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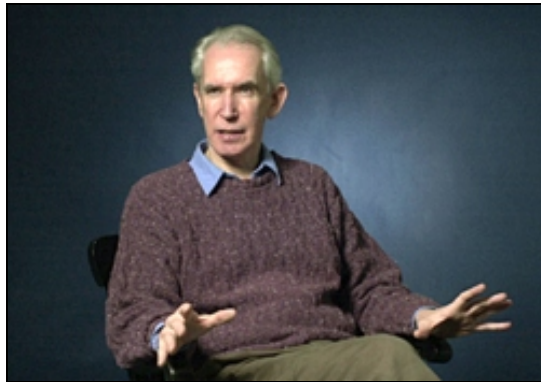
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[Embracing Religion](#)



Make room for religion: University Scholar Robert Nash argues for expanding our notions of pluralism to encompass faith. *(File photo: Sally McCay)*

"As an academician who believes in the power of the faiths, I want people to understand religions," says University Scholar Robert Nash. Starting with his own campus, Nash wants to open dialogue about religion as political force, religion as diversity, and religion as conversation topic.

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Walk A new exhibit at Bailey/Howe library puts a controversial aspect of the university's history into stark perspective. "UVM's Past: The Legacy of Kake Walk" may shock those who don't know much about the once-popular annual campus event, abolished in 1969, and will frame it in a new fashion for those who do.

[Kicking For Change](#)

Jeff DeCelles had plans for a typical semester abroad. Instead, his trip to the Dominican Republic turned into a life-altering experience for him and three other students, and a memorable one for a rural Haitian community.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Feb. 4, 12:30 p.m.
Lecture: "Is Neutrality Consistent with Morality?" with Madeleine Kunin, former Vermont governor. **John Dewey Lounge, 325 Old Mill. Information: 656-1096**

Feb. 5, 4:30 p.m.
Lecture: "Severe Poverty as a Human Rights Violation" with Thomas Pogge, Columbia University. **John Dewey Lounge. Information: 656-4042**

Feb. 6, 8 a.m.
Trustees: Committee of the Whole. Memorial Lounge, 338 Waterman. Information: 656-7898

Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Concert: UVM Lane Series Presents "Cephas and Wiggins." Tickets \$25. UVM recital Hall. **Information: [Lane Series](#)**

Feb. 7, 1:30 p.m.
Exhibition: "Arts of Asia" with reception to follow in the Marble Court. Fleming Museum. Information: 656-0750 or [Fleming Museum](#)

Feb. 10, 6 p.m.
Lecture: "Writing Oneself Into Being: African-American Vermonters Resistance to Invisibility and Oppression in the Green Mountains" with Elise Guyette. **John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. Information: 656-7990**

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Athletics Marketing Director Krista Balogh introduces UVM's new mascot, Rally, before a sold-out crowd at Gutterson Field House. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Rally Cat Becomes New Face of UVM Athletics

The response of 13-year-old friends Cody Jarvis and Tyler Labelle to Rally, the university's newest incarnation of its Catamount mascot, captured the general feeling of the younger fans in attendance at the sold-out men's basketball game against University of Maryland-Baltimore County on Jan. 31.

"Kids will love him. He's a lot more updated," says Jarvis, who saw shades of the Tasmanian Devil in the new mascot. "Yeah, he's cool, kind of like a cartoon character," adds Labelle.

Rally, a more animated, pumped-up version of Charlie and Kitty Catamount, both now headed to the UVM Hall of Fame, was introduced to Catamount faithful at halftime. The difference between the retired mascots and the feistier Rally cat was glaring as Charlie and Kitty slumbered out to half court, followed by Rally bounding around Patrick Gym to the Gap Band's "You Dropped a Bomb on Me."

Some longtime fans had a harder time saying goodbye to Charlie and Kitty, but said they understood the need for change. "Rally is more animated and has more personality," says longtime hockey and basketball fan Robin Ranon of Shelburne. "He's got an intense look and he's a little more intimidating, and that's what you want."

