



Keeping in Touch

Volume 22, Number 2



Cheryl Dorschner

Assistant Professors Amy Trubek, left, and Dan Baker are scholars of culture and community from very different perspectives. Trubek, a food anthropologist, Baker a community planner, yet both research Vermont maple sugarmaking. They represent a new trend in educators whose teaching, scholarship and research criss-cross all the familiar ways of pigeonholing subjects.

New Profs Hit the Ground Running

TRADITIONALLY, AT UNIVERSITIES nation wide, new tenure-track faculty members came straight from school with fresh PhDs in their back pockets. While they were well rounded by travel, internships and assistant teaching experience, they were, perhaps, untested. Admittedly, a stereotype, but useful.

In contrast, three assistant professors in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are anything but typical, and that's a good thing.

While they bring to UVM the fresh energy and optimism of a new faculty member, they bring to the classroom, the lab and the conference table a wealth of career and life experience.

Thinking Outside the Box

Amy Trubek's degrees are from Haverford College, Cordon Bleu Cookery School and University of Pennsylvania, but her post-college years add much more than pages to her *curriculum vitae*. She has traveled the world as a food anthropologist, taught

at New England Culinary Institute, led the nonprofit Vermont Fresh network and this month is riding the publicity of her (not first, but) second book. Her contributions are global, yet she is grounded in Vermont — all puns intended. Trubek is involved in a project linking environmental conditions with flavor variations in maple syrup; the team includes a geologist, chemist, sensory food scientists and a nature writer/ sugarmaker. Their research suggests that Vermont maple flavor may deserve the same regional distinction that we give to regional wines in France. Perhaps some day UVM Proctor Grade A fancy or Craftsbury Cuisine Grade B will be as distinctive to maple lovers as Chardonnay and Champagne are to wine connoisseurs. Trubek joined the nutrition and food sciences (NFS) department in 2005 and teaches about food, culture and food systems, but her courses are also offered through anthropology, environmental studies and sociology.

Johnson Will Leave Deanship Interim Dean: Vogelmann

RACHEL JOHNSON WILL STEP DOWN AS DEAN of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) and director of the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Vermont, the University announced on Jan. 28.

On April 2 Provost John Hughes named Thomas Vogelmann interim dean beginning July 1. Vogelmann is chair of the plant biology department.

In February Hughes announced that UVM Extension Dean and Director Douglas Lantagne will lead the search to fill the position. At this writing, his committee has not been named.

Before becoming dean in 2003, Johnson, a nutrition professor, was associate dean of the college for two years. Johnson will take a leave of absence beginning June 30 and return to the University in July 2009.

While dean, Johnson was instrumental in planning and fundraising for the University's 83,000-square-foot, \$55 million Plant Science Building, which will break ground this spring. She also led efforts that resulted in the Carrigan Wing addition to the Marsh Life Science building, home to both the nutrition and food sciences department and Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese at the University of Vermont. While maintaining strong support for traditional agricultural curricula, Johnson supported new initiatives in areas such as ecological agriculture, sustainable landscape horticulture, food systems, community entrepreneurship and public communication. During her seven-year tenure, the college's support from alumni and friends, the number of students enrolled and grant funding for research all increased. She also played important university-wide leadership roles — serving on the planning council and athletic council, and acting as chair or vice chair for dean searches for other UVM Colleges and Schools. She was also active in Vermont, sponsoring University research programs and educational and outreach initiatives that support nutrition, health and agriculture throughout the state.

"We are deeply appreciative of the leadership and vision Rachel Johnson has brought

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Richard Fanus

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Message from the Dean

Nothing Endures But Change

— *Heraclitus*

I KNOW IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE. After serving in the CALS dean's office for nine years, two as associate dean and seven as dean, I am stepping down as dean on June 30. What an honor and privilege it has been to be part of the leadership team of our dynamic and enduring college.

I'm not saying it's time for a change just because I've served for nearly a decade. It's time, because we have accomplished much of what we needed to do together as *this* particular configuration of dedicated people.

The college has benefited from an unprecedented investment in its facilities. We've given the exterior of historic, century-old Morrill Hall a facelift, restoring it to its original stateliness and beauty. We've added the Carrigan Wing to Marsh Life Sciences, a new home for the growing nutrition and food sciences department. On May 16, a capstone moment for me, we will break ground on the James M. Jeffords Hall – the ceremonial beginning for our 83,000-square-foot, \$55-million building to house plant biology and plant and soil science departments and provide state-of-the-art facilities for life science studies campus-wide.

