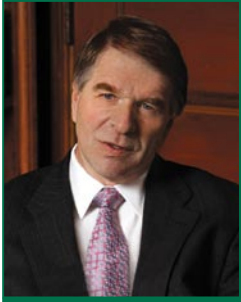


# Inside Vermont



*UVM has swiftly become an increasingly competitive national university for the benefit of all who work and study here...*

PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING

As I write in mid-March, Vermont, the nation, and the world remain in the grip of an economic storm of historic proportions. Like nearly every institution of higher learning, the University of Vermont has had to take some painful actions, including layoffs of staff employees, to cut \$10.8 million from the 2009–2010 general fund budget. Depending on evolving revenue estimates, including state and federal appropriations, investment income, and projected net tuition revenue, further reductions in staff and expenditures may be required.

It is clear that all of higher education is facing similar issues, even the wealthiest private institutions, but I am convinced that our remarkable and resilient institution will emerge from the downturn earlier and stronger than the vast majority of colleges and universities.

Through the hard work of thousands of members of this community, the University of Vermont has advanced impressively in recent years, with significant gains in high-quality, diverse enrollment, in academic quality and standing in the scholarly world, in research awards, and in the scientific, scholarly, and creative achievements of the faculty. We have taken meaningful strides forward in external recognition of faculty distinction, in competitive compensation for faculty and staff, in the upkeep and development of the campus from classrooms to labs to residence halls, in strategic investments like library acquisitions and high-performance research computing, in the programmatic richness of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs — and much more. In short, thanks to the strength and intellectual vitality of this community, UVM has swiftly become an increasingly competitive national university for the benefit of all who work and study here, of the people of Vermont, and of the wider society.

Without this progress, at a time when the foundations of economic prosperity and progress have been more deeply shaken than ever before in my lifetime, we would be in far more dire straits than we are in today.

Throughout the past six years, we have been building strength that is helping us to meet challenges none of us foresaw.

We all know that the economic landscape has been utterly transformed in the past year. I have called on UVM to shift gears, to move from an invest-and-grow strategy to a focus-and-invest approach to building academic quality and competitiveness. And to carry that strategy out in challenging times we have made — and will have to continue to make — hard and painful choices. The individuals notified in February that they would lose their jobs are not numbers but colleagues with whom we work. We are intent on supporting them in every way to transition to new jobs — as many as feasible within the University — and we are providing strong support for them, material and otherwise, including extension of health benefits beyond the end of their employment; continuation of tuition waivers for them and their dependents; where applicable, bridges to retirement; and assistance with job counseling and placement. Meanwhile, we are examining all feasible options, including those suggested by the community, for increasing productivity and efficiency, including significant administrative streamlining.

Throughout this trying period, my colleagues and I will continue to focus on building academic quality, the quality of the student experience, and national competitiveness for the benefit of all.

**Daniel Mark Fogel**  
*President*

## Howard Dean to Deliver Address to UVM's Class of 2009

Howard Dean, former Vermont governor and recent chair of the Democratic National Committee, will deliver the commencement address at the University of Vermont's 205th commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 17, 2009. The university will present Dean with an honorary degree at the event.

Dr. Howard Dean served the State of Vermont as a six-term governor, 1991-2003, and served the Democratic National Committee as chair for the past four years. Dean took the national stage as a candidate during the 2004 presidential primaries, drawing wide voter interest early in the campaign with his strong stand against the war in Iraq. Though his run for the nomination was not successful, the Dean campaign's use of the Internet to build support revolutionized the use of technology in presidential campaigns. As chair of the DNC, Dean spearheaded the "50 State Strategy," which sought to build Democratic inroads in traditionally Republican states. The initiative is widely credited with contributing to Democrats' gains in the Senate and House elections of 2006 and President Barack Obama's election as president in 2008. During his years as governor, Dean, a physician, led the effort to provide Vermont children and pregnant women with universal healthcare, creating a program that is among the legacies of his leadership in the state.

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## James Iatridis Receives Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers

James Iatridis, associate professor in the School of Engineering in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, has been selected to receive the distinguished and highly competitive Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE).

As one of only 12 awardees to represent the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Iatridis joined a select group of premier science and engineering scholars invited to Washington, D.C. for the PECASE awards ceremony and reception at the White House in January.

"Our nation applauds your accomplishments and awaits your future contributions," stated John H. Marburger III, science adviser to the president and director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in the official notification letter sent to Iatridis from the Executive Office of the President. "Your discoveries and intellectual leadership provide an example and will help shape the future."

The PECASE award is made to scholars showing excellence in innovative research at the frontiers of science and technology, and for community service through scientific leadership and community outreach. OSTP — the Executive Office charged with advising the U.S. President on the effects of science and technology in both domestic and international affairs — receives nominations from across the country each year and must choose only a few top scientists and engineers for the honor of a PECASE award.

"It is an honor to have a scholar of the caliber of Dr. Iatridis on our faculty. He is well known in the scientific community for his innovative work in spinal bioengineering and disc repair," says Domenico Grasso, dean of the UVM College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. "We had only recently congratulated him on another award — a prestigious grant from the AO Foundation for his work with NIH colleagues on enhanced intervertebral disc repair. Research of this caliber reflects the excellence of our faculty and reflects our College's vision for innovation in service to our global community."

Photo: Sally McCay



*James Iatridis, recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers*



*Martin Luther King III has continued his father's work for equality and justice for all people. As the fourth president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, King aggressively fought injustice on local, state, and federal fronts. He currently leads the non-profit coalition force "Realizing the Dream," working to end poverty in the U.S.*

### Martin Luther King III Highlights a Celebration of his Father's Legacy

In an historic week during which the nation honored the legacy of legendary civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and then celebrated the inauguration of the first African American president, the University of Vermont community had the honor of welcoming human rights advocate and activist Martin Luther King III, the elder son of the civil rights icon, to campus. It was the keynote event of a full week of celebrations and educational opportunities commemorating Dr. King's birthday. Nearly 2,000 people poured into Patrick Gymnasium to take part in the event.

