

Graduate Education Newsletter

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2006

Summer
Registration
has begun
and courses are
filling up!

View all courses
online at
[www.smcvt.edu/
graduate](http://www.smcvt.edu/graduate)

Summer classes
begin May 22.

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Responsiveness to Intervention: Implications for Pre-Service Educators

*Dr. Rich Reid from Green Mountain Psycho-Educational Services presents
to the Saint Michael's Education Department Faculty*

Review by Karen Donovan and Beth Peterson

Do you or your teachers have "teacher with-it-ness"? If so, you and they may already be using the components of responsiveness to intervention as outlined in last fall's newsletter. If not, you and they may need to join the "new world order." Dr. Reid spoke of several training implications that we need to consider when developing and adjusting our coursework here at Saint Michael's College.

The new Vermont Special Education Regulations are currently in effect and will include Responsiveness to Intervention (RtI) as an option for the identification of a learning disability in Vermont. The main focus of RtI is to provide instructional interventions and supports or services as early as possible, rather than waiting to alter instruction after finding students eligible for special education. The intention is that if appropriate services are provided sooner rather than later, some students will have their challenges remediated while other students will continue to receive the necessary supports and accommodations. Many students currently receiving specialized instruction (i.e., special education) are falsely identified as having a learning disability through the discrepancy model. Our "little duffers" (as Dr. Reid calls students) deserve high quality instruction.

Fidelity and integrity of instruction, universal screening, progress monitoring, intervention and collaboration are the key components for making RtI work. Much of our coursework at Saint Michael's already includes these components as do many of the classrooms in schools across our state. So, what is different? The difference is we need to assure these practices are embedded across all our courses from elementary to higher education.

Continued on page 2

Candidacy Application Made Easier

by Anne Judson, Director of Graduate Education Program

What is candidacy?

Candidacy is the second step to becoming a Master's candidate. You must first apply for admission to the program through the Graduate Admission office. After taking six credits but before completing 12 credits, you must then apply for Candidacy. With your advisor's support, fill out the candidacy form on which you include a list of courses already taken, proposed courses, transfer credits and a "Statement of Goals." Up to nine credits can be transferred with your advisor's approval.

How is it easier to apply for Candidacy than before?

We have decoupled the writing assessment from Candidacy. Now you can apply for Candidacy BEFORE you pass the writing assessment. If you have taken six credits, but have not passed the writing assessment through GED 516 or GED 558, you can still apply for Candidacy. You must pass the writing assessment before taking Capstone.

This means that you can now plan your complete course of study after having taken six credits. To apply for Candidacy, see Judy Delage for the Candidacy Form or visit www.smcvt.edu/graduate/programs/ged/ and click on "Candidacy."

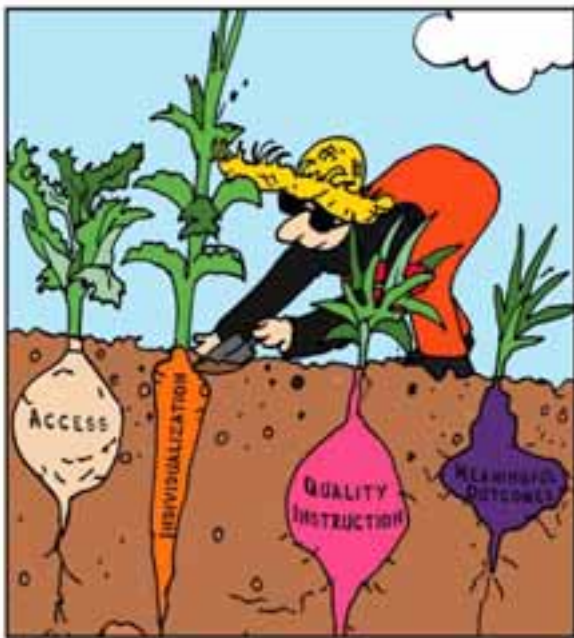
Instructor Craig Yager wins Teaching Award

By Anne Judson

Craig Yager, who teaches LOGO programming for the graduate program, received Boulder, Colorado's elite *Impact on Education Award* for the 2005-06 school year. This award recognizes Boulder Valley employees who do extraordinary work above and beyond what they're asked to do. Yager, who has taught for 30 years, helped launch Whittier International Baccalaureate (I.B.) program, making Boulder elementary school the first in the area to offer the program. In addition, he started a fifth-grade basketball program, incorporated technology into his classroom and started a class project that includes photos and interviews with immigrant families. We are privileged to have Craig teaching a Graduate Education course in our department.



Craig Yager and Lise Blumenthal -
5th grade teaching team extraordinaire



RITA RETURNS TO DIG UP THE
ROOTS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION.

One Stop Educational Resources!

Are you looking for quick access to teacher resources? Check out the new Web site set up by Dr. Tim Whiteford at:

<http://academics.smcvt.edu/twhiteford/index.htm>

There are new additions
just about every week.

