The University of Vermont

PRESIDENT’S
Annual Report

2015/2016
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Letter from the President

Dear UVM Family and Friends,

This year marks the 225th anniversary of the founding of the University of Vermont, a significant milestone that we are proud to celebrate. Such occasions encourage us to reflect on our remarkable history and to consider the exciting projects in progress as we continue in the inspired footsteps of those who have gone before us.

As the fifth oldest institution of higher education in New England and a respected Public Ivy, we stand on a strong tradition of academic discovery and inquiry. The Reverend James Marsh, an acclaimed scholar installed in 1826 as the University's fifth President, was the first college leader to promote the elective system of course work for undergraduates. It has become the norm throughout much of the world. Educational innovator and philosopher John Dewey, Class of 1879, changed the course of American higher education by advocating curricula that moved beyond European classics to engage students in questions and endeavors that advanced civil society and democracy. William Luginbuhl, Dean of UVM’s College of Medicine from 1970 to 1990, led the faculty in developing a new curriculum focused on elective exploration, clinical immersion, and hands-on patient care. Today, that philosophy underlies medical education across America, and UVM remains at the forefront of excellence and innovation.

With great pride, we celebrate our rich history, as we remain a university on the move. In October, we launched the public phase of our $500 million Move Mountains campaign, with a clear commitment to advancing affordability and financial access and creating an outstanding learning experience for all of our students.

Having achieved 60 percent of our goal already, it is with unprecedented support from the UVM community of alumni, family, and friends that significant investments in academics, research, and infrastructure are underway. Since the campaign’s inception, endowed professorships at UVM have doubled, from just over 50 to over 100, providing perpetual funding for teaching and research initiatives from our outstanding faculty. A $210 million fund for student scholarships and fellowships will help us make UVM more financially accessible, and a new first-year residence hall, opening in 2017 in the center of campus, will connect students to academic hubs and create a living/learning environment supportive of first-year success and beyond.

In advancing our commitment to science, technology, engineering, and math teaching and research, we are building a $104 million state-of-the-art STEM facility in the heart of campus. This exciting new building will facilitate the robust interdisciplinary inquiry already flourishing here and give our faculty a home for research and teaching equipped to address 21st-century problems and attract students from all disciplines. This new STEM investment also will complement the dialogue between qualitative and quantitative learning on campus, as seen through our new Humanities Center and related creative arts and social sciences.

We are at a defining moment in UVM’s history. The spirit and commitment of our dedicated faculty and staff and the enthusiastic support of our UVM friends and family are taking the University of Vermont to new heights as a premier public research and teaching University, a place where interdisciplinary inquiry and passionate learning is shaping the next generation of critical thinkers, solution makers, and innovators.

I am pleased to present to you here a representative sample of the great work and accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students in this academic year. I look forward to our shining future with all members of our UVM community.

With appreciation and best wishes,
FACULTY RECOGNITION

The Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship named Kathleen Liang, Professor of Community Development and Applied Economics, National Entrepreneur Educator of the Year. This is the highest honor for an entrepreneurship educator in the United States. Professor Liang is credited with designing and implementing the first entrepreneurship curriculum in the country here at UVM. She also is recognized for creating the Dollar Enterprise program, considered one of the most innovative service-learning and experiential-learning courses in the nation.

On February 23, 2016, President Obama announced plans to close the military prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Joe Roman, Research Assistant Professor of Environment and Natural Resources and Gund Institute Fellow, and JamesKraska, Professor of Law at the U.S. Naval War College, have proposed a new phase for Gitmo: to transform the naval base into a marine research center and international peace park. The new proposal was published in Science, one of the world’s top academic journals, on March 17, just days before President Obama’s trip to Cuba.

Professor Roman testified at a special briefing to the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee calling on Congress to preserve the Endangered Species Act in its current form. The briefing was a response to bills pending in the House and the Senate that would remove, prohibit, or delay the protection of several imperiled species of wildlife, including the sage grouse and the gray wolf. Also active in Washington, Kristine Stepenuck, Extension Assistant Professor of Watershed Science, Policy, and Education of the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, spoke at the White House live webcast “Open Science and Innovation” on her research in water quality and citizen science.

Taylor Ricketts, Professor of Environment and Natural Resources and Director of the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, was honored for the second consecutive year by Thomson Reuters’ on its prestigious list of the world’s most-cited scholars. Professor Ricketts was named among the world’s 130 most influential researchers for the category of Environment and Ecology. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Associate Professor of Geography and Department Chair, co-authored a new Local Climate Analysis Tool that was awarded the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Department of Commerce Silver Medal. The innovative device provides fast responses to questions about the impacts of local climate change.

Educational innovation, scholarship, and excellence shone brightly in the College of Medicine again this year. Kathryn Huggett, the Robert Larner MD’42 Professor of Medical Education, was named inaugural director of the Teaching Academy. The undergraduate Wellness Environment program, brainchild of James Hudziak, Professor of Psychiatry and Thomas M. Achenbach Chair of Developmental Psychopathology, debuted to national acclaim. Scholarly efforts by Brian Sprague, Assistant Professor of Surgery, and Robert Williams, Professor of Anesthesiology, and colleagues promise to impact the standard of care in mammography and the use of spinal versus general anesthesia in infants.

Alex Zakaras, Associate Professor of Political Science, won the prestigious 2016 Sanders Prize for Political Philosophy for his paper “Complicity and Coercion: Towards an Ethics of Political Participation.” Stephen J. Cutler, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and former Bishop Robert F. Joyce Distinguished University Professor of Gerontology, was selected for a Fulbright Specialists project at the University of Bucharest.
A grant program designed to encourage new tenure-track faculty to continue their research, scholarship, or creative work announced its first round of winners: Seth Frietze, Assistant Professor of Medical Laboratory Science; Patrick Lee, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science; Sylvia Perry, Assistant Professor of Psychological Science; Meredith Niles, Assistant Professor of Nutrition and Food Sciences; Lori Meyer, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education; Kathleen Gough, Assistant Professor of Theatre; and Bindu Panikkar, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies.

Several professors were named to endowed positions this year. On May 14, 2015, Garrison Nelson was invested as the inaugural Elliott A. Brown Green & Gold Professor of Law, Politics, and Political Behavior. On September 24, 2015, in a dual ceremony, Paul Hines became the inaugural L. Richard Fisher Professor and Josh Bongard became the first Cyril G. Veinott Green & Gold Professor in Diabetes Research. On October 2, 2015, Kathryn Huggett became the inaugural Robert Larnar, MD’42 Endowed Professor in Medical Education. On March 30, 2016, in a dual ceremony, Stephen Higgins was invested as the inaugural Virginia H. Donaldson, MD’51 Professor and John Leahy became the first Sarah Nichols Greuning Green & Gold Professor in Diabetes Research. Jane Knodell was recently appointed as the first Mark J. Zwyenynburg Professor and will be formally invested in a ceremony to be held this fall.

