

Fall, 2013

A Note from the Chair

It was another good year for STS at Virginia Tech.

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Congratulations to **Matthew Wisnioski**, who received tenure and was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Science and Technology Studies, and to **Barbara Allen**, who was promoted to the rank of Professor of Science and Technology Studies.

Our undergraduate major in Humanities, Science and Environment continues to grow. We are in the process of developing the curriculum further. 2013-14 will see the inauguration of our new introductory course, as well as a course in *Energy and Society* for our undergraduate majors.

Our offices in Lane Hall are about to be surrounded by a major construction project. The two cadet dorms just below Lane Hall are scheduled for demolition and rebuilding. That process should begin in August of this year. Don't mind the dust as our surroundings undergo a major upgrade.

We have a very nice cast of new students entering the program (see below). And, as always, we would love to hear from you. Keep us updated on all your activities and accomplishments. Please continue to let your students, friends and colleagues know about us.

With best wishes for the coming year.

Skip Fuhrman



Congratulations to Our New Degree Recipients

Doctor of Philosophy

John Tucker, Technologies of Intelligence and their Relation to National Security Policy: A Case Study of the U.S. and the V-2 Rocket
Tristan Cloyd, (r)Evolution in Brain-Computer Interface Technologies for Play: (non)Users in *Mind*

Master of Science

Douglas Anderson • Blair Brooks • Andrea Bleistein • Michael Conners • Claire Cucio • Patricia Eng • Amy Kaminsky • Sterling Mullis • Kevin McPeak • Heather Noell

Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, Science, and Environment

Rachel Adell (Cum Laude) • Nicole Bitzan • Anna Crews • Christopher Demasi • Erin Johnson (Magna Cum Laude) • Evan McWalters • Jeremy Rommel (Magna Cum Laude and Commonwealth Scholar) • Trevor Williamson

Recent Awards and Achievements

Barbara Allen received the 2012 Excellence In Administration Award, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech. She also received a Residential Fellowship, IMERA (Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Research), Marseille (France), Sept 15, 2013- Feb 15, 2014 in which she will be a guest researcher working on a project entitled "Communities and Environmental Challenges: Shaping Policy-Relevant Knowledge and Technological Transformation in a Comparative Perspective."

Mark V. Barrow, Jr., Professor and Chair of History, was awarded the 2012 Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Prize for best general audience book in the history of science for his 2009 publication of : *Nature's Ghosts: Confronting Extinction from the age of Jefferson to the Age of Ecology*.

James Collier published the 25th anniversary issue of *Social Epistemology*; Contributing a chapter to, and editing, *On Twenty-Five Years of Social Epistemology: A Way Forward* due out in November (Routledge).

Matt Wisnioski was named a 2013-2014 Fellow of the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology, where he will be teaching an experimental seminar on the Origins of Innovation and leading as the Co-PI of the new Human Centered Design IGEP.

STS alumnus, **David Tomblin** has been appointed the Director of the STS Scholars Program at University of Maryland, College Park.

Another of our recent graduates **Karey Sutton** has been named Lead Specialist in Health Equity Research and Policy at the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Recent Publications by STS Students and Faculty

Barbara Allen, "Justice as Measure of Non Governmental Organization (NGO) Success in Post-Disaster Community Assistance." *Science Technology and Human Values* 38 (2013): 224-249.
"Neighborhood as «Green Laboratory»: A critique of actor network theory and allied NGO strategies in post-disaster New Orleans," *Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia* (Jan 2013): 3-26.

Mark Barrow, "Carson in Cartoon: A New Window Onto the Noisy Reception to Silent Spring," *Endeavor* 36 (2012): 156-164.

Richard Burian, "On Gene Concepts and Teaching Genetics - Episodes from Classical Genetics," *Science and Education* 22: 325-344

Eileen Crist-Patzig, ed. (w/Philip Cafaro) *Life on The Brink: Environmentalists confront Overpopulation*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2012. "Abundant Earth and the population question." In *Life on the Brink*. "Ecocide and the extinction of animal minds." In *Ignoring Nature No More: The Case for Compassionate Conservation*, edited by M Bekoff. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press, 2013.

Matthew Goodrum. "The Study of Prehistoric Artifacts in National Context: Belgian Archaeologists and the Problem of Ancient Stone Implements." *Bulletin of the History of Archaeology* 23 (2013): 1-11. "History." In *A Companion to Paleoanthropology*, edited by D. Begun, 17-33. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

Jen Henderson "Footwearology." *The American Scholar*, Winter 2013; "Head in the Clouds." *The American Scholar*, Summer 2013. Gouldner, A., Henderson, J., and Shieh, O. "Science Policy: A

Voice Crying from the Wilderness of Science." *EOS Forum*, American Geophysical Union, February 2013.

