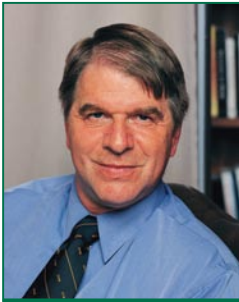


Inside Vermont



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As we approach the end of another eventful and productive academic year at the University of Vermont, we can look with pride and even astonishment at the remarkable transformation that has taken place at our University in just a few short years.

Consider first the array of new programs and initiatives now in place or under way — the launch of the Honors College and the upcoming graduation of its first full cohort; a new Center for Clinical and Translational Science; formation of the School of Engineering; establishment of the University Transportation Center, of the Vermont Advanced Computing Center, and of UVM*Ventures*; creation of a Life Sciences umbrella graduate program, the founding of problem-based learning communities, and implementation of the six-credit diversity requirement — among dozens of programmatic dimensions of the University's advance.

We have enlarged and renovated our facilities to serve UVM community members better and to attract and retain highly qualified students, faculty, and staff. When we look today at the Trinity and Colchester campuses, the Dudley H. Davis Center, the Carrigan Wing of Marsh Life Science, and the residence halls at University Heights, we see evidence of our investment in a successful future.

Others believe in us too. This winter brought 21,000 strong applicants for undergraduate admission. More than 2,000 Vermonters were among those applicants — only the fourth time UVM has received over 2000 Vermont applications. The pool also included 1,800 ALANA applicants, compared to 413 ALANA applications for fall 2000.

Due to the foresight and fiduciary rigor of the Board of Trustees, we have developed and now rely on tools essential to support and assess the status and advance of UVM. The Strategic Financial Plan and its collateral Strategic Capital Plan, along with a ranking matrix for prioritizing projects, give us the ability to look

beyond the immediate and project to the mid-term and the long-term. Through this and other means, we know that the road will not always be smooth and clear. There are challenges that our financial modeling allows us to anticipate and for which we can prepare.

On a somber note, our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire community at Northern Illinois University and especially to the families and friends of the victims. We know, sadly, that no set of measures and systems compatible with the public and open nature of institutions of higher education can prevent tragedies like the ones we have seen over the past year at Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois, and elsewhere. But we at UVM are constantly working to improve safety systems and procedures that we believe are among the best in the nation; we have well-rehearsed emergency response procedures in place; and we have instituted a state-of-the-art emergency notification system, CatAlert, that delivers email, voicemail, and cell phone text messages to all registered phone numbers and email addresses in an emergency situation.

On a personal note, I was deeply touched by the commendation the Board of Trustees issued to me at the end of the Five-Year Presidential Review. I earnestly hope to make constructive use of what I learned through that process to serve this wonderful community better during my next five years. Behind every achievement for which a University president may be given credit, however, stand legions of faculty, staff, students, trustees, alumni, parents, and friends whose efforts coalesce to serve and advance this institution. I am deeply grateful to each of them and to a partner who is indispensable in my life and work, Rachel Kahn-Fogel.

Daniel Mark Fogel
President

Commencement Speaker, Honorary Degree Recipients Announced

Author and teacher Julia Alvarez, whose novels, poetry, and non-fiction have garnered critical praise and prestigious awards, will deliver the commencement address and receive an honorary degree at UVM's 204th commencement ceremony Sunday, May 18, 2008, on the University Green.

Though she was born in New York, Julia Alvarez spent her early years in her parents' home country, the Dominican Republic, where she became immersed in their homeland's oral tradition. She returned to New York at age ten, where her struggles with English constituted a watershed experience," she says. "I had to pay close attention to each word — great training for a writer." Alvarez coupled a long career in teaching with a prolific literary output. She is writer-in-residence at Middlebury College.

The University will present honorary degrees to six other individuals in recognition of their achievement and service to the nation, state, or University:

- Carole Burack, who has devoted innumerable hours of volunteer service in support of the arts and education;
- Daniel A. Burack, UVM Class of 1955, whose successful career in commercial real estate combines with an extraordinary volunteer and philanthropic spirit;

Vermonters of the Year

In an editorial published in the January 1 edition of the newspaper, the *Burlington Free Press* named University of Vermont President Daniel Mark Fogel the 2007 Vermonters of the Year.

