



# News2Note

February 2008

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Welcome to the first edition of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences **News2Note**. I hope you enjoy this electronic publication celebrating some of the many achievements by faculty, staff and students within the College. Our intent is to make **News2Note** a monthly communication which we will also share with alumni, retired faculty members, and other friends of CLAHS. Information on how to submit items can be found at the end of the email. Please feel free to pass on accomplishments for inclusion in upcoming issues!

Sue Ott Rowlands, Dean

**M. David Alexander**, Education Leadership and Policy Studies, was the recipient of the Education Law Association's 2007 M. A. McGhehey Award. The award is presented in recognition of outstanding service in the field of education law and to the Education Law Association.

The **Appalachian Studies program** is sponsoring a screening of *Sludge*, a documentary that portrays the coal slurry damage in Martin County, Kentucky, in October of 2000 that destroyed over 100 miles of stream and hundreds of homes. Moderated by Jack Spadaro, former Superintendent of the National Mine Safety and Health Academy, the film will be shown on February 19 at 7 p.m. in Torgersen 3100.

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.

For the second year in a row the Virginia Tech **Army ROTC** cadets had the best overall performance of all Senior Military Colleges in the nation.

**Rosemary Blieszner**, Human Development and associate director of the Center for Gerontology, is the new editor of the *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, sponsored by the Gerontological Society of America. With a circulation of more than 5,800, it is a premier journal in the field of gerontology, publishing articles on aging including attitudes, cognition, emotion, neuropsychology, perception, personality, sensation, and many other topics. Blieszner will be editor for four years.

**Carol J. Burger**, Interdisciplinary Studies, **Elizabeth G. Creamer**, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, and **Peggy S. Meszaros**, Human Development, are the authors of *Reconfiguring the Firewall*, a comprehensive volume that addresses the global challenge of recruiting girls and women into majors and careers in information technology. The volume was published by AK Peters, Ltd.

**Toni Calasanti**, Sociology, has been selected for the prestigious Petersen Visiting Scholar in Gerontology and Family Studies at Oregon State University for Spring 2009.

A senior in the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource management, **Mariah Clarke** was the recipient of the International Textile and Apparel Association's (ITAA) Paris American Academy 2007 Scholarship. The scholarship is the top design award by ITAA to an undergraduate student for excellence in design creativity and innovation. Clarke received the award for her gown design titled "Victorian Rose" and during her four-week stay in Paris she will work with professionals from the French haute couture and ready-to-wear industries.

**Steven Daskal**, Philosophy, will be traveling to the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary in July 2008 under the auspices of the 2008 ACC Summer Project to Eastern Europe. The dual purpose of these faculty development trips is to enhance the research and teaching capacities of each university and to advance research through collaboration, both among ACC universities and between ACC universities and international interests.

**Ed Falco**, English, was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts 2008 Literature Fellowship in Prose. The fellowships recognize writers of prose, encouraging the production of new work by affording writers the time and means to write.

University Distinguished Professor of English **Nikki Giovanni** received the 2007 Carl Sandburg Literary Award from the Chicago Public Library Foundation and the Chicago Public Library. Giovanni was the first poet to win the award, which is presented annually in recognition of a significant body of work that has enhanced the public's awareness of the written word and reflects the Library's commitment to the freedom to read, to learn, and to discover.

**David Grant**, a junior majoring in Political Science and Interdisciplinary Studies (with a degree option in Religious Studies), was awarded an ACC International Academic Collaborative (ACC/IAC) Scholarship to support his study abroad last semester. Following a summer in Amman, Jordan, where he began learning Arabic through a State Department Critical Language Scholarship, Grant spent the fall semester in Egypt studying Arabic and history at the American University of Cairo.

**Celia Hayhoe**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, received the 2007 Distinguished Fellow Award from the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education (AFCPE). The award, the top one presented by AFCPE, recognizes a national leader in the field of financial counseling and planning education who exhibits the highest standards of professional and ethical career conduct. Election as a Fellow is bestowed upon AFCPE members by their peers.

