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General election: UVM senior Katie Darst (here with Gen. Wesley Clark) saw the personal side of politics when their UVM class went to New Hampshire. (Photo: Jon Reidel)

A five-day trip to New Hampshire by a political science class gave 15 students the chance to witness the nomination process and the presidential candidates up close in the coffee shops, diners, town halls and hotel lobbies of New Hampshire.

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Visions of

Visionaries

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A Text with Context

Picture *homo economicus*, that most rational of utility maximizers, strutting off to purchase a larger-screen television to replace his large-screen model. Is this – the perpetual consumption of ever-increasing amounts of market goods – the whole story? Or can economics tell us more about the world?

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Jan. 28, 7 p.m.
Athletics: Women's basketball hosts Albany in America East action. Patrick Gymnasium. Information: Athletics

Jan. 29, 4 p.m.
Workshop: "Pre-law Information Session." Living/Learning Center, E-107, 633 Main Street. Information: 656-3450. Career Office

Jan. 30, 9 p.m.
Concert: UVM band The Flo' with Burlington's The Grift. North Lounge, Billings. Information: 656-2060.

Jan. 31, 6 p.m.
Talk: "End of Racism" with Preacher Moss. Ira Allen Chapel. Information: 656-2060.

Feb. 2, 1:30 p.m.
Lecture: "The Current Situation in the Middle East" with Hillel Newman, The Israeli Consul in Boston. John Dewey Lounge, 325 Old Mill. Information: 656-1096

Feb. 4, 12:15 p.m.
Recital: David Neiweem, professor of music, performs on organ as part of a series of performances on the first Wednesday of each month. Southwick Music Complex Recital Hall at Redstone Campus, Burlington. Information: 656-3040

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Dynamic Duo: J. Bradley Materick, a graduate student in the Field Naturalist program, hopes to complete a fundraising hike of the Pacific Crest Trail with his dog, Banner.

Grad Student Plans 2,650-Mile Charity Trek

Bradley Materick's dog, Banner, a shelter-adopted pooch of eclectic origin, has helped his owner, a graduate student in the field naturalist program, though some emotionally rough spots. Now Materick would like to give something back: \$100,000, if possible.

Saddened by the plight of shelter dogs like Banner, and inspired by a story he heard from a cousin about a Canadian bike tour that raised a six-figure sum for Parkinson's Disease research, Materick founded a nonprofit organization, PCT for Pets, and began planning his and Banner's six-month assault on the legendary Pacific Crest Trail, a 2,650-mile hiking and skiing path that stretches from Mexico to the Canadian Border. He plans to leave on Mar. 7.

Materick, who first began hiking segments of the trail while an undergraduate at Stanford, has the outdoors mojo to possibly traverse the trail in one season. Before coming to UVM, he spent five years as a backpacking, rock-climbing, mountaineering and rafting instructor for the Pacific Crest Outward Bound School. While doing that work, he became familiar with portions of the trail and began dreaming of completing it.

Materick hopes that his walk, and the accompanying Website, www.pctforpets.org, will raise awareness as well as funds for shelter animals. Materick says that the decision to take on the responsibility of caring for a needy shelter puppy has altered his life in a number of positive ways.

Professor Wins Prestigious Spanish Poetry Prize

As the millennium anxiously waned in New York City and the baby inside her belly grew, Tina Escaja wrote consistently, and as her personal feelings and outside observations blurred, the intimate become epic and a volume of poetry began to emerge.

After finishing her sabbatical year and returning to Vermont, the associate professor of romance languages continued work on *Caida Libre* (a Spanish phrase that roughly translates to "free-falling"). The collection of about 60 poems, which was published last week, recently won the Dulce María Loynaz Poetry Prize, which is given by the Spanish Canary Islands Government. The award, one of the largest for poetry in the Spanish world, has a cash component of about \$12,000.

