



Keeping in Touch

Volume 21, Number 2



Cheryl Dorschner

Professor Philip Lintilhac, right, accepted a Centennial Award for outstanding contributions to plant biology in August. He and assistant professor Chunfang Wei study the role of the plant cell wall in plant growth. Lintilhac also presented their “loss of stability” research as keynote speaker for the Canadian Botanical Association.

Plant Biology Matures, Bears Amazing Fruit

Harmonic Convergence? or Hard Work?

Walk the shiny linoleum halls of the 40-year-old Marsh Life Science building. Peer into “botany row” doorways at the densely outfitted laboratories where *Elodea* sways in glass beakers and plucked maple leaves are shot through with purple beams of light.

The tune to “Everything’s Coming Up Roses” isn’t likely to come to mind. But within this unassuming 1960s era building, the plant biology department is positively blooming with new federal grants, international recognition, more and higher quality students, faculty and staff.

Even the name “plant biology” is a new moniker to better describe its diverse research and expertise.

“I see the plant biology department as the hub, from which many other departments have come,” says professor Philip Lintilhac. Plant and soil science, microbiology and molecular genetics and environmental science are a few whose specialty spun from what was most recently called

“botany and agricultural biochemistry.”

Lately it is a hub for unprecedented success. Four new federal grants this year total nearly \$1.2 million.

“In a year when the overall federal funding rate is about eight percent; we have had four successes,” says chair Thomas Vogelmann. “We’re competing with the top research universities in the country.” Mary Tierney and Jeanne Harris were awarded \$450,000 and \$390,000 respectively from the National Science Foundation. Jane Molofsky’s \$323,700 grant is from the USDA-NRI Competitive Research Program, and David Barrington explored holly fern evolution and diversity this summer in China

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Hard Work, Luck and Pluck in Vermont Apple Orchards

Apple-growing business is a difficult business. Hard work, knowledge, luck and pest management bring those scrumptious ‘McIntosh’ from pearly white flowers to crimson fruit.

In April, when blossoms appear, so does the tarnish plant bug. Plum curculio – a snout beetle – flies in to nip buds and lay eggs in the first fruits. Codling moth larvae dine on maturing fruit as do apple maggots. Because apples fall prey to an uncommonly high number of insects and diseases, organic apples are a rare commodity, especially at large-scale orchards.



Cheryl Dorschner

Top grafting a new apple cultivar onto 18-year-old McIntosh rootstock is the first step to an organic orchard at UVM’s Hort Farm. From left, researchers Terence Bradshaw, Sarah Kingsley-Richards and grad student Morgan Cromwell show how.

No one knows this better than Ray W. Allen, who represents the fourth generation of six owning and working Allenholm Farm orchards in South Hero, Vermont. His 40 acres of apples are planted the traditional way – row after row of full-sized and semi-dwarf trees – more than 15 apple varieties. Like almost all Vermont orchards,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

1,500 number of
coffee trees
grown by **horticulture students**
given away on
Opening Day



Richard Fanus

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Message from the Dean

Talent Begets Talent

IF THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT'S Pringle Herbarium cabinets could speak... If the Hills Building halls could talk... They would tell the tales of a cadre of devoted 20th-century scientists and educators in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences such as the late Cyrus Pringle, James W. Marvin, Frederick Taylor, Frederick Laing, Richard Klein, Mariafranca Morselli and Charles Blasberg, and emeriti Hubert Vogelmann and Norman Pellett.

Their influence is plainly evident in the vibrancy of today's academic programs and research activity in the departments of plant biology and plant and soil science. The current faculty members in these departments are also remarkable teachers and scholars.

David Barrington, an award-winning teacher of introductory biology, spent the summer in the Himalayas with American and Chinese colleagues, studying the holly fern genus *Polystichum*. His work in China was made possible by a grant from the National Geographic Society. Philip Lintilhac recently received the Centennial Award from the Botanical Society of America in recognition of his pioneering work exploring the cellular architecture of plants. These are just two examples of top-level contributions to the field coming from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

CALS plant-related research is applied to tackling old problems and new; problems as diverse as climate change, invasive species control, revitalizing damaged land and nutrient removal from agricultural run-off – whether on the local or global scale.

