

## in this issue

### President's Message

Page 1

### SAGE Survey Results

Page 2

### Your New Executive

Page 4

### Editor's Note

Page 4

### RRC Class of 2011-2012

Page 5

### RRC Student Award, 2011

Page 8

### Fun at SAGE

Page 9



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### A message from your president...

What a great event the 2011 VTAM SAGE Conference turned out to be!

Our friends at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School (CPRSS) put on a 'first class' show that included education and industry tours, gourmet breakfast and lunch, and a schedule of workshops

presenters that appealed to all areas of technical vocational education. We are very thankful for the effort that the hard working staff at CPRSS put together to provide vocational teachers with a broad array of opportunities. Kudos to Ron Cruickshank, Jeff Kasprick, Doug Masters and the rest of the crew for making sure the logistics and presenters were well situated. Thank you also to the Brandon Teachers' Association for providing some items for our 'goodie bags', and a very special thank you to Larry Devries for putting on a walloping good feast to keep us all nourished!

While this was not the first time that VTAM members trekked to Brandon for SAGE, it was an occasion for a number of 'firsts'. This marks the inaugural year of the new conference name change to "SAGE", which is most appropriate and much more uplifting when one considers that the change of acronym was undoubtedly precipitated by Brandon's successful "LIFT" Conference. This year, VTAM shared the CPRSS facilities with LIFT, and the mix of vocational and academic conference attendees made for an exciting event.

There were a number of group tours offered this year. About thirty individuals chose to tour the Wind Farm Complex in St. Leon. Others chose to visit the newly opened Len

January, 2012

Evans Centre for Trades & Technology – a facility designed for the effective delivery of technical vocational education at the post-secondary level, and the newest addition to Assiniboine Community College.

Delegates were impressed by the Crocus Plains facilities and were especially keen on the well organized and thoughtfully laid out automotive and auto collision repair laboratories. Once again, CPRSS staff proved that they are often ahead of the curve when it comes to the delivery of technical vocational programming. Their facilities surely rank at the top in our province.

Of course, foundational to any VTAM SAGE Conference is the expected 'gourmet' lunch. Well this year, Chef Devries and his young staff of student volunteers out did themselves by providing not only a fabulous lunch, but they also provided everyone with a hot, sit down breakfast upon everyone's arrival. That was appreciated by the many that drove from as far away as Dominion City to the east, and Thompson to the north, and was only topped by the Steak and Ribs feast that everyone received at lunchtime. In a word... WOW!

Sincere thanks to all our volunteers and presenters for making this first ever SAGE a success.

## **WHEN WE ASKED, YOU TOLD US...**

### **FROM THE 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING QUESTIONNAIRE:**

- 80% of you want to continue our long-term affiliation with TEAM.
- 80% of you want to have our SAGE Conference hosted under one roof.
- 0% want the VTAM/TEAM SAGE Conference to be in multiple locations.
- 0% want us to return to hosting separate VTAM and TEAM Conferences.
- 100% of you were comfortable to have the VTAM SAGE hosted in any of the following School Divisions...

Winnipeg, Winnipeg Technical College,  
St. James-Assiniboia,  
River East-Transcona, Pembina Trails,  
Louis Riel, Seven Oaks,  
Lord Selkirk, Hanover, Garden Valley,  
Portage la Prairie, Brandon and  
Mountain View.

- 100% of you want SAGE Membership Fees to be designated and applied to the SAGE group of your choice annually. (Editor's Note: this would eliminate the annual confusion between "Conference Fees" and "Membership Fees," and would eliminate the need for the "Mail-in" form that MTS sends us to our home address once each year. i.e. the fee would be automatic and SAGE groups would be assured of having basic operating funds to maintain operations.

### **FROM THE 2011 BRANDON SAGE CONFERENCE WORKSHOP ASSESSMENTS:**

#### **Session Ratings:**

69% thought their sessions were excellent.

6% thought they were very good.

12% thought they were good.

12% thought they were poor (Editor's Note: due to an absentee presenter)

#### **COMMENTS:**

- Information was very beneficial!
- Presenter was very knowledgeable.
- Both sessions very informative. Espec. The beef. ACC very impressive.
- Not interesting should of been hands on sessions in relevant vocation.
- Not hands on not very interesting PM – was a no show.
- Great example for a shop.

