

Keeping in Touch

University of Vermont
Volume 20, Number 2

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



Harvey-Berino awarded \$3.5 million NIH grant for obesity research



One of the largest competitive research grants ever received by faculty in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will allow CALS scientists to expand the scope of the successful VTrim weight-loss research program. Thanks to a \$3.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, the VTrim study will increase the number and diversity of research participants to nearly

500 subjects under the direction of principal investigator **Jean Harvey-Berino** of UVM and her collaborator, Delia Smith West of the University of Arkansas.

The VTrim weight-loss research program uses the Internet as a means of helping participants stay on track toward their weight reduction goals, and the results are impressive. VTrim's on-line participants have lost an average of 21 pounds in six months! Reports of these findings have generated publicity for the VTrim program and Dr. Harvey-Berino, who is chair of the Depart-

ment of Nutrition and Food Sciences. Harvey-Berino has appeared on the "Today" show on NBC and on National Public Radio, and the VTrim program was recently featured in a six-week series in *USA Today*.

"Our initial research shows that on-line participants can lose as much weight as those attending weight loss programs in person. If we can continue this success rate via the Internet, we'll have solid information for clinicians and policymakers looking for low-cost, high-reach obesity treatment," says Harvey-Berino.

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UVM to host Food Systems Leadership Institute



UVM contributors to the FSLI curriculum, from left: Carol Frary, Cynthia Belliveau, Jill Tarule, and Rachel Johnson

The University of Vermont is one of three leading land-grant universities selected to host residential segments of the Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI) during the 2005-2006 academic year. Sponsored by the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the FSLI will also be hosted by the University of North Carolina System and The Ohio State University. The Food Systems Leadership Institute is a two-year program designed to further develop the leadership ability and food system knowledge of established leaders from academia, government, and private industry.

"Understanding the complexities and problems of our

global food system is one of the most important challenges we face," says UVM president **Daniel Mark Fogel**. "I'm proud that UVM will be taking a leadership role in this area and pleased to cooperate with a consortium of prestigious land-grant universities to create this institute."

UVM contributors to the FSLI curriculum are **Rachel Johnson**, UVM principal investigator and dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; **Cynthia Belliveau**, co-investigator and co-director of UVM Continuing Education; **Jill Tarule**, collaborator and associate provost; and **Carol Frary**, UVM's project coordinator and Nutrition and Food Sciences research assistant. "Our aim is to develop strong leaders with an understanding of America's food system and provide them with leadership training and a network to help them reach the highest levels of responsibility in higher education, government, and the food industry," says Johnson.

In year one, FSLI scholars will experience three, week-long residential leadership development sessions with expert instructors and leadership development coaches, and meet with university and political leaders. During year two, these scholars' studies will culminate in hosting a national conference that will address an emerging major food-

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Message from Dean Rachel Johnson

Welcoming a record class

You could practically hear the applause in offices campus wide as the University of Vermont registrar announced final enrollment figures for fall 2005. The Dean's Office cheered the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' rise to 834 undergraduates, including a record-breaking 210 first-year students. CALS also increased its number of graduate students to 139.

Animal Science majors account for the lion's share of the numbers with 222 students. Animal Science Chair **Thomas McFadden** is challenging 99 eager new students in his popular "Introductory Animal Science" course. Interest in Nutrition and Food Sciences is growing with 178 students enrolled in our two majors, Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics (a 30 percent increase over last year). Our expanding enrollments are a testament to the CALS faculty and department chairs' continuous work to renew courses and transform the curricula to reflect the changing needs of our students and society. For example, CDAE's new Public Communication major this fall is already a popular choice with 28 students enrolled in its first class.

CALS faculty continue to achieve extensive recognition for their research. Dr. **Jean Harvey-Berino** is tackling the number one public health problem facing our nation: overweight and obesity.

