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[For Sale: Vermont](#)



Thinking locally: UVM staff member Michael Moser (left) and recent grad Jeffrey Doane run the Davis Center's Growing Vermont store. (Photo: Sally McCay)

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m.
Faculty Recital: Paul Orgel, piano. Music Building Recital Hall. Information: 656-3040.

Jan. 28, 11:45 a.m.
"Common Property and Power: Land Use History and Resource Availability Among Pastoralists in Tibet (1884-2004)" with Ken Bauer, assistant professor of community development and applied Economics. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill.

Jan. 28, 2 p.m.
Holocaust Studies Lecture: "A German Pogrom: The 'Kristallnacht' in History and Memory" with Alan Steinweis, professor of history and Judaic studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill.

Jan. 28, 4 p.m. James Marsh Professor-at-Large Lecture: "Are We Ready for a Woman President?" with Madeleine Kunin, former governor of Vermont. Livak Grand Ballroom, Dudley H. Davis Student Center.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

For Sale: Vermont

By Tom Weaver

Article published January 22, 2008



Thinking locally: UVM staff member Michael Moser (left) and recent grad Jeffrey Doane run the Davis Center's Growing Vermont store. (Photo: Sally McCay)

There's not a beaker or test tube in sight. Instead, the tables and shelves of this laboratory are filled with wool hats, beaded jewelry, beeswax candles and goats'-milk soap. Though Growing Vermont, a student-operated retail store in the Davis Center, is every bit a Green

Mountain gift shop, there is also some serious experimentation going on at the business and among the myriad entrepreneurs whose products stock its shelves.

Experiments mean trial and error. Tie-dye shirts, seemingly a wardrobe staple on a campus, haven't found much of a market. The eight-ounce brick of Cabot cheddar? Not for students on the go. A graduate student's spare-time efforts in jewelry making? Bestseller.

"We're a start-up," says Michael Moser, a research specialist in the Center for Rural Studies who is project director for the student-operated store. "Any entrepreneur would agree; you go along and you see what works."

Sorry, no ice cream

Moser first got involved with creating a student-run business in the Davis Center while he was a graduate student in community development and applied economics. The original vision was to open a student-run café.

"Funky, alternative, sort of a Radio Bean on campus," Moser recalls.

But some balked at the demands a food service operation would pose for an inexperienced, time-strapped undergraduate staff. Another popular thought: resurrect the UVM-brand ice cream worshipped by generations of students at the erstwhile Carrigan Dairy Bar. That idea would fall to practical concerns, as well, a business analysis suggesting the numbers

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just weren't there.

The Vermont products store eventually emerged as a way to give students real-world experience with entrepreneurship and also support Vermont business and agriculture. Both goals square nicely with the missions of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Community Development and Applied Economics Department and Center for Rural Studies.

Moser took the idea to Professor Jane Kolodinsky, chair of CDAE and co-director, with Professor Fred Schmidt, of the Center for Rural Studies. "Jane must have been insane to let me give it a shot," Moser admits, but she encouraged him to take the next steps. That meant enlisting the help of students in community entrepreneurship classes in CDAE to create a business plan for Growing Vermont. "We delved into real problems, got our hands dirty, and came up with numbers," Moser says.

Jeffrey Doane, a 2007 CDAE graduate with retail experience from working in snowboard shops in his native New Jersey, is full-time manager at the store, overseeing day-to-day operations with Moser. Undergraduates Erin Schumacher and Mark Paglierani have been the store's first student workers, taking on levels of responsibility that will grow as the operation matures.

Paglierani stumbled on his Growing Vermont job through work-study but praises the experience he's found. A student in the Rubenstein School, he's heartened by how the store's "buy local" ethics are in synch with lessons he takes from environmental classes. Schumacher, a business major, has also found a chance to put what she's learned into action. "Because the horizontal power structure is very small, I really feel as though I have a direct impact on the store with my marketing efforts," she says. "We have to be creative with our efforts and really try to think what exactly the customers want and what will bring them in."

Though Growing Vermont carries well-established Vermont brands such as Cabot Cheese and Lake Champlain Chocolates, many more of the roughly 50 vendors are fledgling businesses. For some of them, even creating an invoice is new territory. So beyond selling their products, the students of Growing Vermont will help these new entrepreneurs with bigger-picture work such as developing marketing strategies and business plans.