Introduced in the 1950s, Charlie was a fan favorite at football games before the program disbanded in the 1970's. Kitty came on board in the 1980s along with a slightly updated version of

New Center Aims to Smooth Students' Administrative Moves

With the opening of UVM's new consolidated student services center, an inviting wood-paneled oasis outside of Memorial Lounge, administrators are hoping they've seen the last of the "Waterman shuffle," a not-so-popular student dance step.

"The concept [for the new center] really sprang out of student frustration and our determination to get to the other side of it," says University Registrar Keith Williams.

Before the opening of the new center, Williams says, students had to visit different offices in Waterman to conduct a sequence of ordinary business transactions like clearing a registration check, processing a scholarship check, or clarifying how financial aid applies to their bill. Even the most everyday chain of events could often become complicated enough to require backtracking.

"It could get rather trying for students – and for administrators anxious to help them," says Don Honeman, director of admissions and financial aid.

That was then. The new center, which features both a front counter for quick information and enclosed office space for more complex queries, is a model of one-stop shopping. The location also boasts a 40-inch LCD panel displaying a mix of promotions for campus activities and reminders of deadlines useful to students.

The center's staff, which includes many students, has been trained to answer the questions they are most likely to encounter, and have the information and resources at hand to resolve problems on the spot.

Three different offices – the registrar, financial aid and student accounts, all with different reporting structures – worked together to create and staff the center. "Each of us saw the problem and decided that the best way to attack it was as a team," says Cecelia Dry, assistant university controller.

Before the group went on the offensive, however, they tapped into the nuances of student dissatisfaction with the old system by convening a student advisory group when the center was first conceived in the summer of 2003. "What we eventually developed came directly out of that student input," Williams says.

Charlie, both donated by an alumnus. Rally was the brainchild of the marketing department with athletic marketing director Krista Balogh and Chris McCabe, assistant vice president of marketing and business development, spearheading the project.

"Rally doesn't look as much like a Catamount, but he's [in fact, Rally is gender neutral] a little more intense," says first-year student Rebekah Shippee. "It's kind of odd looking and a little scary, but a lot more enthusiastic. The old one just kind of sat there."

The new mascot was created by Scollon Productions, Inc. of White Rock, S.C. Balogh said the final product was approved after reviewing several possible incarnations of the Rally cat. "Athletics is going through such great change right now and this is a great way to get UVM's new face into the public," Balogh says.

Scollon, creators of such legendary figures as the Michelin Man, Barney, Rug Rats, and various Looney Tunes characters, sent fur samples and artist renditions throughout the development process. Scollon is also a major producer of athletic mascots, including Sir Purr of the Carolina Panthers, and Gumbo, the Saint Bernard mascot of the New Orleans Saints.

Rally has ventilation fans with rechargeable batteries installed in his head and an optional "cool vest" with re-freezable ice packs. He also has sport-specific costumes and a more fashionable outfit for community events requiring dressier attire. Rally, a name shared by the Clemson University Rally Cats dance squad, also has to wear his V-cat logo for trademark purposes.

"The key issue today is mobility," says Scollon President Elery Locklear, who estimated Rally's price tag at around \$3,500. "Mascots are very competitive today and try to push the envelope. I'm sure that they [Charlie and Kitty] were quality items in their day, but the look has evolved. Still, a new mascot can be a dicey thing for active alums. It's hard to see things that they grew up with change."

Asian Art Exhibition Showcases Recent Fleming Gifts

The Fleming Museum will celebrate several years of significant growth in its Asian art holdings with an exhibition, "Arts of Asia: Recent Acquisitions from the Nalin, Duke, and Pickens Collections," opening on Feb. 8.

