



# VTSCA Newsletter

Vermont School Counselor Association

[www.vtsca.org](http://www.vtsca.org)

June 2011

*Fall Conference Registration in this Issue (pages 7 and 8)*

## Message From the President



Sally McCarthy, President VTSCA  
[Sally.mccarthy@jsc.edu](mailto:Sally.mccarthy@jsc.edu)

Dear VTSCA Members,

Thank you for your commitment to school counseling and to your professional organization, Vermont School Counseling Association. It has been a pleasure to serve you as President; my passion for school counseling has been my inspiration to serving such a committed Board of Directors. Sherry Lussier is your new President and has been working hard as President-Elect.

Our Board has been busy this year developing emerging leaders to become Board and Committee Members. We hosted an Emerging Leaders/Advocacy workshop the night before our Fall Conference to get emerging leaders/school counselors excited about the important work we do and about getting involved on behalf of our profession. Bob Bardwell was the guest speaker. Our fall conference at the Killington Grand Resort in September (the peak of foliage), focused on Legal & Ethical Issues with Carolyn Stone was a big success, receiving the most registrations ever and having to turn some away.

Our Winter Retreat included developing a Strategic Plan for 2011 -2015 and a working plan

for 2011-2013. We have an ambitious plan with lots of energy and enthusiasm to move our organization forward on behalf on our members.

The Board has been working to strengthen our use of technology and used 123 Sign Up for membership registration, extending the use this year for conference registration. We went "Green" with our newsletter and members now receive it electronically. We have a contract to revamp our website this fall. We will roll it out to our members at the Fall Conference. The theme of this year's conference is "Keeping Kids Safe".

The Board attended an Advocacy Workshop this past year and was provided a consultant who came to Vermont to work with us on an advocacy plan. Our goal is to strengthen our partnerships with other organizations. Our Government Relations Committee is planning a "Day on the Hill." **The issue facing our state is budget cuts and increase expectations of the school counselor with less positions and time to serve students.** VTSCA is committed to working on behalf of school counselors to educate and advocate with our state leaders, educators, parents and the Vermont Community on the important role schools counselors have in student outcomes. The advocacy plan and committee work outlined in our working plan will address these issues.

Thank you again for being a member. I hope you will continue to support your organization and try to become involved with VTSCA. The work we all do at our schools and with kids is so important and demanding at times. Summer is a time to rejuvenate and reenergize so have a fun, relaxing and restful summer vacation.

June 2011 PAGE 2

## **Time (Already?) to Think About the Annual Fall Conference!!**

The Vermont School Counselor Annual Fall Conference will be here before you know it! We have taken many of our members' evaluations to heart and are offering a day and a half of packed workshops and events at the Killington Grand Resort Hotel and Conference Center.

This year's theme is Keeping Kids Safe. Some of the highlights of the conference will include:

### **The Welcome Panel for All**

*A panel of 6 or 7 policy makers, practitioners, and stake holders will discuss the profession of school counseling. They will answer questions about what's going on in the day-to-day position of a school counselor, what school counselors can expect from the state agencies, and how all the entities can work together towards what is best for kids and keeping them safe.*

### **Regional Networking and Social Hour**

*Take some time to get together with school counselors and educators from your geographical regions. Talk about best practices, learn from one another, and support each other and the profession.*

Workshops will cover:

**TECHNICOOOL, A Technology Safety Program from Prevent Child Abuse Vermont - Grades 4-8**

**SAFE-T: Brining Sexual Abuse Prevention to Middle School Communities - Middle level**

**Prevent Child Abuse Vermont - Elementary level**

**Keeping PreK-6 Students Healthy & Safe: Meeting VT's Act One Mandates - Grades preK-6**

**An Innovative Approach to Teen Personal Safety: Peer Teaching via Student TV Newscasts (while Meeting VT's Act One Mandates.) - Grades 7-12**

**Mandated Reporting: Details and Updates from DCF - All Levels**

**\*\*Fabulous prizes will be drawn. You can enter the drawing up to SIX times! Tickets will be given out for each of the following:**

*\*Come for both days*

*\*Stay overnight*

*\*Register online*

*\*Register by July 15, 2011*

*\*Bring your principal*

*\*Complete the Exhibitor Scavenger Hunt*

Plan to come and stay for both days to benefit from all the opportunities this year. You can register online (in the near future) at the VTSCA website or you can use the form at the end of this issue.



