

Graduate Education Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 1

FALL 2006

- Register for the Spring 2007 semester online at www.smcvt.edu/graduate. Note that GED 597: Integrating Technology will be offered on Monday nights. It is not listed in the printed schedule.
- Mandatory Fall '07 Student Teacher Meeting is Wednesday, February 7th, 2007 3:30-4:45 in St. Edmunds Hall, Room 309
- Summer Registration begins February 5th for matriculated students and March 5th for non-matriculated students

Children's Literature Expert to Return to Saint Michael's This Summer

Kristin Gehsmann

The name Anita Silvey and children's literature are nearly synonymous. Ms. Silvey, a long recognized expert in the area of children's literature, makes her presence more prominent in the field of young adult literature this fall with her new book *500 Great Books for Teens* (2006). Ms. Silvey has previously published two successful reference books on children's literature titled: *The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators* (2002) and *100 Best Books for Children* (2004). She visited Vermont earlier this month while on tour pro-



Anita Silvey at her recent book signing

moting her new book for teens.

"We live in a golden age for young adult literature. Never has the variety, inventiveness, or scope been greater. It is the best time in the last thirty years to write about and teach

young adult books," says Ms. Silvey.

Since 2003, SMC has been honored to have Ms. Silvey join our faculty for a summer Children's Authors and Illustrators series. This summer, Ms. Silvey plans to return and she will be updating her course to include a unit on novels and other literature, including non-fiction, for older readers. We're delighted to have Anita back at Saint Michael's this summer and we're especially excited to offer a course for teachers of adolescents and pre-adolescents.

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Saint Michael's Alumnus, Pam Cyr, Receives Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award

Nicole Smith

Pam Cyr, CSSU math curriculum coordinator and graduate of Saint Michael's College Graduate Program in Education, was awarded the \$25,000 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award on October

10, 2006. This award was created in 1987 as a means to reward and retain high-quality K-12 educators. This year, 100 Educator Awards were given throughout the country, by the Milken Family Foundation.

Congratulations to Pam and the other award recipients who continue to work tirelessly educating our students and serve as role models for both new and veteran teachers alike.

Welcome Kristin Gehsmann, Literacy Specialist

Buff Lindau

Kristin Gehsmann, a specialist in literacy training for high-poverty, high-needs schools, has been named assistant professor of education, literacy development and assessment. She earned her bachelor's degree in 1992 in elementary education in the honors program of Central Connecticut State University, where she earned her master's degree in early childhood education in 1998. She earned a doctorate in education in 2006 from the University of Vermont.

An educational consultant of Gehsmann Educational Consulting, 2002-present, Gehsmann has consulting relationships with more than 12 Vermont Schools in Chittenden County and Franklin counties. She taught in the Vermont READS Institute of the University of Vermont from 2000-2003, which provided summer institutes for some 200 Vermont teachers and administrators, and also taught a graduate course in literacy each summer. Gehsmann was an elementary teacher at Center School, one of Connecticut's best elementary schools in Litchfield, CT from 1992-1999. She served there as a primary grade teacher (K,1,and 3), as a literacy teacher-leader, and as a member of the Superintendent's Leadership Council.



Professor Kristin Gehsmann

An Army of One:

Graduate Student, Erin Mallory responds to a piece from Jonathan Kozol's book, "Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America"

An army of one

Others scoff at

"don't even try it"

They say

"they're too far past to help"

No A.P., Honors or Electives

For this group

They enter these walls for
babysitting

This army of one

Fights in the conditions

Unimaginable by most

They move forth into this
battle

Where others look away

They say

"it's better to separate"

But the one knows

It's not right till they're together

In the trenches

An army of one

Against 40 faces

Each face backed by a society of in
justice

What weapons does this army of
one

possess?