Finding the niche

So, with a semester behind them, how is all of this retail experimentation working out? There have been some good signs, Moser says — holiday sales were brisk, and he projects Growing Vermont might even reach its three-year break-even target ahead of time.

But there have also been some start-up challenges. The Davis Center doesn't exactly offer the tourist foot-traffic of Church Street, and the first floor hallway connected to the Main Street tunnel is a quieter corner of the building.

Finding their market is also a work-in-progress, Moser says. While students represent the vast majority of those passing through the Davis Center daily, many of Growing Vermont's products are more likely to appeal to older consumers — faculty, staff or visitors to the university. That fact has been borne out by spikes in sales during Homecoming and Parent Weekend, or when conferences are held in Davis. "We're working to find our ultimate look and feel," Moser says.

One group that has had little trouble finding Growing Vermont — the vendors. Moser says every time the store receives publicity, he can expect to hear from 10 or 15 people interested in selling their products in the store.

Nell Campbell, a graduate student in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, initially sold her handmade jewelry on consignment. Quickly, her "Made by Nell" pieces became one of Growing Vermont's bestsellers. Though most of her time is spent on classes and research into carbon associated with biofuel crops in Vermont, she's happy to "take a mental break and do something crafty every once in a while."

And a little extra income never hurt a grad student. "Growing Vermont has been very supportive," Campbell says. "I feel like it's been a positive learning experience for all involved."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Voice of Change

Singer, actor and activist Harry Belafonte, Jr., exhorts students to extend Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy

By Tom Weaver

Article published January 23, 2008



Entertainer and activist Harry Belafonte, 81, delivered stirring remarks at UVM's Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

only to find mostly American artists. With a sly smile, he told the capacity audience in Ira Allen Chapel on Tuesday afternoon that he then decided to "look for one name in particular. But I didn't see it. Maybe it was sold out?"

He asked the woman at the counter. "Do you have any Harry Belafonte?"

"Who?"

"Harry Belafonte."

"No," Belafonte said, mimicking the woman's Jamaican accent. "A lot of people come in this island off the boat, and they come in here lookin' for that man. And I got to tell you somethin'. I think he long time dead."

After the laughter quieted, Belafonte said, "You're not going to hear much about what I do, because the media in America doesn't go where I go."

Belafonte's talk, the keynote event of this week's UVM celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., took the audience many of those places and into the ardent heart and provocative mind of the 81-year-old artist and activist, a man who is clearly very much alive.

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Youth power

A close associate of Martin Luther King's through the nation-changing events of the American civil rights movement, Belafonte shared the one question he is invariably asked: "What would Dr. King say if he were here today?"

With his eyes alight, his humor quick, and his passion palpable, Belafonte took his audience in search of the answer in a wide-ranging talk touching on America's prison population, Iraq and Colin Powell's role in that "war of no righteousness, illegal, fraught with dishonor."

Belafonte once figured at this time of life he'd be on a Caribbean beach, rum and book in hand. But he is "not doing those fanciful things," in part because of the galvanizing moment in 2005 when he stumbled upon a television news report showing Ja'eisha Scott, a five-year-old black girl in St. Petersburg, Fla., being subdued and handcuffed by three white policemen. Her offense: being "unruly in school."

Because the school lacked the resources for counseling or to take other measures, they simply called the police. Belafonte was shocked that he heard no voices raised in protest. He wondered, "Where are the leaders to shape the society and make a different world?"

He gathered longtime friends, advocates for civil rights and social justice, for what Belafonte dubbed a "Gathering of the Elders." But it fell short. "At the end of the day, I didn't hear any sense of clarity," Belafonte said. "Everybody was somehow stuttering and trapped in their own place — busy with their own traditional patterns of engagement, patterns that had long since frustrated the appetite for success."

What would Dr. King say? He would look to the young, Belafonte suggested, and reminded his listeners of the remarkable youth of the leaders at the outset of the civil rights movement. King was 24; Belafonte, 26; Julian Bond, 17; Diane Nash, "17-and-a-half years old with child"; and John Lewis (UVM's 2007 Commencement speaker) a budding seminarian who "practiced his preaching to the chickens in the backyard."

"These were the young people who sat on the buses and decided to step into the fray," Belafonte said.

A half-century later, Belafonte remains unafraid of the fray and committed to the power of youth. "I had to look to the young," he said. "I had to go to the places where all this mischief was taking place and see what they had to say."

