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[Brown President to Give Commencement Address](#)



Ruth Simmons, president of Brown University, is a speaker and honoree at this year's UVM Commencement. (Photo: Brown University)

Ruth Simmons, president of Brown University, will deliver the graduation address at the University of Vermont's 2005 Commencement on Sunday, May 22. The ceremony will again be held on the University Green, a tradition that was re-established with last year's commencement for the university's 200th graduating class.

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Emeritus professor Howard Ball doesn't pull any punches when expressing his feelings about the Jan. 7 indictment of Baptist preacher Edgar Ray Killen for the orchestration of the murders of three young civil rights workers by Klansmen in 1964.

[Carving Class](#) For a university located in the heart of ski country proud of its hands-on learning philosophy, there was always a certain something missing from the experience a popular "Ski Area Management" course offered students: a ski area.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Jan. 19, 4-5 p.m. Colloquium: "Three Mile Island, Nuclear Energy, and American politics," with Arnie Gundersen, Physics/Math Department, Burlington High School and former Sr. VP of Engineering, Nuclear Energy Services. Angell Hall. Information: 656-2644.

Jan. 20, 12 p.m.-2 p.m. Forum: "Town Meeting Forums." An interactive meeting with design consultants implementing the Campus Master Plan. Marsh Dining Hall. Information: 656-3208.

Jan. 20, 7-9 p.m. Class: "An introduction to the Artisan Cheese of America" hosted by the Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese. Waterman Manor, main campus. Information: 656-8000.

Jan. 22, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Event: "Vermont Maple Conference." Registration: \$15. Burr and Burton, Manchester. Information: 866-260-5603.

Jan. 25, 4-7 p.m. Lecture: "Women in Iraq: Past and Present," with Febe Armanios of Middlebury College. Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. Information: 656-3180.

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During the Break

A quick rundown of the highlights of campus news in between the semesters:

SEND-OFF FOR DECEMBER GRADUATES: The university recognized its mid-term graduates in a Dec. 18 ceremony at Ira Allen Chapel featuring an address from UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel and a reflection by Jean Richardson, professor emerita of environmental studies, natural resources and geography.

"I recalled that within a few weeks of my graduation from the University of Newcastle on Tyne, England, I boarded a freighter in Glasgow, Scotland. Our cargo was strawberries and whisky," Richardson said near the beginning of her reflection. "We crossed the North Atlantic in a Force Nine gale, then through the Great Lakes in humid hot days and nights unlike anything I had ever experienced in cool, wet England. I was the only woman on board, and the only passenger (with 40 Irish seamen!) headed into the unknown of America, to graduate school in Madison, Wisconsin, full of excitement and apprehension. I disembarked in Chicago, all alone with a trunk of books, and only twenty dollars to my name. When I landed in Chicago I did not know exactly where I was going with my life, but I was ready for an adventure, willing to take risks, and I found, over time, with trial and error, that I was able to adapt to the challenges that the next 40 years threw in my path." Read the rest here: [Richardson Reflection](#)

NEW SCHOLARSHIP FOR ENGINEERING: Four undergraduates majoring in civil and environmental engineering will split \$32,000 for summer research in environmental engineering as part of the newly established Richard Barrett Scholarships. Domenico Grasso, dean of the college, and members of the Barrett Foundation made the announcement this week. Three juniors and a sophomore will complete 2005 internships under the direction of civil and environmental engineering faculty. Richard, his wife, Elaine Barrett; daughter, Anne Barrett Johnston; and her husband, Darren Johnston, established the private family foundation in 1987.

"My summer intern experience at UVM was invaluable in preparing me for a rigorous career as an engineer, while enhancing my resume for graduate school," Barrett says. "I want more students to have that advantage." Barrett founded Leasetec Corporation, which leased high-tech equipment to major corporations. The company operated in 20 countries when he sold it to KeyCorp in 1997. Full story: [UVM Undergrads Earn First Environmental Engineering Scholarships](#)

Sri Lankan Student Stunned by Flood's Wake

Rahul Mudannayake, a first-year student majoring in chemistry, returned home to Sri Lanka for winter recess. On Dec. 26, 2004, a massive wave struck the country, devastating large portions of the country's eastern and southern coastlines.

The enormous wave, which struck India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand, is currently estimated to have killed 226,000 people worldwide and left another 5 million without homes, food and water. An estimated 31,000 died in Sri Lanka, and the devastation of his homeland haunts Mudannayake, who worked at the scene doing his small part to support relief efforts and deliver supplies.

