



From the President's Office...

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- Training received for the VCLA (SIS)

U.S. UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS SUMMIT ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC ■ January 5-6, 2006

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings invited a select group of university and college presidents to a summit meeting on international education at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC, in early January. The summit afforded President George W. Bush the occasion to announce a major new initiative relating to increased funding for the study of critical languages, including the preparation of teachers of these languages, as well as additional efforts to emphasize science and math in higher education.

It was an extraordinary gathering, and I had the remarkable honor of meeting and speaking briefly with the President of the United States. The President's afternoon speech was followed by a wonderful State dinner presided over by Secretary Rice and Secretary Spellings. Other Cabinet members and ambassadors were also in attendance.

Early the next morning, we began a full day of meetings and discussion sessions with Secretary Rice and her colleagues concerning the need for language skills, international studies, foreign scholars, study abroad and related topics. These were excellent exchanges—very candid, forward and direct, even strongly argumentative at times. The dialogue centered on some of the most important issues facing our country today and in the near future.

Clearly, the proposed focus on the study of critical languages, like Chinese and Arabic, is a topic we have already begun to explore in connection with the current

review of Saint Michael's curriculum. However, this new impetus should not take away from the fact that a great deal more attention should be paid to the acquisition of all languages, including English. At the same time, we need to keep in mind that support for the sciences and mathematics is a key element of successful competition in the global marketplace.

The 120 presidents from across the country represented major universities, research institutions, state schools and private colleges. It was a noteworthy assemblage, and I felt truly privileged to be part of it. This honor was bestowed on Saint Michael's College because of our substantive role in the 1930s, when we received refugee scholars from the Nazi regime, and the 1950s, when Hungarian freedom fighters came to study here. The latter was a seminal event for the creation of our international studies program, which has given Saint Michael's a solid reputation with the State Department, Fulbright Program, Institute of International Education and other groups.

The entire summit was spectacular in scope, certainly because of the President's presence, including Mrs. Laura Bush, who graciously presided over our luncheon, and Cabinet

members, as well as full press coverage of this rather dramatic change in the government's attitude vis-à-vis international education and the participation of higher education in devising strategies for its improvement.

“ It was an extraordinary gathering, and I had the remarkable honor of meeting and speaking briefly with the President of the United States.”



FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

GEORGE ASHLINE, associate professor of mathematics, recently participated in the 2006 Joint Mathematics Meetings held from January 12 through 15. The meetings are held for the purpose of advancing mathematical achievement, encouraging research, and to provide the communication necessary to progress in the field. They serve to preserve, supplement, and utilize the results of the research of mathematicians the world over. At the conference, Ashline presented the paper “Experiences with an In-Service Professional Development Program: The Vermont Mathematics Partnership and its Impact on School Systems in Vermont,” in which he detailed his experiences with this program and its impact on partner schools in Vermont, including Milton Elementary School. He also participated in several Project NExT sessions at the conference. Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) is a program for new or recent PhDs in the mathematical sciences who are interested in improving the teaching and learning of undergraduate mathematics.

GREGG BLASDEL, associate professor of fine arts, is giving two lectures in Chicago on February 16, one at the Chicago Art Institute and the second hosted by Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, an organization that publishes a magazine, *The Outsider*, three times a year that is dedicated to the preservation and documentation of self-taught, grassroots and outsider art primarily in the US. Blasdel will speak on Clarence Schmidt, the Woodstock, NY, artist who created a monumental foil- and flower- covered seven-story house and surrounding seven-acre environment on the side of Ohayo Mountain. Blasdel co-authored a book, *Schmidt* in 1975 with Bill Lipke (UVM) that was a chronicle of the history and development of Schmidt’s creation and he is currently writing an article on Schmidt for the international journal *Raw Vision*, published in London, which provides international coverage to self-taught art and artists.

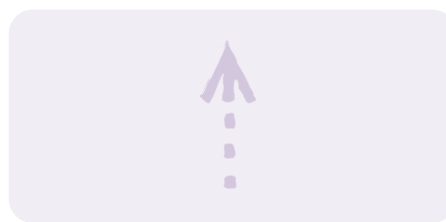
DAVID BOYNTON, assistant professor of psychology, published a paper and computer software with a historian from the University of Maine, Laurence Smith: “Bringing History to Life: Simulating Landmark Experiments in Psychology.” This paper will be published in the American Psychological Association journal *History of Psychology*.