Deeply troubled by American society's violent spiral, Belafonte sat down with members of the Crips and Bloods gangs seeking common ground. Early on, Belafonte said they were skeptical. "Mr. B., what's the agenda here?" they asked. Belafonte told them the agenda was their own and set out a challenge. "Be responsible. Find the high ground. Seize the

solution. There will not be change when people are concerned only with the I of the world, not the we of the world."

That discussion would eventually broaden to include the Hispanic Gladiators gang, white teenagers in impoverished Appalachian communities, Native American and Asian youth. (For more on this work, see [The Gathering For Justice.](#))

'It's not about color'

Speaking to students on college campuses is another central way that Belafonte looks to capture the imagination and energy of youth. "Coming to Vermont is a chance to reap a harvest of young people," Belafonte said. "What is being taught here? What will these students be when they leave? Will they be great bankers, bookkeepers, scientists? What will their humanity reveal? What will be their social sensibility?"

Such minds are needed to rejuvenate and continue the work of Dr. King, work that Belafonte feels has languished, given over to complacency. "The enemy never sleeps," Belafonte said. "We left the back door open and here they come again."

Following his talk, Belafonte fielded questions from UVM students Channel Hamilton, DaVaughn Vincent-Bryan and Amanda Wong. The heated race for the presidential nomination was much on the students' minds and Vincent-Bryan posed the question "Is America ready for a black president?"

After a long pause and a wide grin, Belafonte shouted, "No!" Then he added, "Should it? Could it? It shouldn't even be a question. It's not about color. It's about the human heart and mind."

The university's King celebration continues this week with several more events. On Thursday, Jan. 24, community members are invited to sign up for community service from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Living & Learning Fireplace Lounge, the Davis Center atrium, Waterman (near College St. entrance), and the Rowell/Given common entrance at the College of Medicine. Also slated for Jan. 24 is a social justice and equity fair that begins at 11 a.m. in the Living & Learning Fireplace Lounge.

Antropologist Jonathan Marks will discuss "Is Race Real: Fact or Illusion?" at 6 p.m. at Carpenter Auditorium, Given. Information: [UVM King Celebration.](#)

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I-LEAPing Ahead

Education collaboration uses new tools to inspire teens to learn

By Jon Reidel

Article published January 23, 2008



A technology-based program at Milton Middle School designed by the Department of Education and Social Services has produced encouraging results among students who don't learn as well in a more traditional classroom setting. (Photo: John Downes)

The blogs, podcasts and downloadable videos on the [I-LEAP](#) website make a compelling case that technology engages students. The online "homeroom" of a new technology-based program at Milton Middle School, designed by faculty in the UVM College of Education and Social Services and teachers

in Milton, Vt., showcases student projects that are thought-provoking, well-researched, technologically advanced and passionate.

One student conducts a *60 Minutes*-worthy podcast interview with a classmate about what it's like to have his father in Iraq. Another student spends the day with a woman in her 80s to find out what life was like during World War II. A suburban student finds new respect for a classmate after spending a day videotaping him doing chores on the family farm. A girl shares deep emotions in a "This I beleive" podcast about her plan to smile more to offset her occasional feeling of being in a "black room without a switch."

Penny Bishop, associate professor of education and a founding architect of I-LEAP (Learning and Engaging Adolescents Project), describes the 30 participating students as a mix of high-, low- and middle-level achievers who for a variety of reasons were not thriving in a traditional educational setting. The technology-rich, community-based I-LEAP model incorporates math, science, English and history into its curriculum, which focuses on literacy, research skills, strategic thinking, and time and project management.

"We've all been blown away by the results," says Bishop. "These were smart, but disengaged students who have truly blossomed."

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A key component of I-LEAP, launched in 2006 with an \$800,000 grant from the Richard E. and Deborah L. Tarrant Foundation, is the inclusion of the Milton community. Students interview local residents about a variety of topics and put together multimedia presentations that they present at local establishments such as The Alley Coffee House.

John Downes, a doctoral research fellow in education and research coordinator for UVM's evaluation of the project, says presenting to the community has had a powerful effect on students. "Many of them were reluctant, quiet and reticent at the start, but are suddenly excited and amazed that they can make presentations to members of the community outside of school. It's not so much an evolution as it is a realization that they can actually do it; and it's validated by the surrounding community who really wants to see their work."