Likewise, the University's longstanding reputation only continues to serve us

all as we are able to attract outstanding faculty and administrative leaders; grow our enrollments, course offerings and research programs; and overall advance the standing of plant biology and plant science.

Our distinction just attracted two of the best young scientists in the country, Sarah Lovell and V. Ernesto Mendez. They and other stellar CALS faculty will surely carry the University's reputation solidly into the 21st century.

Leading research and the teaching and learning opportunities that accompany it deserve like facilities.

UVM is poised to make an investment of approximately \$40 million for a new plant sciences building. The building is urgently needed to support current teaching and research in the plant sciences and to further advance our position as the environmental university. This facility is the number one priority academic building project for the University of Vermont.

The recent \$1 million commitment from the Lintilhac Foundation is a critical step in ensuring a state-of-the-art facility that will lead us towards a new era in plant biology at the University of Vermont. Phil and his wife Crea Lintilhac, both UVM alumni, feel strongly about UVM as a special place and understand the importance of this building in advancing the University's vision as a center of natural science scholarship and research.

I enjoy hearing from you. Keep in touch by calling me at 802-656-0137 or e-mail me at calsdean@uvm.edu



Rachel Johnson

uvmphoto

FRED TAYLOR

University of Vermont Professor Emeritus Fred Herbert Taylor died April 23 following a short illness. He was 95. During his 33-year UVM career, he was beloved as a botany teacher (a beech on campus is dedicated to him), respected as a maple researcher and admired as a "cucurbit" gardener. His pumpkins and unusual squash were displayed at fairs and festivals throughout the state where

he would stand sentinel and talk to visitors.

His undergraduate degree is from what is now the University of Massachusetts. His doctoral degree is from Harvard University where he studied under Merritt Fernald, contributed illustrations to "Gray's Manual of Botany" and studied in Cuba. He was married to Rebecca Shippee in 1939 until her death in 1966. He married Paul Fives in 1971. Fives-Taylor is a UVM professor emeritus of microbiology.



Tilia, commonly called basswood or linden, was the subject for this illustration by plant biology alum Bobbi Angell. This year Angell became the first American to be honored with the Linnean Society's Jill Smythies Award.

PLANT BIOLOGY MATURES, continued from page 1

thanks to the National Geographic Society.

This research benefits students as well. These grants will likely lead to further funding for undergraduates. For example, a \$3,000 American Society of Plant Biologists fellowship funded junior Melanie Lloyd's summer research in Jeanne Harris' lab.

"We're teaching more students than we ever have in our history," says Vogelmann.

The accomplishments of department alumni are also in the news this year. Bobbi Angell '77, received the Jill Smythies Award of the Linnean Society of London at its annual meeting in May for her botanical illustrations. She is the first American to be so honored. Angell's illustrations have been in *New York Botanical Garden* publications, "The *New York Times*" and in several books including some by UVM authors.

Lintilhac himself symbolizes this year's buzz in plant biology. In August he accepted one of the Botanical Society of America's Centennial Awards for outstanding contributions to plant biology. Recently he and colleague Chunfang Wei have rewritten one of the basic paradigms underlying our understanding of plant cell growth. Lintilhac presented their new "loss of stability" model as the keynote address to the Canadian Botanical Association in June.

Lintilhac is also giving back to the University from which he graduated in 1963 and at which he has taught for 30 years. In June, he and his wife Crea Lintilhac launched University of Vermont's capital campaign for a new plant science building with a \$1 million pledge. Plant sciences is a top academic building priority, new provost John Hughes told CALS faculty and staff in introductory meetings this fall.

Excellent research attracts top students, which generates top publications and awards, and the cycle repeats.

While the attention seems a deluge, accomplishments such as these don't happen overnight.

