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## INTERview: Abbas Alnasrawi



Gathering storm: Abbas Alnasrawi watches the developments in Iraq with sadness and insight. (File photo: Natalie Stultz)

"I do not agree there should be a war against Iraq," says Abbas Alnasrawi, professor emeritus of economics, slowly shaking his head. "I do not think that the Iraqi people should be made to suffer again."

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**Learning for Life** It's 2:59 p.m. on a grim and frigid Monday in February, but the parking lot is jammed with cars jockeying for position. Inside, a standing-room-only crowd is waiting for author Howard Coffin to deliver a lecture about the Civil War.

**Trustees Report** At the February trustees meetings, President Daniel Mark Fogel outlined his ambitious 10-year vision for the university, and trustees authorized him to begin a strategic budgeting process.

**Sentimental Journey** Since Aristotle's era, a good cry has been believed to be a healthy way to purge negative emotions. But "a good cry is anything *but* cathartic," argues Robyn Warhol, professor and chair of English.

## THE WEEK IN VIEW

**Feb. 13 12:30-1:45 p.m. Lecture:** "Ecological Tax Reform," Janet Milne, Vermont Law School. Carpenter Auditorium, Given. 656-3269

**Feb. 14 7 p.m. Play:** "Vagina Monologues." Ira Allen Chapel. Tickets at Peace and Justice Center and the Women's Centers at UVM and St. Michael's College. Also, Feb. 15 and 2 p.m. on Feb. 16. ASL interpretation at all shows. 656-4637 voice/TTY.

**Feb. 14 7:30 p.m. Lane Series: Madame Butterfly**, London City Opera. Flynn Center. 656-4455

**Feb. 15 2 p.m. Women's hockey vs. Colgate.** Gutterson

**Feb. 19 Noon: Lecture:** "African Americans in the Green Mountains," the historical presence of African descended people in Vermont since the state's beginning until after the Civil War, Elise Guyette. Marsh Lounge, Billings. 656-8833,

**Feb. 19 2-6 p.m. Job Fair:** "Career Expo 2003." More than 60 employers with full time, part time and seasonal openings. Billings Student Center. 656-3450

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President Daniel Mark Fogel (center) and United Academics President Linda Backus (right) sign UVM's first faculty contract as Provost John Bramley looks on. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

### UVM, Faculty Union Sign First Contract

University and union leaders signed the first collective bargaining agreement for faculty on Feb. 8 following a unanimous vote by union membership to accept a tentative agreement reached in mid-January.

The contract provides for a 16 percent increase in salary over three years, including market adjustments and funds for performance-based raises.

The 80-page agreement also lengthens the standard contracts for experienced, non-tenured faculty such as lecturers and contains a host of clauses including workload, sabbaticals, professional development, evaluations and more.

Reaction from both administrators and union officials to the final agreement, which was reached after more than two years of conversations and formal negotiations, was very positive. Both groups indicated that they felt it would strengthen relationships between the faculty and the administration and help the institution continue improving the quality of undergraduate education.

### Applications Hit 15-Year High

Applications have increased 7 percent to 10,300, a 15-year high, according to statistics just released by the admissions office. The increase came on top of the 18 percent rise in applications the university saw last year.

### Smith's Performance Links Language and Identity

Anna Deavere Smith's first acting class called for Shakespearean interpretation. The teacher's advice: Take 14 lines from one of his plays and "say them over and over until something happens." Smith, now an actor, playwright and theatre professor, told the Ira Allen Chapel audience on Feb. 6, "It was the '70s; I couldn't get away with that now." Nonetheless, the advice apparently signed a long-term lease with Smith's inquiring mind. The professor-performer spoke about the importance of language, wrapping her examples in the words of several of her dramatic personae, revealing what she calls their "organic poetry."

In that first acting exercise, Smith chose 14 lines spoken by Queen Margaret in *Richard III* and followed orders. In the wee hours, after a night of repetition, something did happen. The words, the emotions became clear; she began to be Queen Margaret. Language and identity became twinned for Smith and the basis for her innovative presentations that have won Obie awards and Tony and Pulitzer nominations, as well as a MacArthur Foundation Genius Fellowship.

Smith told a meeting of business and arts leaders in Seattle this year: "Early on ... I wanted to use my body as the evidence that a human being can take on the identity of another. ...I think we all have immense potential for compassion as individuals. But that gets stopped when we take on fixed positions."

At the UVM performance, "Race in America: Crossroads of Ambiguity," Smith took the stage (following the de rigeur 45-minutes of microphone tapping/testing/feedback) to talk about the power of words and to people the chapel with a bevy of characters born of reality and her pitch-perfect delivery. Some of Smith's characters are loquacious; some are famous, and all are verbal acrobats. Some, as the playwright Harold Pinter said, use speech as "a strategy to cover nakedness," a technique guaranteed to rivet Smith's attention.

"The question for me," Smith said, "is what is the relationship between language and identity? My grandfather told me, 'If you say a word often enough, it becomes *you*. I've tried to capture that, walking in others' shoes."