"I tried to do what I had a responsibility to do," he says. "But it was nothing. *Nothing*. There were relief workers who worked 24 hours a day for days on end."

Mudannayake's experience traveling around the area starting two days after the flood and meeting victims underscored the disaster's human toll.

"We met families who had everything washed away in a matter of minutes," he recalls. "We met a woman who found a lady who had lost her eight-day-old child. The child was swept out of her arms."

"When you got out of the vehicle, you smelled the putrefying smell of death everywhere. Huge sections of the road were closed, and they were digging mass graves."

Although relief, primarily through the International Committee of the Red Cross, began coming into the area almost immediately, enormous public health, housing, agricultural and infrastructural challenges remain.

"The hardest thing is to imagine," Mudannayake says, "how a single family can lose literally everything – money, house, property, job – in minutes. People are left with nothing. The worst problem is that many of these coastal areas in Sri Lanka are occupied by people of low-socioeconomic status. They don't have money, they don't have bank accounts."

For people in the UVM community who would like to help, Mudannayake says that the ICRC has done excellent work in Sri Lanka. He also points out that smaller, indigenous NGOs are also mounting valuable, cost-effective efforts to address long-term fallout from the floods,

DONNING THE WHITE COAT: Receiving a white doctor's coat is a symbol of the completion of the first step in a long, challenging journey that includes four years of medical school, clinical residencies and often, subspecialty training. Among the many milestone events in a medical student's career, receiving a white doctor's coat is the first tangible affirmation of a goal that each student sets when they begin medical school. On Jan. 14, the College of Medicine Class of 2008 formally received their coats in Carpenter Auditorium, Given Building.

PETERSEN, OTHERS MAKE NATIONAL NEWS: Research in Brazil's rain forest led by James Petersen, associate professor of anthropology, was the subject of a lengthy feature article in the Dec. 3 issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Petersen and colleagues are excavating sites rich in "terra preta," fertile soil which they believe indicates the existence of early civilizations in the region. "We're providing the proof," said Petersen, who has spent the past ten years conducting research in the Brazilian Amazon. Click here for more: [UVM In the News](#)

NEW GARAGE NOT QUITE COMPLETE: The new Gutterson Parking Garage will not open until late spring. Although the garage looks finished, essential work remains to be done. The structure's concrete slabs cannot be sealed or caulked if temperatures fall below 40 degrees. Delays during the fall pushed this phase of the construction into the cold weather season. Using the garage before it is sealed and caulked could severely damage it. The university will continue to accommodate guests during hockey and basketball games at surface lots near the water tower off of East Avenue, with the university providing shuttle bus service to the Gutterson/Patrick complex.

Sixteen Students Join Phi Beta Kappa

Sixteen undergraduate students were named to Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest collegiate academic honor society, at a Dec. 3 ceremony. Each initiate signed the chapter register that has been in use since 1849.

Membership into the honors society requires students to be in their junior or senior year and to demonstrate outstanding academic accomplishment in the liberal arts.

New Phi Beta Kappa members are: Molly Cameron of Deerfield, N.H.; Allison Card of North Andover, Mass.; Daniel Cassidy of Wayne, Pa.; Coburn Ellingwood of Vergennes, Vt.; Kelly Glasheen of Belgrade, Me.; Misako Goto of Yamagata, Japan; Bethany Heywood of Dummerston, Vt.; Keith Jennings of Shelton, Conn.; Justin Kasprisin of South Burlington, Vt.; Romolo Marucci of Bedford, N.H.; Michael McMahan of Barre, Vt.; Nathaniel Morse of Hudson, Ohio; Dov Avram Pechenick of Burlington, Vt.; Stephanie Lynn Waite of Bomoseen, Vt.; Karen Willard of Newport, Vt.; and Jessica Wood of Woodstock, Vt.

Information: [Phi Beta Kappa](#)

including constructing housing, desalinizing rice paddies and reclaiming contaminated wells. E-mail theview@uvm.edu for details on two such organizations.

New Wellness Program Offers Incentives to Help Employees Reach Their 'Personal Best'

The spring edition of "Personal Best, 100-Point Lifestyle Challenge," sponsored by the UVM Lifetime Wellness Program and the Employee Assistance Program, offers a range of free health screenings, workshops and classes to help university employees improve their health and avoid preventable illnesses.

