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## [Border Lines](#)



Gregory Ramos, assistant theatre professor, will perform his play, *Border Stories*, in a benefit for Vermont CARES, Feb. 15 at 6 and 9 p.m. in the FlynnSpace Theater in Burlington. (Photo: Stephanie Seguíno)

Living on the U.S./Mexican border, where the Rio Grande separates El Paso and Juarez, Gregory Ramos wondered how, with more than 2 million people, there could be no visible gay community. He shares some answers in his one-man play *Border Stories*, a humorous, emotionally raw series of monologues exploring sexual identity, HIV/AIDS, stigma, and borders both physical and metaphorical that humans construct.

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### THE WEEK IN VIEW

*Feb. 14, 12:30 p.m.* "Communities and Carbon: Innovative Solutions at the Local Level" with Deborah Sachs, The Alliance for Climate Action. Part of The Rubenstein School Spring 2008 Seminar Series Counting Carbon: Approaches for Reducing CO2 Emissions. 104 Aiken Building.

*Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.* Lane Series: Karrin Allyson, Grammy Award winning jazz vocalist and pianist. \$30 adults/\$25 students. UVM Recital Hall. [Information, tickets.](#)

*Feb. 19, Noon.* Staff Council meeting. Sugar Maple Ballroom, Davis Center.

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## Border Lines

*Gregory Ramos' one-man play explores HIV/AIDS, sexual identity, and stigma on the U.S./Mexican border*

By Lee Ann Cox

Article published February 13, 2008



Gregory Ramos, assistant theatre professor, will perform his play, *Border Stories*, in a benefit for Vermont CARES, Feb. 15 at 6 and 9 p.m. in the FlynnSpace Theater in Burlington. (Photo: Stephanie Seguino)

*¿El qué dirán?* What will people say? Along the border that separates El Paso and Juarez, where Catholicism and poverty largely define the culture, that question determines family standing and self-respect. "It's a very, very Mexican thing," says Armando, age 47. "El Paso's a big city with a small-

town mentality."

Armando is one of 20 characters portrayed in successive, unrelentingly intimate monologues by assistant theatre professor Gregory Ramos in a play based on oral history interviews he conducted while living in El Paso beginning in the late 1990s. In *Border Stories*, Ramos, as both author and actor, gives life to experiences both humorous and tragic, his characters — an abused teenager, a lesbian bartender, a transgender prostitute, a gay priest — struggling to come out to parents (or themselves), to express their identities, to simply make a living, to cope with losing a loved one to AIDS in a place where the disease can scarcely be talked about.

"While I was in El Paso," says Ramos, "one thing that resonated for me was the lack of a visible gay community for a fairly large city (the population of the El Paso-Juarez metroplex is more than 2 million). People live out their lives and desires in private ways. They have relationships but they're never spoken of."

Ramos will perform *Border Stories* as part of UVM's Sexual Responsibility Week on Friday, Feb. 15 at 6 and 9 p.m. at Burlington's FlynnSpace. The \$25 tickets benefit the AIDS service organization Vermont CARES. To make the experience as accessible to students as possible, the offices of multicultural affairs and student life funded 50 tickets for students to buy

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for \$5 each (those have now sold out).

Adding layers of nuance and perspective to the project is a cross-disciplinary partnership between theatre and geography. Glen Elder, associate professor and chair of the latter department, read Ramos' play and was struck by the connections to his own work on the political, economic and cultural nature of border-making as well as the geography of sex, race and place. The idea for the Vermont CARES benefit was Elder's and he will open the performances with a lecture that puts the work into a larger context, connecting the southern border stories to the experience of living near other borders, including northern Vermont, and to the metaphorical borders that exist between people.

The event, notes Elder, is a continuation and strengthening of ties that the University of Vermont community has established with Vermont CARES (Committee for AIDS Resources, Education, and Services). At least two faculty/staff members (including Elder) have served as board chair, and others have or are currently serving on the board. With the organization reporting 20 new cases of HIV infection in Vermont in 2007, outreach to raise community awareness and continue the safer sex message remains a priority.

If the stories in Ramos' play seem from another time, Elder cautions that they are still highly relevant. "HIV/AIDS is very much alive and present here," he says. And the message goes beyond preventing new infections. It's for gay and straight alike to become more sensitive to societal stigma and prejudice. To witness Ramos in character and feel no empathy is almost impossible. There are funny moments in the play to be sure, and watching Ramos deftly perform a dialogue between a long-settled lesbian couple is a pleasure despite a poignant discussion about their adopted children.