The software can be downloaded from his website:

http://academics.smcvt.edu/dboynton/History_of_psychology/HistoryLab.htm.

Also, he published a piece on “The Gambler’s Fallacy Effect” for the Sage Press Encyclopedia of Measurement and Statistics.

RICHARD KUJAWA, professor of geography, has been informed that two entries submitted to the *Encyclopedia of Human Geography* have been reviewed and accepted for publication. The focus of one entry, new urbanism, is the evolution of land use planning and urban design intended to combat urban sprawl. The second entry, urban geography, co-authored with Professor Lawrence M. Knopp of the University of Minnesota, reviews the practices and content of a key thematic emphasis within human geography. The encyclopedia will be published by Sage Publishing of Thousand Oaks, California as part of a new Reference Series later this year.



SHARON LAMB, professor of psychology, recently had an article, “Forgiveness Therapy: The Context and Conflict,” published in the *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology*, Vol 25.

MARK LUBKOWITZ, assistant professor of biology, is presenting two seminars on “Peptide transporters: an unknown player in seed formation?” The talks will be February 3 at Norwich University and February 16 at Florida State University



DECLAN McCABE, assistant professor of biology, made a presentation for the Alumni Association on “Invasive species of marine and other aquatic habitats” hosted by the Seacoast Science Center, Rye NH, on February 4.

TARA NATARAJAN, assistant professor of economics, co-authored a paper that she presented at the annual economic convention of the Allied Social Science Associations in January in Boston. The paper was part of the Association for Social Economics sessions on Inequality and Poverty. The session title was “Inequality and Poverty: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives.” Wayne Edwards, University of Alaska-Anchorage, and Natarajan presented “An Institutional View of Poverty in Alaska.”

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FACULTY/STAFF NEWS CONTINUED...

The Vermont Consortium for Language and Academics (SIS)

recently provided professional training (*English Language Learners with Academic Difficulties: Is It Language Development or a Language Disability?*) to 56 K-12 Special Educators, ESL teachers, classroom teachers and school administrators from 14 school districts and supervisory unions in Vermont. VCLA trainers **MARK NIGOLIAN** and **RITA MACDONALD** provided participants an overview of recent research and of models used successfully in other states to assess academic difficulties in ELLs.

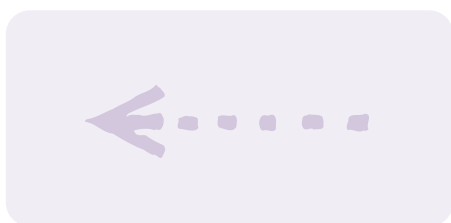


The Vermont Consortium for Language and Academics (SIS), in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Education, recently hosted 30 Title III /ELL Coordinators from Vermont K-12 schools for a daylong workshop on Vermont's new English Language Proficiency Standards, methods of annual assessment for English Language Learners and the use of the assessment data to inform instruction. With one of its goals the provision of professional development workshops to Vermont K-12 educators, VCLA will be instrumental in assisting school districts to address their training needs in this area.

MARTA UMANZOR, associate professor of modern languages and literature, presented a paper on "The Eschatological Aspect on Julia de Burgos' Poetical Works" at the Hawaii International Conference on Arts & Humanities, January 11-14, 2006. The presentation was well attended and brought a great opportunity for discussion on Caribbean literature. ■



BONALYN NELSEN, associate professor of business and accounting, published a book review of Peter and Patti Adler's *Paradise Laborers: Hotel Work in the Global Economy* in the June 2005 issue of *Administrative Science Quarterly*. One of the top journals in management and administrative science with global readership, *ASQ* is dedicated to advancing the understanding of administration through empirical investigation and theoretical analysis.



JAMES RHODES, visiting assistant professor of religious studies, has contributed entries on the *Epistle of Barnabas* to two forthcoming reference works: *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity* (Cambridge University Press) and the *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* (Abingdon Press). The *Epistle of Barnabas* is a document that lingered on the margins of the New Testament canon until the fourth century, and is included in the collection of writings commonly referred



to as the *Apostolic Fathers*. (Rhodes' dissertation, *The Epistle of Barnabas and the Deuteronomic Tradition: Polemics, Paraenesis, and the Legacy of the Golden-Calf Incident*, was published by Mohr Siebeck in late 2004.)

