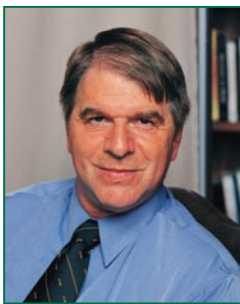


# Inside Vermont



*It is truly an exciting time to be a part of the University of Vermont community, and I extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone.*

PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING

The fall semester of the 2007–2008 academic year was packed with activity and will be remembered, I believe, as yet another milestone in University history.

**W**e began with the largest first-year entering class, the largest total undergraduate enrollment, and the highest total doctoral enrollment UVM has ever seen. Nearly 12,300 total students are attending the University this year, including approximately 9,450 undergraduates, 1,370 graduate students, 410 medical students, 1,050 non-degree students, and approximately 800 ALANA (Asian-American, Latino, African-American and Native American) students.

Our convocation ceremony featuring human rights activist and acclaimed author Ishmael Beah set a new standard for the sense of community and shared purpose we hope to achieve at such occasions.

And this fall's Homecoming and Family Weekend — which included the formal dedication of the new Dudley H. Davis Center and the celebration of the successful completion of The Campaign for the University of Vermont — was nothing less than spectacular. A record 3,862 parents, students, alumni, and friends participated in the weekend's activities, representing 30 states, the District of Columbia, and the Province of Quebec, and ranging geographically from California, Colorado, Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico to Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Virginia, and Maine.

Looking ahead to the spring, five groups of faculty and students will pilot the problem-based learning communities that have the potential to become one of UVM's "Signatures of Excellence." We are very grateful for the creativity, initiative, and hard work that our colleagues have invested in developing these learning communities, each one comprising faculty and students who will pursue together, through the students' concurrent registration in two or three courses in different fields of study,

answers to challenging questions and approaches to solving important problems:

- **Globalization, Gender and Violence: The Women of Juarez, Mexico.** Faculty: William McDowell, Art and Art History; Adriana Katzew, Art and Art History; Caroline Beer, Political Science; John Waldron, Romance Languages
- **The Obesity Pandemic: A National Problem with a Local Solution.** Faculty: Rachel Johnson, Nutrition and Food Science; Jane Kolodinsky, Community Development and Applied Economics; and Jean Harvey-Berino, Nutrition and Food Science
- **Identity and Reconstruction of the Southern Sudan.** Faculty: Robert Gordon, Anthropology; David Shiman, Education; Peter von Doepp, Political Science
- **Communicative Competence in a Multi-literate World.** Faculty: Jennifer Dickenson, Anthropology; Julie Roberts, Communication Science; Nancy Welch, English
- **Health Challenges in the 21st Century.** Faculty: Eileen Burgin, Political Science; Jeanne Shea, Anthropology; Sara Solnick, Economics

It is truly an exciting time to be a part of the University of Vermont community, and I extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone — students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and friends — for all you are doing to fulfill UVM's promise as a truly exceptional place for learning and discovery. If not for you, we simply could not have made such remarkable progress over these last several years in building academic excellence and transforming the UVM experience in ways that will continue to pay dividends for generations to come.

**Daniel Mark Fogel**  
*President*

## UVM Among Top Six “Green” Schools Nationally

The Sustainable Endowments Institute has ranked UVM among the top six schools nationally for green practices and policies in its just-released College Sustainability Report Card. UVM received an overall grade of A-, the highest grade given by the institute, along with Harvard University, Dartmouth College, Middlebury College, Carleton College, and the University of Washington. The institute graded the 200 U.S. colleges and universities with the largest endowments in seven categories and then awarded an overall grade. Its aim is to show a correlation between an institution’s green practices and its investment decisions. In addition to its overall grade, UVM received a B in the Climate Change and Energy subcategory, an A in Food & Recycling, an A in Green Building, an A in Transportation, a B in Endowment Transparency, a B in Investment Priorities, and an A in Shareholder Engagement.

A number of specific programs helped boost UVM’s score. Among many items noted on the Report Card were the fact that UVM purchases 30 percent of its food from local producers; that UVM diverts about 35 percent of its waste stream from the landfill and recently won the Outstanding College or University Award from the National Recycling Coalition; that its green building policy requires all new buildings to be LEED silver certified and aspire to LEED gold; that six of its ten buses run on clean natural gas; and that it has a committee of staff, faculty, students, trustees, and administrators that makes recommendations, which have always been accepted, to the Budget, Finance, and Investment Committee of the University’s board of trustees.

