

John D. Boyer
Senior Instructor
Instruction & Research
Department of Geography
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Education

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, B.A. in Geography, 1996
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, M.S. in Geography, 1998

Personal Statement

My life mission: motivating, educating, and inspiring students to be fully engaged in the rapidly globalizing 21st century. In our increasingly connected and complex world, personal (and even our country's) success depends upon a global awareness and global engagement to meet the challenges of our time. Utilizing a variety of topics, technologies, and graphic mediums, I am absolutely passionate about providing the highest quality learning experience that will produce global citizens and leaders prepared to positively shape the future of the the US, and the world.

Personal Links

My resume site (www.thejohnboyer.com)

My educational/class site (www.plaidavenger.com)

View my lectures on iTunes (<http://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=481684171>)

Teaching & Research Interests

Global Studies
International Relations
Regional Geography
Geography of Wine
Educational technology

Of significant note in the news....

The New York Times:

10 Courses With a Twist

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/13/education/edlife/10-courses-with-a-twist.html?_r=0

The King of Jordan Gives Virginia Tech a Surprising Shout Out

<http://inthecapital.streetwise.co/2014/02/17/virginia-tech-professor-john-boyer-invites-king-abdullah-ii-of-jordan-to-campus-video/>

The Chronicle of Higher Education:

'Supersizing' the College Classroom: How One Instructor Teaches 2,670 Students

<http://chronicle.com/article/How-One-Instructor-Teaches/131656/>

Top Prof Teaches By Boat as The Plaid Avenger

<http://blog.ratemyprofessors.com/top-prof-teaches-by-boat-as-the-plaid-avenger/>

A Memorable Skype Call between Aung San Suu Kyi and Virginia Tech Students

<http://blogs.skype.com/2011/12/16/a-memorable-skype-call-between/>

Work Experience (Summary)

I have been teaching in the Department of Geography since 1998, actually teaching my first course (World Regional Geography) as I was finishing up my Master's degree research. At the time, the course had an enrollment of 50 students and was one of the biggest offered in our small department. In the last decade, I have grown that course to an enrollment of 575, offered every semester, and am teaching it to 3000 students this Fall...the fourth time I will be breaking a record for the largest class offered at Virginia Tech. This one will be incorporating elements of on-line video and on-line student interaction, as I continue to push the envelope incorporating new technologies into the learning environment.

In addition, I created the course entitled Geography of Wine, and it has grown at an exponential pace as well: the 575 capacity for the class is filled every Spring semester. I have also developed and taught courses on East Asia (China-focused), Europe, and international conflict. Back in 1998, our department had just two dozen majors and a fairly limited outlook for growth. Today it has over 150 majors and teaches the vast majority of student credit hours for the entire College of Natural Resources. These accomplishments have been credited to my work, by both past and present department heads and deans. I was awarded the 'Senior Instructor' status in 2009 and personally teach somewhere between 70 to 80% of our department's credit hours, which equates to roughly 50% of the entire College's total.

I have also worked very hard to foster a sense of community with students and faculty and alumni. I have led/participated in a half dozen study abroad programs (to Europe, Russia, Asia, and the Caribbean), been an unofficial advisor and mentor to hundreds of grads and undergrads, spoken to student group functions, guest lectured in other courses, and been the invited speaker to dozens of different VT alumni groups across the country. Be it a class of 30 or 3000, a study abroad group or a wine-tasting lesson to an alumni chapter, I strive to interact with and engage the students at the most personal level that the situation allows--- which is why I believe that I make such a positive impact on their lives.

Over the years, I have written global studies textbooks, wine books, wine articles, developed a blog/podcast page in order to bring the real world into the interest and focus of today's student, utilizing a variety of approaches and technologies like on-line office hours and international film as part of the curriculum. In an effort to branch out into another medium for education, I have developed an educational graphic novel series (The Plaid Avenger) along with an accompanying blog and podcasting venue (www.plaidavenger.com), to achieve the task of staying current, fresh, accessible and relevant in my work.

As of late, I have been on the cutting edge of incorporating new technologies and new approaches into the live classroom, and increasingly on-line classroom, experience. The process of innovation and refinement continues, with more interactive pedagogies, an expansion of course materials, and additional on-line multimedia development. This unique and participative approach to ultra-large classroom teaching has been shared through talks and papers at teaching and learning conferences, workshops, and as an invited speaker at technology events such as SxSW where I talked on "Supersizing the Classroom." My experimentation has also sparked interest nationally, which resulted in a recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education (['Supersizing' the College Classroom: How One Instructor](#)

[Teaches 2,670 Students.](#)) I have now also being invited to be the keynote speaker at multiple educational conferences, on multiple continents, to share my passions and experiences with other educators and students. To share with others how I keep it real, relevant, and accessible to students in all modes of communication in the classroom.

And those are really the key words to my experience here at the university: accessibility and relevance. These themes apply not only to my contributions and accomplishments, but also encapsulate my teaching philosophy. In terms of teaching, this strategy is simple: make the topics and information accessible via all means possible, and make it relevant and meaningful to people's real lives. My job is actually quite easy because students have a natural tendency to want to learn about the world that is affecting their lives. Once I provide the structure to help them make sense of an unfathomable amount of information—thus, making it accessible—the students connect to it in their own personal lives—making it relevant.

My life mission is motivating, educating, and inspiring students to be fully engaged in the rapidly globalizing 21st century. In our increasingly connected and complex world, personal (and even our country's) success depends upon a global awareness and global engagement to meet the challenges of our time. I strive everyday and in every way to make this happen for students and citizens around the country.

Full Curriculum vitae

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1 Awards

2002 University Sporn Award for Excellence in Teaching Introductory Subjects at Virginia Tech (<http://www.ate.ceut.vt.edu/spornguidelines.html>)

2002 Inducted into the Virginia Tech Academy of Teaching Excellence (ATE) (<http://www.ate.ceut.vt.edu/>)

2002 National Council for Geographic Education Distinguished Teacher Achievement Award (<http://www.ncge.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3325>)

2003 Received federal scholarship for Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad Program to India & Sri Lanka <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/iegpsap/index.html>

2005, 2008 College of Natural Resources Curriculum Club Award for Teaching Excellence

2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 Student Alumni Associates (SAA) Student's Choice Award for Faculty Member of the Year
<http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2005/05/2005-798.html>
<http://www.alumni.vt.edu/faculty/>
<http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2008/04/2008-250.html>

2 Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is simple: make it **accessible**, and make it **relevant**.

Having achieved these two critical components, I do not have to make my classes interesting or entertaining or funny—that naturally takes care of itself. I am extremely lucky in that the material I teach is basic, yet highly sought after. In terms of approach, this strategy is simple: make the topics and information accessible via all means possible, and make them relevant and meaningful to people's real lives. My job is actually quite easy because students have a natural tendency to want to learn about the world that is affecting their lives. Once I provide the structure to help them make sense of an unfathomable amount of information—thus, making it accessible—the students connect to it in their own personal lives—making it relevant.

Accessibility

My specific contributions to the department and the university have been to expand course offerings to Virginia Tech students and the sizes of these classes, thereby making them more available to our rapidly growing student body. As such, increasing the class offerings and class audiences epitomizes my goal to make geographic/global studies education more accessible to all.

However, the accessibility does not end there. I have created on-line web pages, web blogs, and accompanying textbooks, all which strive to make course information readily available in a wide variety of formats, inside and outside the university parameters. We live in a very interactive and visual age; thus, I use a variety of media in presenting course material, capturing the interest of my students and ultimately allowing me to reach those who may learn in different ways. I combine international music videos, live web interaction on specific topics, and a graphics-rich presentation with synchronized slide shows depicting physical and cultural images from around the world to enhance the learning process.