While strengthening our traditional study areas, we've added new programs to meet students' demands including, but not limited to, ecological agriculture, food systems, community entrepreneurship and public communication.

If, like me, you measure progress by the numbers, they are impressive. Since 2002, CALS undergraduate enrollments grew by 29 percent; graduate enrollments by 80 percent. Our diligent faculty increased their number of teaching credit hours by 54 percent. We enjoy extraordinary success in our research enterprise – our faculty consistently brings in over \$8 million annually in highly competitive grants and contracts.

Like my Dad always said, "leave

a place better than you found it."

All of this doesn't happen without the hard work of many dedicated people. The CALS leader-

ship team of department chairs and associate and assistant deans sets the strategic vision, and then they roll up their sleeves day after day to accomplish our goals. Our faculty is admired across campus for its willingness to adopt new approaches to teaching and research; many are internationally renowned. Our diverse staff of professionals does everything from helping students navigate the university to milking cows at the Miller Farm. Our advisory board gives wise counsel and inspiration. I am immensely proud of this team; not just of our work and our enduring accomplishments, but also of the camaraderie, dedication and fun we have together.

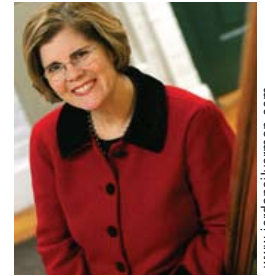
We all really like each other!

I already know that I'll miss those gratifying moments each year, giving our outstanding alumni and students their much-deserved awards, and seeing such pride in the faces of their families.

My husband, Mark, and I look forward to my one-year administrative leave and the freedom it offers to travel, read, think, write and take long walks.

In July 2009, I'll return to UVM with renewed vigor and enthusiasm for our important work. I'll be with my students and UVM colleagues again, who are my inspiration. I am not resigning from my roles as CALS faculty member and friend to our alumni and supporters. These are relationships I will continue to cherish.

— *Rachel Johnson*



Rachel Johnson

www.jordansilverman.com

Morgan Horse Farm Invigorated Thanks to \$1M

IF THE HISTORY OF THE University of Vermont Morgan Horse Farm is one graced by philanthropy, then one of its greatest chapters was written in March by Amy Tarrant, who made the farm's largest gift ever, and earlier by several other generous donors over the past few years who helped secure this Weybridge farm's future as an outstanding education resource and one of Vermont's premier landmarks and tourist destinations.

Tarrant's \$1 million commitment will establish an \$800,000 endowment for the UVM Morgan Horse Farm and assign \$200,000 for immediate operating and facility improvements.

Anne Brown and Irwin Plotkin '53 made recent generous gift annuity contributions that will establish the Harold Brown '52 and Anne Brown Endowment Fund for the UVM Morgan Horse Farm. Plotkin's gift will benefit the farm's educational programs.

In addition, Orlando, Florida resident Lora Dunlap's major estate plan commitment enabled the farm to conclude its 50th anniversary fundraising campaign. This campaign began in 2000 with a goal of raising \$500,000 for facilities and \$1.5 million for the Donald J. Balch endowment. Thanks to more than 370 donors, the campaign far exceeded its goal with total commitments of \$3.4 million.

"The Morgan Horse Farm is an important part of the history and culture of the University of Vermont, and indeed, the entire state and region," said UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel, in announcing the Tarrant gift. "This endowment will give the farm a margin of comfort it's never had in meeting its annual operating expenses and investing in the maintenance of its historic buildings."

"We appreciate all of the contributions made to the UVM Morgan Horse Farm over the past few years and to the leadership of campaign chair Dr. Jerome Modell, for the successful completion of the 50th anniversary campaign," said Rachel Johnson, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "We are especially grateful to those who have



Recent donations by Amy Tarrant and others will secure maintenance of historic buildings at the University of Vermont Morgan Horse Farm.

made major gift commitments that will help this historic facility and its cherished UVM Morgans serve the needs of our students, the visiting public and the worldwide Morgan horse community for generations to come."