"People have been working pretty hard since I've been here, and it takes a while," says Vogelmann, a professor who arrived in 2002. "We're seeing the results of that diligence."

But there's more to it than that.

Founded in the 1800s, this is a department with a legacy that reaches back to George Perkins Marsh, Frederick Billings and Cyrus Pringle. Emeriti such as Hubert "Hub" Vogelmann continue to contribute to the field and reflect well on CALS. Today the department can boast a balance of accomplished full professors and accomplishing young scientists.

"We do have representatives from all stages of careers and a range of people from different disciplines," observes the younger Vogelmann. "Plus, here we mix disciplines – we talk to each other. We've got it all in one department."

"You're missing the most important piece," argues Richard "Skip" Fanus, who as CALS assistant dean keeps an eye on the financial bottom line. "It's Tom's leadership. Tom has really raised the bar without creating tension. In typical Vogelmann low-key manner, he's brought this faculty together."

Since they've "gotten good mileage out of Marsh," as Vogelmann puts it, think what this group could accomplish with a new plant sciences building. As the lyrics go, "that'll be just the beginning. Curtain up! Light the lights! They've got nothing to hit but the heights."

– Cheryl Dorschner

Plant Sciences Building Rooms Named for Emeriti

While the building plans are still on the drawing board, rooms in the future University of Vermont plant sciences building were recently named in honor of friends and faculty.

"The Vogelmann Teaching Lab" was named thanks to major contributions from the Lintilhac Foundation and Marilyn Wilson. The lab will honor Professor Emeritus Hubert "Hub" Vogelmann. Additional contributions in his honor are welcome.

The Maple Seminar Room, one of two such seminar spaces, will bear plaques honoring several other emeriti professors whose noteworthy maple research in 20th century helped establish the University's department of plant biology as a leader in the field.

They are C.H. Jones, Richard Klein, Fred Laing, James Marvin, Mariafranca Morselli and Fred Taylor.

This naming is also made possible through the Lintilhac Foundation's generous gift. Additional donations continue to be accepted for the Maple Seminar Room in honor of these distinguished faculty members.

Other room naming opportunities exist to honor current or former professors, the memory of a loved one or as a personal philanthropic statement in support of the new building. For more information, contact the College development officer, Howard Lincoln: 802-656-2509 or Howard.Lincoln@uvm.edu

SAVE THE DATE – May 12, 2007 Alumni and Friends

This spring's annual Alumni and Friends' Dinner promises a whole new venue and location.

Shelburne Farms will be the setting for the May 12 event which will feature seasonal fare from Vermont provisioners, a silent auction of unexpected treasures and coveted services, awards presentations and a cash bar. Details will unfold on the CALS web site: www.uvm.edu/cals

Nominations are now being accepted for the New Achiever Alumni Award, Outstanding Alumni Award and Lawrence K. Forcier Outstanding Senior Award. The deadline is Feb. 1 for submissions, except for the Forcier award, which must be submitted by Feb. 24. For details on past recipients, award descriptions and nomination forms, contact Robin Smith at 802-656-0321 or Robin.Smith@uvm.edu



1



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Highlights

Commencement
Vogelmann Reception
Honors Day
Alumni and Friends Dinner
Carrigan Wing Opening



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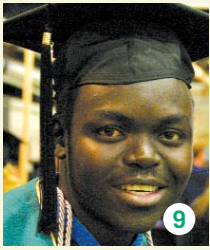
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Photos by Cheryl Dorschner, except where noted.

