Howard**, **William L. Ochsenwald**, and **Katherine T. Soniat**.

**Thomas C. Howard**, Associate Professor of History, was a member of the Virginia Tech community since 1966. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Washington and Lee University, and a master’s degree and Ph.D. from Florida State University. Howard contributed to scholarly research on the history of the modern world. In addition, he shared his interest in and understanding of Africa with a variety of campus and public groups in an effort to further understanding of the continent. He was an active member of the Transatlantic Studies Association and the Virginia Social Science Association.

**William L. Ochsenwald**, Professor of History, was a member of the Virginia Tech community since 1971. He focused his scholarly research on the history of the Middle East and was the author of four books, 21 articles and book chapters, and dozens of encyclopedia or dictionary entries on the subject. He was an active member of the Middle Eastern Studies Association, the Society for Gulf Arab Studies, and the Turkish Studies Association. Ochsenwald earned his bachelor’s degree and master’s degree from Ohio State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

**Katherine T. Soniat**, Associate Professor of English, was a member of the Virginia Tech community since 1991. She brought recognition to the university by maintaining a consistent and excellent publishing record in prestigious national journals of literature and art, and by publishing six highly regarded collections of poetry. *A Shared Life* won the Iowa Prize and a Virginia Prize for Poetry. *Notes*

*of Departure* received the Camden Poetry Prize. Soniat was the recipient of two Virginia Commission for the Arts fellowships, a William Faulkner Award, a Jane Kenyon Award, Anne Stanford Award, and a fellowship and scholarship to Bread Loaf Writers Conference. Her work has been published in such journals as *TriQuarterly*, *Gettysburg Review*, *New England Review*, *Witness*, *Kenyon Review*, *The Nation*, *New Republic*, and *Southern Review*. As a member of the faculty, she contributed to the university literary community by serving on the Creative Writing Committee and by coordinating the Visiting Writers Series. She helped to develop the Master in Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing and taught its first classes of students.

The title of emeritus may be conferred on retired professors and associate professors, administrative officers, librarians, and exceptional staff members who have given exemplary service to the university and who are specially recommended to the Board of Visitors by Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger; nominated individuals who are approved by the Board of Visitors receive an emeritus certificate from the university.

The College is pleased to welcome the following new tenure-track faculty: **Anthony Abiragi**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish; **John Adler**, Music; **Liesl Allingham**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/German; **Yvonne Chen**, Communication; **Travis Cross**, Music; **Robert Efird**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Russian; **Mariana Falconier**, Human Development; **Aarnes Gudmestad**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish; **Matthew Heaton**, History; **Dennis Hidalgo**, History; **Minjeong Kim**, Interdisciplinary Studies; **Julian Koslow**, English; **Chad Lavin**, Political Science; **Jenn Mackay**, Communication; **Corinne Noirot**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/French; **Benjamin Sax**, Interdisciplinary Studies; **Sonja Schmid**, Science and Technology in Society; **Paula Seniors**, Sociology; and **Sarah Sierra**, Foreign Languages and Literatures/Spanish.

The following College faculty and staff were honored at the Ninth Annual Faculty/Staff Awards Dinner held on August 24.

**Elisabeth L. Bloomer**, English, was honored with the Sporn Award for the Teaching of Introductory Subjects; the award was established in 1966, and recipients are nominated and selected by students.

**E. Thomas Ewing**, History, received the Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence; the award recognizes employees who have developed and implemented an outstanding, focused, and coherent outreach program with the community-at-large, the Commonwealth, and/or the nation.

**Paulo S. Polanah**, Sociology, was one of three recipients of a Diggs Teaching Scholars Award; the Diggs Program was initiated in 1992 to recognize and foster excellence, imagination, and innovation in linking scholarship and teaching.

**Kusum Singh**, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, School of Education, received the Alumni Award for Excellence in Graduate Academic Advising; established in 2000 by a collaborative effort of the Academy of Teaching Excellence, the Graduate School, and the Alumni Association, the award is presented each year to a faculty member who has demonstrated outstanding mentoring of graduate students.