The donation of the farm itself by Middlebury publisher and philanthropist Joseph Battell to the U.S. Government took place in 1907. That donation established the U.S. Morgan Horse Farm and the "Government" line of Morgan horses. While the federal government ended its Morgan breeding program in 1951 when it donated the farm to UVM, "Government" mares and stallions became a valuable part of UVM's Morgan horse breeding program. The Government line is considered one of the best in the world. The farm is also UVM's equine science students' laboratory to learn animal care and breeding.

"We are privileged to be the stewards of this historic site and to carry forward the excellent Morgan horse breeding tradition started here under Joseph Battell and carried on by the U.S. Government," said Stephen Davis, long-time director of the UVM Morgan Horse Farm. "Our future is bright thanks to these wonderful donations."

Amy Tarrant has long been a supporter of the UVM Morgan Horse Farm. She also funded the Ellen A. Hardacre

Equine Center at UVM, named after her mother. Three of Tarrant's five children are UVM alumni – Jerry '89, Richard '90 and Brian '93.

— Howard Lincoln and Jay Goyette

Counting on Sunshine

UVM's Proctor Maple Research Center (PMRC) has a lot of reasons to wish for sunshine, its warmth being key to maple sugaring season. But PMRC has counted the rewards of sunshine ever since it installed a 2kW photovoltaic solar array on the Maple Production Research Facility last spring.

"As of Sept. 25 the system has generated 2,775 kWh of solar power," reports research technician Mark Isselhardt.

Surplus energy is sent onto the power grid and a credit is applied to the PMRC's future electric bills.

In February, "the solar array had produced 595 kWh of surplus energy credits. This power will be used by our ongoing research into the effects of production technology on the quality of pure maple syrup," says Isselhardt.

If proposed Vermont Public Service Board net metering rule changes go into effect later this year, additional power credits could be applied to other buildings at the Center. CALS, UVM Proctor Maple Research Center Endowment and Vermont Solar Incentive Program funded this project.

CALS Kudos



Brian Beckage Deborah Neher James Gilmore Michele Schmidt John Burke Catherine Donnelly

Animal Science

American Dairy Science and Animal Science Associations met in San Antonio in November to hear presentations by associate professors **Thomas McFadden** and **Feng-Qi Zhao**, assistant professors **Russ Hovey**, **Julie Smith**, **Matt Waldron** and **Adam Lock**, lecturer **Don Maynard**, students **Catherine Ballard**, **Emma Wall**, **Shelby Purchase**, **Rick Grant**, **Jeevan Patiola**, **Kiera Finucane**, **Chris Hill** and a first-place winner **Amanda Kissell**.

Julie Smith, assistant professor, received the 2007 Peggy R. Williams Emerging Professional Award from Vermont Women in Higher Education. **Smith's** "Healthy Farms, Healthy Agriculture" bio-safety advice is now available worldwide on DVD through "Hoard's Dairyman."

James Gilmore, professor emeritus, was inducted into the Vermont Agricultural Hall of Fame in August.

Friends feted **Andy Bessette** in March to mark his retirement from the Miller Research Center after 17 years of service to the UVM Farms.

John Burke, professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, became interim chair in January.

Community Development and Applied Economics

Ken Bauer, assistant professor, won the American Anthropological Association's Junior Scholar Award for his paper on pasture boundaries in Tibet.

Kathleen Liang, associate professor, presented "Exploring the Myths of Optimism and Realism in Entrepreneurship..." at a conference of Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship. The Journal by the same name published this co-authored article and named it 2007 Best Paper. **Liang's** well-known "Dollar Enterprise" also won a 2007 Outstanding Research Award from the Allied Academy of Entrepreneurship and a USASBE Entrepreneurship Case Competition Award.

Chris Koliba, assistant professor, published last fall in the "Journal of Public Affairs Education."

Michele Cranwell Schmidt of the Center for Rural Studies received the 2008 Nancy Nye Fellowship in Rural Community Development in April. Previously, she presented a workshop on her master's thesis at the conference of the Association for Enterprise Opportunity in Kansas City.

Graduate student, **Jessica Hyman**, who also works at the Center, presented at the National Women in

Agriculture Educators conference in Oklahoma City in April.

MPA grad student **Jennifer Kenyan** will participate in the ENO Leadership Development Conference in Washington D.C. in May. **Kenyan** is also a fellow at the Snelling Center for Government.