Problem-solving through technology

The original idea for a technology-based program was conceived by Richard Tarrant, founder of IDX. Bishop says Tarrant gave UVM and Milton total freedom to design the program, which was slightly different than his original concept. In short, Tarrant wanted a program that was different from the traditional educational model, which he believes is frustrating and even embarrassing for students who aren't detail-oriented and don't thrive on regurgitating information on tests.

"I did pretty well in school, but I didn't really care about things like what date the Magna Carta was signed," says Tarrant. "I was a big picture guy. I know heads of major corporations who didn't do well in school, but they knew how things worked and could communicate with people. My instinct has always been to ask 'how can we use technology to solve problems.' I-LEAP has worked beyond my wildest imagination. You sit and talk to these kids and you can see how they've really come out of their shell and are excited about school in some cases for the first time."

Downes, who spent 12 years as a technologist working with teachers at Essex Middle School, helped integrate technology into the curriculum with Liz Siddle, I-LEAP's English teacher, and Tom Koblin, who teaches math. Siddle and Koblin collaborate on the teaching of integrated science and social studies.

Immediate technology immersion enabled students to quickly master the possibilities. Recent assignments, for example, have students creating public service announcements using complex sound editing programs; downloading photos from digital cameras for photo essays; using digital recorders to capture audio; and working with a content management system for Web publishing. "These aren't shallow or dumbed-down projects," Downes says. "They require serious research, good communication skills and strong technology skills."

Measuring results

Lauren Curry, executive director of the Tarrant Foundation, says a long-

term goal of I-LEAP is to determine strategies and tools that will be useful to teachers and students in other classrooms in Milton and around the state. "We are very interested in learning which aspects of the model have a high impact on students and the learning environment that can be implemented and financially absorbed by a district. This is an area we will look to UVM for guidance. This is truly a project that could not have happened without the university's guidance."

Downes, who will present a final report to the Tarrant Foundation, lauds Siddle's commitment to making sure the program stays true to five core concepts: making real world connections with a multi-generational angle; letting students choose their own approach to projects and ensuring that their voice is evident in the final product; providing students with individualized learning plans; arranging for students to present to 'authentic' audiences; and ensuring that they take full advantage of integrating technology.

Downes is interested to see if students' grades and standardized test scores have improved, but says he's even more interested in qualitative measures such as self confidence, level of academic interest and whether students see themselves going to college.

"Students have told us that they want to come to school and go to college because of the program," says Downes. "Students are also self-reporting that they are working much harder, and that's powerful (qualitative) information. Some of these kids have really surprised themselves. ... They see themselves in a whole new light."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Med Student Projects Address Key Health Challenges in Community

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published January 23, 2008

More than 100 second-year medical students, as well as faculty mentors and community service agency contacts participated in the fourth annual Public Health Projects Poster Session and Community Celebration on Jan. 23 in the Health Science Research Facility's Hoehl Gallery.

A total of 14 posters on projects completed in fall 2007 were on display at the event, which also included remarks by Lewis First, senior associate dean for medical education, Jan Carney, associate dean for public health, and Holly Reed of the United Way of Chittenden County Volunteer Center (UWCCVC).

Led by Carney, the Public Health Projects are the focus of the Medical Student Leadership Groups (MSLG) II component of the College of Medicine's curriculum. Introduced at the start of the students' first year, MSLG I introduces and supports the development of the capacities, attitudes and behaviors critical to medical professionalism. In MSLG II, students learn to use the skills they developed in their first year, while applying the principles and science of public health and working to meet the needs of the community.

As part of the College of Medicine's collaboration with the UWCCVC, local nonprofit agencies submit a list of their most critical health issues to Ruthann Hackett, Volunteer Center program coordinator. Based on that list, medical students design and implement their projects. Some of the issues tackled by the Class of 2010 included increasing knowledge about hypertension among Burlington Housing Authority tenants; creating a goal-setting workshop for youth at the Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center; and improving nutrition in homeless Vermonters at the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf.

Other fall 2007 public health projects included partnerships with such community service agencies as ALS Association Northern New England Chapter; American Cancer Society; American Red Cross, New England Region; Cathedral Square Corporation; Champlain Valley Head Start; Child Care Resource; Community Health Center of Burlington; Fletcher Free Library; Greater Burlington YMCA; Peace and Justice Center; and the Vermont Department of Health.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Costa Rican Education Focus of Brown Bag Lecture

By The View Staff

Article published January 22, 2008

David Shiman, professor of education, will deliver an Area and International Studies Program Brown Bag Lecture on Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 12:15 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill.

