



FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

ALAIN BRIZARD, assistant professor of physics, gave seminars at Dartmouth College ("The Road to Energy Conservation in Drift-Fluid Models") on November 3, at the University of Vermont ("A Geometric View of Hamiltonian Perturbation Theory") on November 10, and at Rice University ("Development and Applications of Variational Principles in Plasma Physics") on November 18.

JOHN PAUL DEVLIN, assistant professor of fine arts, theatre, designed scenery for Vermont Stage Company's production of *Winter Tales* at the Flynn Space, which is running from December 7-11.

JOANNA A. ELLIS-MONAGHAN, assistant professor of mathematics, was invited to give a seminar talk in the physics department of Middlebury College on October 27, 2005. The talk, titled "From Potts to Tutte and back again: a graph theoretical view of statistical mechanics," focused on the interplay of physics and mathematics in the area of statistical mechanics where two very important functions, the Potts model partition function and the Tutte polynomial, coincide. The Potts model, ubiquitous in the sciences, models phenomenon characterized by "nearest neighbor" interactions such as magnetism, liquid-gas transitions, binary alloys, foams, nerve cells and flocking behaviors. The Tutte polynomial, an important graph invariant, provides an analytic tool for discrete problems including scheduling, flows, and network reliability. Remarkably, the Potts model partition function can be shown to be an evaluation of the Tutte polynomial, and thus there have been a number of results in recent years where advances in physics have lead to new mathematical theory and vice versa.

SUSAN JENKINS, associate professor in SIS, published a paper with co-author Manka Varghese, entitled "Challenges for ESL teacher professionalization in the US: A case study" in the journal *Intercultural Education*, vol. 16, no.1, 2005.

ERIKA SENFT MILLER, dance instructor, and **PETER HARRIGAN**, associate professor of fine arts: theatre, were recognized for Meritorious Achievement on their collaboration in movement and directing for the recent campus production of *Woyzeck*. Two respondents from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Steve Stettler, producer of the Weston Playhouse, and Dan Patterson, professor of theatre at Keene State College and former chair of KC-ACTF Region I – praised the duo for the innovative work they did with student actors on the production. Also singled out for Meritorious Achievement was **ROBYN ZALEWSKI '06**, the production's stage manager. The following students were nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Competition for their work: **WESLEY BECKLO '07**, **KEITH BOYLAN '07**, and **JENNIFER HUNT '08**. If one of these students is unable to compete, the alternates are **VICTORIA TOWNSEND '08** and **JONATHAN ANDERSON '08**.



JONATHAN SILVERMAN, assistant professor of graduate education, has been selected to give a presentation at the International Society for Arts Education Congress in Viseu, Portugal, in March 2006. The title of his presentation and paper is *Postcards from Another's Home: Visual Dialogues for Cultural Tolerance*. In his presentation, Jonathan will show how an exhibition of early 20th-century postcards inspired art and classroom teachers to reflect on visual culture and engage in an artistic project that promotes tolerance and cultural diversity. These teachers created their own postcards that were based on another's childhood sense of place. ■

The following faculty members and students were recently notified that they will be receiving Vermont Genetics Network funding for the 05-06 year:

ARI KIRSHENBAUM, assistant professor of psychology, \$13,654, *Animal Models of Substance Dependence: The Factors Contributing to Impulsive & Risky Behavior*

JESSICA MOLLMARK '06, \$2000, working with **MAC LIPPERT**, assistant professor of biology, "Transcription-Associated Mutation Rates and Spectra at the LYS2Δ1835 Allele in *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae*"

MICHELLE MIASKIEWICZ '06, \$2000, working with Mac Lippert, assistant professor of biology, "Frameshift Mutations in a Reversion Assay of the LYS2 Gene with High and Low Levels of Transcription in Yeast"

REBECCA DRAPP '06, \$1990, working with **DECLAN MCCABE**, assistant professor of biology, "Genetic Diversity of *Lampsilis* Populations In Lake Champlain"



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CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:00 P.M.

Vigil for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation) in the Chapel.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

10:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

Roses in December, a film honoring the lives and works of four American church women, Maura Clarke, Jean Donovan, Ita Ford and Dorothy Kazel, will be shown every hour on the 25th anniversary of their martyrdom in El Salvador. The film will be shown throughout the day in the **Hall of Fame Room, Tarrant Center**.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

11:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M. *Vigil*

11:45 A.M. *Mass*

Vigil and Mass in honor of the four American church women who, working for justice, were killed 25 years ago in El Salvador. **Vigil on the campus green; Mass in the Chapel.**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5;

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6;

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8;

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9;

11:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.

The third annual **MOVE International Market** in the **Alliot Student Center lobby**. Crafts and artworks from Kolkata, India, and Uganda, Africa, will be for sale, with proceeds supporting service trips this year to India and Uganda/Sudan.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

11:45 A.M.

Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation) in the Chapel.

7:30 P.M.

Ghanian Drum and Dance Evening in the **McCarthy Arts Center**. Saint Michael's Akoma Drummers invite the public to participate in an evening of West African drum and dance, including Ewe ("Eh-veh") dance-drumming, Gahu circle dance, and accompanying songs. *For information, call Josselyne Price at ext. 2896.*



DECEMBER

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SAINT MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:00 P.M.

The Annual **Lessons and Carols Concert** in the **Chapel**, featuring the Chorale and Chamber Singers directed by Assistant Professor of Fine Arts, Music, **Nathaniel G. Lew**, the Concert Winds directed by Professor of Fine Arts, Music, **Paul Leclair**, and Organist and Professor of Fine Arts, Music, **Susan Summerfield**. The program also includes congregational carol singing and readings.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:30 P.M.

Mass in Spanish in the Chapel.

Campus Currents



is published by the Office of Public Relations for the Saint Michael's College Community.

To submit your news to **Campus Currents**, write to ccrawford@smcvt.edu.

Editor: Caroline Crawford, Director of Publications
Director of Public Relations: Buff Lindau