Smith opened the performance with a 10-minute riff as Studs Terkel, whom she described "as one of the most important Americanists." Terkel, famous for his conversations with common folk in his radio shows and books, has, like Smith, a genius ear for the eloquence of everyday life.

The quality of the applications also rose, said Don Honeman, director of admissions and financial aid. SAT scores increased 17 percent overall, with out-of-state scores rising an average 14 points and in-state scores jumping an average 29 points. The news about diversity also was positive. Applications from students of color increased more than 13 percent from 586 to 665.

The university will mail decision letters in mid-March. The critical yield statistic, which measures how many accepted students matriculate, will not be available in final form until next fall.

### **Alumnus Film Producer to Speak at Commencement**

Jon Kilik, a highly regarded film producer and alumnus of the university's class of 1978, will be the featured speaker at the 2003 Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 18.

Throughout his successful career in film, Kilik has been involved with projects distinguished by artistic achievement and commercial success and also guided by a strong social conscience. Kilik's working relationship with director Spike Lee has grown into a close partnership since the pair joined efforts for 1989's *Do the Right Thing*. Kilik also has worked as a producer with Robert Altman, Robert DeNiro and Tim Robbins. Among Kilik's productions are *Dead Man Walking*, *Pleasantville*, *Basquiat* and *Malcolm X*.

Kilik has credited Professor Emeritus Frank Manchel with inspiring his interest in film. Over the years, Kilik has brought his own inspiration to UVM film classes as a guest speaker. In addition, he loaned his personal collection of Andy Warhol's works, which form the heart of the Fleming Museum's current *Andy Warhol: Work and Play* exhibition.

Smith, as Terkel, told the audience: "We're more and more into communications and less and less into communication."

Smith sculpts her dramatic presentations with a mixture of quiet, powerful monologues – like that of Alexis Herman (secretary of labor under President Clinton) recounting a dreadful childhood memory of the Klan beating her father – and the passionately frenetic – like that of Maria, a juror on the federal trial of police in the Rodney King beating, whose words provided a bravura ending to Smith's performance.

In answering questions from audience members, Smith aired her opinions on several topics: Affirmative action – "It's K-12 we need to work on. We need billionaires to plop down money and reform education. Waiting until college is too late"; on Aaron Sorkin, (creator and producer for *The West Wing*, on which Smith plays Nancy McNally, the national security advisor) – "If Shakespeare were alive today, he wouldn't be doing plays; he'd be doing *The West Wing*; on her dramatic technique – "I try to stay out of the way, so their whole opera can come forward; I get smaller and smaller. Later, the work is harder. I listen to the tape and speak it, get it right musically and stop being the observer and being little. I start to get bigger and bigger."

Smith said her goal is to have us come out of our "safe houses of identity" and "build relevance rather than safety.... I'm calling for a .. tribe of people who will become nomadic .. [to] go around translating in a studied, considered way. ... trying to preserve humanity. It would be like an art, and we would be peculiar for it. And, hopefully, useful."

theview

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Student Elizabeth Waring rehearses a monologue for the 2002 UVM benefit production of Eve Ensler's play. The 2003 production is set for Feb 14-16. For details, [click here](#). (File photo: Andy Duback)

### A Tip of the Hat to TRIO

A reception and ceremony on Feb. 27 at 2:00 p.m. in Memorial Lounge will celebrate the accomplishments of UVM students, faculty and staff participating in TRIO programs. These national programs, which include Upward Bound and Project STAY, help students pursue higher education regardless of race, ethnic background and economic circumstance.

Called "TRIO Day," this celebration, which is now in its fourth year, will feature Huck Gutman, professor of English, as the keynote speaker. He will give a talk titled "A Celebration of Student Success." Richard Johnson, director of TRIO at UVM, will also induct some honorary alumni into the program, including Vice Provost Lauck Parke and Vermont's two senators.

About 6,200 Vermont students participate in 15 TRIO and GEAR UP programs throughout the state. For information on UVM's TRIO efforts, see [UVM TRIO](#).

### Lane Series Presents London Opera's Butterfly

The Lane Series Valentine's Day offering is an operatic love story, albeit a tragic, one-sided one. Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* will be performed by the London City Opera, at the Flynn Theatre Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m. The company has staged several operas for the Lane Series in the past several years, most recently last season's *Merry Widow*.

Butterfly, Cio-Cio-San, is a shy Japanese girl of 15

### "Mastering the Maze" Program Set

"Mastering the Maze," a professional development day for UVM staff, will take place on March 20 and promises to offer a stimulating agenda of up to 50 workshops to approximately 500 staff members.

This year's program, "Cultivate the Mind: Define the Future," will offer opportunities to enhance business and supervisory skills, expand institutional knowledge, meet new colleagues, participate in wellness activities and celebrate the UVM community.