In addition, I have had great success using international films as an educational tool. Every semester I host "Geography Night at the Movies," an event open to the entire university. During these films, which have an average attendance of 300-500, students witness other parts of the world through a familiar and engrossing medium. And for two to three hours each week, they can immerse themselves in a different culture, hear the language, experience the landscape, and gain some small insight into the world outside US borders.

However, as I have evolved in this university position, I realize that it is also *myself* that I am making accessible and relevant to the VT community. I have mentored, counseled, assisted, advised, guided, and generally helped any students/faculty who have shown up on my doorstep. I have given professional and sometimes even fatherly advice to hundreds of graduates and undergraduate students, spoken at countless functions of both a formal and informal nature, helped out on research projects, promoted and participated in study abroad offerings, and donated my time and talent to virtually every cause that has been presented to me. Much of what I do cannot be quantified in tables or charts or numerical distributions, but by making myself accessible and 'real' to the students, I hope that I am enriching their experiences and lives...perhaps best labeled as their "spirits"...in incalculable ways.

I teach the basics. I speak in the vernacular. I make the material and myself accessible.

Relevance

My other major objective in my instructor experience here at Virginia Tech has been to make my work **relevant**. As pointed out by many students who have taken any/all of my courses, the material is what every person should know about the world, or about wine. My courses have the flexibility to integrate information from a wide variety of disciplines. As such, the first and strongest element of making things relevant to students is incorporating information from their fields of study and interests into the class structure.

I have found that students get very excited about the world when they understand what is being taught and see that they have a vested interest in it. I encourage them to associate geographic concepts with real world examples, and I constantly reinforce both with current events analysis. I use the daily news to help tie the seemingly non-related events of the world to students' personal lives--making interconnections that are mystifying to the uninformed and yet obvious to the enlightened. I actively incorporate new technologies, such as the web, blogs, and now even Podcasting, to achieve this task of staying current, fresh and relevant in my work.

I aim to help students experience the world more holistically, beyond the constrictions of textbooks and inert facts, guiding and supporting them towards becoming better global citizens. My goal is to get students through the doorway of understanding—how far into the room they go is up to them. In an increasingly interconnected world, becoming internationally informed is an asset our students and citizens cannot be without. I also actively promote study abroad opportunities to students (and even fellow faculty.) As such, I have personally been a part of six different programs which have taken more than 120 students to over a dozen countries.

If it's not real or relevant to people personally, then it won't be retained. I have to make it real.

And thus....

I strive to make class material connected to reality, to make the students' experiences meaningful in the context of their future lives, and basically to be as "down to earth" as possible so that I can successfully communicate with students and fellow faculty alike.

It becomes much harder for people not to care about a place when they know something about it; much harder to dismiss the rest of humanity when they understand that people all over the world are just like them; much harder for them to ignore the problems of our world when they realize that they can make a difference. I have every intention of making the world a better place...one student at a time.

In all things I do at the university: accessibility and relevance. I believe I have achieved these goals in the work that I have done reformatting my classes, creating new courses, incorporating new educational technologies, advising students and faculty, giving talks and teaching classes, promoting study abroad experiences, advising student groups, and creating a positive "spirit" and camaraderie in students and faculty across the university.

That is my philosophy. That is my mission.

3 Grants & Publications

Overview: Since 1996 I have brought in a total of \$115,254 in grants from which a little over \$80,000 is focused on wine/viticulture research and about \$35,000 for education. This is not a huge sum compared to most researchers, but please keep in context that my position is instruction only, so this research grants are above and beyond my actual job description.

Grants

Wine/Viticulture

Virginia Vineyards Association grant FY 2009-2010 for \$44,000
Refinement of Viticulture Suitability and Foundations of Virginia's AVAs
80% John Boyer, 10% Tony Wolf, 10% Peter Sforza

North Carolina Grape Council grant FY 1999-2000 for \$16,500 Grant title: Geoclimatological Classification Model Development for Viticulture Potential in North Carolina 100% John Boyer

Virginia Winegrowers Advisory Board grant FY 1997-98 for \$11,000 Grant title: Continuation: Geoclimatological Classification Model Development for Viticulture Potential in Virginia 90% John Boyer, 10% Tony Wolf

Virginia Winegrowers Advisory Board grant FY 1996-97 for \$9000 Grant title: Geoclimatological Classification Model Development for Viticulture Potential in Virginia 75% John Boyer, 25% Tony Wolf

Teaching

Virginia Tech, University Provost Summer Session Grant Program FY 2010 for \$6500 Grant title: Modification of existing course: Incorporating on-line video elements in World Regional Geography GEOG 1014. 100% John Boyer

Virginia Tech, University Provost Summer Session Grant Program FY 2008 for \$5000 Grant title: Expanding introductory subjects summer session enrollment for GEOG 1014, World Regions. 100% John Boyer

Virginia Tech Office of International Affairs (OIA) and the Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRE) FY 2006 for \$1000 Grant title: Development of a Cross-College Study Abroad Program: China, Vietnam, & Cambodia. FY 2006. 100% John Boyer

Virginia Tech Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (CEUT) Summer Faculty Fellow Grant FY 2005 for \$5000. Grant title: Development of a new course: Geography of East Asia. 100% John Boyer

Virginia Tech Office of International Affairs (OIA) and the Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRE) FY 2004. for \$1000 Grant title: Development of a new study abroad offering: Northeastern Europe: Finland, Estonia, & Russia. 100% John Boyer

Virginia Tech Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (CEUT) Summer Faculty Fellow Grant FY 2002 for \$3825. Grant title: Development of a new course: Geography of Drink. 100% John Boyer

Virginia Tech College of Arts & Sciences FY 2001 for \$12,429.75. Grant title: On-line Cross-College Student Exercises for Geography 1014. 100% John Boyer

Publications

Websites

PlaidAvenger.com

My educational website and textbook accompaniment which features weekly video-blog updates on international/regional news, info on world leaders, video lectures, student assignments (International Interviews), student forums, on-line office hours, and many other educational and class resources.

Applications (Apps)

[Interactive educational comic/app: Plaid Avenger in Mexico!](#)

My most recent experimental educational endeavor entails developing my graphic novels into a digital app. This is not merely turning a book into a digital book; it is an entirely new concept to use the graphic novel as a vehicle for story-telling that incorporates real world maps, extended video lectures on key points, and pertinent news stories/documents that add interactivity to the comic. It's a graphic novel to entertain, excite, and educate...and with an experimental interactive comic app as well! And my team and I used the Kickstarter social networking/fundraising site to raise over \$20K to accomplish this task. Full description of the app and the fundraising project are located on the linked page above.

Books

Boyer, John. The Plaid Avenger's World. 6th edition, 2012
The Nuclear Insecurity Edition, Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company ISBN: 978-1-4652-0780-7

Boyer, John. The Plaid Avenger's World. 5th edition, 2011
The Arab Revolution Edition
Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company ISBN: 978-0-7575-9385-7

Boyer, John. The Plaid Avenger's World. 4th edition, 2010
The Hong-Long Street Fighter Edition
Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company ISBN: 978-0-7575-8292-9

Boyer, John. Drink This Now! 2nd edition, 2010
John Wiley & Sons
ISBN: 978-0-470-61072-5

Boyer, John. The Plaid Avenger's World. 3rd edition, 2009
The Las Vegas Edition
Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company ISBN: 987-0-7575-6872-5

Boyer, John. Drink This Now! 1st edition, 2008
John Wiley & Sons
ISBN: 978-0-4702-9155-9

Boyer, John. The Plaid Avenger's World. 2nd edition, 2008
Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company
ISBN: 978-0-7575-6133-7

Boyer, John. The Plaid Avenger's World. 1st edition, 2006
Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company
ISBN: 978-07575-3435-5

The Plaid Avenger: [Educational Graphic Novel Series](#)

Issue #1: *Arctic Antics*, 2009

Issue #2: *Battle for Burma*, 2010

Issue #3: *Mayhem in Mexico*, 2012

Book Chapters

Tony Wolf, John Boyer, Tim Martinson, and Fritz Westover. Chapter 2: 'Vineyard Site Selection.' In the Wine Grape Production Guide for Eastern North America.
Publication Number: NRAES-145. Published: 2009. ISBN: 9781933395128

John Boyer. Chapter 7: 'Keep It Real: Making Connections to the Real World.' In Teaching Excellence At A Research-Centered University: Energy, Empathy, and Engagement in the Classroom. Editors E. Scott Geller & Philip K. Lehman Published: 2007 ISBN 0536-31227-3

Articles, etc.