Each year the University recognizes members of the faculty with a variety of awards for significant contributions to their fields and to the institution. Four faculty members, two from the basic and applied sciences and two from the social sciences and humanities, have been named University Scholars for their sustained excellence in research and scholarly activities. The 2016–2017 University Scholars are Jason Bates, Professor of Medicine and Molecular Physiology and Biophysics; Ira Bernstein, Professor and John Van Sicklen Maeck MD’39 Chair of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Science; Robert V. Bartlett, Professor of Political Science and Gund Professor of Liberal Arts; and Robert Peperman Taylor, Professor of Political Science.

The UVM Alumni Association honored Robert Peperman Taylor with the 2016 George Kidder Outstanding Teaching Award.

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT RETIRED SCHOLARS AWARDS

The UVM Retired Scholars Awards support faculty members who are completing a research or creative project or attending a national or international conference after full retirement from the University. Five emeriti faculty members were selected to receive the award: Anthony Bradley, Professor of English Emeritus; Stephanie Kaza, Professor of Environment and Natural Resources Emerita; William Lipke, Professor of Art History Emeritus; David Maughan, Professor of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics Emeritus; William Paden, Professor of Religion Emeritus.

MARSH PROFESSORS-AT-LARGE PROGRAM

This academic year the James Marsh Professor-at-Large Program hosted nine highly influential scholars and artists. Each scholar spent time in residence interacting with students, faculty, and staff, providing stimulus for intellectual growth and cultural enrichment. David Richardson, Director of the Centre for Invasion Biology at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, hosted a weeklong “Community Ecology Invasion” workshop and gave a public lecture on the development and challenges within invasion science. Artistic director, choreographer, and performer Jennifer Monson worked with students to create and choreograph a performance, and engaged with faculty for the annual Spring Dance Showcase. Steven Polasky, Regent’s Professor of Ecological/Environmental Economics at the University of Minnesota, was joined by Burack lecturer Andrew Balmford from the University of Cambridge for a lively debate regarding the fate of the planet.
MOST ACADEMICALLY TALENTED INCOMING CLASS IN UVM HISTORY

Students who entered the University during the 2015–2016 academic year were the most academically talented in UVM’s history. Incoming students earned an average GPA of 3.53 on a 4.0 scale in high school and an average SAT score of 1197 on critical reading and mathematics, a 12-point increase over last year. The Class of 2019 also boasts a record number of Green & Gold Scholars—the top students from Vermont high schools. Thirty-four of these talented students have enrolled at UVM.

NEW SGA PROGRAM GUIDES FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

In September, at the start of the 2016–2017 academic year, a new Peer Mentoring program initiated and advocated by the Student Government Association will pair groups of first-year students with exceptional junior and senior students in their same major, providing support and guidance as incoming students transition to UVM. Peer Mentors will promote informed academic decisions, help familiarize students with University academic support services, prepare students for meetings with their faculty advisors, and expose students to curricular and co-curricular opportunities across campus. At full implementation the new program will employ nearly 200 junior and senior students from every major at UVM as resources and allies for all first time first-year students.

UVM BECOMES A PEACE CORPS PREP INSTITUTION

UVM holds the number 7 spot among medium-size schools for number of Peace Corps volunteers per capita, and has deepened its connection to the Peace Corps and to global service by becoming an official Peace Corps Prep institution. The Peace Corps Prep program helps undergraduates prepare for Peace Corps placement through classroom work and service in the community. Returning Peace Corps volunteers can earn an M.S. or an M.P.A. through the Paul D. Coverdell graduate fellows program. For the third straight year, Vermont ranks number 1 among states for the highest number of Peace Corps volunteers per capita. Fifty-two residents of the Green Mountain State are currently serving worldwide in the Peace Corps, with a ratio that represents 8.3 volunteers for every 100,000 residents, the highest per capita rate in the nation. Vermont schools are also nationally ranked on the annual list of the highest volunteer-producing colleges and universities in the United States—857 UVM alumni have served as Peace Corps volunteers, and 25 alumni are currently serving around the world.

STUDENT COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE

A commitment to service is deeply ingrained in the heritage and character of UVM. The importance of service is reflected in our mission as a land grant university, in the pioneering thought of the father of American progressive education—John Dewey, UVM Class of 1879; and in the work of our faculty, students, and alumni. In the past year, 4,000 University of Vermont students participated in 117,500 hours of community service valued at $2.5 million. One way students get engaged in weekly volunteerism is through the Dewey House for Civic Engagement, one of UVM’s Residential Learning Communities. Dewey House students are making a difference in the Burlington community. From Fletcher Allen Hospital to the Committee on Temporary Shelter to King Street Center to Bike Recycle Vermont, a total of 1,800 hours of volunteer work by Dewey House students were logged in the fall semester.
Over nearly 20 years, UVM Service TREK has carved out its own distinct place in the University of Vermont’s culture. Service TREK 2015 included six groups of incoming Catamounts who fanned out around Greater Burlington and beyond to help students launch their college years positively, getting to know their classmates and making an impact on the local community. Students worked with animal rescue groups, social support agencies, and local food banks, among other organizations.

UVM DEBATE TEAM WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The University of Vermont debate team won the Cross Examination Debate Association Championship this year in Binghamton, New York. The tournament was attended by over 100 teams from schools including Rutgers University, Dartmouth College, UC Berkeley, and Stanford University. Two seniors in the College of Arts and Sciences, Taylor Brough ’16 and Khalil Lee ’16, won the debate for UVM. Current Speech and Debate lecturer and coach, Jillian Marty Dushane was awarded the Gallentine award for best female coach of year.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

UVM students compete with their peers across the country for prestigious national awards and consistently receive some of the most coveted scholarships in the U.S.

Mickayla Royer ’17, a neuroscience major and psychological science minor, and Ciara Ertle ’17, a double English and Asian studies major, have been awarded prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarships. The Gilman is a nationally competitive award given to accomplished students with financial need who wish to study abroad. The award supports students as they prepare themselves to become active and engaged citizens in an increasingly globalized world.

The State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has awarded three students full funding to participate in intensive language programs this summer through the Critical Language Scholarship program. Geography major Sammie Ibrahim ’16 will study Russian in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia; business administration major Cecila Baker ’17 will study Mandarin in Chang’ Chun, China; and geography and Chinese major Tilden Remerletich ’18 will study Mandarin in Dalian City, China. Aimee Johnston ’19, a chemistry and Chinese major, received a Freeman-ASIA scholarship to fund her upcoming study abroad in Yunnan, China.

