

Keeping in Touch

University of Vermont
Volume 17, Number 2

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
CALs on the Web: www.uvm.edu/cals/



Hills Building project moving forward



UVM Horticulture Club members (from left) Elyse Stoller, Jessica Waite, Amie McCarthy, and Daniel Elmowitz are pictured in front of the Hills Building. (Not pictured: Christopher Baker and Andrea Kilroe.) Thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of these students, landscaped and labeled gardens surround the perimeters of the Hills Building, Marsh Life Science Building, and Stafford Hall, enhancing the atmosphere and beauty of these areas.

Dean Joseph Hills would marvel at what the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has become more than 100 years after he began his career at the University of Vermont. He would praise the academic rigor; the quality of students, staff, and faculty, and the caliber of their scholarship; and the productive work being done around the state by the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station and UVM Extension.

What might give Dean Hills pause is the state of the structure that bears his name. Constructed over 50 years ago, the Hills Agricultural Science Building has outlived its useful purpose and is

now ready for replacement. Although not as dire as the situation faced by Dean Hills in 1904 when he pursued funding from the state legislature for Morrill Hall, the Hills Building is woefully inadequate to meet the current and future demands required for modern classroom instruction and laboratory research.

With a recently completed space needs assessment conducted with a local architectural firm, University and College officials will be making their case before the state legislature this year for a major capital appropriation to replace the venerable—but outmoded—building. At the August meeting of the Board of Trustees, Bob Vaughan, director of capital planning and management, presented preliminary information on UVM’s state capital request for FY’04, which will include renovation or replacement of the Hills Building. A full planning report will be presented at the October meeting of the trustees.

State and federal funds alone, how-

ever, will not cover the cost of the replacement structure. A combination of state and federal funds, private donations, and University bonding will likely be needed to get the job done. The Hills Building replacement project will therefore be a key facilities objective for the University’s \$250 million comprehensive campaign. The campaign will address critical needs of each of the schools and colleges, as well as those University-wide programs and projects that enhance learning and the student experience. Ultimately, this multi-year campaign is about investing in people and the promise of their future accomplishments.

—Howard Lincoln

President Fogel gets to know UVM—on campus and off



After arriving on campus at the beginning of July, new UVM President Daniel Fogel attended the Morgan Horse Farm (MHF) Advisory Board Meeting on July 29. Standing beside UVM Tennyson, President Fogel and Jamie Johnson, Animal Science senior and MHF apprentice intern, pose during a break of the board meeting. For more on President Fogel, please see the Dean’s message on page 2.

Attention CREAM Program alumni

Mark your calendar for the
CREAM Program’s
15th anniversary celebration
Saturday, May 3, 2003, at UVM

UVM Hort Club is Number 1!

The UVM Horticulture Club has been named “Most Outstanding Small Club for 2002,” by the American Society for Horticultural Science at their annual meeting in August.

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Message from Acting Dean Rachel Johnson Exciting year ahead for CALS and the University



It is a stimulating time to be serving this great College as Dean under the leadership of a new president. Since arriving on July 1, President Daniel Fogel has been getting to know many constituents from communities around the state. I accompanied President Fogel to a reception for area alumni, parents, and friends held at the UVM Morgan Horse Farm and was pleased with what I heard. Dr. Fogel's message is clear: The University of Vermont is a fine institution of higher learning with great potential to be even better. He is determined to stimulate the "competitive metabolism" of the University of Vermont in ways that will enhance the quality of the student experience, the productivity of our faculty, and the overall value of the University.

Dr. Fogel's address in August, at the annual retreat for faculty and staff of CALS and UVM Extension validated many of the exceptional qualities of our College. For example, CALS faculty are among the most productive recipients of sponsored research dollars, helping the University to bring in more than \$100 million last year. Our student retention rates are above average and our College advising services receive high marks.

It promises to be an exciting year ahead as we continue to advance the

University's strategic action plan, participate in the launch of a major fundraising campaign, and carry on with our commitment to excellence in all our endeavors. Here are a few highlights of what's on our horizon:

- The world-class Gund Institute for Ecological Economics has arrived on campus and a number of their faculty will have appointments in CALS.
- The UVM trustees recently approved a new interdisciplinary Bachelor of Science degree program in Biochemistry. CALS will participate jointly in this cross-college program with the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Medicine.
- The Masters of Public Administration (MPA) program has moved to the Department of Community Development and Applied Economics (CDAE) in CALS. CDAE's commitment to promote the use of economic, social, and environmental principles to develop sustainable communities locally and globally makes it an ideal departmental fit for the MPA program.
- We are conducting national searches for faculty chairs of the Nutrition and Food Science Department and the Plant and Soil Science Department.