Jean's NIH grant (see page 1) represents over a decade of dedication and hard work by Jean, her staff, and graduate students. We are enormously proud of her achievement. Overall, the college brought in an all-time high of just over \$9 million in grants and contracts this past year—evidence of the excellence of CALS faculty.

The Campaign for the University of Vermont has reached the \$200 million mark on its way toward the \$250 million goal. I offer thanks to those who have made a Campaign contribution thus far and a request to those who have not. Donations at all levels do make a difference, especially for undergraduate and graduate scholarships. As our enrollment in the College expands, we must enlarge our capacity to offer need-based and merit-based scholarships so that we remain accessible and competitive.

Whether your gift supports one of our new scholarship funds—such as the Robert Tyzbir Scholarship Fund in the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences or the Alpha Zeta Centennial Scholarship Fund—or it is more generally applied to the College at large, please know that it is vitally important and deeply appreciated. For more information about the Campaign and the College's funding priorities, please contact **Howard Lincoln**: (802) 656-2509 or howard.lincoln@uvm.edu.

I enjoy hearing from you. Keep in touch. Contact me at (802) 656-0137 or calsdean@uvm.edu.

New department chair no stranger to UVM



Dr. **Thomas McFadden** admits that he had big shoes to fill when he became chair of the Department of Animal Science in June. But he also credits his predecessors—Drs. **Karen Plaut** and **John Bramley**—for laying the foundation for a strong, student-focused department.

Like them, he is dedicated to maintaining excellence in teaching and advising in one of the biggest departments at the University. He'd also like to build on the department's reputation for having one of the most highly esteemed pre-veterinary programs in the country.

"Our recruitment efforts were highly successful this year with 80 students enrolled in the incoming class," McFadden reports.

"We take pride in our excellence in advising and will continue to expand our experiential learning program, which attracts top students to UVM." In addition to the current focus on dairy and equine science, he plans to expand the curriculum to include a concentration in zoo and exotic animals. "This will allow us to better meet the diverse interests of our students and capitalize on emerging areas of opportunity for Animal Science graduates."

Although new to the position, the associate professor is not new to UVM. He came to the University in October 1999 by way of the University of Idaho and New Zealand, where he worked six years in dairy cattle

Continued on page 4

Marvin urges grads to make a life



In his Commencement address last May, **David Marvin '70** urged CALS graduates to focus more on making a life than on just making a living, advice that he's followed since his own graduation from UVM 35 years ago. He extolled the virtues of stewardship over ownership, noting that it provides a more enduring and valuable legacy—a tenet which Marvin uses to guide his life and work.

Marvin and his wife, Lucy, own Butternut Mountain Farm, a 1,000-acre diversified woodland in Johnson, Vermont that produces maple products, timber, and Christmas trees. He also operates a retail store and packing plant and is a forestry consultant

for timberland, primarily in northern Vermont.

"I knew where I wanted to end up when I started college," Marvin says. "I saw UVM as an opportunity to acquire the skills and talents that I needed." He notes that among his most valuable experiences in college was his experiential work with Professor **Max McCormick** on Christmas trees at the UVM Wolcott Research Forest and Professor **Fred Laing** at the Proctor Maple Research Center in Underhill.

But he also credits his father for his success. "Who I am and what I care about comes from him."

The Marvin legacy at UVM spans three generations, beginning with the late **James Marvin**, David's father, who earned both a bachelor's degree (1932) and a master's degree (1934) in botany before embarking on a 30-year career as a botany professor and department chair at UVM. Among his achievements was the establishment of the Proctor Maple Research Center. At UVM James Marvin also met his future wife, **Alice McConnell**, a dual botany and English major and graduate of the class of 1934.

"The James W. Marvin Lecture Series was established in 1985 to

honor him," says Dr. **Philip Lintilhac**, a research associate professor of botany. "The weekly lecture series brings in a number of outside speakers each semester who cover a broad range of topics of interest to students and faculty." The series, funded primarily by the Lintilhac Foundation, is organized by the Botany and Agricultural Biochemistry Department (website at www.uvm.edu/~plantbio).