- 1 WHOOSH – From left, Rachel Kahn-Fogel, UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel and Carrigan niece Sister Elizabeth Candon unveil a painting of Joseph Carrigan at the opening of the Carrigan Wing for nutrition and food sciences.
- 2 BRICKS from the demolished Joseph Carrigan building were given to Carrigan family members at the opening of the new Carrigan Wing on April 28.
- 3 TOP PICKS – Receiving the College's highest teaching and research awards this spring, from left, student Christopher Rivard and professor Stephen Pintauro with the Robert L. Bickford, Jr. Keystone Award; David Heleba with the Outstanding Staff Award; Jonathan Leonard with the Joseph E. Carrigan Teaching Award; and Frederick Magdoff for the Hubert W. Vogelmann Award. Photo by Todd Pritchard.
- 4 LINE 'EM UP – Honored at the College's annual alumni dinner, April 29, were Robert Sinclair '44, G'55, the Sinclair Cup; New Achiever Christine Werneke '95; Outstanding Alum Cary Plumer Frye '82; Larry Forcier award Sarah Simpson '06; Dean Rachel Johnson presented awards; and Outstanding Alum Charles Wilcox '50.
- 5 HUBBUB – Hubert Vogelmann, right, received about 100 guests on April 29 at an event celebrating his honorary degree from UVM. Colleagues and friends spoke of his accomplishments, among them:
 - 6 David Barrington,
 - 7 Mary Jane Dickerson and
 - 8 Jeffrey Hughes.

OPPOSITE PAGE, COMMENCEMENT

- 9 BEST KNOWN grad Achier Adup Mou returned to Sudan this summer to search for his mother, and is now back as a graduate student.
- 10 PERFECT PRONUNCIATION – Marshal Josie Davis called the names of all 215 graduates.
- 11 MACE – Marshal Thomas Patterson led the queue of graduates and dignitaries.
- 12 HARD HAT – Some grads used their mortarboards to make statements.
- 13 THE NUMBERS – 169 undergraduate, 41 graduate and 5 doctorate of philosophy degrees comprised the CALS Class of 2006.
- 14 STANDING O – Individuals were cheered on by relatives – Mary and Stratton Lussier stand for grad Sarah Chenail.
- 15 TASSELS TURNED – the CALS Class of '06 applauds.
- 16 SPEAKERS Dean Rachel Johnson and keynote speaker Cynthia Danaher '80, send the graduates on their way.
- 17 CROWNED – The family of graduate Maegan Olsen dressed for the occasion.



Agriculture and **LIFE** Sciences

Spring CLASS of 2006

Bringing graduates, students, families, faculty, family and friends together to celebrate their college accomplishments is a rite of spring at the University of Vermont College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. This year's annual events included Honors Day, Alumni and Friends Dinner and Commencement. Special events were held to mark the opening of the Carrigan Wing, home to the department of nutrition and food sciences and to note the accomplishments of emeriti botany

professor Hubert "Hub" Vogelmann, who received an honorary degree at the Commencement ceremonies. Faculty, staff, alumni, generous friends and, of course, students received recognition and awards at these events. As they were sent on their way to do good works outside the College halls, keynote speaker, alumna and leader in the healthcare field, Cynthia Danaher '80, admonished, "Successful people look life right in the eye, and they live like they mean it."



CALS Kudos



Adam Lock

Matthew Waldron

Doris Ogden

Sarah Lovell

Ernesto Mendez

UVM Opie

Animal Science

Two new assistant professors of dairy nutrition joined the faculty. **Adam Lock** earned his Ph.D. from the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom and did postdoctoral work at Cornell University. **Matthew Waldron** arrived from Cornell University, where he earned his Ph.D. and did postdoctoral work.

UVM took home the gold at this year's National Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge. **Daniel Pike**, **Jeffrey Gingue**, **Brendan Fitzgerald** and **Matthew Angell**, all juniors in the 2+2 Program, comprised the UVM team. **Don Maynard**, coordinator of the 2+2 Program, led the group. Twenty-seven teams from across North America participated in the event held in Twin Falls, Idaho, March 31-April 1.

Maynard, a lecturer, also joined Vermont Agency of Agriculture officials in Argentina in July to help establish networks among Argentine and Vermont farms and create new markets for local dairy cow breeders.

James Gilmore, founder and director of the CREAM (Cooperative for Real Education in Agricultural Management) program retired in September. The assistant professor's work was recognized with several University, state and national awards.