Undergrad **Chris Costello** was one of five students selected to teach for two years in low-income communities with the highly competitive Teach for America program.

The department led a celebration "CDAE in the World" of international service-learning courses on April 23 at the Davis Center.

Nutrition and Food Sciences

UVM's hosting of the American Cheese Society conference in August generated media coverage that relied on **Paul Kindstedt** and **Catherine Donnelly** and colleagues. More recently, the Associated Press interviewed these co-directors of the Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese at UVM for articles that traveled worldwide on a "cheese cave" storage facility and on the safety of raw-milk cheeses respectively. **Donnelly** accepted an additional adjunct faculty position at Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi, India, where she will teach courses on pathogens and dairy food safety.

Dean and Professor **Rachel Johnson's** research on children's flavored milk consumption was published in April in the "Journal of the American Dietetic Association" to international media attention.

Plant Biology

After the Proceedings of the National Academy published in March assistant professor **Brian Beckage's** work concluding that the forest ecotone is moving rapidly due to climate change, "The Boston Globe" jumped on the story. **Tim Perkins** and alum **Thomas Siccama** contributed to the research.

Associate Professor **Jane Molofsky's** research was highlighted in a recent issue of the "National Research Initiative Competitive Grants News."

Plant and Soil Science

Department chair **Deborah Neher** delivered opening reflections at UVM's Dec. 15 commencement. Last summer the National Science Foundation sent **Neher** to Argentina to participate in the Pan-American Sensors for Environmental Observatories Workshop. She was a panel member for the EPA Science Advisory Board Report Environment review.

Ernesto Mendez and colleagues edited "Confronting

the Coffee Crisis: Fair Trade, sustainable livelihoods and ecosystems in Mexico and Central America" published in January by MIT Press. Last summer **Mendez** took seven students to El Salvador for three cross-department courses concerning the role of coffee in the economy and landscape.

PhD candidate **Brian Darby** received the Francis and Evelyn Clark Soil Biology Scholarship in November at the Soil Science Society of America meeting in New Orleans.

College-Wide Kudos

David Kerr presented findings on bovine mammary gland research at the International Veterinary Immunology Symposium in Ouro Preto, Brazil in November. Co-authors cross several CALS departments: **Melissa Latshaw**, **Ravi Pareek**, **Jun Zheng** and **Jeffrey Bond**.

In February the College awarded a total of \$10,000 from the Undergraduate Student Opportunity scholarship fund to **Mary Kate Langlois**, **Sarah Woodward**, **Gillian Rissler Brooke Love**, **Abby Scherer-Hoock**, **Faeterri Silver** and **Daniel Lynch**.

Josie Davis, **Don Maynard**, **Deb Neher**, **Jane Petrillo**, **Stephanie Phelps**, **Todd Pritchard**, **Beth Rice**, **Mark Starrett**, **Don Stratton** and **Brenda Tessmann** reached many early-admitted students during the February CALS phonathon.

More than two dozen people have joined the CALS staff or faculty since last summer. **Jennifer Wilkinson** and **John Barlow** signed on as lecturers in animal science.

In plant biology, **Rodrigo Olarte** joined as a lab research technician, **Changjun Mu** is a postdoctoral student and **Kristen Pritchard** became a business support generalist.

Community development and applied economics has two of four new assistant professors scheduled for hire: **Daniel Baker** and **Kenneth Bauer**. CDAE also added program specialist **Anna Masozera** and research specialist **Mandy Chesnutt**.

Xiaodong Li is visiting associate professor of nutrition and food sciences while **Amy Nickerson** joined that department as a lecturer.

In plant and soil science, assistant professor **Yolanda Chen** arrived in April.

Dale Knowles became a research technician in the plant and animal biology labs. And **Heather Palow** joined the dean's office as a student services specialist.

New Breed of Professors Hit Ground Running

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Trubek views her career trajectory as different, not necessarily better. “There’s more than one way to have a career that leads to teaching,” she says, but she admits it has advantages.

“Real-world experiences make me understand the complexity of our food system and lead me to ask questions and design research that incorporates such complexity,” she says. “Complex problems require complex solutions.”

“Right, the more skill sets, the more different perspectives, the better when you’re trying to create change,” Dan Baker builds on her remarks.

Baker’s formal education is primarily from UVM, but it’s his informal education that makes him an even greater standout.