**Pep Rally Prep Rally for a "Day On The Hill" - All Levels**

**Ask Us Who We Are the documentary film - All Levels**

**Mindfulness-Based Skills for Children and Youth-Safety Awareness Training for "Kids" - All Levels**

**U-Matter and Act I**

## ***Spotlight On...Jerry Cassels***

**What Does It Mean To Be *Nationally Board Certified*? Jerry Cassels knows and he explains the work and the reward involved in earning National Board Certification as a School Counselor.**

**Us:** What is National Board Certification? It's not just for teachers?

**Jerry:** National Board Professional Teaching Certification (NBPT) is an advanced teaching credential. It is achieved upon successful completion of a voluntary assessment program, candidates complete 10 assessments that are reviewed by trained teachers in their certificate areas. The assessments include four portfolio entries that feature teaching practice and six constructed response exercises that assess content knowledge. Candidates report the process impacting their practice through the deep levels of reflection they experience. Nationally there has been an increase in school counselors seeking NBPT certification.

**Us:** How did you hear about it?

**Jerry:** National Board Certification for school counselors is receiving more attention and interest across the country. I first learned about the certification at an ASCA conference. In recent years it is clear that school counselors are stepping forward to challenge their own practice and join the 4% of accomplished educators who have achieved NBPT certification. We currently have over 100 NPBT educators in Vermont.

**Us:** Why did you want to do it?

**Jerry:** I wanted to learn more about my practice and methods for improving it. I was intrigued by the high level of critique that my counseling sessions, group work, and teaching would receive. It was also exciting to be able to learn from other NBPT educators in the state and NBPT Counselors in other states.

**Us:** What is the time frame to plan on?

**Jerry:** To complete the whole process in one year can be a difficult task. However, NPBT has created a



**YOUR STUDENTS  
CAN TAKE UVM  
CLASSES NOW!**

 **The  
UNIVERSITY  
of VERMONT**  
SUMMER UNIVERSITY

Your students can take one UVM class  
with **NO TUITION COST\*** to them.

Help your students earn college credits  
while still in high school. To find out more,  
contact Nichole Hathaway at **802.656.4682**.

\*Some fees may apply

[learn.uvm.edu/precollege](http://learn.uvm.edu/precollege)

process called "Take One", which allows educators to complete one portfolio entry the first year and then have up to three years to finish the process. Vermont NEA has stepped up to support this process and basically make it free for candidates. Sherry Gile, from Vermont NEA can provide you with information on "Take One" and how you can be part of a cohort group and receive mentoring throughout the process.

**Us:** What kinds of work must you accomplish?

**Jerry:** The real meat of the work are the three portfolio entries. Candidates are required to provide video evidence of a counseling session, a classroom teaching experience and an in depth critique of a group counseling experience. The most exciting part of the work is opportunity to reflect upon your actual counseling and teaching with students. The experience becomes richer as members of your cohort group provide you with feedback and support.

*(Continued on pg 6)*

June 2011 PAGE 4

## Join Us For A Day On The Hill In The Spring of 2012!



### Vermont School Counselor Association Advocacy Campaign

Each year, members of Congress and our Vermont state legislators deliberate bills crucial to students and educators. As school counselors, we are leaders in the promotion of student achievement and success and we are well suited to become active in advocating for school counseling programs as a means of promoting student success.