Beyond the rewards of feeling better, program participants can earn up to \$100 on their CATcards (redeemable at UVM and around town) for successfully completing certain aspects of the program like a personal health questionnaire, receiving a free cholesterol test and taking lunchtime workshops. The program runs from Jan. 26 to June 1, and program managers will tabulate points and fund CATcards in June.

The program runs in three phases. Phase one includes an Internet health risk appraisal questionnaire (10 points) and a health fair with free screenings (pre-registration required, 30 points) on Jan. 26. (Screenings are offered without the fair on Jan. 27 and Mar. 15.)

Phase two offers a four-week goal-setting workshop that meets for one hour each week (30 points). The final phase of the program features workshops and behavior change programs designed to provide individuals with information and tools to establish new lifestyle health behaviors. One-hour workshops and ongoing lifestyle-change programs are designed to help individuals reach their health goals.

UVM employees can join the program any time, and it's not necessary to earn all 100 points. Anyone who earns 50 or more points will join a raffle for a \$250 prize.

Information, registration: [Personal Best](#) or 656-0307

Medical Students Help Boost Food Shelf Health

We all do it. When food drives are on, we gather the usual canned goods, boxes of pasta and macaroni and cheese – items often high in fat, sodium, and sugar – and put them in the donation boxes without a thought about the downside of our good deeds.

In early 2004, a number of homebound clients contacted the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf in Burlington to complain that they could not eat the food that the food shelf had delivered to them, due to specific nutritional requirements linked to their health conditions. After learning of the issue from the United Way of Chittenden County, Dr. Jan Carney, research professor of

Faculty Receive Service-Learning Fellowships

Ten UVM faculty members have been selected as service-learning fellows by the Office of Community-University Partnerships and Service-Learning.

They are: Ahmad Chaudhry, biomedical technologies; Meghan Emery, romance languages; Robert Erickson, computer science; Kathy Fox, sociology; Jim Gilmore, animal sciences; Nancy Hayden, civil and environmental engineering; Patricia Moynagh, political science; Walter Poleman, botany; Helga Schreckenberger, women's studies; and Gary Visco, statistics.

Each fellow will receive a stipend to be used for professional development purposes. The funding will help participating faculty give students more opportunities to reflect on meaningful community participation and how it connects to their academic experience.

The fellows participated in a training series Jan. 10-12 focused on the philosophy of teaching and learning, fundamentals of service-learning, integrating reflection into the curriculum, developing community partnerships, advanced models of community engagement and course design. Throughout the spring semester, the fellows will be using this training to design and implement service-learning components in their courses. They will work with experienced service-learning faculty and staff to create and revise their syllabi, find potential community partners, and design learning projects for students.

The Faculty Fellowships for Service-Learning Program is designed to help faculty members to develop a strong background in service-learning and to strengthen and refine service-learning knowledge and skills through developing a high-quality service-learning course. Since its inception in spring 2000, the program has trained 47 UVM faculty members who have gone on to teach more than 100 courses with service-learning components, reaching up to 2,000 students.

Information: www.uvm.edu/partnerships

medicine and associate dean for public health, seized the opportunity to join medical students and nonprofit representatives to address this community need.

Funded in part by Carney's 2004 Community-University and Service-Learning Planning and Implementation Grant for Service-Learning, this medical student public health project, one of 13 overseen by Carney at the College of Medicine, focused on the needs of homebound clients of the food shelf's grocery delivery program. Each month, the program delivers a five-day emergency supply of food to low-income, homebound seniors and disabled adults. Currently, the program delivers to 120 households in Chittenden County. Second-year medical students analyzed the nutritional needs of patients living with diabetes, heart disease, and other illnesses, then checked labels and grocery store inventories to identify low-cost, healthy, non-perishable foods that suit these patients' needs.

"With the help of Dr. Carney and the UVM medical students, the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf is working to improve the health and well being of low-income homebound seniors and disabled adults," says Sarah Barnett, administrative coordinator for the food shelf. "Recognizing that good nutrition is an important part of successfully living with chronic illness, the food shelf hopes to provide our clients with food that will nourish their bodies, as well as fill their stomachs."

Students who worked on the project included Wendy Neveu, Sara Pope, Whittney Dotzler, Allison Collen, Phuong Le, Brad Mackinnon, Adam Polifka, and S.E. Specter. A key component of students' public health training at the UVM College of Medicine, Carney's projects provide second-year students the opportunity to work with local community agencies and apply the principles and science of public health to the needs in the community. Projects were conducted from September through December 2004. On Jan. 19, students will display summaries of their projects at a poster session and community celebration to attendees who will include community agency and United Way representatives, project faculty mentors, College of Medicine faculty, public health project students from the College of Medicine's Class of 2007, as well as College of Medicine students from the class of 2008.