Recently on display in the Wallace Gallery was **Carole McNamee's** exhibit "Images of a Life Transition," which highlights the intersection of graphic arts and therapy. McNamee is a graduate of the Marriage and Family Therapy program in Human Development and serves as a Research Associate in the department.

Along with ten of his students, **Fred Piercy**, Human Development and CLAHS Office of the Dean, co-authored "A Virginia Tech MFT Ethics Class Reflects on the Shootings at Virginia Tech," which was accepted by the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*. Piercy also was honored recently with the Outstanding Contribution to Marriage and Family Therapy Award from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT).

**Karen A. Roberto**, Human Development and director of the Center for Gerontology, was elected chair of the Behavioral and Social Sciences section of the Gerontological Society of America. Behavioral and Social Sciences is the largest section of the national society, with almost half of the organization's 5,136 membership. Roberto also has been named Fellow of the World Demographic Association (WDA). The WDA is headquartered in St. Gallen, Switzerland, and focuses on world demographic change, aging, and generational issues. Roberto recently published the third edition of her textbook, *Community resources for older adults: Programs and services in an era of change* (2008, with Robbyn R. Wacker), with Sage/Pine Forge Press. In addition, she and **Shannon E. Jarrott**, Human Development, published "Caregiving in late life: A life-span human development perspective" in *Family Relations* 57 (2008): 100-11. With colleagues in Australia, Roberto and **Rosemary Blieszner** published "Prevalence and predictors of depression among older rural Australians and Americans" in the *Australian Journal of Rural Health* 16,1 (2008): 33-39.

The proposal by **Carolyn Rude**, English, for an examination of the relationships of discourse and social policy from an international perspective has been accepted for the 2008 ACC Summer Project to Eastern Europe. Rude, along with CLAHS colleague Steven Daskal, will be among the faculty participating in the program that focuses on the impact of globalization and democratization and the resultant social problems that have emerged in the developing democracies of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary.

*Anti-Arab Racism in the USA* by **Steven Salaita**, English, was recognized with a 2007 Myers Outstanding Book Award. The annual award, given by the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights, commends works published in a given year that extend understanding of the root causes of bigotry and the range of options we as humans have in constructing alternative ways to share power.

**Emily Satterwhite**, Interdisciplinary Studies, will present a paper on fans of Harriette Arnow's *The Dollmaker* titled "Resell Rural America to Americans: Fan Mail, Migrants, and the Pastoral Impulse" at "Evidence of Reading, Reading the Evidence," a major international conference to be held at the Institute of English Studies, University of London, July 21-23, 2008. The conference, the first of its kind, is being organized by the Open University and the Institute for English Studies.

**Paula Seniors**, a post-doctoral student in Africana Studies, published "Teaching and Learning U.S. History through a Multicultural Curriculum: Conquest, Slavery and Indispensable Labor" in *Black History Bulletin* 70,2 (2008).

Louisiana State University Press has announced publication of *John Washington's Civil War: A Slave Narrative* by **Crandall Shifflett**, History, to be released in April in both hardcover and paperback for classroom adoption. Washington, a Fredericksburg, Virginia, slave, penned the story of his life from 1838 to 1872. Shifflett presents this remarkable slave narrative in its entirety, together with his own detailed annotations of the life-changing events Washington records.

**Anastasia S. Vogt Yuan**, Sociology, published "Racial Composition of Neighborhood and Emotional Well-Being" in *Sociological Spectrum* 28:105-29.

**Jesse (Jay) L. M. Wilkins**, Teaching and Learning, has been selected to receive the Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics William C. Lowry Teacher of the Year Award at the College Level for 2008 for outstanding teaching in mathematics. The award will be presented at a dinner that accompanies the VCTM Academy, which is being held at the Skelton Center at Virginia Tech on March 14-15, 2008.

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