Boyer, J. The World is Their Oyster: Restructuring World Regional Geography to Maximize Student Learning Opportunities, in *Pedagogy in Practice* Spring 2012, VT Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research. Page 20-22 <http://www.cider.vt.edu/downloads/2012pedagogy.pdf>

Boyer J., Byrd n., Doolittle P., & Pritchard K.; Learner-Centered Teaching in Large and Ultra-Large Classes. October 13, 2011 in 41st Annual *Conference Proceedings of International Society for Exploring Teaching and Learning (ISETL)*, San Diego, CA
<http://www.isetl.org/conference/ISETL11Proceedings.pdf>

Conn S., Boyer J., Hu D., & Wilkinson T.; Scaling Large-size Undergraduate Classes at a Top Research University via eLearning Strategies: A Facilitated Model of Instruction using a Web 2.0 Paradigm. February 25, 2010 in the *Information Systems Education Journal*, Volume 8, Issue Number 5
<http://isedj.org/8/5/>

Boyer, John. Book review of Caribbean Rum: A Social and Economic History, by Frederick H. Smith, University Press of Florida in *The Journal of Latin American Geography* 5 (2) 2006 pp 145-146.

Boyer, John. Instructor's Manual for Contemporary World Regional Geography, 1st edition, Bradshaw/White/Dymond/DeLyser, 2004.

Boyer, John. Instructor's Manual for Contemporary World Regional Geography, 1st edition, Bradshaw/White/Dymond/DeLyser, 2004.

Wolf, Tony and J. D. Boyer. 2003. *Vineyard Site Selection*. Virginia Cooperative Extension Publication 463-020. 31 p. <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/viticulture/463-020/463-020.html>.

Wolf, Tony K. and John D. Boyer. 2000 *Site selection and other vine management principle and practices to minimize the threat of cold injury*. Proceedings of the Cold Hardiness Workshop, American Society for Enology and Viticulture Annual Meeting, June 2000, Seattle, WA. Amer. J. Enol. Vitic. 51 (2001).

Wolf, Tony K. and John D. Boyer. Use of a Geographical Information System (GIS) approach to mapping suitable vineyard soils in Virginia. ASEV/ES 26th Annual Meet., July 2001, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

Boyer, J. and T.K. Wolf. 2000. *GIS and GPS aid the exploration of viticultural potential in Virginia*. Vineyard and Winery Management, Nov/Dec. 2000, pp.48-54.

Boyer, J. and T.K. Wolf. *Development and preliminary validation of a Geographical Information System approach to vineyard site suitability assessment in Virginia*. 11 p. In: Proceeding of the 5th International Symposium on Cool Climate Viticulture and Oenology, 16-20 January 2000, Melbourne, Aust. (2000).

Boyer, John and Tony K. Wolf. 1998. *GIS and GPS identify viticultural potential*. 49th Annual Meeting, American Society for Enology and Viticulture, 24-26 June 1998, Sacramento, CA.

Boyer, J. and T.K. Wolf. GIS and GPS identify viticulture potential. *Amer. J. Enol. Vitic.* 49:449, 1998.

Boyer, John. MS Thesis. May 1998. *Geographic analysis of viticulture potential in Virginia*. Department of Geography, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia.

4 Conference Presentations

I have in the past given many geography, wine, and teaching talks, but my most current conference endeavors focus on educational technologies. The process of innovation and refinement continues, with more interactive pedagogies, an expansion of course materials, and additional on-line multimedia development. This unique and participative approach to ultra-large classroom teaching has been shared through talks and papers at teaching and learning conferences, workshops, and as an invited speaker at technology events such as SxSW. I will be a keynote speaker at multiple educational conferences this year, and here is a sampling of prior events:

Education/Educational technologies:

Invited Speaker, Virginia Young Professional Summit, Blacksburg, VA. March 29, 2014
Title: Opportunities Abound, Get a Jump Start on your Future

Invited Speaker, Wiley Transforming Science Education Summit, Celebration, FL. March 21, 2014
Title: Expanding Engagement to Thousands

Invited speaker: [TEDxSemester at Sea](#)
January 9, 2014
Topic: [Reinventing the "Professor"](#) (video link to actual talk)

Conference Presentation: South by Southwest Interactive Conference (SxSW), Austin TX,
March 10, 2013
Title: Going Graphic with the News

Invited Panelist (by the company Skype), South by Southwest Education Conference ([SxSW.edu](#)),
Austin TX, March 5, 2013
Topic: How Video Calls Globalize Shared Learning

Invited Speaker: University of Texas, Arlington March 4, 2013
Topic: Building Community in Online, Blended, and Face-to-Face Environments & Incorporating Social Media into the Classroom"

Invited speaker: [TEDxBinghamtonUniversity](#)
February 24, 2013
Topic: [Homo habilis U - Reinventing the University Experience](#) (video link to actual talk)

Invited speaker: Binghamton University, February 22, 2013
Topic: Building Community in Online, Blended, and Face-to-Face Environments- A fantastic way to enrich the classroom experience....but what, why, who, and how?

Invited speaker: [TEDxVirginiaTech](#)
November 10, 2012

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TEDTalks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event, and this event was Virginia Tech's first foray into the TED arena. My topic: [More Passion, Less Pedagogy](#) (video link to actual talk)

Invited speaker: Virginia Tech CIDER Pedagogy in Practice Seminar Series, October 30, 2012
Topic: Building Community in Online, Blended, and Face-to-Face Environments

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Invited digital keynote speaker: Griffith University, [Blended Learning Symposium](#), October 28, 2012
Topic: Tools and Ideas for Blended Learning

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Curtin University in Perth, Australia,
Teaching and Learning Symposium, October 18-19, 2012.
Topic: Flipping the Syllabus

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: 2012 Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference in Austin, TX.
October 4, 2012.
Topic: Expanding Engagement to Thousands: Strategies for Expanded Classrooms

Invited Speaker: HP (Hewlett-Packard Company) Instructional Design & Global Learning Solutions Development (GLSD) workshop, November 28, 2012
Topic: Building engagement into on-line educational modules

Invited speaker: Virginia Tech Geography Colloquium. September 28, 2012
Topic: Digital Communication Tools

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Southern Polytechnic and State University in Marietta, GA.
September 24, 2012, and lead 3 workshop
Topics: 1) Flipping the Syllabus, 2) Bringing the World to Your Classroom and Your Classroom to the World; and 3) Connecting to the Real World: Why Engineers Need to be International in Outlook

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Singapore Institute of Management (SIM University) Faculty Learning Day
July 28th, 2012
Keynote: [Building Community in Online, Blended, and Face-to-Face Environments](#)

Singapore Institute of Management (SIM University) Faculty Learning Workshops
Presented 5 different talks on Learning/Teaching Technologies, July 26-27th, 2012
<http://tlc.unisim.edu.sg/fld2012/workshops.html>
Speakers: [Professor John Boyer](#), Senior Instructor, Virginia Tech and [Ms. Katie Pritchard](#), Technical Assistant, Virginia Tech