Baker spent years as a river guide, wooden boat craftsman, sailor, horse-logger and is still a Vermont maple sugarmaker. Baker proves time and time again that he brings valuable skills to the brain trust. For instance, he was able to transfer maple technology to cane-sugar making in Honduras, to the great benefit of small-scale farmers there. In his courses, he and colleagues and students return each year to build on what they did previously. Baker is a community and regional planner specializing in sustainable rural development. His specialty is working in remote and underserved communities.

He is beginning to work on projects with the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, because as he says, “at some point in the community development process, we need bridges – we need engineers. And they need us.”

The Future of Academia

Adam Lock bends that definition of the new faculty member even further. Although he arrived at UVM in 2006 from Cornell University where he was a research associate, he earned his degrees in dairy nutrition from the University of Nottingham in England. He brings a different outlook on agriculture born of his upbringing on his family’s dairy farm in the southwest of England. Now 33, he started at a very early age and fit into his young life what others take careers to do.



Assistant Professor Adam Lock’s work on the benefits of fatty acids combines the fields of animal science, nutrition and medicine.

Lock studies how cows’ diets impact the production of bioactive *trans* fatty acids in the rumen that may be beneficial to human health. His findings may change public perception of the effect of dairy products on cardiovascular disease and breast cancer. His results may also help dairy farmers to design feed formulations to improve milk-fat content.

“We’re finding that some fatty acids may actually have beneficial effects on human health,” says Lock. One particular fatty acid has been shown to be a potent anti-carcinogenic compound; in studies it was particularly effective against breast cancer.”

Lock’s research indicates that by manipulating cows’ diets, farmers can increase the amount of this beneficial fatty acid in milk. Lock’s research and course work crosses UVM’s animal science and nutrition departments in CALS and has implications in the College of Medicine.

“These newer faculty members represent CALS bright future – innovative, collaborative, savvy – theirs is a diversity of thought, yet a common vision for the sustainability of Vermont agriculture,” says Dean Rachel Johnson. She sees these new cross-disciplinary paths to scholarship as the wave of the future in academia.

—Cheryl Dorschner

New Venue, New Menu May Alumi and Friends Event

CALS alumni and friends who have not yet partied on the top floor of UVM’s Davis Student Center with views of Mount Mansfield and the Green Mountain range are in for a treat Saturday, May 3.

Old and new friends of the college will join this year’s graduating seniors and award winners in the Silver Maple Ballroom from 4-5:30 p.m. for hearty hors d’oeuvres featuring seasonal Vermont foods, beers and wines.

Immediately following are award and recognition presentations for outstanding alumni and faculty. See article below.

Myott, Roberts, Wood, Beaupré Will be Celebrated May 3

Winners of awards for the top senior, alumni and friend of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) were announced in late March by Rachel Johnson, CALS dean. Awards will be presented at the festive annual spring celebration to be held May 3 at the Silver Maple Ballroom of the Davis Student Center.

Larry Myott ’68, G’92, a long-time UVM Extension specialist affectionately known as Vermont’s “Mr. Maple,” will receive the prestigious Sinclair Cup.

Nancy E. Wood G’01 is well known in Vermont for a wide range of business accomplishments: former business owner, state representative, alderman, business association director, CALS advisor, to name a few.

Robert F. Roberts ’84 is associate professor of food science at Penn State University, a leader in the dairy industry and specialist in a subject loved by nearly everyone – ice cream. Wood and Roberts will receive Outstanding Alumni Awards.

Emily Beaupré ’01, just two years out of veterinary school, is already an associate at a large animal veterinary clinic in Milton who focuses on emergency medicine, reproductive care, field service and acupuncture. For this, and because she’s giving back to her home state in many volunteer roles, Beaupré will receive CALS New Achiever award.

Outstanding Senior award recipient Christa Sherburne-Law is a biological sciences major, teaching assistant, swimmer, diver and volunteer with youth who plans a career in medicine.

For complete coverage of this year’s alumni and friends’ celebration, visit the college’s newly redesigned web home page: www.uvm.edu/~cals

Armstrong, Harvey-Berino, McFadden Feted

Three CALS Students Earn University-Wide Recognition at Honors Day Celebration

THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE and Life Science's (CALS) highest recognition for research, teaching and staff achievement this year went to Jean Harvey-Berino, Thomas McFadden and Colleen Armstrong, respectively, at Honors Day ceremonies April 18 at Benedict Auditorium in the Marsh Life Science building on the UVM campus.