At its July meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, the National Association of County Agriculture Agents awarded Extension assistant professor **Julie Smith** its Achievement Award for Excellence in Extension Service Education Programs.

Assistant professor **Feng-Qi Zhao** presented research at the American Dairy Science Association annual conference in Minneapolis in July.

Patricia Erickson, DVM, lecturer; and **Frances Kinghorn**, lab coordinator, recently received a grant to develop an animal behavior teaching module and a course on wolves that culminated in a student presentation at the ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain.

The UVM Morgan Horse Farm was among three farms inducted into the Breeder's Hall of Fame in February. Judges cited the Horse Farm as birthplace of the "Government" line and the "custodian of the Morgan breed."

Carol Delaney, Extension instructor, attended a conference and educational exchange this summer in Sardinia. It focused on sheep, goats and small ruminant farming and cheese production.

UVM Opie, the newest in the UVM line of Morgan horses, made a debut on the Vermont Statehouse lawn June 20. **Betsy Greene** and department chair **Thomas McFadden** introduced the horses and guests from Sweden, Germany, and Great Britain to area Morgan fans and a state government contingency.

Lyndon Carew published pioneering work in the use of velvet beans in avian species' diets in "World's Poultry Science Journal" recently.

Community Development and Applied Economics

Students in **Lynn Dee Gregory's** Fundraising Campaigns course this semester are providing working fundraising plans for nine regional organizations.

Christopher Koliba and colleagues published "The Practice of Service Learning in Local School-Community Contexts," in "Educational Policy's" November issue.

An article in the May 12 "Vermont Guardian" asked, "How Many Secessionists Are There?" in its article citing the 2006 poll by the Center for Rural Studies.

At a new web site, Vermonters are checking how their towns rate on resources that promote physical activity and healthy eating. The site, launched in August by the Center For Rural Studies and Vermont Department of Health, combines **Thomas Desisto's** research with **William Sawyer's** design.

<http://crs.uvm.edu/townhealthresources>

Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Gary Ward and associates recently published two papers in "Eukaryotic Cell" and "Molecular Biology of the Cell" on host cell invasion by the protozoan parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*. Also **Ward** was awarded a second grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Markus Thali, a cell biologist who works on HIV, spoke at the American Society for Cell Biology conference. **Thali** also recently published in the "Journal of Cell Biology."

Mariana Matrajt, was recently awarded a grant from the American Heart Association. She spoke at the International Congress on Toxoplasmosis in France.

Keith Mintz had his second NIH grant renewed to continue work on bacterial cell adhesion.

Sylvie Doublé, a crystallographer, gave talks at an international repair meeting in the Netherlands and the summer conference of FASEB, a consortium of experimental biology societies.

Gregory Gilmartin published recently in "Genes and Development" and "Molecular and Cellular Biology."

The Harvard School of Public Health honored **Susan Wallace** for "outstanding contributions to molecular radiobiology."

Nutrition and Food Sciences

Doris Ogden joined the staff as a research specialist this summer. She will also coordinate the iREACH research program.

Professor **Robert Tyzbir** was one of five faculty members this year to receive the University's highest teaching award, the Kroepsch-Maurice Award.

The **University of Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese** participated for the first time in Cheese Art 2006 in Italy, one of the world's most prestigious cheese festi-

vals. **Catherine Donnelly** and **Paul Kindstedt** were featured speakers. The Institute generated publicity widely over the spring and summer including "The Boston Globe," "New York Post" and was picked up by mid-sized dailies nationwide.

Amy Trubek's comments on what she has called "the end of cooking as we know it," appeared in top publications this spring including "The New York Times" and in France's "International Herald Tribune."

Jean Harvey-Berino told "Washington Post" columnist Sally Squires that dieters who used personal digital assistants didn't improve their accuracy in counting calories or increase weight loss during a six-month study she and colleagues undertook. The story traveled via newspapers and the web nationwide in August.