**James Sochinski**, Music, received an XCaliber Award; presented annually since 1998, the award celebrates and illustrates innovative approaches to teaching using technology and recognizes faculty and staff who develop courseware using technology.

**J.D. Stahl**, English, was one of three recipients of the William E. Wine Achievement Award; established in 1957 by the Alumni Association, the award recognizes excellence in teaching.

**Charles L. Taylor**, Political Science, was honored with the Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising; established in 1989 by the Alumni Association, the award is presented each year to a faculty member who has demonstrated outstanding advisement of undergraduates.

Several College faculty were featured recently in reports by News 7 Health Check Reporter Joy Sutton. **Kathleen Parrott**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, was interviewed about what individuals can do in the kitchen to encourage the eating of fruits and vegetables; it aired at both 5 and 11 p.m. on August 19. The survey research of **Victoria Fu**, Human Development, was part of Sutton's report on the Sick Child Care Facility. The playground of the Child Development Center for Learning and Research served as the background for this interview. **Sara Kajder**, Teaching and Learning, Education, who has two children in the CDCLR, was interviewed as well and provided a rationale for the necessity of the Sick Child Care Facility in the New River Valley.

Undergraduates **Clarissa Epps**, Interdisciplinary Studies, and **Gabrielle Brown**, Political Science, were inducted recently into the CommonWEALTH of Scholars, a selective, student-driven honors organization designed to enrich the intellectual development and academic experience of qualified students by providing academic challenges and opportunities. Undergraduates with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.2 or higher are eligible for membership. The organization's focus is to increase the presence of underrepresented students in the Virginia Tech Honors Program, to establish a network of undergraduate scholars to facilitate the members' successful academic and social integration at Virginia Tech, to provide financial support to active scholars, and to provide other academic opportunities.

Department of Communication faculty and students collaborated recently on a conference presentation. **Rachel DeLauder**, **Joshua DeLung**, and **Roxana Maiorescu**, all M.A. students in Communication, and **Robert G. Magee**, assistant professor in the same department, presented "Proximity and framing in news media: Effects on credibility, bias, recall, and reader intentions" at the annual meeting of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in Chicago on August 9.

Department of Communication faculty **Paul Harrill**, **Dale Jenkins**, and **Marlene Preston** led a study abroad experience for 30 students to Riva San Vitale, Switzerland, in May and June. Courses offered included Magazine Writing, International Communication, Interpersonal Communication, and Perspectives on the International Documentary.

Department of Communication graduate students **David Morin**, **Meghan Tubbs**, and **Evan Serge** were co-authors on papers presented at the annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in Chicago from August 6-9. Morin and Tubbs, who graduated from the program in May, were the first and second authors of "Celebrity and politics: Effects of endorser credibility on voter attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors," and Serge, who will graduate in 2009, was the third author of "You can't take it with you? Comparing the effects of portable handheld and television-based media consoles on users' physiological and psychological responses to video game and movie content."

**Lisa Cotter**, a junior German major was awarded a 2008/09 Undergraduate Scholarship from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD, German Academic Exchange Service). She was one of 58 undergraduate students selected from 236 applicants from 46 different Canadian and U.S. universities. Cotter spent the summer in Berlin, beginning work in mid-June for ETS Europe as an intern. This month she heads for Marburg, Germany, where she will spend two semesters enrolled in German and political science courses at the Philipps-Universität. The support from DAAD will allow her to do some traveling during her 12 months abroad.

**Theodore Creighton**, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, School of Education, was named the 2009 recipient of the Living Legend Award by the National Council of Professors of Educational Administration (NCPEA) for his extraordinary leadership and service to the field. Award winners are recognized for the following, summarized by the acronym LEADS: **L**iving a life that inspires others; **E**xemplary service to NCPEA; **A** model of genuine care, ethics, and professionalism in service to education; **D**edication to research, teaching, and service to the profession; and **S**ignificant contributions to the field of educational administration.

**Gordon M. Curry**, an M.A. student in Communication, was selected as one of seven graduate students to receive a scholarship from the Lagrant Foundation. The Lagrant Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Lagrant Communications in Los Angeles, is a nonprofit organization that offers internships, mentoring, scholarships, and professional development to help increase the presence of ethnic minorities in the field of advertising, marketing, and public relations. Curry traveled to New York City in June to receive the prestigious award.

