PHILOLOGIA
The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Undergraduate Research Magazine
LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

It is an incredible honor to lead Virginia Tech’s premier student research journal for the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. As student editors, we are introduced to many amazing research opportunities being pursued by our peers in the college and couldn’t be more impressed. This year the amount of submissions we received for review nearly doubled the amount we received last year, and we couldn’t be more thankful for everyone who sent in their work – all of your inspiring research made the selection process extremely difficult.

This year was very different than any in Philologia’s history; we’ve made the move to the Open Journals System provided through Virginia Tech’s Newman Library. The “journal” part of Philologia is now completely online at philologiavt.org. There you will find the full versions of the articles that are summarized in this magazine by the student editors. I am extremely thankful for the help the staff at Newman Library has given us throughout this transition. I am proud to continue Philologia’s tradition of publishing interdisciplinary works from across the college and showcase them through such a wonderful platform.

Through the many changes and shifts that the journal has seen this year, we needed some help. I am extremely grateful to Dr. Stephens, Dr. Thorp, Dr. Pitt, and our faculty reviewers for their advice and guidance in publishing this new generation of the Philologia magazine and online journal. I would also like to extend thanks to Dr. Debra Stoudt and Dr. Emily Satterwhite for their hand in editing the magazine and select research articles. My fantastic team of student associate and layout editors also deserve enormous amounts of praise for all of their hard work, bad jokes, and inspiration.

And I’d like to thank you for picking up this magazine and learning about what we are. I hope you learn something new by reading about the fascinating and awe-inspiring work that is being done every day.

Thank you,

Emily Walters
Editor in Chief

Natalie Robertson
Managing Editor

Acknowledgements

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Welcome to Volume Eight of Philologia, where you can find articles discussing research by Virginia Tech College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences students. To read the full research papers described within these pages, visit the Philologia Undergraduate Research Journal online at philologiavt.org.
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PORTRAYALS OF STIGMATIZED “MOUNTAIN ENGLISH” IN SOUTHERN ENGLISH

research by Andy Burlile, article by Zach VeShancey

Andy Burlile is a senior English major at Virginia Tech studying literature and language with a concentration in pre-education. In his paper, “Portrayals of Stigmatized ‘Mountain English’ in Southern Literature,” he examines and contrasts the portrayals of the Appalachian dialect in James Dickey’s Deliverance and James Still’s River of Earth. Broadly speaking, what Andy found was that Dickey, as an “outsider” to Appalachian culture, reproduces stereotypes in the form of language towards the Appalachian people and “feeds the story on stereotypes related to the popular stigmatized terms for Southerners as “rednecks” and “hicks”. In contrast, Still, having become well-acquainted with Appalachian culture, “portrays Appalachian language and culture in a way that celebrates it.” In his paper, Burlile proposes that Deliverance, and not River of Earth, has gained critical acclaim primarily because of its confirmation of previously held stereotypes towards Appalachian culture.

Q: What was the original motivation that led you to become interested in the topic of “stigmatized” language, and, more specifically, as it is manifested in Deliverance and River of Earth?

A: Language is incredibly important to me; writing and speaking are two modes of communication that will be around (I hope) for as long as civilization exists. It’s a primary method of transmitting knowledge, and it’s an uncontrollable product of geospatial and socioeconomic factors that – when spiked with a bit of agency – create a language, and the subcategory of a dialect of that language. Therefore, because one’s dialect is largely uncontrollable, stigmas concerning language come from attitudes about language, rather than the languages themselves. And, really, I hate to see stigmas arise from ignorance – particularly, in the case of the Appalachian Mountains, ignorance arising from a dialect that many people believe sounds “slow,” “uneducated,” or “simple.” So, I just wanted to see if I could take a popular book – Deliverance, a book that feeds ignorant normative language ideologies – and a book that successfully portrays a dialect. I figured that, in pointing out the hypocrisy of authenticity vs. popularity, I could help assuage the stigmas surrounding the dialect of the southern Appalachian Mountains.