The prize is named for the legendary Cuban-Canarian poet, who died in 1997 at the age of 1994. The judging panel described Escaja's book as using "language full of authenticity and force." It also lauded her for describing pregnancy with language that is "steely but not cutting." The judges also called her work "very beautiful" and realistic.

"The book has to do with the strange process of pregnancy and delivery, and describes it in terms of Manhattan at the end of the millennium," Escaja says. "I wanted to trace those anxieties both in terms of myself and the city."

Later, back in Vermont, Escaja delivered her second child a month before Sept. 11. The roiling emotions of the moment, her personal joy for her baby and deep sorrow for those lost to violence in a city where she had once lived, compelled her to revise the manuscript, adding reflections on events after 2000.

Escaja is a scholar of literature and has published several books of criticism, but *Caida Libre* is her first full paper volume of poetry in print. She has written widely under the pseudonym "Alma Perez," both in print and on the Internet. Her previous works include two e-books, a novel and a collection of "hypertextual poems," published by the Spanish firm Badosa.

Her award-winning poetry collection was originally intended to be part of the "Alma Perez" oeuvre, but a clerical mistake led to the manuscript being publicly attributed to Escaja. She decided not to correct the mistake, she says, and "ended up being myself."

With her college and colleagues strongly

To learn more about Materick and PCT for Pets, visit the organization's Website at www.pctforpets.org.

UVM Joins University Press of New England

University Press of New England, a consortium of New England college and university presses, has welcomed the University of Vermont as its newest member, Richard Abel, director of the press announced.

Vermont becomes the fifth member of the publishing group, joining Brandeis University, Dartmouth College, University of New Hampshire, and Tufts University.

A publisher of both scholarly and general interest books, UPNE was founded in 1970 and is based at Dartmouth College. In 2002, UPNE was named Publisher of the Year by the New England Booksellers Association and has been cited as a model of academic publishing by the American Council of Learned Societies. The consortium publishes ninety titles annually – under the imprints of its member institutions.

Vermont's first book as a member press will be the first reprinting of *The Vermont Encyclopedia*, edited by John Duffy and UVM Professors Emeriti Samuel Hand and Ralph Orth. Originally published by UPNE in September 2003, the book sold out its first printing in four months, and the press already has orders for 500 copies of the new University of Vermont Press edition.

"The Vermont Encyclopedia exemplifies the high quality of UPNE books, and UVM is proud to publish it as the inaugural title for the University of Vermont Press," said Denise Youngblood, vice provost for faculty and academic affairs at the university. "Our membership in the consortium reflects UVM's strong commitment to scholarship and the dissemination of knowledge."

Youngblood will serve on the UPNE Board of Governors and work with UPNE to develop the University of Vermont Press's publishing program. The UVM editorial committee will be appointed soon and will select a representative to UPNE's editorial board.

"The University of Vermont will be an important addition to UPNE," said Abel. "UVM brings its distinctive strengths in environmental studies, multicultural studies, and New England/Canadian studies. Their envisioned publishing program is a perfect fit with UPNE's established dedication to these areas."

supportive of her creative writing, Escaja feels as much herself now as she has in her decade in UVM.

"When I first came here in 1993, the message was that I needed to devote myself to academic work," Escaja says. "The other stuff I did on the side. It was secondary, to my regret. Now I'm being encouraged to see creative writing as part of my job, and that has helped me. I can put more energy to creative work."

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The blues duo Cephas and Wiggins play Virginia Piedmont riffs on harmonica and guitar. They're in town on Feb. 6. (Photo: Paul Natkin)

Piedmont Blues Stars Play Lane Series

The Lane Series will present the contemporary blues duo John Cephas and Phil Wiggins whose mastery of the gentle and lyrical Piedmont style has garnered them comparisons to a latter-day Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee. The acoustic guitar and harmonica group will perform on Feb. 6 at 7:30 pm at the UVM Recital Hall.

Cephas and Wiggins keep the Piedmont tradition alive by infusing it with their own originality, vitality and fun. Both men hail from Washington, DC and bring an urban sophistication to the traditionally rural blues they perform.