Third-year M.F.A. student **Weston Cutter**, English, is one of 50 individuals included in Best New Poets 2008: 50 Poems from Emerging Writers, edited by Mark Strand. Cutter's poem "You Could Call It a Shift" is included in the collection. According to the website blog, a pool of seven readers narrowed down nearly 1300 submissions to identify the 50 winners. More information and a link to the blog can be found at [www.bestnewpoets.org](http://www.bestnewpoets.org).

**Fred D'Aguiar**, English, was reappointed as Gloria D. Smith Professor of Africana Studies by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors at its June meeting. The Gloria D. Smith Professorship in Africana Studies was established in 1995 and named in honor of the late Gloria D. Smith, a counselor and advocate of minority students on campus. It is awarded for a period of two years to an outstanding faculty member who contributes significantly to the growth and development of minority students, student athletes, and scholarly pursuits. The honoree also oversees the Gloria D. Smith Speaker Series and makes at least one university-wide presentation during his/her tenure.

A contemporary Caribbean writer of international renown, D'Aguiar is a novelist, playwright, poet, and essayist. His publications include critically acclaimed works such as *An English Sampler: Selected and New Poems*, *Dear Future*, *A Jamaican Airman Foresees His Death*, and *Feeding the Ghosts*. His work has been produced for television, film, and radio, and has been translated into many languages. D'Aguiar chairs the English Department's Diversity Committee and co-chairs the Creative Writing Committee and the Creative Writing Graduate Faculty group. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Kent (England).

**Peter Doolittle**, Learning Sciences and Technologies, School of Education, has been appointed director of the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (CEUT). The CEUT serves to reinforce the importance of teaching excellence at Virginia Tech, providing opportunities for faculty and graduate students to learn about teaching, engage in reflective dialogue about teaching and learning, and access resources to enhance courses and programs. Doolittle replaces **Terry Wildman**, also from Learning Sciences and Technologies, who served as CEUT director since 1995.

School of Education students **Amanda Edwards** and **Nicole Huret**, Master's candidates in Curriculum and Instruction, were recipients of 2008-2009 scholarships to pursue higher education at Virginia Space Grant Universities and Community Colleges. The VSGC is a coalition of five Virginia colleges and universities - Virginia Tech, University of Virginia, Old Dominion University, Hampton University, and College of William and Mary - NASA, the Virginia Community College System, other state educational agencies, Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology, and other institutions representing diverse aerospace education and research. Students majoring in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and other fields of study related to aerospace were eligible to apply. Space Grant Research Scholars and Fellows must be engaged in an identified research project with a faculty advisor as part of their academic program; they present their research findings at an annual student research conference in the spring semester. Both Edwards and Huret received a Teacher Education STEM Scholarship, given to students enrolled in a track that leads to teacher certification in STEM at a pre-college setting; they were among 12 students recognized with an award in this category and among 77 students who received awards for 2008-2009 in the five competition categories.

**Patrick Epley** was awarded the William H. Williams Senior Prize in Philosophy as best undergraduate philosophy major. Epley is enrolled in the combined BA/MA program and will graduate with an M.A. in Philosophy in 2009.

**April L. Few**, Human Development, has been named Diversity Fellow of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences for 2008-2010. "The commitment of the College to diversity is robust and widely shared," said Dean Sue Ott Rowlands. "The College's diversity committee takes a leadership role in inclusion issues, with funds provided by the dean's office for research and awards, and to support carefully thought-out implementation . . . Dr. Few has a tremendous track record of diversity-supported initiatives and research, and we look forward to her leadership in this important area for the College." Few's research interests include the topics of intimate violence, African American adolescent sexuality, qualitative methodologies, and diversity issues in academia. She is the 2004 recipient of the *Jessie Bernard Outstanding Contribution to Feminist Scholarship* paper award from the National Council on Family Relations. Her scholarship on the utility of Black feminist and critical race theories resulted in plenary invitations at national conferences, a co-authored book chapter on multicultural feminism and family studies in the *Sourcebook of Family Theory and Research* (2005), and a co-editorship of the upcoming *Handbook of Feminist Family Studies* (2009). She has published in the *Journal of Family Issues*, *Violence and Victims*, *Family Relations*, *Sex Roles*, *Sexuality and Culture*, and the *National Women's Studies Association Journal*.