Q: What were some of your major takeaways from the research you conducted on stigmatized mountain English? How did the research process contribute to your understanding of language, literature and linguistics?

A: Well, one thing is that I wasn’t sure I could successfully marry linguistics – which is often the scientific study of speech – and literature, which is rarely spoken. I still don’t know if I managed it successfully, though, because, in the midst of the process, I learned that language and literature are tied more into the author’s subconscious perspectives on social situations than I had given them credit; though it’s a simple enough notion, breaking apart those unconscious manifestations, through syntax, eye-dialect, and popular...
studies in conjunction with biograph, is a difficult task that would take a whole master’s thesis to hypothesize.

Q: How did your research contribute to your understanding of human nature, with particular reference to prejudice and stereotypes against “other” cultures and value systems?

A: It’s actually been a little disappointing, because one thing that I’ve learned from this project is that most people (with exceptions, of course) are more willing to believe stories or evidence that validates their prejudices than they are to read or listen to arguments that contradict them. It’s not a new discovery, but it has made me a bit frustrated at times. However, it does mean that – although difficult – this is, obviously, a job that is still worth doing. It does also mean that – even if people are obstinate – they can still learn, and that’s incredibly important to eliminating many of the most harmful language ideologies – or, simply, harmful ideologies altogether.

“Most people, with exceptions, of course, are more willing to believe stories or evidence that validates their prejudices than they are to read or listen to arguments that contradict them.”

Q: Do you anticipate continuing your study of “stigmatized” language, or of English literature and language in general, past your undergraduate studies? What is your academic future looking like?

A: I plan to study stigmatized language, but not quite in this method. I’ve been able to refine my methodology and plan to put what I’ve learned from this project to use, either in an MA in Irish Literature, Language, and Culture, or in an MFA program focusing on Creative Writing: Fiction. For the former, analyzing the postcolonial effects of English on Irish literature (both during and after the Gaelic Revival of the early 20th century) will mean that I’m dealing heavily with syntax and eye dialect in drama and novels, especially those that are being produced in the 1920’s around the time that Ireland got home rule. If I choose the latter, then I’ll be analyzing whiteness as a colonial ethnicity of appropriation within novels, playing with non-standard orthography and (with any luck) carving out a marketspace for myself in this century’s take on post-modernism. I’ll have to wait and see where I’m accepted.
¿Qué Pasa, USA?  
CODE SWITCHING IN A BILINGUAL SITCOM

research by Margaret Dozier, article by Natalie Robertson

Think of a research finding you may have learned in school or read about on the Internet. Chances are you know who made this discovery, but do you know anything about him or her, other than a name? It’s easy to allow researchers to fall into the shadows of their research. Let’s push back against that trend. Let’s get to know the human being behind the research.

Meet Virginia Tech alumna, Margaret Dozier. She researched code switching, which is when a speaker alternates between two or more languages in a single conversation. To do so, she watched the bilingual TV show, ¿Qué Pasa, U.S.A.? Instead of asking about the research itself, let’s inquire as to why she became interested in code switching.

“A friend who is half Cuban and grew up in Miami discovered that I speak Spanish and recommended I watch the pilot episode of the show, ¿Qué Pasa, U.S.A.?” said Dozier. “In addition to improving my Spanish, the show made me laugh and had relatable characters. I was hooked. When I needed to do a project for my Spanish Linguistics class, I brought up the show to my professor, and she introduced me to the field of code switching.”

Throughout history, we have seen time and time again the effect that research has on a person. Evidently, you don’t have to be Albert Einstein developing the general theory of relativity to feel the impact of your research.

“This research gave me a deeper appreciation of people who do research for a career,” said Dozier. “It was hard work, but very rewarding. One time when I realized I had to retake a lot of data that I had spent a lot of time on, all I could do to keep my motivation up was buy myself some chocolate ice cream at Kroger and set it next to me while I worked.”

With a degree in Spanish, Dozier found passion in her research. This wasn’t just a research project on code switching for her; this was an exploration into language.