Harvey-Berino, chair of nutrition and food science is co-author of the "Eating Well Diet: 7 Steps to a Healthier Trimmer You," recently nominated for a James Beard Award. The book features her researched-based Internet diet program, which has received international acclaim and significant results in achieving weight loss. She received the Hubert W. Vogelmann Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship.

McFadden, former chair of the animal science department, introduces beginning students to animal science, teaches advanced lactation physiology, leads innovative distance courses via phone, DVD and online and teaches the CREAM student-run dairy program. He received the Joseph E. Carrigan Award for Excellence in Teaching and Undergraduate Education.

Armstrong began at UVM 14 years ago as manager of a small greenhouse and has grown with the job to greenhouse facilities director of all three UVM research and teaching greenhouses on campus and at the UVM Horticultural Research Center. She has published and lectured widely and is an adjunct faculty member. She was recognized with the Outstanding Staff Award.

Three CALS seniors earned University-wide recognition.

Jennifer Fricke and Sarah Weintraub were inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa honorary society.

Michaela Martin received the Mortar Board Sophomore Award for outstanding service to the campus.

Elia Susskind was recognized as a top second-semester junior studying medicine or biomedical research with the Alexander Kende Academic Merit Award.

Teaching Assistant Christa Sherburne-Law was lauded for her work with the Foundations Courses.

And several students were recognized for their distinguished original undergraduate research. The student recipients, mentors and their projects are:

Nikolas Muenke and Terry Delaney for "Innate Immunity Pathways in *Arabidopsis thaliana*: Identifying Genes Essential to the Plant Immune Response."

Courtney Preseault and Adam Lock for "The Impact of Dietary Antioxidant Ethoxyquin (Agrado) on Rumen Lipid Metabolism and Subsequent Effects on Milk Production and Milk Fat Synthesis."

Meredith Benson with Susan Wallace and Susan Robey-Bond for "Analysis of Key Amino Acid Differences Between Human and *Escherichia coli* Endonuclease III Proteins that Affect Substrate Specificity."

Christine Fitzsimmons and Robert Hondal for "Comparison of Oxidation Techniques of Disulfide Bonds."

Paige Hoisington and Eugene Delay for "Neural Signaling Behind Inosine-monophosphate and Monosodium Glutamate Taste Synergy in C57BL/6J Mice."

CALS departments honored their top-ranking students with annual awards and scholarships.

Animal Science

The Elmer Towne Award went to Coral Kent-Dennis. William Van De Weert received the George H. Walker Award, and Emily Ricker took home the Brian Hawley Scholarship. Abigail Carpenter and Cara Edelstein shared the Animal Science Faculty Award.



In Honors Day Ceremonies, April 18, Dean Rachel Johnson, from left, presented awards to: Jean Harvey-Berino, Tom McFadden and Colleen Armstrong.

Brett Klein Memorial Scholarships to CREAM student herd advisors went to Angela Craig, Elia Susskind, Jenna Schirmer and John Wright.

In equine science, Miranda Bartlett won the Triona Wilder Marno-Ferree Memorial Award. Equine students Katherine Carton-Bacon and Claire Gebben shared the Donald J. Balch Award.

The American Society of Animal Science recognized 18 students. They are seniors: Abigail Carpenter, Elisa Speckert, Deandra Dill, William Van De Weert and Cara Edelstein.

Juniors: Briana Clark, Danielle Funaro, Thomas Cole, Coral Kent-Dennis, Abbey Dattilio, Valerie Koenig and Casey Fleming.

Sophomores: Megan Foy, Vanessa Patten, Jennifer Haber, Lauren Thresh, Michaela Martin and Benjamin Whitcomb.

Biological Science

Scholastic Achievement Awards went to senior Christa Sherburne-Law, junior Heather Lutton and sophomore Amanda Vance.

Community Development and Applied Economics

Guy Derry earned the Agricultural and Resource Entrepreneurship Award, Benjamin Weller received the Community Entrepreneurship Award, Sarah Weintraub took the Community and International Development Award and both Diana Fischer and Ashley Fowler received Public Communication

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Awards. Teaching assistants Mollie Kaufmann and Dana Michalowski were given awards for those efforts. Finally, recognition for top 10 percent cumulative grade point went to seniors Hannah Abrahamson, Diana Fischer, Elizabeth Fiori and Sarah Weintraub.

