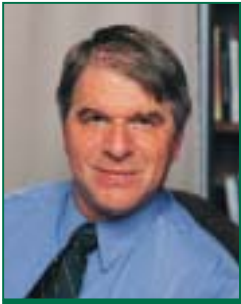


Inside Vermont



The intellectual energy of the Environmental University should be used to address real-world issues.

Early in July, Senior Vice President and Provost John Bramley and I shared with the University community a document entitled “Advancing UVM: The Year Ahead.” In it, we identified the five key questions regarding UVM’s future that in our view require thoughtful consideration and active dialogue during the coming year to advance us toward the goal of becoming the nation’s premier small public research university. As a community, we said, we must develop and embrace thoughtful, sound, bold, and creative answers to these questions if we are to succeed.

As a contribution to that discussion, I would like to focus here on one of those questions:

What must we do in our instructional programs, in our research and scholarship, and in our institutional practices to make good on our claim of being the nation’s environmental university?

The University of Vermont has long been recognized for its leadership in environmental teaching and research — befitting the flagship university in a state whose very name evokes the natural environment so much a part of the social fabric of Vermont. Now we are committed to moving beyond our current strong environmental position to the next level — to be among the premier environmental universities in the world.

What does it mean to be the Environmental University? It means being pre-eminent in teaching, research, and service related to the environment. But that, alone, will be insufficient. The Environmental University must also be a model of how to operate in an ecologically sound and sustainable manner.

While many universities provide high-quality environmental courses and research, university structures typically celebrate disciplines, isolate faculty and students into narrow specialty areas, and fail to engage real-world communities in real-world problem analysis and solutions.

Study of the environment, however, requires an integrated, cross-disciplinary approach. The Environmental University must break down traditional academic silos. It must create a climate that encourages and rewards teaching and research that integrate, for example, ecology and economics, environmental and business management, nature and culture, and science and policy.

The intellectual energy of the Environmental University should be used to address real-world issues. It should not just seek to describe or understand, important though that is, but also to develop and test solutions and to guide policy.

The Environmental University must also “walk the walk,” employing sustainable practices in institutional operations and policies and in the management of its land and buildings.

Above all, its success should be measured by national prominence in educating a new generation of citizens and leaders who are environmentally literate and accountable.

The University of Vermont is uniquely well-positioned to do this, and has already made progress in all of these areas. I look forward to lively discussion in the year ahead of how best to continue and extend our remarkable success in environmental teaching and research as we reach for the greatness within our grasp.

Daniel Mark Fogel
President

Entrepreneurs in the Green Mountain State

Senior Vice President and Provost John Bramley put the spotlight on entrepreneurship in Vermont in his most recent stops on the Provost Tour, a series of informational gatherings for alumni, parents, and friends of the University.

Two Vermont events were held this past summer on the theme, Voices of Vermont: Entrepreneurs in the Green Mountain State. More than 75 people attended each event, which also gave the Provost an opportunity to talk about new initiatives at the University and provide an update on the status of The Campaign for the University of Vermont.

Robert Stiller, Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters in Waterbury, Vermont, was the featured speaker at the first event, held at the Cliff House Restaurant in Stowe. Stiller, who is a member of the Business School Board of Advisors, heads a company that reported over \$116 million in sales in fiscal 2003. The firm has three times been listed among the 100 Fastest-Growing Small Companies in America by *Fortune Small Business* (FSB) magazine and was named 5th overall on *Business Ethics* magazine's 2004 list of the 100 Best Corporate Citizens. Stiller said that keeping employees motivated and involved in the company is a key to its success. He emphasized the

company commitment to corporate social responsibility, environmental stewardship, and the local and global communities.

Jan and David Blittersdorf, owners of NRG Systems in Hinesburg, Vermont, were featured at the second event, held at the home of Phil and Crea Lintilhac in Shelburne. The Blittersdorfs have been manufacturing wind energy products in Hinesburg since 1982, and today their company is acknowledged as a world leader in wind energy assessment technology. Jan Blittersdorf is the company vice president and chief financial officer, and also handles human resources for the growing company. She shared with guests a brief company history, from start-up through the lean years to growing and managing the business and the construction of their new 46,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Hinesburg, a model of green building design. As company president, David Blittersdorf oversees its research and development, purchasing and marketing activities. He spoke about energy and renewable energy, our reliance on fossil fuels, the hope for wind energy as an alternative, and the process of creating a green building.

