



RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENT & ALUMNI

Noting Activities & Accomplishments Compiled Since the Previous Board Report

APRIL 9, 2014

FACULTY & STAFF PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Gina Mireault (Behavioral Sciences) presented “The clown ‘knows’: Humor perception from 5-to-7 months reveals infants’ early social expectations” at the Symposium on Humor Development for the Society in Research on Child Development. The conference took place in Philadelphia in early March. Her submission on “Laughing matters: Infant humor in the context of parental affect” was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*. Three JSC students or recent graduates are co-authors on the paper: **Kassandra Cousineau**, **Christine Pettinato** and **Kelly Woodard**. Gina’s infant-humor project was featured on VPR’s “Vermont Edition” program with Jane Lindholm on March 4.

On Feb. 3, **Leslie Kanat** (Environmental & Health Sciences) and 40 other Vermont scientists participated in the Alan Alda “Communicating Science” workshop at UVM. Three days later, he and START scholar and science student **Shayna Bennett** gave a presentation before a joint meeting of the Vermont House and Senate Education Committees describing the academic opportunities available at JSC. In early March he traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Senators Leahy and Sanders, and Representative Welch, to advocate for Fragile X funding, inform them about JSC’s EPSCoR-funded START Scholarship program, and describe the “Research on Adaptation to Climate Change” program. Later that month he presented at the 50th annual meeting of the Northeastern Section of the Geological Society of America about the landslide potential in Jeffersonville. In the November elections Les won a position on the newly created Mt. Mansfield Modified Union School District. He is a member of a 15-person board that will oversee the work that used to be conducted by six school boards.

Amy Welch (Environmental & Health Sciences) is one of five project award-winners approved for funding by the Vermont Genetics Network. Her research: “Comparative effectiveness of biofeedback vs. exercise for stressed students.” She will present (with N.F. Meier) “Were autonomic changes related to emotional changes in response to an acute biofeedback intervention?” at the Society of Behavioral Medicine annual meeting in San Antonio April 22-25.

Hans Haverkamp (Environmental & Health Sciences) will attend this year’s annual meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine (May 26-30, San Diego) to chair a session on the respiratory system during exercise. He is chair of marketing and promotions for the New England regional ACSM.

An essay and stunning “Hill Life” photographs by **Greg Petrics** (Mathematics) appear in the winter/spring issue of *Stowe Guide* magazine.

Russ Longtin (Fine & Performing Arts) gave a workshop to 25 high school participants as part of a *Celebration of Theater*, a regional drama festival held at Lamoille Union High School, March 21.

Steve Blair (Fine & Performing Arts) is working with jazz vocalist Matt Wright on a new CD to follow his acclaimed recording *OSTINATO*, which was voted “Best CD of 2014” in *Seven Days* by Reuben Jackson, host of the VPR program “Friday Night Jazz.”

Bethany Plissey (Fine & Performing Arts) continues to serve as the Collegiate Repertoire and Standards Chair for the Vermont Board of the American Choral Directors Association. Last summer she sang soprano in the 12-voice professional vocal ensemble Counterpoint, which toured throughout New Hampshire and Vermont. Their repertoire included Brahms’ *Liebeslieder Waltzes* with string quintet. The ensemble presented a repeat performance of the concert in October at Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center in Stowe. In November she served as one of the collaborating conductors with the Vermont Collegiate Choral Consortium. JSC’s Chamber Singers participated in these three performances of Jose Maria Vitier’s “*Misa Cubana a la Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre*.” The performances were presented with orchestra and professional soloists and included individual performances by some in the group.

In late January Bethany conducted the Honor Choir for the Vermont Music Educators Association District I High School Music Festival in Enosburg Falls, while in February she represented the VT-ACDA Board and JSC as VT-R & S Chair for College and Universities at the ACDA National Convention in Salt Lake City, UT. She is currently serving

as part of the organizing team for the “Gather at The River” choral conference to be held in June at Dartmouth College. There she will present a session on “Choral singer and audience engagement through theatrical practices.”