Guitarist Cephas and harmonica player Wiggins have performed together since 1977. Since that time, they've been ambassadors for the blues around the world; released eight CDs; been featured on National Public Radio; entertained at President Clinton's inauguration; and become one of the most respected blues ensembles performing today.

Acoustic Piedmont (or Tidewater) blues is at the heart of the duo's style. Many of their covers are of Piedmont artists like Blind Blake, Blind Boy Fuller, and the Rev. Gary Davis. In addition, Wiggins is a gifted songwriter whose original material has helped define the duo's sound.

Cephas and Wiggins will give a free pre-concert talk at 6:30 pm at the recital hall. For tickets to the show, call 86-FLYNN or order securely online at www.uvm.edu/laneseries.

Poverty as an Affront to Human Rights

Thomas Pogge, an associate professor of philosophy at Columbia University, will deliver the Donald R. Brown Memorial Lecture on Feb. 5 at 4:30 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. The title of his talk is, "Severe Poverty as a Human Rights Violation."

Pogge received his doctorate from Harvard University, where John Rawls was his dissertation advisor. He has been at Columbia since 1983, teaching graduate courses in moral and political philosophy, global justice, philosophy and economics, Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, human rights and journalism ethics. He has published four books and about 80 essays and reviews.

Information: 656-4042

Israeli Consul to Speak On Middle East

Hillel Newman, the consul of Israel to New England, will discuss "The Current Situation in the Middle East" on Feb. 2 at noon in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill.

Newman served as a paramedic in the Israel Defense Force for four years, then went on to earn his doctorate in history from Bar Ilan University. His dissertation compared the sectarianism of the Hellenistic and Roman periods to the current political situation in Israel. After teaching for six years, Newman worked for Israeli foreign minister David Levy and as a policy advisor for Israeli President Moshe Katsav. He has occupied the consul's post in Boston since 2001.

His talk is sponsored by Area and International Studies. Information: 656-1096

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Awards and Honors

The College of Medicine Class of 2006 announced their teaching awards in December. Winners were Dr. **Sharon Mount**, professor of pathology, American Medical Women's Association Gender Equity Award; Dr. **Masatoshi Kida**, associate professor of pathology and Sharon Mount, "cameo teaching" (outstanding teachers who gave seven or fewer lectures); **Gerald Silverstein**, lecturer in microbiology and molecular genetics, basic science teacher of the year; and the **Department of Pathology**, as the basic science department of the year.

Publications and Presentations

Lyndon Crew, professor of animal science and nutrition and food sciences, along with John McMurtry of the USDA Growth Biology Laboratory in Beltsville, MD and **Frances Alster** of UVM, published an article, "The effects of Methionine Deficiencies on Plasma Levels of Thyroid Hormones, Insulin-like Growth Factor-I and -II, Liver and Body Weights, and Feed Intake in Growing Chickens" in the journal *Poultry Science*. This research is part of a series establishing the metabolic effects of minimal levels of essential amino acids in diets for chickens when formulated to maximize amino acid balance and minimize environmental nitrogen losses.

Judith Cohen, associate professor of nursing, had a manuscript, "The Mirror as a Metaphor for the Reflective Practitioner," accepted for publication in the *Annual Review of Nursing Education*.

Sharon Henry, associate professor of physical therapy, will be presenting two papers at an early February American Physical Therapy Association meeting in Nashville. The titles are: "Specific Trunk Exercises Do Not Preferentially Improve Function, Pain or Disability in Subjects With Recurrent Low Back Pain: A Pilot Study" (co-authored by Stephanie Jones and JY Bunn); and "Altered Postural Responses with Episodic, Recurrent Low Back Pain" (co-authored by Juvena Hitt, Stephanie Jones and JY Bunn).

Patricia Julien, assistant professor of music, recently gave an invited lecture at the Sorbonne in Paris. The talk was titled, "Harmonic Relations in Wayne Shorter's Early Compositions: An Analysis of 'Suspended Sentence'."