The two events offered a fascinating inside look at two young companies that have grown to become vital components of the economic engine that drives Vermont.

The Voices of Vermont
(clockwise from top left):
Robert Stiller of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters;
David '81 and Jan '84 Blittersdorf of NRG Systems;
Senior Vice President and Provost John Bramley



Young Alums Establish Study Abroad Scholarship

Steve and Julie Soja are members of the Class of 1988 with “warm and fuzzy feelings” for UVM, they say. The couple met as UVM students and married soon after graduation, eventually moving to the San Francisco Bay Area. Steve is currently a senior vice president for The Private Bank at Bank of America, where he manages investments for a high-wealth clientele, and Julie is a full-time mom of three young daughters.

“We feel very lucky in the life we’re living right now,” Steve says, “and we thought it was time to start giving back. We knew we wanted to do something for UVM that would have an immediate impact but also create a legacy.” The couple began talking about how they might be able to help a current student in a way that honors the value of their own UVM experience.

“It was Steve’s idea to focus the gift on the study abroad program,” Julie says. “I’m always talking about how my semester in Paris was a life-changing experience for me.” The Sojas got in touch with UVM development officer Dean Snider, who helped them to structure their gift. Snider took into account their wish to have an immediate impact, but also to build a fund that could have a substantial impact on scholarships for UVM students in the future. The answer was an annual gift divided in such a way that a portion can be used as a cash award to a student enrolled in a study abroad program each year, with the remainder going to build to an endowed fund that will eventually provide scholarships for multiple students every year. Bank of America’s matching gift policy puts the Soja’s on a fast track to meeting their objective. “It was the perfect fit for us,” says Julie.

The Soja Award was a perfect fit for Andrea Rolland, too. Andrea, a senior in the School of Business Administration, is one of the first recipients of the award and is spending the fall semester in Austria this year. “My studies in Vienna promise to further my international business knowledge,” she e-mailed on arrival. “The Soja Award presents an opportunity to travel more inside Austria and reach a higher level of cultural immersion. It certainly is a huge contribution to my experience abroad.”

UVM, VLS to Co-Host National Environmental Journalism Conference in 2006

The University of Vermont and Vermont Law School will host some of the nation’s leading environmental journalists October 25-29, 2006, when the annual Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ) conference comes to Burlington. The conference is expected to

draw more than 600 participants, including editors and reporters from top newspapers, radio, and television. SEJ is a membership organization of journalists and educators dedicated to improving environmental news reporting. Founded in 1990, the organization has more than 1,300 members.

As host institutions for the 2006 conference, UVM and VLS will provide SEJ with program ideas, tour opportunities, educational resources, and support. The conference will be based at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in South Burlington and will explore issues of national, international, and regional importance. Conference organizers are planning to make use of Vermont’s wealth of environmental know-how and environmentally significant landscapes. SEJ Executive Director Beth Parke comments, “We’re very excited to be able to bring SEJ annual conference to Vermont in 2006 to explore the region’s world-renowned reputation for environmental leadership and stewardship. It’s a great opportunity for SEJ to be able to work with UVM and VLS as partners and co-hosts in this effort. We recognize and appreciate the remarkable strengths of both UVM and VLS.”

The conference is a major event, held in a different part of the country every year. Previous conference hosts include UCLA, the University of Arizona, Michigan State University, Duke University, and the University of Maryland.

UVM is well on its way to becoming the nation’s premier environmental university with programs and research in stream and lake ecology, sustainable agriculture and forestry, and environmental toxicology that span natural resources, agriculture, engineering, business, medicine and other fields. UVM is home to the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, the Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory on the shores of Lake Champlain, and the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics.

Through its Environmental Law Center, VLS offers the nation’s most comprehensive curriculum of environmental law courses, and its environmental law program is regularly ranked as the best in the nation in the *U.S. News and World Report* annual survey of legal educators in the field. In 2002, the Environmental Law Center received the American Bar Association Award for Distinguished Achievement in Environmental Law and Policy, in recognition of the center’s “significant leadership in improving the substance, process or understanding of environmental protection and sustainable development.”