Tilden Remerletich ’18 has also been awarded an esteemed Boren Scholarship, a nationally competitive award that provides up to $20,000 for students to study a critical foreign language in a nontraditional country important to U.S. security. Following her study in Dalian City this summer, Remerletich will return to Shanghai for a full academic year—where she first formally studied Mandarin during a pre-UVM gap year experience—thanks to the Boren Scholarship. Benjamin Kagan ’17, a chemistry major, was named a 2016 Goldwater Scholar, and Sam Barritt ’16, a biological sciences major, was awarded honorable mention, continuing a trend of annual recognition for UVM students in this competition in recent years. Corinne Johnson ’17, a mechanical engineering major, received a DAAD-Research Internship in Science and Engineering award to conduct research at a German university this summer.

Kathleen Bashant ’16, a microbiology and molecular genetics major, has been admitted into the National Institutes of Health Oxford-Cambridge Scholars program. As a National Institutes of Health Oxford-Cambridge Scholar, Kathleen will work toward her Ph.D. in immunology.

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

The College of Medicine Class of 2016 achieved a 100 percent match of students to medical residencies, a significant achievement given that the number of federally funded residency positions was capped in 1997 even as medical school enrollments increased over the past decade. Fourth-year medical students were matched with prestigious residency placements at such centers as Harvard, Yale, Brown, Georgetown, NYU, Johns Hopkins, and Oregon Health and Science, as well as here at UVM; twenty students will be going to Ivy League institutions.

Ph.D. student Aaron Schwartz, of the Rubenstein School and Gund Institute, was awarded a coveted National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Schwartz’s $138,000 award covers stipend, tuition, and fees to support his graduate studies for three years. His work will help inform city planners, schools, hospitals, and other institutions on how to design programs that promote engagement with the environment. Two recent alumni have also won fellowships this year: chemistry major Rebecca Watson ’14, a current University of Michigan graduate student, and forestry major Sylvia Kinosian ’15, who will attend Utah State University for a doctorate in plant biology.
Critical research on the impacts of climate change on wild bee populations headed by Taylor Ricketts, Professor of Environment and Natural Resources and Director of the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, and post-doctoral associate Insu Koh was reported in the prestigious journal *Science*, in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and has been covered widely by national and international news media from the *New York Times* to the BBC. In the most comprehensive study ever conducted regarding the impacts of climate change on critical pollinators, the researchers discovered that global warming is rapidly shrinking the area where these bees are found in both North America and Europe. Examining more than 420,000 historical and current records of many species of bumblebees, the researchers confirm that bumblebees are in steep decline at a continental scale because of “range compression” associated with warming temperatures and climate change.

Hugh Garavan, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, has been selected to be a project co-director for and to lead UVM research efforts on a landmark longitudinal national study funded by the National Institutes of Health. This study will explore the developing minds and brains of approximately 10,000 children in an effort to answer questions that include identifying certain factors that put some youth at increased risk of mental, emotional, and academic problems.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awarded UVM’s Vaccine Testing Center (VTC) two highly competitive grants for the Center’s work in developing vaccines to treat or prevent potentially fatal infections among young children in the developing world. The first grant provides $3.3 million to address Cryptosporidium, a single-celled intestinal parasite found in soil, food, and water that causes significant illness and death in immunocompromised people. The research team—including Christopher Huston, Associate Professor of Medicine, Beth Kirkpatrick, Professor of Medicine, and Caroline Lyon, Associate Professor of Medicine, all with extensive expertise studying Cryptosporidium—is preparing to test new therapeutic agents and will design a research platform upon which new treatments can be tested in humans. The second grant, a $2.2 million award, builds on previous Gates Foundation-supported research at UVM to leverage extensive work already done on possible factors contributing to oral vaccine failure. The goal is to gain a better understanding of the immune response to the rotavirus vaccine—an oral vaccine that works exceptionally well in protecting infants and children in the U.S., but can fail to provide similar protection in developing countries. Led by Beth Kirkpatrick, Professor of Medicine and VTC Director, the grant aims to develop new vaccination strategies for children in the developing world.
Science Translational Medicine reported the promising results of clinical trials by researchers at the UVM Vaccine Testing Center to develop a dengue vaccine that will protect against all four dengue strains. Along with collaborators at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the NIH and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the researchers have been working for eight years on a new vaccine that is effective at preventing dengue infection and is likely to require only a single dose.

A team of researchers led by Wolfgang Dostmann, Professor of Pharmacology, received a patent for their discovery of a molecule that rescues damaged blood vessels, yet preserves healthy vessels and could serve as a springboard for a new pharmaceutical therapy with fewer side effects for hypertension—a major risk factor for cardiovascular and kidney disease affecting roughly one in three people in the U.S. The findings were published in the journal Chemistry & Biology.

The UVM Vaccine Testing Center will be involved in clinical trials and research on a vaccine for Zika virus, which was declared a global health emergency by the World Health Organization on February 1, 2016. VTC faculty and team members Kristen Pierce, Associate Professor of Medicine and infectious disease specialist, and Sean Diehl, Assistant Professor of Medicine and immunologist, have expertise in the group of viruses that cause such human diseases as Zika virus and their related vaccines. The trials are in partnership with longtime collaborators the National Institutes of Health and the Center for Immunization Research at Johns Hopkins University.

The University of Vermont’s Center for Rural Studies concluded that the Vermont maple industry contributed between $317 and $330 million in total sales to the state’s economy in 2013. The industry added between $140 and $144 million to Vermont in profits and wages, the study said, and supported between 2,735 and 3,169 full-time equivalent jobs.

UVM Extension has been chosen to lead a consortium of 12 northeastern states in a $950,000, three-year grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to promote food safety on small and medium-sized produce farms and to food processors in the region. The grant, to be managed by Chris Callahan, Extension Assistant Professor, was created to consolidate the food safety training efforts for produce growers and processors in the Northeast, with the aim of helping growers and processors develop more consistent, efficient, and higher quality programs in comprehensive food safety training, education, and technical assistance that are compliant with the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Ben Dejong, doctoral student in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, led a study of the Chesapeake Bay confirming the Bay is sinking rapidly. The study projects that Washington, D.C., could drop by six or more inches in the next century.
MAJOR GRANTS

A University of Vermont-led research team—Constance van Eeghen, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Benjamin Littenberg, Henry and Carleen Tufo Chair in General Internal Medicine, and Rodger Kessler, Associate Professor of Family Medicine—was awarded an unprecedented $18.5 million Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute grant to study whether patients with both medical and behavioral problems do better when their primary care physicians work in combination with behavioral health professionals, including psychologists and social workers.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded UVM a $7.4 million, five-year grant, placing the University at the forefront of national efforts to reduce the impact of catastrophic disease outbreaks within the U.S. livestock industry. The multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional biosecurity initiative will be led by UVM and Julia Smith, an Associate Professor with joint appointment in UVM Extension and the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences. The end product will be a variety of research-based messaging strategies, educational programs, Web modules, and other initiatives designed to protect food-producing livestock from new, emerging, or foreign diseases and pests.