“I love Spanish and I think that how people use language is fascinating,” said Dozier. “It’s something that everyday people do just as much and just as authentically as people who study it for years and years. Language is always changing. Every culture’s ‘where’ and ‘when’ creates a different combination of how they use language.”

This research was anything but a mere assignment to complete for a class for Dozier. The hours of data collection and article reading allowed her to explore language, pop culture, and most importantly – herself. She inquired. She laughed. She grew.

So, next time you want to ask, “What?” when you hear about a research discovery, try asking, “Who?” instead.
Tanzania serves as a glowing standard for how nations can overcome adversity to build strong bonds of unity and nationalism over time. Despite the extreme poverty faced by many of its citizens, Tanzania has managed to forge a national bond that transcends the ethnic divisions that typically plague countries in a similar position.

British colonialism left the Tanzanians impoverished and divided into territorial boundaries that made little sense. The Tanzanians were a mixture of a multitude of ethnicities, all with their own cultures, traditions and histories. However, Tanzania has worked to bridge gaps in these unique backgrounds through empowering diversity and unity at the same time. The government sought to keep ethnic divides out of the media, and the public continued to encourage a spirit of inclusiveness.

The uniqueness of Tanzania is inspiring, though it is not fully understood by scholars yet. Nwankwo investigates what makes Tanzania a shining example and hopes other countries will seek to implement what is becoming known as the "Tanzanian model." Nwankwo decided to publish her research to illustrate the way former colonies can construct their own national identities out of the ashes of colonialism. Tanzania is not the only country to have worked through these obstacles, yet its poverty level and ethnic diversity shows that peace is achievable on a much broader spectrum.

Many people typically consider African nations as conflict-ridden and perpetually fighting, but Nwankwo seeks to shed light on the fact that this is not completely accurate. Though civil wars are still being waged in several African nations, some other nations are joining Tanzania in peacefully working their way out of post-colonialism dispositions through deliberate nation-building. Many African nations are taking drastic steps to overcome these barriers and build bright futures through a commitment to cooperation and togetherness. Through her research, Nwankwo shows how Tanzania serves as an incredible model for countries looking to rise out of post-colonial obstacles.
by Meaghan Martin

I cannot disconnect
From what you created me to be
I was nothing,
a metaphysical existence
an idea on the tip of your tongue

But I fell
Face forward into my prepared existence,
You let me crash
Into my skin,
Caucasian become my definition.

I was chained the moment I was born
Like a prisoner
Who hadn’t had the chance to sin.
Predestined existence
You put culture in my bones
And taught me how to walk
On the America dream

A melting pot
Of confused values
Born from oppression
For oppression
I was told to melt,
Go along with the current
Everyone has a voice,
And yet no one is heard

The violence is a symptom
The disease is culture
We have different faces
My skin tells stories
Of failed natural selection
Mutation
That is to be human
To be human is connection
Through The 7th Generation:
Clanning as a Limiting Factor in Organized
Criminality in Central Asia

research by Vernon Ferguson, article by Demi Lee

Research tends to be sort of amorphous—changing shape as researchers develop their theories. As the researcher learns more and more about their topic, they often realize that they need to tweak their questions. Vernon Ferguson is familiar with this process: while writing his paper, “Through the 7th Generation: Clanning as a Limiting Factor in Organized Criminality in Central Asia,” Ferguson’s topic had to be amended. While he set out to analyze transnational criminal groups in the region, Ferguson ran into a major impediment—namely that such groups do not exist in the region! The project was part of an attempt by the entire class to determine whether or not there is a standard definition for these criminal groups worldwide. Although there are external criminal groups, such as the Russian and Jewish mafias, as well as terrorist organizations, locally developed transnational organized crime (think New York mafia) has not developed in the region. Ferguson describes the region’s interesting history and how it has prevented the formation of these types of groups. The region is home to many “clans,” which are composed of members related through either blood or marriage. Some groupings of clans comprise “tribes” and become the networking apparatus of the clans. These different groups do not have a uniform structure, which prevents researchers from studying them with the same criteria. Huge levels of government corruption as well as instability left by the breakup of the Soviet Union complicate the study of these groups. Comparative analyses appeal to researchers, and Ferguson hopes to study this region further to better understand the makeup of the complicated clan structure. In the meantime, Ferguson is concentrating on a comparative analysis of Sweden and Turkey as secular states faced with internal, religious struggles.

