



News2 Note

April 2008

Barbara Allen, Science and Technology in Society, is the recipient of a Fulbright award to Italy for the spring of 2009. At the invitation of the University of Trento, Program in Science in Society, Allen will spend four months working out of their affiliated “Observa-Science in Society” policy institute in Vicenza. Her project looks at environmental health science, public use of science, industrial regulation, and policy change in the chlorine-based chemical industry in Porto Marghera, about 30 minutes from Vicenza. The project parallels her research and book on the same industry in Louisiana (MIT Press, 2003) and will culminate in an Italy-U.S. comparative study.

Sophia T. Anong, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, published “Income quintiles: Examining changes in the characteristics of respondents” in *Financial Counseling and Planning* 18.2 (2007): 19-34, with S.A. DeVaney.

The Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management was featured in the article “Virginia Tech Leads in Kitchen Design Education” in *Kitchen & Bath Design News*, March 2008, 45-47. The article focuses on the AHRM Center for Real Life Kitchen Design.

Sophomore Music Education and Vocal Performance Music major **Nicole Bonfiglio** was selected by audition to participate in Operafestival di Roma in Italy from July 1 to July 28. In addition to serving as a member of the chorus for two fully staged opera productions, she will perform a titled role in Giacomo Puccini’s *Suor Angelica*. She also will have the opportunity to participate in master classes, coaching, and lessons in diction, voice, and conversational Italian. Bonfiglio studies with **Theodore Sipes**.

Morgan Cain, a junior in Interdisciplinary Studies with minors in Public and Urban Affairs, History, and Appalachian Studies, received a grant from the Undergraduate Research Institute to support research she will be undertaking in Germany, France, and Italy during the summer and fall of 2008. She is pursuing a research project titled “Across Cultures and Countries: An International Look at the Validity of Stereotypes.” **Joan Monahan Watson** is serving as Cain’s research advisor for the project.

Mariah Clarke, an undergraduate student in Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, received a CLAHS Undergraduate Research Grant for her research on “The Influence of the Civil War on Women's Apparel in the U.S.” She will be working with **Jihyun Kim** on her study.

Congratulations to **Fred D’Aguiar**, English, for publishing a poem, “A Clean Slate,” in the March 17 issue of *The New Yorker*. The magazine, best known for its reporting, essays, fiction, poetry, and cartoons, currently has more than one million subscribers. You can read D’Aguiar’s poem here: http://www.newyorker.com/fiction/poetry/2008/03/17/080317po_poem_daguiar .

Gary Downey, Science and Technology in Society, is co-founder and co-organizer of the International Network for Engineering Studies, which boasts some 250 members. He also serves as co-editor of the organization’s journal, *Engineering Studies* (Taylor & Francis, 2009), whose editorial staff includes three associate editors and 15 editorial board members from other countries.

The School of Education was well represented at the Eastern Educational Research Association conference held in Hilton Head, South Carolina, on February 20-23. Faculty presenting were: **Randa Abdelmagid, Mary Alice Barksdale, Penny Burge, Mido Chang, Peter E. Doolittle, George E. Glasson, Brett Jones, Miriam Larson, Barbara Lockee, Mary Ann Norman, Deborah Olsen, Ross A. Perkins, Ken Potter, Kusum Singh, and Laura Welfare**. Graduate student presenters were: **Inga S. Adams, Laura Levi Altstaedter, Matt Ames, Yolanda Avent, Brenda Ball, Aprille Noe Black, Ron Bowen, Nancy Bradley, Paula Brown, C. Noel Byrd, Tameka Byrd, Tracey Cameron, E-Lu Chen, Huntae Chung, Kathryne M. Drezek, Marina Falasca, Mauro Falasca, Gary Fetter, Kimberly Filer, Martha Glass, Simeon M. Gwayi, Brent Holt, Thomas Jeffrey, Troy Jones, Sunha Kim, Karl Kosko, Danielle L. Lusk, Gina Mariano, Fulya Marsh, Jonathan McCloud, Yun Mo, Nerta Nyironga, Keith Palmer, Yeonjeong Park, Mary Waltz Parrish, Julie Poole, Pupung Purnawarman, W. Michael Reed, Jeffrey Richmond, Audrey Robinson, Nicklaus Spruill, Racheal Stimpson, Carolyn Stuart, Megan Sulsberger, Youngji Yoon Sung, Lisa Updike, Diana Wang, Chris Wikstrom, and Daniel Woods**.