David Kerr, assistant professor of animal science, was awarded a three-year, \$300,000 USDA grant titled, "Transgenic Approach to Prevent Bovine Mastitis."

Wolfgang Mieder, chair of the Department of German and Russian, is the author of the book *Die großen Fische fressen die kleinen': Ein Sprichwort über die menschliche Natur in Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen*. The book traces the origin, history, meaning, and international dissemination of the classical proverb "Big fish eat little fish". It includes interdisciplinary and comparative chapters on the iconography of the proverb, its use in literature, in the mass media, advertisements, caricatures, and cartoons. Artists and writers like Bosch, Bruegel, Shakespeare, Brecht and many others have employed this wisdom about rapacity in their pictures and writings.

Patricia Prelock, professor of communication sciences, was invited to Kean University in Newark, NJ to present a two-day conference for 150 students, faculty and community professionals on Jan. 8-9. Prelock discussed strategies for helping children with autism spectrum disorders communicate.

In Memoriam

A memorial service for **John Burchard**, professor of psychology, will be held at 1 p.m. on Jan. 31 at the First Congregational Church in Burlington. A community gathering will take place at the Wyndham Hotel (formerly the Radisson) immediately after the service. Burchard, who was well known for his social and mental health work in the community, passed away on Jan. 18.

January 21-27, 2004

Awards and Honors

Dr. **Virginia Hood**, professor of medicine, has received the Vermont Chapter of the American College of Physicians Laureate Award. Laureate Award winners are longstanding and loyal supporters of the ACP who have rendered distinguished service to their chapters and community and have upheld the high ideals and professional standards for which their organization is known.

Pfizer Corporation published an advertisement in the Nov. 28, 2003 issue of the journal *Science* titled "We Recognize Academic Excellence," listing institutions like the University of Vermont that were successful in the competition for the company's undergraduate summer research fellowships. The company made 68 awards, and UVM was one of eight institutions to win more than one award. The winners here were **Anya Guschin**, who worked with **Greg Friestad**, assistant professor of chemistry, and **Rachel Humphrey**, who worked with **Jim Vigoreaux**, associate professor of biology.

Eight faculty members have been selected as service-learning fellows for the spring semester and each will receive \$1,000 to help them give students more opportunities to reflect on meaningful community participation and how it connects to their academic experience. This semester's fellows are: **Chester Parsons**, UVM Extension; **Susan Kasser**, education; **Christopher Leskiw**, political science; **Hendrika Maltby**, nursing; **Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux**, geography; **Tracy McLaughlin-Volpe**, psychology; **Barbara Burrington**, integrated professional studies; and **Efleda Tolentino**, integrated professional studies.

Dr. **Thomas Peterson**, professor of family practice, was honored by the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians as the 2003 "Family Physician of the Year" at the group's annual meeting. Dr. Peterson was recognized as a key contributor to clinical and educational programs at UVM and Fletcher Allen Health Care and for serving for 10 years as Program Director of the Family Practice Residency Program.

Publications and Presentations

Dr. **Mary Cushman**, associate professor of medicine, presented results from the latest arm of the Women's Health Initiative Study at the December American Society of Hematology meeting in San Diego. The study found that postmenopausal women on estrogen and progestin experienced a two-fold increased risk of developing venous thrombosis – a potentially fatal condition in which the formation of a blood clot blocks circulation in the deep veins of the leg that are responsible for returning oxygenated blood to the heart. Cushman was also a presenter at the American Heart Association's "Scientific Sessions 2003" in Orlando, Florida, in November. She presented an invited talk titled "Novel Cardiovascular Risk Factors and Coronary Artery Calcification," a poster presentation titled "Associations of Novel Cardiovascular Risk Markers with Coronary Artery Calcium: The Multiethnic Study of Atherosclerosis" and was a co-author on a presentation on "Estrogen Plus Progestin and Coronary Heart Disease Risk: Final Results from the Women's Health Initiative Randomized Trial."