“...The project was part of an attempt by the entire class to determine whether or not there is a standard definition for these criminal groups...”
James Madison is commonly described in textbooks as a founding father, constitutional framer, and United States president. However, most historical texts fail to emphasize his role as a farmer in his private life. At his Montpelier estate in Virginia, Madison's revolutionary tendencies transcended the political realm and impacted the agricultural sector.

As an eighteenth century Virginia landowner, Madison was part of a rare breed of progressive farmers. His enlightened ideology extended beyond the walls of the White House and his ideas are preserved in his historic speech to the Agricultural Society of Albemarle in 1817. During this address, Madison outlined innovative farming theory and practices that greatly influenced the agricultural sector.

Derek Litvak’s research challenged the claim of author Andrea Wulf, who states that Madison is the “forgotten father of environmentalism.” In “The Errors of a Land Gone Weary”: James Madison’s Address to the Agricultural Society of Albemarle, Litvak conveys that Madison was a significant part of a movement that was underway decades before he delivered his speech. While Madison's agricultural initiative was distinguished, the Virginia Tech senior History major argues it was not a pioneering effort in the field. Litvak explains that “Madison joined a relatively small group of Virginia planters that were attempting to reverse the state’s steady agricultural decline,” caused by overwhelming tobacco cultivation, poor farming techniques, and apathetic attitudes.

Litvak based his research predominantly on primary sources, referencing over thirty books containing records, publications, and correspondences. Litvak’s extensive research portrays “a more personal side of Madison, through agriculture, which is an interesting way of showcasing Madison’s commitment to both Virginia and the country.” Litvak assesses Madison’s contribution and his agricultural significance as a decisive and highly visible component of an established reform movement.

In addition to analyzing Madison’s contributions to progressive farming, Litvak explains Virginia’s formidable agricultural history and highlights key figures and concepts that led to new farming practices. Litvak addresses the consequences of Virginia’s cash crop colony, in which extensive tobacco cultivation quickly exhausted the land. Furthermore, Litvak features progressive efforts of other influential farmers, such as George Washington, and agricultural methods that changed the landscape, both physically and conceptually. These topics present a comprehensive depiction of Virginia’s agricultural developments and milestones during the turn of the nineteenth century. Litvak’s research closely examines Madison’s role in agriculture and provides a fresh perspective on Virginia’s past.
Q: Could you provide a brief overview of your research?

A: When Muslim men orchestrated the attacks of September 11th, research on related political and social changes became even more heavily focused on studying Muslims and/or men than before. The post 9/11 era’s approach to terrorism was established in an environment of male-led aggression that was primarily concerned with a religiously-centralized male enemy. Those circumstances further facilitated a rise in male-centric studies on institutional racism and prejudice.

As a result, Arab women, particularly non-Muslim women like myself, have been ignored in the subsequent examination of how post 9/11 stereotypes and demonization operate.

My research examines that absence and introduces a new model of intersectional discrimination that hopes to illuminate marginalized experiences and, hopefully, bring about formal change in institutions like the workplace.

Q: How did 9/11 lead to the ethno-linguistic category of Arab becoming distinctly racialized?

A: 9/11 has produced a particular entrenched relationship between definitions of modern terrorism, foreign and domestic policy, the Muslim religion, and Arab ethnicity. When 19 anti-U.S. militants hijacked four airliners and killed over 3,000 people under the leadership of Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, Arab identity became enduringly linked with Muslim extremism (Commission Report 2004). That association has been pretty persistent.

Changing mentalities and increased racialized prejudices are what caused the ethno-linguistic category of Arab to become distinctly racialized. Essentially, the term “terrorist” became a racialized construct in which persons, especially men, perceived as Arab or South Asian were classified as “terrorist others”.

Q: Why did you decide to research this topic/see a need for the new intersectional model that you mention?

