



Fund for Undergraduate Student Excellence launches new honors program

The Justin Morrill Honors Program is off to a solid start thanks to support from the college's new Fund for Undergraduate Student Excellence (FUSE). More than 150 donors contributed more than \$35,000 to FUSE in its inaugural year.

Acting Dean Rachel Johnson is pleased by the strong show of support from CALS alumni for the Fund for Undergraduate Student Excellence. "We take great pride in the caliber of students, the strength of our academic programs, the quality of our faculty and their commitment to excellence in teaching and advising. The time is right to launch the Justin Morrill Honors Program."

Dean Johnson expressed her gratitude to College of Agriculture and Life Sciences alumnus Robert L. Bickford, Jr. '43 for his leadership gift to FUSE at a recent CALS Advisory Board meeting. In

10 percent of their high school class who had at least a 1300 SAT and the highest UVM admissions ranking were offered a spot in the program. Thirteen students are enrolled this year as Justin Morrill Scholars.

David Rogers, director of the honors program, is enthused by the first class of Scholars. "Our Justin Morrill Scholars are a very impressive group. They are not only outstanding academically, but great people, too. I know that our faculty are really enjoying working with them, both in and out of the classroom, and are looking forward to their involvement in CALS research programs and student leadership activities."

In addition to a slate of special honors courses and seminars, Justin Morrill Scholars are required to complete a senior honors thesis in a field of interest under the supervision of an established faculty researcher. In fact, several scholars are already working in the laboratories of CALS researchers. In their junior or senior years, Justin Morrill Scholars will receive leadership training and serve as teaching assistants for a required first-year integrated skills course now being developed by Professors Thomas Patterson and Jonathan Leonard

with help from the scholars.

The college will admit a new class of scholars in September of 2002 and in subsequent years for an anticipated annual enrollment of about 60 students. "This group of honors students will have a positive impact on the college as a whole," says Dean Johnson. "They will be a motivating influence and will help enrich the academic experience for us all."



Senator Justin Morrill

As the Fund for Undergraduate Student Excellence grows, it will support an expanding array of programs and activities, ranging from the first-year experience to senior seminars. "Annual gifts from our alumni, parents, and friends will help make the undergraduate student experience the best it can possibly be, especially when budgets are very lean," observes Dean Johnson. "Looking ahead to our campaign, we will be seeking to endow the Justin Morrill Honors Program to ensure its longevity."

For more information about the Justin Morrill Honors Program, please contact David Rogers at 802-656-8295 or drogers@zoo.uvm.edu. For information about how to make charitable gifts in support of FUSE and/or the Justin Morrill Honors Program, please contact Howard Lincoln at 802-656-2509 or howard.lincoln@uvm.edu.

—David Rogers and Howard Lincoln



Rachel Johnson shows Bob Bickford (center) his plaque, while Dave Rogers (second from left) and Morrill Scholars Rebecca Link '05 (left) and Alicia Holmes '05 (right) look on.

recognition of Bob Bickford's leadership and service to the college, Dean Johnson established **The Robert L. Bickford, Jr. Student Study Center** in Morrill Hall for use by Justin Morrill Scholars. Morrill Scholars also have the opportunity to live on a new UVM Honors Floor in the Millis Residence Hall.

Acceptance into the program is very selective. High school students in the top

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Message from Acting Dean Rachel Johnson

New honors program and department chair changes underway



It is a pleasure for me to serve as the acting dean of CALS. Our CALS dean, Dr. A. John Bramley, was appointed UVM interim provost in June 2001. Along with Interim President Edwin Colod-

ny, Dr. Bramley is ably leading UVM during this time of leadership transition. We are thrilled to announce the recent appointment of Dr. Daniel Fogel as the next UVM president. Dr. Fogel will begin his tenure as president on July 1, 2002. Dr. Fogel has spent the past 26 years at Louisiana State University and is currently their executive vice chancellor and provost, as well as a professor of English.

I am pleased to report that the state of the college is excellent! This year's entering class is made up of some of the highest-quality students at UVM. We also had an impressive 89 percent retention rate for our returning first-year, first-time students. In this issue, you will read about our exciting new honors program in CALS. I thank Mr. Robert L. Bickford, Jr., CALS Advisory Board chair, for his generous gift to the college, which enabled the initiation of the Justin Morrill Honors Program (JMHP).