Mary Jane Austin (Fine & Performing Arts) presented several performances with TURN music, a new contemporary music ensemble that takes “classical” music to new venues, such as ArtsRiot in Burlington. She was hired as the Italian opera coach for the upcoming summer festival, EPCASO, in Oderzo, Italy, performed recently with the Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble in Montpelier and Burlington, and appeared with **Erik Kroncke** (also Fine & Performing Arts) in recitals in Stowe, Montpelier, and at York County Community College in Maine.

Aram Bedrosian (Fine & Performing Arts) is now a columnist for Bass Players United, an online magazine with over 200,000 fans. His YouTube channel recently achieved 15,000 subscribers and over 1 million views, and his solo bass video, *A Dark Light*, has been the #1 video Google search result for “bass guitar solo” worldwide for over 12 months.

Greg Matses (Fine & Performing Arts) performed with the Fire Tiger Mardi Gras All-Stars as the headlining act of Jay Peak’s Mountain Mardi Gras in February.

Gabe Jarrett (Fine & Performing Arts) participated in a two-day percussion workshop with legendary drummer Anton Fier in NYC over winter break.

On the heels of his successful *Otwierac* at the Scott Memorial Gallery in Dibden Center, **Michael Zebrowski** (Fine & Performing Arts) has been invited to be a part of *Exposed*, an outdoor sculpture exhibition, through the Helen Day Art Center in Stowe. He has also been commissioned by the Allied Arts Council in St. Joseph, Mo., to install a piece called *Pole Star* for one year on St. Joseph’s downtown art walk. *Pole Star* will also be a part of *Exposed*.

“Top of the World,” an exhibit by **Ken Leslie** (Fine & Performing Arts), was on display in January and February at the UVM Health Network-Central Vermont Medical Center Gallery in Berlin. The exhibit included both paintings and artist’s books depicting the Arctic.

David Plazek (Humanities) accompanied members of the JSC Model UN Club to Harvard’s National Model UN conference Feb. 12-15 and followed that with a trip to

Montreal to attend the annual conference of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada.

Early in the semester, **Jamey Ventura** and **Elaine Harvey** attended the NCAA Convention in Washington, D.C. While there they coordinated a dinner for regional alumni at the home of JSC graduate Russ Arnold and his wife, Donna.

Kristin Cannon (Athletics) and **Michele Whitmore** (Assistant Dean of Students/Athletics) accompanied four student-athletes to northern Virginia to attend an NCAA-sponsored conference on student health and wellness and substance-abuse prevention. The event is designed to get student-athletes actively involved in such efforts at their home campuses.

On Town Meeting Day **Alice Godin** (Library) was reelected to the Waterville Library Board of Trustees and reappointed chair. As part of this work, Alice attended a workshop on creating summer reading programs for children at the Brown Public Library in Northfield.

Jeff Angione’s reading campaign, “Blind Date with a Book,” was a hit. Books from the library’s collection were wrapped in brown paper and labeled with three descriptors (for example, “Redemption,” “Africa,” and “Nonfiction” were used for Nelson Mandela’s *Long Walk to Freedom*). When items are returned, patrons fill out a “Rate Your Date” card, which aids the library in developing its collection.

“The Julian Scott Walking Tour” is a collaborative effort spearheaded by **Linda Kramer** (Library). Available as both a print guide and a smartphone application, the project identifies local sights associated with the highly regarded Johnson painter, Julian Scott. Linda worked with Early College student **Lindsay Legault-Knowles**, who designed the app and did the initial work on the guide; undergraduate student **Shayna Bennett**, whose GIS skills created a map of the landmarks on the tour; retired Registrar **John Lord**, who worked with Linda on the revision of the text; and alumnus **Bob Titterton**, author of *Julian Scott: Artist of the Civil War and Native America*.

Preliminary discussions are under way to create an information-literacy continuum for area residents and students. Led by **Joe Farara** (Library), the group is made up of school and public librarians in Lamoille County. The goal is to use commonly held databases as a bridge to build and improve research skills, with each library providing coordinated support.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Political science graduate **Dylan Giambatista** (2013) was appointed by Vermont House Speaker Shap Smith as Smith's chief of staff in the fall. Dylan, an accomplished rock musician in an earlier life, was featured in the Feb. 16 issue of *Seven Days* in Paul Heinz's "Montpeculiar" column under the heading "A Punk Rock Dropout in the Speaker's Office."