Environmental Program

This year's Outstanding Graduating Senior in Environmental Studies is tied between Nikola Janjic and Carolyn Smalkowski.

Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Paige Hoisington and Cara Edelstein received the Warren R. Steinbring Outstanding Senior in Microbiology Award.

Meredith Benson was named the Lucille P. Markey Outstanding Senior in Molecular Genetics.

Nutrition and Food Sciences

Starr Budnick was honored with the Nutrition and Food Sciences Faculty Award. The Blair Williams award went to both Emily Piazza and Carrie McLane. Thomas Pinello took home the Reuben and Rose Mattus Scholarship. Dana Notte and Jaime Leclerc shared recognition for Nutrition and Food Sciences Research. Jaime Leclerc also won the Cornelia Wheeler Irish Memorial Scholarship.

Jennifer Balentine and Jenna

Damareck won the top awards for dietetics majors – the Agnes T. Powell Awards. Emma Kopecky won the Outstanding Dietetics Student Award.

Landon Schettini is this year's Bertha Terrill Award winner.

Plant Biology

Martin Bushey received the Al Gershow Memorial Scholarship and Morgan Moeglein received the Sproston Award.

Plant and Soil Science

Senior Recognition in Agronomy, Soils and Sustainable Agriculture went to Dana Jokela. Burlington Garden Club's Memorial Award in Horticulture this year belongs to Andrew Herrick. The W.H. Darrow Horticulture Prize went to both Peter Merritt and Evan Reiss. Dana Jokela and Peter Merritt also took the Lewis Ralph Jones Award. Sarah Greenleaf and Robert Young received James E. Ludlow Scholarships. Robert Young also received the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Association Award and department recognition for being a teaching assistant.

Nearly 300 friends and family members of the award winners attended the event. Among them, Dean Rachel Johnson recognized Lee Bickford, donor and friend of the college, and Rose Laba, student services specialist, who was a key organizer of Honors Day.

CALS Graduation to Feature Former Ben & Jerry's CEO

Author, Ben & Jerry's first chief executive officer, and CALS alum, who as a UVM senior helped create an informal fraternity known as "Chikago International," Fred "Chico" Lager will deliver the College's commencement address Sunday, May 18 at the UVM athletic complex multipurpose facility.

Ceremonies begin at 11:45 a.m. A reception for graduates, family and friends will follow in the Silver Maple Ballroom of the Davis Center. Reservations are required only for the reception.

The academic procession forms at 11 a.m. in the building's indoor track. For details contact Heather Palow at 802-656-2980 or Heather.Palow@uvm.edu.

Pollan to Give Eaters' Manifesto

The best-selling author who has ramped up the nation's dinner conversations with his latest book will bring those conversations to UVM's Ira Allen Chapel on Tuesday, June 10 at 5 p.m. "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants," Michael Pollan says introducing his book "In Defense of Food: an Eater's Manifesto." Pollan is also the author of four other books and journalism professor at the University of California-Berkeley.

This public lecture is hosted by CALS and supported by the University of Vermont George D. Aiken lecture series. Pollan's public appearance follows meetings and events that are part of the University's Food Systems Leadership and Policy Institute (FSLPI). UVM along with North Carolina State and Ohio State Universities operate FSLPI in partnership with the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges and W.K. Kellogg Foundation. For more information: Matt Sayre, 802-656-4174 or website: <http://www.uvm.edu/~learn/aiken/>.

In Memoriam

JEANNE FOSSANI

An adjunct faculty member in the College who was beloved by students, Jeanne Fossani passed away Oct. 24 after battling breast cancer. Fossani, 55, of South Burlington, taught Spanish courses in several CALS departments and last summer launched a new three-part course with colleagues who led seven students in Central America. Fossani earned her bachelor of arts degree *magna cum laude* in French and Italian from New York University in 1982. By her 20s she was fluent in Spanish, French, Italian and Greek. Her master's degree in foreign languages and English as a second language was from Rutgers University. She studied romance languages at the Sorbonne. She taught at Dartmouth University, Lebanon (NH) College and at schools in New Jersey and Japan. She spent 10 years teaching English to students at EARTH University in Costa Rica, where she incorporated globalization issues. Her travels included Japan, Africa and South America. More recent

travel led her to Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Cuba, Brazil, Venezuela, Panama and Nicaragua. She is survived by her sisters, nephews, nieces, cousins, and a legacy of devoted friends and students.

