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PHAT, a youth-oriented campaign launched in 2002 by Dr. Robert Williams, associate professor of anesthesiology and director of the Snow Sports Research Team at UVM and Fletcher Allen, is catching on nationwide. (Photo: Courtesy of Smugglers' Notch Resort)

These days, if you're still wearing a knit pom-pom hat when you ski or ride, you might as well be skiing on wooden boards. The latest craze is "PHAT" — an innovative approach to changing on-slope fashion that's increasing helmet use at Vermont resorts at an astonishing rate — and it's spreading to ski resorts nationwide.

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[Esposito](#) Samir Doshi and Valerie Esposito, doctoral candidates in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, are the lead organizers at UVM for Focus the Nation, a national "teach-in" on global warming solutions that will be held Thursday, Jan. 31 at more than 1,700 universities and other places. They sat down with *the view* to talk about their work.

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## THE WEEK IN VIEW

*Jan. 31, 5:30 p.m.* Fleming Museum Spring Exhibit Opening Reception. Fleming Museum. [Information](#).

*Feb. 4, 5 p.m.* Lecture/Performance: "Can the Object Speak?" with Guthrie P. Ramsey, Jr., associate professor of music. Music Building Recital Hall. Information: 656-9077.

*Feb. 6, 11 a.m.* William T. Raymond Seminar Series: "Sustainable Tourism: Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas" with Megan Epler Wood, founder of The International Ecotourism Society. Chittenden Bank Room, Davis Center. Information: 656-2630.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

## PHAT Hats

*Researcher's new helmet changes fashion and safety on Vermont slopes*

By Mike Noble and Jennifer Nachbur

*Article published January 29, 2008*



PHAT, a youth-oriented campaign launched in 2002 by Dr. Robert Williams, associate professor of anesthesiology and director of the Snow Sports Research Team at UVM and Fletcher Allen, is catching on nationwide. (Photo: Courtesy of Smugglers' Notch Resort)

ski resorts nationwide.

An acronym for Protect your Head at All Times and Protect Your Head on All Terrain, PHAT is a youth-oriented campaign launched in 2002 by Dr. Robert Williams, associate professor of anesthesiology and director of the Snow Sports Research Team at UVM and Fletcher Allen. A pediatric anesthesiologist at Fletcher Allen, Williams is an avid skier and snowboarder who concocted the PHAT concept following a serious biking accident when he sustained internal injuries, but no head trauma due to his helmet use.

Over the past five years, the Snow Sports Research Team has conducted thousands of surveys and made more than 70,000 observations of helmet use by skiers and snowboarders. Based on this research, the team designed a promotional program to educate the skiing public on the positive benefits of ski helmet use. Piloted at Smugglers' Notch Resort in Jeffersonville, Vt., and supported by a grant from the Vermont Health Foundation at Fletcher Allen, the program has been expanded to eight other Vermont ski resorts over the past two years with assistance from the Vermont Ski Areas Association.

According to a 2004 Consumer Product Safety Commission study, more than 17,000 head injuries a year would be eliminated if every skier wore

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### CURRENT FEATURES

[INTERview: Samir Doshi and Valerie Esposito](#)

Samir Doshi and Valerie Esposito, doctoral candidates in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, are the lead organizers at UVM for Focus the Nation, a national "teach-in" on global warming solutions that will be held Thursday, Jan. 31 at more than 1,700 universities and other places. They sat down with *the view* to talk about their work.

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a helmet. "That's a lot of heartache, not to mention millions of dollars spent on medical care and rehabilitation expenses, that could be prevented by the simple act of strapping on a helmet every time a skier or rider hits the slopes," says Williams.

### **Promoting helmet safety among youth**

Featured in a January 2007 *New York Times* article, the PHAT program requires resort involvement so that program coordinators can conduct "PHAT Days" at the resort, where non-helmet-wearing youth learn about the benefits of helmet use via free brochures and ski posters that promote helmet safety. Children wearing helmets receive appealing PHAT-theme helmet stickers. The resorts give out a PHAT brochure with each lift ticket sale. In some events, free helmet raffles are held.