David's brother, **James Marvin III**, also attended UVM, earning a degree in botany in 1968. David's son, **Ira Marvin**, graduated in 2005 with a self-designed major in agriculture.

David Marvin's connection with UVM includes years of service as a member and—in recent years—chair of the CALS Advisory Board. "When you really care about a place and a community, you want to share those things that contribute to it, you want them to be sustainable," he says of his service to the college. "The University collectively is one of those institutions we have a responsibility to care for and to make sure it prospers for those who come after us."

—Lisa Halvorsen



Faculty and undergraduate students in the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences were among the 253 individuals who ran, jogged, or walked a 5-kilometer race last May 15 to raise funds for the Emily K. Fletcher Tree Memorial. Fletcher, an NFS major who passed away in an automobile accident last December, was an avid runner and a member of UVM's crew team. The event, coordinated by Fletcher's family and friends with the help of UVM Campus Recreation, generated more than \$2,500.

2005 Vermont Agricultural Hall of Fame Awards presented to Howrigan and Balch by VT Dairy Industry Association

Harold J. Howrigan (left), former president of St. Albans Coop Creamery, Inc. and former member of the CALS Board of Advisors; **Kate Baldwin**, CALS advancement officer; and **Dean Rachel Johnson**.



Dr. Donald J. Balch (right), former professor and director of the UVM Morgan Horse Farm, and UVM Provost **John Bramley**, former department chair of Animal Science.

Final phase of College Campaign targets scholarships and facilities



Vt. Senator Justin Morrill (1867–1898) looks on approvingly as inaugural recipients of the Alpha Zeta Centennial Scholarship awards Beth Donoghue (left) and Evelyn Sylvester (second from right) receive their award letters from Dean Rachel Johnson and Green Mountain Chapter Advisor Professor Mark Starrett. This year's awards were made in honor of the late W. Howard Martin '31.

While the overall progress of the Campaign for the University of Vermont is solid, there are important areas of need requiring a robust response from donors during the Campaign's final 18 months. Scholarship support for undergraduate and graduate students as well as contributions for new facilities are the major focus areas for the final phase of the Campaign.

"I am heartened by the contributions we have recently received for several scholarship funds," Dean **Rachel**

Johnson says, "but we still have many needs at the departmental and college-wide levels. We must keep pace with the demand for need-based and merit-based scholarship dollars as our enrollment grows, now and in the years ahead."

A number of new gifts have been received for the Robert Tyzbir Scholarship Fund in the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, the CREAM Program's Brett Klein Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Alexander McMahon Kende Memorial Fund in the Biological Sciences program, the McCormick Scholarship Fund in the Field Naturalist Program, the college-wide Undergraduate Student Opportunity Scholarship Fund, and the Alpha Zeta Centennial Scholarship Fund. "They represent a good start," says College Development Officer **Howard Lincoln** "and I expect to see them continue to grow. I also expect to work with new donors to establish additional new scholarship funds."

Lincoln will also be concentrating on raising funds for the new \$32 million Plant Sciences Building. "We are fortunate to have significant support coming from the State of Vermont for this new facility," he says. "We are seeking \$5.0 million in private donations to fully fund this important project."

For more information about the Plant Sciences Building and associated naming opportunities, visit the Campaign facilities website at www.uvm.edu/~campaign/facilities.php. Campaign priorities for the College may be viewed at www.uvm.edu/cals/alumni/?Page=calscampaign.html.

To learn how you may help advance one or more of these priorities, please contact Howard Lincoln at (802) 656-2509 or howard.lincoln@uvm.edu.

Harvey-Berino, from page 1

Using the fundamental principles of weight control—eating less and moving more—participants will keep a food journal, track exercise, record emotions related to food intake and exercise, and develop a support network to keep motivated. The study will compare the efficacy of traditional weight-loss treatment (face-to-face weekly meetings) to virtual meetings via on-line chats. "We will also use this research opportunity to evaluate whether we can improve Internet success with minimal in-person support," says **Beth Casey Gold**, clinical coordinator of UVM's Behavioral Weight Management Program.