Readers of *Keeping in Touch* know how fortunate the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has been to have

Continued on back page

Family and Consumer Sciences Education program moves to new campus home

The Family and Consumer Sciences Education (FSCE) program is busy settling into its new campus home within the College of Education and Social Service's Integrated Professional Studies Department. Department Chair Dale Goldhaber is enthused about the FSCE program's arrival and he envisions a smooth transition.

While the Family and Consumer Sciences Education program will miss the abiding influence of Professor Valerie Chamberlain who recently retired after 16 devoted years of service, it will have an outstanding interim program coordinator in Barbara Woods. Woods is the Family and Consumer Science Education Specialist for the State of Vermont Department of Education. During this transition year a national search for a full-time, tenure-track position will be conducted with the expectation that the new FSCE faculty member will be in place by fall 2003.

A special fundraising effort is now underway to strengthen the financial resources of the FCSE program. Alumni, parents, and friends with an interest in supporting this valuable teacher training program are invited to contribute to the **Marion Brown Thorpe Student Enrichment Fund**. Whether making a gift to honor esteemed faculty emeritae like Marion Brown Thorpe or Valerie Chamberlain (to name two), donations to this fund will help the FCSE program grow and prosper in its new home.

For more information about the FCSE program please contact Dale Goldhaber at (802) 656-2025 or dgoldhab@zoo.uvm.edu. For more information about the Marion Brown Thorpe Fund, please contact development officers Amy Shea or Howard Lincoln at (802) 656-3416. Credit card donations may be made on-line at www.uvm.edu/development/.

UVM Horticulture Research Farm turns 50

The UVM Horticultural Research Center is celebrating a milestone this year—its fiftieth birthday. While the faces of its users have changed over the last half century, its purpose



Members of the Common Ground Student-Run Educational Farm take a break from harvesting. They include (left to right) farm manager Matt Leonetti Fall '02, Yarrow Collins '05, Jeremy Dahl Fall '02, Chase Rosenberg Fall '02, Claybrook Griffith '04, Phil Paré '03, and Tobiah Schulman '05.

never has, and that's to provide a facility for horticultural research, teaching, and outreach to benefit Vermonters.

In the early 1950s Dr. Charles Blasberg, chair of the Horticulture Department, and C. Lyman Calahan, Extension horticulturist, convinced the University administration of the need for a horticultural research facility. A South Burlington dairy farm for sale at the time met their requirements. It was close to campus with adequate acreage and soils ideal for planting apples, berries, and other horticultural crops. In January 1952 UVM paid \$17,500 for 66 acres just off Route 7. In the following decades, it purchased adjacent parcels, increasing the size of the research farm to its current 97 acres.

Once the land was acquired, Blasberg wasted no time in setting up research trials and planting trees. Two of the farm's more significant plant collections were started that year—lilacs and crabapples. The latter, one of the largest mature ornamental crabapple collections in the Northeast, presently consists of 135 cultivars, including 'Dolgo,' 'Erie,' and many others from the original planting.

Early research focused primarily on fruit crops, including Blasberg's strawberry breeding trials on early-bearing, cold-hardy cultivars suitable for Vermont and Calahan's work with dwarf and semi-dwarf apple

rootstocks. Today UVM faculty, staff, and students continue to conduct research at the farm on apples and other food crops, as well as on ornamentals and soils, according to director Greg Eurich.

"It is a living laboratory," he explains. "The work being done here dovetails with teaching on campus. Many of the researchers use their projects to help students understand the practical application of what they learn in the classroom." Some of the current research projects focus on improved irrigation practices for Vermont vegetable growers and evaluation of new apple varieties and integrated pest management techniques for disease and pest control.

In keeping with its mission of education, the research center is home to the Common Ground Student-Run Educational Farm, which was established eight years ago to provide students with experience growing vegetables sustainably on a commercial scale. It is a community-supported agriculture farm, selling shares of produce to members of the UVM community. Last year it donated 19,555 pounds of vegetables to community emergency food providers.