Phil Olsen and Axtell, G. "Recent Work in Applied Virtue Ethics," *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 49 (2012): 183-203. "Putting Knowledge in Its Place: Virtue, Value, and the Internalism/Externalism Debate." *Philosophical Studies*, 159 (2012): 241-261.

Sonja Schmid "Defining (Scientific) Direction: Soviet Nuclear Physics and Reactor Engineering in the Cold War" in *Nation and Knowledge: Science and Technology in the Global Cold War*, edited by N. Oreskes and J. Krige. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2013. "Shaping the Soviet Experience of the Atomic Age: Nuclear Topics in Ogonyok, 1945-1965" in *The Nuclear Age in Popular Media: A Transnational History, 1945-1965*, edited by D. van Lente, 19-52. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2012.

Ashley Shew. "Parenting/Monitoring." In *Ender's Game and Philosophy*, edited by D.E. Wittkower and L. Rush. Chicago: Open Court, 2013.

David Winyard Review of Steve Fuller's *Humanity 2.0* published on the *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* web site.

Matt Wisnioski, "Change or Die!" *The Atlantic* Online, December 12, 2012.

Doris Zallen "The Many Versus the Few." *Hastings Center Report*, 42 (2012): 4-5.

Welcome New STS Faculty

James Collier officially joins the STS department in 2013. In Jim's words: "My contention is that STS needs and indeed wants a unique philosophy. I take up my position through research in social epistemology, an approach to knowledge as a collective, governable achievement, and in the nascent philosophy of science and technology studies. In part, this work analyzes issues involving normativity, case study methodology, interdisciplinarity and the status of STS as an academic field, the governance of knowledge including, finally, how we determine significance. I continue my interests in scientific and technical communication through the theoretical and practical concerns raised by my work as Executive Editor of the journal *Social Epistemology* and the founding, in 2011, and editing of the *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*."



Travis L. Williams joined the department as a Postdoctoral Fellow in 2012. Dr. Williams studies environmental health and social movements with a key focus on advocacy and activism. The title of his dissertation (which was completed in March 2013) is "Organizing for Corporate Accountability in the High Tech Industry: A Case Study of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition." He is currently working on an academic article that focuses on the history of groundwater contamination and environmental activism in Northern California's Silicon Valley. Dr. Williams continues to develop and expand his research on the environmental politics of high tech industrialization. Currently he works with Professor Samuel R. Cook of the American Indian Nations Studies program to help launch Virginia Tech's first ever Indigenous Ecologies initiative, which we hope to have off the ground by Spring 2014. He will be teaching an STS course on Environmental Justice in Spring 2014.

Our incoming graduate students

Seungmi Chung received a master's degree in Aerospace Engineering in 2010 from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and another master's in Science and Technology Policy, also from KAIST, in 2012. She is interested in further developing her international research on space programs.

Kristen Koopman is currently a Baccalaureate Fellow at the IDA Science and Technology Policy Institute in Washington, DC where she provides analyses for the NSF, White House OSTP, and other agencies. She received her BA in physics in 2011 from Sarah Lawrence College. She comes with an interest in the rhetoric and dissemination of science.

Kuan-Hung Lo comes to us from Taiwan where he completed a MA thesis on gender, class, and motorcycle/scooter users in the 20th and 21st centuries at the Graduate Institute of Gender Studies of Kaohsiung Medical University in 2007 after receiving a BA in Social Work. He is interested in broad frameworks of modernity, technology, and gender.

Sarvnaz Lotfi arrives upon completing a 2012 MA in International Affairs from the New School in New York with a thesis on drug pricing as a bioethics problem in global clinical trials. Before that, Sarv received her BA in neuroscience and anthropology from Oberlin College.

Jessie Mann has been an acclaimed painter and collaborative photographer in New York. She received her BA in psychology from Washington and Lee University in 2004. She is interested in the intersection of neuroscience, philosophy, and concepts of the self.

Po-Jen Shih completed his bachelors degree in electrical engineering in 2012 from the National Taiwan University in 2012. He is interested in engineering studies and has done ethnographic work on engineering pedagogy.

Hung-Yin Tsai received an MA from National Tsinghua University (2009) and a BA from National Chengchi University (2005), both in Sociology. She applies the study of social theory to online communities to explore systems of trust.

Kari Zacharias just completed her MA in STS from the University of Vienna in Austria (2013), where she also worked as an aerospace engineer. Her ethnographic work examines collaboration and risk in space-technology labor. She received a BS in Engineering Science and Mechanics from the University of Toronto in 2008.