"The Internet has enormous potential to bring weight-loss success and lifestyle changes to people worldwide and in settings where traditional clinics cannot," says **Rachel Johnson**, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "In addition, the Web can reach people who might shy away from in-person treatment. The need for breakthroughs in obesity treatment has never been greater."

If you live in Vermont or near Little Rock, Arkansas, you can contact Beth Casey Gold for more information on participating in the study at elizabeth.gold@uvm.edu.

—Cheryl Dorschner

McFadden, from page 2

research at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' AgResearch Ruakura Research Station in Hamilton.

His family's connections to UVM also are strong: His wife, **Holli McFadden**, is a clinical research supervisor at the Vermont Cancer Center, and his son, **Jake McFadden**, is a Vermont Scholar and first-year student in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics.

"Currently, we are among only a few university departments in the country with a research focus on lactation and mammary gland biology," the new chair says. "With grant monies and publications up, my goal is to use this focus to strengthen the dairy research program and its productivity."

His vision for the department also includes enhancing dairy Extension and outreach programs, including the UVM/Vermont Technical College FARMS (Farm and Agricultural Resource Management Stewards) 2 + 2 degree program and CREAM (Cooperative for Real Education in Agricultural Management), and expanding the equine science program to reflect the growing importance of horses in the agricultural economy.

—Lisa Halvorsen

Awards given at 12th Alumni and Friends Dinner



Dean Rachel Johnson (second from left) with 2005 recipients of the CALS Outstanding Alumni Award, from left: David Abbott '73, Tammy Fesche '79, and Steven Briggs '76.

David L. Abbott '73 (B.S., Agricultural Economics): Abbott currently serves on the CALS Board of Advisors and is chairperson of the fundraising campaign—Rising to the Top—for the College's CREAM Program (Cooperative for Real Education in Agricultural Management, a student-run experiential learning program). Over the span of a 26-year career with Purina Mills, Inc., he rose from the position of management trainee after graduating from UVM to become the president and CEO of this \$1.2 billion company in 1995 until his departure in 1998 when the company was sold. Abbott has held senior positions with a number of other successful business ventures including E-Markets of Ames, Iowa and Exopack of Spartanburg, South Carolina. He currently has a consulting business based in Newport, Vermont.

Tammy (Guevara) Fesche '79 (B.S., Agricultural Science): Fesche is founder and executive director of Ecuadent, a nonprofit organization that assembles teams of health care professionals to deliver free medical

and dental care each year to needy children in her native country, Ecuador. In addition, she is an accomplished businesswoman who runs four private dental practices and manages Greenwood Associates Builders in Maryland. Fesche has been recognized for her successful endeavors as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women in 2003 and has received one of Rotary International's top service awards, the Paul Harris Award in 1995. She is an active supporter of the University of Vermont and has also been involved with her daughter's alma mater, Johns Hopkins University.

Steven P. Briggs '76 (B.S., Botany): Briggs is a leader in the field of plant genetics research whose discoveries have earned him a place in the prestigious National Academy of Sciences as well as a host of patents. Widely published in leading scientific journals, his group is noted for reporting the first isolation of a disease-resistance gene in plants and the first discovery of a plant disease-resistance mechanism. Briggs is also part of the research team that produced the first draft sequence of the rice genome, thereby explaining how genes function to protect the plant from pathogens. Presently on the faculty at the University of California-San Diego and the Scripps Research Institute, he has held positions with Pioneer Hi-Bred International, the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, the Novartis Agricultural Discovery Institute, the Torrey Mesa Research Institute, Syngenta, and Diversa Corporation.



John Pigott '05 (center), Dean Rachel Johnson (left), and Associate Dean Josie Davis.