There was an impressive School of Education presence as well at the 2008 American Educational Research Association conference in New York from March 24-28. Faculty who participated were: **Vanessa R. Pitts Bannister, Carol B. Brandt, Jennifer M. Brill, John Burton, Mido Chang, Elizabeth G. Creamer, Peter E. Doolittle, Michael A. Evans, Jimmie C. Fortune (emeritus), James Garrison, George E. Glasson, William J. Glenn, David Hicks, Brett D. Jones, Sara Kajder, Eric Lichtenberger, Deborah Olsen, Patrick O’Reilly, Kusum Singh, Gresilda A. Tilley-Lubbs, Jesse L. M. Wilkins, and Edward W. Wolfe**. Participating graduate students were: **C. Noel Byrd, Liesl M. Combs, Kathryne M. Drezek, Anna-Maria Fall, Kimberly L. Filer, Sunha Kim, Danielle Lusk, Gina Mariano, Yun Mo, Michael Moore, Yeonjeong Park, Janice I. Robbins, Tonya N. Saddler, Nicklaus Spruill, Racheal Stimpson, Antionette D. Stroter, Youngji Sung, Lisa Tabor, Angela W. Williams, and William P. Williams**. The VT School of Education partnered with four other Virginia institutions for a reception at the conference.

The English Department’s 2008 Undergraduate Research Conference took place in Shanks Hall on March 28 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Some 68 students presented papers or read original poetry in 17 sessions, and an additional 24 students made poster presentations during two poster sessions. Alumni Distinguished Professor **Lucinda Roy**, English, was the luncheon keynote speaker. The day’s events concluded with official recognition of the student authors, presentation of conference awards, the initiation ceremony of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, and a reception.

Virginia Tech hosted the 2008 Latin American Theatre Today Conference/Festival from March 26-29. The event was organized by Alumni Distinguished Professor **Jacqueline Bixler**, Foreign Languages and Literatures, with collaboration from the Department of Theatre Arts and support from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Featured as part of the festival were four dramatic readings and six plays performed by guest artists, as well as *Abingdon Square*, performed by the Department of Theatre Arts. The conference included presentations by more than 120 national and international scholars.

Acolytes: Poems by University Distinguished Professor of English **Nikki Giovanni** was included in the New York Public Library's Books for the Teen Age 2008 list.

Paul T. Harrill, Communication (Cinema area), participated in the South by Southwest (SXSW) Film Conference and Festival in Austin, Texas, held March 7-13. He moderated a panel titled "Blogs, Buzz, and Buddy Lists" and was a member of the "No Budget Filmmaking" panel. Begun in 1994, the SXSW is essentially two events in one: by day it is an industry-oriented film conference with panels, workshops, mentor sessions, and a trade show; by night it is one of America's leading film festivals.

Congratulations to **James Hawdon** and **John Ryan**, both of Sociology, for funding they received from the National Science Foundation for their Small Grants for Exploratory Research proposal titled "Social Relations and Community Solidarity: An International Comparative Analysis." Hawdon and Ryan will partner with colleagues in the Department of Sociology, University of Turku, Finland, to study community effects of mass violence in Jokela, Finland, and Omaha, Nebraska.

The Higher Education (HED) Program in the School of Education named three of its graduate students as this year's recipients of the Don G. Creamer Research Awards; they are: **Bethany Flora** for her project "Professional Lives of Higher Education Center Administrators"; **Racheal Stimpson** for her work titled "Senior Student Affairs Officers Life and Career Paths"; and **Tonya Saddler** for her project on "The Role of Collaborative Research Experiences in Preparing Doctoral Students for Faculty Careers." Don Creamer served for 28 years as a professor of higher education; the Fund for Excellence named for him was created in 2005 upon his retirement and in honor of his career.

Brent Jesiek, who recently completed his Ph.D. in Science and Technology in Society, received one of the two Outstanding Dissertation Awards presented during this year's 8th Annual Graduate Education Week (March 27). Jesiek's dissertation won in the Outstanding Dissertation in Social Sciences and Humanities category. This is the second year in a row that a student from STS has won in this category.

Matthew Johnson, a senior Theatre Arts minor and Sociology major, and **Cat Capece**, a junior Theatre Arts and Communication double major, have been accepted into the William Esper Studio Summer Intensive study program in New York City.

Jihyun Kim and **LuAnn Gaskill**, both of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, and Dean **Sue Ott Rowlands** traveled to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to explore student and faculty collaborations in areas of study abroad experiences, workshops, and lecturing opportunities with targeted institutions of higher education. Collaborations also have been initiated with the American Embassy in Saudi Arabia in areas of Educational Advising.

Brandon Kliewer, a graduate student in Political Science, was selected to be a member of the Future Professoriate: Global Perspectives program. He will travel to Switzerland and Italy with 12 other graduate students, plus Dean Karen DePauw, to visit various colleges and universities.