The College Sustainability Report Card 2008 is the second such report from the Sustainable Endowments Institute and is published as part of the Institute’s broader effort to encourage discussion on sustainability in higher education. The Institute, a special project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, receives funding from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation, and the Nathan Cummings Foundation, among others. The full College Sustainability Report Card 2008 is available online at [www.endowmentinstitute.org/sustainability](http://www.endowmentinstitute.org/sustainability).

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## UVM Wins National Recycling Award

To honor the University of Vermont’s pioneering programs and ongoing accomplishments in recycling and waste reduction, the National Recycling Coalition has given UVM its “Outstanding College or University” award for 2007. Erica Spiegel, UVM’s solid waste and recycling manager, received the award at the NRC’s annual congress in Denver, Colorado, in September.

“We are ecstatic about this award,” Spiegel said. “We’re increasingly making recycling part of the fabric of who we are as a university. This award is a reminder that composting and recycling are fundamental to all our efforts at sustainability.”

What began as a modest program in 1987, following the passage of a new State of Vermont solid waste law (“Act 78”), has grown into a highly successful campus-wide program. With participation from all departments, two employees, and the efforts of 180 custodial staff, more than a ton of paper, cans, and bottles are collected each day.

Additionally, each year, 175 tons of food waste is delivered to Intervale Compost, 8 tons of waste cooking oil is given to a local biodiesel manufacturer, 56 tons of wood chips go to the McNeill Station to be burned for electricity generation, 32 tons of computers and other “e-waste” are recycled and disassembled by American Retroworks, and 116 tons of scrap metal are recycled at a local scrap yard.

The award application also notes that UVM has devised a new tracking system for construction and demolition waste, developed a program for distributing surplus furniture, and launched a “One Less Cup” campaign to reduce disposable cup use.

“This is a very important award in the college and university world,” that numerous schools vie for each year, said Gioia Thompson, UVM’s environmental coordinator.

UVM’s successful application was supported by the Chittenden Solid Waste District, the Salvation Army of Chittenden County, and the State of Vermont’s Waste Management Division.

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## \$6.7 Million Grant to Study Lake Champlain

Pollution in Lake Champlain has been attacked by researchers and citizens for decades. But many problems remain and are poorly understood — the effects of excess phosphorus, for example — despite intensive study and data collection.

Now, a \$6.7 million grant from the National Science Foundation to the Vermont EPSCoR program at UVM promises a novel way forward for understanding the lake’s watershed while at the same time giving Vermont strength in an advanced new form of analysis called “complex systems computation.”

Senator Patrick Leahy provided key leadership for securing the three-year grant, “Complex Systems Modeling for Environmental Problem Solving.” Leahy and UVM president Daniel Mark Fogel announced the grant on September 28.



Following the dedication of the Dudley H. Davis Center on October 5, a time capsule was sealed and mounted in the wall near the Hoffman Information and Resource Center on the first floor. To be opened on Homecoming & Family Weekend on the 250th anniversary of the University's founding in 2041, the capsule contains a variety of items intended to convey the spirit of the University and its people in 2007. "We asked for documents or photos or objects the people might think would be really cool to find when they open up the capsule 34 years from now," said Pat Brown, director of student life and of the Davis Center. Included are items submitted by the Davis family and various student organizations, photos of various stages of Davis Center construction, President Fogel's vision statement and "Signatures of Excellence" document, and even an iPod with 250 contemporary songs suggested by students. Participants included President Fogel, Rachel Kahn-Fogel, Governor James Douglas, Pat Brown, Student Government Association President Kesha Ram, and Dudley Davis's sons Chuck Davis '72 and Jeff Davis '74.

"We have a responsibility to ensure Lake Champlain is as clean and healthy as possible today, and for future generations," Leahy said. "That takes not only dollars but a plan on how to use these investments as efficiently and effectively as we can. Having secured \$100 million in federal assistance over the years for the protection of the lake, I welcome the progress we have made. More needs to be done, and the cutting-edge modeling we are announcing today will give us an even better understanding of how to address threats to our lake and preserve its future."

"We salute Senator Leahy's longstanding leadership for the well-being of Lake Champlain and commitment to keeping Vermont at the front edge of advanced environmental technologies," said UVM president Daniel Mark Fogel. "Thanks to his vision and effort, this important grant will allow UVM, and all the partners in the Vermont EPSCoR program, to reach new heights in science and engineering research, workforce development throughout the state, and research innovations for small businesses."