On April 9, 2011, the Vermont School Counselor Association Board invited Diane Pickles, Vice President of M+R Strategic Services to facilitate our Vermont School Counselor Association Advocacy Planning Meeting. Our meeting was structured to review and discuss the important elements of advocacy to identify our association goals for school counseling advocacy work in Vermont and to plan our first official school counseling advocacy campaign!

As a group, we discussed our account of what school counselors in Vermont want, which is getting stakeholders (educators, principals, school counselors, administrators, immediate supervisors, etc.) to understand and value the work we do. We also brainstormed the people who have the power to give us what we want and determined that the best way to achieve our goal of promoting the profession and encouraging others to recognize the value of the work that we do is by calling upon our colleagues as supportive constituents in an advocacy campaign to be held next spring.

We are planning our very first Day on the Hill advocacy campaign to be held in the Spring of 2012. This will be a powerful opportunity for Vermont school counselors, students, parents, principals and other stakeholders who support school counseling programs, to spend the day in Montpelier and engage in one-on-one meetings or group meetings their lawmakers in an effort to advocate for our professional needs and for the best interest of our students!

We need your support, so I urge you to become involved in this campaign and encourage your colleagues to do the same!

Please stay tuned for more details about the event and how to become involved.

Meaghan Parker  
Government Relations Chair

**Needed for the upcoming Fall Conference: Nominations for the School Counselor of the Year and the New School Counselor of the Year. If you know of someone who would make a good candidate, see the nomination form on the website: [vtzca.org](http://vtzca.org). Let's recognize those people we know who make such a difference in students' AND our lives!!**

June 2011 PAGE 5

## Update from VSAC

### **NEK Career Fair**



*Vermont Soccer Officials Phil Lovely and Frank Halden discuss their careers with Orleans 8th graders Aaron Wheeler and Zac Fortin at the NEK Career Fair*

The well-established Northeast Kingdom Career Fair had a new venue this May at St. Johnsbury Academy. More than four hundred 8th and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students from fifteen schools attended the fair where they were able to view the facilities, interact with presenters and learn about numerous careers. Several students had the additional opportunity to take a tour of the Career Center and learn about career paths available at the Academy.

Students enjoyed a wide variety of interactive displays. A dog groomer showed off a purple and pink poodle and was particularly popular while Academy students taught attendees how to make decorative cake flowers. One vendor showed off “sea monsters in jars” – the unusual creatures that inhabit the soil and sand of neighboring lakes and streams. The diversity of careers represented helped increase student awareness of the job opportunities available in their local region.

A committed group worked together over the past year to make this event a reality: Kathy Daley, Assistant Director of Continuing Education at St.

Johnsbury Academy; Laura Remick, Health Careers Coordinator, Northeastern Vermont AHEC; Sherry Lussier, school counselor at Orleans Elementary School; Heather Bouchey, Director of the Leahy Center for Rural Students at Lyndon State College; Renee Kelly, Center for Rural Students at Lyndon State College; and VSAC staff members Lara Keenan, Carl Bayer, Marti Kingsley, and Matt Mitchell.

### **Jay Peak Career Fair**

On April 7, 2011 three hundred and seventy five students from ten schools in grades 8-12 descended on Jay Peak Ski Resort. While the mountain was still in full spring season ski mode due to the record snowfall, these students weren’t there to ski or ride; they were there to explore careers. Through a series of hands on workshops and interactive display booths, students learned about the wide range of careers involved in running a four season mountain resort. Aside from the obvious hospitality careers, students learned about architecture, interior design, border patrol, electrical engineering, real estate and emergency response systems to name just a few.

Surveys from students showed the positive impact of this career event: 90% of students either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “After participating in the Jay Peak career fair, I believe that it is important for me to do well in school in order to have a successful future.”

A dedicated team from Jay Peak, VSAC and area schools worked together to make the day a success. Jake Webster, manager of Jay Peak; Michelle Legault of VSAC; Sharon Gonyaw, school counselor at Charleston Elementary School; and Tracy Muzerall, school counselor at North Country Union High School were all instrumental in planning this fantastic event.