"This project's goal is to improve nutrition in the people served by the homebound grocery distribution program at the food shelf," says Carney, who was previously the Vermont Commissioner of Health. "We hope that donations of 'diabetic-friendly' and 'heart-healthy' foods to the food shelf will increase as a result of our efforts."

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Town Hall Meetings Will Discuss Upcoming Campus Master Plan

President Daniel Mark Fogel and design consultants hired by Campus Planning Services to complete the final phase of the university's 10-year master plan will host two public town meeting forums on Jan. 20 to discuss the vision and master plan for the campus.

The first session will be held from noon to 2 p.m., while the second session is expected to last from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Both sessions will be held in the Marsh Dining Hall, located on the ground floor of Marsh Hall. Students, staff, faculty, and the general public are encouraged to attend the interactive meetings.

University planners have hired two design consultants, Hargreaves Associates of New York, Cambridge and San Francisco, and Schwartz/Silver Architects of Boston, to complete the final phase of the master plan development.

Hargreaves Associates is an internationally recognized landscape architecture and planning firm whose work has included designs for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney as well as participation on the winning team for the World Trade Center Site Competition. The company also specializes in campus master planning and has worked with Drexel, Duke and the University of Cincinnati.

Schwartz Silver Architects will focus on building design guidelines and facility planning. Its portfolio includes landmark buildings at prestigious campuses through the United States, including the Louisiana State University Museum of Art and the Princeton University Humanities Center.

"We strongly believe that open dialogue with all of our campus constituents during this phase of planning is crucial to the success of the Campus Master Plan," says Linda Seavey, Director of

Cohn to Speak on Archaeological Treasures of Lake Champlain

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Executive Director Arthur Cohn is the featured speaker of a Jan. 31 research-in-progress seminar sponsored by the Center for Research on Vermont.

Cohn, an adjunct faculty member at UVM, will present "A View from Down Under: A Progress Report on the Underwater Archaeological Status of Lake Champlain." The free event is begins at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building.

Some of the discussion will focus on the history of Lake Champlain as a transportation, military, commerce, and recreation hub, and how that layered history has left behind one of the most important collections of underwater cultural heritage in North America.

Over the past three decades, the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum's research team has located and documented literally dozens of new shipwrecks. In 1996 this group began the first systematic examination of the entire bottom of Lake Champlain in order to locate shipwrecks and begin their documentation before the zebra mussel infestation made this nearly impossible.

In the past nine years the research team has located 78 new shipwrecks to add to the more than 200 already known to exist. Cohn's lecture will provide a summary of what has been learned about Lake Champlain's underwater archaeological collection and how this legacy can be preserved, shared and managed for future generations.

Campus Community to Honor Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Everybody can be great," Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "because everybody can serve." Working alongside individuals of all ages, races

Campus Planning Services. "Gathering public input and combining that input with President Fogel's vision for the future of the university will help us create a master plan that will focus on innovative, state of the art facilities that reflect the mission and strategic goals for the institution over the next decade and beyond, blending and respecting the Vermont vernacular."

and backgrounds, he sought to forge common ground where people could join together to strengthen communities, alleviate poverty and acknowledge dignity and respect for all people.

UVM will celebrate Dr. King's life with an observance beginning at noon on Jan. 27 in Ira Allen Chapel. Craig Wilder, a professor of history at Dartmouth, will speak on the theme, "The Past is the Key to Our Future." Wilder is the author of the books, "A Covenant with Color: Race and Social Power in Brooklyn" and "In the Company of Black Men: The African Influence on African American Culture in New York City." After his remarks, students will recite excerpts from some of Dr. King's most inspirational speeches.

The observance will be followed by a recommitment silent candlelight march across the UVM Green to a reception in Memorial Lounge, Waterman. All members of the university and Burlington community are invited to attend both the observance and reception. Information: <http://www.uvm.edu/~asc/> or 656-5120

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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January 19, 2005

Awards and Honors

Annie Stevens, assistant vice president of student and campus life, was selected to be one of three senior student affairs practitioners for the American College Personnel Association, the nation's largest student affairs professional organization.

