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[INTERview: Domenico Grasso](#)



New Dean Domenico Grasso sees excellence and innovation ahead for the College of Engineering and Mathematics. (Photo: Ed Justice)

The new dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematics, Domenico Grasso, came to UVM from Smith College, where he launched the Picker Engineering Program. The engineering major, the school's first, began in 2000 with, as one magazine put it, "no faculty, no facility, no students." Grasso changed that quickly.

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The trip wasn't going as smoothly as Zach Carson had planned. It was getting dark and the senior environmental studies major was about to bed down in the back of a broken down 1997 shuttle bus in the parking lot of a K-Mart on the Pennsylvania-Ohio border.

[Science Without](#)

[Borders](#) Ted Bovill is building a new laboratory. Not the usual \$100 million confection of steel and glass, but something in many ways more ambitious, risky and exciting.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Feb. 4, 8 p.m.
Concert: "New Seasons, Alter'd Sky," with Tom Cleary, affiliate artist in jazz piano in music, will premiere a piece commissioned by the Flynn Center based on the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins. Flynnspace, 153 Main St.

Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Senior Recital: Nathaly Filion performs music of Mozart, Copeland, Debussy, Brahms and Schumann. Music Building Recital Hall, Redstone Campus. Information: 656-3040

Feb. 8, 11:30 a.m.
Event: Senior Orientation. An opportunity for seniors to meet with Career Services and to start the job search process. Information: 656-3450.

Feb. 8, 12:30 p.m.
Lecture: "Affirmative Action Under Attack: Why it is Important for Women," with Kathryn Friedman, executive director, Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill.

Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Research-in-Progress Seminar: "First of Many: Consuelo Northrop Bailey and Vermont Women in Politics," with UVM Libraries staff members Sylvia Bugbee and Selene

[Public Invited to Rubenstein Honors Seminar Event](#)

[Museum Fetish](#)

[Nursing Requests Accreditation Comments](#)

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Colburn Memorial
Lounge, Waterman
Building.

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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An on-campus "silent recommitment march" concluded UVM's Jan. 27 observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Craig Wilder of Dartmouth College spoke at the Ira Allen Chapel event, which included student renditions of excerpts from some of King's most inspiring speeches. (Photo: Sally McCay)

'Inspiring' Student Featured on 'Jane Pauley Show'

First-year student Ashleigh Crowe appeared on an episode of NBC's "Jane Pauley Show" titled "Changing the World" on Jan. 31.

Crowe, who was featured on the program with her younger sister, founded an international charitable group at age 12. She asked the show's audience to join her still-thriving cause, known as Ashleigh's Student Army, to prove that "by helping to change a small corner of the world... teenagers can make a positive difference in society," as she says on her [Student Army Website](#).

The show's producers lauded Crowe for "improving lives, saving lives and changing the world." Ashleigh Crowe, 19, and her sister, Amanda, 14, were lauded as being "nationally recognized for the outstanding volunteer services, which they began when they were only in elementary school. From book drives to building houses in the Dominican Republic, these two will inspire you to stop putting it off and lend a helping hand."

First inspired when she was age 12 by photographs of poverty in Dominican Republic, Ashleigh Crowe collected and shipped more than 250 pairs of sneakers to the country. Next she solicited dental hygiene supplies and more shoes and delivered them personally.

Each year she upped both the ante and her

Redstone Apartment Updates, Carbon Monoxide Information at UVM.edu

After the deadly Jan. 30 carbon monoxide accident in the Redstone Apartments, which are owned and operated by a private company, the university is inspecting campus buildings and equipment, installing additional carbon monoxide detectors, and offering thoughts, prayers and condolences for the victims.

As of Feb. 1, UVM undergraduate Kerry McCarthy of Montpelier had been upgraded to good condition. Redstone Apartments tenant Ginger Aldrich of Waterford remained in critical condition. Nearly 200 students from complex buildings were still at the Sheraton Hotel, but most will return to their apartments soon after extensive safety inspections and retrofitting are complete.

Frequent updates and additional information about the tragedy and the campus response to it are available at [uvm.edu](#).

On Jan. 31, UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel released the following statement in reaction to the accident:

Our community is overcome with sadness this morning over the tragic death and injuries resulting from a carbon monoxide poisoning accident at Redstone Apartments yesterday.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Jeffrey Rodliff of St. Johnsbury. Our hearts and prayers go out to UVM student Kerry McCarthy, to Ginger Aldrich, and to their families. Kerry and Ginger remain in critical condition at hospitals in Boston and Montreal. We are relieved that the other UVM students and first responders who were affected have been treated and released.