*(More VSAC updates continued on pg 6)*

June 2011 PAGE 6

**Spotlight On...Jerry Cassels** (Continued from pg 3)

**Us:** What are the rewards for having the certification?

**Jerry:** Intrinsically I feel the most rewarding part is the reflective nature of the process and the direct links to improving student learning. It also allows you to take a break from the IPDIP process for seven years! The Vermont Department of Education provides any candidate who goes through the process with seven years of certification in their field of study. There are also districts in Vermont that provide financial incentives for educators who complete the process.

**Us:** What advice would you give to someone looking at this option?

**Jerry:** I have yet to meet an educator who has been involved in the NPBT process and felt that it did not have a significant impact upon their practice. Even educators who have dropped out of the process or been unable to certify; report the process as one of the most meaningful professional development experiences of their career. The whole process is a huge commitment of time and effort. However, many educators describe it as the most meaningful professional development experience in their career.



*Jerry Cassels served as a school counselor for 10 years before taking a professional development position at VSAC for 3 years. He will be returning to counseling at Northfield Middle and High School in the fall. Jerry also serves as the professional development committee chair and board member for VTSCA.*

**More VSAC Updates**

**Start Where You Are Motivational Speaker**

VSAC's *Start Where You Are* counselor, Liam Danaher, is available for motivational speaking engagements to help Vermont students aspire to go to college. Among the first in his family to go to college, and a 2009 graduate of Saint Michael's College, Liam knows how to inspire and motivate Vermont students to begin exploring their interests and skills in order to start planning for life after high school.

Summer and fall presentations are currently being scheduled. If you would like to schedule a presentation or workshop for your school or community please contact Liam at [danaher@vsac.org](mailto:danaher@vsac.org) or call the Outreach Department at 800-642-3177.

**Career Planning Conference**

In May, the sixth annual Career Planning Conference was held at Vermont Technical College in Randolph. More than 240 professionals from around the state attended the collaborative DOE, VocRehab and VSAC event.

We are already looking ahead to next year – if you have an idea for a workshop topic please e-mail Kathleen Fleming at [fleming@vsac.org](mailto:fleming@vsac.org). We'd love to have your input!



*Vermont School Counselors Association Board Membership used the conference to meet and plan for the upcoming year. From the left: Andrew Hudac, Roger Forando, President Sally McCarthy, Betty Hughs, Nerissa Edwards, Kathleen Bassett-Cramer, Sherry Lussier, Brian O'Farrell, Geroski, Karen Collman, Kara Pawlusiak, and Meaghan Parker. Missing: Jerry Cassels*



**2011 VTSCA FALL CONFERENCE  
ONLINE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION  
Go To WWW.VTSCA.ORG**



**This form is for CONFERENCE REGISTRATION only**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME INFORMATION:** Street/PO Box: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**WORK INFORMATION:** School Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS:**                      Home                      Work

**MY CURRENT PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT IS:**                      *(check one)*

<input type="checkbox"/> High School Counselor	<input type="checkbox"/> Vocational Counselor
<input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Counselor	<input type="checkbox"/> Career & Technical School Counselor Coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle School Counselor	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Practice Counselor
<input type="checkbox"/> College Counselor	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Counselor
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Assistance Counselor	<input type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse Counselor
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Clinician in the school	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> VSAC Counselor	

<b>Conference Fees</b>		
VTSCA Member Conference Registration	(\$85.00)	\$ _____
Non-Member Conference Registration	(\$100.00)	\$ _____
*Student Conference Registration	(\$65.00)	\$ _____
	Total	\$ _____

**\*STUDENT:** Have a professor in your department certify: The above applicant is currently enrolled in at least nine semester hours.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *(signature of professor)*

Payment Type Enclosed  
 Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase Order # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**For paper registration - print out both pages and mail to:**

**Vermont School Counselor Association  
 PMB 301 150 Dorset Street  
 South Burlington, VT 05403-6275**