A: That’s such an important, but difficult question to answer. I decided to research this topic because I thought post 9/11 discussions (as well as others) I saw in class, textbooks, and media were only showing some of the wires.

See, there is this parallel set forth by Marilyn Frye that explains the complexities of oppression really well. Frye points out that seeing a single wire of a birdcage makes you wonder why the bird is not flying free. But if you step back and see the bird’s cage as a whole, you can see all the individual wires that are interconnected to trap the bird and keep it from flying free.

According to intersectionality theory, oppression operates in a similar way. Multiple identities and oppressing factors can systematically limit someone. So looking at Arab male Muslims as a bird cage is one thing, but studying women in that position may be another.

Most studies left women out completely. You can actually read accepted studies on Arab-American discrimination and they say it right there in the introduction- “we are only looking at men” or “we realize that all the names we tested are male names.”

When they did include women, they only did so by focusing on religious identifiers like the hijab (which western feminists
“Most studies left out women completely... When they did include women, they only did so by focusing on religious identifiers like the hijab...”

have always been obsessed with). Focusing on Islam only reinforced historically entrenched clashes between Islam and the U.S. Focusing on Islam also left out non-Muslim Arabs almost completely.

I’m not saying that these are unimportant subjects because they absolutely are important, but I am saying these studies are incomplete.

Q: Why is this information so relevant to the American workplace going forward?
A: Since the terrorist attacks of 9/11, an emergence of demonization and violence in the context of national tragedy has facilitated a new identity category of persons who appear “Middle Eastern, Arab, or Muslim,” whereby members of this group are identified as terrorists and no longer retain the identity of citizens. This new model could provide unique standpoints that, when collectively examined and interpreted, can provide more reliable knowledge regarding U.S. institutions as complexly raced and gendered - hopefully one that aids in the fight against hostility and prejudice.

Q: What further research do you wish to see in the field?
A: This is rich research (at least, I think so) and each of the many subjects within this paper could be developed into a topic of research all on its own. The workplace is only one institution; I would love to create research on others like higher education or political representation.

I also hope to see more empirical studies done on how both sex and ethnicity affect the frequency of sexual and ethnic harassment at work because, as I show, these types of studies are extremely limited.

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**Muslim Population by Region**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Estimated 2009 Muslim Population</th>
<th>Percentage of Population that is Muslim</th>
<th>Percentage of World Muslim Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>972,537,000</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East-North Africa</td>
<td>315,322,000</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>240,632,000</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>36,112,000</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>4,596,000</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Total</td>
<td>1,571,198,000</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The list of countries that make up each region can be found in the section titled “World Muslim Population by Region and Country.”

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Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion & Public Life - Mapping the Global Muslim Population, October 2009
PEACE
When I turned to head back down the hill, I saw this scene. My father reading a book out in the wilderness with nothing to distract him but the beauty of nature. That is what true nature entails. Peace.

Poia Lake in the backcountry of Glacier National Park, Montana / by Loren Skinker
The bubonic plague was one of the deadliest diseases in all of human history, transforming an entire time period into an era of death and darkness. The impact of this disease upon society was monumental, but many of society’s most interesting changes during that time have been lost to the popular historical narrative. Modern historical discussions have left behind the significance of cultural changes during the time and how people were able to adapt. Explaining what inspired her research, Kelly Cooper said, “There’s a lot to that period that people don’t typically think about. There’s more to it than the death from the plague, there had to be more social ramifications, and I decided to look into that more deeply.”

Cooper decided to analyze the degree of societal change that occurred during the Black Plague, but unlike most historical researchers, Kelly relied mostly on research about material culture and artifacts to draw explanations regarding this historical event. Believing that much of history can be lost to secondary sources, Kelly notes, “When you learn about the Black Death, the primary sources do not come from the regular townspeople. Looking into the archeological artifacts broadens that scope and gives insight into different aspects of society, beyond what was written by the literate upper class.”