John Seyller, professor of art history and a leading Indian art scholar, is the exhibition's curator. He is excited about the museum's newly acquired art and says the infusion of objects is already "making a huge curricular impact." Seyller, who was recently named the museum's adjunct curator of Asian art, helped engineer a major gift of 27 objects from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

The Fleming is one of 17 museums in the United States and Great Britain that have been given Thai, Cambodian and Burmese sculptures and decorative arts by the foundation. Dating from the 14th to the 20th century, the sculptures are primarily Buddhist in nature, and range in materials from stone and bronze to lacquered and gilded wood with inlaid glass.

The exhibition will also feature pieces donated by Dr. Richard Nalin '63 and his brother Dr. David Nalin. These include a collection of Indus Valley terracotta vessels with geometric designs; Gandharan Buddhist sculptures; and 19th and 20th-century Pakistani textiles. The selection of sculptures is complemented by a Gandharan Buddha figure promised to the Fleming by J. Brooks Buxton '56, a member of the museum's advisory board. Pieces from a collection of carved wood and lacquered Japanese masks donated by William Pickens '58 will also be featured in the exhibition.

"There has been a great expansion of our Asian art holdings with these gifts," Seyller says.

The opening event on Feb. 8 is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Hiram Woodward, a curator at Baltimore's Walters Art Museum, will give a talk titled, "The Arts of Thailand and Burma: Understanding Doris Duke's Vision." A reception featuring sitar music with David Pontbriand will follow the talk. Admission to most Fleming events is free to university affiliates.

Information: www.flemingmuseum.org

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Awards and Honors

Senior **Kristal Kostiew**, who is majoring in professional physical education in the College of Education and Social Services, was selected as one of two Vermont Outstanding Future Professionals by the Vermont Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The award recognizes students who demonstrate their promise as future leaders in the profession.

Russell Hovey, assistant professor of animal science, has been awarded two research grants for his work on breast cancer and mammary gland development. One is a two-year new investigator grant from the USDA National Research Initiative Program in Animal Growth to investigate "Endocrine Regulation of Porcine Mammary Gland Development and Morphogenesis." The other is a three-year idea grant from the US Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program to develop "A New and Authentic Animal Model for Human Breast Development and Breast Cancer."

Chyi-lyi (Kathleen) Liang, assistant professor of community development and applied economics, was named a Coleman Entrepreneurship Scholar for 2004 by the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship and received a scholarship to attend the group's annual conference.

Publications and Presentations

Jane Okech, assistant professor of integrated professional studies, and her colleague **Anne Geroski**, an associate professor, will both give presentations at the April 1-4 conference of the American Counseling Association in Kansas City.

Trina Magi, library assistant professor, recently had an article published in the journal portal *Libraries and the Academy*. Titled "What's Best for Students? Comparing the Effectiveness of a Traditional Print Pathfinder and a Web-based Research Tool," the article reports the results of a study comparing two approaches to library instruction in a course of first-year business students at University of Vermont. Magi was also profiled in the January/February issue of *Mother Jones* magazine for her work in speaking out against the threats to privacy posed by the USA PATRIOT Act.

Chyi-lyi (Kathleen) Liang, assistant professor of community development and applied economics, presented a paper at the 2004 United States Small Business and Entrepreneurship Conference held Jan. 15-18. The title of the article, which was co-written with Paul Dunn, was "Demographics and Other Business Characteristics Influence on Couples' Willingness to Start Again." Liang and Dunn also presented a workshop at the conference, "Not Enough Support or Too Much Support? Comparative Experiences of Entrepreneurship Support Organizations."

In Memoriam

William John Walls V, a second-year student majoring in English, passed away Jan. 29 as a result of heart failure.

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Wine and song: Britain's Orlando Consort will party like it's 1399 in a Lane Series-presented evening of Renaissance music and food.

Lane Series Event Offers Food, Wine and Song

The Orlando Consort, an innovative early music ensemble from England, will perform a program of Renaissance music on Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the UVM Recital Hall, Redstone Campus. Before the concert, the Lane Series will host a themed dinner in the Billings Student Center Apse.