**William FitzPatrick**, Philosophy, published "Robust Ethical Realism, Non-Naturalism, and Normativity" in *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 3 (2008): 159-205.

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures presented its Graduation Awards on May 10. **Stefanie F. Georgakis** received the Outstanding French Major Award, and **Stefan Mikailoff** was the recipient of the Outstanding Service Award in French. The German Award winners were **Zaneta Purvis** and **Michael K. Plumley**. **Samuel C. Faith** was the recipient of the Outstanding Major Award for Excellence in Foreign Languages and Literatures and **Megan E. Ouellette** the Outstanding Non-Major Award for Excellence in FLL.

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures received a gift from the John and Mihoko Lanier Family Fund in support of Japanese, which will be used for additional language courses as well as cultural events.

The Spanish Program in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures recently received national recognition when its chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, was named an "Honor Chapter" for its outstanding activities in 2007-08. Based on the reports submitted each May by the 552 chapters of the society, the National Executive Committee chooses "Honor Chapters." The recognition is based upon the caliber of chapter projects that reflect the Sigma Delta Pi mission of honoring excellence in the study of the Spanish language, contributing to cultural understanding, and upholding the goals of the society. Virginia Tech's Lambda Psi Chapter was one of ten selected for 2008. **Antonio Fernández-Vázquez**, Foreign Languages and Literatures, was instrumental in earning this national honor; he is the adviser of the chapter and Sigma Delta Pi's Regional Vice-President of the Southeast.

Along with Jace Stuckey, **Matthew Gabriele**, Interdisciplinary Studies, edited a volume of essays titled *The Legend of Charlemagne in the Middle Ages: Power, Faith, and Crusade* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008).

University Distinguished Professor **Nikki Giovanni**, English, served as an Honorary Co-Chair at the unveiling and dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial on the Capitol grounds in Richmond on July 21. Serving with her were Julian Bond, Chairman of the NAACP and Blair Underwood, actor, director, and producer; and members of the State legislature. Governor Timothy Kaine was the presider at the ceremony, which honored Virginia's civil rights pioneers.

**William J. Glenn**, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, School of Education, published the following: "Does school finance adequacy litigation pay off for students? Evidence from the 2003 NAEP," *International Journal of Educational Leadership Preparation*, 3,1 (2008), available from the Connexions Web site at <http://cnx.org/content/m16630/latest/>; with T. Creighton, "University teaching that improves school leadership: Basic techniques to help principals use data effectively," *NCPEA Education Leadership Review* 9,2 (2008): 129-42; and "A practical new approach to teaching data analysis to future school leaders: Using common technology to guide data-driven decision making," *VSTE Journal* 22,2 (2008), online at [http://www.vste.org/dwcenterprise/school1000302/FCK/File/vj\\_2008\\_02.pdf](http://www.vste.org/dwcenterprise/school1000302/FCK/File/vj_2008_02.pdf).

**Paul Harrill**, Communication, won the top prize in the Faculty Juried Screening Award: Narrative Category at the University Film and Video Association Annual meeting in Colorado Springs, Colorado for his latest film, "Quick Feet, Soft Hands." The film also was nominated for a Rosebud Award for the

best film produced in Virginia, Maryland, or Washington D.C.; it has been invited to be screened at the Grandin Theatre on November 9 as part of the Roanoke Arts Festival.

**Queen Harrison**, a junior in Sociology and a member of the Virginia Tech track team, became the first female Olympian in any sport while still a student-athlete and the second Hokie ever to do so; she also is the first person from the university's track and field program to represent any country at any Olympic Games. Despite an injury, Harrison earned a spot on the team by finishing second in the 400-meter hurdles – her 54.60 second finish was both a personal best and a school record. Ultimately she made it to the semifinals in the 400-meter hurdles race in Beijing.

