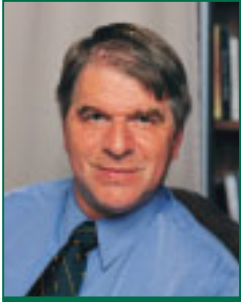


# Inside Vermont



*...applications for undergraduate admission are at an all-time high of over 12,900, far above last year's 11,384...*

As I reported to the Board of Trustees in February, the state of your University today remains sound. UVM's academic quality and reputation continue their upward trajectory through innovative academic enhancements like the Honors College and significant progress on campus-wide initiatives, including Service-Learning, Writing in the Disciplines, and a new Professors-at-Large Program — initiatives all driven forward through recent action by the Faculty Senate.

I note with special pride UVM's selection for the second year in a row for a State Merit award from the New England Board of Higher Education. This year we were recognized for our Center for Sustainable Agriculture, a program that exemplifies the commitment of UVM to our land-grant mission and to service to the citizens of Vermont. There is no question that recognition of the value of the University is deepening across the State of Vermont and indeed throughout the region and the nation.

Bulletins from the enrollment management campaign are very good — applications for undergraduate admission are at an all-time high of over 12,900, far above last year's 11,384 and the old record of 11,953 set in 1987. About a thousand of these are applications from students of color, also an all-time record. Applications to UVM's doctoral programs have also reached new heights. The news from The Campaign for the University of Vermont is equally good, with nearly \$185 million now booked to the Campaign and with more major gifts in the immediate offing.

The Vermont Arena Commission has concluded its work and approved a report finding that a multipurpose arena with UVM as the anchor tenant not only is feasible but also would

have significant positive outcomes for the cultural and economic vitality of the region and indeed the whole state. There are many issues to be resolved before such a project could move forward, including questions about ownership, management, and financing, and we continue to explore workable answers.

Lastly, I want to recognize the outstanding work done on UVM's behalf by James Pizzagalli '66, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the past year and a member of the board since 2000. Jim announced his resignation from the board in February because he felt it was in his firm's best interest to do so in relation to potential bids on future construction contracts at the University. Jim has brought boundless energy and enthusiasm to his duties, along with a high level of professionalism. While we respect his decision, I greatly regret the departure from the board of such a longtime friend of the University. Happily, Jim has agreed to remain a member of the National Campaign Steering Committee for The Campaign for the University of Vermont, providing important leadership and support for the University's \$250 million comprehensive campaign.

**Daniel Mark Fogel**  
*President*

## Panel Discussion Honors the Late Charlie Ross

Ira Allen Chapel was filled to capacity on March 14 for a panel discussion on “Politics and the Public Trust: In Search of the Next Generation of Civic Heroes” featuring prominent figures in the public eye.

The program was presented as a tribute to the late Charlie Ross, one of the most influential and well respected Vermont public servants of his generation, having been appointed to positions of public trust under presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and Carter. Ross taught public policy at UVM in the late 1970s. Two of his former students, William Wachtel '76 and Scott Baldwin '76, were inspired by his example of devotion to public service and organized and sponsored the event to honor their mentor and friend.

The moderator was Norman Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Research. Panelists included Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., attorney, author, and environmental activist; Adam Clymer, long-time Washington correspondent for the *New York Times* and currently visiting scholar at the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania; U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT); Madeleine May Kunin, former Vermont Governor, Ambassador to Switzerland, and Deputy U.S. Secretary of Education, and currently distinguished visiting professor at the University of Vermont and St. Michael's College; and Frank Bryan, UVM political science professor.

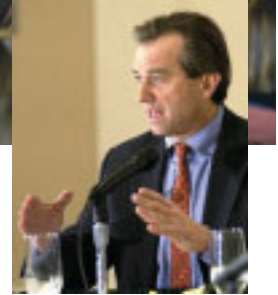
Ornstein led the panel through a fast-paced and wide-ranging exploration of what it means to be a hero in the modern world, with the panelists invoking names and events spanning the centuries, from St. Augustine to John Lennon, to illustrate their thoughts on the nature of heroism.

The news media came in for some tough criticism by several of the panelists. Kennedy branded the White House press corps as “stenographers for the administration” who are too timid in scrutinizing the claims of the current administration. “A journalist’s job is to do more than achieve balance,” he said. “It’s to find the truth and bring it to the American people.”