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CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

11:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

Alliot Student Center lobby

A **Career and Internship Fair** featuring representatives from 25 New England employers in human services, law enforcement, financial services, sales and more.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

11:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

Alliot Student Center lobby

The **14th annual Study Abroad Fair** will feature representatives from over 15 study abroad programs plus Saint Michael's College faculty involved in semester and short-term programs. This is a unique opportunity to update knowledge on current programs located around the world for our students. Information available on language study, content courses across the curriculum, internships, service-learning, field studies, international research, and financial support. *Sponsored by the Office of Study Abroad.*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

NOON TO 2:00 P.M.

Vermont Room, Alliot Student Center

The *Spring Multicultural Series presents* one of the few surviving members of the **Tuskegee Airmen**. Although American society did not recognize them as full citizens, the Tuskegee Airmen served their country with honor.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

1:30 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Tarrant Recreation Center

The **Third Annual Boys' Lacrosse Clinic** for second to eighth graders, beginners and players familiar with the basics, conducted by the men's lacrosse team. Drills and scrimmages designed to suit individual skill levels. *Fees for single or multiple clinics. For information, contact Coach Paul Schimoler ext. 2745.*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

6:00 P.M.

McCarthy Arts Center

The *Spring Multicultural Series presents* the film **Crash**. This film suggests that when hatred and paranoia are used as ways of communicating and interacting with others, the impact on people's lives is almost always disastrous.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

NOON TO 1:00 P.M.

Farrell Room

"Reflections on the Mission of Saint Michael's College" by **President Marc A. vanderHeyden**: The *Committee on Spirituality and the Intellectual Life* continues with the tradition of welcoming our President to reflect on the mission of the College each spring, followed by a dialogue with faculty and staff.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

7:00 P.M.

Green Room, McCarthy Arts Center

A student exhibition theater project, Tom Stoppard's **Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead**. Directed by **Mike Mosey '06**.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

2:00 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M.

Green Room, McCarthy Arts Center

Tom Stoppard's **Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead**. See February 10 for details.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

1:30 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Tarrant Recreation Center

Third Annual **Boys' Lacrosse Clinic**. See February 5 for details.

2:00 P.M.

Green Room, McCarthy Arts Center

Tom Stoppard's **Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead**. See February 10 for details.

4:00 P.M.

McCarthy Arts Center

The *Spring Multicultural Series presents* **"The Roots of Jazz."** A program of music and dance featuring the Saint Michael's Jazz Band, directed by **Paul LeClair**, and the Essex Children's Choir, directed by Constance Price.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

7:30 P.M.

Chapel of Saint Michael the Archangel

The community is invited to celebrate **Mass in Spanish**.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

5:00 P.M.

Farrell Room

The **Mathematics Education Forum**, "Reflections and Advice from Saint Michael's Alumni," will feature **Zachary Kramer '99**, Mathematics Dept, Colchester High School, **Corinna Desilets Hussey '02**, Mathematics

FEBRUARY

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25	26	27	28			

SAINT MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

Dept, CVU High School, **Heather Rubenstein '03**, Mathematics Dept, Woodstock Union High School, on a panel discussion. The forum will feature reflections of mathematics alumni about their mathematics teaching experiences and how their liberal arts education helped to prepare them for teaching. Panelists will also offer practical advice for current students considering a career in teaching mathematics. *Refreshments will be provided. Sponsored by the mathematics department, the Vermont Alpha Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon, Honorary National Mathematics Society, and Academic Enrichment Programs.*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

NOON TO 1:00 P.M.

Klein Academic Enrichment Commons

The fourth Uncommon Lunch will feature the topic of Service-Learning. A panel of experienced faculty and students will be featured, as well as plenty of time for questions, and many resources available for interested faculty. *Bring your lunch, dessert will be served.*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

Tarrant Recreation Center

Third Annual **Boys' Lacrosse Clinic**. See February 5 for details.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

Tarrant Recreation Center

Third Annual **Boys' Lacrosse Clinic**. See February 5 for details.

Campus Currents



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

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

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