Barbara McIntosh, associate professor of business administration, has been appointed by the National Council on the Aging board to the NCOA's Leadership Council. McIntosh was nominated and selected because of her significant contributions to issues of importance to America's elders. The council serves as an advisory group tackling key strategic and policy issues brought to it by NCOA officials. NCOA is a nationwide umbrella group for more than 3,200 organizations working on various issues of importance to older Americans.

Dr. **Bruce Tranmer**, professor and chief of neurosurgery at the College of Medicine, has been named the first Cordell E. Gross, M.D., Green and Gold Professor of Neurosurgery. Established in memory of former professor and chief of neurosurgery Dr. Cordell Gross, this endowed faculty position will provide annual support to Tranmer for either educational or research purposes. Gross, who passed away in April 2000, was a superb surgeon, caring physician, nationally recognized cerebral vascular researcher and excellent role model for his neurosurgery residents. He was appointed professor and chair of the division of neurosurgery in 1987 and three years later became director of surgical research and vice chairman of the department of surgery. Tranmer, who was mentored by Gross, joined the medical faculty in 1999.

Third-year medical student **Arash Koochek** was named a member of the National Institutes of Health's 2004-2005 Clinical Research Training Program class. CRTP is a year-long residential program designed to attract the most creative, research-oriented medical and dental students to the intramural campus of the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland. Participants, known as fellows, spend a year in a mentored clinical or translational research project in an area that matches their personal interests and goals. Koochek's clinical research project is titled "Molecular Based Cancer Drug Discovery Targeting CLIC4, a p53 Regulated Pro-apoptotic Chloride Channel Protein." In November, Koochek was among 250 student attendees at the 2004 Clinical Investigator Student Trainee Forum at the NIH Clinical Center, a two-day program that emphasizes the critical importance of translational and clinical research and encourages the training of the next generation of clinician-scientists to conduct that research.

Kenneth Gross, professor of mathematics and education, has been appointed by the United States Department of Education to the steering committee that will advise the department on a new Title I initiative in mathematics. Title I is the largest elementary and secondary education program in the federal government; its mission is to "improve the academic performance of disadvantaged students." The program serves 15 million students in 48,000 schools in 13,000 school districts. The role of the steering committee is to shape Title I mathematics, which includes developing a strategic plan to expand the role of mathematics professional development and instruction in Title I programs, provide ongoing direction to the initiative and produce a report on principles of professional development in mathematics that can guide schools and districts.

Publications and Presentations

Sara Helms Cahan, assistant professor of biology, and colleagues from the University of Lausanne, University of Arizona and Ohio State University, published a paper titled "Loss of Phenotypic Plasticity Generates Genotype-

Caste Association in Harvester Ants" in the December 29, 2004 issue of the journal *Current Biology*. The article concerns caste differentiation and reproductive division of labor – the hallmarks of insect societies.

Berta Geller, research professor of family medicine is a co-author on a Dec. 16 *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* article titled "Biennial Versus Annual Mammography and the Risk of Late-Stage Breast Cancer." The study sought to determine whether there was an increased risk of late-stage breast cancer in women screened every two years versus annually. The researchers found no increase in risk in women over 50, but greater risk in women in their 40s. Geller is principal investigator of the Vermont Breast Cancer Surveillance System, which is a member of a group that contributed to the report, the National Cancer Institute's Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium – a group of seven breast cancer registries across the country in cooperative agreement with the National Cancer Institute.

Barbara McIntosh, associate professor of business administration, has had an article, "Measuring the Nursing Workforce: Definitions and Pilot Survey Results," accepted for publication in *Medical Care Research and Review*. Co-authors include **Kyndaron Reinier** (College of Medicine), **MaryVal Palumbo** (College of Nursing and Health Sciences), **Betty Rambur** (College of Nursing and Health Sciences), **Jane Kolodinsky** (College of Agriculture and Life Science), **Laurie Hurowitz** (Area Health Education Center) and **Takamaru Ashikaga** (College of Medicine).

Wolfgang Mieder, professor and chair of German and Russian, has published an article on "Der frühe Vogel und die goldene Morgenstunde: Zu einer deutschen Sprichwortentlehnung aus dem Angloamerikanischen" in *Etymologie, Entlehnungen und Entwicklungen*. (The paper explains how the Anglo-American proverb "The early bird catches the worm" has gained currency in German in the form of a loan translation, i.e., "*Der frühe Vogel fängt den Wurm*." In fact, this new proverb is competing strongly with one of Germany's most popular proverbs, namely "*Morgenstunde hat Gold im Munde*" (The morning hour has gold in its mouth).