Alice Fothergill, assistant professor of sociology, published an article titled "The Stigma of Charity: Gender, Class, and Disaster Assistance" in the December, 2003 issue of *Sociological Quarterly*. The article examines the stigma associated with needing and receiving assistance after the 1997 Grand Forks, North Dakota flood. It is based on 60 in-depth interviews.

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Retail Politics

By Jon Reidel



General election: UVM senior Katie Darst (here with Gen. Wesley Clark) saw the personal side of politics when their UVM class went to New Hampshire. (Photo: Jon Reidel)

In his book *Grass Roots: One Year in the Life of the New Hampshire Presidential Primary*, author Duncan Moore says the vote allows Americans the "rare opportunity to take face-to-face measurement of those who would lead them." The key to victory, he says, is in "retail" campaigning, candidate-to-voter salesmanship.

A five-day trip by a political science class, "How Presidential Politics

Really Work: A View from the Grass Roots," allowed 15 students to see this process first-hand and take their own measure of the presidential candidates (not to mention members of the national media, celebrities, and other prominent political figures) as they interacted with them in the coffee shops, diners, town halls and hotel lobbies of New Hampshire. *the view* tagged along, chronicling the trip and the experiences of students from their respective "box seats to America's most riveting political theatre."

Overcoming the awe

After arriving in Manchester four days before the primary, students gathered at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm's College. Jon Margolis, former chief national political correspondent with the *Chicago Tribune* and the course's instructor, gave historical background on the primary, which he has covered since 1976, and told students to see as many of the candidates as possible over the next four days.

"Personal politics ends after New Hampshire," Margolis said. "After this it becomes a media show. The name of the course is 'view from the grass roots.' That's why we're here."

Students fanned out across the state, with one group attending a Howard Dean rally at a posh hotel on the coast. Dean was under fire for his post-Iowa speech, but spoke in measured terms about his major campaign themes.

Senior Selene Hofer-Shall, who works on the Dean campaign and had heard the former Vermont Governor's stump speech many times, considered it one of his best speeches. Other members of the class, which was comprised of nine Democrats and six Republicans, weren't as impressed and thought he was too gruff.

Following his speech, Dean made his way through the crowd, which included ABC news political analyst George Stephanopoulos and Gwen Ifill of PBS's "Washington Week," to a press conference where Dean answered questions while his mother watched from the front row.

Later in the day, some students went to see presidential hopeful Dennis Kucinich while others took advantage of a photo op with Rudy Giuliani. During a



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Picture *homo economicus*, that most rational of utility maximizers, strutting off to purchase a larger-screen television to replace his large-screen model. Is this – the perpetual consumption of ever-increasing amounts of market goods – the whole story? Or can economics tell us more about the world?

lunch break in Portsmouth, a student saw presidential candidate Wesley Clark eating pizza in an Italian eatery. Clark talked policy briefly, then demonstrated the swimming stroke he uses every morning during his pool workout. "I try to stay in top condition," he told the small crowd.

How it really works

After a few days of experience, students became savvier about finding and interacting with candidates. Some started the day with coffee at a local restaurant with Sen. Joe Lieberman and his wife Hadassah. Lieberman, who helped cook eggs and flip pancakes behind the counter, told customers that he felt the tide turning and that "Joementum" had taken hold of the race. (He finished fifth.)

Later, students arrived early to a local high school for a front row view of frontrunner John Kerry. With the crowd chanting "Bring It On," Sen. Ted Kennedy introduced Kerry with a loud, fiery speech. Outside the gym, a UVM student was interviewed by NBC about what issues voters seemed most interested in, and why so many of them were still undecided.

Senior Abbi Jaffe said hearing Kennedy and Kerry was one of the highlights of the trip, along with seeing comedian Al Franken. "I saw two cameramen get in a fight while they were trying to muscle each other for position. It was pretty interesting to see how the media works."