The group's UVM performance, "Food, Wine, and Song," will serve up a repast of music on the subject of food and feasting taken from the consort's recent album of the same title. The Orlando Consort, a male vocal quartet, was formed in 1988 by the Early Music Centre of Great Britain, and since then, the group has achieved a reputation as one of the most expert groups performing repertoire from the years 1050 to 1600.

The Orlando Consort's album "Food Wine and Song" included a cookbook with Renaissance specialties, giving the Lane Series the idea of presenting a pre-concert dinner. The five-course dinner, served with appropriate wines and ales, will take place in the soaring oaken Billings Apse. Seating is limited to 30. More information and reservations: 656-4425.

Concert tickets: 86-Flynn or [UVM Lane Series](#).

Experimental Theatre and Big Band Tickets Two-For-One for UVMers

Two-for-one ticket vouchers are available to university affiliates for two upcoming shows at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts co-sponsored by the President's Initiatives on Diversity.

Elevator Repair Service — called "the best experimental theater group in town" by *New*

Speaker Chronicles Winooski River

Charles Fish, a historian and author, will deliver a research-in-progress seminar titled "In the Land of the Wild Onion: Life Along the Winooski River" on Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. His talk is sponsored by the Center for Research on Vermont.

Fish is the author of a book-length inquiry into the life of one of Vermont's most interesting and varied regions, the Winooski River watershed. It is an affectionate journey of rediscovery for the author, who grew up in Essex Junction, and, as a boy, fished and played along the river that he eventually revisited with the help of many others.

Fish interviewed and observed geologists, hunters, fishermen, trappers, fish and wildlife biologists and other habitat specialists, a physician, Native Americans, farmers, textile plant employees, hydroplant engineers and operators, and various water quality professionals to write his narrative. The idea was to look at his native region through the eyes of others and, as a result, to see it for himself in a fresh way.

Fish holds a Ph.D. from Princeton University and has taught English at Princeton, Windham College and Western New England College. His two previous books are *In Good Hands: The Keeping of a Family Farm* and *Blue Ribbons and Burlesque: A Book of Country Fairs*. He lives in Dummerston, Vt.

Information: 656-4389 or www.uvm.edu/~crvt.

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

Images of South Africa

Jason Houston, documentary photographer and managing editor of *Orion* magazine, will show

York magazine — will present the play "Room Tone" on Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. The adaptation of Henry James' classic story, "The Turn of the Screw," features a sense of the absurd, resonant music and innovative staging. President Daniel Mark Fogel will give a free pre-performance lecture Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. in the Flynn's Amy E. Tarrant Gallery. Fogel is the founding editor of the *Henry James Review*.

Either/Orchestra, one of the jazz's world's most adventurous big bands, will perform at the Flynn Center on Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. Music lovers can meet the artists prior to the show, at 6:30 p.m. in the Amy Tarrant Gallery. Alex Stewart, assistant professor of music and FlynnArts Jazz Combo instructor, will interview bandleader Russ Gershon and orchestra members at this free event. There will also be a jazz workshop with the orchestra on Feb. 11, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Ticket vouchers may be obtained at the President's office reception area in the Waterman building during working hours. Vouchers must be redeemed at the Flynn for tickets by 5 p.m. the day of the show. Information: [Flynn Center](#).

Alpine Plants and Cultural Survival in Mongolia

Steve Young, a veteran of Smithsonian Institution expeditions in Asia, will speak on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. at the UVM Horticultural Research Center in South Burlington. He will discuss the unusual plants and habitat of the Khovsgal region of Mongolia, an alpine region on the northern border with Siberia.

Young, who founded the Center for Northern Studies in Wolcott, Vt., in 1973, has been a member of a Smithsonian Institution team studying the steppe-tundra habitats of Khovsgal for the past three summers. Other members of the team include a lichenologist and an anthropologist who have been working with native reindeer herders to learn more about cultural survival in this region. Steve's particular contribution to the group is to do a study correlating plants from the Khovsgal region with plants from the true arctic, which involves consideration of the Ice Age history of this area. Young will illustrate his talk with slides.