The day will begin with breakfast in Cook Commons followed by a keynote address, "Work as Play," delivered in Ira Allen Chapel by Betty Rambur, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Workshops are scheduled throughout the day in Old Mill and Lafayette. Lunch will be available in Cook Commons. The maze lunchtime film series returns and will take place in Kalkin. A Maze Expo, in John Dewey Lounge, will include information on service and volunteer opportunities on campus.

The day will conclude at Ira Allen Chapel with Provost John Bramley introducing the closing activity, "Staff on Stage," with a variety of performances. All staff in attendance will be eligible for prizes donated by campus and local vendors.

Workshop descriptions and online registration will be available at [Mastering the Maze](#) on Feb. 20.

### Venturing "North of Slavery"

Vermont was a vanguard against slavery – even though African Americans represented only a tiny portion of the state's population. But their influence and importance far exceeded their numbers.

Ray Zirblis, who teaches at Norwich University and the Community College of Vermont, will explore this unseen history on Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge. His talk is titled "North of Slavery: African Americans in Vermont, 1760-1860," and is part of the Center for Research on Vermont's research-in-progress seminar series.

The talk will engage many important questions related to the history of African Americans in Vermont. What were their lives like? Where did they stand in relation to the white communities they inhabited? What is the nature and extent of slavery in early Vermont? How engaged were



who renounces family and religion to marry U.S. Naval Lieutenant Pinkerton. His desertion of her and their child is one of the most poignant and heart-wrenching stories in all of opera. Puccini captures both the soaring romance and the bitter betrayal in music of great, lyric beauty.

The opera will be performed in Italian with English supertitles, accompanied by a full orchestra.

Information: 656-4455. Tickets: 863-5966 or at the Flynn box office.

antebellum black Vermonters with the abolition movement? Historically was there a black community in Vermont? How did the American Civil War and its aftermath affect African Americans here?

For more information, see the [Center for Research on Vermont](#) website.

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*Feb. 12 – Feb. 16, 2003***Awards and Honors**

**Major Jackson**, assistant professor of English, has been awarded the Library of Congress Witter Bynner Fellowship. He is one of two poets nationwide chosen by the U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins to receive the fellowship, which is intended to support Jackson's writing. The fellowship comes with an invitation for Jackson to read from his own work with fellow Witter Bynner Fellow for 2003-4, Rebecca Wee, in Washington D.C. in April 2003. The Library of Congress will also ask Jackson to coordinate a poetry event in Burlington this year. Jackson's first book, *Leaving Saturn*, was published last year and is nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award.

*Feb. 5 – Feb. 11, 2003***Awards and Honors**

**Dieter Gruenert**, professor of medicine, was awarded \$50,000 by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to fund a research project titled "Targeted CFTR Replacement in CF Airway Epithelial Cells." He also has received two grants totaling \$50,000 from the Pennsylvania Cystic Fibrosis organization. Gruenert, whose research focuses on developing gene therapy strategies for treating cystic fibrosis, presented Lab Medicine/Pathology Grand Rounds at the University of California at San Francisco, last November, on "Sequence-Specific Modification of Genomic B-globin and CFTR: Implications for Stem Cell Gene Therapy."

**Deb O'Rourke**, assistant professor of physical therapy, received one of two Partners in Care Awards from Parent to Parent of Vermont at their annual conference in Killington in December. The award honors individuals who exemplify and promote the ideals of family-centered care – a holistic philosophy that redefines roles traditionally held by health care professionals, families and educators. O'Rourke was nominated based on her invaluable and ongoing support to families of children with special needs and for the commitment and leadership she has displayed to the communities in which she lives and works.

The Class of 2005 in the College of Medicine has chosen **pathology** as the "Department of the Year" and **Gerald Silverstein**, lecturer in microbiology and molecular genetics, as the "Basic Science Teacher of the Year." Runners-up for the Basic Science Teacher of the Year award were **Bruce Fonda**, lecturer in anatomy and neurobiology; **Cynthia Forehand**, professor of anatomy and neurobiology; and Dr. **Sharon Mount**, associate professor of pathology. The American Medical Students Association Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching went to **Bruce Fonda**, lecturer in anatomy and neurobiology. Runners-up for the Golden Apple Award were **Beth Hart**, professor of biochemistry; Dr. **Alan Segal**, associate professor of medicine; and Gerald Silverstein, lecturer in microbiology and molecular genetics. The American Medical Women's Association Gender Equity Award was given to Dr. **Diane Jaworski**, associate professor of anatomy and neurobiology.

**Tim Perkins**, director of the Proctor Maple Research Center, was named "Vermont Maple Person of the Year" by the Vermont Maple Industry Council. The council annually honors a person who has made an outstanding contribution to and impact on the Vermont maple industry.