The University of Vermont and the University of South Carolina were awarded a $3.1 million grant by the National Institutes of Health for research aimed at curbing the nation’s obesity epidemic. The five-year grant will fund research to determine if adding economic incentives to online behavioral weight-loss programs will enable them to achieve the same positive results as their in-person equivalents. Co-principal investigators on the grant are Jean Harvey, Professor of Nutrition and Food Sciences and Department Chair, and Delia Smith West, a professor in the University of South Carolina’s Department of Exercise Science. A James Beard Foundation winner, Professor Harvey’s research has been continuously funded by the NIH since 1997.

An innovative project developed at the University of Vermont has received a $1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy. This project is aimed at making the electric grid better able to accommodate power generated from renewable energy sources. The grant, one of only 12 awarded nationally, will be managed by Mads Almassalkhi, Assistant Professor of Engineering, in partnership with Paul Hines, Assistant Professor of Engineering, Jeff Frolik, Associate Professor of Engineering, and Sumit Paudyal, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Michigan Technological University.

University of Vermont Extension received a five-year $518,500 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to expand a program proven to reduce risky behavior in youth. The Children, Youth and Families at Risk grant, from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture within USDA, will fund a program called PROSPER—Promoting School-Community-University Partnerships to Enhance Resilience—aimed at sixth- and seventh-grade Vermonters.

RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

Gina Fiorile ’18. Asim Zia, Associate Professor of Community Development and Applied Economics. Lini Wollenberg, Research Associate Professor at the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, and Jennie Stephens, Blittersdorf Professor of Sustainability Science and Policy, were selected as UVM’s COP21 team to travel to Paris last
November for the United Nations Climate Change Conference. The annual gathering aimed to establish, for the first time in more than 20 years of UN negotiations, a binding, international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions enough to keep global warming below two degrees Celsius.

Gina Fiorile was honored by President Obama in 2015 as the only student out of eight national Champions of Change for Climate Education and Literacy for her work in organizing the Wild Center’s Adirondack Youth Climate Summit.

Surgery, pathology, and biochemistry faculty of the UVM Cancer Center joined forces to earn a $3.7 million National Cancer Institute grant to investigate why some early breast cancers are so aggressive.

The Vermont Center on Behavior and Health’s interdisciplinary projects included two studies by faculty in psychiatry and medicine regarding smoking habits in patients with mental illness and heart disease.

The Office of Technology Commercialization continues to mature and catalyze the UVM ecosystem of entrepreneurship. The annual Invention2Venture conference held at UVM has gained a reputation as a premiere entrepreneurship event in Vermont. This has been a banner year for invention disclosures from faculty across many disciplines and colleges. UVM’s portfolio of issued U.S. patents has grown to 159 in 2016. Concurrently, licensing from patents, as well as patent cost reimbursement, continues an upward trend. The overarching goal of the Office of Technology Commercialization is to pursue licenses with commercial partners, either established or UVM startup companies, that represent the best opportunity to bring emerging UVM technologies to market. This year two new startups, ThUSx Inc. and Quokka Labs L.L.C., join the 17 companies already created utilizing intellectual property generated at UVM.

Several factors combined to drive the worst blue-green algae bloom in northeastern Lake Champlain’s Missisquoi Bay in recent history. Results of a study by Rubenstein School Ph.D. student Peter Isles and former UVM postdoctoral researcher Courtney Giles, published in the Journal of Great Lakes Research, attribute these unsightly and toxin-producing blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria, blooms to a changing climate and changing nutrient inputs from our intensifying land use practices.

Olympic skier Elli Terwiel ’16 and junior Elizabeth Richards ’17, under the supervision of Eric Hernandez, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering, created and conducted tests this past winter to help skiers maximize contact between their ski and the snow, potentially improving athletes’ race time. Since Olympic medals have been won by one hundredth of a second, knowing the frequencies a pair of skis produce on race day could play a role in decreasing run times.

With funding from UVM, the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies has assisted some 1,250 startups with mentoring and business advice. Since its inception, the Center’s 45 portfolio companies have attracted more than $113 million in investment capital and earned over $93 million in revenues.

STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

This spring the University held its tenth annual Student Research Conference. Nearly 400 undergraduate, graduate, and medical students presented research, scholarship, and creative projects in progress or that they have completed while earning their degrees at UVM. The annual event highlights impressive student achievements and gives students the opportunity to hone the professional skills necessary for presenting their work at a national or international conference. The Student Research Conference celebrates the professional collaborations and close work with faculty mentors and advisors that distinguishes the UVM undergraduate student experience.
MOVE MOUNTAINS: THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

A new era demonstrating the enormous impact of philanthropy at UVM was ushered in this past October with the public announcement of the largest fundraising initiative in UVM history, Move Mountains: The Campaign for The University of Vermont.

To move mountains is to do something difficult, but with great impact. The campaign is an affirmation that, together, we can strengthen this great institution and help it be known as a place that does indeed move mountains—through the students we educate, the discoveries we make, and the impact we have on Vermont and the world. If you know UVM, you know that UVM changes lives. You also know that we have many areas of excellence and great potential. With four strategic areas of focus—student scholarships, faculty endowments, new and renovated facilities, and academic programs—the campaign seeks to move UVM forward, to pursue excellence at each opportunity, and to assert our position as one of the nation’s very best public research institutions.

The launch of Move Mountains took center stage on campus during the first weekend in October. Multiple events heralded a crescendo of new gift announcements, totaling an unprecedented $40 million, and culminated in the unveiling of the campaign’s ambitious $500 million goal before a Davis Center atrium packed with faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Later that evening, supporters gathered in an entirely transformed Gutterson Fieldhouse for an inspiring campaign celebration and learned that to date we had already raised $240 million for the Move Mountains campaign.

A major milestone during the campaign launch weekend was the renaming of UVM’s School of Business in honor of Steven Grossman ’61, a long-time supporter of the School. A $20 million multi-year pledge from the Grossman Family Foundation established three endowed academic positions—the Steven Grossman Chairs in Entrepreneurship, Finance, and Sustainable Business—as well as a Dean’s Endowment to provide unrestricted resources that support teaching and program priorities as the school aims to become one of the top undergraduate business programs in the nation and among the best MBA programs in the world.