Plant Biology

Melanie Lloyd, a sophomore in the **Jeanne Harris** lab, received the American Society of Plant Biology's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship. Lloyd and eight other fellows from top universities will present their research at the American Society of Plant Biologists meeting in Chicago in the summer of 2007. **Harris** is an assistant professor.

Philip Lintilhac and **Chunfang Wei** published research on the effects of acid on cell walls of *Chara corallina* in volume 223 of the plant biology journal "Planta."

Plant and Soil Science

Sarah Lovell and **Ernesto Mendez** joined the faculty as assistant professors. **Lovell** came to UVM from the University of Illinois after earning a master's degree in landscape architecture. She also received a bachelor's degree in agricultural science and M.S. and Ph.D. in agronomy – all from Illinois. **Mendez**, earned his Ph.D. in environmental studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz, his master's degree in agroforestry from the Tropical Agriculture Research and Education Center in Turrialba, Costa Rica and his bachelor's degree in crop science from California Polytechnic University. He will share his appointment with the environmental studies program.

Aleksandra Drizo, research assistant professor, and her former graduate student, **David Weber**, presented at the 10th International Conference in Lisbon, Spain in September.

Scott Costa's \$62,000+ grant from the U.S. Forest Service will fund potential biological control of hemlock woolly adelgid. This research assistant professor also developed a statistically based sampling plan now widely adopted for detecting this invasive pest.

Entomology professor **Bruce Parker** and research associate professor **Margaret Skinner** were named outstanding research team and coauthors of the outstanding scientific article of the year by ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas) at its annual celebration in Aleppo, Syria.

HARD WORK, LUCK AND PLUCK

Continued from page 1

Allen uses Integrated Pest Management (IPM)—a sustainable approach to managing those many insects and diseases. IPM combines cultural, biological, physical and chemical tools in ways that minimize economic, environmental and health risks. IPM involves pesticide use, but frugally and only when warranted based on what is occurring in the orchard.

“Chemicals are expensive. Labor and fuel are expensive, so I don’t put on any more than there’s a need to,” says Allen, a member of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences board of advisors. He says that switching to organic now would put him out of business; however, he adds, “there’s a growing market for organic, and some day it will cross over to profitable.”

Trials at the University of Vermont may help hasten that day.

Apple growing has lagged behind other fruits and vegetables in certified organic production, because of a host of horticultural and pest management challenges—some of which are associated with the number one cultivar: ‘McIntosh.’ But recent research has identified different cultivars gaining popularity and alternative practices with strong potential to overcome organic apple-growing obstacles.

“It’s time that we and apple growers put that science to the test,” says Lorraine Berkett.

She and colleagues are doing just that at the UVM Horticultural Research Center in South Burlington. Nothing like it has been done in the Northeast.

In fact, researchers earned a \$600,000+, three-year USDA Integrated Organic grant, one of 55 grants reviewed nationwide this year, and reportedly its top pick. Fellow researchers are UVM’s



Cheryl Dorschner

Lorraine Berkett monitors pests as part of new organic apple demonstration project at the UVM Horticultural Research Farm – the first such program in the Northeast.

John Hayden and UVM Extension’s Heather Darby and Robert Parsons; and pomologists Elena Garcia at the University of Arkansas and Renae Moran at the University of Maine.

They chose five apple varieties in the mid- and early maturing range that Vermont apple growers report are examples of the most exciting and marketable cultivars – ‘Macoun,’ ‘Ginger Gold,’ ‘Honey Crisp,’ ‘Zestar!’ and ‘Liberty.’ These apples are subjects in a six- to nine-year trial that began this spring.

“We’re interested in finding out what are the opportunities and challenges the organic apple grower faces in changing over to or starting up an organic orchard,” says Berkett, a professor of plant and soil science.

Two growing methods are being trialed side by side.

UVM researchers converted a plot of 18-year-old ‘McIntosh’ trees at the Hort Farm by cutting off the tree and grafting the new varieties onto the ‘Mac’ base. Besides offering quicker orchard turnover, top-grafted trees benefit from the mature root system below ground.