**Ed Kusiak**, coach of track and field and cross-country, received the Vermont Leaders in Fitness and Sports Award, given annually by the Vermont Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

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**INTERview: Abbas Alnasrawi**

By Kevin Foley



Gathering storm: Abbas Alnasrawi watches the developments in Iraq with sadness and insight. (File photo: Natalie Stultz)

*"I do not agree there should be a war against Iraq," says Abbas Alnasrawi, professor emeritus of economics, slowly shaking his head. "I do not think that the Iraqi people should be made to suffer again." Alnasrawi grew up in Iraq, completing his undergraduate studies there before coming to the United States. A harsh critic of Saddam Hussein, and a student of the ways that easy money from oil has distorted economic and*

*political life in Iraq and the Middle East, Alnasrawi is watching developments in the region with close attention and some dismay. the view spoke to him about Iraq's past, present and future – focusing on the crucial question of what Alnasrawi believes should happen after the fighting he opposes ends.*

**THE VIEW: I'd like to explore your feelings of disconnection or connection with Iraq at this moment in its history.**

ABBAS ALNASRAWI: I grew up in Iraq. I graduated from college in Iraq. I worked in various capacities in Iraq before and after I came to this country. The connection for everyone who comes from outside the United States will continue to remain with one's country of origin. Although I have been here for almost 50 years, I still have a family there.

**Most of us know little about life in Iraq. To the extent we imagine it at all, we see a population trapped under the boot of a dictator. You spent your boyhood and young adulthood there; what was the country like then?**

The country *is* under the boot of dictator. That is a very good characterization of what the Iraqi people are going through, and have been going through for the last three decades.

The country was a very simple country in the 1940s when I was growing up. A small population: There are only 25 million people there now, you can imagine what it was like 60 years ago. There was a monarchy that had been installed by the Brits in 1921. Iraq was simple, it was poor, it had been subject to all sorts of instability over its life from 1921 to 1950. In '58 something happened – oil revenue increased suddenly. There was a coup that overthrew the monarchy, and brought in a military regime. This regime lasted five years, and was overthrown by another military coup, and there was another coup in 1968 that brought the Baath party and eventually Saddam to power.

**There's been tremendous suffering in Iraq since the Gulf War. I'm curious to why – how much is related to sanctions, how much is related to coming out of a decade of near-continuous war, and how much is Saddam...**



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**Learning for Life**

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**Trustees Report**

At the February trustees meetings, President Daniel Mark Fogel outlined his ambitious 10-year vision for the university, and trustees authorized him to begin a strategic budgeting process.

**Sentimental Journey**

Since Aristotle's era, a good cry has been believed to be a healthy way to purge negative emotions. But "a good cry is anything *but* cathartic," argues Robyn Warhol, professor and chair of English.

I agree with the first and third points: sanctions and Saddam. I don't think coming out of war is a major factor. The situation is this. As soon as Iraq invaded Kuwait, the U.N. imposed sanctions. They remain to this date. An important historical point is that when the sanctions were imposed, they said they would continue until Iraq leaves Kuwait and the legitimate government is restored to power. Although the royal family returned to power in 1991, and the Iraqi Army was kicked out and destroyed, the sanctions were expanded and continue today.

When the sanctions were first imposed, nothing was allowed to enter the country. In time, things were relaxed. And here is where Iraq's government is responsible. The U.N. Security Council told Iraqis they could import \$1.2 billion worth of medicine, food and other humanitarian goods in 1991; the government said no, the conditions are too severe for us and you are impinging on our sovereignty. This was a six-year disaster for the Iraqi people.

As far as Saddam is concerned, there are two things here. The foot-dragging he engaged in back in 1991 on the oil sales was not acceptable. The other thing is that he created two classes of people, one class are those who support him and on whose good-will he depends – the military, intelligence services, party cadre – they get special privileges.

**So the sanctions have become a tool to reinforce the regime rather than undermine it?**

Exactly. When you have a dictator, you strengthen the dictator by starving the people; they become more dependent on what he gives them.

**What can we say about the economy in Iraq now? Where are people working, what are they doing?**

The military absorbs a good chunk of the country's resources. People are not working, the unemployment rate is very high. There is activity in the economy. There is some importing of goods done outside the sanctions system. The distribution of income is very lopsided, some people are starving while others are enjoying a luxurious lifestyle. The oil industry is depressed; the U.N. has cut off the supply of goods and services to that sector. As for the economy, what can I say? My reading of the situation is that there isn't much going on. People have engaged in what economists call "dissavings" – they are using and selling their assets just to make ends meet. When you are making \$300 a month and all of a sudden you are making \$10, there is no functioning economy.

**If we look to after some kind of diplomatic or military effort that leads to Saddam to being killed or exiled or sent to The Hague...**

The Hague. I would like that...

**... there's probably going to be some ongoing United States involvement regardless. If there were a good faith effort to rebuild the country as a democracy, what challenges would we face?**

I question the premise. There's a debate in Washington now – some there would like to use oil revenue to rebuild Iraq and to finance our military campaign. The Pentagon and the Vice President are on this side of the issue. The State Department is opposed to this idea, saying that Iraq's oil belongs to the people of Iraq, and if we are going to occupy the country, we should hold that oil in trust. There is no policy yet.