#### **Presenter Ratings:**

- 69% thought their presenters were excellent.
- 23% believed their presenters were very good.
- 8% thought their presenters were good.

#### **COMMENTS:**

- Very good at her work but needs more hands on
- They know their stuff for sure.
- Could have used another ½ hr. He was good!

#### **Facility Ratings:**

- 71% believed the facilities to be excellent.
- 29% thought the facilities were very good.

#### **COMMENTS:**

- Lots of space.
- Very clean + organized.

#### **Presentation Materials and Handouts Ratings:**

- 46% excellent, 23% very good, 23% good, and 8% satisfactory.

#### **COMMENTS:**

- More business info than information relevant to vocation.

#### **Presenter Ratings by Interest:**

I would want to see another presentation by the same presenter.

92% YES 8% No

#### **Session Recommendations:**

Would you recommend this session to others?

93% YES 7% No

### **COMMENTS for future improvement:**

- All was fine.
- Canvassing participants to determine their levels of expertise.
- Have your presenters show up on time!!! Food was fantastic!!
- Food was great.

### **FROM THE 2011 BRANDON SAGE CONFERENCE EXIT SURVEY:**

#### **Who attended?**

- 94% of delegates self-identified as a VTAM member.
- 5% of attendees self-identified as a TEAM member.
- No attendees self-identified as belonging to both organizations.

#### **Online Registration Process – Rating:**

44% Excellent – 33% Very Good – 17% Good – 6% Satisfactory

#### **COMMENTS:**

- Keep it up. Less paper!

#### **Conference Rating:**

44% Excellent – 33% Very Good – 17% Good – 6% Satisfactory

#### **COMMENTS:**

- Course/Session cancelled without notification.
- Morning was interesting – Afternoon – didn't show up!

#### **Lunch Rating:**

- 94% Excellent – 6% Very Good

#### **COMMENTS:**

- Amazing
- Unbelievable
- Best so far. Spoiled us!!

#### **Suppliers and Products Rating:**

Spent time in supplier area and found their products to be practical for teaching?  
69% YES 31% No

#### **COMMENTS:**

- Need more suppliers
- No Esthetics / hairstyling???
- Busy in session + eating

#### **How often do you attend SAGE?**

Is this the first time that you attended a VTAM SAGE Conference?

35% YES 65% No

If "NO," how often do you attend VTAM or TEAM SAGE Conferences?

90% annually 10% every two or three years

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS:**

- Well Done!
- Great sessions. Appreciate the work that goes into planning an event this size!!
- The best SAGE I have been on. Very relevant.
- Best SAG(E) for many a year. Great Job by Jeff K. and his crew!! Well done. It was worth the drive.
- Technological requirements for sessions should be confirmed before being listed in SAGE publication. i.e Some sessions were posted as "Skypecast" to TEAM site, but were not able to do this. (Editor's Note: this provides just one small example of the difficulties that are encountered when we work from two locations and with two organizations – we'll do better next year).
- I appreciate a structured approach with a stated objective & methodology rather than off the cuff. (We'll take this as a compliment)



*In an Election that seemed to be more of a 'Cabinet shuffle' than anything, here are the results from our Brandon AGM...*

## ***Your New Executive 2011-2012***

### ***President***

**Rick Schroeder** – Garden Valley Collegiate – Final term – will assume Past-president role in 2012

### ***Vice-President***

**Lawrence Danylchuk** – Maples Collegiate – Final term – will run for President in 2012

### ***Treasurer***

**Cheryl Kalinin** – Kildonan East Collegiate – Final term – position is up for election in 2012

### ***Secretary***

**Kathy Foley-Licandro** – Sturgeon Heights – Elected to two-year term

### ***SAGE/Professional Development***

**Trish Goldrup** – Tec Voc High School – Elected to two-year term

### ***Public Relations***

**Deb Bomback** – Winnipeg Technical College – elected to one-year term – position is up for election in 2012

### ***Editor***

**Denise Létienné** – Workplace Education Manitoba – elected to two-year term – moved from Public Relations

### ***Membership***

**Larry Schultz** – Manitoba Hydro – elected to two-year term

### ***Web Administrator***

**Zig Thiessen** – Springfield Collegiate – elected to two-year term – moved from Editor



*...a  
message  
from the  
editor*

*There was no question of making English my minor, while doing my Bachelor of Education, as I have had an extreme love of writing for a very long time now... as far back as I can remember actually.*