South by Southwest Interactive Conference (SxSW), 03/10/12, Austin TX
Title: *Supersizing the Classroom: 3000 Students & Beyond*
http://schedule.sxsw.com/2012/events/event_IAP10043 (podcast of talk)
<http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/21104087> Associated Press interview at SxSW, 3/14/12

South by Southwest Education Conference (SxSW.edu), 03/06/12, Austin, TX
Title: *Supersizing the Classroom: 3000 Students & Beyond*
http://schedule.sxswedu.com/event/sxsw/sxswedu_embed/events/view/14030/ (podcast of talk)
http://audio.sxsw.com/2012/podcasts/edu/06_Supersizing_the_Classroom_3000_Students.mp3

Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting in New York, NY 2/16/12
Title: *Expanding Geographic Horizons: Tools and Tips for Large Geography Classrooms*

Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy (CHEP), 02/10/12, Blacksburg, VA. Title: *Expanding Engagement to Thousands: Communication Tools for Large Classes*

International Society for Exploring Teaching and Learning (ISETL), 10/14/11 San Diego, CA. Boyer, J., Doolittle, P., Byrd, C.N., & Pritchard, K. Title: *Teaching in Large and Ultra-Large Classes*

Geography/Wine:

5/15/13

Virginia Public Radio; Invited Panelist

Virginia Conversations: The State's Wine Industry

<http://virginiapublicradio.org/?s=virginia+conversations+wine>

Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA March 2009

Title: *Losing Geography: The Impacts of 'False' Terroir Labeling on the Virginia Wine Industry*

Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA April 2008.

Title: *Geography of Wine in Non-credit Venues*

Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA April 2008.

Pritchard, K.F. *, Kennedy, L.M., and Boyer, J.D. . 2008.

Poster Presentation: *Cartographic design and content analysis of wine tourism maps for Virginia*

(*student collaborator).

Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. April 2007

Title: *Wine Trails Trump AVA's in Eastern US: A New Geographical Wine Unit is Born?*

Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers (SEDAAG) in Morgantown, WV
November 2006

Poster Presentation: *Apples as an Indicator Species for Viticulture Potential in Virginia*

and North Carolina John Boyer, Katie Pritchard & Andrew Foy, authors.

Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. April 2005

Title: *The Geography of 'Old Vines'*

Wineries Unlimited (Professional Conference and Trade Show) King of Prussia, PA March 2001

Title: *GIS and GPS in site selection: a VA example*

American Society for Enology and Viticulture Annual Symposium, Sacramento, CA July 1998

Title: *GIS and GPS Identify Viticulture Potential*

5 News Stories on Works

My works, my classes, and many events which I have organized over the years have been featured in various news stories, from various sources. Below is an abridged list (with links) of a diversity of written articles, on a diversity of topics, as well as video interviews:

Plaid-Wearing Professor's Class Recognized For Its Entertainment & Academic Value [Video]

InTheCapital

04/15/14

<http://inthecapital.streetwise.co/2014/04/15/virginia-tech-john-boyer-class-recognized-by-new-york-times/>

10 Courses With a Twist

New York Times

4/8/14

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/13/education/edlife/10-courses-with-a-twist.html?_r=0

King of Jordan responds to Tech's Boyer online

CollegiateTimes 2/18/14

http://www.collegiatetimes.com/news/virginia_tech/article_8b620f88-98ed-11e3-9d34-0017a43b2370.html

The King of Jordan Gives Virginia Tech a Surprising Shout Out

InTheCapital

2/17/14

<http://inthecapital.streetwise.co/2014/02/17/virginia-tech-professor-john-boyer-invites-king-abdullah-ii-of-jordan-to-campus-video/>

2/10/14 Introduction to Learning Technologies - A Conversation With John Boyer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnotLL-QCbs>

Interview on Alhurra TV (arabic) (by Skype). February 18, 2014

https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10152191057352910&stream_ref=10

Plaid Avenger

Virginia Tech geography professor John Boyer earns top marks from his students

Richmond Magazine

2/3/14

<http://www.richmondmagazine.com/articles/plaid-avenger-02-03-2014.html>

1/30/14

Semester at Sea

That's a Wrap: A Recap of TEDx Semester at Sea

<http://www.semesteratsea.org/2014/01/30/thats-a-wrap-a-recap-of-tedx-semester-at-sea/>

1/29/14

WDBJ7

The Plaid Avenger strikes again

<http://www.wdbj7.com/news/local/the-plaid-avenger-strikes-again/-/20128466/24190964/-/qblyw2z/-/index.html>

1/23/14

BuzzFeed

What Americans Need To Know About Cuba

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/ashleyperez/what-americans-need-to-know-about-cuba>

1/17/14

Virginia Public Radio; Invited Panelist

Virginia Conversations: Semester at Sea

<http://virginiapublicradio.org/2014/01/17/virginia-conversations-semester-at-sea/>

1/9/14

TEDxSAS talk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4IPgFnzjQM#t=396>

12/26/13

InTheCapital

9 Local Professors Whose Names We'll Never Forget from 2013

<http://inthecapital.streetwise.co/2013/12/26/9-professors-whose-names-well-never-forget-from-2013/>

11/14/13

InTheCapital

The Plaid Avenger Professor Takes to the Sea to Teach on a Boat

<http://inthecapital.streetwise.co/2013/11/14/virginia-tech-john-boyer-teaches-on-a-boat-video/>

11/13/13

Top Prof Teaches By Boat as The Plaid Avenger

<http://blog.ratemyprofessors.com/top-prof-teaches-by-boat-as-the-plaid-avenger/>

10/28/13

Skype session with 7th grade Geography class in Woodstock, NY

10/14/13

InTheCapital

11 DC-Area Professors Using Twitter Right

<http://inthecapital.streetwise.co/2013/10/04/11-dc-area-professors-using-twitter-right/>

9/20/13

Semester at Sea

The Plaid Avenger Presents: An Inside Look at the European Union

<http://www.semesteratsea.org/2013/09/20/the-plaid-avenger-presents-an-inside-look-at-the-european-union/#sthash.wlxmV8Mw.dpuf>

9/18/13

InTheCapital

Virginia Tech's John Boyer Makes List of Top 5 Most Followed Professors on Twitter

<http://inthecapital.streetwise.co/2013/09/18/virginia-techs-john-boyer-makes-list-of-top-5-most-followed-professors-on-twitter/>

9/14/13

Rate My Professors

#MostFollowedProfessors

<http://www.ratemyprofessors.com/toplists/topLists.jsp?list=funlists#twitter>

8/20/13

edCetera

Skype Interviews and Twitter Assignments Give Students a Unique Learning Experience

<http://edcetera.rafter.com/skype-interviews-and-twitter-assignments-give-students-a-unique-learning-experience/>

5/29/13

3 Questions for the World's Most Tech Savvy Professor

<http://blogs.skype.com/2013/05/29/3-questions-for-the-worlds-most-tech-savvy-professor/>

5/15/13

Virginia Public Radio; Invited Panelist

Virginia Conversations: The State's Wine Industry

<http://virginiapublicradio.org/?s=virginia+conversations+wine>

4/11/13

Skype interview with Kevin Rudd and my World Regions class

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLN8lusHeds>

2/29/13

Sydney Morning Herald

US class offers Rudd beer for online chat

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/us-class-offers-rudd-beer-for-online-chat-20130220-2ert2.html#ixzz2sHMsXUIm>

2/22/13

Herald Sun

Rudd takes up offer to Skype US students

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/rudd-takes-up-offer-to-skype-us-students/story-e6frf7kf-1226583215495>

2/20/13

Nine MSN

US class invites Rudd to have Skype conversation

<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/technology/2013/02/20/18/10/us-class-invites-rudd-to-have-skype-conversation>