Preliminary reports from state investigators indicate that the accident was caused by a heating system malfunction in one of the eleven buildings at the off-campus apartment complex. I want to assure the UVM family that the safety of our students is our highest priority. We will communicate with the property owner today and make clear our expectation that our students should not return to their apartments until every mechanical system in every building has been thoroughly and professionally inspected, and carbon monoxide detectors have been installed throughout the Redstone Apartment buildings.

In UVM residential facilities, 90 percent of our on-campus students are housed in buildings where

group of donors, according to Web reports. By 2002, this Upton, Mass. native had built a network of thousands of donors. She had raised \$30,000 in addition to countless supplies. She continued the work by helping to construct houses during annual service trips. She received a number of state awards for her efforts, and in 2003 and 2004 was recognized as *Cosmopolitan* magazine's "Girl of the Month" and "Arrid Total Woman of Tomorrow" respectively.

Meanwhile, younger sister Amanda Crowe's book drive yields about 10,000 books a year for hospitals, homeless shelters, clinics and literacy projects.

Now a pre-med-track student in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Ashleigh Crowe is still committed to her "student army," and she hopes the television appearance will help build support for the group's efforts.

"We are in desperate need to sponsor children and raise funds to build houses for families right now," she says.

F-f-f-free Coffee For a Frigid Friday

"The Greatness Within Our Grasp" is the theme of UVM's \$250 million comprehensive Campaign for the University of Vermont, and faculty and staff enjoyed a warm rendering of those words on a frigid Friday in January — a free cup of java served up in a travel mug bearing the campaign logo.

It was all a part of the ongoing faculty and staff phase of the campaign, which runs through June. "Our goal for the faculty and staff campaign is participation," says campaign manager Risé Drake. "It's not the size of the gift that matters. Broad participation from faculty and staff will be a strong statement of support for the campaign and our priority on scholarships for students."

Drake said more than 800 faculty and staff took up the offer of free coffee, generously donated by Sodexho. She said the event was "something fun to do to build awareness." And now 800 coffee mugs on desktops across the campus are a daily reminder that The Campaign for the University of Vermont invites participation from faculty and staff.

In addition to staff from Development and Alumni Relations, members of the Faculty and Staff Campaign Committee who engaged colleagues at four locations for coffee and confabulation included Kate Baldwin, Pat Brown, Janie Cohen, Joan Kieran, Doug Little, Wolfgang Mieder and John Sama.

The total raised in the Campaign for the University of Vermont as of December 31, 2004, was \$180,920,531, or 72 percent of the goal. Learn more about the faculty and staff campaign at [Campus Campaign](#).

heat and hot water are fed by steam distributed from our central heating plant. Even so, as a precaution, we are inspecting all of our systems, and we will install carbon monoxide detectors in all residential buildings.

Yesterday afternoon the Burlington Fire Department took carbon monoxide readings in all of the Redstone Apartment buildings. While there were no concerns about nine of the eleven buildings, we decided to move our students to the Sheraton Hotel strictly as a precaution until all appropriate steps have been taken by the property owner. We asked the Burlington Fire Department this morning to take additional readings in the buildings so that our students can retrieve items they may need in the next 24 hours.

Any updates will be posted on the UVM home page as they become available.

New Web Valuation Project Applies Ecological Economics

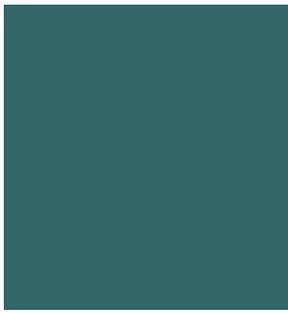
Ecological economists say market prices tend to underestimate a landscape's true value because they neglect the worth of services like flood protection some parcels provide. But without a signal from the marketplace, how do we value those services?

Enter Matthew Wilson. The research assistant professor of business administration and Gund Institute of Ecological Economics affiliate recently launched a Web-based GIS assessment tool that allows users to create maps and charts that show the dollar value of landscape-based ecosystem goods and services. The user-friendly system takes the best available peer-reviewed valuation literature and GIS land cover layers, flexibly crunches the numbers on demand, and makes the results available in a variety of forms to any stakeholder with an Internet connection.

The information could help decision makers identify priority areas for conservation and inform political debates about the costs-and-benefits of proposed regulations.

"I'm trying to integrate ivory tower academic discourse and practical challenges while translating economic information in a transparent and useful matter. Policy makers, quite reasonably, are not driven by academic concerns. They want a dollar figure. But we need to be careful about how that dollar figure is shared with the public because the field of ecosystem valuation is still in its infancy," he says.