The program shows no sign of slowing down, even at the original survey site, Smugglers' Notch Resort, where last Saturday, the PHAT info table at the base lodge had a "nice, steady flow" of visitors, according to President Bob Mulcahy. "We have a very high percentage of helmet use, particularly among children, and a lot of that is really due to Rob's efforts," said Mulcahy, who introduced Williams to key contacts at the seven other Vermont ski resorts that now also offer the program. "We encourage everyone to wear a helmet and tell the kids "Bode Miller wears a helmet, so you should wear one!"

In December, Williams issued a nationwide challenge to all skiers and to the ski industry to find a way to voluntarily increase helmet use and help reduce both the rate and severity of head injuries, based on his team's 2007 research and pilot program, which resulted in a 90 percent helmet rate use in children at Smugglers' Notch.

"At Smugglers' Notch, among our most targeted groups of riders, the use rates are approximately 70 percent for adults and 90 percent for children" said Tom Delaney, research analyst in pediatrics, and a member of the team. "This indicates to us that with a similar nationwide effort at educating the skiing public on the advantage of ski helmets, we could achieve nearly universal ski helmet use in a voluntary, non-coercive approach."

### **Statistics back program goals**

The Snow Sports Research Team will help appropriate organizations wanting to take up the challenge by providing a starter kit with sample program materials.

"Research papers in well-respected publications such as the *Journal of the American Medical Association* indicate that ski helmets are effective in decreasing the incidence of head injuries in both skiers and snowboarders," notes Williams. "Our team's research indicates that a voluntary program of education and self-responsibility can achieve much higher rates of helmet use than currently observed nationwide."

The team's success rate is truly remarkable, especially when compared

to seemingly promising results from a 2006-07 National Ski Areas Association survey of 138,919 ski resort visitors that reported 40 percent of respondents were wearing a helmet when interviewed, up from 25 percent in 2002-03.

“This year, every skier and snowboarder should wear a helmet on the slopes,” said Williams. “There are simply no excuses left for not eliminating preventable head injuries while skiing and riding.”

theview

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UVM HOMEPAGE

## INTERview: Samir Doshi and Valerie Esposito

*Doctoral students help 'focus the nation' and the university on the rising costs of rising global temperatures.*

By Joshua Brown

*Article published January 30, 2008*

Can we face up to global warming? For graduate students Samir Doshi and Valerie Esposito the answer depends on focusing the nation, now. (Photo: Joshua Brown)

*This could be the tipping point. If some climate scientists are right, in the next 10 years we will either start to decrease world-wide carbon emissions or global warming will go over an ecological cliff where changes to the planet—rising seas, mass extinctions, agricultural failures*

*and extreme weather—begin to spiral wildly.*

*So what's a graduate student to do?*

*For Valerie Esposito and Samir Doshi part of the answer is [Focus the Nation](#). These two doctoral candidates in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources have been the lead organizers at UVM for Focus the Nation, a national "teach-in" on global warming solutions that will be held Thursday, January 31 at more than 1700 universities and other places.*

*Esposito and Doshi, with support from many other students, faculty and staff, have developed one of the country's most ambitious agendas for the event. They've expanded UVM's program beyond the one-day national teach-in to include dozens of events over six days — drawing praise from the national organization and attention from the Christian Science Monitor and other media.*

*Events began Jan. 27 with "Climate Change 101," a primer on climate science and have continued with panels and classes through the week. The national program begins on Jan. 30 at 8 p.m. with a [webcast](#) of "2% Solution," a live discussion about how to cut two percent of carbon emissions a year for the next forty years. The main teach-ins will involve thousands of students and citizens in lectures and discussions nationwide*

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### CURRENT FEATURES

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*all day tomorrow, Jan. 31.*