**This raises another question, what about the bad faith scenario in which this is, in the familiar term, this is a war for oil...**

I was recently on the Arabic station Al Jazeera for a discussion panel. The opening question was, where do you figure oil in this? In any complex situation like going to war, there is by definition more than one variable. Oil is a factor, but it is not the only factor. As Colin Powell said yesterday in his testimony, there is a consideration that we would like to "reorganize the map of the Middle East." He wants progress on the Israeli-Palestinian issue. And disarming Saddam, of course. I tend to agree with those three, and add one. Last year,



the White House released a national security strategy that states very clearly that the United States will not allow another country to become a military competitor. Our policy now, especially with the introduction of the policy of preemption, is such that by definition we would like to have uncontested control or influence in the Middle East. Given the fact that two-thirds of the world's oil is there, and given the fact that our economy and that of literally every country in the world is dependent on oil, our interest in Iraq's oil is not only to lessen our dependence on Saudi oil but give us leverage that could be used vis a vis other countries.

**You may resist this again. But if we stipulate that the United States wanted to start the process of building a functional economy and government in Iraq, how might that process work? What are the obstacles? If we start the pump flowing, then what...**

Before we get to that point, a few thoughts. I do not agree there should be a war against Iraq. I do not think that the Iraqi people should be made to suffer again. They have been suffering for more than 30 years from the leadership of this party and this leader. They were made to suffer during the Iran war, during the Gulf War and during the sanctions. Be that as it may, we are going to proceed on the assumption that there is going to be war. The human devastation is going to be huge, but what is going to happen the day after?

If we are going to go to Iraq, which I think we are, we will have a moral obligation to put that country back together. Financially, we need to provide whatever it takes. We have in this country a tremendous reservoir of talents that could be channeled to rebuild that economy – the engineers, educators, physicists, economists. One of the things that will need immediate attention is the tendency on the part of the persecuted in Iraq, which is about two-thirds of the population, to engage in revenge against the Baath party. The United States and its allies should prevent this from happening. Otherwise, there will be a bloodbath.

**What are the alternatives to war? What would you tell the President if you were advising him?**

War is not an answer. We seem to have taken over, making it an American issue, but it is a United Nations issue. But to really answer your question, we need to deal with the components of the question. Is Iraq a threat to the United States? According to CIA, the answer is no. The only time Iraq may use its weapons of mass destruction is if we attack Iraq. Here we have a country that may or may not have those weapons, but why would they use them? They cannot even deliver those weapons across 6,000 miles. Why not negotiate? Why not try smart sanctions? Why not try to organize a dossier to bring Saddam and his people to The Hague to be tried for what they have done to the people of Iran, Kuwait and Iraq? Furthermore, why not keep the inspections going? What is the rush to try to upstage and suspend the work of the inspectors? We have been doing this for 12 years. Why can't we wait another five or six months?

**When you think about Iraq in five years, in your learned speculation, what's the dream, the best thing you can realistically imagine?**

The dream is planting the seeds of democracy. The country has tried everything, except democracy. People are beginning to believe, I think, there ought to be peaceful rotation of power and elections. My dream for that country, for my country, is democratic institutions being developed right away. One of the crimes of Saddam is that he has been able to stay in power for more than 30 years, which has stunted every impulse for democracy.

**What's the nightmare?**

The United States gets bogged down in urban warfare and the destruction will be both widespread and devastating and eventually some army person will pop up and repeat the scenario of the last thirty years.

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## Grey Hair, Bright Minds

By Kevin Foley



A crowd of seniors braved the cold to see author Howard Coffin lecture in South Burlington. UVM has a new grant that will help spread similar lifelong learning programs throughout the state.

It's 2:59 p.m. on a grim and frigid Monday in February, but the Faith United Methodist Church's parking lot in South Burlington is jammed with cars jockeying for position. Inside the cafeteria auditorium, a standing-room-only crowd is waiting for author Howard Coffin to deliver a lecture about the Civil War.

As Coffin regales the audience with anecdotes about Lincoln and military bon mots

("General George McClellan was one of the great whiners in American history," he said), the quality of attention in the room is striking. When Coffin finishes speaking, the audience is still applauding when the first two hands spring up with questions.

The discussion, sponsored by the independent South Burlington group Elder Education Enrichment with an assist from UVM, is a manifestation of a little-noticed trend – exploding demand for rigorous, lifetime learning as the 76 million baby boomers age.

It's a movement that Continuing Education, with support from a recent \$100,000 grant from the San Francisco Bay Area-based Bernard Osher Foundation, is hoping to spread throughout Vermont. Debbie Worthley, who helps run CE's statewide programs, is commuting regularly from Burlington to Rutland as she lays the groundwork for Vermont's first Osher Lifelong Learning Center.

"The enthusiasm was 100 percent," Worthley says, describing a meeting last week with 25 Rutland residents to lay the groundwork for the new center. "They said that the area really needs something like this, there's just not enough challenging resources for older people."