The [EcoValue Project Website](#), which currently incorporates maps for the Baltimore metropolitan area and the Northern Forest in Northern Vermont, New York, New Hampshire and Maine, will soon include data for New Zealand, thanks to a grant Wilson obtained from Lincoln University. Two Ph.D. students at UVM's Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, Treg Christopher and Shuang Liu, helped Wilson build the system and populate it with maps and data. Austin Troy, assistant professor of natural resources, and



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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

Gund Director Robert Costanza are also key contributors.

Wilson expects the eco-value electronic platform, which is highly expandable, will continue to take off, attracting new funding and covering new areas.

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Seminar Looks at Women in Vermont Politics

Two UVM Libraries staff members will present a look at Vermont women in politics through the prism of Consuelo Northrop Bailey on Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. The talk, "First of Many: Consuelo Northrop Bailey and Vermont Women in Politics" is part of the Center for Research on Vermont's seminar series.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Consuelo Northrop Bailey's inauguration as the nation's first female elected lieutenant governor. Over Bailey's long career, she amassed many notable "firsts," opening doors for women such as Madeleine Kunin, who would go on to hold public office in Vermont, the nation, and internationally. Bailey was also the first woman Speaker of the House, the first woman to try a murder case in the state, and the first Vermont woman to be admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court. Trailblazing as they are, Bailey's accomplishments are firmly grounded in a long legacy of Vermont women's significant contributions to politics.

Sylvia Bugbee and Selene Colburn will speak about the life and work of Consuelo Northrop Bailey and the story of Vermont women in politics as documented in archival collections around the state. Bugbee is assistant archivist at UVM Special Collections and the editor of *An Officer and a Lady: The World War II Letters of Lt. Col. Betty Bandel, Women's Army Corps*. Selene Colburn is assistant to the dean of libraries for outreach, development and planning, and recently authored a grant proposal to preserve and make accessible materials documenting Vermont women's political contributions. Both have worked extensively as processing archivists with the Consuelo Northrop Bailey papers.

Lecturer Looks to Nature for Sustainable Solutions

Using nature as a model for sustainable living is the topic of an upcoming lecture by Janine Benyus, internationally known life sciences writer and innovation consultant. The talk, which launches this semester's University of Vermont President's Distinguished Lecture Series, will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 8 p.m. in the Fleming Museum's Room 101. A reception will follow in the museum's Marble Court.

Benyus is author of the acclaimed book *Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature* and co-founder of the Biomimicry Guild, whose research consultation has been sought by companies from Patagonia and Levi Strauss & Co. to HP.

In her campus talk, Benyus will explain biomimicry, a field that looks to nature for ideas and solutions in creating products, processes and policies. She will engage her audience in the emerging issues by posing the question at the heart of her work: "What would nature do here?"

Benyus is a faculty affiliate in the Department of Environmental Studies at the University of Montana-Missoula and an advocate for wetland protection. She is the author of several books on the natural sciences, including *Northwoods Wildlife: A Watcher's Guide to Habitats*, *The Field Guide to Wildlife Habitats* (Eastern and Western Editions) and *Beastly Behaviors: A Guide to How Animals Act and Why*.

The President's Distinguished Lecture Series, established by President Daniel Mark Fogel in October 2002, brings top researchers to UVM to enhance the academic experience; showcase faculty, students and programs; and bring the campus community together.

Young Russian Pianist to Play Schubert, Ravel and Glass

The University of Vermont Lane Series will present the young Russian pianist Vassily Primakov on Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the UVM Recital Hall.

Primakov will perform Schubert's "Four Impromptus, opus 90"; Fauré's "D-flat Nocturne and A minor Barcarolle"; Ravel's "La Valse"; Glazounov's "First Sonata"; and Philip Glass's "Music from The Hours". There is a pre-concert discussion with the artist at 6:30 pm that is free and open to the public.

The pianist, who was born in Moscow in 1979, was first-prize winner of the Rachmaninoff International Competition at age 15. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Julliard, he won first prize in the 2002 Young Concert Artists International Auditions and is now a member of this highly respected roster of young musicians. Primakov made his New York City debut in May 2004 at Alice Tully Hall performing the Rachmaninov Concerto No. 2 with the Westchester Philharmonic. He has also performed at the Kennedy Center, the 92nd Street Y, and has appeared as a soloist with the Moscow Philharmonic.

Tickets to hear Vassily Primakov on the UVM Lane Series can be purchased through the FlynnTix Regional Box Office at 802-863-5966 (86-FLYNN), or order securely on-line from [Lane Series](#).

The concert is sponsored by Jean Marie Hardacre Fergus with media support from Vermont Public Radio.

