Kathryn Huggett, Ph.D., speaks at her formal investiture as the Larner Professor of Medical Education and Director of the Teaching Academy.

The College is dedicated to educating these students, as well as members of its local and national communities.

Teaching Academy Welcomes Inaugural Director

Kathryn Huggett, Ph.D., joined the College of Medicine faculty in 2015 as the inaugural director of the Teaching Academy. Huggett came to UVM as a professor of medicine and pathology and associate dean and was formally invested this fall as its first Robert Larner, M.D., 42 Endowed Professor in Medical Education. Huggett succeeded Ann Guillot, M.D., professor of pediatrics and director of pediatric nephrology, who served as interim director of the Teaching Academy since July 2014.

The assistant dean for medical education at Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Neb., since 2010, Huggett had also served as director of medical education development and assessment since 2004. She now directs the Academy and its support of education and educators at the College of Medicine, and organizes the development and implementation of Teaching Academy programs. She provides educational expertise and collaborates across the academic medical center to facilitate high quality educational programs, medical education research, and faculty development.

The Teaching Academy at the UVM College of Medicine was launched in December 2014, with a mission to foster a scholarly approach to medical education, nurture faculty development, and guide curricular innovation. Charter members inducted in March 2015 include 53 faculty and educators at the College of Medicine, and the Academy and its support of education, research, and development.

Class of 2019 Marks Their First Milestone with White Coat Ceremony

Dealing with challenges, varying emotions and general stress is consistent with becoming and being a physician. These challenges were recognized in October as the Class of 2019 marked their entry into clinical education with the College’s annual White Coat Ceremony at UVM’s Ira Allen Chapel. This annual ceremony or a similar rite now takes place for first-year medical students at about 90 percent of schools of medicine and osteopathy in the United States, and is supported by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation.

The ceremony opened with welcome remarks from Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Education with the College’s annual White Coat Ceremony at UVM’s Ira Allen Chapel. This annual ceremony or a similar rite now takes place for first-year medical students, and is supported by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. The teaching academy at the UVM College of Medicine was launched in December 2014, with a mission to foster a scholarly approach to medical education, nurture faculty development, and guide curricular innovation. Charter members inducted in March 2015 include 53 faculty and educators at the College of Medicine, and the Academy and its support of education, research, and development.

The ceremony opened with welcome remarks from Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Education William Jeffries, Ph.D., Dean Rick Morin, and UVM Medical Group Board of Directors Chair Claude Nichols, M.D., who is also professor and chair of orthopaedics and rehabilitation. Alicia Veit, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics and the 2015 UFV faculty recipient of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award, delivered the keynote address. Recalling her own first white coat that she donned in her first year of medical school, Veit said that, as a nervous student, “It felt really big. I wasn’t sure I could fit into all the expectations that came with that white coat.”

But, Veit noted, the responsibility of a physician is something one inevitably must accommodate oneself to. She quoted surgeon and author Arv Gawande’s thoughts: “To live as a doctor is to live so that one’s life is bound up in others’ and in science and in the messy, complicated connection between the two. It is to live a life of responsibility. The question then, is not whether one accepts the responsibility. Just by doing this work, one has. The question is, having accepted the responsibility, how one does such work well.”

College Honors Distinguished Graduate Alumnus

Wong, Showcases Student Research

Patrick Wong, Ph.D., 75, received the University of Vermont College of Medicine’s 2015 Medical Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate Alumnus Award and the Annual Graduate Student Research Showcase Award.
Excellence in Teaching Recognized with Kroepsch-Maurice Award

College of Medicine faculty member Maria Mercedes Avila, Ph.D., was among the recipients of the 2015 Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Awards. The annual awards recognize UVM professors for excellence in teaching, leadership, and support of students. Avila was honored for her dedication to her students and her commitment to cultural diversity.

UVM Announces New Master of Medical Science Degree Program

Starting in fall 2015, UVM began offering a new medical science master's program for students with a limited background in science and those whose undergraduate grades do not reflect their true academic ability.

Teaching the Intersection of Art and Science at Cold Hollow Sculpture Park

Professor of Medicine Jason Bates, Ph.D., develops computer models and devices to help better understand and improve lung function. Nationally-known artist David Stromeyer creates soaring sculptures out of steel. Although they work in vastly different fields, the two men hosted a conversation this past autumn at Cold Hollow Sculpture Park in Enosburg Falls about the ways in which their work in science and art frequently intersects.

The Walking Conversations at Cold Hollow Sculpture Park series brought to the park a variety of experts, and paired them with sculptor David Stromeyer for a talk and a stroll through more than 50 sculptures, all conceived and created by Stromeyer, on display in the rolling fields outside Enosburg Falls. Previous guests for the Walking Conversations series have included a composer, poet, and museum curator. One of the goals for the series, said Program Developer Rosie Bramson Gill is to invite guests to see the park in different ways, and to think about the creative process from multiple angles.

For Bates and Stromeyer, the conversation touched on the creative process and more. They also discussed the genesis of an idea and how it develops, delved into questions of motivation for artists and scientists, and considered questions about how modeling plays into their work.

Bates, a bioengineer who holds multiple patents, characterized the computer models he develops as much more than “abstract equations.” “You have to have a picture in your mind,” he says. “The model is your hypothesis.”

For Stromeyer, models of his sculptures are built on the scale of one inch to one foot, allowing him to visualize the sculpture in space. At this stage, he says he rules out questions about material and transport, and focuses on the vision. He’ll put the models on a Lazy Susan to see it as viewers would as they walk around it. Like Bates, he says there is an element of visualization to his work, to the point that his state of mind can be almost subconscious or “half asleep” as he brings shape to an idea.

The two men started with a strong interest in the other’s chosen field. Bates trained as a classical pianist and had a “keen interest in composing.” Stromeyer considered majoring in mathematics. This brought up questions of vocation, and how science and art may draw out similar qualities in their practitioners.

“There’s a space of unknown out there,” Bates said of his work as a scientist. “I’m trying to pick out pieces.”

“My progress is not necessarily linear, but it is connected,” said Stromeyer of his more than four decades as a sculptor. “My style — I hope — keeps moving and changing.”