*I have also, as of late, developed a profound appreciation for various positions on The Vocational Teachers Association of Manitoba. In 2008, I embarked on my journey with VTAM as the PD / SAG Chair. After two years of interesting meetings at MTS, I relinquished my duties and continued on as a member in the role of Public Relations Chair. Having completed one year of the two year term, I have now taken on the Editor's position...*

*As I have quickly realized that my love for writing will not suffice alone in this role, I am contemplating taking courses that will ease the use of Publisher, Adobe and finding out how wonderful a Word Document can be... (Contacting Zig often will most certainly become part of my repertoire in my inception year.)*

*Until then, I invite you all to submit stories, comments and tidbits to me if you chose to share something that is on your mind, or something that you feel your fellow teaching friends may benefit from in the classroom.*

*...wishing you all a HAPPY 2012, and much success, both in and out of the classroom.*

*Denise ☺  
Stylem2@shaw.ca*

## ***Technical Vocational Teacher Education Class of 2011-2012***

### ***A Turning Point...***



***“Alea iacta est!”*** Latin words cemented in history over 2000 years ago. The meaning: “The die is cast!” These words had summarized the intent of Julius Caesar as he rallied his men on January 10<sup>th</sup> 49 BC, leading them across the Rubicon River. These words symbolized the total commitment of the soon to be emperor to his mission of change in the Roman Empire. His actions eventually created  
[www.vtam.org](http://www.vtam.org)

the idiom “crossing the Rubicon”, which became a turning point in Roman history. Listening to the stories around the TVTE class, many of my fellow students share with me this same anticipation, embarking on this new journey into education, making a full commitment to the mission ahead, and the new and exciting challenges it brings. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then don’t take it from

me, just look at our smiling faces!

Not until the voyage begins do you really get to know your travel companions and being two months in I would like to share a few words with you about our newest VTAM associates. Starting on the far left is **Tanya**, after over 14 years in Culinary Arts she is both passionate and deft in her vocation. Tanya

graduated from RRC as an Honours Graduate in 1999 and obtained her Red Seal in 2000 after apprenticing with renowned chef, Heinz Kattenfeld. After hearing about all goodies she gets to bake at TEC VOC we started trying to convince her that she should bring at least one batch of cookies for her classmates every week. I'll be honest, so far it hasn't worked but we remain hopeful!

Move to the right is **Honey**, our class photography specialist! How did she arrange the photo, take the photo and still get in it? Delegation... that's why she is the specialist! Honey has been in the photography business for over 10 years. After obtaining her Associate in Arts Degree in photography from Palomar College in California, she made the journey north to Manitoba in 2008. She brings with her a wealth of experience as she dazzles us with breathtaking photos from places all left want to visit! She is currently student teaching at TEC VOC.

Above Honey is "**Chef Steve**". You may wonder why we call him "Chef Steve". One reason is that Steve has the good fortune of sharing my name so the class addresses him with "Chef" to avoid any confusion, you'll have to wait for the other reason. As his name alludes to, he has a Culinary Arts background and has been in the trade for the past

8 years. In that time Steve has worked as a Sous Chef, a Food Service Director, and as the Head Chef at a fly in fishing lodge. In 2008 he took 1<sup>st</sup> place at regional "Iron Chef Earls" competition allowing him to attend the Culinary Olympics and as recently as last year he won the "Top Cook Apprentice" award for Manitoba. Way to go Steve! As a student teacher at Kildonan East, if his classroom there is anything like what we have seen in our classroom at Red River College, then Steve's passion for sharing his love for cooking is only equalled by his sense of humour! Oh, and the other reason we call him "Chef Steve", we can tell from his smile that he secretly enjoys it, and now that you know his background, you can see why!

Peeking through in the back row behind Chef Steve is **John**. John has the gift of being able to relate and communicate effectively with his students, whether it is in the skate park, in the hallway or rocking out on the guitar. He graduated High School with a Graphic Arts Major and has worked five years in the trade. He is currently student teaching at Winnipeg Technical College and is also a graduate in Production Art. When he is not lending a hand to the kids at the skate park or coaching hockey, then he is most likely working on his TVTE assignments!