Award-Winning Lewis Hine Film to Play on Feb. 6

The Fleming Museum will present the award-winning film *America and Lewis Hine* as part of its Sunday Series on Feb. 6 at 2 p.m. The screening complements the museum's exhibition "Art/Document: Defining American Photography."

Lewis Hine, one of the world's most influential

Information: 656-2001

'Divas of Diction' to Perform Slam Poetry at Ira Allen

Some of the nation's most highly acclaimed poets will perform their slam poetry Friday, Feb. 11, at 8 p.m. at Ira Allen Chapel.

Bassey, Ishle Park and Amalia Ortiz are considered some of the most powerful female poets, both on the page and on the stage. Their unique native roots have originated from different countries, but their cultured personalities are powerful together. All were born to immigrant parents, hailing from Nigeria, Mexico, and Korea.

These 'divas of diction' have competed in the National Poetry Slam and were featured on *Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry* on HBO. They also gave a poetic tribute to Venus and Serena Williams at the NAACP Image Awards in 2003.

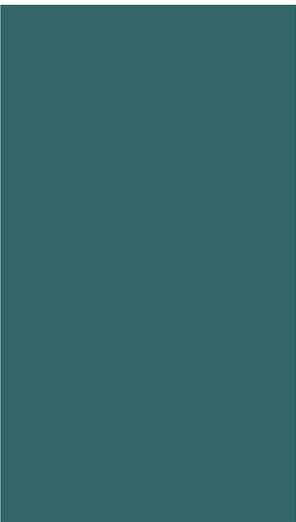
This event is free and is sponsored by UVM's First Year Experience Diversity Committee. For more information, contact the Department of Student Life at 656-2060.

Flynn Dance Event Discounted for UVM Affiliates

Jamaican-born Garth Fagan, the Tony Award-winning choreographer of "The Lion King," will perform on Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets to the show are two-for-one for UVM affiliates.

Fagan creates a singular dance vocabulary that draws on many sources: the sense of weight in modern dance, the energy of Afro-Caribbean movement, the speed and precision of ballet and the rule-breaking experimentation of the post-moderns. *Vogue* magazine wrote that Garth Fagan Dance is known for "handsome, exotic, completely concentrated dancers [who] move as if they were born speaking Fagan's language and love the feel of it in their bodies."

Through an ongoing collaboration with UVM's



and recognizable photographers, photographed child labor in Vermont textile mills during the early decades of the 20th century. The film was made by the Oscar-nominated documentary filmmaker, Nina Rosenblum. It's a revealing portrait of a visionary photographer who recorded the human side of America's wrenching transformation into an industrial colossus. The film airs many of his photographs — including many never seen before — to show the power of Hine's work.

Admission to the film is free for affiliates of area colleges and museum members, \$5 for others.

Vice Provost for Multicultural Affairs and the President's Initiatives for Diversity, the Flynn is offering university affiliates two-for-one tickets. UVM identification must be presented at the time of purchase. Information: 652-4502 or [Flynn Center](#).

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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February 2, 2005

Awards and Honors

Junior R. **Shoshana Goldstein** has been awarded a \$500 scholarship from Studio Art Centers International for study during this semester in Florence.

Jane Kolodinsky, professor and chair of Community Development and Applied Economics and co-director of the Center for Rural Studies, was awarded the 2005 American Council on Consumer Interest's Applied Consumer Economics Paper award for her article, "Affect or Information? Labeling Policy and Consumer Valuation of rBST Free and Organic Characteristics of Milk."

David Warshaw, professor and chair of molecular physiology and biophysics, and his team received a five-year program project grant renewal from the National Institutes of Health to continue their study of a genetic form of heart failure called familial hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

Publications and Presentations

Gale Burford, professor of social work, recently published a chapter titled, "*Steun van de gemeenschap en steun van een professional: wat helpt wanneer?*" ("Community care and professional care: What helps when?") in *Van je familie moet je het hebben: Nieuwe perspectieven in de jeugdzorg en het jeugdstrafrecht*.

Michael Caputo, director of information technology at the College of Medicine, and Dr. **Michael Ricci**, Roger H. Albee professor of surgery, co-authored a chapter titled "Trauma and Emergency Care" in the publication *A Guide to Getting Started in Telemedicine*, which was recently published by the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Elizabeth Greene, associate professor of animal sciences and Extension equine specialist, and **Josephine Trot**, a post-doctoral associate, published a paper, "The Self-Guided Horse Facility Analysis: A Proactive Safety Education Tool for Equine Facilities," in the December issue of the *Journal of Extension*. The publication examines causative factors for accidents in equine facilities and solutions to help people become more safety conscious.