Among Harrison's accomplishments are her No. 1 ranking in the 2007 World Junior 400-meter hurdles, earning All-America honors twice, and becoming the first collegiate finisher in the 400-meter hurdles at the Georgia Tech Invitational. Her performances have contributed to the team's continued success, which includes earning the team's second consecutive Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Outdoor Championship and second-consecutive NCAA East Regional title. Harrison was named the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's (USTFCCA) Southeast Region Track Performer of the Year.

**Jill Harrison-Rexrode**, a doctoral student in Sociology, is the 2008 recipient of the Elderhostel K. Patricia Cross Doctoral Research Grant for her research on cultural capital and social network formation in later life. The grant honors the work of K. Patricia Cross, Ph.D., former Elderhostel Board Member and Professor Emerita at the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Berkeley, and is intended to recognize individuals whose research is expected to contribute to the field of lifelong or later-life learning. Given to one outstanding doctoral student annually, the Elderhostel K. Patricia Cross Doctoral Research Grant recipient is selected by a selection committee consisting of professors, practitioners and other leaders in the field of later-life learning.

The Department of History and School of Education have begun collaboration with Montgomery County Public Schools on their second Teaching American History grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant supports teachers responsible for American history content across the grade levels. In addition to workshops and summer sessions, the grant also supports ten history "Master Teachers" from different schools and grade levels who will receive more intensive training and will be responsible for mentoring and guiding other teachers in the acquisition of content knowledge and the development of teaching skills. Virginia Tech faculty members **Tom Ewing**, History, and **David Hicks**, School of Education, have spearheaded the effort. Virginia Tech historians have also dedicated themselves to a similar project with a Roanoke consortium, teaching six graduate classes and supervising year-long independent projects.

The Department of Human Development's Neighbors Growing Together program was one of the first Award Winners in the 2008 Intergenerational Shared Site Best Practices Awards. The program was one of five selected nationally for this honor by Generations United, and the only program on a college campus where older adults and young children have controlled, programmed activity together. The purpose of this competition is to recognize and encourage best practices in intergenerational shared sites around the country; The MetLife Foundation is the sponsor of the awards. **Shannon Jarrott**, Human Development and director of Neighbors Growing Together, serves as a consultant to many similar programs (some are run by local governments, some by churches or organizations). A

description of Neighbors Growing Together is included on pp. 13-15 of the organizations Shared Site Best Practices document: [http://www.gu.org/documents/A0/Shared\\_Site\\_Best\\_Practices.pdf](http://www.gu.org/documents/A0/Shared_Site_Best_Practices.pdf).

Of the six projects selected for support in the 2008 Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment (ISCE) Summer Scholars Program, two involve CLAHS faculty. **Kelly Belanger**, English and director of the Center for the Study of Rhetoric in Society, **Barbara Ellen Smith**, Interdisciplinary Studies and director of Women's Studies, **Stephen Prince**, Communication, and **Robert Leonard**, Theatre Arts, were chosen as 2008 ISCE Summer Scholars for their preliminary work on a documentary film, book, and outreach project that examines the discourses around Title IX, the 1972 landmark law that prohibits sex discrimination in federally funded educational programs. **Brett D. Jones** and **Serge F. Hein**, both from the School of Education, along with two colleagues from engineering education were awarded funding to support the development of external grant proposals for a longitudinal study to examine how gender stereotypes and self-beliefs are related to women engineering students' selection of a major. Established in 2006, ISCE's purpose is to strengthen the university's competitive position in the social sciences, humanities, and arts. The summer program provides funding to help faculty develop interdisciplinary proposals to funding agencies to support research and scholarship in the social sciences, arts, and humanities.

**James D. Ivory**, Communication, contributed a chapter titled "The games, they are a changin': Technological advancements in video games and implications for effects on youth" to *The Changing Portrayal of Adolescents in the Media Since 1950*, edited by Patrick Jamieson and Dan Romer (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008). In addition, Ivory was elected Head of the Communication Technology (CTEC) Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) for the 2008-2009 year.