"I'm scared for my kids," one says, "that as they get older they're going to have to confront the issue. Of us."

Human pain is present here in so many guises — humiliation, abuse, desperation for acceptance, loss of a partner or a child. The play aptly demonstrates that borders, even physical ones, are inevitably man-made constructs. But there are other borders: between love and rejection, illness and health, life and death, in and out of the closet — a border, Elder says, that must be crossed not once, but continually. "Queer lives," he says, "are always border stories."

But Ramos brings the element of hope. "If I could underscore anything," he emphasizes, "my goal in doing this — and one of the things I emphasize in my teaching — is to use theater as a means to create public thought and social dialogue around issues like these. It can be entertaining but it's also a tool — better society through theater."

Tickets, information: 863-5966 or visit [Flynn Center Box Office](#).

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## Rock Lobsterman

By Jon Reidel

Article published February 12, 2008



Nate Berg started working as a deck hand on a lobster boat when he was 15 and is now captain of his own ship. (Photo: Rich Dionne of East Bay Newspapers)

Senior Nate Berg already has his dream job lined up when he graduates. The hours are terrible, it's physically demanding, and his dad was hoping for a different career path. But as far as Berg is concerned, it doesn't get any better than captaining your own lobster boat on the Atlantic Ocean

every day.

For Berg, a community development and applied economics major, there was never a question about his future employment once he started working on the *Emily Manning* for a local lobsterman in Warren, R.I. His dream wasn't initially shared by his father, Geoffrey Berg, a Providence physician who got the job for his son 10 years ago as a summer gig at the age 15. He eventually accepted the idea after seeing his son's passion for the potential profession, which took a turn for the serious when \$100,000 was spent to purchase the *Emily Manning* in May of 2007.

"Initially he wasn't too happy about it as a career option, but now he's on board," says Berg. "The best way I can describe it is to compare it to when I was a little kid on Christmas morning waking up all excited to open presents," he says. "Every lobster trap is like opening a new present; you never know what you're going to find."

### Getting into the business of lobstering

Getting into the lobstering business isn't easy. Berg says it can cost upwards of \$500,000 to get a boat, license and equipment. He was fortunate enough to work as a deckhand for a local fisherman who sold him the boat and equipment for well below market value. Berg works with 800 traps weighing 60 pounds each that make up a string of pots. He pulls them up and checks each one individually to see which category the lobsters fall under based on weight and number of claws. Prior to that he must make sure they meet state regulations: no pregnant ones or

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"egggers"; no v-shaped notches in the lobsters' tails; and none smaller than three-and-three-eighths inches based on the dorsal section or exoskeleton.

Owning and operating a fishing boat and a business while also attending UVM full time has been challenging. Berg drives four hours almost every weekend to Warren, a well-known whaling port and ship-building town in the mid-1700s, to prepare for a 12-hour day that starts at 3 a.m. between the Mt. Hope and Newport Bridges. This involves preparing the ship for launch; 10 hours of lowering and raising pots; shutting down the boat; and preparing it for the next day. He plans to work this schedule seven days a week starting the summer after he graduates.

If Berg didn't love it, he wouldn't be able to log the 84 hours a week it requires to be successful. He broke his arm playing racquetball in late January of 2007 and had to figure out a way to land pots with his right arm while he runs the hauler and handles the steering wheel and controls. With the full arm cast, he had to bring another hand to help out until he got a smaller, flexible cast the following week. "I definitely missed it," he says. "It's been tough being this far away and thinking about what's been happening to the \$90,000 worth of traps I've got in the water."

Berg says it's not all hard work, and that he gets to see all kinds of interesting things on the boat. He's pulled up torpedos, seen boats on fire and even a few human bodies float up (one of them turned out to be a missing person). Once while Berg pulled up traps near a suspension bridge, a man nearly landed on the deck of his boat after leaping from the bridge to impress friends. "All I saw was a body hit the water right next to my boat," Berg, says.

#### **Putting theory into practice**

To supplement his on-the-job training, Berg has taken numerous courses at UVM while working on a dual major in community and international development and community entrepreneurship. In his latest course, Strategic Planning for Community Entrepreneurs, Berg is using his business as his semester-long project to make sure it's as efficient as possible. "We're using all my financial information dating back five years to project five years ahead," he says. "It can be an unpredictable history."