John H. Pigott '05 received the prestigious Lawrence K. Forcier Outstanding Senior Award. His outstanding academic performance earned him Dean's List honors throughout his undergraduate career while pursuing a double major in preveterinary science and biomolecular chemistry. Pigott also achieved distinction with his extracurricular activities as co-captain of the Equestrian Team: He won the top national riding award in 2003 taking home the Cachionne Cup at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association's National Championship Show and won a gold medal in 2004 riding for Team USA in the international collegiate riding competition. Pigott also provided valuable service to the College as a member of the Dean's Student Advisory Board and the College's Board of Advisors. He is presently pursuing his DVM degree at Cornell University.

Seeking 2006 Nominations

- New Achiever Alumni Award
- Outstanding Alumni Award

Nomination forms due

February 1, 2006

and available at

www.uvm.edu/cals/alumni

or call (802) 656-0321

Awards presented at the 13th Annual Alumni and Friends Dinner

Saturday, April 29, 2006

Doubletree Hotel

1117 Williston Road

South Burlington, Vermont

The Robert L. Bickford, Jr., Keystone Award—recognizing and supporting promising research collaborations between outstanding Nutrition and Food Sciences undergraduates and faculty—was presented to Dr.

Catherine Donnelly, Christopher Smart '05, and Tyler Curran '06.

Donnelly is recognized as a leading scholar in the field of food microbiology, specifically in the detection and isolation of the bacterial pathogen, *Listeria monocytogenes*. Smart was associated with this research project until he graduated in May 2005 and then Curran took the reins to assist Donnelly on their research project's major goal of collecting data on the



Dean Rachel Johnson (left) with the Bickford Keystone Award recipients, from left: Catherine Donnelly '78, Christopher Smart '05, and Tyler Curran '06

recovery of *Listeria monocytogenes* from food samples to help improve the sensitivity level of detecting this poisonous bacteria.

Fall 2006 groundbreaking planned for Plant Sciences Building

Plans for the new Plant Sciences Building are progressing on schedule with an anticipated occupancy date of fall 2008. Earlier this year Ellenzweig Associates, Inc. of Cambridge, Mass., was selected as the architect for the project, which is currently in the design development phase. The blueprints are expected to be completed by May 2006 with ground breaking by fall.

The new facility will be located on Carrigan Drive adjacent to and slightly east of the UVM greenhouses. Its inviting shape is designed to interact aesthetically with pathways, parking areas, and the new Davis Center. An enclosed walkway will connect the building's north end to the head house area north of the Robert T. Stafford Hall.

According to Dr. **Donald Foss**, senior advisor to the CALS dean, the yet-unnamed building will be 83,000 square feet with 47,000 square feet of assignable program space on three floors. It will house the Department of Plant & Soil Science and the Department of Botany & Agricultural Biochemistry, with the first floor devoted to public spaces including three teaching labs, two classrooms, a specimen growth chamber, departmental offices, and the agricultural and environmental testing laboratory. The research laboratories and support facilities, along with faculty and graduate student offices, will be located on the upper floors.

"The top two floors will be quite similar in design," Foss explains. "They will have 'neighborhoods' of faculty and grad students to enhance interaction between people working in similar areas."

Each neighborhood will include a cluster of five to six offices, state-of-the-art laboratories, and gathering places for meetings, discussions, and breaks. Offices will be assigned according to discipline or academic activity instead of along straight departmental lines.

"We want this to be a warm, welcoming building,"



Foss notes, "one that becomes easily identifiable with the plant sciences. It will be energy- and functionally efficient but also aesthetically pleasing. Like the Marsh Life Sciences building addition, we are striving for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification."

Dr. **Deborah Neher**, chair of the Plant & Soil Science Department, adds, "The University of Vermont historically has had strength in the plant sciences. The construction of this building to house two departments with this focus provides a strong message of commitment by the University to the plant sciences."

Numerous donor recognition naming opportunities are available for the new Plant Sciences Building. For more information, please visit the UVM Campaign webpage at www.uvm.edu/~campaign/facilities.php or contact College Development Officer **Howard Lincoln** at (802) 656-2509 or howard.lincoln@uvm.edu.

