

BIBLIOPHILES

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Achievements
- Bibliophiles
- Reading Conference
- VCLA & VRA
- Kappa Delta Pi

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MATTERS

AUTUMN 2008

MAT RECEIVES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Last spring the Master of Arts in Teaching program, and more specifically the Environment-Based Learning Program received recognition from the city of Staunton and the Lewis Creek Watershed Advisory Committee for the cleaning up Lewis creek. The award ceremony was held in Staunton's Wharf area, the backdrop of monumental and a lively farm-

The award was received by our teacher in Augusta County Gatewood, who is honored to have the award for the third year.

This kind of participation establishes a program as a sign of citizenship in Staunton and gives all of us associated with Mary Baldwin's MAT program positive benefits. We appreciate the faculty and staff who plan and otherwise support the Environment-Based Learning Program, and wish for their continued success in educating and participating in the larger community.



our participation in and education of the award ceremony on a Saturday to a variety of environmental awareness booths at the farmers market.

The award was received by our teacher in residence from Staunton Schools, Betty Gatewood, whom we are proud to have in our program for

community participation. The award establishes the MAT pillar of good citizenship

TEAC ACCREDITATION

Late last spring after hundreds of intensive hours spent by Carole Grove and Lori Johnson, Jim McCroy, and Jim Harrington, Mary Baldwin College was granted accreditation by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council, (TEAC). This

nationally recognized council is a hallmark of excellence and only grants accreditation to highly deserving institutions. As a result, Mary Baldwin College students can now proudly state that we are being educated by one of the select institutions to

meet several very specific national standards. Having attended a TEAC accredited institution increases the magnitude of your accomplishments. This is one more achievement which makes attending MAT at MBC a great decision.



“Additionally, the Environment Based Learning class taught by Tamra Willis and Betty Gatewood left me with an inspiring project to work on.”

To the left: Judy Sgroi’s class working toward revitalizing their schoolyard pond.

Reading Conference
February 7th—10th,
Columbus, Ohio



MATTERS

SUMMER MAT EXPERIENCE BY JUDY SGROI

One of my memorable experiences of this past summer was taking four terrific courses through the MAT Track II Program. Each one was exceptional in its own way. I learned so much from the Contemporary Learning Theory class with Dr. Hefty and both Leadership in Education and Methods of Professional Inquiry, taught by Dr. Grove. Each day, I find myself referring back to something that they taught me. Additionally, the Environment Based Learning class taught by Tamra Willis and Betty Gatewood left me with an inspiring project to work on. One of their assignments was to devise a plan involving our

own schoolyard. I had written a plan to revitalize the school pond. I am a special education co-teacher in 1st and 3rd grades at Cave Spring Elementary School in Roanoke and our little pond had been neglected. Well, it is now a thriving science center that has fascinated the children and stimulated a newfound appreciation for nature. The pond now has water lilies, a canna lily, cattails, goldfish, catfish, an algae eater, bullfrogs, and a natural enzyme cleaning system. Parents and students have contributed time, effort (e.g. weeding, amphibians), fish, frogs, and most of all, excitement for this project. Each of our 3rd grade stu-

dents has a nature journal and their pictures and descriptions are amazing! The children sit by the pond or our classroom to write and draw. They bring in their nature samples ranging from the pet toad, to the pet lizard, to the deceased butterfly, and more. The science table is full and my 3rd grade co-teacher told me that she has never seen such enthusiasm for science. Who knows where else this will lead? I am open and very excited! I feel a tremendous sense of gratitude to Mary Baldwin for providing these well educated, fascinating leaders who have sincerely inspired me to grow as a teacher of young children.



NATIONAL READING CONFERENCE

The following information is provided by the Reading Recovery Council of North America Incorporated, who is also hosting the event.

February 7-10, 2009: National Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Confer-

ence. Join this professional learning community that offers 150 sessions focusing on all aspects of K-6 literacy for reading specialists, teachers, literacy coaches, reading and curriculum specialists, school administrators, librarians, and pre-service teachers at the Columbus Convention Center

in Columbus, Ohio. Contact: Reading Recovery Council of North America, 400 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 250, Worthington, OH, 43085; (614) 310-7323; e-mail:

[conferen-
ceinfo@readingrecovery.org/
conferences](mailto:conferen-
ceinfo@readingrecovery.org/conferences).

MAY 2008 GRADUATES

Carol Armstrong
Melissa Baldwin
Jason Baska
Elizabeth Bearer
Dwayne Cabaniss
Barbie Cassada
Chizuru Cho
Virginia Conway
Colleen Coppedge
Elizabeth Crews
Cindy Dellett
Alicia Fisher
Elizabeth Crews

Cindi Dellett
Alicia Fisher
Schuyler Henry
Donna Johnson
Iris Keogh
Dorothy King
Kacey LaPorte
Michelle Marshall
Anne Moses
Bridget Nelson
Janet Page
Angela Peay
Susan Purcell

Mary Steele
Rhonda Thomas
V. Kamille Irving
Ellen Werther
Edward Wheeler
Melanie Whitaker
Laura Young

*"Be not afraid of greatness:
some are born great, some
achieve greatness, and some
have greatness thrust upon
them."*