*At UVM, many events are planned, including a keynote lecture on coal mining, a performance of The Boycott, a play about a sex strike called by the First Lady in response to climate change, and a town hall meeting. A culminating speak-out will be held at the Davis Center at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Fe. 1.*

*Samir Doshi and Valerie Esposito sat down with the view to talk about their work on Focus the Nation and about another tipping point: the kind sociologists observe where the behavior of a whole group suddenly changes. Their hope is that Focus the Nation will be part of a tipping point where the personal and political behavior of many people at UVM and beyond dramatically changes to focus on climate change.*

**THE VIEW: At the most basic level, what do you hope students will learn from this week of activities?**

ESPOSITO: In our country, there has been a political climate trying to inject a lot of uncertainty about climate change. In a lot of other places in the world there is much more acceptance of the science and less debate on if global warming is actually happening. We hope that people will see from this week of events that the science is solid. It's just the political climate that's questionable.

**But don't most people already have a pretty good sense of the threat of climate change?**

DOSHI: Not really. There's a lot to be taught about climate change. A lot of scientists are saying climate change isn't a threat to the earth. The earth has survived even as 99% of all species have gone extinct. This is a threat to our survival; it's increasing our odds of extinction. That's the deep think behind this event, and that's how we can reach out to folks: "OK, you like running an SUV and living in a city?" You won't be able to do that unless we deal with climate change.

We're trying to reach out to everyone across the campus to say: we can solve this problem. Focus the Nation is mainly focusing on solutions.

**What are some of the solutions that you hope people will learn about?**

DOSHI: We're trying to focus on what people can do personally and as a community, a university and city. But also globally, to get a sense of carbon markets and ecological economics.

ESPOSITO: There's a lot of talk about how individual behavior doesn't matter. But it does. Too often I hear, "It's all political. It doesn't matter what I do." It has to be both.

When someone goes to the transportation panel this week they may

realize that getting in their car and driving up the hill is contributing to global warming. They might think, “Hmm, I’ll take the bus; I’ll get that bike out.” And these kinds of choices are not just personal, they are political in a way. They can model behavior to others.

DOSHI: About 70 percent of most car trips are made within 2 miles of home—those numbers matter and can be changed.

ESPOSITO: We’re fortunate enough to live in a city where all your basic needs can be met within walking distance.

DOSHI: Pedestrians find it quicker and easier to get access to good local foods downtown without getting into the car to drive out the big grocery stores outside of town. You’re getting better food, you’re reducing your climate impact, supporting your local economy. We can have one solution — like walking — that helps address climate change and a lot of connected issues at the same time.

**That’s one strong logical position on climate change: it’s about lifestyle choices. You hear other people, like Steven Pinker in *The New York Times*, saying that our response to climate change has become a “moralistic revival meeting,” and that most of the changes we need will come not from preaching self-denial but from technological innovation.**

ESPOSITO: Economists have been touting technological saviors since economics was started and we haven’t seen that salvation yet! I don’t think we should put all our eggs in any basket and certainly not the technology basket.

DOSHI: There is no silver bullet on how to address this issue. We need technological advancements. A lot of the infrastructure we’re working on is old technology. Coal and oil — the whole electrical grid — is technology from the 1950s. That needs to be improved. China and India are throwing up a new coal fired power plant every five days, and that has to stop.

But at the same time, let’s say we have a green jobs revolution and put a lot of new clean technology into place — what’s the acceptability of that? Where do we come out on environmental justice and social justice issues? Are people in poor communities going to be able to build LEED certified buildings? These issues all connect.

**How does Focus the Nation fit into other climate change efforts happening on campus?**

ESPOSITO: We’re excited that President Fogel has signed the [Presidents Climate Commitment](#). We hope this week of activities will help support and expedite the process of deciding what options we’re going to follow at UVM to meet this commitment.