—Lisa Halvorsen



As of early October, the Marsh Life Science Addition—built to house portions of the Nutrition and Food Sciences Department—is closer to being completed for the start of the spring 2006 semester. Students, faculty, and staff are slated to move into their new premises from Terrill and Carrigan Halls in early January.

Food Systems Leadership, from page 1

related issue. **Douglas Lantagne '77**, interim director of UVM Extension, was selected in June as the first FSLI scholar from UVM. Lantagne joined 20 other FSLI scholars from around the nation for a first session at UNC in early October; he will participate in a second session at The Ohio State University on January 22-27, 2006, and the final in-residence session hosted by UVM on June 4-9 at Shelburne Farms.

"Shelburne Farms, with its commitment to the stewardship of natural resources and agriculture, offers the perfect setting for the third phase of the Food Systems Leadership Institute. We look forward to participating in continued discussions and hearing new perspectives regarding sustainable agriculture," states **Megan Camp '84**, vice president and program director of Shelburne Farms.

Additional information about the Food Systems Leadership Institute is available at www.fсли.org.

—Cheryl Dorschner

Department Kudos

Community Development and Applied Economics:

"Consumers' resolution of credit card problems and exit behaviors," written by Professor **Jane Kolodinsky**, received one of three Highly Commended Awards from the Emerald Publishing Group, a worldwide publisher of management, library, and information services journals. Emerald highlights the most impressive pieces of journal articles received during the year by bestowing such awards on deserving authors.

Associate Professor **Frederick Schmidt** received the 2005 Kenneth E. Wilkinson Award from the Rural Policy Interest Group of the Rural Sociological Society at its annual meeting on August 12. This prestigious award recognizes lifetime contributions to all phases of rural policy. Schmidt is also co-director of the UVM Center for Rural Studies (<http://crs.uvm.edu>).

Adjunct Professor **Richard Schramm**, along with **Bonnie Acker**, parent volunteer and community partner, established the "Food, Farms, and Schools" program. This program was spawned through the help of a partnership between UVM and the Burlington community. The coordinated effort received the 2005 Outstanding Campus/Community Partnership Award this past spring, sponsored by the Vermont Campus Compact.

Extension Associate Professor **Robert Parsons** has received federal funds through USDA's agricultural risk management partnership agreements for two projects: "Enhancing Vermont's Dairy Industry's Ability to Thrive in a Competitive Environment" and "Crop Insurance Education Program for Vermont Farmers." Dr. Parsons is principal investigator on both projects.

Working with the Vermont Department of Public Service Wind Development Program, Associate Professor **Charlie Ferreira** and his team have installed a wind tower at UVM for generating power (approximately 3,000-5,000 kw/year) that will be added to the Burlington Electric Department's power grid. More importantly, this new wind turbine will be used for classroom applications—the data downloaded onto the web and accessible to all. Senator **James Jeffords** was instrumental in securing these funds as part of the U.S. Department of Energy funds for wind projects.

Nutrition and Food Sciences:

Professor **Paul Kindstedt** recently wrote a book entitled *American Farmstead Cheese: A Practical Guide to Making and Selling Artisan Cheeses* as his way to give back to the cheese communities in Vermont and beyond. Known around the world for his cheese research—notably mozzarella—he has expanded his scientific studies to artisan cheeses. Intrigued back in 1986 when French cheesemakers shared their artisan cheesemaking techniques and equipment with him here in Vermont as part of his research project on Brie and Camembert, Kindstedt saw potential. He is now co-director of the Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese, which has put

Vermont in the forefront of this growing entrepreneurial product and has helped small farmers find a niche market for their dairy and goat milk.