The research center is open to the public for special events, such as the Bloomtime Festival, sponsored by The

Friends of the Horticulture Farm to showcase the spring-flowering trees and shrubs. Visitors also are invited to view the perennial display gardens and plant collections, including the Cary Garden, which features award-winning plants for New England gardens. A self-guided woodlands walk provides an introduction to native plants.



Matthew Leonetti, Plant and Soil Science major and Common Ground farm manager, prepares food deliveries to the Chittenden County Emergency Food Shelf. Common Ground donates 50% of their harvest to local emergency food providers.

The Horticultural Research Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. except in the fall during the apple harvest. It is located on Green Mountain Drive, off Route 7, 1.5 miles south of the intersection of I-189 and Shelburne Road; (802) 658-9166.

—Lisa Halvorsen

Starrett celebrated for excellent teaching and advising

Dr. Mark C. Starrett, assistant professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science, is the recipient of two notable awards this year—the 2002 NACTA Teacher Fellow Award and the 2002 Joseph E. Carrigan Award for Excellence in Teaching and Undergraduate Education.

The National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) recognized Starrett this past June in Lincoln, Nebraska, for his efforts in representing the very best in agricultural higher education. He also received the Joseph E. Carrigan Award for his outstanding efforts in teaching and undergraduate advising at the Honors Day Ceremony in late April, during which he received a commemorative plaque along with funds to support his continued improvement and innovation in teaching.



Dr. Mark Starrett stands along Hills Building and Stafford Hall, among the annual plantings by the UVM Horticulture Club.

Starrett is well known on campus and beyond for being available for his students and for his ability to motivate students to do their best. He consistently uses effective teaching methods, actively participates in departmental and institutional affairs, and extends his expertise—with the help of his students—for the benefit of the public.

—Robin Smith

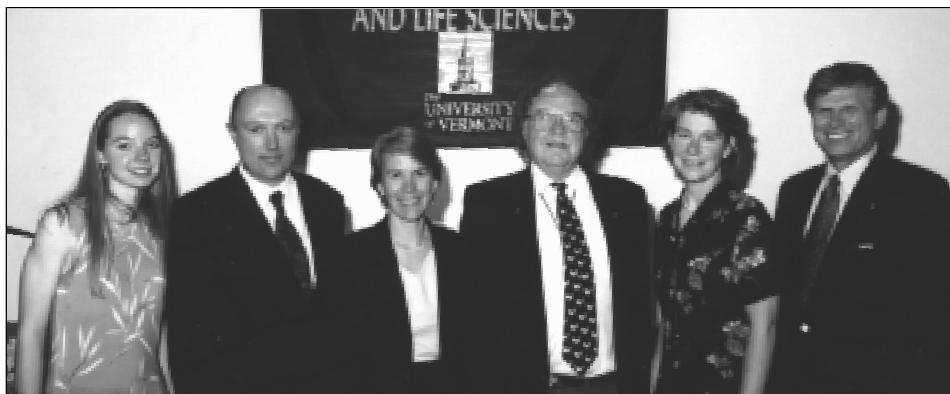
CALS alumni recognized for achievements at Alumni and Friends dinner in May

Dr. Miriam E. Nelson '83, 2002 CALS Outstanding Alumni Award: As Director of the Tufts University Center for Physical Activity and Nutrition, Nelson is internationally known for her best-selling books—*Strong Women Stay Young; Strong Women Stay Slim; Strong Women, Strong Bones; Strong Women Eat Well;* and the newly released *Strong Women and Men Beat Arthritis*. Her books have been translated into 13 languages, and she rates among the top 1,000 authors, according to Amazon.com.

Dr. George J. Osol G'77, PhD'81, 2002 CALS Outstanding Alumni Award: Osol is a professor and research director of UVM's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and has earned an outstanding reputation as a teacher and researcher. He is also well known for his continuing connection to the Animal Science Department through his teaching of physiology and research efforts in equine studies.

Dr. Michael J. Hurdzan G'69, PhD'74, 2001 CALS Outstanding Alumni Award: The awards and recognition for Hurdzan just keep on coming! Named in 2002 as Golf Course Architect of the Year by *Boardroom Magazine* and picked as this year's recipient of the Don Rossi award from the Golf Course Builders Association of America, Hurdzan attended the CALS dinner to pick up two UVM awards from previous years—the 2000 UVM Alumni Achievement Award and the 2001 CALS Outstanding Alumni Award.