DOSHI: Powershift is another connection. About 45 undergrads, with \$1,500 from the provost, went down to Washington D.C. for the Powershift Rally in November calling for action on climate change. They came back to UVM so enthused and energized! Fortunately we got hold of them — like Julia Meurice '10 and others — and got them to work on our initiative, keeping their momentum going.

ESPOSITO: There are dozens of other connections and dozens of organizations involved. Check out the [website](#).

**How do you balance this kind of activism with the research work of a graduate student?**

DOSHI: It's difficult. But the scholarship and the activism are both working toward the same goals. As scientists, we make observations, we do research on those observations and ideas, and we test those ideas to see how well they hold. But that's not enough. We have to educate. We have to convey the results of those observations and discoveries. A large part of being a scientist is being a teacher, otherwise why do the research?

**Public attention to climate change has shot up in the last year: Al Gore, polar bears, melting ice caps. But social psychologists also strongly question people's long-term capacity to change habitual behaviors. How do you see Focus the Nation having a long-term effect?**

DOSHI: We are definitely a reactive culture and we react to the environment around us. Our environment is increasingly unstable. If you have no winter, how are you going to ski, even if you've been doing that your whole life?

ESPOSITO: Like you say, interest in climate change has skyrocketed. That has never happened before. So if you have a study from last year or two years ago you might think something like Focus the Nation isn't going to matter. But that was last year — and now it is happening. It's a reaction to what is going on in the world; it breaks the predictability of what is going to happen to people's behavior.

DOSHI: It's been a struggle. You can say two graduate students can't get results. But what happens next year when the president and deans and departments get behind more efforts to respond to climate change?

ESPOSITO: Hopefully, people will see the potential when one voice joins several thousand all together. We don't want people to think: "Well, that was a cool thing that happened," but to see: change really can happen.

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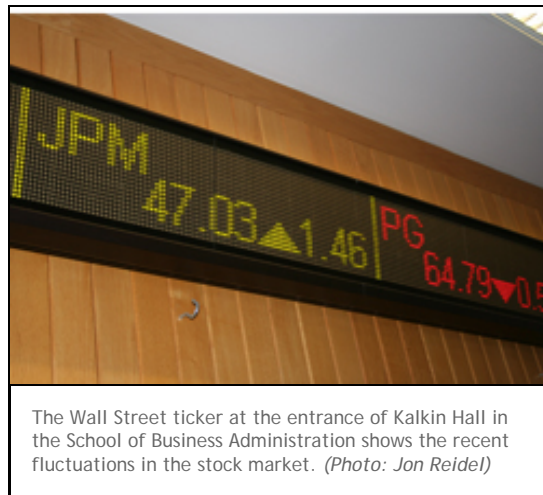
UVM HOMEPAGE

## viewPOINT: Recession?

*UVM experts weigh in on the gravity of the most recent economic downturn*

By Jon Reidel

Article published January 30, 2008



The Wall Street ticker at the entrance of Kalkin Hall in the School of Business Administration shows the recent fluctuations in the stock market. (Photo: Jon Reidel)

Are we headed for a recession? Are we already in one? What does it mean for Americans? Is the government helping or hurting? In this, the second edition of a new *view* feature that will run periodically, we'll examine issues through the perspectives of UVM faculty experts in

multiple disciplines. "ViewPOINT" aims to offer background and an academic view of the debates playing out in the headlines.

### The issue

The signs of a recession seem everywhere: a volatile stock market; a slumping housing market fueled by subprime loans resulting in foreclosures; a slowing of the gross domestic product (GDP); rising oil prices; and slowed consumer spending. Whether these indicators mean we're headed for a recession depends on who you ask. Regardless, the recent stimulus package currently being debated in Congress that would give individuals making \$75,000 or less a \$600 rebate and couples making a combined \$150,000 or less \$1,200, leaves little doubt that the economy is in some sort of trouble.

