Welcome to the first issue of the Saint Michael’s College Applied Linguistics Department’s SMCTESOL Bulletin! Each semester we will bring you an overview of department news and announcements. In addition, we would love to hear from you! Please keep in touch and let us know your news—whether you’ve accepted a new job, had the opportunity for travel, or are continuing your education—we would be delighted to share your successes with the SMC TESOL community and those interested in our programs. Also, be sure to visit our Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/SMCTESOL, for job listings, conference announcements, and postings of our events and activities. Best wishes for a wonderful balance of 2013, and we look forward to hearing from you! Please send your news to Melissa Holzman at mholzman@smcvt.edu.

This summer’s Diploma Program brought together 16 students and three instructors for a month-long training in how to teach English to speakers of other languages. Students completed 80 hours of coursework, including an introduction to TESOL methodology, lesson planning, and a teaching practicum. In addition, they spent 20 hours in the College’s Intensive English Program classrooms. Half of all participants completed capstone papers and earned six credits toward SMC’s MATESOL degree. The program was described by one student as a “unique and vibrant experience,” and another student “thrived in the close community created by the professors.” Application materials for the 2014 session will be available online in the spring.
Nearly 60 years ago, Ernest A. Boulay welcomed four students from Canada, Colombia, and Puerto Rico into the Program in English for Foreign Students at Saint Michael’s College. Professor Boulay served as the program’s founder, as well as its initial instructor. Under his direction, the program grew to 60 students within months of its inception, and was on its way to serving a diverse population including students from Brazil, Cuba, Hungary, Venezuela, and West Africa.

The Master’s degree in Teaching English as a Second Language was launched in 1962, and enrolled students from the Congo, Togo, and Tunisia.

The program continued to evolve before settling into Saint Edmund’s Hall in the late 1980s as The Center for International Programs.

Between 1995 and 2007, the program was called the School for International Studies. The Diploma Program, an intensive summer training program for teachers and prospective teachers of English, was started in 1996.

Two years later, the School, in conjunction with the State of Vermont, expanded its program offerings to include a MATESOL + PK-12 ELL Endorsement program for licensed teachers.
The School celebrated its 45th anniversary in 1999 and launched the first online MATESOL courses.

Beginning in fall 2000, the Peace Corps Master’s International Program gave students the opportunity to follow up their on-campus coursework with 27 months of service in developing countries.

The Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages programs—part of the Applied Linguistics Department since 2007—continue to advance. The department now offers a hybrid On-Campus + OnLine degree. This option gives students the flexibility to spend two summers in Vermont, and complete the balance of their coursework online from anywhere in the world.

More than 1400 students have earned their Master’s degrees in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages at Saint Michael’s College, and each semester newly admitted students from around the globe bring their energy and enthusiasm to the program.

Special thanks to Elizabeth Scott, Archivist at Saint Michael’s College for her assistance locating and scanning the images used here, and to the Registrar’s Office for their help gathering statistical information.

Written content is based partially on “History of the International Program” by Professor Norman J. Lacharité ’53 that appeared in the October 1994 issue of Founders Hall (Vol. 16, No. 2), and from departmental archives. Professor Lacharité was the first director of the language lab for the Program in English for Foreign Students.
Andri Wally (MATESOL ’07) is pursuing his PhD in Sociocultural and International Development Education Studies at Florida State University. He also received a full doctoral scholarship at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand and will begin his PhD in linguistics in April 2014.

Mutahar Al-Murtadha (MATESOL ’09) presented at five conferences in Malaysia and Japan, and published three papers this year.

An interview with Achraf Al Amatouri (MATESOL ’13) appeared in the September 22 edition of the Burlington Free Press. In it, Al Amatouri discusses Syria, his home country.

This summer, Dr. Daniel Evans, Director of English Language Programs, was recognized for his 25 years of service to the College as part of the annual Recognition & Retirement Reception.

Prof. Christine Bauer-Ramazani reviewed “Moving beyond the native speaker norm from the National Educational Technology Plan Approach” for the August issue of GiST-Education and Learning Research Journal, a publication of ÚNICA, Institución Universitaria Colombo Americana.

In September, Dr. Elizabeth O’Dowd, Director of the Graduate TESOL Programs, attended the Baghdad Educational Fair sponsored by The Higher Committee for Education Development.

Dr. Evans presented a paper at Sookmyung Women’s University and attended the Korea TESOL International Conference in Seoul in October.

In October, Dr. O’Dowd presented a keynote speech with Dr. James Nagle, Associate Professor of Education, at the Massachusetts Association for Colleges of Teacher Education conference, held at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. It explained the concept and implementation behind the federal grant project, CREATE, and demonstrated using Systemic Functional Linguistics for improving academic literacy.