Shiman, whose research and teaching focuses on multicultural and comparative education, will pose the question, "Costa Rican Exceptionalism: An Obstacle to Promoting Human Rights Education?" in the series' first lecture of the spring semester.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Rokeby Director Discusses Historic Research on Black Vermonters

By The View Staff

Article published January 22, 2008

What were the lives of African-American Vermonters like in the nineteenth century?

Jane Williamson, director of Ferrisburgh's Rokeby Museum (a historic site of the Underground Railroad), will discuss the answers she's discovered in her Center for Research on Vermont Research-in-Progress Seminar titled "African Americans in Addison County, Charlotte, and Hinesburg, 1790-1860" on Tuesday, Jan. 29 in Memorial Lounge, Waterman at 7:30 p.m.

Working from town documents, church records, newspapers and other primary sources, Williamson researched marital status, town meeting attendance, educational opportunities and more of the 104 independent black households for which she found records.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Phi Beta Kappa to Launch Discussion Series

By The View Staff

Article published January 23, 2008

The UVM chapter of Phi Beta Kappa is presenting a series of four public panel discussions on topics ranging from democracy and U.S. foreign policy to atheism to genetic privacy.

The series, dubbed the "Teagle Project," aims to encourage "deliberation about things that matter." The national Phi Beta Kappa Society received a grant from the Teagle Foundation to support reflective public events, and the UVM chapter of the honor society was one of 11 nationwide chosen to host a series.

The free sessions will run from 7-9 p.m. at the multipurpose room, University Heights North. The conversations are sponsored by UVM Phi Beta Kappa with support from the national Phi Beta Kappa Society, the Teagle Foundation and the UVM Honors College.

The series begins on Tuesday, Jan. 29 with a panel on "Democracy and U. S. Foreign Policy," coordinated by Gregory Gause, associate professor of political science, and featuring Gause along with colleague Travis Nelson and Mark Williams of Middlebury College.

The project continues with "Religion and U.S. Presidential Elections," Feb. 12; "Atheism," Feb. 26; and "Genetic Privacy," March 18. A one-credit Honors College course complements the series.

Information, suggested readings: [Phi Beta Kappa Teagle Project](#)


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There's not a beaker or test tube in sight. Instead, the tables and shelves of this laboratory are filled with food and crafts. Though Growing Vermont, a student-operated retail store in the Davis Center, is every bit a Green Mountain gift shop, there is also some serious experimentation going on.

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A close associate of Martin Luther King's through the nation-changing events of the American civil rights movement, Harry Belafonte, the keynote speaker of UVM's MLK celebration, shared the one question he is invariably asked: "What would Dr. King say if he were here today?"

[I-LEAPing Ahead](#)

The blogs, podcasts and downloadable videos on the I-LEAP website make a compelling case that technology engages students. The online "homeroom" of a new technology-based program at Milton Middle School, designed by faculty in the UVM College of Education and Social Services and teachers in Milton, Vt., showcases student projects that are thought-provoking, well-researched, technologically advanced and passionate.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Half-Price Tickets Available for Flynn MainStage Show

By View Staff

Article published January 23, 2008

The Office of the Associate Provost for Multicultural Affairs and Academic Initiatives through the UVM President's Initiative for Diversity and the Flynn Center present Urban Bush Women & Compagnie Jant-Bi performing "Les Écailles de la Mémoire" (The Scales of Memory) on Jan. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Flynn Theater's MainStage.

[The UVM-Flynn collaboration](#) allows members of the UVM Community to attend 10 performances in the Flynn 2007-08 MainStage Season at reduced prices. Tickets for Urban Bush Women & Compagnie Janti-Bi are half-price for those with a UVM ID when purchasing tickets in person at the FlynnTix Regional Box Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Urban Bush Women have engaged audiences since 1984 with socially-conscious dance works based on African-American history, women's experiences and the cultural influences of the African Diaspora. The seven American women now collaborate with the seven male dancers of Senegal's Compagnie Jant-Bi in an international artistic exchange between Africa and the United States, exploring the similarities and differences in their lives, dances, countries and experiences as people of African descent.