Wolfgang Mieder also edited the book *The Netherlandish Proverbs: an International Symposium on the Pieter Bruegel(h)els*, an illustrated volume of the proceedings of the international symposium held at UVM last year. The symposium coincided with a rare exhibition at the Fleming Museum of the painting, "The Netherlandish Proverbs," by Pieter Bruegel the Younger. Mieder has a limited number of free copies of the new book for people who attended the symposium. For information call 656-1468.

Giuseppe Petrucci, assistant professor of chemistry, received national recognition for his work developing equipment (the PERCI aerosol mass spectrometer) to analyze organic atmospheric particles in the "Analytical Currents" section of the journal *Analytical Chemistry*.

Burton Wilcke, associate professor and chair of biomedical technologies, was invited to speak at the CDC in Atlanta on Dec. 13, 2004. The CDC is preparing laboratory leaders from around the United States for international public health laboratory consultation work and invited speakers from inside and outside of CDC to share their expertise.

Appointments

Dr. **Robert Pierattini** was named Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the College of Medicine and Clinical Leader of Psychiatry at Fletcher Allen. Pierattini has served as interim department chair since 2001 and has played a key role in educating medical students and residents. He has directed the outpatient care portion of the psychiatry residency program since 2000. He earned his medical degree at Yale University.

December 1, 2004

Awards and Honors

Dr. **Richard Colletti**, professor and associate chair of pediatrics, received a \$300,000 grant from the American Board of Pediatrics and the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition to create,

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Brown President to Give Commencement Address

By University Communications

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Ruth Simmons, president of Brown University, is a speaker and honoree at this year's UVM Commencement. (Photo: Brown University)

Ruth Simmons, president of Brown University, will deliver the graduation address at the University of Vermont's 2005 Commencement on Sunday, May 22. The ceremony will again be held on the University Green, a tradition that was re-established with last year's commencement for the university's 200th graduating class.

When Ruth Simmons assumed the presidency of Brown University in July 2001, she became

the first black woman to lead an Ivy League institution. Simmons' story, her rise from a Texas sharecropping family to the Brown presidency, has made her one of the nation's most inspiring and visible higher education leaders. At Brown her initiatives have included moving swiftly to enrich academics by expanding the faculty, strengthening diversity throughout the university, and establishing a need-blind financial aid process. A scholar of Romance languages and literatures who earned her doctorate from Harvard University, Simmons' academic career has included leadership roles at the University of Southern California, Princeton University and Smith College, where she was president from 1995 to 2001.

In addition to Ruth Simmons, honorary degrees will be awarded to Lilian Baker Carlisle, Herbert Bormann, Thomas Cech and Adam Clymer.

Burlington resident Lilian Baker Carlisle is a well-known local historian, author, and antiques appraiser, experience fostered by her long working relationship with Electra Havermeyer Webb at the Shelburne Museum. A state representative from 1969 to 1970, Baker Carlisle was also a founding member of both the Chittenden County Historical Society and the Fleming Museum Advisory Board. She earned her UVM bachelor's degree in history at age 69 in 1981, and followed with her master's in 1986.

Herbert Bormann, professor emeritus at Yale University, is a pioneering ecosystem ecologist who has devoted much of his career to the study of New England's forests. He is co-founder of the famed Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study in New Hampshire and his research played a critical role in establishing the threat of acid rain to ecosystems in North America. With books such as *Redesigning the American Lawn: A Search for Environmental Harmony*, Bormann has also reached the general public with his work. As a visiting professor and adjunct faculty member, he has long worked with and helped to shape UVM's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources.

Thomas R. Cech received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1989 and has served as president of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, a scientific and philanthropic organization dedicated to the conduct of basic biomedical research, since 2000. Cech's Nobel Prize was in recognition for his work in the discovery of ribozymes. Prior to assuming leadership of the Hughes Institute, Cech was an investigator at HHMI since 1988, and was on the faculty of the

[Writing for Justice](#)

Emeritus professor Howard Ball doesn't pull any punches when expressing his feelings about the Jan. 7 indictment of Baptist preacher Edgar Ray Killen for the orchestration of the murders of three young civil rights workers by Klansmen in 1964.

[Carving Class](#)

For a university located in the heart of ski country proud of its hands-on learning philosophy, there was always a certain something missing from the experience a popular "Ski Area Management" course offered students: a ski area.