2/20/13

Perth Now

Kevin Rudd slows social media campaign but set to Skype US college

<http://www.perthnow.com.au/technology/kevin-rudd-slows-social-media-campaign/story-fn7bsj10-1226581897440>

2/13/13

Collegiate Times

John Boyer invites former-prime minister to Skype interview

http://www.collegiatetimes.com/news/virginia_tech/article_b3bcdf54-7b5b-5255-b05f-386f832c6dd7.html

['Supersizing' the College Classroom: How One Instructor Teaches 2,670 Students](#)

Chronicle of Higher Education 4-29-12

[Crafting an Academic Screencasting Persona](#)

OnlineUniversities.com

[Interactive educational comic/app: Plaid Avenger in Mexico!](#)

Successful Kickstarter Campaign 11-10-12

[Meet the World's Most Interesting Professor Who Just So Happens to be From Virginia Tech \(And Needs Your Help!\)](#)

InTheCapital 10-24-12

[Virginia Tech's largest class invites Obama to a foreign policy discussion \(VIDEO\)](#)

The Washington Post Blog 09-07-12

[License to Teach: The Plaid Avenger](#)

Tor.com 11-8-12

[Associated Press interview at SXSW on Ustream](#)

AP Mobile 03-14-12

[Education: 'It's Time To Be Innovative.' Something everyone can agree on: digital classrooms](#)

Austin Chronicle 03-16-12

[Supersizing the Classroom: 3000 Students & Beyond \(listen to audio presentation\)](#)

SXSW 03-10-12

[Five Awesome Virtual Field Trips for Students of All Ages](#)

Mind Shift 03-13-12

[A Memorable Skype Call between Aung San Suu Kyi and Virginia Tech Students](#)

Skype Play: Innovative ways people are using Skype 12-16-11

['Plaid Avenger' Pulls Off The Remarkable](#)

edtech digest 12-6-11

[Aung San Suu Kyi Skypes US students](#)
storyful. 12-2-11

[Burmese Pro-Democracy Leader Aung San Suu Kyi To Visit VA Tech \(Via Skype\)](#)
Hack Education (blog) 12-4-11

[Virginia Tech Prof to Skype with Burma's resistance leader on Monday](#)
Cool Cat Teacher (blog) 12-4-11

[Bouncing Cats: Crazy Legs and Abramz Reunite \(video\)](#)
Red Bull Media House 12-19-11

[Charity co-founder speaks to Tech](#)
Collegiate Times 11-8-11

['The Way' draws a crowd](#)
Collegiate Times 9-29-11

[Gary Vaynerchuk And A Cultural Shift](#)
The Social Buzz Lab 5-13-11

Superhero draws Virginia Tech students to class
WDBJ-7 12-9-09
Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiXsBcYC6o0>

[World regions inspires students](#)
Collegiate Times 9-8-11

[Plaid Avenger tweets keep news sensible](#)
CollegiateTimes 11-17-10

[Behind the Scenes With The Plaid Avenger](#)
Comic Book Bin 5-16-09

[Geography book stir controversy](#)
Collegiate Times 3-16-07

[Convenience or Convention: Publishers, Tech professors are making the switch to alternative textbooks](#)
Collegiate Times 10-16-12

[Boyer raises funds for Plaid Avenger app](#)
Collegiate Times 11-12-12

[Boyer calls Obama to come to Tech](#)
Collegiate Times 09-5-12

6 Invited Lectures, Advising, Trips, Exhibits, & Promotions

I have been an invited speaker to over a hundred events across the VT campus and outside the university my entire career. These talks range from formal affairs at VT Honors Banquets with hundreds of attendees to much smaller talks that I frequently give to residence hall groups of a dozen or two. I have been invited to speak for faculty, students, student groups, VT alumni groups and at special forums and educational events. I have also been invited to give lectures in the formal classroom setting by other professors and host entirely non-academic events in the local community. This list is not all-inclusive, and is broken down by type of event/audience as follows:

[6.1 Advising](#)

[6.2 Student Groups](#)

[6.3 Academic Community](#)

[6.4 Alumni Groups](#)

[6.5 Viticulture Talks](#)

[6.6 Extracurricular Campus & Community Events](#)

[6.7 Study Abroad Trips](#)

6.1 Advising

In addition to the following invited lectures list, I currently serve, or formerly served, as faculty advisor to the following student groups at Virginia Tech:

[Invisible Children](#)

[Feed by Seed](#)

[SIA: Society of Indian Americans](#)

[GTU: Gamma Theta Upsilon, The International Geographical Honor Society](#)

[Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity](#)

[IAESTE: International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience](#)

While I am not an official academic advisor, I have met with and given academic and career guidance to hundreds and hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students over the years of my service here at Virginia Tech. I have also advised dozens of fellow faculty members on class structure and teaching technologies, have served on 6 master thesis committees, served on various academic committees (most notably, in the Academy of Teaching Excellence, and College of Natural Resources Honorific Committee), and promoted/assisted with countless charitable and fundraising events across campus.

6.2 Student Groups

Invited host and speaker: April 5, 2012 HRC Honors Residential College, host and discussion leader for international cinema night. Topic/film: Waltz With Bashir (2008)

Panel participant: February 28, 2012 Professor Panel participant on Arab Spring Movements, sponsored by the Political Science/The Americans for Informed Democracy Club.

Invited Speaker: December 6th, 2011, Interfaith Peace Talks

Topic: Changing Nature of Conflict in the 21st century

Invited Speaker: September 21, 2011, Feed by Seed (<http://www.wix.com/alarrowe/feed-by-seed>)

Topic: Importance of Renewed Focus on Smaller Scale Agriculture in US

Invited speaker, discussion leader and host: September 18, 2011 HRC Honors Dorm Speaker Series
International Film Night: Even the Rain

Invited speaker: April 14, 2011 Invited Lecturer for Engineers Without Borders
Topic: Connecting to the Real World; Why Engineers Need to be International in Outlook

Invited speaker: February 22, 2011 Invited Lecturer for VT Honors Dorm in Main Campbell
Topic: Understanding the Critical Elements of the Arab Spring, with Q&A

Invited speaker: November 17, 2010 Invited Lecturer for VT Honors Dorm in Miles Hall
Topic: Hot Topics in World News, a Conversation

Invited speaker: November 3, 2010 Invited Lecturer for joint Eggleston Dorms meeting
Topic: Preparing to work and live in a Globalized World, with Q&A

Invited speaker: October 19, 2010 Invited Lecturer for VT chapter of AIAA American Institute of
Aeronautics and Astronautics
Topic: An International Look at the Movers and Shakers of the Future of Aerospace Endeavors

Keynote speaker: November 17 2009 Golden Key International Honour Society Induction Ceremony
Topic: Staying Connected: Learning for Life

Invited speaker: November 12 2009 Invited Lecturer for new student group: Walk For Darfur
Topic: Darfur: Current Situation and Possible Outcomes

Invited speaker: September 22 2009 Invited Lecturer for Engineers Without Borders
Topic: Connecting to the Real World; Why Engineers Need to be International in Outlook

Invited speaker: April 12th 2008 Invited Lecturer for ETA Kappa Nu (VT Chapter of the Electrical and
Computer Engineering Honor Society). Topic: Connecting to the Real World; Why Engineers Need
to be International in Outlook, Activities, and Research

Invited speaker: 'Getting Way Ahead: The Importance of Undergraduate Working Abroad
Experience' IAESTE International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical
Experience September 15, 2007

Invited speaker: November 10th 2007 Invited Lecturer for Residential Advisors group in
Newman Hall. Topic: Why Every Student Needs to Travel Abroad Prior to Graduation