January 26, 2005

Awards and Honors

Robert Tyzbir, professor of nutrition and food sciences, was awarded the 2004 United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Agriculture Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award in a ceremony at the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges annual meeting in San Diego. Tyzbir was one of two recipients of the northeast regional award, which carries a \$2,000 stipend. Tyzbir also published an article in the charter issue of a new sports magazine, *Varsity New England*.

Samuel Asiedu-Addo, a visiting faculty in residence at Africa House and lecturer in mathematics and statistics, was selected as a "modern-day technology leader" by the Council of Engineering Deans of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The award will be presented at the 19th annual Black Engineer of the Year awards conference luncheon on Feb. 18 in Baltimore.

smoking reduction with nicotine replacement therapy and motivational advice increase future cessation among smokers unmotivated to quit" in the June *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*.

The **Center on Disability and Community Inclusion** and the Vermont Department of Education recently co-hosted the BEST Summer Institute, which was held June 20-25. More than 300 school administrators, teachers, special educators and other school staff attended week-long mini-courses and workshops focusing on peaceful and respectful classrooms and schools. The event presented a number of prevention and responding strategies for bullying and harassment.

Stephanie Kaza, an associate professor in the Environmental Program, spoke at a conference, "Faith and Progressive Policy: Proud Past, Promising Future," on June 9 in Washington, D.C. The event was hosted by the Center for American Progress. Kaza shared the podium with Taylor Branch, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63* and former EPA administrator Carol Browner among others.

Dennis Mahoney, professor of German and Russian, has published an article on "*Heinrich von Ofterdingen* oder Die Macht der Musik" in *Novalis: Poesie und Poetik*, edited by Herbert Uerlings. The paper considers the use, function, meaning, and power of music in Novalis' major novel of German Romanticism. It is shown that music has had and continues to have a considerable influence on building a more humane world.

Sanjeeva Murthy, associate professor of physics, published an article, "Recent Developments in Polymer Characterization Using X-ray Diffraction," in the May issue of *The Rigaku Journal*.

Barbara McIntosh, associate professor of business administration, had an article appear in *Nursing and Health Policy Review*. The article, "The Older Nurse: Clues for Retention," was written in collaboration with **Betty Rambur**, dean of nursing and health science, **Mary Val Palumbo**, research associate of nursing, and **Joan Mongeon**, data analyst in biostatistics, and suggests ways to restructure work in efforts to address nursing labor shortages.

The **Vermont Project for Children and Youth with Deaf-blindness** of the **Center on Disability and Community Inclusion** hosted a multi-state mentorship trainin

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86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

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INTERview: Domenico Grasso

By Kevin Foley

Article published Feb 02, 2005

New Dean Domenico Grasso sees excellence and innovation ahead for the College of Engineering and Mathematics. (Photo: Ed Judice)

majors and eight faculty members.

The program's success attracted notice from everyone from The New York Times to The American Scientist, and now Grasso is working feverishly here to duplicate that kind of energy, buzz and fast change at UVM's well-established College of Engineering and Mathematics. The view sat down with Grasso during his first few weeks on campus to discuss his priorities and plans.

the view: Tell me about some of the strengths you see in UVM engineering.

DOMENICO GRASSO: I think there are strengths not just in the college, but at the university. What I'd like to do is capitalize on the cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary types of programs that we can realize here. We are especially well suited to this because we're a smaller school, and we're agile.

What specific kinds of cross- and interdisciplinary research might take root here and have national resonance?

The university has identified health as a focus area, so I think that interacting with the College of Medicine in the area of biomedical engineering and biotechnology is going to be part of the future. We have strong environmental programs in the Rubenstein school and CALS, and environmentally related sustainable development type issues are going to be important. With the mathematics department within the college, I'd like to play to the strength of computational systems in engineering. And regionally, we have a lot of industries that are unique to this region, or that we are fortunate to have in this area – companies like IBM and General Dynamics – that I'd like to partner with on innovative approaches to solving problems that face society. Those are the primary areas. We have not had the opportunity to prioritize them yet, or figure out specific plans, but at first glance, those look like natural connections.

What would you particularly like to beef up over the next year or so?

The new dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematics, Domenico Grasso, came to UVM from Smith College, where he launched the Picker Engineering Program. The engineering major, the school's first, began in 2000 with, as the college's alumnae magazine put it, "no faculty, no facility, no students." In four years under Grasso's leadership, that changed quickly: the program grew to encompass about 135

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[Biodiesel for a Buck](#)

The trip wasn't going as smoothly as Zach Carson had planned. It was getting dark and the senior environmental studies major was about to bed down in the back of a broken down 1997 shuttle bus in the parking lot of a K-Mart on the Pennsylvania-Ohio border.