Below John in the bottom row is our good friend **Mohammed**. He has come to the world of electronics through a military background, and his skill shows in his knowledge. I particularly enjoyed his lesson on Electrons, Protons and Quarks. When Mohammed teaches he shares his passion for electronics with an enthusiasm and authenticity that captivates his audience. This passion is further complimented by his friendly and pleasant nature.

Above Mohammed is **Robert**. Robert is the guy you want to know, and he knows it. Coming from over 25 years in the automotive industry, and having spent 14 years as a business owner Robert has seen it all, and knows nearly all there is to know about cars, trucks and engines. Like any master mechanic adept in the art of table conversation, one of Roberts acquired life skills is making a probable diagnosis based on descriptive sounds. For example, as I have observed, some might ask "My car is making a 'tick tick tick', what should I do?" and he might tell you with a grin... to adjust the nut behind the wheel. Yup, that's Robert, however if you ask him on a more serious note "My car is making a 'knock knock knock' what should I do?" he would give you a more in-depth diagnosis recommending you to a detailed series of steps for which will leave wishing you brought a pen.

To the rest of us, for one sound we might call a bomb squad, and for the other we would probably answer the door! But... if you really want to know what's going on and how much its going to cost then he is definitely your guy!

To the right of Robert is **Jesse**, our tool and die specialist. Having spent 10 years in tool and die making, his knowledge of the inner workings of process, tools, measuring devices and mathematics is impressive. Jesse not only loves what he does, and he also enjoys travelling, having been to places like Norway, Italy, France, Britain and Jamaica. I have to admit, after a visit to Jesse's student teaching placement at Winnipeg Technical College, I was secretly jealous of all the fun he was clearly having pursuing his passion.

Jumping down below Jesse in the bottom row is **Melanie**. After 13 years is a hair dress Melanie has demonstrated to us first hand that she is an artist when it comes to hair! Not to mention, I am pretty sure that Melanie has taken lessons on being cheerful. In class she always has a smile on her face, and a chuckle stashed away for a rainy day, well to be honest, it doesn't even have to be raining... in fact I

hazard a guess that she is smiling right now as she reads this! Melanie has 4 children and her positive and friendly attitude makes everyone feel a bit more at home on our journey into teaching.

Above Melanie on the right is **Annette**. Annette is proud to be the first aboriginal woman in Manitoba to get her Red Seal in carpentry! Congratulations Annette! It makes sense, her attention to detail, printer like hand writing and intricate free hand drawings are the envy of the class. She also shares with us her fun humorous side, on the first day Annette told us "You never go fishing without a net", and we won't forget it!

Lastly, that upbeat guy below Annette on the far right is me... Steve, or as some of my classmates jokingly call me "Electric Steve". What can I share about myself? Well electronics, computers and cars have interested me since I was 5 so it wasn't long after graduating high school in 1998 that I started into business in these areas to explore my interests. I used this to help fund and further my education and went on to become an honours graduate of the Computer Engineering and Technology program at Red

River College in 2001. Since that time I have also been employed at NAV Canada as an Electronic Technologist. Between business and industry it has been over 12 years now in and I have decided to take some time off to pursue this new and exciting journey into education that would enable me to better share my passion for the digital world with others.

This is us, this is *our* cast, and that brings this class introduction to a close. As the credits scroll by I hope that by sharing a glimpse of the crew manifest you will know a little bit more about your newest VTAM associates. While you may have spoken with some of us at the latest VTAM AGM and SAGE conference it is my hope that over the coming year as we "cross the Rubicon" into education that we get to meet more of our fellow VTAM members to draw on your experience as we establish ourselves in this exciting new and exciting endeavour.

Submitted by: Steve Potter



# CONGRATULATIONS...

## To Lisa Place, who received the VTAM Student Teacher Award at SAGE in Brandon!

Criteria for the award are as follows:

**Professional Involvements:**

(Skills Mb, SAGE conference, VTAM, etc.)

**Red River College involvement:**

(support for colleagues and faculty, volunteer at open house, career fair, peer tutoring, etc.)

**Student Teaching:**

(extra-curricular involvement, committee work, special projects, program promotion, etc.)

**Career related activities:**

(career fairs, continuing education, etc.)



## ...fun at SAGE – October 21, 2011