Material culture and artifacts include objects such as fumigating torches, doctors’ unusual attire, and grave markers. In her research, Kelly analyzed the experiences and societal changes of the Black Death through the artifacts that were left behind. These objects transform the understanding of life during that time period by offering information about how different people were treated and how daily routines were altered by disease.

Kelly’s research serves to tell the story of the lesser known sufferers of the Black Plague through material culture and artifacts. This research not only sheds light on social changes during the plague, it offers an important lesson for future historical research in that she relied on materials and artifacts for most of her information. “Living with the Plague” shows that there are many fruitful ways to study history outside of the traditional literature, and encourages new methods for future studies.
Of the undergraduate research being done in the English department at Virginia Tech, one of the most fascinating projects is a new take on an old book, *Wuthering Heights*. Matthew Johnson, a senior English major, has taken a new look at the classic novel, analyzing how Emily Bronte uses locale to develop themes, motifs, and characters. Johnson argues that the two main landscapes in the novel, Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange, represent contrasting elements through the differences in their landscapes, atmospheres, and inhabitants. The Heights are dark and stormy and severe; the landscape is limestone, and there is an air of danger and betrayal.

In stark contrast, the Grange is open and green, a moorland dedicated to friendly sport which is thematically linked with rejuvenation. There is an astonishing symmetry between these two contrasting elements. For example, the members of each household mirror each other confusingly closely, going so far as to even have characters from each household sharing the same names. The Earnshaws of the Heights and the Lintons of the Grange each have both a son and a daughter, who marry into the opposing family. Each family has a female member named Catherine. One of the resulting conclusions of Johnson’s research is that “this symmetry between the families contributes to reader conceptualization of the movements of characters between the Heights and the Grange; this mobility offsets the balance of characters in these two places as created by this rigid and symmetrical familial structure.” The close structural relation of these two families enables the audience to better recognize the imbalances which occur between them.
Work Stress: On Ramp to Bipolar Disorder

by Emily Hughes

All names have been changed to protect subjects’ identities.

“I just couldn’t cope to the point where I needed to just completely disconnect my mind from reality,” said Stewart Matthews, 50, “which put me in a place that other people would recognize as not being present and requiring medical attention.”

EPISODE I: THE PHANTOM MENACE

This December, Stewart will have been working for the same contracting company for twenty years. He is husband to Julie, 51, and father of two college students, Jamie and Ellery.

In 1998, as a systems analyst doing financial reporting, he was using new technology to build applications for multidimensional data analysis — a project Stewart knew was valuable. After the company’s development cycle was over, it went into what he described as “maintenance mode.”

“I thought maybe they were trying to force me out of the company…or push me to become a consultant,” Stewart said. “It was a stressful time at work, and I didn't...I didn't understand at the time why they would be treating me that way.”

Knowing he was a “performer” at work, Stewart ruminated on this job strain. Though he was aware of no prior personal history of mental illness, Stewart described his consequent experience as a “breakdown episode.”

“In the end, when I just couldn't explain the treatment I was receiving at work, I had this episode,” Stewart said. “The stress kept building and building and I couldn't understand and wasn't coping well and finally, I just checked out. I wasn't present to the people around me.”

Institutionalized

When Jamie was about two and a half years old and Ellery was roughly six months old, Stewart’s wife Julie noticed early symptoms.

“Physically, he looked different,” Julie said. “He was kind of yellow … jaundiced, almost — he looked different, he sweated different, he smelled different, and he was kind of pacing around, couldn't concentrate, couldn't sleep.”

One time, Julie recalls, the family was at Stewart’s parents' house when he dropped a drinking glass he had been holding on the floor, hard. It was clear to her then that something was wrong.

“That was the first time we took him to the hospital,” said Julie.

Stewart went willingly and signed himself in, though likely with some coaxing on Julie’s part, she said. Stewart’s parents accompanied him and Julie to the hospital while Julie’s mother looked after their kids during his stay.

At the hospital, Stewart was evaluated and given a drug, Depakote, that acted as a sleeping aid, Julie said. The next morning, he was advised to get a complete physical — which came out fine — as well as to see a psychiatrist.