The program, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Horticulture Farm, will touch on alpine plants, cultural survival and climate change. The suggested donation is \$10 (\$5 for members) and pre-registration is appreciated at 864-3073.

informal settlements on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in 301 Williams. A reception for Houston will begin at 6:30 p.m.

His talk is sponsored by "South Africa Experience," a community design/build course proposed for June 2004. Information: [Diane Gayer](#).

Film Series Explores Marlon Riggs's Work

As part of the celebration of Black History Month, LGBTQA Services and the Center For Cultural Pluralism are co-sponsoring a free film series to celebrate the life and work of Emmy- and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker Marlon Riggs.

Riggs, who died of AIDS in 1994, produced several documentary films confronting racism and homophobia from his perspective as a black, gay man.

The films will be screened in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building at 4:30 p.m. Dates and titles are:

- Feb. 2, "I Shall Not Be Removed"
- Feb. 12, "Ethnic Notions"
- Feb. 19, "Black Is, Black Ain't"
- Feb. 23, "Tongues Untied"

Information: 656-9511

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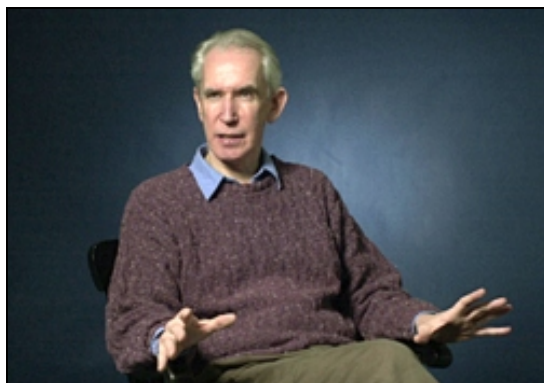
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Embracing Religion

By Cheryl Dorschner



Make room for religion: University Scholar Robert Nash argues for expanding our notions of pluralism to encompass faith. (File photo: Sally McCay)

If you draw a graph line showing the current population of 1.5 billion Muslims worldwide and another showing the two billion Christians in the world today, and then project those lines into the immediate future, they quickly cross.

"In 10 years Muslims will outnumber Christians, and, one in three of those Christians will identify with evangelicalism," says Robert Nash, a professor of education and

integrated professional studies. "We're seeing an axis of Islam and Christianity... I long ago predicted that the major wars of the 21st century will be religious wars."

Nash hopes his prediction does not come true. Perhaps humanity can avoid "holy wars" through the simple power of understanding.

"As an academician who believes in the power of the faiths, I want people to understand religions," says Nash. Starting with his own campus, Nash wants to open dialogue about religion as a political force for evil and for good, religion as something akin to diversity, and religion as a topic of comfortable conversation in daily life. "I want to encourage unbounded religious dialogue," Nash says.

Nash, who was named a University Scholar for this year, a UVM award for distinguished faculty members who demonstrate sustained excellence in research and scholarly activities, will make his case for making the academy more receptive to religion on Feb. 11 at 4 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. The title of his University Scholar lecture is, "Religious Pluralism in the Academy: Opening the Dialogue."

Expanding diversity

Diversity, according to Nash, isn't just about color or gender. It should include a pluralistic embrace of religious differences.

"I want to enlarge the meaning of 'diversity' and 'multiculturalism' to include religious pluralism in the mix," says Nash. "I want to publicly recognize that, for many people, religion is what they most strongly identify with. And I want universities to deal with religion openly... I would maintain that the University of Vermont already has a highly religiously diverse student body, but we are not doing anything to include that diversity in our daily forum of conversation. I would like us to talk more about religion on campus."

Pluralism, Nash continues, is more than tolerating people. "Diversity asks us to respect difference and maybe even celebrate it, but pluralism is a much richer term," he says. Nash paints a picture of relationships among people who start out as strangers and become members of communities – not unlike the ones he manages to develop in his classes in one short semester. "Pluralism requires

Confronting Kake Walk

A new exhibit at Bailey/Howe library puts a controversial aspect of the university's history into stark perspective. "UVM's Past: The Legacy of Kake Walk" may shock those who don't know much about the once-popular annual campus event, abolished in 1969, and will frame it in a new fashion for those who do.