For more real-life insights, instructor Margolis arranged for Dayton Duncan and Al Hunt, executive Washington editor of the *Wall Street Journal* and longtime panelist on CNN's "The Capital Gang" to speak to the class at St. Anselm's.

Whirlwind campaigning

The day before the election students tried to keep pace with the ambitious schedules of the candidates. This was the day to watch candidates that students hadn't already seen, including Sen. John Edwards.

The heart of the action centered at the Holiday Inn in downtown Manchester. At one point, during a 45-minute span outside the hotel, students had the chance to witness the following events:

Gen. Clark holding a press conference; "The West Wing" actor Martin Sheen visiting with people in the hotel lobby; Kucinich talking to voters; *New York Times* columnist and "PBS News Hour" regular David Brooks and Tim Russert of "Meet the Press" talking to people in a restaurant as Sen. John McCain held court nearby; Ron Reagan taking photos with fans of his father in the lobby; and hundreds of campaign supporters holding signs and yelling back and forth at each other from across the street.

"I thought it was interesting walking down the street and seeing older people yelling at each other and seeing so many (famous) people in one area like that," said senior Ben Dzialo. "It was weird to see so much going on for just 22 delegates."

Primary day had candidates pouring coffee for potential voters and a frenzy of last-minute interviews, many of which the class watched. As results started coming in that night, and it became clear that Kerry was the big winner, students headed to various election night parties.

The parties marked the end of five days on the frontlines of retail politics. "That was a great experience," said Jaffe. "I felt like I've seen how it all works now. It's something everyone should see at some point in their life."

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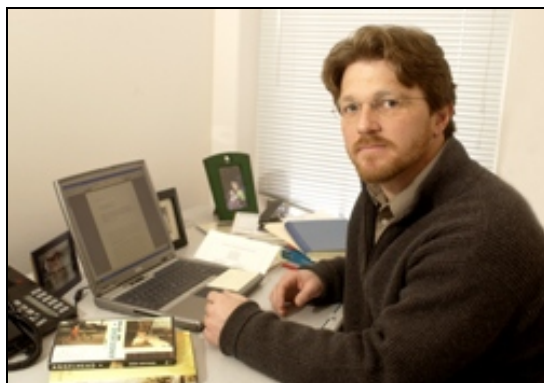
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Visions of Visionaries

By Tom Weaver



Loss, memory, art: Assistant Professor Greg Bottoms fashions idiosyncratic non-fiction out of universal themes. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Writer Greg Bottoms's current work-in-progress began in single words – "...loss, memory, God, stories, endings..." – jotted as his car idled on the gravel shoulder of a Virginia road in 2001. The literary pit stop was inspired by a radio news report on the death of outsider artist Howard Finster, who had first come to Bottoms's attention some fourteen years before when he and a group of buddies road-tripped to see a film documentary about

the Athens, Georgia scene. Bottoms and his friends were drawn to the film by its focus on the rock band R.E.M., but came away with the CrackerJack special prize in Finster, a sure bet to intrigue a pack of teenage boys given his eccentricity and outsidership.

Literary inspiration and its unpredictable gestation period are often mysteries even to a writer himself. In the finished piece that began on that interrupted drive to work in 2001, Bottoms would write: "...I'd had Finster in the back of my mind for years, that ideas of "outsider" art and institutional art (as Arthur Danto famously called it), conformity and nonconformity, madness and ecstasy, the jagged edges of society, had, for reasons as much personal as intellectual, as much cathartic as aesthetic, become my central preoccupations, my tape-loop of concerns, my recyclable themes."

The "tape loop of concerns" traces to Bottoms' childhood in a household struggling to cope with his older brother Michael's paranoid schizophrenia. That deeply personal story would find expression in Bottoms's book *Angelhead: My Brother's Descent Into Madness*, a memoir in which the writer would begin to find his voice, his themes, and his own genre-blurring style of creative non-fiction.