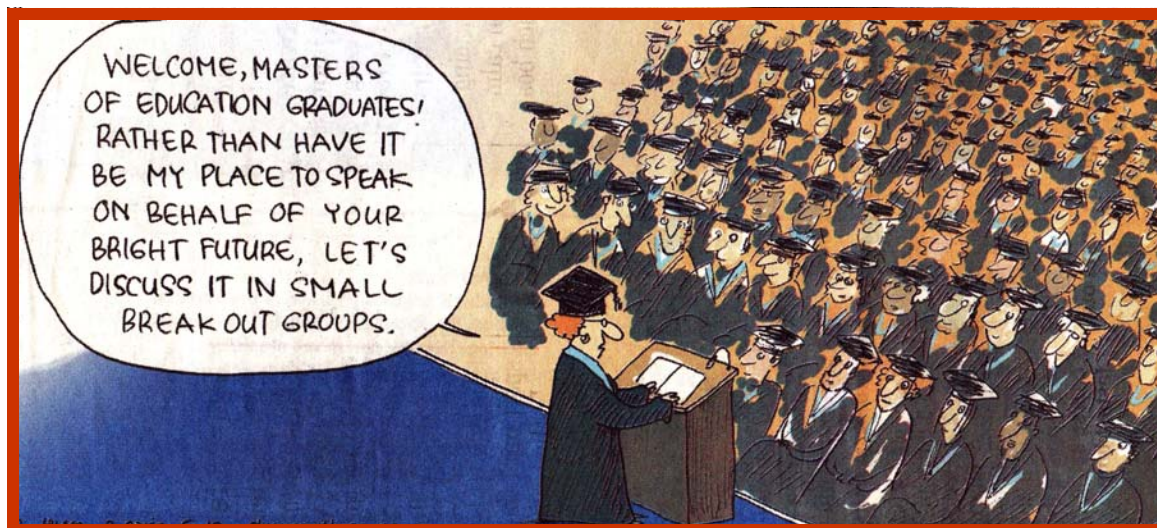
- William Shakespeare

BIBLIOPHILES

Sadly, only one person participated. Fortunately, **Eric Jones** is reading a lot of the homework he assigned, at the time the assignment was to write a paper on three ways a molecule can cross a cell membrane.

In addition, Mr. Jones was listening to The Dog Who Wouldn't Be by Farley Mowatt during his commute to and from work.

*WE HOPE TO HAVE MORE
PARTICIPANTS IN THE FUTURE!*



KAPPA DELTA PI CURRENT OFFICES AND REGIONS

President: Jan Chase

Vice Presidents: Vacant

Historian: Ann Kidd

Treasurer: Anna Lauth

Membership: Tamara Jennings

Secretary: Lisa Stockwell

Staunton Representative: Jan Chase

Charlottesville Representative: Amanda Fertile
Christy Black

Richmond Representative: Milondra Coleman
Lee McMurray

Roanoke Representative: Julia Cummins



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- updates have been made regarding the 2008-2009 VCLA / VRA testing information. Go to <http://www.va.nesinc.com> and review the new information if you are taking the tests this academic year.
- Please send Anna J.L. Christiansen articles, book recommendations, announcements, and achievements and all else to include in the next edition of MATters. You can send in your ideas at any point in the year, just email to christiansenaj6708@mbc.edu.
- Online registration will begin on Monday, Nov. 10th and end on Friday, Jan. 9th! Tips for registering online at attached. Please contact your MAT advisor if you any questions regarding your enrollment, program and/or licensure requirements. The syllabi for all classes are due by Nov. 5th! Once this information is received it will be posted online. Fall grades are due to the MAT office by Monday, Dec. 17th at noon. Grade reports will be mailed out prior to the Christmas Holiday Break. You can check your grades by using on the online registrar. Please feel free to contact the MAT office if you have any questions. Thanks!
- Please remember passing scores in all standardized test, which are required by the Commonwealth of Virginia (e.g. Praxis), must be sent to the MAT office. This includes Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment, Praxis II and the Virginia Reading Assessment test, if they are required in your area of endorsement. If you have not already submitted information regarding these tests, please mail or fax the information to me at the address/fax number stated below. I know several of you have stated that you requested as official documentation. You will need to send me a copy of the official letter your received for verification and for licensure. phone: 887-7333 (toll free 1-866-849-0676) fax: 540-887-7303

ACHIEVEMENTS

Educator of the Year:

Judy Sgroi received the Educator of the Year Award on August 28, 2008 from the Roanoke Scottish Rite. Judy is a special education teacher at Cave Spring Elementary. A photo of Judy receiving the award can be seen in the September 5, 2008 issue of the Roanoke Times.

Judy was also responsible for the beautiful article about her MAT summer experience on page 2 of this publication. With warmest thoughts we congratulate Judy.

Shelburne Teacher of the Year

Avery Romain received the Teacher of the Year award at Shelburne Middle School. Avery was a recent student of Tamra Willis and Betty Gatewood who describe her as “[having] incredible energy, creativity and drive to do the best for her students,” and one who “not only performs her duties with finesse, but the compassion she shows towards her students’ lives and learning continues past the school day.”