I am delighted to welcome Dr. Thomas

Vogelmann to CALS as the new chair of our Botany and Agricultural Biochemistry Department (BAB). Dr. Vogelmann is an internationally renowned scholar and award-winning teacher and researcher who comes to us from the University of Wyoming. I thank Dr. David Barrington for his ten-year service as chair of the BAB Department.

After 13 years of capable service, Dr. Robert Tyzbir is stepping down as chair of the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences. During Dr. Tyzbir's tenure, the department achieved tremendous growth and recognition due, in part, to his enthusiasm and commitment. We are conducting an international search for a new chair. For information about the search go to <http://nutrition.uvm.edu/>. Drs. Barrington and Tyzbir will continue on in their respective departments doing what they love—teaching and advising our CALS students and pursuing their scholarly interests.

As you can see, we continue to make exciting progress in CALS. I am deeply grateful for your interest in our college and its future. If I can provide you with further information about CALS or if you just want to stay in touch, please contact me at 802-656-2980 or rachel.johnson@uvm.edu.

CALS faculty member named 2001 University Scholar



Dr. Catherine Donnelly '78 has been named the University Scholar for 2001-2002 in the basic and applied sciences. The prestigious University Scholar Award Program recognizes, rewards, and honors UVM faculty members' sustained excellence in research and scholarly activities and encourages a general climate of scholarship. Dr. Donnelly's work on food-borne pathogens, such as, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Yersinia*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Salmonella*, has been used

to develop federal food safety guidelines and practices to detect and reduce these bacteria in our food system. Her research has greatly expanded and strengthened national food safety capacity, and she is a renowned international speaker on preventing and eliminating food-borne diseases. She has hosted foreign senior scientists from around the globe to work in her laboratory and has consistently produced top graduate students who receive national recognition at professional conferences. Dr. Donnelly has also led many food safety workshops to help Vermont and regional food establishments

heighten their awareness and improve procedures for storing, shipping, preparing, and presenting food to the public.

After receiving an animal science degree from UVM in 1978, Dr. Donnelly received her masters ('80) and doctoral degrees ('83) in food science from North Carolina State University. She joined the faculty at UVM in 1983 as a visiting assistant professor and was promoted to professor in 1995. She has focused her research on food-borne pathogens and has received more than \$6 million in funding from the Department of Agriculture, the Dairy Research Foundation, the Food and Drug Administration, Vermont's Dairy Promotion Council, and other national agencies and private foundations.

A professor of nutrition and food sciences, Dr. Donnelly has held a variety of administrative posts at UVM, including interim assistant vice president for human resources, associate director of the

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Promising future for FARMS

The Farm and Agricultural Resource Management Stewards (FARMS) program collaboratively offered by the University of Vermont and the Vermont Technical College (VTC) is thriving



Don Maynard (far left), UVM FARMS Program Coordinator, and students from UVM and VTC listen to Miner Institute Research Director, Katie Ballard (center), and Dr. Scott Mischler (upper right) explain the technology used for dairy reproduction management.

thanks to solid scholarship support from the State of Vermont and the capable leadership of program coordinators Don Maynard at UVM and Cal Blessing at VTC. This innovative dairy farm management program now enrolls 25 students at UVM and VTC from 12 counties around the state.

The program enables students to make a seamless transition from dairy farm management at VTC to a second two years at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at UVM. Full-tuition scholarships are available to Vermont students in FARMS.

The caliber of the program, coupled with the attraction of full-tuition scholarships, is stimulating applications from top-notch Vermont students who heretofore were attracted by scholarship offers to out-of-state dairy farm management programs. "It is gratifying to see the State of Vermont making an investment in the future of its dairy industry through its support of scholarships for FARMS students," said Don Maynard. "We are attracting outstanding young men and women to this program, and it won't be long before they emerge as homegrown leaders in the local dairy industry and beyond."

The students are making believers out of many, including numerous Vermont farmers and agribusiness leaders. Perry Waite recently hosted a group of FARMS students at his Pawlet farm. "It is great to see Vermont tax dollars being spent on Vermonters who will

work the land that so many have worked hard to conserve over the years. You need only to meet this group of students once to know that FARMS is working."