Three other people are working on the project with him and are taking all factors into account such as unforeseen setbacks like the North Cape Oil Barge crash on Moonstruck Beach in 1996 that dumped 828,000 gallons of home heating oil into the water, killing upwards of nine million lobsters.

"Under that unassuming exterior is an amazing young man," says Jane Kolodinsky, professor and chair of CDAE. "When Nate came to my office to double check his requirements, it turns out he had taken almost every course in community and international development and entrepreneurship we offer. He could graduate with two majors. Then, we come to find out that Nate bought a lobstering boat and is already his



own boss."

With the average age of a lobsterman currently 54, Berg is well positioned to take over a larger share of market as veteran lobsterman retire and fewer young people get into the profession. Even so, Berg is realistic about the potential for his career to end sooner than he'd like. "If I get too old and the aches and pains get to be too much, I'll always have my degree to fall back on," he says. "Right now I'm really enjoying it. I wouldn't dream of doing anything else."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

## Managing Multiple Sclerosis

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published February 13, 2008



Hillel Panitch, professor of neurology, treats M.S. patient Charlene Young at the Multiple Sclerosis Center at Fletcher Allen Health Care, an initiative he established in 2000. (Photo: Raj Chawla)

Like a busy tangle of highways, the central nervous system transports messages from the brain to points throughout the body. But road blocks can create a neurological traffic jam, causing the messages to get stuck. Charlene Young, just 41, got a crash course on the impact of these

blocked signals. Plagued by loss of balance, weakness in one foot, leg and toe spasms, Young was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (M.S.).

In patients with M.S., scientists believe an abnormal, autoimmune reaction is at play. The patient's own immune cells, which normally patrol the body's systems seeking to repel outside infectious agents, initiate an attack on the patient's myelin — a thin layer of insulating protein and fatty material which surrounds nerve fibers — and a destructive process called demyelination ensues. These fibers are the key conduit for brain-body communication. When they are attacked, lesions form along the nerves, inhibiting communication — creating road blocks — between the brain and the body.

According to the National M.S. Society, onset of the disease typically occurs between the ages of 20 and 50 and about 70 percent of M.S. patients are women. Of the approximately 400,000 diagnosed cases in the United States, roughly 1,500 are in Vermont. In fact, Vermont has one of the highest prevalence rates in the country, with an M.S. rate of one person per 500 people in the general population — twice the U.S. average. Hillel Panitch, professor of neurology, explains that several factors are believed to contribute to this statistic, including genetics, exposure to viral infections, and geography. Those of northern European and especially Scandinavian heritage, as well as those in northern tier states like Vermont and Minnesota, are particularly at risk.

**Progressive therapy**

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A 30-year veteran in the M.S. field, Panitch embarked on his research career as a neurology resident at the University of California at San Francisco, then further delved into the science of the disease with positions at Johns Hopkins University and the Neuroimmunology Branch of the National Institutes of Health. As a neurology professor and principal investigator at the University of Maryland, he had a leading role in studying several breakthrough therapies that radically changed the lives of M.S. patients. Approved in the early and mid-1990s, these interferon-based treatments, which help control the immune system, offered the first-ever option for halting the progression of M.S.

"There was nothing 15 years ago," admits Panitch, "and now there are six approved drugs, and M.S. is among the more treatable neurological diseases."

In 2000, Panitch joined the College of Medicine faculty and established the Multiple Sclerosis Center at Fletcher Allen Health Care. Charlene Young is one of about 700 M.S. patients from Vermont and upstate New York who are treated at the Center.

Most M.S. patients have the relapsing-remitting version of the disease, in which symptoms come and go in discrete episodes, but Young is afflicted with a rarer version. Called primary progressive, this type of M.S. only strikes about 10 to 15 percent of patients and is characterized by persistent symptoms that with time progress in seriousness. Now 55 years old, she has had to make adjustments over the past 14 years, including designing and building a one-story home with her husband, Larry, two years ago to accommodate her physical needs.

"You learn to take care of yourself, make changes in daily living and do things in short spurts" she explains.

Clinical trials for primary progressive M.S. were non-existent until a few years ago, when the first study ever sponsored by an American pharmaceutical company was launched. "I waited a very long time — about 12 years," recalls Young. She first learned about one of her current therapies — called rituximab — as a participant in this trial. "We're lucky to have someone so cutting-edge and dedicated to bringing trials to patients as Dr. Panitch," says Young.