[Science Without Borders](#)

Ted Bovill is building a new laboratory. Not the usual \$100 million confection of steel and glass, but something in many ways more ambitious, risky and exciting.

I'd like to improve the size and qualifications of the applicant pool and yield of admitted students. I'd like the faculty to develop a positive, can-do attitude about the future of the College of Engineering and Mathematics. I want them to see a future of the college that paints itself on a national landscape in terms of both scholarship and teaching.

What does a dean do to improve the number and quality of student applications?

There are a lot of things that can be done, but the dean needs help doing them. Among those would be to revisit the curriculum and make sure it's a contemporary, timely curriculum, not one that is mired in the past because we haven't had an opportunity to revisit it. We need a curriculum that is socially relevant and connects with the students. I think that the way we deliver the curriculum is critically important; in the past, an engineering education has been defined as one in which the material went from the notes of the instructor to the notes of the students through the minds of neither. I think in many institutions that's the way it's still delivered. I want to make sure that we're engaging in a learner-centered educational process, and that we package ourselves as a unique institution that offers opportunities to educate and train our students for leadership roles in society. I think all of those things together will attract more students, and a higher caliber of students.

Could you talk about the Picker model at Smith, and what, if anything, from that model translates to the UVM context?

I think a great deal translates into this context. I've been pushing the initials UVM – what I'd like to see happen with those initials is that "U" stands for providing students with a unity-of-knowledge approach to their education, their life and their careers, so they don't see the compartmentalization of the humanities over there, and the social sciences here, and the physical sciences there, but they see it as a whole; that we impart in them a vision for making significant contributions to society and the profession, a sense of social responsibility; and, finally, the "M" is that we empower them with the methods to do that. I didn't have those initials at Smith, and now I have those initials here at the University of Vermont, and that's all the better.

So there is going to be a radically different experience for students over the next few years as this gets off the ground...

I don't know that the experience will be radically different. I want to build on the strong traditions and strengths of the college, and I want to continue to move in a positive direction, and really make a name for the University of Vermont College of Engineering and Mathematics on a national level. We're going to have a lot of student and faculty discussions about this, and we're going to find a model that fits us well and is consonant with these goals. I can't do it by myself. My vision is just a place to start; it has to be modified and adopted by the faculty, students and staff here.

The college is going to hire quite a few new faculty over the next several years. What are you looking for in candidates? What's a Domenico Grasso kind of engineer or mathematician?

One of the things I did at Smith, that I'm planning to do here, is ask candidates to do a presentation where they would discuss their research, what they've done, what they plan on doing. But we're also going to ask them to do a second presentation about how they see engineering fitting within the context of a world-class liberal arts university. I think that's going to give us a great deal of insight into the depth of the person we're interviewing and their breadth of thinking, because we want people who are not only outstanding scholars and teachers, but who are big thinkers. There are many people who are going to be outstanding scholars, there are many people who are going to be outstanding teachers, and we want both of those and big thinkers as well.

Let's end at the beginning: What attracted you to UVM in the first place?

There are several things that drew me here. One was that I thought the leadership, both President Fogel and Provost Bramley, is charismatic, visionary and looking to make a big change, similar to how Ruth Simmons (who is now

president of Brown) attracted me to Smith. I also think that the university wanting to be *the* environmental university in the nation was very attractive. The areas they've identified as focus areas, health and the environment and a liberal education, are right in line with what I was trying to do at Smith and very consistent with my own personal philosophy. I think the resources that are becoming available to transform this college give us an opportunity to make a national splash. A lot of the same things that attracted me to Smith in terms of a rare confluence of opportunities attracted me to the University of Vermont. There's an exciting time ahead.

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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Biodiesel for a Buck

Senior's project starts when he talks agencies into donating a van for a planned national alternative-energy tour

By Jon Reidel

Article published Feb 02, 2005



The road ahead: Senior Zach Carson wrote 150 letters to receive this shuttle bus, which he plans to convert to run on biodiesel for a cross-country tour evangelizing the technology. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

The trip wasn't going as smoothly as Zach Carson had planned. It was getting dark and the senior environmental studies major was about to bed down in the back of a broken down 1997 shuttle bus in the parking lot of a K-Mart on the Pennsylvania-Ohio border.

Carson had picked up the 24-foot, 17-passenger shuttle bus the day before in Detroit at the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation, which, along with the

Community Transportation Association of America, agreed to sell it to him for \$1 with the understanding that he'd convert it to run on biodiesel — an increasingly popular alternative fuel that combines used vegetable oil with methanol — as part of his senior project.