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Jeff DeCelles had plans for a typical semester abroad. Instead, his trip to the Dominican Republic turned into a life-altering experience for him and three other students, and a memorable one for a rural Haitian community.

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direct contact with the ‘ other’,” he says, “that they get under our skin and engage with us, that we hear each other’s stories and maybe even they change us. Once you sit with someone who believes differently than you for 15 weeks you begin to see each other differently.”

Nash’s Feb. 11 talk, which he will deliver in the form of a personal letter to teachers, will discuss how the university can expand its efforts to be a diverse and multicultural community that includes religious pluralism. He will also offer his colleagues, students and the general public some ground rules and tips for how to speak to the richness of religious diversity in the classroom without infringing on First Amendment rights. The presentation will expand on work Nash published in a 2001 book, *Religious Pluralism in the Academy*.

Learning by story

Nash’s scholarship investigates the relationships between applied ethics, moral and character education, and religious or spiritual belief. He was one of the first scholars in higher education to write about the philosophical connections among religious pluralism, multiculturalism and education at all levels. In the broadest sense, Nash focuses on defining the foundations of practice in education and human services. His scholarship has been reported in numerous articles, chapters, and books. Since 1996 he has authored five books that have garnered several national awards.

Currently he’s teaching two courses, “Ethics, Value & Meaning” and “Ethics Helping Relationships,” which he describes as very personal classes in which students talk through their own ethical dilemmas. Conversation and openness are among Nash’s guiding principles for his courses: “It’s very important that you don’t go in there with a lot of agendas. I want to hear stories. I want to make a million stories bloom. I’ve been reading about religion for the better part of 45 years,” Nash says, ‘ I come at this material as a philosopher and an educator. I’m fascinated by the stories that people give importance to in their lives.”

Nash’s next book, *Personal Writing Matters: Telling Our Stories as Educators and Scholars* will be out this fall from Teachers College Press of Columbia University.

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Confronting Kake Walk

By Lynda Majarian

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Shining light on a dark past: "I don't think we should bury our history," says librarian Connell Gallagher. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

A new exhibit at Bailey/Howe library puts a controversial aspect of the university's history into stark perspective. "UVM's Past: The Legacy of Kake Walk" may shock those who don't know much about the once-popular annual campus event, abolished in 1969, and will frame it in a new fashion for those who do.

The exhibit documents all facets of the 80-year practice, which was

based on blackface minstrel shows. Through costumes, songs, skits and dance, Kake Walk perpetuated the "Magnolia Myth," or the idea that blacks were inferior people who liked being "taken care of" and thought slavery was just fine. Exhibit material includes old issues of the *Vermont Cynic*, yellowing Free Press editorials, photographs of costumed performers, posters and national magazine coverage.

"And that's just the tip of the iceberg," says Connell Gallagher, director of the library's research collections. He and Sylvia Bugbee, library reference specialist, used just a fraction of archival materials and contributions from alumni to create the exhibit, which also encompasses more recent campus events toward multiculturalism, such as the student occupation of the president's office in 1988 to demand more diversity among students, faculty and courses. The presentation, which has been up for about a week, may be viewed in the library lobby throughout February, which is Black History Month.

Willi Coleman, vice provost for multicultural affairs, was one of the people involved in the exhibit's planning, and suggested focusing the display on UVM. "Even though this part of our history may make us uncomfortable, it completes the picture of the university as a community," she says. "Part of our job in educating students is to introduce them to difficult subjects – that's how we learn." Assistant Professor of English Emily Bernard, for example, plans to incorporate the exhibit and its information into one of her classes.

"I really commend Connell Gallagher and Mara Saule, dean of libraries, for taking on this risky endeavor," Coleman says. "It was courageous of them, and benefits all of us."