Many economists, including Art Woolf, associate professor of economics, were waiting for a Jan. 30th report from the Commerce Department regarding gross domestic product (GDP) — the broadest measure of the nation's economic activity — before deciding how serious the economic downturn might become. Results showed that growth was almost stagnant at 0.6 percent in the last three months of 2007, the sharpest decline since 2003. This raised fears of a recession and increased hopes that the Federal Reserve would make another significant interest rate cut.

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### **The public policy angle**

Chris Koliba, assistant professor and co-director of the Master of Public Administration program, says that although the stimulus package put forth by the Bush administration is an indication that it fears a recession, the more important issue is the extent to which the American public believes they're headed for hard economic times.

"Given the subprime mortgage crisis, the rising cost of energy, and the creeping inflation that has taken root as a result, I think we all have good reason to be concerned," says Koliba. "The question at hand, however, concerns what should be done about it. Whether we like it or not, public policies are often dictated more by appearing to address areas of pressing need, than by actually addressing the root causes of our problems."

The Bush Administration and Congress have to appear as if they are doing something to address the economic downturn, says Koliba. "Giving away money to tax paying citizens from coffers already replete with red ink appears to me to be incredibly short sighted," he says. "The central premise behind these subsidies is that the good citizens receiving their \$600 will act like good consumers and exercise their pent up demands for a myriad of goods and services. By having \$600 more to spend, the American public will feel better about the economy. That the poorest among us (those receiving earned income tax credits) are slated to be left out of the "free money" sweepstakes speaks to the underlying nature of the stimulus package. This population will, conceivably, always lack confidence in the economy."

Koliba believes that the serious root causes of the economic downturn are often left out of the equation for various reasons. His list of exclusions include "rampant speculation in the mortgage markets" leading to predatory lending practices; continued dependence on oil and the "stranglehold the energy companies have on us" and the perpetual "short-term, quick-fix mentality that continues to characterize our political decision making process."

### **The economist's view**

Not all economists are ready to hit the economic panic button just yet. Woolf points out that there have been only two small recessions in the past 25 years, spawning the term "The Great Moderation" for the steady and relatively profitable period.

There are certain sectors of the economy that Woolf sees as more troubling or as stronger indicators of a possible recession than others, despite the overall strong economy that makes recessions less frequent in the modern era. The recent GDP numbers seem to trouble him in a different way than the tanking housing market and accompanying foreclosures, for example, which he attributes in part to buyer and lender-side fraud. "All the sins became revealed," he says. Compounding the problem was the increasingly disturbing practice of people taking out home equity loans to stay afloat. "A lot of this was based on the fact that people were using their house as an ATM," he says. "Someone had to take

a bath.”

Hugh Marble III, assistant professor of business, makes the point that from a business perspective, not all recessions are equal in that specific business sectors are affected differently. Mortgage lenders, particularly those with subprime exposure, and home builders are having a far worse time than health care companies, for example. Retailers could have a particularly hard time depending on how, and if, the recession translates into substantial reductions in consumer spending, he says.

Wild fluctuations in the stock market have made investors and working Americans nervous, but has also raised questions about Wall Street as a measuring stick for the financial welfare of working Americans. Does it really matter to a minimum wage employee that the Dow Jones dropped 100 points? Maybe not, but Woolf points out that 50 percent of Americans own stock compared to 20 percent in 1980. “People are watching the stock market because they have money in it,” he says. “Their retirements are directly affected by its performance. We’re much more of a stock holding society today.”

#### **A sociological perspective**

Edward Walker, assistant professor in sociology, studies grassroots community organizing in low-income areas. His research points to the need to build organizations in low-income communities where the income gap is felt most profoundly and calls attention to some of the economic benefits these groups provide to their members and clients. He sees the Bush plan as bypassing the truly needy and benefiting those who don’t need the rebate check nearly as much.