Congratulations to **Carla Miller**, a doctoral student in Sociology/Africana Studies, who has been selected as a 2008 Frederick Douglass Scholar at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). Her tenure as a Douglass Scholar will run five weeks, from June 2 through July 3. Miller will receive an assistantship and will have full, independent teaching responsibility for one course, SOC 362 Racial and Ethnic Minorities. The cost of roundtrip travel and housing also are covered by the Frederick Douglass Institute.

Kim Mitchell, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, has been invited to serve on the VT Committee on Equal Opportunity in Athletics.

Several Department of Music vocal music majors garnered special recognition at the recent Virginia National Association of Teachers of Singing Conference, held at Virginia Tech on February 29 and March 1. From **Theodore Sipes's** studio **Daniel Gonzales**, baritone, was awarded third place among College Freshmen Men and **Katie Blevins** received honorable mention among College Freshman Women. From **Nancy McDuffie's** studio **Chelsea Crane**, soprano, received first place among College Junior Women, **Karin Caruso**, soprano, second place among College Sophomore Women, **Laurelyn Marin**, mezzo-soprano, second place among College Senior Women, and **Stephanie Dooley**, soprano, honorable mention among College Junior Women.

The Department of Music presented guest pianist Lise Keiter-Brotzman in "A Tribute to Women Composers" on March 19 in the Squires Recital Salon. The program of solo piano music written exclusively by women composers was presented with support from the Women's Center and the Women and Minority Artists and Scholars Lecture Series; it served as a benefit concert for the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley.

Britney Pardue, an undergraduate student in Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, received a CLAHS Undergraduate Research Grant for her research on "Financial Literacy of Hispanics." She is working with **Sophia Anong** on the project.

Kusum Singh, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, was selected as the recipient of the 2008 Graduate Alumni Advising Award for the university. In addition, Singh and **Lisa Darlington**, a graduate student in Educational Research and Evaluation, received the 2008 Outstanding Paper Award at the Eastern Educational Research Association conference held in February in Hilton Head, South Carolina, for their paper titled "Factors impacting middle school math achievement," given at the annual EERA meeting in Clearwater, Florida, in February 2007. The award is given the year after the paper has been presented.

Director of Women's Studies **Barbara Ellen Smith**, Interdisciplinary Studies, delivered the Helen M. Lewis lecture in Appalachian Studies at the Craddock Center in Blue Ridge, Georgia, on March 7. The title of her presentation was "Latino Immigrants and the Challenge of Community in Appalachia."

Charles Taylor, co-director of undergraduate advising in Political Science, was selected as the recipient of the 2008 Undergraduate Alumni Advising Award. The award is given annually to an individual who serves undergraduates in exemplary ways.

In the Serpent's Coils, the first book by **Tiffany Trent**, English, made the New York Public Library's Books for the Teen Age 2008 list. This is one of the most coveted lists in young adult fiction.

The Undergraduate Research Institute (URI), directed by **Diana Ridgwell**, CLAHS Director of Student Development, has developed a database of research opportunities and conferences for undergraduates; the institute matches undergraduates with faculty mentors and provides support for undergraduate research projects. The URI was recognized as "one of the most comprehensive undergraduate programs at the University" in the 2006-2007 President's Annual Report.

Beginning in the fall of 2008 the Undergraduate Research Institute (URI), with the support of the College administration, will produce *Philologia*, an undergraduate research journal. Of Virginia Tech's 25 "benchmark institutions," only ten have undergraduate research journals, but none of the ten have a liberal arts and human sciences focus. The journal will showcase students' work across campus and nationally. Its purpose is to serve as a recruiting tool, highlight the strengths of student-faculty collaboration, and demonstrate to the college and university's constituents the commitment to and value of undergraduate students being involved in research activities. The journal will be produced by CLAHS students. **Dylan Greenwood**, a Political Science major and Honors scholar, has been instrumental in the conceptualization of the journal and will serve as the first Editor in Chief. The URI hopes to produce the first journal in print and online in the spring of 2009. Applications are now being accepted for student associate editors and web editors. More information is available at <http://www.philologia.clahs.vt.edu>.

Donna Hardy Watson, a School of Education Ph.D. recipient in 2005 and Director of Teacher Education at Bluefield College, received the third place award from the Outstanding Dissertation Selection Committee of the American Educational Research Association's Rural Education Special Interest Group for her dissertation titled "Learning Mathematics in Appalachia: Life Histories of Beginning Teachers." She received her award at the AERA Rural Education SIG Business Meeting on March 26 in New York. **Jay Wilkins** and **Sue Magliaro** served as co-chairs of Watson's dissertation committee.

Jarreau Williams, a junior Theatre Arts and Psychology double major, has been cast as a featured extra in the movie *State of Play* being filmed in Washington, DC, starring Russell Crowe, Ben Affleck, and Helen Mirren.

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