**Shannon Jarrott** was appointed Interim Head of the Department of Human Development. Jarrott came to Virginia Tech in 1999 as Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development and Director of Research for VT Adult Day Services; she was tenured and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 2005. Jarrott's research focuses on intergenerational programming and dementia care, including recreational programming, staff development, and student training. She teaches courses on adult development, including community services for older adults, intergenerational programming, and study abroad courses to Sweden focusing on community services.

**Kathleen W. Jones**, History, was named a National Humanities Center Fellow and was the recipient of an NEH Fellowship for her project *Dying Young: A History of Youth Suicide, 1900 to the Present*.

**Grace Y. Kao**, Interdisciplinary Studies, published "For All Creation" in *To Do Justice: A Guide for Progressive Christians*, eds. Rebecca Toddie Peters and Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008), 97-107. Kao also was awarded a grant for academic year 2008-2009 by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion to stimulate discussions among her colleagues in Religious Studies about their curriculum at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The Wabash Center supports teachers of religion and theology in higher education through meetings and workshops, grants, a journal and other resources to make accessible the scholarship of teaching and learning; its programs are funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc.

**Jihyun Kim**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, along with H. H. Lee, published "The effects of shopping orientations on consumer satisfaction toward product search and purchases in a multi-channel environment" in the *Journal of Fashion Marketing and Management* 12,2 (2008): 193-216.

The Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars presented **Irene Leech**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, with its 2008 Hall of Fame Award, recognizing her long-term active involvement as a 4-H All Star. The Hall of Fame Award is the chapter's highest recognition and is awarded only to individuals who have been All Stars for more than 15 years. Leech has held the positions of Lesser Chief (Vice President), Chief (President), and Past Chief in the organization; currently, she and her husband serve as co-treasurers. In addition, **Leech** was invited to serve on the Governor's Energy Policy Advisory Council. She also serves as president of the Virginia Citizen's Consumer Council.

New Visiting Assistant Professor **Ashley Maynor**, Communication, was awarded a production grant by the Southern Humanities Media Fund for her documentary "For Memories Sake". The project was one of three selected nationwide for funding.

The August 2008 issue of *Synthese* is a special issue devoted to papers from the ERROR 2006 conference held at Virginia Tech and organized by **Deborah Mayo**, Philosophy. Along with K. Staley and J. Miller, Mayo edited the issue titled *Error and Methodology in Practice: Selected Papers from ERROR 2006*, *Synthese* 163,3 (August 2008).

**Captain Scott McKenzie**, a 1994 graduate from the Department of Music, was named associate conductor of the United States Army Band in Washington, D.C. He also serves as the director of the United States Army Chorus, based in Washington, D.C. McKenzie is active as a composer and arranger; his compositions include pieces for bands from middle school to the professional level. In 2007, his *Fanfare for Enduring Freedom for Brass Choir and Bass Drum* was a winner of the Dallas Wind Symphony Call for Fanfares competition and was performed by the combined brasses of the Dallas Wind Symphony and the U.S. Army Field Band. McKenzie made his conducting debut with the concert band on the west steps of the United States Capitol on Friday, June 20.

**Kimberly J. Mitchell**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, was invited to serve on the Institute of Real Estate Management's (IREM) Legislative and Public Policy Committee for 2009. IREM is the leading-edge real estate management association serving both its members and the larger residential and commercial real estate management community. Mitchell also was invited to serve another term on the Journal of Property Management's Advisory Board for 2009.

**Jaime Nester**, an M.A. student in Philosophy, presented a paper titled "Word-Meaning and the Context Principle in the Investigations" on August 15 at the 31st International Symposium of the Austrian Ludwig Wittgenstein Society in Kirchberg am Wechsel, Austria. The Society also selected Nester's paper for publication in the annual symposium proceedings.