“The proposed plan, it seems, is more likely to strengthen the Republican coalition in the middle to upper-middle class than it is to provide the most effective economic stimulus,” says Walker. “As I see it, it would be much more responsible to target the funds at those groups most likely to spend it in the short term (low-income individuals) as well as to shift extra funds to subsidize the non-profit community organizations that are often so effective in improving the social and economic conditions of local communities.”

Walker cites a new proposal by the nonprofit Independent Sector, a leadership forum for charities, foundations and corporate giving programs, that would extend the IRA (Independent Retirement Account) charitable rollover provision, as well as a food donation incentive (both of which expired at the end of last year) as an effective way to help. The IRA provision allows older individuals to make charitable contributions out of their IRAs, he says, while the donation incentive provides tax incentives for grocery stores and small businesses to donate food to those in need.

“Although these provisions would do more to support service organizations rather than community advocates, they would be a step in the right direction,” says Walker.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

## Johnson to Step Down as Dean of CALS

By Jeffrey Wakefield

Article published January 28, 2008

Rachel Johnson, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, will step down after seven years, the university announced earlier this week. Prior to becoming dean, Johnson, a professor of nutrition in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science, was associate dean of the college for two years. Johnson will take a leave of absence from UVM after the spring 2008 semester, returning to the university in July 2009.

As dean, Johnson's accomplishments were many. She was instrumental in planning and fundraising for the university's new 83,000-square-foot, \$55 million Plant Science Building, which will break ground in the spring of 2008, and in the addition made to the Marsh Life Sciences building, the Carrigan Wing, home to the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences and UVM's Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese. While maintaining strong support for traditional agricultural curricula, she supported new programmatic initiatives in areas such as ecological agriculture, food systems, community entrepreneurship, and public communication.

During her tenure, the number of alumni and friends supporting the college, enrolled students in the college, and grant funding for research in the college all increased. She also played an important role in the leadership of the university, serving on the University Planning Council and the Athletic Council and acting as chair or vice chair for dean searches for other academic units at the university.

She was also active in Vermont, sponsoring university research programs and educational and outreach initiatives that supported nutrition, health, and agriculture throughout the state.

"We are deeply appreciative of the leadership and vision Rachel Johnson has brought over the course of many years to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, to the university, and to the state of Vermont, not to mention her national leadership on issues of childhood nutrition and obesity - and we look forward to even greater contributions from her after she completes her deanship and returns from a well-earned leave," said UVM president Daniel Mark Fogel. "The university will now make every effort to identify another outstanding leader for CALS to follow in her footsteps."

"Rachel Johnson has been a strong steward of what is a very important college for the state of Vermont," said John M. Hughes, UVM provost. "While maintaining strong ties with traditional agricultural communities in

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the state, she has also been an innovative leader, promoting teaching that speaks to current issues, cutting-edge life-science research, relevant scholarship, and outreach that helps Vermonters, all of which led to impressive enrollment growth. We are lucky to have had Rachel leading the college for the past seven years, and even luckier that she will continue her work with the university after her much-deserved leave."

"I sincerely appreciate Dr. Johnson's long-time commitment and contributions to agriculture in our state," said Roger Allbee, secretary of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. "Her leadership and talents will be missed. The agricultural community has benefited greatly from Dr. Johnson's dedication and service. We are fortunate that Rachel will return to the university after her leave and look forward to continuing to work with her in that capacity."

"I am grateful to Dean Johnson for her leadership at CALS," said David Marvin, chair of the advisory board for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and owner with his wife, Lucy, of Butternut Mountain Farm of Morrisville, Vt. "She understands how important the university's land grant mission is to maintaining Vermont's working landscape and has been a champion for the college as it delivers on that mission."

"I'm deeply gratified to have been part of the university's leadership team for the past seven years," said Johnson. "It has been an honor to lead our dynamic and enduring college. Together with the superb faculty and staff in CALS, we have achieved great things by discovering new knowledge through research, responding to our stakeholders' needs, and preparing our students for the world of the future. I look forward to returning to UVM in July 2009 and continuing to make whatever contributions I can."