"Madness, jagged edges" – over a cup of coffee at Waterman, the first-year member of the English faculty doesn't strike you as one preoccupied with staring into the darkness. Greg Bottoms is a happily married father with two young kids. He looks like he'd be comfortable on a snowboard, and he is. He's thrilled to be in Burlington, making a living teaching and writing. Still, when he reels off his list of his new home's attractions – the local political ethos to the lake views, he can't help but include a jagged edge. That certain lingering New England mill town grit ranks high among Burlington's intrigues, he says.

Lifting the mask

A funny thing happened to Bottoms after he received his MFA in fiction writing from the University of Virginia: he essentially stopped writing fiction. Increasingly, he was drawn to a non-fiction voice and, in a Virginia farmhouse, he began to write the memoir that would develop into *Angelhead*.

"It started to seem forced to me to stand behind a fictional mask," Bottoms says, "because it was really just me trying to tell the truth anyway. I started to



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feel much more comfortable, just saying, ‘ This is Greg talking on subject X.’”

In a practical sense, Bottoms also quickly found publication and acclaim with that approach. When the memoir was published to positive critical notice, “all of a sudden I was a creative non-fiction writer,” Bottoms says.

The book began in an attempt to understand his brother's troubled life. “I began to think I understood the rationale, religious obsession of schizophrenia, being disconnected from the world and life and other people because you're sick,” Bottoms says. “In some ways that is a universal experience for every human being at some point in their life. His was just so extreme.”

That preoccupation has continued long after *Angelhead* was published. Bottoms is under contract with the University of Chicago Press for a book that will look at a number of American visionary artists, many of whom are similar to Howard Finster in that they are motivated by religious ecstasy or mental illness – your call. Finster, for instance, read a paint splotch on his finger as a divine message to create sacred art. He did, spectacularly, across acres of gardens, in building-size works of art/testaments of faith, 46,000 works in 25 years. Bottoms originally explored Finster in a piece titled “Visions from Paradise” in *Oxford American*.

Inspired or crazed? As Bottoms delves into the artists, their work, and their region in his own style of personal narrative, he doesn't see such judgment as being part of the work. “I'm the documentarian. I'm not out to judge them, belittle them, or mystify them as the wisdom of the common man. I'm much more interested in the realism. Truly, what is their situation, and what is it that they're doing?”

Nuts and bolts

Though there are the obvious challenges to balancing teaching, family life, and a writing career on the rise, Bottoms says he welcomes the demands of a schedule. He says he does his best work when the world is knocking at his door. Recalling a time when he had full days to write, Bottoms laughs at the memory. “The more I had time to do whatever I wanted, walk around in my slippers all day and drink coffee with my hair standing up, I just did nothing. It was terrible. Structure may not be romantic, but it is a good thing...”

Bottoms emphasizes structure in his teaching, too, defining himself as something of a formalist in the classroom, a “real nuts and bolts craft kind of teacher.” He has seen students grind to a halt or produce sub-par work if they're given an assignment with few barriers.

Also key to his teaching is helping students to read well and closely to find the underlying structure in a powerful piece of writing. “I can't make anybody an artist, can't make them a great writer,” Bottoms says, “but I can impart to them a better understanding of craft and technique and a way to read as I think writers have to read to continue to get better. Then it's up to them.”

And, like most good teachers, Bottoms admits that he's learning every day as a writer in search of new ways to tell a story, and continually striving to create “an honest, human, humane voice.” It's never easy and perhaps gets harder the more you know, Bottoms suggests. “As an undergraduate, I could write a paper quickly, and really I thought I was a genius. It has become a lot slower process as I've become aware of all the ways writing can go wrong,” he says. “Now, I may write something and think it is one of the best things I've done, then at the same time, I'll think, ‘ This sucks. This is just not it.’”

Click to [read an excerpt](#) from Greg Bottoms's memoir.