The weekend also heralded the announcement of an $8.9 million gift from Dr. Robert ’39, MD’42 and Helen Larner of Woodland Hills, California, to establish the Robert and Helen Larner Medical Education Fund in the College of Medicine. The Larners kept the campaign momentum building following the public launch of Move Mountains with an unprecedented gift in February of $18.7 million in commercial property to be held and
managed by the UVM Foundation for the benefit of the College of Medicine. Coupled with $1 million in cash that also will benefit the College of Medicine, this latest Larner gift is the largest ever one-time donation to the University and brought Robert and Helen Larner’s total philanthropy for this fiscal year to $28.4 million. With lifetime giving now topping an astonishing $33 million, the Larners have established themselves as the most generous donors in the University’s 225-year history.

Another gift of significant note announced during the campaign launch crescendo of giving was a $3 million commitment from Daniel Burack ’55, HON’08 and his wife, Carole, HON’08 to support UVM Hillel, an organization dedicated to creating a pluralistic, welcoming, and inclusive environment for Jewish college students, where they are encouraged to grow intellectually, spiritually, and socially. The gift comes in the form of a $2.5 million estate commitment to the Burack Hillel Program Endowment and $500,000 for current operations. Hillel’s mission is to enrich the lives of Jewish undergraduate and graduate students so that they may, in turn, do the same for the Jewish people and the world.

The chairman of the UVM Foundation Board of Directors, John Hilton ’68, and his wife, Julia, announced their $1 million campaign gift during the crescendo of giving as well. Their commitment will fund an endowment designed to accelerate UVM’s broad and diverse research portfolio and will permanently endow the Janus Forum, a lecture series celebrating the role of the University in fostering civil discourse on contemporary topics of great interest.

An extraordinary gift of nearly 200 European and American paintings, prints, drawings, and photographs was promised to the Fleming Museum by Jericho, Vermont, collector J. Brooks Buxton ’56. This gift, valued at $1.5 million, includes 19 European works on paper, 67 American paintings, 69 American works on paper, and 39 photographs. The Museum anticipates that the collection—which includes the most comprehensive compilation of Vermont art in the world—will serve as an attraction to Vermonters and visitors to the state alike, eventually becoming a destination in and of itself.

Dr. Ruth Seeler ’58, MD’62 made a $2 million bequest, further increasing the impact of the endowment she had established previously to benefit students at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. Preference for the Ruth Andrea Seeler MD’62 Medical Scholarship is given to third- or fourth-year medical students who are specializing in pediatrics or primary care. Since its establishment, this endowment has benefited 18 students in the College of Medicine with $145,000 in financial assistance to defray the cost of their medical education.

In addition to all of this fundraising success, the University of Vermont Foundation is proud to have been recognized as one of the Best Places to Work in Vermont for 2016. The annual honor bestowed by Vermont Business Magazine and the Vermont Chamber of Commerce was designed to identify, recognize, and honor the best places of employment in Vermont, benefiting the state’s economy, its workforce, and businesses. Companies from across the state were evaluated, and their employees surveyed, to identify the workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems, and demographics that make for the best employee experience.

ENDOWMENT

The Board of Trustees Investment Subcommittee meets with UVM staff and the University’s investment advisors, Cambridge Associates, eight times per year to interview financial managers and make decisions about how its long-term pool endowment assets should be invested. Similarly, the finance committee of the UVM Foundation, which invests its long-term pool with the University, reviews the performance regularly. The combined total endowment for the University and the UVM Foundation is $427 million (as of March 31, 2016), which currently generates more than $16 million, with all income supporting student scholarships, professorships, and critical academic programs. (The allocation for endowment spending amounts to 4.5 percent of the average value of the endowment over the previous thirteen quarters.)

All endowment spending supports the academic priorities of the University. One of the foremost goals of the University’s Strategic Action Plan is to promote affordability, financial access, and academic support for students. In alignment with that goal, 43 percent of endowment spending supports scholarships. In FY 2015, scholarships and fellowships funded by the endowment totaled over $7.1 million.
WELLNESS ENVIRONMENT RESIDENCE HALL OPENS TO NATIONAL ACCLAIM

This fall the University opened a residence hall for first-year students unlike any other in American higher education. The substance-free living community, the brainchild of pediatric neuropsychiatrist James Hudziak, Professor of Psychiatry, offers fitness and nutrition coaching, daily yoga and tai chi instruction, meditation sessions, a mentorship program matching each student with a Burlington youth, and neuroscience courses to create a richly resourced and peer positive living experience for new students. As reported by media nationwide, including NBC News, CBS News, and the Boston Globe, the Wellness Environment has a leave-it-at-the-door policy regarding alcohol and other drugs, creating a culture where students find alternatives with the help of a supportive community and by engaging their curiosity in how behavior—good and bad—affects their brains. The 120 first-year students living in the residence hall were chosen from three times that number of applicants. The program is projected to nearly quadruple next academic year due to its popularity, and will move to a second residence hall. In a measure of the program’s influence on campus, a 5K run organized by the Wellness Environment as an alternative to the annual “4/20” event drew 1,000 students—outsizing the 4/20 gathering. Students currently living in the Wellness Environment are overwhelmingly positive about their experiences and believe the UVM program can be a national model for college campuses across the country.

THE PRESIDENT’S OUR COMMON GROUND STAFF AWARD

The Our Common Ground Staff Award, established in 2014 by President Sullivan, honors staff members who have made a significant impact on the University community. Each year six staff members are recognized for extraordinary contributions that exemplify the University’s Our Common Ground statement of aspirations and shared values for the UVM community: Respect, Integrity, Innovation, Openness, Justice, and Responsibility. The President’s Our Common Ground award recipients for 2016 are: Blanka Caha, Business Accounting Specialist, Student Government Association; Beverly Yvonne Colston, Director, ALANA Student Center; Emily Creller, Campus Children’s Center; Kim Howard, Director of International Education; Scott Miller, Maintenance Project Coordinator, Libraries; and Anna Smiles-Becker, Career Counselor and Intern Coordinator, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources.

NEW ADMISSIONS PROTOCOL AT THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

The College of Medicine’s Admissions office adopted an innovative new interview format, using multiple mini-interviews in place of the traditional one-on-one interview. The new interview process puts UVM at the forefront of efforts to restructure the approach to medical admissions in selecting students who demonstrate interpersonal skills, compassion, and other attributes, as well as strong test scores.
SERVICE LEARNING EXPANDS TO 99 COURSES

In this past year, a record 99 service-learning courses enrolled about 20 percent of the student body. This “high-impact” teaching method contributes to communities around the state and beyond, and also enhances student success and engagement. In these classes, students connect their disciplinary knowledge to real-world problems and bring those skills to bear in serving others. Many of our community partners choose semester after semester to work with UVM students, and not just because of the contributions those students make. Our partners find it rewarding to mentor and engage with college-age people; we often hear that they find it rejuvenating to be around the energy and enthusiasm of our students. This year also saw the development of 20 new service-learning courses in 11 departments—indicating that service learning continues to thrive at UVM.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

William Falls, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences since July 15, 2015, was named Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in March. Dr. Falls, Professor and Chair of Psychological Science from 2006 to 2015, is a prolific researcher and sought-after presenter. He has published widely in his field and has received several grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Falls has served the College of Arts and Sciences and the wider University in numerous leadership, development, and oversight roles, including Chair of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. He received his Ph.D. degree from Yale University.