Winner of a national competition for her research paper entitled "Weight Loss on the Web: A Pilot Study Comparing a Commercial Website to a Structured Behavioral Intervention," **Elizabeth Casey Gold**, research specialist and VTrim project coordinator, received the "Best eHealth Research Paper Award for 2005" in late September from the Health e-Technologies Initiative, a funded national program researching the effectiveness of interactive applications for health behavior change and chronic disease management.

Animal Science: Winner of a national communication competition in July, Dr. **Julie Smith**, DVM and Extension dairy specialist, received a national award for her biosecurity video "Healthy Farms—Healthy Agriculture: Protecting the Health of Animal Agriculture" from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Working with Workhorse Creative, Inc., to professionally film, edit, and create graphic designs, Smith highlights key areas for dairy farms to focus on when developing their animal biosecurity plans. The production was partly funded by USDA at the request of Vermont Senator **James Jeffords**.

Botany: The top faculty award for service learning was presented to Senior Lecturer **Walter Poleman** this past spring from the Office of Community-University Partnerships and Service-Learning (CUPS) for his outstanding efforts to incorporate service learning into his courses.

Microbiology & Molecular Genetics: The Department celebrated the innovative microbial research conducted by now Professor Emerita **Paula Fives-Taylor** by hosting a *Fives-Taylor Symposium* on October 14 in Stafford Hall. Scientists from around the U.S, Canada, and England gave scientific presentations throughout the day in honor of Fives-Taylor. The day ended with a dinner recognizing her research accomplishments in oral biology.

Plant and Soil Science: **Deborah Neher**, associate professor and department chair, was recognized for one of her research projects in *Our Changing Planet*, a U.S. Government publication used as a supplement to the President's budget report this past spring. Her research project, funded by the Department of Energy, is entitled "Quantifying effects of altered temperature and precipitation on soil bacterial and microfaunal communities as mediated by biological soil crusts."

Keeping in Touch

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Honors Day ceremony highlights additional award winners

Dr. Todd Pritchard, PhD '98, lecturer in the Nutrition and Food Sciences Department, is the 2005 recipient of the Joseph E. Carrigan Award for Excellence in Undergraduate



Teaching. Pritchard currently teaches courses in food microbiology and food science and recently developed two new courses, one entitled "Beer: Tapping into Food Science at UVM." Pritchard taps into the diverse range of his students' expertise and majors to educate them in a fun and informative manner. From student nominations, comments included "...in the laboratory, Dr. Pritchard is a teacher of the highest caliber, who brings his lectures to life with humor and personal experience" and "his incredible passion for food science is contagious." Affectionately known as Dr. Todd, he is faculty advisor for the Food and Nutrition (FAN) Club and the UVM chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho, a national agricultural fraternity.

Dr. Jane Kolodinsky, professor and chair of the Community Development and Applied Economics Department, received the 2005 Hubert W. Vogelmann Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship. Kolodinsky is also co-director of the UVM Center for Rural Studies. Regarded as one of the leading researchers in the fields of consumer satisfaction, consumers and biotechnology, and consumer decision making, Kolodinsky has recently gained national recognition in the area of evaluating community development programs. The Federal Reserve Board sought her help to redesign their consumer satisfaction survey. Recent research includes consumer behavior and eating behavior studies related to the obesity epidemic, as well as research collaborations with the Vermont Fresh Network and the Northeast Organic Farming Association.



Fran Kinghorn '79, G'84

is the first recipient of the College's new CALS Award for Excellence in Staff Support. She holds two positions in the Department of Animal Science: coordinator of the Undergraduate Student Internship Program and laboratory coordinator. Kinghorn began her UVM career as a research technician for Dr. **Lyn Carew** in 1980 and has co-authored 18 refereed journal publications, three technical papers in international proceedings, and 35 abstracts. Currently, as lab coordinator, Kinghorn is the primary lab instructor for 200 undergraduates per year and is responsible for mentoring graduate teaching assistants in their laboratory courses and evaluating their teaching activities. Carew states, "She is these graduate students' teacher, trainer, mentor, and confidant and does it with outstanding results."