Invited speaker: April 12th 2007 Invited Lecturer for ETA Kappa Nu (VT Chapter of the
Electrical and Computer Engineering Honor Society). Topic: Connecting to the Real World;
Why Engineers Need to be International in Outlook, Activities, and Research

Invited speaker: February 22nd 2007 Invited Lecturer for Virginia Tech Honors Dinner. Topic:
The Fight for Global Right: Globalization of Justice in the 21st Century

Invited speaker: February 16th 2007 Keynote Speaker VTMUNC II (Virginia Tech Model United
Nations) Topic: The Need for an International System of Justice in the 21st Century

Invited speaker: 'Getting Way Ahead: The Importance of Undergraduate Working Abroad
Experience' IAESTE International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical
Experience February 15, 2007

Invited speaker: March 27th 2007 Invited Lecturer for Residential Advisors group in Barringer
Hall. Topic: Why Every Student Needs to Travel Abroad Prior to Graduation

Invited speaker: September 28th 2006 Invited Lecturer for Residential Advisors group in Barringer Hall. Topic: Why Every Student Needs to Travel Abroad Prior to Graduation

Invited speaker: 'Biogeography of plants used for alcohol production' for the VT Biology Club December 5, 2006

Invited speaker: 'Getting Way Ahead: The Importance of Undergraduate Working Abroad Experience' IAESTE International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience September 15, 2005

Invited speaker: October 15 2005 Invited Lecturer for Residential Advisors group in Newman Hall. Topic: Why Every Student Needs to Travel Abroad Prior to Graduation

Invited speaker: November 10th 2004 Invited Lecturer for Residential Advisors group in Newman Hall. Topic: Why Every Student Needs to Travel Abroad Prior to Graduation

Served as the panel moderator for The Palestinian-Israeli Peace Forum held in Squires Colonial Hall on April 19, 2004. The event was sponsored by the Political Science Club at Virginia Tech

Served as the panel participant in a public discussion of the terrorist attacks of 9/11 on September 21, 2001 The event was sponsored by the Political Science Club at Virginia Tech

6.3 Education & Academic Community

Invited speaker (via Skype) with high school Foreign Affairs class in Medford, NJ. April 9, 2014 Q&A on current events

Invited lecturer to Virginia Tech ROTC Corps of Cadets Lecture Seminar Series Topic: Future Global Hotspots of Conflict and Scenarios of US Response; January 28, 2014

Invited speaker (by Skype) with 7th grade Geography class in Woodstock, NY. October 28, 2013 Q&A on why geography matters

Invited Speaker: "Great Decisions" Public Lecture Series, Blacksburg, VA chapter http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_about2
Topic: Myanmar and Southeast Asia
February 27, 2013

Invited lecturer to Virginia Tech ROTC Corps of Cadets Lecture Seminar Series Topic: Future Global Hotspots of Conflict and Scenarios of US Response; February 23, 2013

Invited lecturer: 'Biogeography of plants used for alcohol production' in BIOL 2204: PLANTS AND CIVILIZATION The uses of plants as sources of food, medicine, drugs, spices, beverages, poisons, fiber, oils, and plant exudates October 23, 2012

Invited lecturer at the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies (about school: <http://www.gsgis.k12.va.us/>)
Topic: A Brief Survey of India & South Asia; May 7, 2012

Invited speaker: Radford University, Japanese Cultural Awareness in Appalachia Week Festival. Host and discussion leader for Japanese film: The Sky Crawlers, April 12, 2012

Invited lecturer: Guest speaker in Dennis Hidalgo's class "World History through the African Diaspora," April 12, 2012

Topic: Impacts of the African Diaspora as taught in World Regional Geography

Invited lecturer: Leadership in Popular Culture, (Joe Wilder, Residential Learning Coordinator)

Topic: Social Media impacts on Society, March 19, 2012

Conference Presentation: South by Southwest Interactive Conference (SxSW), March 10, 2012
Austin TX, Title: *Supersizing the Classroom: 3000 Students & Beyond*

Conference Presentation: South by Southwest Education Conference (SxSW.edu), March 6, 2012 ,
Austin, TX, Title: *Supersizing the Classroom: 3000 Students & Beyond*

Conference Presentation: Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting in New York,
NY February 16, 2012

Title: *Expanding Geographic Horizons: Tools and Tips for Large Geography Classrooms*

Invited lecturer to Virginia Tech ROTC Corps of Cadets Lecture Seminar Series

Topic: Future Global Hotspots of Conflict and Scenarios of US Response; February 14, 2012

Discussion facilitator: February 29th, 2012, TEDxVT live-streaming event for TED2012

Conference Presentation: Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy (CHEP), February 2, 2012 ,
Blacksburg, VA. Title: *Expanding Engagement to Thousands: Communication Tools for Large Classes*

Invited Speaker to Interfaith Peace Talks

Topic: Changing Nature of Conflict in the 21st century

December 6th, 2011

Invited lecturer: 'Biogeography of plants used for alcohol production' in BIOL 2204: PLANTS AND
CIVILIZATION The uses of plants as sources of food, medicine, drugs, spices, beverages, poisons,
fiber, oils, and plant exudates October 20, 2011

Conference Presentation: International Society for Exploring Teaching and Learning (ISETL),
October 14, 2011 San Diego, CA. Boyer, J., Doolittle, P., Byrd, C.N., & Pritchard, K. Title: *Teaching in Large and Ultra-Large Classes*

Invited Speaker for Blacksburg Chapter of Kiwanis Club

Topic: The Declining Value of a College Degree; Reasons and Repercussions to American Society

August 25th, 2011

Keynote Speaker for Blacksburg High School Commencement

Topic: Achieve the Dream: 3 Tips to Keep Inspired and Passionate about Realizing Your Full Potential
June 5th 2011

Invited Guest/Host on CampusChat, a Twitter-based show on SmartCollegeVisit.com (Z. Kelly Queijo,
blogger, owner, producer)

<http://www.smartcollegevisit.com/2011/05/takeaway-tweets-transcript-from-campuschat-with-the-plaid-avenger.html>

Invited Lecturer for Virginia Tech's first ever 'Flash Seminar' Series, hosting by the Curiosity Committee at VT

Topic: Its Only the Beginning: Comparing the 21st Century Arab Spring to European Revolutions of the 18th & 19th Centuries

April 13, 2011

Invited lecturer in GEOG 1004: Physical Geography course

Topic: How Climate and Natural Forces are Affect News, Culture and Policy; April 4, 2011

Invited lecturer to Virginia Tech ROTC Corps of Cadets Lecture Seminar Series

Topic: Future Global Hotspots of Conflict and Scenarios of US Response; February 8, 2011

Invited lecturer at the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies

(about school: <http://www.gsgis.k12.va.us/>)

Topic: A Brief Survey of SubSaharan Africa; Big Problems, Big Potential; February 7, 2011

Keynote Speaker for Upward Bound/Talent Search Weekend Retreat

(about Upward Bound: <http://www.ubts.vt.edu/about-us/>)

Topic: Perceiving and Embracing Misconceptions in our Globalizing World; November 13, 2010

Invited lecturer: 'Biogeography of plants used for alcohol production' in BIOL 2204: PLANTS AND CIVILIZATION The uses of plants as sources of food, medicine, drugs, spices, beverages, poisons, fiber, oils, and plant exudates October 19, 2010

Invited Speaker for Wiley Faculty Network On-line Lecture Series hosted by John Wiley & Sons, Book Publishers in Los Angeles October 12, 2010

Topic: Teaching Geography of Wine and America's Changing Wine Landscape

Invited Keynote Speaker for Geography Faculty Conference hosted by John Wiley & Sons, Book Publishers in Los Angeles March 25-27, 2010, three speaking engagements

