

# Devon Virginia Johnson

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Ambler Johnston East  
700 Washington St. SW  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts, English**, Professional Writing option

Fall 2014

**Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA**

University Honors "In Honors" diploma

Minors: Appalachian Studies, Horticulture

In Major GPA: 3.98/4.0      Overall GPA: 3.90/4.0

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Material culture and folk art of the Appalachian region and the American South, particularly the material culture of women and children

Commodification of material culture and folk traditions

Rhetorical methods of disseminating craft and folklore research through digital media

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Undergraduate thesis project: *Listening to the Landscape of Creation: Benefiting Quilt Knowledge in Virginia's New River Valley Through Research and Rhetoric***

Ongoing since spring 2014

Overseen by:

Dr. Carlos Evia, Director of Professional Writing

Dr. Anita Puckett, Director of Appalachian Studies

- Compiled existing records of quilt traditions in the New River Valley; supplemented these records by preforming oral histories with quilters and collecting additional data
- Created a database and print documents to distribute information to future researchers and the public
- Secured my own funding (see "Awards" section below) and Institutional Review Board approval

**Appalachian Community Research Project**

Fall 2013

Overseen by:

Dr. Anita Puckett, Director of Appalachian Studies

- Collected oral histories from musicians and instrument makers in Montgomery and Giles counties
- Contributed to a report on our team's findings, which was submitted to the Appalachian Regional Commission

## AFFILIATIONS

**Phi Beta Kappa**, fall 2014 inductee

**Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society**, spring 2014-present

**TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE**

**University Honors Student Teaching Assistant for “First-year Honors Seminar”**  
Fall 2014

- Responsible for leading seminar-style class composed of freshman honors students

**AWARDS,  
FELLOWSHIPS,  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

**ACC Creativity and Innovation Fellowship** (for thesis project), spring 2014  
\$2,000-4 months

**URI Research Grant** (for thesis project), spring 2014  
\$500-1 year

**URI Diversity Research Grant** (for thesis project), spring 2014  
\$500-1 year

**CLAHS Moody, Pratt, Minor Scholarship**, spring 2014

**CLAHS Robichaud Family Scholarship**, spring 2014

**CLAHS Mildred Crawford Weidemann Scholarship**, spring 2014

**Jenkins M. Robertson English Department Scholarship**, fall 2013

**University Honors “Make Yourself Interesting” Scholarship**, spring 2013

**CLAHS Undergraduate Research Institute Diversity Scholar**, fall 2012-present

**University Honors Residential College at East Ambler Johnston**, fall 2012-present

**PUBLICATIONS/  
PRESENTATIONS**

**CLAHS Diversity Symposium**

Presenter, spring 2014

- Presented work from Appalachian Community Research class on music traditions in Montgomery and Giles Counties

**English Undergraduate Research Conference**

Presenter, spring 2014

“Best in Show” award for professional writing

- Presented a paper written for Science Writing called “Modifying Culture” (about GM corn in Oaxaca, Mexico)
- Science Writing panel

**Appalachian Teaching Project Research Conference**

Presenter, fall 2013

- Presented work from Appalachian Community Research class
- Listed as co-author on final report to the Appalachian Regional Commission

**PUBLICATIONS/  
PRESENTATIONS  
(continued)**

**English Undergraduate Research Conference**

Presenter, spring 2013

- Presented work generated in Technical Editing and Style
- Professional Writing panel

**EXPERIENCE**

**Virginia Tech English Department**, Blacksburg VA

Fall 2014

*Research Assistant*

- Compiled and formatted Chicago Style footnotes and bibliography for professor's manuscript

**Virginia Tech Perspective Gallery**

May-August 2014

*Gallery Attendant*

- Opened/closed art gallery
- Helped gallery visitors

**John C. Campbell School of Folk Art**, Brasstown NC

May-July 2013

*Work/Study*

- Lived at the Folk School for nine weeks and worked as a gardener/maintenance assistant in exchange for folk art classes
- Assisted with folk art auction, children's art education program

**Virginia Tech Women's Center**, Blacksburg VA

Fall 2012

*Red Flag Campaign Intern*

- Created and maintained the Red Flag Campaign blog
- Revised Women's Center publications

**Smithsonian Folklife Festival**, Washington D.C.

July 2011

- Volunteer; maintained merchandise in the retail sales tent

**VOLUNTEER WORK**

**SAVES (Sexual Assault and Violence Education by Students)**

Spring 2013-Present

- Volunteered as a peer-educator to teach students about issues related to sexual assault, relationship violence, and media depictions of women

**Community Service Sorority (non-Greek): Chi Delta Alpha**

Spring 2012-2014

- Completed 30-60 hours of community service per semester
- Webmaster (fall 2012-2013), redesigned website during summer 2013

**COURSEWORK**

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| • Appalachian Communities            | • Science Writing                                |
| • Environmental Issues in Appalachia | • Medicinal Plants and Herbs                     |
| • Appalachian Folk Cultures          | • Material Culture and Public Humanities Methods |
| • Writing for the Web                |  |

**PROFESSIONAL  
GOALS**

I am interested in understanding human relationships with material objects and the cultural function of craft.

I would like to continue to learn by getting my MA in folklore or material culture and by spending additional time in Western North Carolina's folk art schools. I am interested in eventually pursuing my PhD, teaching at the university level, and writing academic books for publication.