### Spanning the state

When the new institute begins next fall, Rutland senior citizens will plan and partake of lectures and workshops from writers and experts affiliated with UVM and local colleges. The subjects will run the liberal arts gamut, taking on everything from history to poetry. UVM is using the Osher grant to launch similar efforts in Springfield and St. Johnsbury, and the board of Chittenden County's well-established EEE, now independent, is considering a formal relationship with the university and the Osher Foundation.

But the need for lifelong learning opportunities, Worthley and others say, is even greater in less populated areas away from Burlington. Rutland resident and retiree Robert Perkins, who attended Worthley's first organizational meeting with his wife, is excited about the potential for a center in his area. Before returning to Vermont, Perkins and his wife lived in larger cities and college towns, and they miss the opportunities those places provided.


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### Abbas Alnasrawi Q+A

"I do not agree there should be a war against Iraq," says Abbas Alnasrawi, professor emeritus of economics, slowly shaking his head. "I do not think that the Iraqi people should be made to suffer again."

### Trustees Report

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### Sentimental Journey

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"We love Vermont, but we enjoy the intellectual stimulation of living in bigger cities," Perkins says. "It would be wonderful to have a center like this where you can meet people with similar interests and take on a wide variety of topics – some that you know something about, some that you need to learn."

Worthley is hoping that 40 to 50 Rutland-area residents will share Perkins's enthusiasm and join the institute by paying a \$45 per-semester fee for regular events. (The Osher grant will include scholarship funds for those who cannot afford the program. Seniors can also attend individual programs for a modest charge.) "If you don't get a response, you can't make this work," she says. "So far we're off to a good start."

### **Making a connection**

The Osher Foundation and UVM began working together largely by chance. A colleague from the University of Maine, where the Oshers have endowed a statewide network of lifelong learning centers, called to gauge Worthley's interest in the program. Meetings followed, and eventually Worthley wrote a proposal to the foundation. That led to the first grant, which can be renewed twice, at which time the UVM program might be considered to receive an endowment from the foundation. The foundation gave six seed grants to universities to begin lifelong learning programs this year; Vermont's was the only one outside of California.

The success of the Maine institutes, which have attracted more than 3,500 members in a rural state similar to Vermont, inspires Worthley. She also feels that demographics are on her side as she works to get a network of institutes going.

"People are living longer, and staying mentally and physically active enhances your quality of life as you age," she says. "So people are seeking out ways to keep themselves engaged. Older people want to learn, but they don't want the burden of tests, papers and grading. This lets them do that. It's learning for the sake of learning."

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## Trustees Back Fogel Vision, Campus Center

By University Communications Staff

At the February trustees meetings, President Daniel Mark Fogel outlined his ambitious 10-year vision for the university, and trustees authorized him to begin a strategic budgeting process. Board members also learned of good news in admissions and brought a comprehensive campus life center one large step closer to reality. The full story is available at [Trustees Meetings](#). A summary of major developments and the various committee meetings follows.

**Full Board Meeting, Feb. 8.** President Fogel encouraged open discussion of his vision and asked trustees to consider a variety of questions: did the board agree that the university is at a "tipping point" from which it can make a powerful advance if it invests in salaries, facilities, and programs; did it see alternatives to an increase in undergraduate enrollment as a means of funding the investment the vision will require; was it comfortable with the notion of "right-sizing" the president envisioned for both undergraduate enrollment (which would increase by 2,000 students) and graduate and medical school enrollment (which would rise by 1,400 students); was the board in agreement with the idea of significantly raising quality and selectivity in undergraduate admissions; and was the board comfortable with the quality and quantity of university research the vision set forth.

After discussing each of the questions, the board came to consensus that the university is indeed at an historic point requiring action to align price with value and agreed that increasing undergraduate enrollment should be the funding driver for realizing the vision, although fundraising was cited as another key tool for generating resources.

The discussion concluded with the Board agreeing to charge President Fogel with developing a strategic budget that would be aligned with the evolving strategic plan and enable the university to proceed effectively with the broad directions outlined in the vision. It was agreed that draft minutes from the meeting and an executive summary would be distributed to trustees as soon as possible.

Board chair Dean Maglaris concluded the meeting by reminding trustees that they had been asking for some time for the kind of vision President Fogel had delivered and that they were now engaged in an historic – and urgent – transformation of the university.

"The time (for change) is now," Maglaris said.

**Committee of the Whole, Feb. 6.** A student life taskforce chaired by trustee James Pizzagalli recommended that the university follow the lead of its peer institutions and construct a centrally located, comprehensive Campus Life Center as the focal point for the UVM community and campus life. The group worked with consultants and conducted extensive quantitative research which, among other things, found that students socialize off-campus because existing facilities and student programming are disjointed, difficult to find and under-funded.