Topic: Teaching World Regions and Connecting Students to the Real World

Invited Lecturer: ' A Brief History of Eastern Thought and Philosophy' in Graduate Study class (EDCI 5784): Mind Body Health Wellness. September 8, 10, 2009

Invited lecturer: 'Biogeography of plants used for alcohol production' in BIOL 2204: PLANTS AND CIVILIZATION The uses of plants as sources of food, medicine, drugs, spices, beverages, poisons, fiber, oils, and plant exudates. October 20, 2009

Invited lecturer: 'Biogeography of plants used for alcohol production' in GEOG 4044 (BIOL 4044): BIOGEOGRAPHY A study of the factors influencing the distribution of plants and animals approached from ecological, historical, and cultural perspectives. October 21, 2008

Invited Lecturer: ' A Brief History of Eastern Thought and Philosophy' in Graduate Study class (EDCI 5784): Mind Body Health Wellness. September 5, 10, 2008

Invited lecturer: 'Biogeography of plants used for alcohol production' in BIOL 2204: PLANTS AND CIVILIZATION The uses of plants as sources of food, medicine, drugs, spices, beverages, poisons, fiber, oils, and plant exudates. October 16, 2007

Invited lecturer: 'Biogeography of plants used for alcohol production' in GEOG 4044 (BIOL 4044): BIOGEOGRAPHY A study of the factors influencing the distribution of plants and animals approached from ecological, historical, and cultural perspectives. November 30, 2006

Invited lecturer: 'Biogeography of plants used for alcohol production' in BIOL 2204: PLANTS AND CIVILIZATION The uses of plants as sources of food, medicine, drugs, spices, beverages, poisons, fiber, oils, and plant exudates. October 15, 2006

Invited speaker: 'Alcohol: the most geographic commodity.' University of South Carolina, Department of Geography Colloquium, April 7, 2006

Invited speaker: 'China: The Giant is Awake' Radford University, Keynote Speaker for Chinese New Year Festival, February 8, 2006

Invited lecturer: 'Biogeography of plants used for alcohol production' in BIOL 2204: PLANTS AND CIVILIZATION The uses of plants as sources of food, medicine, drugs, spices, beverages, poisons, fiber, oils, and plant exudates. October 16, 2005

Invited speaker: History Department, Fall 2002, Lecture Topic: "Integrating GIS and Related Technologies into Historical Analysis"

Invited speaker: VPI&SU Faculty Development Institute June 2000, Topic: Incorporating GIS, GPS and ArcView software into academic research and teaching

Invited speaker: Symposium for History and Social Science Teachers, VPI&SU, June 2000 Topic: On-line Resources for Geography Teachers

6.4 Virginia Tech Alumni

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Columbia, SC Title: "American Drinking Culture, Redefined"; April 5, 2013

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Charleston, SC Title: "American Drinking Culture, Redefined"; April 6, 2013

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Williamsburg, VA Title: "American Drinking Culture, Redefined"; March 13, 2013

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Rumson, NJ Title: "America's Changing Wine Culture"; June 9, 2012

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Myrtle Beach, SC Title: "Old World versus New World Wine Styles: A Summary"; April 9, 2011

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Colombia, SC Title: "The US Embrace of Wine and its Impacts on our Culture"; April 8, 2011

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Atlanta, GA Title: "The Changing Wine Landscape of America"; April 7, 2011

Invited Speaker and host to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Charlotte, NC 6-course wine dinner Title: "Stylistic Variation in Wine and Food Pairings that Compliment Them"; February 19, 2011

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Greenville, SC Title: "The US Embrace of Wine and its Impacts on our Culture"; December 11, 2010

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Class of '80 Alumni Group at Virginia Tech Title: The Burgeoning Wine Culture's Affect on Young Americans; November 5, 2010

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group to East Tennessee Chapter Title: "The "Americanization" of Wines"; March 15, 2010

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Wilmington, DE Title: "The "Americanization" of Wines"; February 27, 2010

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Orlando, FL Title: "Old World vs. New World Wines"; February 21, 2010

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Fort Myers, FL Title: "Old World vs. New World Wines"; February 20, 2010

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Tampa, FL Title: "Old World vs. New World Wines"; February 19, 2010

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Chicago, IL: Title: "Old World vs. New World Wines"; June 13, 2009

Invited Speaker and Host to Virginia Tech Alumni Group Wine Tasting Event: 'Virginia Wines vs. their Old World Wine Counterparts'; The Inn at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA: June 12, 2009

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Charlotte, NC: Title: "A New World of Wine"; May 25, 2009

Invited Speaker to Virginia Tech Alumni Group in Minneapolis, MN: Title: "A New World of Wine"; April 25, 2009

6.5 Viticulture

Invited Speaker: Central Virginia Fruit School: "GIS and Fruit Production: Strategies," Geographic Information Systems: Applications related to fruit cultures, site assessments and more. February 16, 2005

Invited Speaker: Tennessee Viticultural & Oenological Society, 2002 Annual Conference, January 19, 2002 Topic: Site Assessment and Varietal Selection in Tennessee

Invited Speaker: North Carolina Winegrowers Association, Greensboro NC, February 9-11, 2001 Topic: Geoclimatological classification of viticulture potential in North Carolina

Invited Speaker: North American Fruit Explorers, Charlottesville, VA August 11, 2000 Topic: Prospecting for Ideal fruit growing regions using GIS

Invited Speaker: Virginia Cooperative Extension, Sustainable Agriculture Inservice, Culpepper, VA, May 25, 2000 Topic: Using GIS for Land Suitability Indexes

Invited Speaker: Virginia and West Virginia State Horticulture Societies Annual Meeting, January 12, 1999 Topic: A state-wide analysis of Virginia's grape growing potential

6.6 Extracurricular Campus & Community Events

I am also passionate about being involved in the local community, and helping with events that bring local businesses and local peoples together with faculty and students in diverse forums of interaction, and create unique and exciting learning experiences that people remember for a lifetime. I have organized and hosted several exhibitions inside and outside the classroom as well. Each event was attended by roughly 400 to 3000 students/faculty/general public. They were:

1) **Live Skype Conversation with Aung San Suu Kyi**, December 5th, 2011

Organized social media campaign to create, and then hosted, a live Skype video call with Burmese democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Aung San Suu Kyi. This 60 minute live Q+A session was created for World Regions class, but open to general public as well and received media attention globally. Attendance: 3000

[Aung San Suu Kyi holds live Skype interview with Virginia Tech students](#)

2) **Bouncing Cats documentary film event and Q+A (with guest stars)**, November 29th

Organized and hosted a special screening of Bouncing Cats: the award-winning, Red Bull-sponsored documentary of one man's attempt to use the power of hip-hop for positive social change in Uganda. The film profiled Breakdance Project Uganda (BPU), an organization that was formed in 2006 to empower disadvantaged youth in Uganda through hip-hop. Our event reunited special guest stars Crazy Legs from the Rock Steady Crew and Abraham "Abramz" Tekya from Breakdance Project Uganda for the first time since filming together for the project. Attendance: 3000

[Bouncing Cats: Crazy Legs and Abramz Reunite](#)

3) **Invisible Children film event and Q+A (with guest stars)**, November 8th, 2011,

Helped organize, promote, and hosted the screening of Invisible Children documentary "Tony," which tells the story of a young Ugandan child's life in a war-stricken nation,. Jason Russell, a co-founder of the international charity Invisible Children, and Stella Mistica, a Ugandan who lived in the war zone and is now a mentor through the program, were guests stars that provided lecture and followed by a Q+A session after the film. Attendance: 3000

[Charity co-founder speaks to Tech](#)