Scott Thomas, currently Dean of the School of Educational Studies at Claremont Graduate University, was named Dean of the College of Education and Social Services in March. He will begin his UVM tenure on July 1. Dr. Thomas is an accomplished educator and acclaimed scholar of education; his research spans the preschool through college spectrum and focuses on issues of student success and the stratification of educational opportunity. He is the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Higher Education, the oldest and most influential journal in the field of higher education, and is co-editor of International Studies in Higher Education, a book series examining how different nations are responding to the dramatic increase in demand for higher education. Before joining Claremont Graduate University, Dr. Thomas held faculty positions at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the University of Arizona, and the University of Georgia. He received his Ph.D. degree from University of California, Santa Barbara.

Jeff Schulman ’89, a member of the University of Vermont athletic department’s central administration for more than two decades, has been named the University’s next Director of Athletics. Schulman was a four-year letter-winning defenseman on the Catamount men’s hockey team. Following his assist in one of the most famous UVM hockey goals ever in a win against Harvard, Schulman was chosen by the Boston Bruins in the 1989 NHL supplemental draft. Some of his many accomplishments include serving as an international consultant to the local organizing committee at the Maccabi Games in Israel and as the overall manager of the U.S. delegation at four Pan American Maccabi Games: 2015 in Santiago, Chile; 2011 in Sao Paulo, Brazil; 2007 in Buenos Aires, Argentina; and 2003 in Santiago.

LECTURES ON CAMPUS

Anne Fadiman, author of the 1997 National Book Critics Circle Award-winner The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, inspired the Class of 2019 in their Summer Read and in subsequent class discussions and writing. At a lecture held in the Ira Allen Chapel, Fadiman stressed the importance of failure and embarrassment in motivating good work and assured first-year students that, although everything may feel difficult now, they soon will be navigating college’s “cross-cultural bumps.”

Al Gore, the 45th vice president of the United States, Nobel Peace Prize recipient, chairman of the Climate Reality Project, and co-founder and chairman of Generation Investment Management spoke to a capacity crowd at Ira Allen Chapel. Gore presented his slideshow “The Climate Crisis and the Case for Hope,” discussing the urgency of the climate crisis and the solutions we have available to meet this challenge.

William Cronon, renowned environmental leader and Professor of History, Geography, and Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, was the featured speaker for this year’s University of Vermont Aiken Lecture. Cronon’s talk, “The Riddle of Sustainability: A Surprisingly Short History of the Future,” informed listeners that the word sustainability has a much briefer history than previously imagined, and that its recent
evolution into a centerpiece of environmental politics has a great deal to teach us about the changing nature of environmental ideas.

This year’s Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar, Judith Resnik, Arthur Liman Professor of Law at Yale Law School, presented “Courts in Democracies: Their Novelty and Vulnerability,” a captivating talk that explored iconicographic representations and evolving notions of justice throughout history. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Eric Lipton ’87 presented “Lobbying in America: White Hats, State Troopers, Ski Resorts, and Buckets of Money,” featuring highlights from his groundbreaking series of articles about the corporate lobbying of state attorneys general and the money-fueled world of influence in which they operate.

BURACK DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

The Dan and Carole Burack Distinguished Lecture Series brought 11 renowned scholars to campus. In the fall, Aaron Wolf, Chair of the Department of Geoscience at Oregon State University, shared his insights on international water resources and political cooperation. Barbara Walvoord, Professor Emerita of English at the University of Notre Dame, discussed theoretical perspectives and practical frameworks for assessment as a cross-disciplinary inquiry. Bispasha Baruah, Canada Research Chair in Global Women’s Issues from the University of Western Ontario, offered her perspectives on women’s rights within an emerging green economy. Matthew J. Barth, Yeager Families Professor of Electrical Engineering at University of California Riverside, shared his research on sustainable transportation, applying engineering concepts and automation to transportation systems.

Andrew Balmford, Professor of Conservation Science at the University of Cambridge, engaged in an enriching discussion with James Marsh Professor-at-Large Steven Polasky titled “An Economist and an Ecologist Walk Into a Bar … And Discuss the Future of the Planet.” This standing-room-only event was moderated by Jane Lindholm, host of VPR’s Vermont Edition, and broadcast across Vermont by the Regional Educational Television Network.

Todd Presner, Chair of the Digital Humanities Program at the University of California Los Angeles, discussed his HyperCities project, which explores what new media technologies can offer to the traditional humanities, and how mapping projects contribute to research and pedagogy. Distinguished Professor of Geography at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, Mark Monmonier, spoke about his experiences as lead editor of Cartography in
the Twentieth Century, part of the award-winning The History of Cartography series. Wole Soboyejo, Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the Princeton Institute of Science and Technology Materials, shared his research on biomaterials and their application to humankind in seeking alternative approaches to global development.

In the spring, New York Times best-selling author Barbara Natterson-Horowitz gave a public lecture on using animal health sciences as a way to improve models of human mental health. Professor of Ecology and Sustainable Development at Columbia University, Ruth DeFries, presented on the role of science in making decisions about sustainable development. David Just, co-director of the Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Programs, spoke about tackling the obesity epidemic.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The University of Vermont attracted more than 40 legislators to campus for the third annual legislative summit. Thirty UVM faculty and representatives from 20 state agencies participated in this year’s summit, “Vermont’s 21st Century Economy: Building an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem.” The broad topic of the summit—economic development—was proposed by the legislature; UVM narrowed the focus of the summit to bolstering entrepreneurship, a growing strength of the state and a focus of the University. With the construction of a new STEM complex, new curricula, a variety of new programs that stimulate entrepreneurship on campus, and a series of evolving partnerships with off-campus organizations, UVM is increasingly playing a catalytic role in helping shape a new innovation economy in the state.

FLEMING MUSEUM

The Fleming Museum presented five diverse exhibitions this year. During the fall semester, work by local, national, and international artists was featured in the exhibition In Grain: Contemporary Work in Wood. World Leaders & Global Citizens: Photographs by Senator Patrick Leahy presented images taken behind the scenes by Vermont’s beloved elder statesman. Opening in the spring, Pop Art Prints offered 37 works from the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and Samuel Bak: Survival and Memory featured work by a Boston-based painter whose art is devoted to understanding and interpreting his experiences as a Holocaust survivor. Curated by students in UVM Art History and Anthropology courses, Sex Objects: Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality ran throughout the academic year, highlighting art and artifacts from the Museum’s collections that traced the ways various cultures define gender and sexuality.