President Fogel said he viewed the project, which he described as "a portal to the university in the heart of the campus," as essential for creating community on campus and that he would pursue it "with some urgency." He said he hoped with further study on siting, architectural design and costs, he could bring a proposal to the trustees "in the relative near term." Trustees were enthusiastic in their support for the project and recommended that the full board approve a \$750,000 expenditure for the next phase of the project, which would refine the square footage requirements for the facility, study siting alternatives, develop


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### [Abbas Alnasrawi Q+A](#)

"I do not agree there should be a war against Iraq," says Abbas Alnasrawi, professor emeritus of economics, slowly shaking his head. "I do not think that the Iraqi people should be made to suffer again."

### [Learning for Life](#)

It's 2:59 p.m. on a grim and frigid Monday in February, but the parking lot is jammed with cars jockeying for position. Inside, a standing-room-only crowd is waiting for author Howard Coffin to deliver a lecture about the Civil War.

### [Sentimental Journey](#)

Since Aristotle's era, a good cry has been believed to be a healthy way to purge negative emotions. But "a good cry is anything *but* cathartic," argues Robyn Warhol, professor and chair of English.



architectural renderings and preliminary budgets, and consider the impacts on utilities and adjacent facilities.

Fogel also discussed the vision for UVM's future he had distributed earlier in the week. The challenge, he said, is to sustain and build on this momentum by delivering high value for the price of a UVM education, an outcome that requires investment. He cited the need to invest in scholarships that keep UVM accessible and affordable, in endowed faculty positions that attract and retain outstanding scholars, and in facilities such as the comprehensive Campus Life Center that provide the teaching, living, and learning environments required of a first-rate institution. Investments will be financed from public and private sources and enrollment growth.

**Finance and Budget Committee**, Feb. 6. The FY '04 budget, now projected at \$187 million, needs adjustments to balance revenues and expenditures. Student costs would rise 6.1 percent (\$944) for Vermont students and 5.4 percent (\$1,506) for out-of-state students. The figures include a new proposed \$75 per semester athletic fee that would generate \$1.2 million year that Provost John Bramley said is key to recruiting a new athletic director and to President Fogel's vision for the university.

**Academic and Student Program Committee**, Feb. 6. "It's clear we're on a fast timeline to create an Honors College," was the word from Provost Bramley. The new college will debut next fall, with an expected enrollment of 90 students culled from all academic disciplines. After a collective experience the first two years, students will continue their honors work with students from their own or similar disciplines.

Bramley also reported that this semester's headcount of 7,209 students is 167 greater than last year at this time and exceeds projected enrollment figures. Admissions applications for the next academic year are up 7 percent, a 15-year-high that comes on top of the 18 percent rise in applications the university saw last year.

In other business, the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee reported it had completed reviews on resolutions to create a major in Holocaust Studies; to rename the ALANA Studies Program to ALANA: U.S. Ethnic Studies Program; and to create a master of science completion program in Nursing. All proposals were approved by the committee. Regarding the ongoing integration of Continuing Education and Extension, Bramley announced a national search to fill the position of executive director for the revamped unit. Mara Saule, dean of libraries and information technology, will direct that effort.

**Committee of the Whole**, Feb. 7. President Fogel lauded the efforts of several UVM faculty and staff, especially praising the work of both administration and faculty representatives for successfully negotiating the first faculty union contract; the work of the communications office in placing stories in the national media and creating first-rate publications like *Vermont Quarterly*; the drive and creativity of administrators and faculty who quickly have brought shape to the Honors College; and the talent of the Fleming Museum's staff and leadership in bringing the highly successful Andy Warhol exhibit to the museum.

The rest of the session was devoted to UVM's marketing program and the work of Generation, a creative consulting firm. Tom Gustafson, vice president for student and campus life, announced that a university-wide communications council would be formed to assure that marketing themes identified by Generation were disseminated through all the university's communications vehicles in coordinated fashion. Tom Sternal, president of Generation, outlined the positioning of the university the firm was recommending and the hallmark themes all university communications should highlight.

**Diversity Committee**, Feb. 6. President Fogel detailed progress establishing a President's Commission on Diversity, which he will chair.

**Facilities and Technology**, on Feb. 7. UVM will receive only \$1 million in state capital funds for FY'04 to support some of the costs of upgrading or rebuilding the Hills Life Science building, Fogel said. An agreement between UVM and the Vermont State Colleges mandates that the two entities alternate receipt of \$4 million and \$1 million from the state capital request.

Tom Gustafson and Dick Rigterink, a campus master planning consultant from The Campus Studio, in Ann Arbor, Mich., presented an update on activities relating to the Campus Master Plan development. The next step in the process, he said, is to conduct a pre-master plan study so that UVM can communicate "who we are, what we want and what we know" to firms who will bid on the project.