Stewart was told he had to go through a “reconnection process” to detox out of his disconnected state. During the day,
he remembered being given art projects such as molding clay. Gradually, he said, he became de-stressed.

“I don’t remember — I suppose Julie could come visit for a short period during the day,” Stewart said, “but I remember there just being long, long days.”

Stewart remembered having a room to himself, although he supposes it was because there weren’t other patients in his section of the facility, as opposed to deliberate isolation. In the evenings, he said, he couldn’t recall a staff member being present.

“[One evening], I got up and explored a little bit and I went down this wing where … there were some private rooms and in one room, there was this old, unshaven man who was moaning,” Stewart said.

He guessed the man had some form of dementia.

“I remember sort of empathizing with him … coming to stand by his bed and realizing that, ‘Oh, this is a mental hospital like you see or hear in the movies,’” Stewart said, “where they institutionalize people that don’t function.”

Stewart said he knew that wasn’t where he wanted to be.

“That was an eye-opening experience … being in that type of facility for the first time,” Stewart said.

Of realizing there was such an establishment so close to home, Stewart said, “I’d never been exposed to that … right here in (the county I live in), where there are people whose mental health issues are severe enough that they’ve basically been institutionalized.”

….to be continued
Ever wonder who uses that playground behind Wallace Hall, the building that holds the office of your favorite undergraduate research journal? Some Virginia Tech faculty send their kids to preschool here at the Child Development Center for Learning and Research (CDCLR). The center works with kids from ages of fifteen months to five years old. There are three divisions in the center: the Blue Room has toddlers, the Orange Room holds young preschoolers, and the Maroon Room includes older preschoolers. The Department of Human Development uses these classrooms for their own (college) students to observe these children as part of the Field Study portion of their degree.

You can see just what one of these studies looks like in Olivia Nelson’s project in which she observes “H.D.”, a child from the CDCLR’s Maroon Room, and his speech development. Nelson hopes to someday be a speech pathologist, a goal which was partly influenced by her exposure to speech pathology as a child: “I had articulation issues and I was assigned a speech pathologist in school. I would leave class during reading and go to the speech pathologist’s office. We would play games, go through flashcards, and work on projects. I adored my speech pathologist, and she inspired me from a young age.” Because of Olivia’s interest in speech, she focused on this topic in her study: “I wanted to tailor this project to my interests in communication disorders in any way that I could. “H.D.” did not have a diagnosed speech disorder, but he did display signs of an early stutter, which most children grow out of. I learned the different development milestones of speech, and over the course of 14 weeks, I watched “H.D.” reach some of these milestones, such as collaborating with his peers and teachers and expressing emotions.” Nelson enjoys working with kids, but she plans to work with adults in the future. When asked about her plans, Nelson said, “I hope to attend a medical-oriented graduate school program for speech pathology where I can learn more about adult speech pathology and how to overcome communication disorders brought on by health problems.”
It is estimated that 20 to 25% of women, along with 3% of men, attending college will be raped or sexually assaulted during their time there. “Linguistic Causes of Rape Culture on College Campuses” explores the unusual reasons for rape. Kondos presents research supporting the idea that the way in which society speaks encourages a more aggressive culture. Her paper also discusses male dominance induced by language, phrases, and jokes used by college students and media. She compares these culprits to popular ones portrayed in news and media: alcohol, Greek life, music, and movies. Through her findings, she introduces ways in which college campuses can reduce the number of female and male students raped or sexually assaulted, while also raising awareness of the situation.

As a senior majoring in criminology and sociology, Kondos was inspired to research this topic by the recent rape allegations at the University of Virginia. The story, published by Rolling Stone magazine last year, falsely accused fraternity members of raping a first-year student. The story brought sexual assault cases into the limelight; however, Kondos knew that when supposed victims come forward and lie about their stories, real victims are influenced not to come forward at all for fear of being judged. Kondos is also passionate about the subject due to her sorority’s involvement in bringing awareness to domestic violence. In addition to being a member of Alpha Chi Omega at Virginia Tech, Kondos is the Vice President of the Criminology and Sociology Club, and she is currently minoring in Violence and Crime Prevention. Additionally, she is a member of Alpha Phi Sigma, Alpha Kappa Delta, Gamma Sigma Alpha, and the Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence. Kondos is currently applying to graduate school, where she hopes to obtain her master’s in Forensic Psychology.
The Fort Hood army base in Texas has twice been attacked by one of its own soldiers. One of the shooters, Ivan Lopez, was possibly a member of an extremist group that had targeted the United States in acts of terrorism in the past. The other, a man who identified as Muslim and whose mental condition was seriously unstable, was Nidal Hasan.