4) **The Way film event and Q+A (with guest stars)**, September 28th, 2011

Launched a massive social media campaign, organized, and hosted a film screening with guest stars Emilio Estevez and Martin Sheen for their latest movie "The Way". Following the film screening, Estevez and Sheen conducted a Q+A with students, staff, and guest from the general public. Attendance: 3000

[Emilio Estevez and Martin Sheen stop by Virginia Tech](#)

5) **Blacksburg High School Commencement Speech** June 5th 2011

Topic: Achieve the Dream: 3 Tips to Keep Inspired and Passionate about Realizing Your Full Potential

<http://www.handshake20.com/2011/06/commencement-speeches-arent-just-for-graduates.html>

Attendance: 3000

6) **Vinton Wine Festival** May 21, 2011

Host and lecture speaker for the Vinton Wine & Food Festival focusing on appreciation of Virginia wines. Attendance: 1000

7) **Blacksburg Fork & Cork Wine Festival**

May 2014/May 2013/April 2012/April 2011/May 2010/May 2009

The Blacksburg Partnership announces the 4th annual Blacksburg Fork and Cork- a food, wine, and art festival to be held Saturday, April 28, 2012 at First and Main Shopping District. Proceeds from this event benefit The Blacksburg Partnership, a non-profit organization working to enhance the quality of life in Blacksburg.

Hosted first year, and gave 3 lectures on wine history, wine pairings and multiple other wine topics each year. Attendance: 4000

8) **Bottleshock**: A wine tasting/film viewing event at the Lyric Theater on May 4, 2011
Organized, fund-raised, and hosted class/public event at the Lyric theater: Bottleshock, a film about the famous Paris tasting of 1976, with a Q&A session after the showing, and the entire event was accompanied by a America vs. French wine tasting comparison. Attendance: 375

9) **Gary Vaynerchuk** April 27th, 2011

Organized, sponsored, hosting and emceed this guest speaker event, which was the most attended event on campus of the semester with over 3000 attendees. New York Times bestselling author, renown wine critic, video blogger (winelibrarytv.com), and radical transformer of the internet business model, Gary Vaynerchuk spoke about wine, social networking, and his new book 'The Thank You Economy.'

<http://www.emilyjasper.com/social-media/the-passion-of-gary-vaynerchuk/>

10) **Bouncing Cats** April 14, 2011

Organized and hosted class/public event at the Lyric theater. Bouncing Cats: Documentary film follows one man's attempt to create a better life for the children of Uganda using the unlikely tool of hip-hop culture with the focus on break-dancing. Produced by Red Bull Studios. Attendance: 350

<http://www.bouncingcats.com/>

11) **Merlove**: A wine tasting/film viewing event at the Lyric Theater on May 5, 2010

Organized, fund-raised, and hosted class/public event at the Lyric theater. Documentary film-maker Rudolf McClain from Sonoma, CA was the invited speaker to present his film *Merlove* to a sold-out crowd and we held a Q&A session after the showing. The film, a tribute to the rise and fall of Merlot wine, was accompanied by a Merlot tasting. Attendance: 400

12A) **Brew-Do** October 6, 2012/September 24, 2011/October 30, 2010/October 24, 2009

The Blacksburg Partnership held the 4th annual Blacksburg Brew Do, a craft beer festival, on Saturday, October 6, 2012. Proceeds from this event benefit The Blacksburg Partnership, a non-profit organization working to enhance the quality of life in Blacksburg.

Invited lecturer; conducting tasting panel and gave 3 talks about beer history and beer culture in the US. Also an invited judge for the home-brewing competition. Attendance: 3000

12B) **Blacksburg Brew Do Beer Dinner** October 5, 2012

The Blacksburg Partnership and The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center announce the second-annual Blacksburg Brew Do Beer/Food Pairing Dinner at Preston's Restaurant.

Role: Host, invited lecturer, and beverage/food pairing and selection.

13) **Eastern Martial Arts & Eastern Medicine Exposition** April 10, 2006 in Graduate Student Life Center

The Eastern Martial Arts & Medicine Show was an extension of the 'Geography of East Asia' class I was teaching, and consisted of the students in the class enlisting speakers, medical folks, and martial artists to come put on a show free of charge for the entire VT community. Attendance: 600

14) **Study Abroad Exhibit for China, Vietnam & Cambodia** April 2007 in the Squires Student Center &

15) **Northeastern Europe Cultural Exhibit** on April 7th 2004 in the Squires Student Center;

The Northeastern Europe Cultural and the China, Vietnam & Cambodia exhibits were outgrowths of VT study abroad experiences I led. I organized the students that participated in those programs to build educational and intriguing displays to present to their fellow VT students and faculty as a way of focusing their creative energies on what they had experienced, but also to be a promotional tool for potential future participants. Attendance: 300

6.7 Study Abroad

Finally, I have helped promote various study abroad programs across university within different colleges or departments. Invited and actively participated in VT Study Abroad experiences to Russia, Finland, Estonia, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Switzerland, Italy Germany, Cuba and Canada. Continue to promote all VT study abroad options through instructional website and in classes. The list of activities abroad includes:

2003 Spring, Riva San Vitale, Switzerland Spring Semester; Professor and Trip Leader, 35 students

2003 Summer, Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad Program to India & Sri Lanka; Participant

2004 Winter, Northeastern Europe Study Abroad: Finland, Estonia, & Russia; Trip Organizer & Leader, 33 students

2004 Summer, Cuba Study Abroad; Invited Professor, 21 students

2006 Summer, Asia Study Abroad Program: Hong Kong, China, Vietnam, & Cambodia; Invited Professor, 37 students

2006 Summer, Atlantic Canada Study Abroad: Halifax, Nova Scotia & Newfoundland; Professor & Trip Leader, 25 students

2013 Semester at Sea program: Was an instructor aboard the floating classroom MV Explorer as it visited 17 Cities in 15 Countries in 115 Days. 700 students. Classes taught: World Geography and Geography of Wine.

Full program itinerary: <http://www.semesteratsea.org/voyages/fall-2013/>

7 Course History

I have been teaching in the Department of Geography since 1998, actually teaching my first course (World Regional Geography) as I was finishing up my Master's degree research. At the time, the course had an enrollment of 50 students and was one of the biggest offered in our small department. In the last decade, I have grown that course to an enrollment of 575, offered every semester, and am teaching it to 2700 students this Fall...the second time I will be breaking a record for the largest class offered at Virginia Tech. This one will be incorporating elements of on-line video and on-line student interaction, as I continue to push the envelope incorporating new technologies into the learning environment.

In addition, I created the course entitled Geography of Wine, and it has grown at an exponential pace as well: the 575 capacity for the class is filled every Spring semester. I have also created and taught courses on East Asia (China-focused), Europe, and international conflict. Back in 1998, our department had just two dozen majors and a fairly limited outlook for growth. Today it has over 150 majors and teaches the vast majority of student credit hours for the entire College of Natural Resources. Both of these accomplishments have been credited to my work, both by past and present department heads and deans. I was awarded a 'Senior Instructor' status in 2009 and personally teach somewhere between 70 to 80% of our department's credit hours, which equates to roughly 50% of the entire College's total.

Class sizes have ranged from 20 to 2750 students; average class size in last five years is 575. Total classes taught from Fall 1998 to Fall 2012 is 62; total student enrollments from Fall 1998 to Fall 2013 is approximately 30,000, equating to over 90,000 student credit hours.

Future intentions for instruction will undoubtedly focus on international or global studies, globalization, regional studies, international conflict, the growth and repercussions of international institutions, current events, wine, and international cinema. I look forward to the continued exploration of new technologies and on-line communications to further expand the classroom setting to as many students as possible...as long as the quality of the education and interaction continues to improve as well.

Attached is a listing of course names, dates taught and enrollments; it does not include dozens of student credit hours of independent studies.