### UVM Among Top 25 Peace Corps Producers

The University of Vermont was named one of the nation's "Top Peace Corps Volunteer Producing Colleges and Universities" again this year, placing it among the top 25 in the country.

With 29 undergraduate alumni and four graduate school alumni currently serving as Peace Corp volunteers, UVM ranked eleventh among medium-sized colleges and universities, moving up from last year's placement as fifteenth, according to the Peace Corps. These individuals continue a long tradition of Peace Corps service at UVM, as 732 alums have volunteered over the past 47 years.

"UVM has developed a tradition of being one of the top universities for producing Peace Corps Volunteers," says Jeff Frank, the Peace Corps recruiter for the Burlington area. "The university's Community Development and Applied Economics department makes the PC accessible for UVM students every day by hosting the local Peace Corps recruiting office in Morrill Hall."

Schools were ranked according to size of the student body with UVM falling in the medium category of 5,001 to 15,000 students. The University of Washington ranked first in the large school category; George Washington was first in the medium school category; the University of Chicago was the top small school; and Boston University was first among graduate schools. UVM was the top New England public school in its category, while Boston College was the top private school from the region.

### UVM Chemist Wins Alfred P. Sloan Award

University of Vermont chemist Rory Waterman was selected for a research award by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, one of the nation's most prestigious prizes for outstanding early career scientists.

Waterman's experiments in catalytic bond formation of elements, like finding new ways to create bonds in phosphorous, have been at the forefront of an important area of basic chemistry research. His work promises to be of great value in fields ranging from drug delivery to light-emitting diode (LED) lights.

The Sloan Research Fellowships have been awarded since 1955, initially in only three scientific fields: physics, chemistry, and mathematics. Since then, 38 Sloan Research Fellows have gone on to win the Nobel Prize in their fields; and 14 have received the Fields Medal, the top honor in mathematics.

The two-year, \$50,000 award will begin in May. Waterman is optimistic that the new funding will allow him and his students to go into uncharted territory to "discover things we couldn't achieve through our regular funding," he said.

The last UVM researchers to win the Sloan award were Martin Kuehne and Hack Bushweller in 1965 and 1971, respectively, both in chemistry.

Waterman, an assistant professor of chemistry at UVM, is among this year's 118 award winners from a small group of leading research universities including Harvard, MIT, Stanford, and Princeton.



## UVM Students Send Nation's Largest Delegation to Washington Climate Rally

More than 12,000 college students from across the country descended on Washington, D.C., from February 27 to March 2 for Power Shift '09, a youth-led rally on climate change — and the University of Vermont sent the largest delegation of any school, 204 students.

“This year is going to be crucial to get the policies we need to slow climate change,” said Jessica Serrante '10, who led the UVM students. “The science says we need to get down to 350 parts per million,” of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere or risk irreversible damage to the planet, “but we’re over 380 and rising,” she said. “I’m worried.”

Serrante noted that an international climate conference in Copenhagen this December will be a major deciding point in developing a new global agreement to reduce greenhouse gases. “One of our goals for the rally was to have lots of students and other people understand how important those negotiations in Copenhagen are going to be,” she said, since the 1992 Kyoto climate treaty expires in 2012.

Despite a major snowstorm on Sunday and Monday, organizers say the event was the largest-ever collective action by students on climate change in the United States.

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## Vermont's Donaldson and Uhl Win National Championships

UVM's David Donaldson (Toronto, Ont.) continued his sensational rookie campaign by winning the giant slalom at the NCAA Ski Championships at Sunday River, Maine, on March 12. Senior Juergen Uhl (Muhlenbach, Germany) also finished first in the men's 10k classic at Black Mountain. The individual national titles for Donaldson and Uhl are the first for a Catamount since Greg Hardy '08 and Jamie Kingsbury '06 both won the GS at the 2005 NCAA Ski Championships at Stowe Mountain Resort. Donaldson's individual title is the eleventh all-time in the

giant slalom at the NCAAs for UVM. Donaldson posted a combined time of 2:30.24 to win his eighth race of the year. Uhl's individual title is just the third all-time in the classic for a Vermont skier and the first since Thorodd Bakken '98 won in 1998. Uhl finished with a time of 24:14.9 for his third win of the year.

UVM finished fifth overall when the championships came to a conclusion. The Catamounts earned 573 points to finish behind first-place Denver (659 points), second-place Colorado (602.5 points), third-place New Mexico (602 points), and fourth-place Alaska-Anchorage (584 points). Vermont was the top Eastern team at the NCAA championships, finishing 18 points ahead of Dartmouth, which won every carnival on the EISA Circuit this season.

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## Student Athletes Post 3.0 for 13th Straight Semester

UVM student-athletes posted impressive numbers in the classroom for the fall semester of 2008. They combined to earn a 3.12 grade point average, marking the thirteenth consecutive semester the department has earned a 3.0 GPA or better.

UVM, which has won four straight America East Academic Cups (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008), had 13 teams earn GPAs of 3.0 or better in the fall. The women's teams combined to post a 3.210 GPA, while the men's teams weren't far behind, registering a 3.000 GPA.

The UVM men's and women's ski teams took top honors among all Vermont teams. The men's ski team posted a GPA of 3.426, while the women had a department best 3.566 team GPA.

Individually, 63 percent of the UVM student-athletes earned over a 3.0 GPA for the fall, and 59 student-athletes earned a 3.8 GPA or better, including 14 posting a perfect 4.0 for the semester.