“That’s why we will get such vigorous growth and these trees will bear apples in their third year,” says Terence Bradshaw, research specialist. “If we start an orchard fresh, we’d lose four to five years of production,” he adds. “By doing this we get new trees in the old orchard.”

The second plot involves planting an orchard with nursery-bought, young trees. These trees have dwarfing rootstocks that are attached to poles for support. These human-sized trees are easy to prune and pick, and they take up much less space than traditional orchards.

“Both orchards will be pruned to have open canopies which increases air circulation around the branches and helps with disease management,” says Berkett.

UVM researchers and students monitor these new orchards regularly for problems. They use organic products and organic IPM techniques.

“This research demonstrates new organic techniques and methods so growers can see these methods before they invest,” says Berkett. She estimates that new systems such as these can cost up to \$10,000 per acre before the orchard comes into full production.

The organic apple trials are also the classroom for a new organic fruit production course, student research projects and UVM Extension education. This is the first step to a certified organic farm at UVM and a UVM Extension program for apple growers considering changing to organic apple production.

“I have an apple processor who is interested in organic products,” says Ray Allen thoughtfully. “I will watch with interest what UVM is doing with organics.”

– Cheryl Dorschner

UVM Hosts Major Conference on Environmental Journalism

CALS was in the spotlight the last week in October when the University of Vermont and Vermont Law School hosted some of the nation’s leading journalists at the annual Society of Environmental Journalists conference in Vermont.

More than 750 attendees including environmental experts, scientists, editors and reporters from top media throughout North America convened at the Sheraton Hotel and UVM Conference Center, then fanned out to cover much of the state on tours.

The expertise of researchers for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) was called upon for a number of tours, panels and workshops. Speakers from CALs included: Steve Davis, Vern Grubinger, Frederick Magdoff, Robert Parsons, Timothy Perkins, Hubert Vogelmann and Timothy Wilnot. Cheryl Dorschner, communications specialist for the College dean’s office, was an organizer of the event.

Proctor Maple Research Center and the Morgan Horse Farm were among the tour destinations.

The conference resulted in a flurry of media attention as Vermont reporters covered the conference and attendees from further afield filed stories with their home publications.

Send Us Your Morrill Memories

Next year is the 100th anniversary of College of Agriculture and Life Sciences’ home and icon, Morrill Hall. The buff brick building with its terracotta tile roof is a stand-out on the University of Vermont green and in the memories of many alumni and friends of the College.

As we plan festivities to honor our home sweet home, send us your copies of photos, thoughts and memories of this National Historic Register building and your experiences there.

Contact Robin Smith: Robin.Smith@uvm.edu.



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Harvest Fest Highlights Agriculture

Crisp apples, tee shirt weather and the sound of cantering hooves, brought agriculture to one of the University of Vermont campus greens on Oct. 7. Pressed cider, dressage and cow-plop bingo were among the offerings as the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences held its second Harvest Fest in conjunction with Homecoming and Family Weekend.

Students sold mums, houseplants and hot dogs as club fundraisers, while faculty and staff talked with visitors at the display tables. The University of Vermont equestrian team demonstrated their dressage skills before visitors at the CBW Green.

At the cider press, Nathaniel Moore, an old hand at the job, found he could juggle other tasks at the same time. Beth Donoghue kept an eye on the job. Both are seniors; Moore majors in biological sciences and Donoghue majors in animal sciences. Foxhounds, Laser and Nuclear, ignored the CALS crowd while Sarah Studer spoke about equestrian hunting. Studer is a Class of 2009 equine science major.

First-year student Hannah Davis and her dad, Joel Davis of Hallowell, Maine, took little convincing from rider Amanda Ochoa about the advantages of boarding a horse at the Miller Research Complex. Ochoa, a sophomore studying microbiology, brought her horse Callie all the way from St. Louis, Missouri.

The big winner of the cow-plop bingo contest was UVM Extension specialist Julie Smith, who donated her winnings to UVM's CREAM program.



photos: Cheryl Dorschner