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NOTABLES

January 23, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Wolfgang Dostmann, associate professor of pharmacology, is lead author of a December 2007 Proceedings of the National Academy of Science article titled "Differential patterning of cGMP in vascular smooth muscle cells revealed by single GFP-linked biosensor." Co-authors on the article include graduate student Lydia Nausch, Jonathan Ledoux, a postdoctoral fellow in pharmacology, Adrian Bonev, research assistant professor of pharmacology, and Mark Nelson, professor and chair of pharmacology.

Christopher Hodgdon, assistant professor of business administration, published an article titled "Compliance with IFRS Disclosure Requirements and Individual Analysts' Forecast Errors," in the *Journal of International Accounting, Auditing and Taxation* (Volume 17, Number 1, 2008). The paper is co-authored with Rasoul H. Tondkar and David W. Harless, both from Virginia Commonwealth University, and Ajay Adhikari, from The American University. The study investigates the relationship between analysts' earnings forecast errors and firm compliance with the disclosure requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). These findings suggest that compliance with the disclosure requirements of IFRS reduces information asymmetry and enhances the ability of financial analysts to provide more accurate forecasts.

Dr. Christopher Huston, assistant professor of medicine, is a co-author of a Jan. 18 *PLoS Pathogens* article titled "Entamoeba histolytica Phagocytosis of Human Erythrocytes Involves PATMK, a Member of the Transmembrane Kinase Family." This new study, on which UVM researchers collaborated with scientists at the University of Virginia, identified a protein that may help control a parasite that attacks human immune cells in the colon.

Trina Magi, associate library professor, had an article titled, "The gap between theory and practice: A study of the prevalence and strength of patron confidentiality policies in public and academic libraries" appear in *Library and Information Science Research* (Volume 29, Issue 4 December 2007). Magi's article reports on a survey administered to 151 Vermont public and academic library directors in 2006, regarding the existence of policies affirming the confidentiality of library records at their institutions. Based in part on Magi's findings, the Vermont Library Association and the Vermont School Library Association recently worked with legislators to introduce a bill to the Vermont State Legislature to better protect the confidentiality of library patrons in Vermont.

Awards and Honors

Judith Van Houten, George H. Perkins Professor of Biology, State Director of Vermont EPSCoR (funded by NSF) and Vermont Genetics Network (funded by NIH), was recently appointed to the EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition Board of Directors. Dr. Paul Prem, chair of the Coalition Board praised Van Houten in a letter to her by writing: "Your knowledge and experience is invaluable to the Coalition Board and the EPSCoR/IDeA community." The coalition of EPSCoR/IDeA states was organized to engage in activities that will expand the capacity of the United States to carry out scientific and engineering research and education. As a director, Van Houten will be responsible for participating in strategic discussions about the course of the EPSCoR/IDeA programs and the role of EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition in supporting the goals and objectives of its programs. Van Houten's term of service is two years beginning January 2008.

January 16, 2008

Publications and Presentations

The Center for Digital Initiatives (CDI) is featured in an article titled "Drinking Milk with Republicans: Lessons Learned While Building a Center for Digital Initiatives" in the Summer 2007 issue of *Microform and Imaging Review*. The article, authored by Assistant Library Professors Winona Salesky (Digital Initiatives Librarian) and Chris Burns (Manuscripts Curator, Special Collections), provides a detailed behind-the-scenes look at the process of creating the CDI at UVM. The Center for Digital Initiatives was launched in April of 2007 and features a rich, searchable archive of thousands of pages of materials generated by Vermont Congressmen, including such well known figures as George Aiken and Robert Stafford, documenting topics ranging from the abolition of slavery to social life in Washington, D.C. The collection also includes historic photographs of Vermont and Vermonters.

Birdie MacLennan, associate library professor, has an article titled "The Library and Its Place in Cultural Memory: The Grande Bibliothèque du Québec in the Construction of Social and Cultural Identity" in a recent issue of the journal *Libraries and the Cultural Record*, Vol. 42, No. 4, 2007. MacLennan's article looks at the eventual creation of a national library in Québec, investigating the role of the Catholic Church as it struggled to control public reading tastes through an Index of prohibited works that included Hugo, Rousseau, Balzac, and Voltaire. "The Library and Its Place in Cultural Memory" is the result of research undertaken during a sabbatical, which compared public library development in the province of Québec and the state of Vermont. The subject is covered in expanded form in Birdie MacLennan's thesis, completed in 2005 for her MA in French from the University of Vermont. UVM affiliates can access the full-text of MacLennan's thesis via the Libraries' catalog.