University of Colorado before that. Cech's leadership at the Hughes Institute has been key to promoting programs such as the Hughes Endeavor for Life Science Excellence, which strengthen undergraduate science education by more deeply involving students in the research process. UVM is among a select group of institutions to receive on-going Hughes support for HELiX.

Adam Clymer's more than four decades in journalism include 26 years as *The New York Times'* chief Washington correspondent, where he has covered Congress, the White House, and presidential campaigns. Since his retirement in 2003, Clymer has been a visiting scholar and Washington director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. Adam and Ann Clymer established the Jane emily Clymer Scholarship in the UVM College of Arts and Sciences in memory of their daughter.

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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Writing for Justice

By Jon Reidel

Article published Jan 18, 2005



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Emeritus Professor Howard Ball's book about the murders of three young civil rights workers in 1964 was released a few months before the case was unexpectedly re-opened this month. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Emeritus Professor Howard Ball doesn't pull any punches when expressing his feelings about the Jan. 7 indictment of Baptist preacher Edgar Ray Killen for the orchestration of the murders of three young civil rights workers by Klansmen in 1964.

"It was nice to finally see that son-of-a-bitch in chains. Friday (the day of the indictment) was a very good day, especially for those seeking justice in Mississippi," says Ball, an expert on what is considered one of the

nation's most notorious civil rights era crimes and the subject of the 1988 film *Mississippi Burning*.

The re-opening of the case and the fortuitous timing of the release of his latest book, *Murder in Mississippi: U.S. v. Price and the Struggle for Civil Rights* (University Press of Kansas), on the 40th anniversary of the murders has positioned Ball as national expert in virtually every major newspaper, on television and in a CourtTV [live Internet chat](#).

Killen is the only person ever charged with murder in the deaths of Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney, though 18 were tried on federal civil rights violations in 1967. Of the group, Killen was the only one who never did any time for the crimes because of a lone holdout on his jury.

Ball, who arrived at UVM in 1989 as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences after teaching at Mississippi State University, has followed the case most of his life hoping for another trial. But this final chapter in the unfinished story of the deaths of voter registration workers could very easily not have been told until long after Killen, 79, and Ball were gone if not for the order of a federal judge to open a number of files that were previously closed until 2050.

"There's no question he's the one," Ball says. "He got the order from (Ku Klux Klan Wizard) Sam Bowers to kill Schwerner. The other two were killed because they were with him. He was the target because he was so good at civil rights organizing. Everybody knew (Killen) did it. But this was a closed county and a scary place back then. Everybody knew, but no one talked. They knew where the bodies were buried; they knew the property owner; and the sheriffs who were involved."

Living and learning in Dixie

Ball, who has written 30 books and is an expert on constitutional law, civil liberties, civil rights, American government, judicial process, and the U.S. Supreme Court, says he couldn't have written the book without having spent time living in Mississippi and better understanding southern culture.

[Brown President to Give Commencement Address](#)

Ruth Simmons, president of Brown University, will deliver the graduation address at the University of Vermont's 2005 Commencement on Sunday, May 22. The ceremony will again be held on the University Green, a tradition that was re-established with last year's commencement for the university's 200th graduating class.

[Carving Class](#)

For a university located in the heart of ski country proud of its hands-on learning philosophy, there was always a certain something missing from the experience a popular "Ski Area Management" course offered students: a ski area.

Some of Ball's exposure to local culture was through his stint as a high school football official. Ball writes in his book about trembling with fear while driving to a game on the same route that the three civil rights workers took the night they were killed. Dubbed "The Rabbi" by fellow officials for being Jewish, Ball recalls receiving a phone call from the secretary of the local high school football association asking him if he'd be willing to work a game with a new official, who was black.

"No one wanted to work with him, so the secretary of the league called me and said, 'Hey Rabbi, do you mind working with a (racial epithet).' And this was in 1980. So I was the first Jew to officiate high school football in Mississippi and was part of the first integrated crew."

Ball drew on his experiences while teaching in Starkville, many of which were positive, when he began writing the book after becoming aware that the files of the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, an organization that collected information on civil rights workers to try and impede their progress from 1955-1973, were ordered opened.

"The Sovereignty Commission was a spy organization," says Ball. "There was a symbiotic relationship between the Sovereignty Commission, Klansmen, The White Citizens Council and state government. It became very clear what happened after the Sovereignty Commission files were opened, mainly because they were not redacting. The FBI files had names blacked out, but the commission had the names, the times, and the places. I said 'Boy this is a story that really needs to be told.'"