The first part of the project will not take the conventional approach of collecting additional data on the lake. Instead, a new EPSCoR research team, drawing together scientists and engineers from numerous departments across UVM as well as other colleges in Vermont, will use the rich data sets already

in existence and apply powerful modeling tools to numerous parts of this data at the same time. High-speed computers at UVM's Advanced Computing Center, running self-learning programs that evolve as they work, will reveal hidden patterns that emerge from the complex interaction between water, organisms, pollution, and other forces within the watershed.

The grant will also allow the creation of a new education and workforce development effort, the Streams Project. It will bring together high school students and their teachers with undergraduates and professors on a long-term study, sampling and analyzing water from streams throughout the Lake Champlain watershed. The Streams Project will be led by faculty from Saint Michael's and Middlebury Colleges and have participation from many other colleges in Vermont.

As a part of the project, EPSCoR will also add two new initiatives to its highly successful Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, which supports research in the private sector. One will provide support to businesses in the earliest steps (Phase 0) of the SBIR program, including the use of UVM research laboratories and other facilities to collect the data they need to move on to advanced phases of the program (Phases I and II). The second takes the worried question "What if this doesn't work?" and turns it on its head with an award for Vermont companies and entrepreneurs who

optimistically ask “What if this works?” about very high-risk and very high-impact research ideas. These Innovation Fund, or “IF,” awards, about \$10,000 each, will go to four long-shot ideas that, history shows, are the necessary starting point for the new technology breakthroughs that are critical to American economic competitiveness.

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## A Farewell to Raul Hilberg

Capturing the essence of a great man’s life in just ninety minutes requires multiple voices and varying perspectives to construct a complete personal and professional picture. Eight friends and colleagues of Raul Hilberg weaved such a portrait of the late professor of political science during a tribute on October 23 at Ira Allen Chapel. Their words offered moving testimony to the journey of the man who courageously pioneered the study of the Holocaust.

A faculty member at UVM from 1956 to 1991, Hilberg was author of *The Destruction of the European Jews* (1961), which meticulously documents the Nazi killings of more than 5 million Jews and is regarded by Holocaust scholars as a masterwork in the field. The University established its Center for Holocaust Studies in 1992 to honor Hilberg’s teaching and research accomplishments.

Recollections of Hilberg, who passed away on August 4 at age 81, portrayed a determined, brilliant, but frustrated young scholar who was essentially ignored by the academic community until his breakthrough in 1961 with the publication of the work that defined Holocaust Studies as a legitimate field of academic inquiry. He was also described as a master at the lectern, a friend to fledgling scholars, unafraid to tell unpopular truths, and ever-concerned about man’s capacity for evil.

“I have never known a scholar who blended exhaustive knowledge and intellectual creativity so seamlessly,” said Peter Hayes, professor of history and German at Northwestern University and a leading Holocaust scholar. “No one better demonstrated the interdependence of these qualities . . . Raul was absolutely fearless. He never shied away from what needed to be said, even when doing so broke taboos and violated political correctness. In this respect he was the conscience as well as the creator of his subject.”

## High Praise for UVM MBA Program

The School of Business Administration’s MBA program ranked among the nation’s best for integrating social and environmental issues in the Aspen Institute’s top 100 list and also was cited as one of the top 10 for opportunities for women by The Princeton Review.

The Aspen Institute, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering enlightened leadership and open-minded dialogue, ranked UVM 78th among its “Global Top 100 Schools” list in the 2007–2008 “Global 100” business schools. UVM will also appear in the Aspen Institute’s upcoming “Alternative Guide to MBA Programs.”

The Princeton Review, a New York-based education services company, ranked UVM number six in its “Greatest Opportunity for Women” category in the 2008 edition of *Best 290 Business Schools*. The ranking is based on the representation of female students and faculty within the program and students’ own assessments of the supportive climate for female students.

“It’s so gratifying to know that our students find value in their interactions with professors and in the learning community we strive to create. This recognition is as much a tribute to the atmosphere our students create as it is to our faculty’s efforts,” said DeWitt.

The Princeton Review editors describe the UVM program in the following way: “The student body boasts a solid contingent of engineers as well as a sizeable international population. With approximately 70 students in the program, UVM can offer its MBA students all the personal attention they desire. Plus, with a large university (and large university resources) looming in the background, UVM MBAs can benefit from interaction with other programs. Students attending say the program allows ‘a healthy balance of work and leisure. Full-timers and part-timers mingle well despite being in different life stages.’”