Gardner Merriam, sales manager of Feed Commodities International in Vergennes, Vermont, spoke approvingly after meeting students at a recent conference sponsored by the Vermont Feed Dealers and Manufacturers Association. "We are proud to be sponsoring scholarships for Vermont's best dairy students, and we look forward to them being among the next generation of industry leaders."

Feed Commodities International and its president, Craig Newton, recently gave their financial support to the program. Thanks to a corporate donation and a private donation from Mr. Newton, two additional students were able to enroll in the FARMS program this fall. Industry leaders like Mr. Newton regularly share insights with FARMS students as on-campus guest lecturers or as part of student field trips to farms and agribusiness sites around the region.

The true test of the success of the FARMS program will be the extent to which its graduates succeed at Vermont dairy farm management and agribusiness positions. The program's first two graduates (Dan LaCoss and Dave Kennet) put their senior project business plans to work this year and are now managing their own Vermont farm operations. Without their involvement, the two family farms they are now running might have had uncertain fates.

In his latest book, *The New Agrarianism: Land, Culture and the Community of Life*, Eric T. Freyfogel observes that good land use over time depends on a local culture that is durable, economically successful, and crosses generations. "Although book learning and scientific studies are important," says Freyfogel,



Craig Newton (center) discusses issues important to students in the FARMS Program and is joined by Chris LaPierre '02 (far left), Ben Palmer '02, John Audy '02 (right), and Stephanie Cannon '02 (far right).

"good land use requires the tailoring of general precepts to particular land parcels, work that can be done only by a person attentive to a parcel and committed to its long-term fertility." The FARMS program offers promise for the future, producing graduates equipped with key knowledge and insights for meeting the agrarian demands of their generation and paving the way for future land use stewards.

For more information on the FARMS program, contact Don Maynard at 802-656-1397 or dmaynard@zoo.uvm.edu. To learn how you can help support the FARMS program with a charitable gift, please contact Howard Lincoln at 802-656-2509 or howard.lincoln@uvm.edu.

—Howard Lincoln and Don Maynard

CALS alumni and outstanding student honored at dinner

Ms. Della Berhanu B.S. '01, graduated last May as the *2001 Lawrence K. Forcier Outstanding Senior*. Ms. Berhanu stands out as an exemplary student. In addition to holding a regular spot on the CALS Dean's List and being elected to Phi Eta Sigma and the Golden Key Honor Societies, Ms. Berhanu provided student leadership on the Dean's Student Advisory Council and the CALS Advisory Board. She was a Presidential Student Ambassador and tutored students in nutrition, math, and Spanish. She also held several off-campus positions, including serving as an assistant at the Burlington Imani Health Institute where she helped write grants to support AIDS and tobacco awareness programs. Ms. Berhanu's remarkable achievements as a student and her warm and caring personality will serve her well in the future.



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Ms. Kathleen Campbell B.S. '44, received the *Justin Smith Morrill Citation* at the 2001 CALS Alumni and Friends Dinner in recognition of her dedicated service alongside the late Floyd Campbell '42 of Strafford, VT. The Campbells worked tirelessly to develop and fund a television documentary on the historical significance of the legislative contributions of U.S. Senator Justin Smith Morrill of Vermont, the author of the Land Grant University system.



Mr. Ryle Dow B.S. '53, co-winner of the *CALS Outstanding Alumni Award*, has played an extraordinarily positive role in Vermont's dairy industry for more than 40 years. He helped shape how dairy cooperatives are organized, operate, advertise, and collaborate with each other within the state and regionally. His awards and contributions are too numerous to list. They are perhaps best reflected by the fact that many Vermont governors and senators have sought his agricultural counsel throughout his career and beyond.



Ms. Rebecca Piston B.S. '86, received the *CALS New Achiever Alumni Award* in May 2001 for her outstanding accomplishments and service to the dairy manufacturing industry. While in Vermont, Ms. Piston held positions of increasing responsibility at Ben & Jerry's, Cabot Creamery, and Agri-Mark, and served as president of the Vermont Dairy Industry Association. She returned to her native Maine in 1995 and joined Garelick Farms as their quality control manager. Rebecca now serves on the Maine Quality Assurance Task Force of the Dairy Practices Council and on the Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council. Rebecca's visibility as a sought-after speaker in dairy circles at state, regional, and national meetings is a source of pride for CALS.