Though the clinical trial was placebo-controlled, Young believes she received the actual drug due to a noticeable improvement in symptoms. Now officially "on drug," she receives the therapy via intravenous infusion in the hematology/oncology outpatient clinic twice in January and then two more times in July. Rituximab is a monoclonal antibody, a kind that can be closely targeted on B cells, one of the types of immune cells thought to play a role in demyelination.

"You treat symptoms, not the disease," says Young, who in addition to her rituximab therapy also takes an anti-spasmodic drug called baclofen and another drug to help alleviate the fatigue element of her M.S.



### Multiple approaches

With seven to eight active clinical trials running and more soon-to-launch, Panitch is dependent on the support of a highly capable cohort to keep the M.S. Center running smoothly.

Yang Mao-Draayer is an assistant professor and attending physician in neurology who sees M.S. patients in the clinic and conducts laboratory-based research. Through her work, Mao-Draayer hopes to identify how naturally-occurring protective factors in immune cells like T-cells interact with neural stem cells to repair the damage of demyelination.

Mao-Draayer describes neural stem cells as "fire fighters" and "construction workers," based on their tendency to go to where the "fire" or damage is, stop it, and then try to rebuild the area. Lab associate Julia Cambron, a third-year M.D./Ph.D. student, studies what factors promote the survival of the neural stem cells and the interactions between immune cells and stem cells.

"To understand how patients respond to different treatment, our lab team and my technician Eugene Scharf have been trying to identify intrinsic neuroprotective factors from patients' immune cells," explains Mao-Draayer. "Our goal is to find a potential novel therapy that could help to repair the nerve damage."

Forming new alliances and programs that lead to better M.S. care is M.S. fellow Angela Applebee's goal. "This fellowship allows me to work with a world-renowned expert, who knows the historical facts, because he was part of the founding of all the medications that became available in the 90s," says Applebee, reflecting on her work with Panitch. A graduate of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine and former Fletcher Allen neurology resident, she assists Panitch with clinical research and patient care and teaches neurology residents about the history, identification and treatment of M.S.

Young describes Sandra McGrath, a nurse practitioner who works directly with patients, as "my resource — she gives me all the information I need." Amy Savage, a clinical research nurse in the Office of Clinical Trials, works part-time as an M.S. study coordinator and is managing one of the new oral treatment trials, which, according to Panitch, is the latest trend in M.S. clinical research.

For a person facing an M.S. diagnosis today, the outlook and options are very different than those of just a generation ago. Thanks to passionate clinical specialists like Panitch and the six therapies that they have helped develop in that time — Avonex, Betaseron, Rebif, Copaxone, Novantrone and Tysabri — this one-time death sentence has evolved into a chronic condition that, though still complex to treat, offers patients like Charlene Young the possibility of a quality life.

Two summers ago, a dozen years after her initial diagnosis, Young took up kayaking - she adapts to her equipment by sitting on top of the craft to make getting on and off easier – and enjoyed it all summer long. "I need to focus on the glass being half full," says Young, who hopes that her rituximab therapy will successfully slow or halt the progression of her M.S. "I'd like to be in the same place when I'm 65."

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## UVM Applications up 12 Percent to Set New Record

By Jeffrey Wakefield

Article published February 13, 2008

Applications to the University of Vermont for the 2008/2009 academic year have risen 12 percent to a new record of 20,971, double the figure of just five years ago. The previous high of 18,631 was set last year.

Application rates in recent years have far surpassed those of UVM's Public Ivy era, when they reached a high of 11,953 in 1987. That figure stood as a record for 18 years.

The quality of the applicant pool is also up, with average cumulative SAT scores rising seven points.

Vermont applications numbered 2,079, level with last year, despite a 3 percent decline in the anticipated number of public high school graduates in the state in 2008. Since reaching a high point of 6,978 in 2001/2002, the number of public high school graduates in Vermont has declined 8 percent to an expected 6,499 this year. During that period, Vermont applications to UVM rose 26 percent.

Diversity in the applicant pool also set a new record this year, with a 13 percent rise, to 1,793, in the number of applicants identifying themselves African American, Asian American, Latino/a, Native American, or multi-racial. ALANA applications have increased 172 percent in the last five years.