President Daniel Mark Fogel has visited the exhibit and read every word in the displays. Admissions tour guides, at the urging of Don Honeman, director of admissions and financial aid, have become familiar with the display and are prepared to answer questions posed by prospective students and parents.

Exhuming history

The exhibit reveals Kake Walk as an enormously popular winter event that not only captivated the campus, but drew community interest and sponsors, as well as national media attention in its later years. "Ours was the last university-sanctioned event of its type," says Coleman, noting that similar events were, at one time, hosted by fraternities on many college campuses.

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“Students of color will have two opposite reactions to the display,” Coleman predicts, “and I support both of them. Some will say, ‘Why are we doing this?’ and others will look at it as an opportunity to ask questions about race and racism in Vermont.”

How could UVM be the first university in the nation to induct an African-American into Phi Beta Kappa – George Washington Henderson, in 1877 – and simultaneously perpetuate a racist ritual? Partly it was a reflection of attitudes throughout Vermont, the nation’s whitest state. It was also developed and sustained as part of a national culture that supported touring blackface troupes that visited most U.S. cities or towns.

The period of Kake Walk’s founding at UVM (1888-93) witnessed the demise of black suffrage in the south and the deterioration of the image of African-Americans in U.S. popular culture, a practice that continued into the 20th century as blacks were banished from major league sports and depicted on inane television programs as happy-go-lucky simpletons.

While participants may not of thought of Kake Walk as racist, argues James Loewen, professor emeritus of sociology, in *The University of Vermont: the First 200 Years*, “Nonetheless Kake Walk was culturally racist to its core.” White cultural racism, as Loewen defines it, “is the tendency for whites to define the images of ‘others.’” In this case, “the others” were depicted with exaggerated, unflattering physical features and demeaning character traits.

The Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, growing opposition to the Vietnam War, counterculture and the burgeoning women’s movement helped the campus community recognize Kake Walk to be an anachronism. The Greek system on campus, which had always organized and primarily performed at the event, and students active in campus affairs led efforts to abolish it. However, this was not accomplished without strong opposition by some campus factions. The termination, consequently, came in stages. Kake Walk was whittled down in scale and combined with other entertainment, was changed to whiteface and then light green, and then, mysteriously, to a dark green indistinguishable from black before its demise. Later, efforts were made, unsuccessfully, to resurrect the event.

The history is troubling, but as hate crimes, hate speech and unsanctioned blackface events still crop up on college campuses, it remains relevant – especially if documenting Kake Walk leads to productive conversations.

“I don’t think we should bury our history,” says Gallagher. “We need to put the past out there for discussion.”

Larry McCrorey, professor emeritus of molecular physiology and biophysics and former dean of the School of Allied Health, was among the most vocal opponents of Kake Walk. He will speak on “The History of Racism at UVM: the Vermont Paradox,” on Feb. 19 at 4 p.m. in the McCrorey Gallery of Multicultural Art, Bailey/Howe library.

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Soccer for Social Change

By Jon Reidel



Jeff DeCelles (far right) and three other UVM students helped start a soccer team in the Dominican Republic with donations from fellow students and corporations.

Jeff DeCelles had typical expectations of his semester abroad. He would study, make some friends, travel, and learn about another culture. As it turned out, DeCelles' 2001 trip to the Dominican Republic would be a life-altering experience for him and three other UVM students, and a memorable one for the people of a rural Haitian immigrant community.

DeCelles's real journey started with a soccer

ball. After arriving in Santo Domingo and discovering baseball was the sport of choice of most Dominicans, an affection he didn't share, DeCelles started hanging out with Haitians in the nearby Batey Libertad community who shared his love of soccer, or futbol. It wasn't long before the Haitians, who had very little training in the fundamentals, asked DeCelles if he would coach them. DeCelles, a high school soccer player, started soon after being asked.