CALS students and faculty achieve national recognition



Brandon Anderson '02, a doctoral student in the Plant and Soil Science Department, placed 2nd at the Northeastern branch of the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America for his oral paper competition. In Vermont since 1996, Anderson has been completing his graduate studies focusing on

and the use of enzymes to define its movement and availability. Anderson plans to continue his research on how phosphorus contributes to lake eutrophication.



Amanda Bisson '02 received 1st place at the American Society of Horticultural Science annual meeting in Sacramento, CA, for the written exam competition in horticulture. An honors student and vice president of the UVM Horticulture Club, Bisson also received the *Vermont Association of Professional Horticulturists Award* in spring 2001 for her outstanding

work and career interest in ornamental horticulture. Bisson is currently studying abroad at the University of Reading in Reading, England.



Dr. Josie Davis, professor of Animal Science, was the winner of the college's *2001 Joseph E. Carrigan Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching*. Davis has taught equine studies since 1991 and has been instrumental in making this new program one of distinction and high demand. One equine studies graduate summed up why Davis was chosen by saying, "Six and a half years after graduation, I still use the skills Josie so eagerly taught. She had a way of making you learn without your knowing you were doing it!"



Dr. Lyndon Carew was selected as the *2001 Vermont Professor of the Year* by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. During his meritorious 31-year career as professor of Animal Science and Nutrition and Food Sciences, Carew has taught introductory nutrition to more than 15,000 students.

Among his many accomplishments, Carew developed the first computerized, college-level nutrition course in the country. Many alumni have fond memories of Carew's engaging teaching style, including stories about his chicken experiments.



Dr. Joanne Knapp, associate professor of Animal Science, was named the *2001 Robert L. Bickford, Jr. Scholar* for her multi-pronged research program in elucidating regulatory mechanisms in nutrient utilization by ruminant animals. This faculty scholarship award is supported by CALS alumnus Bob Bickford '43 to recognize and advance exceptional teaching, research, and service in the nutrition and food sciences. Since arriving at UVM in 1997 from the Edison Biotechnology Institute at Ohio University, Knapp has continued to refine and develop her research program to benefit the health of animals and humans.



Dr. Rachel Johnson, internationally recognized for her work in pediatric nutrition, received the *2001 Award for Excellence in Research* from the American Dietetic Association Foundation, the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. The prestigious annual award recognizes outstanding achievement in nutrition research. Johnson has had a career-long commitment to research

that positively impacts the health and quality of life for children. She said that the award is "particularly meaningful to me because it is the highest recognition for excellence in nutrition research awarded by my peers."



Dr. Robert Ullrich, professor of Botany and Agricultural Biochemistry, was awarded the *Hubert W. Vogelmann Research and Scholarship Award for 2001*. His exemplary research record shows how effectively he collaborates with researchers beyond his area of expertise. Several such collaborations have led to new discoveries, and some have laid the groundwork for

further plant genetic research studies around the world. Ullrich's enthusiasm in the classroom and laboratory has made admirers out of many colleagues over the years. One colleague commented, "Bob has encouraged nearly every graduating senior in biological sciences to participate in undergraduate research; most of whom are applying for CALS honors."



Adam Wheeler B.S. '01, a December graduate of the Urban Forestry and Landscape Horticulture Program, has received numerous awards this year. He won 1st place in the student paper competition for the Northeast Regional International Plant Propagators Society, and 2nd place in the undergraduate oral competitions at the American Society of Horticultural Science

(ASHS) meetings, the *Burlington Garden Club 2001 Award*, and the *Plant and Soil Science Teaching Assistant Award*. He was also nominated by the Plant and Soil Science Department and selected by ASHS as an Outstanding Undergraduate Student. Wheeler loves horticulture and plans to pursue his doctorate in the field.



Tyler Webb B.S. '02 has been awarded the *2001 Graduate Student Teaching Award* from NACTA, the National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture, at their annual meeting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Webb is a graduate student in the Department of Plant and Soil Science, where he helps teach soil science labs and is researching how to manage the inter-

nal parasites of grazing livestock on organic farms. Webb has also been working for the Northeast Organic Farmers Association of Vermont certifying farms for organic food production. In his spare time, Webb mountain bikes, kayaks, fly fishes, and hunts for deer.