While opinions diverged on the wisdom of the war in Iraq and the decisions that led us there, panelists were united in their concern about the current atmosphere of political polarization in the country and the need for more measured political discourse. “We’ve got to begin some dialogue in these polarized issues,” Kunin said. “The democratic process can’t possibly work with this kind of polarization.” Kunin also expressed concern that the many students in the audience not be deterred from entering public service despite such concerns. “It’s still worth it,” she said. “You can get results.”



*Above: Panelists and moderator on stage. Right: Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. takes the media to task. Below: A filled-to-capacity Ira Allen Chapel.*



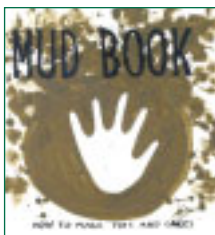
Frank Bryan struck a similar tone. “I think it’s incumbent on the citizens of this country to cut their leaders some slack,” Bryan said. “Flat-out partisanship is poisonous.” The mark of heroism in a leader, he said, is not whether a decision turns out to have been right or wrong, but that it was made under conditions of uncertainty demanding the courage to take action.

Clymer said despite the current bitter tone in American politics, “I think the anger over Vietnam reached deeper.” He said political heroes may be in shorter supply today in part because of the impact of technology, with 24-hour news coverage and sophisticated computerized polling techniques making politicians too afraid of offending voters to take controversial stands.

Leahy was outspoken in his criticism of the war in Iraq, but also joined Kennedy in criticizing the news media for failing to focus on important human issues. “You will see more tonight on what happened in the Michael Jackson trial than you will on Darfur in the next two weeks, and that’s wrong,” he said.

## Special Collections: A Rich Community Resource

Visitors to the University of Vermont's Special Collections, housed in the Bailey/Howe Library, can not only handle documents written by Ira Allen and view photographs of nineteenth-century Vermont, but also, thanks to one recent acquisition, learn the fine art of making mud pies.



*Mud Book: How to Make Pies and Cakes* was acquired with assistance from J. Brooks Buxton '56, a member of the Friends of Special Collections. The text and sketches for *Mud Book* were created by avant-garde composer John Cage over dinner with textile artist Lois Long in the mid-1950s. In 1983 the two produced the work as an artist book in a limited edition of 500. The simple illustrations in browns, yellows, and blacks and the spare, understated text are exemplary of Cage's Zen influences.

Buxton has played an important role in adding contemporary works to the library's growing book arts collection of over 1,700 volumes. Every semester students in computer art and printmaking courses come to Special Collections to learn about the artist books, handling works that challenge and delight with their innovative construction and design. Pages unfold to extended lengths, revealing hidden texts. A book made of mirror creates a cover unique to each reader. Without the Friends group, it would have been impossible to develop this collection into the showcase it is.

The Friends of Special Collections was founded in 1977. Since then the group has contributed significant funds to acquire the rare books, manuscripts, photographs, and Vermontiana that constitute Special Collections' world-class resources. Members gather to hear from diverse speakers and receive a newsletter several times a year.

Connell Gallagher, director of research collections, says, "The cost of one-of-a-kind archival materials often exceeds what our endowments can cover. The support of our Friends, through contributions large and small, enables us to make incredible materials available to our constituents, who range from local high school students, to UVM undergraduates, professional historians, local researchers, and documentary film crews."

As they have done for the last twenty-eight years, Friends of Special Collections will continue to play a significant role in shaping the department's vision. New technologies will make archival materials available to researchers on site and in remote locations across the globe. One recent grant will fund the Vermont Congressional Online Research Center, featuring the collections of Senators James Jeffords, Patrick Leahy, and others. Through dynamic collaboration with UVM's Center for Teaching and Learning, St. Michael's College Library, and teaching faculty at both institutions, Special Collections will create a rich web resource that allows students to analyze individual archival records in the context of legislative history, tracing the evolution of a bill through constituents' correspondence, committee hearings, and its ultimate maturation as public policy.

Special Collections is investigating the possibility of relocating to the current Billings Student Center, which served as the University library from its construction in the 1880s until Bailey/Howe Library was built in the 1960s. With renovation and restoration, Billings Library would once again be an active center of scholarship, as well as a welcoming and elegant setting for lectures, exhibits, special programs, and community events.

To join Friends of Special Collections contact Connell Gallagher (Connell.Gallagher@uvm.edu, 802.656.2595). In 2006 the group will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Vermont book artist Claire Van Vliet's Janus Press.