**Leisa Osborne**, administrative staff in Philosophy, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley.

**Terry Papillon**, Foreign Languages and Literatures, was appointed director of the University Honors Program effective July 1. In this capacity, he is responsible for leading a program that provides honors students with enhanced access to faculty mentoring and the tools needed to achieve a top-rated education. In addition, his role is to foster involvement in other avenues related to the honors program, including undergraduate research, international travel experiences, varied cultural opportunities, selected collegiums, beneficial community service projects, and key instruction for internationally competitive scholarships. Papillon will also oversee two university honors communities – Hillcrest Hall and Main Campbell Hall – where honors students have the opportunity to live and learn together. A Professor of Classics, Papillon joined the honors program staff and began serving as the preceptor to the Main Campbell honors community in 2005.

The induction of new members of Phi Beta Kappa took place on May 9. Among the 88 outstanding undergraduates from five colleges who were initiated were the following College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences students. Junior **Lauren Russell**, History. Seniors **Anisa Ali**, International Studies/Spanish; **Carolyn Barnes**, Political Science; **Charles Barrineau**, Communication; **Eric Boynton**, English/History; **Jenna Bull-Tranbold**, Sociology/Psychology; **Christopher Carroll**, English/Finance; **Justin Chalkley**, Political Science; **Jeremy Conrad**, Political Science; **Matthew Eldridge**, International Studies; **Patrick Epley**, Philosophy; **Heath Furrow**, History; **Anna Furry**, Interdisciplinary Studies; **Ashton Hoff**, History; **William Hutcheson, Jr.**, English/Psychology; **Stephanie Iero**, Interdisciplinary Studies; **Emily Kirby**, English; **Katherine Leonberger**, English/Psychology; **Cameron Lewis**, Philosophy/Political Science; **Jessica Lewis**, Political Science/French; **Andrew Lincoln**, Interdisciplinary Studies; **Kirsten Lovo**, Political Science/Public and Urban Affairs; **Heather McMillan**, International Studies/Spanish; **Christopher Midgley**, Political Science/History; **Emily Mook**, English; **Austin Morton**, Communication/Political Science; **Melissa Nee**, Political Science; **Kim Nguyen**, Mass Communication/Visual Communication Design; **Elizabeth Potter**, International Studies/German; **Kristin Preve**, English; **Amrita Raja**, French/Interior Design; **James Scarano**, History; **Joseph Schaffer**, History/Ocean Engineering; **Matthew Schrettner**, History/Biological Sciences; **Jessica Schwartz**, History/Public and Urban Affairs; **Michelle Skeen**, Communication/English; and **Marc Thomas**, History/Political Science.

**Fred Piercy**, Human Development, was appointed to the positions of Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research and Director of College Diversity Initiatives in the College effective July 2008. He served as Head of the Department of Human Development from 2000 through June 2008. Piercy's scholarly interests include: Marriage and Family Therapy Education; Qualitative Research and Evaluation; Social Science HIV Prevention and Research; Family Therapy for Substance Abuse, and Disaster Mental Health.

Piercy, along with **Margaret Keeling**, Human Development, published an article titled "Seeing the Picture from Inside the Frame: Two Therapists' Observations Following the Virginia Tech Tragedy" in *Traumatology* 14(2008): 21-24.

**Sam Riley**, Communication, published a two-volume, authored reference work *African Americans in the Media Today*. The books contain 246 biographical entries on people working in news media jobs for newspapers, magazines, radio, television and online media outlets. Riley's interest in this topic dates from 1971, when he shared an office at Temple University's Department of Journalism with Armistead Pride, scholar and historian of the black press in the United States.

Virginia Tech Alumni Distinguished Professor **James Robertson**, History, was featured on "With Good Reason," a half-hour radio program on all of Virginia's public radio stations, on July 27 and July 30. Robertson discussed items we take for granted today, such as left and right shoes and canned food, that resulted from the Civil War.

During Fall 2007 both **Michael Saffle**, Interdisciplinary Studies, and **Sue Saffle**, English, taught at Capital Normal University in Beijing under the auspices of the CET International Exchange Program and SASASAAS: The Southern Atlantic States Association for Asian and African Studies. In Spring 2008 Michael held the Au Yeung King Fong Research Fellowship in the Department of Music at Hong Kong Baptist University. His article titled "Privatization as Potemkinization: Contested Identity Spaces in Contemporary Beijing," which includes 61 full-color diagrams and photographs of China's capital city, was published on-line by *Spaces of Identity* in August; it is available at [www.spacesofidentity.net](http://www.spacesofidentity.net).