Ball, who has been in the same room as Killen but never met him, taught students at Mississippi State who were family members of some of the men who were charged for taking part in the murders. "I learned a lot from my students, both black and white."

Another trial ahead

With the new trial set for March 28, Ball remains optimistic that a new verdict will be reached. He still wonders, however, if any echoes of the first trial, an 11-1 deadlock with the holdout saying she couldn't convict a preacher, will resume.

"All it takes is one of those sons-of-guns to get a mistrial," says Ball. "I wouldn't be surprised if someone raises the money to cover his \$250,000 bail. But I think people in Mississippi are aware of the fact that everybody is watching. A lot of people would have preferred this never happened. Now they just want to get it over with."

Regardless of the outcome, Ball says he's he'll never fully understand how such hatred for people of another race could have become so prevalent in America. "What I'm always left with after doing research and writing about this, is man's evil – the evil men can do to other men and women."

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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Carving Class

By Jeff Wakefield

Article published Jan 19, 2005


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Stowe Mountain Resort's Steve Droney, a lift mechanic, gives UVM students in a ski area management course the lowdown on how the computerized equipment works. (Photo: Jeff Wakefield)

"Ski Area Management" has been a popular and successful course in the Rubenstein School's recreation management concentration since the class was introduced in the 1970s, boasting such highly respected alums as Molly Mahar, marketing director at Sugarbush.

But for a university located in the heart of ski country proud of its hands-on learning philosophy, there was always a certain something missing from the experience the course offered students:

a ski area.

Three years ago, Vermont-based marketing consultant David Kaufman, who has taught the course for six years, decided to do something about that. The course had traditionally brought the mountain to the classroom, in the form of guest speakers.

"I thought it would be interesting to do a portion of it on-site," says Kaufman.

He knew that wouldn't be possible after the semester started, so he invited students to return to UVM a week early for an intense hands-on practicum. Stowe Mountain Resort, an obvious choice given the university's many ties to Mt. Mansfield, has been a willing and enthusiastic partner in the enterprise.

The course maintains its traditional form after the semester starts. But for five days last week, students went slopeside at Stowe, learning the ins and outs of the ski business from a ground zero vantage.

Wintery insights

Mornings were spent listening to an impressive lineup of Stowe vice presidents, along with a contingent of executives from Smugglers Notch, address such topics as marketing, operations, food and beverage, trail management, the ski school, and the regulatory environment.

In the afternoon students clamped on skis and snowboards and learned about those topics in real time.

The morning lectures were hardly dull. In one, Stowe's marketing vice president, Mike Colburn, was attempting to explain – to a room full of snowboarders – why the half pipe and terrain park, stunted by the season's poor weather, were not getting more attention from Stowe's snow guns.

Motivated by personal as well as academic interests, students were impressive in their prosecutorial zeal. But as Colburn explained that Stowe's limited

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[Writing for Justice](#)

Emeritus professor Howard Ball doesn't pull any punches when expressing his feelings about the Jan. 7 indictment of Baptist preacher Edgar Ray Killen for the orchestration of the murders of three young civil rights workers by Klansmen in 1964.

resources were more strategically spent blowing snow on the blue, groomed trails that would keep affluent out-of-staters coming back, the cold winter light of insight dawned on the fresh faces in the room.

In the afternoons, students saw computer-controlled ski lifts and snow guns in action; learned the intricacies of matching trails with ability levels in the ski school; and observed how clearing terrain for new trails is considerably complicated by Vermont's challenging regulatory environment. They also spent several hours learning the food and beverage side of the operation.

The takeaway? For Matt Getz, a senior from St. Johnsbury, it was learning just how tough the business is. "The biggest thing is that a lot of companies aren't making any money. It's a flat industry," he said, where people work hard "to get a few more thousand skier-visits a year. It might seem like ski areas are ripping people off, but they're just doing everything they can to stay in business."

Getz isn't contemplating a career in ski resort management just yet, but the idea of working for a marketing agency catering to the winter sports industry is gaining traction with him.

It will take awhile for students to process all the information they absorbed during the week. Kaufman explained one afternoon from the noisy, interior hub of one Stowe's larger ski lifts. "It's quite an intense learning environment," he roared over the din of the machinery.

Asking students to cut their break short and not make room for a little play wouldn't seem fair. So each day, students left time in their busy schedules to sample the business they were studying. Kaufman occasionally found time to join in on these late day runs, just to keep on top of the curriculum, of course.

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