Less than 90 minutes into the trek back to Burlington, the former airport shuttle with 110,000 miles on it filled with smoke and stalled. Carson, a self-described non-mechanic, got it started after filling it up with oil and other fluids, only to have the starter quit a few hours later, prompting the K-Mart sleepover. Although the bus started the next day, Carson said he didn't shut it off again until he and his friend hit Burlington 17 hours later.

Scheduled to graduate in May, Carson hopes the Detroit experience isn't a precursor to his upcoming spring trip through Vermont, and a nationwide summer tour during which he will attempt to educate people about the benefits of biodiesel and other energy saving techniques as part of his senior project for "Intermediate Environmental Studies" (ENVS 151).

Total conversion

The elaborateness of the tour will depend on how much money Carson raises. He has already applied for grants and plans to hold fundraisers. He has also worked out a sponsorship deal with Chelsea Green Publishing to promote and sell their book *Biodiesel: Growing a New Energy Economy* while on the road at national music festivals, summer camps, national parks and transportation conferences.

Carson is currently working on tearing out the inside of the bus and installing beds, shelves, a desk, a hammock, and a small kitchen equipped with an old fryer to serve as both food source and fuel tank so he can "cook French fries for people, then drive away with the oil I cook with." Energy-efficient light bulbs and solar panels will power his computer and other multimedia for presentations. "I want to show ways to cut down on fossil fuels. There's tons

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[Dom Grasso Q+A](#)

The new dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematics, Domenico Grasso, came to UVM from Smith College, where he launched the Picker Engineering Program. The engineering major, the school's first, began in 2000 with, as one magazine put it, "no faculty, no facility, no students." Grasso changed that quickly.

[Science Without Borders](#)

Ted Bovill is building a new laboratory. Not the usual \$100 million confection of steel and glass, but something in many ways more ambitious, risky and exciting.

of ways everyone can do this easily," Carson says.

Carson is launching a Website that will provide live updates from the road and Internet links giving examples of ways to cut down on fossil fuels. A friend minoring in film plans to create a documentary based on the trip. "The goal is to educate people about alternative fuel options: the environmental and health problems associated with burning fossil fuels, why it's important to start looking into other options and what will happen if we don't. Mainly, I'm trying to promote healthier ways of living."

The idea for the project grew out of trips to Johannesburg and Costa Rica. There Carson met a group of people who had driven school buses down from California, and were planning to start a fuel company using 500 gallons of vegetable oil a week from McDonald's.

"There was a lot of talk in Johannesburg about the pollution cars were causing and the price of gas. That way of life just got me thinking of ways we can live healthier using local natural resources," he recalls.

Carson, who wrote 150 letters in search of a vehicle, also credits Fred Schmidt, associate professor of Community Development and Applied Economics, with putting him in touch with the right people to get the bus. "Fred's the main reason this project is going on. He was on the board of the CTAA and he hooked me up with the right people and found me a bus."

Promoting another energy option

Having taken a number of energy-related courses, Carson says he's not under the illusion that the whole country is going to start using vegetable oil for fuel and rainwater to wash dishes as he plans to do on the road. But with oil supplies arguably peaking, he sees the time as right to get people thinking about the next source of energy

"Running straight vegetable oil isn't something that's possible for the whole country to switch to," Carson says. "But it can help. There's about 400,000 school buses in the country that run on diesel that could be converted, and that would help. I'm convinced that biodiesel is definitely going to be the next energy source."

Having grown up outside Philadelphia and spending most of his life in the Northeast, Carson says he's eager to experience other parts of the country so he can better understand people in other regions. He's particularly interested in going to the South where he can, he says, "hit up some people who think I'm crazy and don't want to hear anything about this kind of stuff."

"The festivals will be a fun stopping ground, but I want to go to parts of the South where I won't be preaching to the choir," Carson says.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Science Without Borders

By Kevin Foley

Article published Jan 31, 2005



Ted Bovill (far left) participates in a busy poster session during the December meetings of a new UVM-led international research effort against thrombosis. (Photo: UVM Medical Photography)

Dr. Ted Bovill is building a new laboratory. Not the usual \$100 million confection of steel and glass, but something in many ways more ambitious, risky and exciting.

Bovill, professor and chair of pathology and an internationally recognized expert in the genetics of thrombosis, is creating a "virtual research institute," an environment in which top investigators in his field from the United States and Europe will collaborate as if they

were in the same building.

