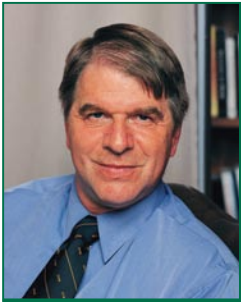


Inside Vermont



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By the time this issue of Inside Vermont reaches you, I will be back at the helm of Vermont's flagship university in robust health, embarked upon another leg of our journey through a new era of pride and possibility for the University of Vermont.

I refer, of course, to the several weeks I've spent in recovery following an attack of acute pancreatitis in July that left me no choice but to step aside temporarily from the demands of the UVM presidency and to focus on the process of healing.

Rachel and I have been deeply moved, buoyed in our spirits, and uplifted by the warmth, encouragement, prayers, and support that members of the community offered throughout an admittedly very trying and sometimes frightening time for us.

Fortunately, UVM has been blessed with a wise and capable Board of Trustees and a talented and profoundly dedicated administrative team, led by John Bramley, a superbly prepared acting president, and by our wonderful new provost, John Hughes. Together, they did a superb job in advancing our shared objectives during my absence, and I thank them and the entire University community for keeping us steadily on track with all of the ambitious initiatives we have undertaken.

I cannot overstate how impressed I was, too, by the UVM Rescue crew that whisked me to the hospital and by the care, professionalism, and skill of the doctors, nurses, technicians, and other personnel at Fletcher Allen Health Care. We are fortunate indeed to have this great academic health science center in our community.

I find myself greatly reenergized as we resume our work together to advance this great University on its path to greatness — and I especially look forward to celebrating with all of you the conclusion of our Campaign for the University of Vermont, which I am confident will have met or exceeded its \$250 million goal at the end of this academic year.

Many thanks again from Rachel and me to all members of the UVM family — our faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents, and friends, throughout Vermont and beyond — and all good wishes to all of you.

Daniel Mark Fogel
President

Convocation Ushers In A New Academic Year

With the keen of bagpipes calling across campus and a long procession of faculty in full academic regalia marching along University Place, the University of Vermont welcomed the start of a new academic year at Convocation 2006. The event took place on Wednesday, August 30, and drew faculty, staff, and students to Ira Allen Chapel.

In a convocation speech that marked his first official address to the UVM community, Provost **John Hughes** urged new students to recognize the responsibility that comes with being among the 1/100th of one percent of the world's population privileged to attend an institution of higher education in the United States.

"So what will you do with this remarkable privilege that puts you in the 99.99th percentile in the world?" Hughes asked. "Regrettably, my generation leaves you many profound problems to address; we tried, oh how we tried, and hopefully we made progress, but ultimately we were not successful. As you begin your time at the University of Vermont I here charge you to use your privilege to solve those problems."

Hughes drew parallels between the issues that faced the nation and the world when, as a first-year student in 1970, he listened to his first college convocation speech. "In 1970 we were involved in an increasingly controversial war, concern for the environment was growing, gas prices were rising, and the nation was increasingly concerned with racial equality. Although we are 36 years apart, the issues facing you are not dissimilar from those we faced in 1970."

Citing examples across many fields of study, Hughes more deeply detailed the issues that students will face and encouraged them to find solutions to the persistent challenges that linger, despite what he said were his own generation's best attempts to solve them. He closed with a personal invitation to the new students who share his "first-year" status. "I ask that as you see me walking around campus you take the time to introduce yourself and tell me some of your aspirations, and tell me what you hope to accomplish as part of the 99.99th percentile. We will have to keep walking as we talk, as we all are privileged to have important places to go."



Photo: Bill DiLillo

Provost and Senior Vice President John Hughes gave his first formal address to the University community at Convocation 2006.

John Bramley, acting president of the university, delivered opening remarks prior to Hughes' address. The former provost, who stepped in as acting president this summer during President **Daniel Mark Fogel's** medical leave, noted that his being on stage at convocation was something he did not expect. He went on to describe the many mysteries and surprises that are often "some of the greatest rewards of higher education."

"A university is a community of scientists, scholars, artists, students dedicated to the study and creation of knowledge," Bramley said. "That pursuit requires the courage to face the unknown and the unexpected every time we step into the classroom, the studio, or the lab. To say we're well-versed in and quite comfortable with the unknown is an understatement. Quite simply, meeting the unexpected, facing it with the best our hearts and minds can offer, and moving forward is what we do."

The complete texts of Convocation remarks are available online at www.uvm.edu/president/ceremonies/convocation/.

Photos: Sally McCay



Record Enrollment, New Facilities This Fall

UVM's 205th academic year began Monday, August 28, with record enrollment and another new residence facility to house a growing on-campus student population. Nearly 11,900 students are attending the University this fall, including 9,040 undergraduates, 1,351 graduate students, 406 medical students, 1,042 non-degree students, and 31 post-baccalaureate certificate students. This year's student body also includes approximately 806 ALANA (Asian-American, Latino, African-American and Native American) students.

Opening Weekend once again featured a variety of activities to help acquaint the 2,000 first-year students with college life, highlighted by the Class of 2010 Twilight Induction, a candlelight ceremony on the UVM Green that is earning the status of tradition for each year's incoming classes.

National University Transportation Center Launched

UVM formally launched the National University Transportation Center at a July ceremony that also served as an occasion to publicly thank retiring U.S. Senator **James M. Jeffords** for his efforts on behalf of the University over the years and his work to secure the National UTC designation for UVM in Congress last year. The event was held at the site of the new center in UVM's Farrell Hall.