Johnson came to the University of Vermont in 1991. In addition to being an accomplished administrator and teacher, she is a highly productive scholar, with over 75 papers published in peer-reviewed journals, who specializes in the study of childhood nutrition. She has also served on numerous state and federal commissions and panels, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Dietary Guidelines for Americans Scientific Advisory Committee.

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## Discounted Tuition Part of New Emphasis on Summer Session

By Jeffrey Wakefield  
*Article published January 28, 2008*

The 15 percent reduction in the university's summer school tuition that was approved recently by the Board of Trustees is part of a new emphasis Continuing Education is placing on the summer term, administrators say.

"The summer session offers students concrete benefits they're not always aware of," said Cynthia Belliveau, Continuing Education dean. "The 15 percent reduction is intended to get their attention so they'll give the summer a try," she said.

A key benefit, according to Belliveau, is that students will be able to more affordably enroll in classes that were full during the regular semester, helping them graduate on time and heading off the dissatisfaction that can come from being unable to enroll in a desired or required course. "We think there can be a positive impact on retention, as well as on graduation rates," Belliveau said.

Bringing more students into the summer program is also a more efficient and environmentally responsible use of the UVM campus, Belliveau said, since classes are not currently running at full capacity.

CE and the university are betting that lower prices will drive higher enrollments, which in turn will attract more faculty to offer more courses - which should spur further enrollment. "We see this as an opportunity to establish a virtuous cycle," said Belliveau.

A more affordable - and more robust - summer program will also benefit non-traditional students.

Improving access to UVM for these students was another key element of the cost reduction decision, Belliveau said. "Serving non-traditional students is part of our land-grant mission," said Belliveau, "so improving access through lowering our costs is very important to Continuing Education, the university as a whole, and our board."

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## Preeminent Activist Ruth Messenger to Speak at UVM

By Lee Ann Cox

*Article published January 30, 2008*

Ruth Messenger, global grassroots activist and president and executive director of the American Jewish World Service (AJWS), will give a firsthand account of the ongoing genocide in Darfur, Sudan, at two events at the University of Vermont on Friday, Feb. 1, one for students and a second public event that follows an "accessible" Shabbat service open to all.

The Shabbat and speech will begin at 6 p.m. in the Campus Center Theater, Billings, followed by a 7:30 p.m. public reception in Billings Marsh Lounge. The Shabbat service will be led by Rabbi Jim Glazier of Temple Sinai and Rabbi Joshua Chasen of Ohavi Zedek. The event is not ticketed and will be open on a first come, first served basis. Messenger will speak to students from 4:30 to 5:30 in Billings North Lounge.

Messenger, who has witnessed the Darfur crisis during multiple visits to the region, will relay her great faith in the transformative impact ordinary global citizens can make in working to ensure lasting social justice. She will also discuss how AJWS supports more than 300 social change projects in 36 countries throughout the Americas, Africa and Asia.

Prior to assuming her role leading AJWS, Messenger worked in public service in New York City for 20 years. She is an active member of her synagogue and serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations. In honor of her tireless work to end the genocide in Darfur, Messenger received an award from the Jewish Council for Public Affairs in February 2006. In tribute to her life's work for social justice, she was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Hebrew Union College in 2005, and an honorary Doctor of Letters, Honoris Causa, from Hebrew College in 2007. For the past seven years, Messenger has been named one of the 50 most influential Jews of the year by the "Forward" newspaper.

"An Evening with Ruth Messenger" is co-sponsored by UVM Hillel, UVM STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur), Temple Sinai, Ohavi Zedek and the Israel Center of Vermont.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

## Math Professor Wins National Award for Teaching

By The View Staff

Article published January 30, 2008

Kenneth Gross, professor of mathematics, is the recipient of the national Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. Gross accepted the award and gave a short talk on teaching at the annual Mathematics Association of America (MAA) meeting in San Diego earlier this month.