Dr. Carol Rudd Lauzon PhD'91, 2002 CALS New Achiever Alumni Award:



CALS awards winners gather at the Alumni and Friends Dinner in May. From left: Katie Cross; Dr. George Osol G'77, PhD '81; Dr. Miriam Nelson '83; Dr. Lyn Carew; Dr. Carol Lauzon PhD'91; and Dr. Michael Hurdzan G'69, PhD'74.

Lauzon currently teaches in the Department of Biological Sciences at California State University in Hayward, California. She has earned an international reputation for her pioneering work in microbiological entomology and is at the forefront of research to eradicate pests such as the Mediterranean Fruit Fly.

Lauzon has recently been appointed as the Director of the Microscope Graphic Imaging Center, a multi-million dollar electron microscope facility at Cal State.

Katie K. Cross, 2002 Lawrence K. Forcier Outstanding Senior Award: A pre-veterinary science major at UVM, Cross maintained a 4.0 GPA while holding positions at the Living and Learning (L/L) Center as a Resident Assistant and co-Director of the Animalia Program (formerly Pre-Vet Club). She was accepted into the UVM/Tufts Veterinary Program and completed these requirements within a three-year time frame, normally done in four years.

Cross volunteers regularly at the Woodstock Veterinary Hospital and the St. Albans Greyhound Rescue, as well as at the Annual Craftsbury True Companion Sled Dog Race and was instrumental in reviving "Working Dog Days" this past May 3 attended by more than 750 dog owners and lovers.

Dr. Lyndon Carew, Robert L. Bickford, Jr., Scholar Award: Carew is internationally renowned for his scholarly pursuits in poultry nutrition and the use of computer technology in college-level teaching. His love for his students and ability to communicate the excitement of his research to them has earned him this prestigious honor and recognition. Carew will use this award to update his on-line nutrition course as well as to continue his work with honors students at Zamorano College in Honduras. Currently on sabbatical leave for this academic year, Carew is writing an electronic textbook on nutrition.

Please nominate a deserving candidate for a 2003 CALS Award

- Outstanding Alumni Award
- New Achiever Alumni Award
- Lawrence K. Forcier Outstanding Senior Award

New due date: Friday, February 14, 2003

Nomination criteria and forms are available on the Web at: www.uvm.edu/cals/ Or call (802) 656-0321

Awards will be presented at the

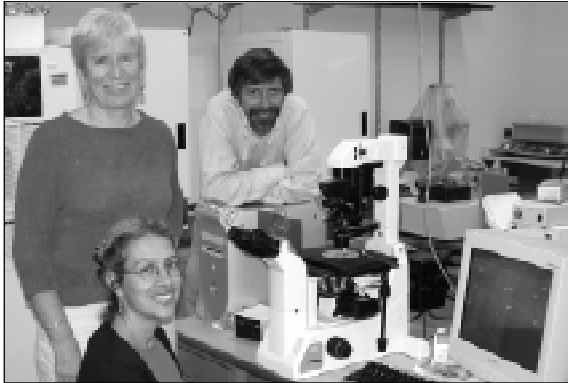
**10th Annual College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Alumni and Friends Dinner
Saturday, May 3, 2003**

Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, Burlington, Vermont

Invitation and details to be mailed in March 2003

Botany and Ag Biochemistry research spans ecosystems to molecules

The Department of Botany and Agricultural Biochemistry is beginning the new academic year with a flurry of research activity. Highlights from the past six months include three new awards to department faculty members



Professors Jeanne Harris (seated at left), Mary Tierney, and Thomas Vogelmann grouped around a fluorescence microscope and image analysis system used in their research.

from the National Science Foundation. NSF grants were received by Dr. Jeanne Harris to study plant-microbe interactions, Dr. Mary Tierney to study the regulation and function of cell wall structural components, and the new Chair, Dr. Thomas Vogelmann, to study physiological stress in conifers in the alpine.

This research is only a part of the diverse research activities in the department, ranging from ecosystems to molecules. The broad disciplinary representation within the department represents a unique educational opportunity for CALS students to become involved in research and gain first-hand experience in their specific area of interest.

—Thomas Vogelmann

In Memoriam

We are saddened to note the passing of **Dr. Mariafranca Morselli**, Botany professor emerita, on August 20. Dr. Morselli was widely known for her sugar maple research studies, her dedication to promoting women in science, and her infectious enthusiasm for life. We will miss her.