The idea is to establish, through ultra-fast Internet2 bandwidth and a shared bioinformatics network, along with regular travel for meetings and exchanges of faculty and trainees, an intellectual environment spanning huge physical distances where research synergies can arise in the same way as they do among scientists at the same location. Bovill's virtual institute will share aspects of the creative environment in a physical lab: hallway conversations, student exchanges, meetings and shared facilities. The Foundation Leducq of France is funding Bovill's vision with \$6 million over five years, a grant announced late last year.

"It's an innovative model and, to some extent, a risky one because there isn't a lot of precedent for it," Bovill says. "But if we can make it work — and I believe we can — it has enormous potential."

Bovill has assembled a group of elite researchers from around the world — six core investigators who together attract more than \$15 million in research funding annually — with complementary interests, capabilities, equipment and techniques to form the Leducq International Network Against Thrombosis. The UVM-based network will fund and facilitate exchanges of people and data between participating institutions, held its first meeting in Burlington in December, drawing about 90 faculty, junior faculty and trainees from all over the world.

Going international

The grant will use conferences, individual travel and other means to build working connections among investigators looking at various aspects of thrombin, a pivotal enzyme that plays a role in thinning and coagulating blood, inflammation and more. Thrombin-related conditions are increasingly being seen as central to a range of health conditions, not just clotting disorders like venous thrombosis, but also deadly cardiovascular diseases like atherosclerosis and stroke.

The genetic, clinical and biological issues involved are wide-ranging and complex, and no single institution monopolizes the means of addressing them.

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UVM's well-established thrombosis group has two million well-characterized plasma samples sitting in minus-70-degree freezers. It's a trove by any definition, allowing researchers to quickly posit and test genetic relationships against known clinical outcomes in diverse populations.

But, as extensive as this collection is, it isn't everything. Other tools are scattered around the globe: plasma samples and population data from large-scale studies, laboratory tests and techniques, statistical and epidemiological savvy and sophisticated techniques for testing theories in genetically modified mice.

LINAT will offer a framework for marshalling those diverse resources. Say a biochemist has a laboratory technique that he or she hopes will give insight into acute myocardial infarction — a UVM group has access to the population data that the basic lab doesn't, letting the idea potentially move very rapidly from the bench to clinic. Other researchers, perhaps at Washington, could pop the assay prospectively into a clinical trial or epidemiological study for a real-time, real-world test. Or the process could move the other way. Molecular epidemiology work on blood analyzed at UVM by the Cardiovascular Health Study, a big multi-center study that has gathered twenty years of data for 5,000 elderly, could generate hypotheses that LINAT investigators could test in the University of Leuven's animal models.

The group includes Bovill; European coordinator Frits Rosendaal of the University of Leiden in The Netherlands, an expert venous thrombosis risk factors and genetics; Charles Esmon, at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, an accomplished bench biochemist; Martine Aiach, a professor of hematology at the University of Paris V; Henri Lijnen, who runs arguably the world's leading transgenic mouse research facility; and epidemiologist Bruce Psaty at the University of Washington. Beyond these core members, the network spans hundreds of other senior, junior and student thrombosis researchers at the six locations.

Bovill says he was able to attract the Foundation Leducq grant that created LINAT in large part because of its world-class expertise various facets of thrombosis and clotting research. The College of Medicine's Thrombosis Research Group, many of whom are participating in LINAT as associate members, and some less formally affiliated colleagues with complementary interests, form a strong center of activity in the area.

Education in translation

Bovill and his associates aren't just after new science with the grant. They're also trying to create more of a new kind of scientist through a "virtual graduate school."

Instead of "bootstrapping" faculty and student travel to other labs by creatively allocating bits and pieces of individual grants — a time-consuming, occasionally futile process — LINAT offers participating institutions a formal, funded framework for getting together and creating productive experiences for their students. The goal is to push some big research projects forward and create some new ones, but also to create what Bovill calls "translational scientists."

"We hope we'll get young investigators who are comfortable moving across some of the traditional boundaries that keep people constrained in terms of what their research interests and efforts are," Bovill says.

As the network supports established and new translational work from experienced scientists, Bovill also expects that the exchanges, travel and scientific meetings funded by the grant will create new opportunities for promising students and younger faculty as they meet and learn from mentors and peers at other facilities.

Nels Olson, a master's level student working in Bovill's lab, is an example of the kind of young scientist Bovill has in mind. As he pursues his current studies, and perhaps an eventual doctorate, Olson is looking forward to seeing how LINAT will work for the field and for him personally.

"I might have the opportunity to visit laboratories and learn a particular skill that I could take back to our lab and provide some data that's valuable to our

project," he says. "But the other facet is that's just a valuable and exciting opportunity for me to meet outstanding scientists. That is huge."



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