Class of 2008 Includes Inaugural Members of UVM Honors College

The 94 inaugural students enrolled in the university's new Honors College are among some 2,000 members of the Class of 2008 who arrived at the University of Vermont Friday, August 27. The Honors College will provide an intensely focused, academically challenging environment for some of the most outstanding undergraduates and is expected to enrich the intellectual breadth, vigor and responsibility of the entire university community. Over the next four years, the Honors College will grow to include up to 700 students representing all seven undergraduate colleges. With help from about 200 faculty, student and staff volunteers, first-year students spent the day moving into residence halls, setting up computers and attending orientation and social events. Also on Friday, campus orientation/campus life sessions were offered for first-year, transfer and international students who did not attend the June program.

About 250 new students arrived August 21 to participate in TREK, a unique experiential learning program administered by the Department of Student Life. TREK engages students in week-long wilderness adventure, leadership development and community service projects before classes begin.

The Class of 2008, with 65 more members than last year's incoming class, is evidence of the university's continuing commitment to attract high quality students, as determined by admissions ratings, SAT scores, and high school rank. This year's incoming class comprises an estimated 1,475 out-of-state students with combined mean SAT scores of 1165, while an estimated 525 Vermont first-year students had combined mean SAT scores of 1125.

African, Latino/a, Asian and Native American (ALANA) enrollments are up again this year, with 520 ALANA undergraduates currently registered for classes, compared to 494 multicultural degree students last year. Of the 155 first-year ALANA students expected to begin classes this fall, 16 graduated from Christopher Columbus High School in the Bronx, where UVM has a partnership agreement. Eighteen new students are Green and Gold Scholars — top students from Vermont high schools who receive full tuition, four-year merit scholarships to UVM.

Opening weekend activities included opportunities for first-year students to explore Burlington, screen films, and enjoy a picnic. A twilight induction ceremony for the incoming class was held at 8 p.m. Sunday, August 29, on the historic UVM Green.

Classes began Monday, August 30, for an estimated 8,000 undergraduates; 2,535 graduate, post-baccalaureate certificate and non-degree students; 380 transfer stu-

dents; and 399 medical students. Nearly 4,025 students are living on campus.

Over the summer, extensive renovations were completed to residence hall rooms in the Living/Learning Center, Building E; renovations are ongoing for the new Admissions Welcome Center on South Prospect Street and at Delehanty Hall on the Trinity campus, where the Geology Department has moved its facilities. Site work is under way on the University Heights 800-bed student residential complex, and work on the three-tiered parking garage at Gutterson is slated for completion by January 2005.

Entrepreneur Center Earns One of USDA's Top Awards

Northeast Center for Food Entrepreneurship (NECFE), a cooperative effort among the University of Vermont, Cornell University, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Vermont Food Venture Center, was awarded a U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Honor Award at a ceremony June 25 at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

NECFE Director Olga Padilla-Zakour, a Cornell University food scientist, received the award on behalf of her colleagues. From UVM: Catherine Donnelly, Susan Callahan, Michele Cranwell, Cecilia Golnazarian, Jane Kolodinsky, Todd Pritchard, and Brian Norder. From New York state: Judy Anderson, Donald Downing, Thomas Gibson, Cheryl Leach, Chang Lee, Sarah Lincoln, Kawaljit Tandon, Robert Weybright, and Dennis E. Shaw.

At the annual event Secretary Ann Veneman recognized more than 102 projects by USDA Agricultural Research Service staff for work in natural resource stewardship, scientific research, disease control, environmental innovations, educational outreach, emergency response to disasters, food safety, farm and food program delivery, trade and export development, and rural economic development.

The NECFE, located in Geneva, New York, was lauded for development of a highly productive center (for) comprehensive assistance to... food entrepreneurs that resulted in sustainable economic development in rural communities. NECFE was funded by a \$3.8 million, four-year USDA grant in 2000.

The UVM partnership offers assistance to beginning and established food entrepreneurs, helps promote sustainable economic development in rural communities, maintains the rural landscape, and protects the environment. NECFE addresses food safety and business development and marketing for small-scale food processing through one-on-one assistance, workshops and conferences. Since its inception, NECFE has worked with more than 500 entrepreneurs who needed food-safety evaluations and regulatory compliance for some 1,500 new products.