The editorial applauded President Fogel's work to make UVM an engine of environmentally themed economic development in the state. By promoting "sustainability research" at the University, which should spawn a variety of entrepreneurial green businesses in the state, the paper says, Fogel is tapping into the rising awareness at the state and national levels of the threat of global climate change — and is helping Vermont become a leader in finding solutions.

UVM under Fogel's leadership has "helped Vermont make the leap from the idealistic to the practical," the paper said. "For that, The Burlington Free Press names Fogel the Vermonters of the Year."

- Eric Lipton, UVM Class of 1987, Washington Bureau reporter for *The New York Times* and recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for explanatory journalism in 1992;

- Sister Janice Ryan, president of Trinity College for 17 years, who has worked on projects to ban land mines and eliminate the death penalty, lobbied for mainstreaming special needs children, and served as Vermont's deputy commissioner of corrections;



Julia Alvarez

- Gladys Severance, UVM Class of 1949, an active volunteer for many causes and co-founder of Burlington's Meals-on-Wheels program in 1972;
- Malcolm Severance, UVM Class of 1949, who may hold the record for UVM titles: student, alumnus, professor, department chair, emeritus professor, assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and trustee. He has been credited with creating the School of Business and was its first chair. The parent of two alumni, he has served as class reunion chair, was a founder of the Freshman Summer Orientation program, and established the Office of Institutional Research and was its first director.

UVM Among Top 25 Peace Corps Producers

This year, the University of Vermont ranks among the top 25 mid-sized colleges and universities with alumni currently serving in the Peace Corps. With 25 volunteers in the field, UVM is 15th among colleges and universities with 5,001 to 15,000 undergraduates.

"I have the easiest job," says current UVM Peace Corps recruiter Amanda Richardson, a graduate student in Community Development and Applied Economics. "I'm more of a representative than a recruiter because there are so many students who are interested."

Since the founding of the Peace Corps in 1961, more than 714 UVM graduates have joined the ranks, making UVM the number 52 producer of Peace Corps volunteers of all time.

Currently, UVM alumni are serving in Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Guinea, Morocco, Niger, Ukraine, and other locations on projects ranging

from HIV/AIDS education to business advising and teaching English.

Joining UVM on the list of mid-sized schools are Cornell, Boston College, Yale, Northwestern, and the University of Virginia.

Harry Belafonte Talk Highlights Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance

A January 22 talk by performing artist and humanitarian Harry Belafonte was the keynote event in a week-long UVM celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A close associate of Martin Luther King's through the nation-changing events of the American civil rights movement, Belafonte shared with a capacity crowd in Ira Allen Chapel his own journey through his 81 years to understand the nature and causes of social injustice and today's violent youth gangs.

The one question he is invariably asked, he said, is "What would Dr. King say if he were here today?" Dr. King, he said, would undoubtedly conclude that while progress toward social justice had been made since his death, there remains plenty left to do. Urging the students in the audience to get involved in the struggle for a just society as so many young people had done during Dr. King's time, he said, "Never let it be said there was nothing to do. Everybody had a shot at it."

Belafonte's talk was one of a full schedule of events celebrating Dr. King's legacy developed by the Office of the Associate Provost for Multicultural Affairs and Academic Initiatives in collaboration with students and other offices dedicated to social justice and equity.



Harry Belafonte

UVM Elevates Commitment to Sustainability

President Daniel Mark Fogel has announced he is elevating UVM's commitment to sustainability with the creation of two high-level structures at the University — a President's Commission on Sustainability and a new Office of Sustainability that will support the Commission's work.

The President's Commission on Sustainability will make strategic recommendations about policies and activities requiring significant operational changes or allocation of financial and other resources within the University to advance environmental goals.

The Office of Sustainability will support the Commission's development of an overall environmental sustainability strategy, track performance indicators and best practices, oversee the selection and implementation of the best ideas for reducing environmental impacts, and educate and involve the campus and Vermont community through programs, websites, events, and publications.

"The planet is in crisis," said Fogel. "The new office and commission will help us make the difficult choices about how we invest University time and money, both to reduce our own negative environmental impacts from operating the campus and to engage faculty and students in finding solutions for society as a whole."

Applications at Record Level

Applications to the University of Vermont for the 2008/2009 academic year have risen 12 percent to a new record of 20,971, double the figure of just five years ago. The previous high of 18,631 was set last year. Application rates in recent years have far surpassed those of UVM's Public Ivy era, when they reached a high of 11,953 in 1987. That figure stood as a record for 18 years.