The stark contrast between the media's treatment of Hasan and Lopez, who each committed a mass shooting at Fort Hood army base while serving in the army, moved Tyler Gass to investigate just how skewed the media narrative on the incidents was.

Drawing on evidence and the resulting investigations of both incidents at Fort Hood, Gass conducted a case study analyzing biased coverage of political violence in the media. Explaining how he began his research, Gass said, “Terror attacks are becoming increasingly publicized by the media. In order to investigate this issue, I chose two cases that were as similar as possible and delved into how the media portrayed them differently.”

His case study revealed that not only did the media use biased tones to elicit a different response to each of the attackers, media professionals selected specifically which evidence to include so as to further the narrative that Nidal Hasan was a terrorist.

Although the case study specifically covers the two attacks on Fort Hood, Gass’ focus was to illuminate incongruent media coverage. When asked what he hopes the outcomes of his research will be, Gass said, “A greater awareness…the knowledge of the bias is important enough. The bias will always be there, but it depends on where you seek out your news. Understanding that there is bias allows you to look closer at the information in front of you.”

Gass’ research has even deeper implications for future coverage of Muslim attackers, who are too often branded by the media as terrorists in the absence of evidence. The irresponsibility that this case study reveals can lead to Islamaphobia and in the public being misinformed about the dangers posed by individual criminals. Speaking to the realistic impact of his research, Gass noted, “It’s dangerous to have people fear a group of people based on information that may be tainted or biased, and we should reserve judgement on issues until all of the facts are available.”
“EMS in a Bulletproof Vest: The Integration of EMS into Active Shooter Scenarios,” written by Naomi Orndorff, explores the way that EMS responses to active shooter situations has evolved over the years. As the occurrence of this kind of event increases, the emergency response has begun to change. The incorporation of EMS into law enforcement procedures began in order for emergency personnel to respond appropriately. This incorporation has decreased the delay for medical response on the scene in these situations. “EMS in a Bulletproof Vest” provides a short, personal anecdote about active shooter procedures in practice, an examination of the past compared to the current EMS responses to these situations, and an operational protocol showing the operational procedures.

Orndorff, a member of the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad, feels the impacts of active shooter situations. On April 16th, 2007, Orndorff’s life was changed forever. Referencing the event, she states, “at the time, I was old enough to remember the events of that day very vividly, however I was far too young to understand what had happened and comprehend the loss of so many people.” However, almost nine years later, that tragic event still affects the way her rescue squad, the same agency that responded to that event, responds and operates. As a sophomore at Virginia Tech majoring in Political Science, Orndorff is still an active member of the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad today. Her interest in EMS developed at a young age. When she was younger, Orndorff began assisting with cave rescue through the VPI Cave Club, and by age 16 she began her career with the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad on their Junior Crew. She is passionate about volunteering her time to help others. Upon graduation, Orndorff hopes to possibly pursue a career in law enforcement.
by Thomas Morris

I ascended a great metal monster
An escalator into the mundane.

A man stood higher,
I could not say who.

My stair was suffocating,
I shared it with a woman.
All she had said was “I do.”

I didn’t see my parents
My son right behind me,
He never asked to be there.

I prayed for the maintenance guy,
He could say something was wrong
And stop the whole thing.
Then I could see everything in stillness.

Men and women on a mural
Forever moving forward
With empty faces
And no desire to look back.

I have to get off soon.
How can I know what the floor is
When all I’ve stood on is a stair?
And I had forgotten why I was there at all.
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