Alums **Meghan McCormack** (2014) and **Annalise Shelmandine** (2014) have been selected to participate in the young artists summer program in opera (EPCASO) in Oderzo, Italy, this July. Annalise was also selected as a participant last summer. Meghan received positive reviews in the *Burlington Free Press* and *Seven Days* for her portrayal last summer of the lead role of Josephine in "HMS Pinafore" at the Unadilla Theatre in Marshfield.

Lance Caron and **Jessica Warren** joined **Sean Clute** (Fine & Performing Arts) at the 20th International Symposium on Electronic Art, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in November. Their trip was funded by the President's Fund for Excellence in Teaching & Learning.

Among the five student award-winners recently selected by the Vermont Genetics Network are **Shayna Bennett** and **Heather Murphy** for their work on Liz Dolci's "Microbial community structure of the Vermont Asbestos Group Mine."

Shayna Bennett, **Erika English** and **Steven Lamonde** have been nominated for associate memberships in Sigma Xi, an international honor society of scientists and engineers with a unifying theme of research within these disciplines. As associate members of Sigma Xi, they will be connected with active researchers working in academics, industry and government — a wonderful way to advance personal and professional goals.

At the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (April 16-18, Spokane, Wash.) **Eliza Chevalier** (Liz Dolci and Heather Driscoll, faculty sponsors) will present her research into transcriptional patterns of *saccharomyces cerevisiae* exposed to simulated mine-tailings runoff, and **Heather Murphy** and **Shayna Bennett** (Liz Dolci, faculty sponsor) will present their research on bacterial adaptation to an anthropogenically altered environment.

Four of **Gina Mireault's** students — **Kassandra Cousineau**, **Brady Rainville**, **Sarah Mott** and **Zarin Bandelier** (all

Behavioral Sciences majors) — presented their research, "Temperament and social referencing: A longitudinal pilot study," at the Eastern Psychological Association in Philadelphia in March. Their travel was supported by a grant from the President's Fund for Excellence.

Jessie Forand (2009) is the new communications coordinator for the Echo Lake Aquarium and Science Center in Burlington. Jessie previously was a reporter for the *Burlington Free Press*.

Biddle Duke, 17-publisher of the *Stowe Reporter* prior selling his interest in December, wrote his final opinion piece in the Dec. 4 issue and used the opportunity to recognize the work of two former reporters, both of them JSC journalism graduates: **Scott Monroe**, who now is an editor with a group of daily newspapers in Maine; and **Nathan Burgess**, who went on to manage a group of newspapers in Boston and now works in the IT field.

TRiO student **Samantha Gorton** was profiled in the fall 2014 issue of *Best of Central Vermont*, a magazine that spotlights innovative individuals, businesses and programs in our part of Vermont. Sammie was the inaugural beneficiary of the "emBrace Project," the brainchild of husband-and-wife doctors John Steinman and Lynne Addiego, owners of All Smiles Family Dental Center in Barre. Wanting to give back to their community directly through their work, they decided to donate orthodontic dental work to someone in need who regularly volunteers to help others, and they chose Sammie. Among her many accomplishments, Sammie founded a support group at JSC for students from impoverished backgrounds, called the Overcoming Adversity group; captained the top fund-raising team for the JSC Relay for Life; volunteered at the Stampede for Cystic Fibrosis, and worked with the Smugglers' Notch summer adaptive program. Sammie was nominated for the emBrace Project by **Rich Simmons** (Academic Support Services).

Ryan Emerson (2008, Political Science) is a field director at Let's Grow Kids, a statewide public-education campaign designed to promote the importance of the earliest years in the lives of Vermont's children. He's served as a field organizer, field director and campaign manager on multiple statewide campaigns since 2010 and most recently managed the re-election campaign of State Treasurer Beth Pearce.