Nate Peters, director of financial analysis and budgeting, and Bob Vaughan, director of capital planning and management, provided updates on long-term capital planning and the spending of the 2002 bond issue. Among the projects discussed were:

- Stormwater detention ponds, required by new regulations, have been added to the list of mandatory campus projects at a cost of \$1 million.
- Catamount Apartments on Redstone Campus: Permit applications have been resubmitted.
- The \$14.3 million purchase of Trinity College was added to the plan.
- The Living/Learning project has been reduced from \$22.6 million to \$8.3 million.
- Estimated costs associated with the residence hall project slated for University Heights will increase \$10 million to \$34 million, to cover the addition of roughly 200 more beds for a total of 800 to 825 beds. A demolition permit has been submitted to remove the 25 buildings and three garages currently housed on the site. Schematic designs for the project have begun. A resolution at the May board meeting is expected.
- Energy Conservation: The committee passed a resolution to approve an additional \$750,000 to pay for the evaluation of and replacement of old boilers and other energy systems on campus.
- The Perkins renovation was put on hold due to the possibility the program will move to the Trinity campus.
- An additional project to outfit the Trinity campus with communications technology, at a cost of \$3.6 million, was announced.

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## Sentimental Journey

### Robyn Warhol's new book takes on gender, bodies, reader response theory and soap operas

By Lynda Majarian



Robyn Warhol and her body of work. (*Having a Good Cry* cover art by Dan O'Dair; Warhol photo by Steve Vance)

Since Aristotle's era, a good cry has been believed to be a healthy way to purge negative emotions. But "a good cry is anything *but* cathartic," argues Robyn Warhol, professor and chair of English. In her new book, *Having a Good Cry*, she uses a psychophysiological rather than a psychoanalytical approach to examine reading and emotion and to study what she calls "the reading body."

Arguing that modern literary and cultural studies have ignored nonsexual affectivity and asserting that "reading is a physical act," Warhol explains that crying over a text is "a natural physiological response" unrelated to sex or gender. Rather than ridding one of toxic emotions, "Crying feeds and reproduces feelings that enforce positive values and provide a forum to rehearse our own feelings," she says.

Just as the ancient Greeks sanctioned only tragedy as a legitimate medium for shedding tears, many contemporary academics and "middlebrow media" disdain texts and films described as sentimental. "The message is that's all right to cry over Shakespearean tragedies," Warhol says, "but crying over *Sleepless in Seattle* is denigrated."

"The fear of an 'out-of-control nature' when raw emotions are displayed is associated with both women and lower class culture," agrees Jane Shattuc, author of *The Talking Cure: TV Talk Shows and Women*. "It serves as a subtle form of social control." Currently an associate professor of visual and media arts at Emerson College, Shattuc co-taught with Warhol a summer course on "Having a Good Cry" at UVM about a dozen years ago.

Since then, Warhol has continued her research on so-called effeminate feelings and pop culture and has presented her ideas at peer conferences and on college campuses. "Some people object to my views," she admits.

#### Taking back the 'e-word'

Her book focuses on sentimentality in stories, serialized novels, films, episodic television and soap operas and undertakes to explain the cultural bias – a bias rooted in prejudice against women – that spurs men to hunker down and hide during sad movies and women to deny the guilty pleasures of their favorite soap opera. These cultural taboos, Warhol says, are remnants of a rigid code for masculine and feminine behavior that dates back to the Victorian era.

"Like walking with a swing of the hips or talking with lots of hand gestures and fluid movements of the wrist, having a good cry signifies effeminacy," she says. Warhol wants to redeem the "e-word" from its current pejorative status. Even



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#### Learning for Life

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#### Trustees Report

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dictionaries pass judgment, she notes, by defining effeminacy as "having qualities associated with women; not characteristic of or befitting a man; characterized by softness, weakness, lack of force or excessive sensitivity."

"Who is to judge what is 'excessive,' and why should we apologize for it?" asks Warhol. "If reactions to a book or film are traits commonly associated with femininity, we should celebrate them."

Warhol also examines narrative techniques that provoke patterns of feeling and emotion, from alliteration and repetition to lugubrious movie scores, from Trollope's serialized novels to episodic television shows like *Friends*. And she doesn't criticize the manipulative techniques of novelists and filmmakers that prompt us to get out our handkerchiefs. "We don't object to a comedian making us laugh," Warhol says. "Why should we be offended when we let ourselves cry over an unabashedly sentimental novel or film?"

#### **Let the feelings flow**

"I want to change the way people read," Warhol says of her intent to guide readers from embarrassment to empowerment. Just as mythologist Joseph Campbell advised people to ignore what others think about their goals and "follow your bliss," she suggests that people stop squirming under society's "objectifying gaze" and go ahead and let the tears flow, whether they are provoked by *King Lear* or *Joe Millionaire*.

"Robyn is doing unique thinking at a time when most of the energy in the field around gender is talking about masculinity, female masculinity in particular," says Robyn Wiegman, director of Women's Studies at Duke University. "Her attention to sentimentality as a form and the audience response ... is carving out a particular understanding of the nuances of textualized gender."

Ohio State University Press published *Having a Good Cry* earlier this month. Warhol currently is co-editing a comprehensive anthology of women's literature throughout the world.

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