Donations may be made in her memory to the *Mariafranca Morselli Leadership Award*, c/o the UVM Development Office, 411 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401 or online via credit card at www.uvm.edu/development/.

International opportunities grow in CDAE

International opportunities for students are expanding in the CALS Department of Community Development and Applied Economics (CDAE).

In early June, Dan Baker and Ken Becker, CDAE lecturers, led a group of 17 students to Honduras. Students worked on projects ranging from examining the environmental impacts of small-scale sugar production to micro-finance for women entrepreneurs.



CDAE graduate student Thomas DeSisto (seated, with computer mouse in hand) demonstrates the usefulness of technology to members of the Honduran Conservation Corps.

Later in June, two graduate students and two research associates from the UVM Center for Rural Studies traveled to the Honduran communities of Gracias, Yoro, Lago de Yojoa, Siguatepeque, Comayagua, and Tegucigalpa with Dr. Thomas Patterson, CDAE lecturer. Working with the not-for-profit group, Partners of the Americas, they donated computers and provided technical assistance that will bring the town offices into the computer age.

In July, two representatives of the St. Lucia Office of Consumer Affairs spent two weeks at UVM learning about consumer protection in Vermont and the U.S. They received hands-on training in handling consumer complaints from the Consumer Assistance Program; received classroom instruction from Jay

Ashman, CDAE lecturer; and met with a number of state agency representatives with consumer protection responsibilities. This is the first step in building a relationship that will involve both additional training of St. Lucian consumer agency officials and opportunities for UVM students to conduct field research projects in St. Lucia.


—Jane Kolodinsky



CDAE lecturer Jay Ashman (left) discusses Vermont's consumer protection regulations with representatives of the St. Lucia Office of Consumer Affairs.

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SOS Program offers students summer scholarships

Through the generous support of alumni, parents, and friends, five students in the Nutrition and Food Sciences Department have received invaluable job experience in local communities around the state through the Summer



Left to right: Heather Danis, UVM Outreach Education Coordinator; SOS students Nicolle Clemente, Erin Boutin, Nicole Cote-Burk, and Liz Dionne; and Linda Berlin, UVM Extension Instructor. (Not pictured: SOS student Heather Hawkes.)

Opportunity Scholarship (SOS) Program. SOS offers senior students majoring in Nutrition a summer job and \$5,000 salary to work in Vermont using their nutrition expertise in conjunction with the federally funded Summer Food Service Program. Now in its second year, SOS has expanded its scope from one community to five communities around the state to assist in providing meals and nutrition education to children at summer food sites. Working closely with the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, UVM Extension faculty and staff increased their involvement this year

and were integral in guiding and teaching our SOS students as they assisted in educating and feeding children around Vermont.

Donations are being accepted for the Summer 2003 SOS Program. If interested, please contact Howard Lincoln at (802) 656-2509 or by e-mail at howard.lincoln@uvm.edu.

—Robin Smith

CALS Website has a new look at:

www.uvm.edu/cals/

We welcome your comments
at: calsdean@uvm.edu

Year ahead, from page 2

Robert L. Bickford, Jr. '43 serving as chair of the College's Board of Advisors. After seven years of dedicated service in this capacity, Bob has stepped down as chair and, I am pleased to say, will continue on as a close friend and advisor to the College and the University. David Marvin has agreed to serve as our College's Advisory Board chair at this important juncture. Dave is a 1970 UVM graduate in forestry and the owner of Butternut Mountain Farm in Morrisville, VT. As Dean, I am privileged to have Dave's wise counsel and leadership on the Board of Advisors.

As noted in the cover article, the

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will play a significant role in the University's \$250 million comprehensive campaign. I am pleased to report that Development Officer Howard Lincoln '81 is now based in Morrill Hall and is working full time for our College. He is assisted by staff from the University's Development Office including Planned Giving Officer Becky Arnold '77. Howard looks forward to visiting with many of you in the months and years ahead to talk about our campaign objectives and aspirations for the College.

I invite our many alumni, parents, and friends to lend a helping hand as we embark upon this six-year campaign to support and enhance the

College's academic programs and to assure that our students are well prepared for a demanding and changing world. I am deeply grateful for all the support we have received thus far; it has helped establish a solid foundation from which we can confidently build an exciting future for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Please get involved and stay in touch. Thank you!

2002-03 University Scholar Lecture presented by CALS Acting Dean

Rachel K. Johnson

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building