Responsiveness to Intervention Continued from page 1

Here are some considerations and implications of using the RtI model:

Fidelity and integrity of program implementation

- research-based instructional approaches
- curriculum mapping
- links to the grade expectations
- consistency in curriculum implementation

Universal screening

- all students screened for academics and behavior
- brief and targeted

Progress monitoring

- frequent for all students (at least three times per year)
- pinpoint students specific difficulties (more frequent)
- continual

Intervention

- research-based instructional strategies and supports
- tiered model of service delivery
- curriculum based measures and graphing classroom progress

Collaboration

- Educational Support Team utilizes efficient and effective problem solving model
- accountability
- parental involvement

Data collection will be critical in making decisions regarding interventions and the delivery of high quality basic skill instruction. Teacher observations and judgment will not be sufficient for the EST process. Classroom teachers will need to bring data that offers clear evidence when a student is having difficulty and clear evidence of the research-based interventions they have tried. Schools will need to look at the allocation of resources as well as redefining the role of some staff to assist teachers in providing these pre-referral interventions.

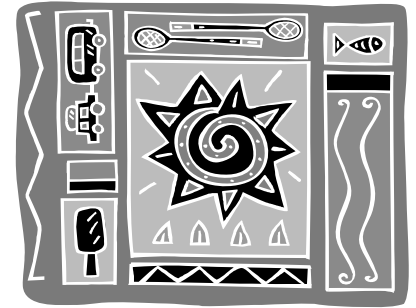
At Saint Michael's we are looking at the specifics of our teacher preparation courses and will make adjustments to ensure our graduates are prepared to implement this approach. Our special education program has already been making several changes including having Dr. Reid teach two courses. Thanks for getting us going Rich!

A Postcard from Jonathan Silverman

Dear Graduate Education colleagues,

Greetings from Portugal! The sun is out and it is about 40 degrees warmer than Burlington. Regrettably, I see the sun little. I am here at the International Society for Arts Education Conference honored to be giving my "paper" *Postcards from another's home: Visual dialogues for cultural tolerance*. At such a conference arts educators from around the world share research, theory, and practice about arts education. My session yesterday went well (based on feedback from the 25 or so who attended—and no, I didn't hand out little jars of maple syrup). I shared a process I use often in my classes which essentially is telling the story of another, usually about one's artistic past or sense of place. The inspiration for this curriculum was an exhibition of early 20th century postcards at the Fleming Museum that offered my class a chance to look at our visual culture and the power of story through art and artifacts. Somewhat unprecedented I had my attendees participate in an activity where they would construct and send a postcard of a partner's home place. We will see if these postcards are sent out. There are sessions throughout the day. "Paper" is a funny term because too often they are read with little audience engagement. (I think these folks should come to some of our Capstone presentations!) Nonetheless, I earnestly attend sessions on interdisciplinary arts, visual culture, and environmental community art projects, and engage in conversation about the challenges and thrills about our craft. I am in awe witnessing the power of the arts to transform students throughout the world. This conference stirs my curriculum designing imaginations—so watch out. That is it for now. I leave out much of my experience but that is all the space I have in this postcard. Thanks to all brave souls who participated in the first postcard activity. Wish you were here.

Warm regards, Jonathan



PARENTS AND TEACHERS
MEET HALFWAY.

Graduate Assistantship Available for 2006-2007 Graduate Programs in Education

Applications for our graduate assistantship are currently being accepted for the 2006-2007 academic year. Matriculated graduate education students may apply.

Fall/Spring/Summer 2006-2007 Academic Year Assistantship:

Hours: 20 hours per week and 15 weeks per term.
Yearly Pay: \$5,000 plus a tuition waiver of 36 credits.
Application Deadline: May 15, 2006 or until filled

The graduate assistant supports the Graduate Education Department. Responsibilities include assistance with projects such as the publication of the department newsletter and maintaining data for our Review Program of Approval by the State Department of Education. To apply, please send resume, letter of intent, and two references to:

Judy Delage
Saint Michael's College
One Winooski Park, Box 281
Colchester, VT 05439

For more information call 802.654.2649



Graduate Programs in Education
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**ATTENTION!!!
SPRING 2007 STUDENT TEACHERS
MANDATORY MEETING**

September 25, 2006
3:30-4:45 p.m.

Applications to student teach due October 2, 2006

Capstone Approval Form

Reminder: E-mail or snail mail your methodology with the approval form (www.smcvt.edu/graduate/courses/forms.asp) to the Capstone instructor as much in advance of registering for Capstone as possible. Anne Judson (ajudson@smcvt.edu) teaches Capstone in fall and spring and Jonathan Silverman (jsilverman@smcvt.edu) teaches in the summer.

**New Jobs for
Graduate Education
Students**

Congratulations!

Lynn Mazza
Title 1 Teacher
Union Memorial School
Colchester

Jennifer Robinson
Art
Folsom Elementary
South Hero

We are hearing daily from students about recent or upcoming interviews. Last year 100% of our licensure students received job offers! If you have been hired recently and your name is not on this list, please contact Jensen Welch, Graduate Education Assistant at jwelch2@smcvt.edu to be acknowledged in the next newsletter.