"We very pleased with these results," said Chris Lucier, vice president for enrollment management. "The fact that we are seeing such strong application growth year after year, on ever increasing base sizes, is clear testament that UVM is a hot school. These statistics underscore the anecdotal data we hear from counselors across the country that UVM is increasingly a destination for talented students from their high schools."

A combination of factors is driving UVM's success, Lucier said, including "investments we're making in our academic program and campus, the resulting good word of mouth in high schools, and the inherent appeal of UVM itself, which combines a first-rate academic experience with a terrific location."

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## Faculty Senate Discusses Distinguished Professors Initiative, Strategic Planning

By Jon Reidel

Article published February 13, 2008

The Faculty Senate moved a step closer toward finalizing details of the University Distinguished Professors initiative at its Feb. 12 meeting. Senate president Robyn Warhol-Down also gave an update on the university's strategic planning process and exhorted faculty from across the university to become involved in the next phase of planning.

The UDP proposal calls for the selection of two distinguished professors each year for the next five years, based on nominations, with a cap of 10. New University Distinguished Professors will replace existing ones as they retire or choose to leave the university. The honorarium carries an annual professional development stipend of \$5,000.

Warhol-Down said that John Hughes, senior vice president and provost, will use the 10-member group as a "board of elders" to advise him on academic issues. The nomination process, which is still being designed by the senate, will be open to the entire campus community and will require 15 outside letters testifying to each nominee's international prominence in his or her field.

Warhol said that, in the past, strategic planning at UVM had been vague and opaque. This time around, there is a definite process, built in accountability, and an emphasis on action steps and outcomes. While many good ideas were developed and captured at a retreat in January attended by administrators, deans, staff, students and faculty representatives from Faculty Senate and University Planning Committee, much work remains to be done, largely by the UPC, Warhol-Down said.

Going forward, Warhol-Down advocated a supplementary process: that a task force be formed for each strategic priority in the plan, with strong faculty representation in each group.

"Up until now, strategic planning hasn't been specific enough to have much impact on individual academic programs," she said. "This time it does, so we need to be ready to step up."

Warhol-Down added that it was important for faculty from a wide range of disciplines and scholarly perspectives to join in the planning effort.

Fogel spoke to Faculty Senate members for more than 30 minutes and touched on a number of issues, including his desire to advance a handful

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of the university's existing doctoral programs into the upper quartile of the nation's top-ranked programs. Investing in a few programs with a goal of having them listed among the nation's elite, would move UVM closer to its goal of becoming one of the nation's premier small public research universities, Fogel said, and would also enhance UVM's overall reputation and ranking.

In other Faculty Senate action, Fogel said he had created a task force that would recast the central ideas in the sustainability-focused Leading by Design grant proposal, which was presented to the Faculty Senate for approval in December, as a Matrix Center, a new organizational structure at UVM that facilitates the kind of trans-disciplinary research and teaching the proposal espouses.

Fogel also spoke extensively about his concern for the rising cost of education and the challenges facing the university to keep it both affordable and of high quality. He charged the State of Vermont, which he said ranks first in spending per pupil for K-12 but last in higher education, to increase its annual allocation. To illustrate his point, he noted that the state's \$42 million allocation was \$3 million less than what UVM spent on financial aid in fiscal year 2007.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

## Major Jackson to Hold Open Poetry Classroom Feb. 20

By The View Staff

Article published February 12, 2008

The Friends of Special Collections Lecture Series is hosting an open classroom with award winning poet and associate professor of English Major Jackson on Wednesday, Feb. 20 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Marsh Lounge, Billings. Sit in on Jackson's Contemporary American Poetry class — one of the most popular at the university — and participate in a lecture and discussion without the pressure of receiving a grade for your effort.

Jackson will read and discuss the work of contemporary African American poets, including selections from his own work and fellow members of the Dark Room Collective, a community of established and emerging African American poets.

In the his course description, Jackson writes: "Contemporary American Poetry is rich in diversity and tradition; best of all, contemporary poetry is addressed to the present here and now, our lives lived today...Poets write about the war in Iraq, heartbreak in Central Park, encountering skinheads at night, and the logocentric beauty of cellphones."

Jackson is the author of two collections of poetry: *Hoops* (W. W. Norton, 2006) and *Leaving Saturn* (University of Georgia, 2002), which won the 2000 Cave Canem Poetry Prize and was a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle Award. He has received critical attention in the *Boston Globe*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Washington Post*, and on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." His poems have appeared in the *American Poetry Review*, *Callaloo* and *The New Yorker*, among other publications.

