

Faculty Notes

Robin Bott and **Bryan Bott** of the English department have written an essay called "Spirits to Enforce, Art to Enchant': Using Shakespeare in Performance to Develop Interpretive Skills," which will appear in the upcoming issue of *Shakespeare and the Classroom*.

Spanish professor **Don Cellini** won first prize in the Spanish category of the 2003 Gival Press Tri-Language Poem Contest, for his poem "San Andrés de la Cal."

Fritz Detwiler of the religion/philosophy department was appointed meeting coordinator at the annual meeting in Atlanta of the Society for the Study of Native American Religious Traditions. He also made a presentation to the Academic Teaching of Religion Section of the American Academy of Religion entitled "From Playing Buddha Golf to Dances with Wu: Pedagogy and Perspective."

Associate art professor **Catherine Royer** had a one-person show in February at Monroe Community College. As part of being the featured artist, she was asked to give a slide talk about her work.

Music chair **Thomas Hodgman** has been asked to serve on the state board of the Michigan Music Education Association as college representative for all student chapters. As a result, he presided over the CMENC Special Topics Session at the Music Educator's State Conference in Ann Arbor in January. This is the start of a two-year term and will include a trip to the Music Educator's National Conference in April.

Associate chemistry professor **Todd Hamilton** published an article called "Thermodynamics for Visual Learners" in the December 2003 issue of the *Journal of Chemical Education*, and he also published an article called "Teaching Involves More than Telling, Training" in the December 2003 issue of *The Teaching Professor*.

Librarian **Richard Geyer's** article "Thomas Lovell Beddoes Bibliography: 2002" was published in Volume 9 of the *Journal of the Thomas Lovell Beddoes Society*. Beddoes is one of the great figures in 19th century poetry and drama.



Why do they use salt on icy roads?

Salt dissolves in water and lowers its freezing point, effectively melting the ice on the roads. A popular choice is rock salt, the native form of ordinary table salt, NaCl (sodium chloride). The salt water solution is called brine; the higher the concentration of the brine, the lower the freezing point. There is a limit to how low the freezing point can be lowered, called the eutectic point. This is around -21 degrees Celsius (-5.8 degrees Fahrenheit) for the rock salt brine.

Rock salt is used primarily for its effectiveness and its relatively low cost. Some alternative materials, such as urea, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, and CMA (calcium magnesium acetate), have been investigated. However, they are in some cases not as effective, are more costly (up to \$700 a ton for CMA compared to \$30 a ton for rock salt) or can cause more ecological damage.

The use of salt can be a double-edged sword. The roads are easier to travel, but the brine can corrode cars, roads, and bridges. A federal study estimated that salt causes corrosion that is worth between \$3 billion and \$7 billion per year (1997 dollars). This cost is insignificant though, in comparison with the saving of human lives on the roads this winter.

One last item to ponder: Ever wonder why the highway departments store rock salt in cone-shaped buildings? Because that's the form salt takes when you pour it in!

This Know It All was provided by Dr. Todd M. Hamilton, associate professor of chemistry.

Looking Back



1984

As part of Arts Week, visiting artists Duncan Slade and Gayle Fraas asked faculty, staff and students to bring in white cotton items for this unusual installation. The items were dyed by the AC fibers class and hung on campus. The inspiration for the installation came when Slade and Fraas were driving across country and noticed an art to the way people hung out their laundry. In one day, this installation endured sun, rain and snow!