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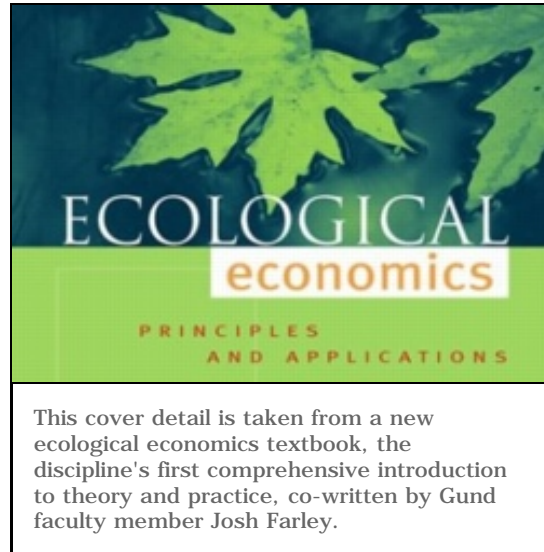
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Textbook Extends Economics

By Kevin Foley



This cover detail is taken from a new ecological economics textbook, the discipline's first comprehensive introduction to theory and practice, co-written by Gund faculty member Josh Farley.

Picture *homo economicus*, that most rational of utility maximizers, strutting off to purchase a larger-screen television to replace his large-screen model. Is this – the perpetual consumption of ever-increasing amounts of market goods – the whole story? Or can economics tell us more about the world?

Of course, says Josh Farley, a classically trained economist and faculty member at the Gund Institute for

Ecological Economics. His new 488-page textbook, *Ecological Economics* (Island Press), which he wrote with eminent University of Maryland Professor Herman Daly, is the first introductory text to fully take on the emerging discipline's theory and practice. In that, it's a radical departure from conventional economics.

"It starts from a completely different set of questions. The first question you have to ask is, what's the desirable end?" Farley says. "Mainstream economics assumes that the desirable end is consumption."

Ecological economics takes a longer, broader view. Consumption is fine, but what about clean air and water, an intact ozone layer, open spaces, wildlife and social justice? Farley describes the field as looking "at how we live on a finite planet," borrowing tools from conventional economics when appropriate, but also delving into philosophy, ecology, psychology and other fields.

It's an interlocking set of practices rather than a unified theory, and as such, it can be difficult to pin down, especially for textbook authors. Instead of following the ritual pattern of a microeconomics text, moving from supply and demand to efficiencies to property rights, Daly and Farley's book breaks roughly into sections examining the interrelated questions of scale, distribution and efficiency from an ecological perspective.

"We were trying to organize the whole field," says Farley.

Evidently, they succeeded. Feedback from the external reviewers has been good (with the partial exception of two "old-school" economists), and the book is being adopted in upper-division and graduate courses nationwide. Farley recently finished an accompanying workbook for the text in collaboration with Jon Erickson, associate professor of natural resources. The companion to the textbook will be published later this year.

Different priorities

While the book occasionally twits conventional economics – "Herman has some pretty good zingers," says Farley – it offers a sound explanation of basic typical economic concepts before expanding them. A conventional econ text, Farley



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Retail Politics

A five-day trip to New Hampshire by a political science class gave 15 students the chance to witness the nomination process and the presidential candidates up close in the coffee shops, diners, town halls and hotel lobbies of New Hampshire.

Visions of Visionaries

Writer Greg Bottoms's current work-in-progress began in single words – "...loss, memory, God, stories, endings..." – jotted as his car idled on the gravel shoulder of a Virginia road in 2001.

says, might have two pages about public goods; his has 100. Another theme in Daly and Farley's textbook is diminishing marginal utility.

"Consumption goes up, and up, and up," Farley says. "How much more do we need? We're getting diminishing marginal utility from market goods, even as we wipe out the ozone layer, the wetlands..."

Farley hopes the book will help students assess and address those kinds of paradoxes. He hopes that the work will help students learn the skills that ecological economists apply to the contradictions caused when market forces collide with the natural world.

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