A warm welcome to the newest members of the CALS faculty

Dr. Russ Hovey joins the Animal Science Department as assistant professor after a visiting postdoctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, MD. Along with teaching responsibilities, Dr. Hovey's research at UVM will focus on the cellular and hormonal regulation of mammary gland development in several species to improve dairy production and understand the mechanisms that lead to breast cancer development. Dr. Hovey received his undergraduate degree from the University of Queensland and his Ph.D. from Massey University in New Zealand.

Dr. Héctor Sáez joins the Community Development and Applied Economics Department as an assistant professor with a joint appointment in the UVM Environmental Studies Program. His expertise is in international environmental issues (in Latin America, in particular), political economics, and rural development issues. Dr. Sáez re-

ceived his M.S. and Ph.D. in economics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and works with the Environmental Justice Project of the Center for Popular Economics in Amherst, MA.

Dr. Julie Smith joins the Animal Science Department as Extension dairy management specialist. After earning her D.V.M. from Cornell in 1994, Dr. Smith returned to graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. focusing on the feeding management of heifer calves and its consequences on development. Dr. Smith will be working with other Extension personnel, veterinarians, producers, and others to enhance the profitability of Vermont's dairy industry through strategic, whole farm, decisionmaking. Dr. Smith has special interests in the areas of calf and heifer nutrition and management, nutrient management, and herd health management.

Dr. Thomas Vogelmann is the new chair of the Botany and Agricultural Biochemistry Department. He arrived from the University of Wyoming (UW), where he was professor and interim chair of the Botany Department. Dr. Vogelmann is an internationally renowned scholar in plant physiology and received two significant awards from UW, one for his research studies and another for his teaching abilities. Dr. Vogelmann received his Ph.D. from Syracuse University and earned his undergraduate degree in Botany from UVM.


Dr. Cedric Wesley, a new assistant professor in the Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Department, has combined research interests in agricultural entomology, the evolution of animal structures, and population genetics. His current research seeks to understand and delineate the biochemical properties of the animal and human cell protein, "Notch," and how these properties affect various

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Keeping in Touch

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human diseases. Wesley received his Ph.D. from SUNY, Stony Brook, and completed his postdoctoral studies at The Rockefeller University in New York.

Dr. Umadevi Wesley joins the Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Department as a research assistant professor and holds a joint appointment with the Vermont Cancer Center. Her research focuses on understanding the role of cell membrane proteases in the

development and progression of human cancers. After receiving her doctoral degree from SUNY, Stony Brook, Wesley conducted melanoma research at the Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in 2000 and 2001.

Dr. Feng-Qi Zhao joins the Animal Science Department as assistant professor with expertise in mammary gland biology and lactation physiology. His research foci are: 1) the functional genomic of the mammary gland

to identify the key genetic and physiological factors that regulate mammary development and lactation, and 2) the molecular mechanisms of hormonal regulation of gene expression in mammary glands. His research is aimed at improving the productivity of dairy animals in agriculture and discovering the causes and possible cure of breast cancer and other human endocrine disorders. Zhao is from China and received his Ph.D. in molecular biology from the University of Alberta, Edmonton.

UVM College of Agriculture and Life Sciences **9th Annual** **Alumni & Friends Dinner**

Saturday, May 11, 2002

The Inn at Essex, Essex Junction, VT

Catered by the New England Culinary Institute

5-6:30pm Registration and Social Hour
CALs Faculty and Student Showcases
6:30-8pm Dinner
8-9:00pm Award and Recognition Presentations

Dinner RSVP forms available on the web at www.uvm.edu/cals/alumni/. Rooms are being held at The Inn at Essex until Thursday, April 11, 2002, under "UVM Alumni Dinner." For information, contact Libby Campbell at 802-656-0303 or scampbel@zoo.uvm.edu. Seating is limited. Register early. RSVP by **Friday, May 3, 2002**.

University Scholar, *from page 2*

Northeast Dairy Foods Research Center, associate and interim director of the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station, and associate and interim dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She is currently associate director of the Northeast Center for Food Entrepreneurship (NECFE), a joint venture between UVM and Cornell University. The NECFE provides scientific and technical expertise to help entrepreneurs in the northeast produce new food products and succeed in their food ventures.

For more information about Dr. Donnelly's research and/or her work with the Northeast Center for Food Entrepreneurship call 802-656-8300 or visit the web at www.nysaes.cornell.edu/necfe/.

—Robin Smith