But that of-

Courage: to show up

Hope: to make a difference

Dreams: to believe in

Passion: for what they speak

Blindness: to the different colors
of skin

The army of one

Knows it is better than none

Against the odds they fight

For those students

Who would rather be left behind

Each face saved

Keeps life flickering,

In the heart of

This army of one

*Special thanks to Erin
for sharing her work. If
you have something
you'd like to see in the
spring newsletter, email
nsmith3@smcvt.edu*

Vivian G. Paley Honored at 2006 Graduation

Edited by Anne Judson

Vivian Paley, kindergarten teacher for 37 years and winner of the MacArthur "genius" Award, received a Saint Michael's College honorary Doctor of Human Letters degree during the 2006 graduation. Ms. Paley has profoundly improved understanding of early childhood education, through her emphasis on children's need for fantasy, story telling, and story writing. She has also been a brave advocate of children's natural instinct for kindness. Working mostly at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, Paley now shares her teaching methods around the world. She is the author of 12 books, including *Kwanzaa*



Vivian Paley

Retrieved 11/14/06, from <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog/PALWAX.html>

and *Me: A Teacher's Story*; *White Teacher*; *A Child's Work: The Importance of Fantasy Play*, *The Girl with the Brown Crayon* (winner of the Harvard University Press Virginia and Warren Stone Prize), *The Kindness of Children and others*. In addition to the MacArthur, Paley has won the Erikson Institute Award for Lifetime Achievement, the 200 John Dewey Outstanding Achievement Award, and others. We were delighted that Saint Michael's College honored this important early childhood expert.

Response to Intervention Moves Forward

Beth Petersen

Response to Intervention, a new tool for identifying students in need of assistance meeting standards, has a new name! Vermonters leading the efforts to implement the new approach in schools have renamed the initiative Response to Instruction to underscore the importance of viewing the strategy as one part of excellent classroom instruction.

Currently, Vermont has five schools with pilot programs underway in the Orleans Southwest, Orleans Central

and Chittenden South Supervisory Unions. According to Carter Smith from Williston Schools, the emphasis at their school has been on training teachers and universal screening of all students in literacy. Schools that had universal screening in place are focusing on providing changes in classroom teaching based on that data. Janna Osman from the SDOE has said the focus in these schools is on looking at the

fidelity of implementation of research-based programs and using the applicable components of such programs with students. Schools are using resources such as Aimsweb for screening and tracking student progress and the Florida State website to identify research-based interventions based on the five elements of reading.

Current Books by GED Faculty

Aostre Johnson, professor of graduate education, co-edited *Nurturing Child and Adolescent Spirituality: Perspectives from the World's Religious Traditions* with Karen Marie Yust, Sandy E. Sasso, and Eugene C. Roehlkepartain published by Rowman and Littlefield in January, 2006.

Anita Silvey, adjunct faculty, wrote *500 Great Books for Teens*, (2006) *The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators*, (2002) and *100 Best Books for Children* (2004).



**SAINT
MICHAEL'S
COLLEGE**

Graduate Programs in Education

One Winooski Park, Box 281
Colchester, Vermont 05439

Congratulations Newly Hired GED Students!

Danelle Berube, Area Coordinator, Champlain
College, Burlington

Jill Dawson, Social Studies, Colchester Middle School,
Colchester

Aimee deLarichelere, English, Colchester High School,
Colchester

Brian Eyler, Art, Hartford Memorial Middle School,
White River Jct.

Maureen Grassley, Reading Specialist, Colchester Mid-
dle School, Colchester

David Jensen, Math Teacher, Camel's Hump
Middle School, Richmond

Alicia Kurth, Special Education, Waitsfield
Elementary, Waitsfield

Sabrina Relation, Special Educator, St. Albans Town
School

Jennifer Robinson, Art, T. Fleming School

Benjamin Roesch, English, Burlington High School,
Burlington

Amanda Snow-Terwilliger, English, CVU,
Hinesburg

Kate Toussaint, 4th Grade, Boston Public Schools,
Boston

Laura-Beth Ulwick, Special Education, Conant
Elementary School, Concord, NH

Vanessa Vallon, English, Winooski High School,
Winooski

Jensen Welch, Math, BFA Fairfax

Jen Wheeler, Elementary ESL, H.O. Wheeler

Kate Wolf, Elementary ESL, Oregon

*Not listed? Please email Nicole Smith
(nsmith3@smcvt.edu) with your news!*