The Haimo award was instituted in 1991 by the MAA to honor three teachers annually who are extraordinary leaders in their field and whose teaching has been shown to have had influence beyond their own institutions.

Gross' award citation emphasized the work he has done to improve math education at all levels in Vermont. In 1993, Gross founded a week-long summer enrichment program for Vermont high school students that is now known as the Governor's Institute in the Mathematical Sciences. Gross is also the founder of the Vermont Mathematics Initiative (VMI), a master's degree program that trains K-6 teachers to be mathematics leaders in their schools and districts. Since the program's founding in 1999, Gross has helped adapt the VMI model for programs in a number of other states, including Massachusetts, Nebraska and New Mexico.

In 2002, Gross secured a National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Education funded grant for the creation of the Vermont Mathematics Partnership, a program that builds on the work of the VMI through the development of materials and programs for mathematics educators across the state.

"Ken Gross is an outstanding educator in the broadest sense who has made a difference in the lives of a great many students," says Domenico Grasso, dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. "Now the entire country knows what Vermont educators have known for many years. UVM is truly honored by Ken's many accomplishments and congratulate him on receiving this national award."

Gross has won a number of awards for his teaching and scholarship, including the 2007 award from the New England Section of the MAA for Distinguished College Mathematics Teaching; the MAA's Lester R. Ford Award and the Chauvenet Prize for outstanding expository writing; and two of UVM's most prestigious awards, the George V. Kidder Outstanding Faculty Member Award and the University Scholar Award.

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## Lane Series Features Classical, Jazz Artists in February

By The View Staff

Article published January 30, 2008

On Friday, Feb. 1 Boston's Sarasa Ensemble — a Lane Series regular — will perform a concert of Handel German arias and Purcell songs, featuring Canadian soprano Nancy Argenta.

Lane Series director and music professor emeritus Jane Ambrose will join the ensemble on flute in a collection of instrumental music of the period for violin, flute and continuo.

The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the UVM Recital Hall. Tickets, [available online](#) are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students. A free talk with the artists will precede the show at 6:30 p.m.

The Lane Series has three more events planned in February, each beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall. Tickets, ranging from \$20 to \$30, are also [available online](#). The schedule follows:

- *Friday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.* Nordic Voices, a six-voice *a capella* group from Norway performing selections that range from medieval to modernist.
- *Thursday, February 14, 7:30 p.m.* Karrin Allyson, Grammy Award winning jazz vocalist and pianist performing with her trio.
- *Friday, February 22, 7:30 p.m.* Thomas Gallant, oboe and Pedja Muzijevic, piano.

[Visit the Lane Series website](#) for more information about these shows and the many performances--both musical and theatrical--scheduled for the rest of the semester.

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## NOTABLES

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### Publications and Presentations

**Anthony Morielli**, associate professor of pharmacology, is lead author of a Feb. 8 *Journal of Biological Chemistry* article titled "Homeostatic Regulation of Kv1.2 Potassium Channel Trafficking by Cyclic AMP." Co-authors on the study include **Emilee Connors**, pharmacology graduate student, and **Bryan Ballif**, assistant professor of biology.

**Dr. Magdalena Naylor**, associate professor of psychiatry, is lead author of an article in the Feb. 8 issue of *Pain* titled "Therapeutic Interactive Voice Response for Chronic Pain Reduction and Relapse Prevention." Co-authors on the report include **Shelly Naud**, researcher/analyst in medical biostatistics, and **Dr. John Helzer**, professor of psychiatry.

### Awards and Honors

**Julie Dumas**, research assistant professor of psychiatry, was recently selected as the winner of the Barry Lebowitz Early Career Scientist Award from the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry for 2008. The award is presented for the best, unpublished paper by an early career investigator. As the award recipient, Dumas will be an invited lecturer at the 2008 AAGP meeting and receive a cash award.

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**,