The quality of the applicant pool is also up, with average cumulative SAT scores rising seven points.

Vermont applications numbered 2,079, level with last year, despite a 3-percent decline in the anticipated number of public high school graduates in the state in 2008. Since reaching a high point of 6,978 in 2001/2002, the number of public high school graduates in Vermont has declined 8 percent to an expected 6,499 this year. During that period, Vermont applications to UVM rose 26 percent.

Diversity in the applicant pool also set a new record this year, with a 13 percent rise, to 1,793, in the number of applicants identifying themselves African American, Asian American, Latino/a, Native American, or multi-racial. ALANA applications have increased 172 percent in the last five years.



Davis Center First in Nation to Receive LEED Gold Designation

UVM's Dudley H. Davis Center is the first student union in the country to receive the LEED Gold designation from the U.S. Green Building Council. The council's tiered LEED system recognizes buildings for exemplary environmental design and construction.

"We're thrilled that the Davis Center has received this first-in-the-nation accolade," said president Fogel. "In pursuing our goal of being a premier environmental university, we wanted to set the highest environmental standard for this signature UVM building. We more than met our goal. The team of UVM staff, students, faculty, and external consultants who oversaw and executed the design and construction of the Davis Center deserve the highest praise for their creativity and hard work."

The U.S. Green Building Council awards LEED certification at the Certificate, Silver, Gold, and Platinum levels.

UVM established a green building policy in 2005, requiring all new and renovated buildings to reach the equivalent of the basic LEED certification level. After President Fogel signed the Presidential Climate Commitment Challenge in 2007, the policy was revised to state that buildings should achieve the equivalent of the LEED Silver level.

Other LEED buildings on the UVM campus include the University Heights Residential Learning Complex, which received a Gold certification; the Carrigan Wing addition to Marsh Life Sciences, which received LEED Silver; and the Wing/Davis/Wilks Residential Complex renovation, which also received a Silver. The 438 College Street historic preservation renovation and addition is under review for a Silver certification.

CLARIFICATION

An item titled "A Farewell to Raul Hilberg" in the Winter 2008 issue of Inside Vermont drew a critical reaction from one alumnus, a former student and long-time friend and colleague of Dr. Hilberg, who took issue with the following sentence: "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 reader took issue with our reference to Dr. Hilberg's estimate of the number of Jewish Holocaust victims and asked that we correct

Young Scientists Win NSF Grants

Matthias Brewer works on assembling complex molecules from simple starting materials, with an eye toward one day improving the way medicines are made. Frederic Sansoz studies the strength and properties of extremely small wires, an important piece of the revolution in "nanomaterials." Both are young scientists whose research promises to push forward on basic questions in science — and, in time, contribute a clear public benefit.

That's why the National Science Foundation granted Brewer, assistant professor of chemistry, and Sansoz, assistant professor of mechanical engineering and materials science, Early Career Development Awards (CAREER), funding portions of their research for the next five years.

This is only the second time the University of Vermont has won two of the highly competitive CAREER grants in one year. Brewer's \$500,000 grant was awarded for "Synthetic Methodology for the Preparation of Polycyclic Nitrogen or Oxygen Containing Heterocycles." Sansoz's \$400,000 grant was awarded for "Microstructure and Size Effects on Metal Plasticity at Limited Length Scale."

"These CAREER awards are very prestigious and highly competitive," said Judith Van Houten, professor of biology, who directs the Vermont EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) program that will administer and support the new grants. "The challenge is to integrate teaching and research seamlessly. Our UVM faculty are particularly dedicated to teaching, in addition to being excellent scientists and engineers, and this contributes to their success with CAREER awards."

Other recent CAREER grant winners at UVM include Paul Bierman in 1997, Chris Landry in 1999, Naomi Chesler in 2000, Darren Hitt in 2001, Adel Sadek in 2002, and Britt Holmen in 2006. Randall Headrick and David Bucci both won CAREER grants in 2004.

the record to state that 6 million is the more commonly accepted estimate of the number of Jewish Holocaust victims. "Inside Vermont" asked for clarification from Francis Nicosia, interim director of the Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at UVM. "Raul Hilberg concluded in his Destruction of the European Jews that 5.1 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust," he wrote in an email. "The general figure used by almost everyone for many years is about 6 million, and I have seen an estimate as high as almost 7 million. I think 'about six million' is as good an estimate as there is, but your statement that Hilberg came to a different conclusion is accurate. We will never know the precise number."