Senator Jeffords, U.S. Department of Transportation acting secretary Maria Cino, Representative Bernie Sanders, University of Vermont president Daniel Mark Fogel, Vermont governor Jim Douglas, and Vermont secretary of transportation Dawn Terrill were on hand for the event and delivered remarks.

President Fogel also announced the center's new director, Dr. **Lisa Aultman-Hall**, former director of the Connecticut Transportation Institute at the University of Connecticut.

Senator Jeffords secured \$16 million for the project in last year's federal highway bill, which he co-authored.

Several construction projects and building renovations are newly completed or underway this fall. The University Heights South Complex, a new 400-bed dormitory housing the GreenHouse Residential Learning Community, offers students environmentally themed, interdisciplinary programming. Spinner Place, the off-campus housing opportunity in a newly renovated downtown Winooski, is also open this fall, as is The Global Village, a residential learning community located in the Living/Learning Center, open to students interested in exploring other cultures through coursework, lectures, faculty and peer mentoring, concerts, exhibits, and trips.

The expanded Harris/Millis dining facility can now seat approximately 150 additional diners. The College of Arts and Sciences has a new home at a renovated 438 College Street. And construction of the Dudley H. Davis Student

Center continues on track for a fall 2007 opening. More information about these and other campus renovation and construction projects is available at the "Building UVM" link from the main University web site at www.uvm.edu.



That legislation designated UVM as one of only 10 National University Transportation Centers nationwide.

The University will receive the federal money from the U.S. Department of Transportation over a five-year period to build core faculty, programs, and technologies to create multi-disciplinary research in the transportation sector.

UVM and several public and private partners will match the grant funds for a total investment of \$32 million.

"As a national leader in cutting-edge research, particularly environmental research, UVM will provide a great home for this important center," said Jeffords, who secured the funding through his post as ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. "Vermont's rural terrain and northern climate present a unique set of challenges in building roads, bridges, and rail lines. The state of Vermont will benefit immensely from the center we open here today."

For more information on the National University Transportation Center at the University of Vermont, see www.uvm.edu/~transctr/.

UVM Climbs in Rankings

The University of Vermont moved up four places in *U.S. News & World Report's* ranking of the nation's top public universities, from 43rd to 39th place. There are more than 500 public colleges and universities in the nation.

UVM also rose in the magazine's national universities ranking, from the 93rd to the 88th spot.

"I am pleased that the quality of the educational experience at UVM is becoming increasingly widely recognized, both by prospective students and families and by our peers in higher education," said **John Hughes**, UVM provost.

"Our vision to be the nation's premier small public research university gives us a strategic niche among colleges and universities in the U.S., and is clearly gaining traction.

The publication's college rankings are available online at www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/rankindex.php.

UVM Among Top Ten 'Sustainability Stars'

UVM was named one of 10 "Higher Education Sustainability Stars" in the June 2006 issue of *University Business* in an article that praised the selected institutions for "their efforts to respect the environment and the communities that surround them in economically feasible ways."

UVM's "key accomplishment," according to the magazine, has been "institutionalizing environmental concerns," which includes the University's goal of becoming the leading environmental university in the country. Gioia Thompson, coordinator of UVM's Environmental Council, one of the programs cited in the article, agrees with that assessment. "Since President Fogel arrived," Thompson explains, "green practices are increasingly being institutionalized into official policies and programs, including LEED certification for new construction and major renovation, 100 percent recycled copier paper policy, free county bus rides with a UVM ID, comprehensive laboratory hazardous waste management, and the EcoReps program in which students encourage their peers to recycle and reduce energy use in the residence halls."

Joining UVM on the list of "sustainability stars" are the California State University System, Carnegie Mellon, Duke, Harvard, Tufts, the University of British Columbia, the University of California Merced, the University of Pennsylvania, and Yale.

Vermont Wins Second-Straight America East Academic Cup

The University of Vermont has been awarded the America East Academic Cup for the second consecutive season and becomes the first institution in conference history to win the award three times. The 3.14 grade-point average among UVM student-athletes ties the Catamounts' own record, set last season, for the highest in the 11-year history of the award.

"We are immensely proud of our student-athletes and all that they have accomplished as students, athletes, and citizens of the UVM community. The Academic Cup reflects the University's broad-reaching commitment to excellence and the exceptional support and guidance our student-athletes receive from faculty, academic support personnel, and coaches," said Vermont athletic director **Dr. Robert Corran**.

The Academic Cup, established by the America East Board of Directors in 1995, is presented to the institution whose student-athletes post the highest grade-point averages during that academic year.

Tech Incubator Graduates First Clients

The Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies (VCET), a University-affiliated small business incubator program designed to support fledgling high-tech firms, graduated its first two charter clients and welcomed three new ones at a recent ceremony at Farrell Hall on UVM's Trinity Campus.

The send-off of Bulldog Entertainment Network, a family-friendly, on-line entertainment business, and ElectroCell Technologies, Inc., an animal waste treatment company designed to reduce farm odor and the environmental impacts from waste water run-off, marks the successful transition from early-stage entities to more mature companies ready to compete in the marketplace. It's also evidence of VCET moving closer to its goal of helping diversify the state's economy and boosting economic development while utilizing University and private sector resources.

"This is a concrete symbol that this program is doing what we'd hoped: churning out businesses and creating jobs," said Senator Patrick Leahy. "The demand for VCET is already outgrowing its available space. It has proven its worth in the Vermont economy."