The School of Performing Arts & Cinema (SOPAC) was officially established on July 1. An administrative/programmatic unit within the University, the School brings together the talents and expertise of the faculty, staff, and students in the Departments of Music, Theatre Arts and the Cinema Program within the Department of Communication.

Recently SOPAC announced its new Speaker Series, which includes three events each semester. The inaugural presentation will be by Louis Massiah, an independent filmmaker whose films often explore historical and political subjects. The lecture, which is co-sponsored by the Roanoke Public Library, will take place at the Dumas Center, 108 1<sup>st</sup> St. NW, Roanoke. The second event, scheduled for October 3 at the Squires Studio Theatre, features Tom Igoe speaking on "Physical Computing and Performance." The final presentation for the fall semester will take place on October 16 in the Squires Recital Salon, when Tim Ries will speak on "Funding the Arts through Rock and Roll."

For more information about SOPAC, its programs, and its activities, see the School's website: [www.sopac.vt.edu](http://www.sopac.vt.edu).

Sociology faculty **Jim Hawdon** and **Donna Sedgwick**, in collaboration with **Isabel Bradburn**, Human Development, received a grant from the Virginia Department of Education for their project, "Virginia Preschool Pilot Initiative: Phase II."

The Department of Theatre Arts is pleased to announce its 2008-2009 scholarship winners for Theatre majors: Arts Scholarships were awarded to freshmen **Alex Beard**, **Patricia Costello**, and **Stephanie Ramsey**; awards were made based on auditions/portfolio reviews last spring. Criteria for Arts Scholarships for continuing students were a minimum 3.2 GPA and contribution to the Theatre Arts production program; Rising Senior Scholarships were awarded to **Cat Capece** and **Adam Ressa**, Rising Junior Scholarships to **Sarah Hoffman** and **Will Quinn**, and Rising Sophomore Scholarships to **Molly Dickerson** and **Caitlyn Merryman**. **Megan Carey** and **Helen Lynn** were the recipients of a Box/Buxton Scholarship. The Samuel Cox Scholarship was awarded to **Jessica Long**. **Meghann Garmany** received the Donald A. Drapeau Academic Scholarship.

The **Undergraduate Research Institute** in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences received an Exemplary Department Award. Congratulations especially to **Diana Ridgwell**, director of the URI.

The institute's 2008-2009 kickoff event took place on August 27 in Majors Williams Atrium; those who stopped by were provided with information about the URI and had the opportunity to speak with fellow students already engaged in research.

**Mary Ellen Verdu**, Human Development, received the 2007-2008 Undergraduate Career Advisor Award given by Career Services. Verdu will be recognized at a luncheon the first week of September.

The Virginia Tech Chamber Singers, directed by **Brian Gendron**, Music, performed in the American Opera Theater production of Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *David et Jonathas*, the last of a number of invitational performances during the 2007-2008 season. Performances of the French baroque opera took place May 2 through 4 at the Davis Center of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and May 9 and 10 in the Opera House of the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York City.

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences is pleased to welcome **Colonel Rusty "Waldo" Walden** as the new leader of the Air Force ROTC at Virginia Tech. Commander and Professor of Aerospace Studies, Detachment 875, AFROTC, Walden was commissioned in 1982 through AFROTC and is a graduate of Virginia Tech and The Corps of Cadets. As a career fighter pilot, he has accumulated nearly 4,000 flying hours, primarily in the F-16 with combat tours in Southwest Asia. He has commanded the 80<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, the 4<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina; in addition, he served in numerous operational fighter squadrons as well as Air Combat Command, Joint Staff and Headquarters Air Force staff assignments.

**Damion M. Waymer**, Communication, published "A man: An autoethnographic analysis of black male identity negotiation" in *Qualitative Inquiry* 14,6 (September 2008): 968-89.

Please submit items for inclusion in upcoming **News2Note** newsletters to Associate Dean Debra Stoudt at [dstoudt@vt.edu](mailto:dstoudt@vt.edu).