## New Professors-at-Large Program

A new program aims to invigorate intellectual life on campus by bringing eminent scholars to UVM for short residencies marked by lectures, collaboration, and debate.

The James Marsh Professors-at-Large Program is expected to launch a long tradition of bringing outstanding individuals of international distinction in the arts and humanities, sciences, social sciences, and applied fields to campus. The selection process for the inaugural group of professors-at-large began in March, and those chosen will begin their terms on July 1.

The program, sponsored by the President's Office and recently endorsed by the Faculty Senate, will bring selected scholars to Burlington for multiple one-to-two-

week residencies served over six-year terms. The sole mandate for professors-at-large is to invigorate the intellectual and cultural life of the University.

Chosen for their accomplishments, broad-ranging interests, and personal and professional accessibility, professors-at-large will typically offer public lectures; hold office hours with undergraduate and graduate students; collaborate with students and faculty colleagues in scientific research, scholarly projects, and creative activities; conduct seminars and colloquia, often with cross-disciplinary emphases; and consult with students on undergraduate research projects and honors theses as well as on graduate theses and dissertations.

Professors-at-large are considered honorary members of the faculty and will receive a pro-rated salary with the

program paying for travel, housing and meals, and other in-resident expenses.

The selection committee will review nominations based on the quality of the nominee's intellectual and cultural contributions and the capacity to make some of those contributions accessible to non-specialists. After their review, the committee will forward its recommendations to the University president, who will review the recommendations and make the final decision. As many as four new professors-at-large will be appointed each year with no more than 20 individuals holding appointments at any one time.

### New Majors in Film and Television Studies, Public Communications

Two new majors are making their debut at the University of Vermont this year and next: film and television studies; and public communications.

Film and television studies will be offered by the Department of English beginning in the fall of 2005-2006 and will replace the program's existing film minor.

"Film and television are hugely important in our culture, and we see it as the mission of English studies to focus on all kinds of texts," says Robyn Warhol, professor and chair of English, who says the new major will build on the work of Frank Manchel, a popular professor emeritus of film.

Directed by Todd McGowan, assistant professor of English, the new program will emphasize critical theory (many of the core faculty are experts in cultural studies) as it seeks to deepen students' understanding of film. Course requirements will also give students a historical sense of the medium, some background in production, and a strong sense of the vocabulary of the medium.

The first students will enroll next fall, and as many as five will graduate in the program in the spring by building on credits earned through the minor or independent study.

The new public communications major was launched this semester, and already nine students have declared "PC" as their major or minor.

Housed in the Department of Community Development and Applied Economics (CDAE), the new major builds on consumer affairs, advertising, and public administration courses already offered in CDAE. Four new courses will be added during the 2005-06 academic year: Introductory and Advanced Communications, Writing for Public Communication, and Public Policy, according to Jane Kolodinsky, department chair.

"Governmental, economic, and civil institutions prosper because of clear communication," says Kolodinsky. She points out that this is neither a journalism nor an advertising major, though students will become well versed in both. "It is public relations for the public sector. Our graduates will find careers as communications and public affairs specialists for government, research, nonprofit, and public sector organizations."

### UVM Center Earns Higher Education Excellence Award

The Center for Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Vermont is among the winners of the 2005 New England Higher Education Excellence Awards announced by the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE).

Established in 1994, the center integrates UVM and community expertise to promote sustainable farming systems throughout Vermont and the New England region. It has secured more than \$3 million in external funding for programs that support sustainable agriculture.

"The UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture is a true leader in sustainable agriculture in New England," commented NEBHE President and CEO Evan S. Dobelle. "The center's programs help ensure a strong future for agriculture in Vermont by offering professional development opportunities, workshops, programs, and publications for new farmers; fostering viable farmland in the state; and increasing the understanding of the importance of sustainable agriculture," he added.

"We're very proud that NEBHE has recognized the important contributions the Center is making to agriculture in Vermont," said UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel. "The Center epitomizes the vital role the University has to play in serving the needs of Vermonters through its Land Grant mission and the creative energy it brings to the process."

"It has been an honor and a pleasure for all of us at the Center to help build a bright future for agriculture," said Vernon Grubinger, director of the Center for Sustainable Agriculture. "Any success we have had is due to our partnerships with creative farmers, dedicated extension and research personnel, and consumers that care about healthy food and vibrant communities."