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE PREDICTION WORKSHOP

This spring the University of Vermont hosted the 14th Annual Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop. The international conference, launched in 2002 by the National Weather Service’s Climate Services Division, brought together a diverse group of climate researchers, climate product developers, and climate information users to share developments in research and applications of climate predictions. The goal of the workshop was to put new information and tools in the hands of end-users with the goal of improving decision making at all policy levels. Keynote speakers included David Grimes, president of the World Meteorological Organization, and Filipe Lucio, director of the Global Framework for Climate Services section of the World Meteorological Organization.

FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

This coming June UVM will host its fifth annual Food Systems Summit. This year’s theme, “What Makes Food Good?”, will explore how our social, environmental, and political values influence our sense of “good.” Through collaboration with community partners, this year’s summit will examine the assumptions and biases that underpin our perspectives on how the food system should work, in order to promote better, more sustainable food practices for all. With Vermont as a national leader in innovative food systems work, UVM is pleased to announce the start of the new Transdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Food Systems. Students in this interdisciplinary degree program will work with faculty across four colleges to explore key issues in our contemporary food system and to collaborate with community partners on a variety of food systems problems and solutions.
NATIONAL RANKINGS AND NEWS

The University received commendations again this year in several national rankings.

U.S. News & World Report ranked UVM as one of the top 50 public universities in its 2016 College Guide. UVM ranked 14th on U.S. News & World Report’s “Up-and-Coming” schools list for making “the most promising and innovative changes in the areas of academics, faculty and student life.”

Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine again has ranked UVM among the top 100 best value public colleges in the country. To compile its best value list, Kiplinger’s initially sorts schools on quality measures. It then adds cost data, including tuition, fees, room and board, and financial aid, and re-ranks the schools.

The New York Times’ College Access Index ranked UVM as 59th in a list of universities devoted to increasing economic diversity at their institutions. UVM is among universities whose scores “indicate the most effort” toward making college accessible to economically disadvantaged students. When the ranking is sorted by endowment size, UVM ranks 13th among schools with similar-sized endowments that are doing the most for low-income students. In the 2016 outcomes-based Educate to Career (ETC) College Rankings Index, UVM ranked among the top 10 schools in the country that are preparing students to land good jobs after graduation and without the burden of excessive loans. UVM ranks ninth out of 1,182 schools, and is the only Vermont college or university ranked in the top 25.

A new U.S. Department of Education site that allows college-bound students and families to compare important school-by-school data shows that UVM is the only college or university in the state with costs for Vermont students being below the national average while at the same time boasting higher than national averages for graduation rates and graduate earnings.

Just one year after enrolling its first cohort, UVM’s Sustainable Entrepreneurship MBA (SE MBA) program has been named fourth in the nation on the Princeton Review’s list of the Best Green MBAs. The ranking is “based on students’ assessments of how well their school is preparing them in environmental/sustainability and social responsibility issues, and for a career in a green job market.” The School of Business Administration has been ranked among the top 25 programs in the world for its expertise in family business by Family Capital, a publishing company dedicated to the global family business sector. Grossman School of Business Dean, Sanjay Sharma, is editor and chief of Family Business Review, the leading journal in family business and the number 4 ranked business journal overall, and is responsible for starting a number of key family business initiatives.

Data collected by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) from 2015 medical school graduates placed the UVM College of Medicine at the 99th percentile for student satisfaction with their medical education.

The Clinical Simulation Laboratory at the University of Vermont has been accredited by two prestigious simulation societies: a
Forbes ranked UVM in the top 30 of this year’s America’s Best Midsize Employers’ list. The list of 250 best employers across 25 industry sectors ranks only eight colleges and universities higher than UVM, and only one of those (Boston College) is in New England. The University of Vermont Health Network ranked 36 on the same list.

In May 2015, the Greater Burlington Region received official designation as a Regional Center of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development by the United Nations University Institute for Advanced Studies of Sustainability. The region is one of 136 worldwide, and one of only five in the United States. The Greater Burlington Region was recognized for service-learning educational programs offered by the University of Vermont, Shelburne Farms, and more.

AWARDS

The Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies was the recipient of The New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) 2016 Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement. The Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies promotes scholarship, education, and public awareness about the events that brought about, comprise, and continue to issue from the Holocaust.

UVM’s ROTC detachment was ranked #1 out of the 42 programs in the northeast and one of the top eight schools out of 275 Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps units nationwide by the U.S. Army Cadet Command and the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation. The MacArthur Awards recognize the top-performing programs in the country based on a combination of the achievement of the school’s commissioning mission, its cadets’ performance and standing on the command’s National Order of Merit List, overall academic and military success, and cadet retention rate. UVM ROTC also celebrated their 100th year of Officer Commissioning success on April 25th, 2016, in conjunction with the national celebration for U.S. Army Cadet Command.

The oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education, INSIGHT Into Diversity, awarded the University of Vermont the 2015 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award. The HEED Award is a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. This is the second year in a row that UVM has been named as a HEED Award recipient. Wanda Heading-Grant, Vice President for Human Resources, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, is the recipient of the Eastern Region Human Resources Excellence Award. The award honors those who have provided human resources leadership resulting in significant and ongoing organizational change within their institutions.

For the third consecutive year, UVM was named on the Center for Higher Education Enterprise’s list of Most Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs. The award highlights 19 divisions of student affairs at American College Personnel Association member institutions across the country. With a focus on workplace diversity, staffing practices, and work environment, the CHEE research team examined categories such as family friendliness, salary/benefits, and professional development opportunities.

President Tom Sullivan was named the 2015 recipient of the American Bar Association’s Robert J. Kutak Award, honoring an individual who has enhanced significantly collaborations between the academy, the bench, and the bar. President Sullivan was awarded for his efforts as a committed leader in higher education who strives to bring legal educators, the judiciary, and practicing lawyers together to develop creative solutions to a multitude of issues, including ensuring equal access to justice for all. President Sullivan also received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from his alma mater, Indiana University McKinney School of Law.

Francine Bazluke, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, has been appointed as a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. The Fellows of the American Bar Foundation is an honorary organization of lawyers, judges, and legal scholars whose public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the welfare of their communities and to the highest principles of the legal profession.
Laurie Gelles, Director of Technology in the College of Education and Social Services, was selected to join the Apple Distinguished Educators (ADE) Class of 2015, an honor that recognizes education innovators who use a variety of Apple products to transform teaching and learning. Ms. Gelles, along with team members Adam Deyo and Casey Rock, have helped CESS faculty members successfully integrate a broad range of educationally enriching technology into the classroom.