DeCelles says the players worked in rice fields all day for miniscule wages, and then found the strength to play soccer. The Batey Libertad settlement is home to about 1,000 Haitians and Haitian-Dominicans, who are discriminated against within the country and suffer from extreme poverty. The town has a high rate of HIV/AIDS infection and a life expectancy of just less than 50 years.

So the purchase of cleats, goals, and shirts was out of the question for the villagers, many of whom played in bare feet on rock-strewn dirt field. So DeCelles wrote a letter to a contact in Maine at Olympia Sports asking for help. The company responded by sending socks, shin pads, cleats and other equipment.

"I thought we'd get a soccer ball or two," DeCelles says. "After we got the equipment we started playing against Dominican teams, which had never happened before [because of the cost and racial tensions]. The Dominican teams wouldn't play against Haitians because they didn't have shirts or cleats. It was an economic barrier for them until we got the equipment. "

A happy return

DeCelles eventually had to leave, but made a return trip the following year with UVM student Oriana Campanelli. Both were surprised to see that the men's team was thriving, and that a women's team had sprung up as well. The students were surprised because the women of the community were saddled with heavy household responsibilities in addition to their work in the rice fields.

"Not much attention is brought to them except in the household," Campanelli says. "Soccer is the only outlet they have. It's very empowering for them. They play in dresses and the guys whistle at them. But they love it so much and they have so much heart. It brought a whole new meaning to soccer for me."

In addition to coaching, Campanelli got more equipment, including sports bras, with the help of UVM soccer player Sara Jablonski. Men's soccer

Embracing Religion

"As an academician who believes in the power of the faiths, I want people to understand religions," says University Scholar Robert Nash. Starting with his own campus, Nash wants to open dialogue about religion as political force, religion as diversity, and religion as conversation topic.

Confronting Kake Walk

A new exhibit at Bailey/Howe library puts a controversial aspect of the university's history into stark perspective. "UVM's Past: The Legacy of Kake Walk" may shock those who don't know much about the once-popular annual campus event, abolished in 1969, and will frame it in a new fashion for those who do.

captain John Antonucci Jr., and Eric Brown, who was on the UVM team as a first-year student, also made trips to Batey Libertad and helped supply the team.

"Once I started telling people about it, a lot of the guys from the team started to drop off old cleats and equipment," says Antonucci, who convinced other local organizations to donate equipment while working at the Shelburne Supermarket.

Social change through soccer

The ongoing need for equipment prompted the four students to create the Batey Libertad Coalition, a non-profit alliance between Haitian, Dominican, and American businesses with a common goal of creating positive social change through soccer.

The coalition has supplied over \$2,000 in donations and soccer equipment from Olympia Sports and Rhode Island residents in 2001 and started a fund for a textbook library in Batey Libertad. It also helped the men's team gain entrance into the local Dominican soccer league, which was only a dream prior to the arrival of the equipment.

Perhaps the most critical contribution was the construction of new soccer goals that replaced tattered ones made from bamboo sticks. The goals allow Batey Libertad to host games for the first time and bring Dominican teams to the area and help improve relations between Haitians and Dominicans. It also adds a small economic boost to the community.

The group also hopes to bring Grassroots Soccer, an organization started in Zimbabwe composed of former and current professional soccer players who educate at-risk youth about the dangers of HIV infection, to Batey Libertad. The students have also used donations to purchase medicine for some needy residents, and hope to raise funding to buy more.

DeCelles and friends are glad to offer some help to the village, but say that the residents are in charge of deciding what they need and how they use it. According to the students, the resources have helped change the way the community operates and feels about itself. "Many of the players are the leaders of their community," Brown says. "Through the creation of soccer teams they learn to organize and form committees. It spills over into all areas of society. We just gave them the equipment. It's amazing what they've done."

All four students say they hope to keep working on the Batey Libertad project well after graduation.

"It's a lifelong commitment for me," says Campanelli, who was told recently that a child born to one of the male soccer players was named after her. "Everything I do in school I can relate to the team and our experiences over there."



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