GORDON NIELSEN

One of Vermont's best known entomologists, Plant and Soil Science Professor Emeritus Gordon Nielsen, 77, passed away Aug. 25 at home in Hinesburg. He worked for UVM Extension from 1965-1992 and was also a pesticide coordinator. After retiring, he volunteered at the UVM Morgan Horse Farm museum. A longtime member of the Invertebrate Scientific Advisory Group of the Vermont Endangered Species Committee, he was a persistent advocate for the good science necessary for discovery, documentation, and ecological understanding of the thousands and thousands of invertebrate species of Vermont. He was well known to many Vermonters from his public appearances on television, radio, county fairs and

schools. Margery Nielsen, his wife of 52 years, three children and their families survive him.

SELINA WEBSTER

Selina Myfanwy Williams Webster, a UVM home economics teacher who introduced students to "flat pattern, draping and tailoring" and was chair of the College's clothing, textiles and design department, died Feb. 2 at age 89. She was born and educated in Pennsylvania – graduating from Pennsylvania State University in 1940 with a B.S. in home economics, then began her teaching career in that state. She earned her M.S. in retailing in 1946 from New York University. She taught at UVM from 1948-1951 and 1960-1980 and at Shelburne High School from 1952-1954. While at UVM she met her future husband, Truman M. Webster, to whom she was married in 1950. He predeceased her in 1984. She is survived by a daughter and son and their families, all of Shelburne.

Leaders Commend Johnson's Tenure as Dean

over the course of many years to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, to the university and to the State of Vermont, not to mention her national leadership on issues of childhood nutrition and obesity – and we look forward to even greater contributions from her after she completes her deanship and returns from a well-earned leave,” said UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel.

“Rachel Johnson has been a strong steward of what is a very important college for the State of Vermont,” said Hughes. “While maintaining strong ties to traditional agricultural communities in the state, she has also been an innovative leader, promoting teaching that speaks to current issues, cutting-edge life-science research, relevant scholarship and outreach that helps Vermonters – all of which led to impressive enrollment growth. We are lucky to have had Rachel leading the college for the past seven years and even luckier that she will continue her work with the university after her much deserved leave.”

“I sincerely appreciate Professor Johnson's long-time commitment and contributions to agriculture in our state,” said Roger Allbee, secretary of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. “The agricultural community has benefit-

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ed greatly from her dedication and service. We are fortunate that Rachel will return to the university after her leave and look forward to continuing to work with her in that capacity.”

“I am grateful to Dean Johnson for her leadership at CALS,” said David Marvin, chair of the CALS advisory board and owner, with his wife, Lucy, of Butternut Mountain Farm of Morrisville. “She understands how important the university's land-grant mission is to maintaining Vermont's working landscape and has been a champion for the college as it delivers on that mission.”

Johnson came to UVM in 1991. She is a highly productive scholar, with over 75 papers published in peer-reviewed journals. Her research specialty is childhood nutrition, with an emphasis on the nutritional role of dairy foods. Rachel Johnson has been a national voice warning of the dangers of childhood obesity. She has also served on numerous state and federal commissions and panels, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Dietary Guidelines for Americans Scientific Advisory Committee.

— *Staff Reports*

Ian Worley to Retire

Friends of plant biologist, environmental studies chair and professor Ian Worley will gather at Shelburne Farms on Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. to celebrate his career as he retires from the university.

The morning will be spent with a symposium on Vermont's biological and landscape diversity and includes field trips.

For details contact Rick Paradis: 802-656-4055 or Richard.Paradis@uvm.edu

Jeffords to Attend Ceremony

James Jeffords will attend the college's plant science building groundbreaking and naming ceremony in his honor, family members and aids confirmed recently.

The celebration, Friday, May 16 at 4 p.m. near the UVM Greenhouses and Stafford Hall will launch the building of “James M. Jeffords Hall,” namesake to the friend of the college who was U.S. senator from Vermont from 1989-2007.

UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel and CALS Dean Rachel Johnson will make remarks. The public is invited.

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