In the College of Medicine, Russell Tracy, Professor of Pathology, received the 2015 American Heart Association Distinguished Scientist Award; Polly Parsons, Professor and E.L. Amidon MD ’32 Chair of Medicine, was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the American Thoracic Society; and Debra Leonard, Professor and Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the College of American Pathologists. The Vermont Child Health Improvement Program and Judith Shaw, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, were recognized for their state and national impact. Cardiovascular researchers Mary Cushman, Professor of Medicine, David Warshaw, Professor of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, and Peter Spector, Professor of Medicine, were joined by College of Medicine Dean Frederick Morin and Vice President for Research Richard Galbraith for a research presentation to Vermont’s Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. in June 2015.
$20 Million Award Promotes Resiliency in the Lake Champlain Basin

A $20 million award from the National Science Foundation to Vermont EPSCoR—Vermont Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research—will fund richly interdisciplinary research on how to make watersheds more resilient in the face of extreme weather events, using the Lake Champlain Basin as the living laboratory. The competitive award, one of the largest in UVM history, will support research teams from UVM and colleges across the state collecting real-time data in streams, soils, and the lake and gathering information on adjacent land use from primary users, including farmers and developers. Data will be integrated using a complex systems approach in order to test management scenarios and identify strategies for maintaining infrastructure and ecological health during intense storm events. The goal of the research is to build resiliency throughout the Lake Champlain Basin and its watersheds.

Directed by Judith Van Houten, University Distinguished Professor of Biology, the project will be undertaken by a diverse group of natural and social scientists from UVM and colleges across the state, including Johnson State College, Lyndon State College, Castleton University, Middlebury College, Saint Michael’s College, Dartmouth College, and the Community College of Vermont, as well as key stakeholders including the Lake Champlain Basin Program, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and partners from Quebec and Lake George, New York. The Vermont EPSCoR Center for Workforce Development and Diversity at Saint Michael’s College will offer research opportunities to Vermont high schools, middle schools, and undergraduates from across Vermont. Scholarships will be available to Abenaki students, first-generation college students, students with disabilities, and veterans who are seeking science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) majors. Other participants include the Vermont Works for Women “Rosie’s Girls” program, the Small Business Innovation Research program, Innovate HERS, and Launch V'T.

The Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research is a program designed to promote scientific progress and encourage research and development competitiveness nationwide. Professor Van Houten’s work with Vermont EPSCoR and the Vermont Genetics Network has brought $110.45 million to Vermont from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health in statewide research infrastructure grants for which she is the principal investigator.
BUILDING UVM

Construction continued unabated through the winter on the new state-of-the-art research and teaching complex for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines and a new residence hall for first-year students. The STEM Complex will comprise a new laboratory building, a new building for classrooms, team-based learning spaces, offices, and a selectively renovated Votey Hall, totaling more than 266,000 square feet. Serving as a figurative spine for the central campus, the STEM Complex will bridge the magnificent buildings lining the University Green to the west, with the health sciences complex to the east, and the Bailey/Howe Library, the Davis Student Center, and the residential life areas to the south.

The STEM disciplines are recognized as critical to creating solutions for the great challenges now faced by humanity: the environment, human health, food systems, and global quality of life. Located between existing arts, humanities, and social sciences facilities and the health sciences branch of campus, the STEM Complex will encourage communication across a broad range of disciplines and provide the creative, technology-enhanced learning environment critical to preparing students for careers in rewarding, high-growth fields.

SUPPORTING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

This summer the University will establish an Academic Success Center. The Center will promote academic achievement and effective academic advising for undergraduate students across the University and will provide early support to students in their transition from high school to college. The Academic Success Center will be led by Dani Comey, who currently serves as Associate Director of Student Life and Director of Orientation, in collaboration with a new Provost’s Faculty Fellow for Advising and the First-Year Experience. With this center, UVM intends to create an environment of support and success that will aid incoming students in adapting to the college educational environment and provide a strong foundation for attaining their highest academic potentials.
NEW ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

UVM added to its growing reputation as a leader in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education with its February 2016 announcement of a new Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Data Science. The new programs support UVM’s efforts to expand STEM education with a goal of doubling enrollments in STEM-related programs by 2020.

The programs in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences will be housed in the new $104 million STEM Complex of laboratories, classrooms, and research facilities scheduled for completion in May 2019.

The Transdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Food Systems, the first of its kind in the U.S., requires students to master theories and applications necessary to address food systems challenges, and draws from a number of disciplines to identify food systems, analyze system complexity, and understand the importance of context to the functions and goals of a food system.

The University Board of Trustees has approved five new areas of academic concentration starting in fall 2016. A new Master of Science in Medical Laboratory Science through the College of Nursing is designed to prepare future leaders in the profession with the advanced knowledge and skills required to meet the demands of the changing health care profession. This graduate program will prepare graduates for leadership opportunities in management, education, research, and advanced clinical practice.

A new undergraduate minor in Jewish Studies offers an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural approach to the study of the Jewish experience. Considering Judaism from numerous perspectives, the new minor examines civilization and culture, as well as religion, from the Biblical period to the present. A new minor in Sports Management reflects a unique cross-campus collaboration among the Grossman School of Business, Community Development and Applied Economics in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Education and Social Services, and the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resource’s Parks, Recreation, and Tourism program. The new minor allows students to blend interdisciplinary interests while having a main focus on sports and recreation.

The College of Medicine in cooperation with the Graduate College and Continuing and Distance Education announced a new Certificate of Graduate Study in Epidemiology. This new program, which will be entirely online, will be part of the Public Health offerings currently in place in the College of Medicine. This program will train health care professionals to meet the health needs of the population and train health care practitioners in government, non-profit agencies, and other settings. A new health sciences online degree-completion program was offered in Fall 2015 for the first time. This degree, a collaboration effort of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Continuing and Distance Education, was designed for students and working adults interested in health careers not specific to patient care.

RENEWED AND NEW ALLIANCES

The University of Vermont and Netherlands-based Maastricht University Medical Center have reaffirmed a formal alliance, first formed in December 2007, that ensures the continued exchange of research and education between the two institutions.

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education approved the College of Medicine’s application for a clinical campus in alliance with the Western Connecticut Health Network.

MILLER FARM DEDICATION

After nine months of construction, the University of Vermont officially dedicated new dairy science teaching and research facilities at the Paul R. Miller Agricultural Research Farm with a ribbon-cutting ceremony this past fall. The $4.1 million complex consists of a 13,176 square-foot teaching barn and milking parlor and an 8,764 square-foot dairy research barn.

The new structures have been designed and built with an emphasis on energy-efficient ventilation, animal welfare, and sophisticated dairy management information systems for use by faculty researchers and students.
Architect’s rendering of the new first-year residence hall, opening August 2017