He has received a Whiting Writers' Award, fellowships from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown and the Pew Fellowships in the Arts, and a commission from the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. He is a core faculty member of the Bennington Writing Seminars and a former Witter Bynner Fellow at the Library of Congress. Currently, he is a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University.

Information: 656-1493.

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### CURRENT FEATURES

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#### [Managing Multiple Sclerosis](#)

Like a busy tangle of highways, the central nervous system transports messages from the brain to points throughout the body. But road blocks can create a neurological traffic jam, causing the messages to get stuck. Charlene Young, just 41, got a crash course on the impact of these blocked signals. Plagued by loss of balance, weakness in one foot, leg and toe spasms, Young was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

## Documentary Examines Birth in America

By The View Staff

Article published February 12, 2008

*The Business of Being Born*, a documentary about modern childbirth by actress and former daytime talk show host Ricki Lake and filmmaker Abby Epstein, will be screened on Friday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. in Campus Center Theater. The screening is hosted by the UVM Women's Center and the Chittenden County Breastfeeding Coalition. Tickets, \$6-\$12, will be available at the door; proceeds benefit the Breastfeeding Coalition.

Through interviews with doctors, midwives and other experts, *The Business of Being Born* examines the history, culture and economics of childbirth and explores whether birth should be viewed as a managed medical emergency or a natural process meant to unfold with little intervention. Footage of births — including the homebirth of Lake's second child — add an intimate look at the experience.

Epstein, who worked previously with Eve Ensler on *World VDAY*, a documentary about the global movement to end violence against women and girls, discovers she is pregnant during the making of the film and finds herself grappling personally with the choices surrounding birth.

A panel discussion will follow the screening. Panelists include Julia Brock, OB/GYN; Kathleen Bruce, lactation consultant; Peggy Cohen, homebirth midwife; Sue Jaynes, childbirth educator/doula and UVM student; and Gyllian Svenson childbirth educator/doula and mother of two homebirthed children. Rachael Hooper, co-owner of the Burlington business The Bobbin, will moderate.

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## NOTABLES

February 13, 2008

### Publications and Presentations

**David Novak**, assistant professor of business administration, had a paper accepted for publication in *Decision Support Systems* titled "Managing Bandwidth Allocations between Competing Recreational and Non-Recreational Traffic on Campus Networks." The paper demonstrates a decision support methodology to set optimal bandwidth allocations for competing recreational peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing traffic and non-recreational traffic (non-P2P) with respect to minimizing the total cost of network operations. Total costs include the explicit costs to the Internet provider associated with network management, as well as the implicit costs resulting from unsatisfied users under various bandwidth allocation scenarios. Management decisions include bandwidth allocations for P2P and non-P2P traffic during specific time periods, as well as the number of allocation changes made during the day. A goal program (GP) is used to estimate both P2P capacity demand and P2P user demand at different time periods and bandwidth allocations. A Markov Decision Process (MDP) is used to solve the cost minimization problem. A real-world example for optimizing bandwidth allocations between competing P2P and non-P2P interests is provided using empirical data from a large university.

**Carolyn Bonifield**, assistant professor, and **Amy Tomas**, lecturer, both of the School of Business Administration, had a paper titled "A Different Reality: Considering Possible Selves in Virtual Worlds," accepted for the 2008 Advertising and Consumer Psychology Conference on Virtual Social Identity and Consumer Behavior. The conference will take place in Philadelphia in May. Bonifield and Tomas are currently working on a program of research focused on marketers' and consumers' behaviors in virtual worlds. These virtual worlds, among them the very popular Second Life, present a number of unique challenges and opportunities for promoting, selling and buying goods and services. The paper proposes an alternative version of the self-concept, referred to as the possible self, as a means to better understand the motivations behind consumers' willingness to spend significant sums of real currency on virtual goods and services. In addition to this paper, Bonifield and Tomas are working on several pieces of research related to marketing in the virtual world, including two independent study research projects with Business Administration seniors, Megan Piro and Jamie Webber.

**James Sinkula**, professor of business administration and John L. Beckley Chair, had an article accepted for publication by the *Journal of Small Business Management* titled "The Complementary Effects of Market

Orientation and Entrepreneurial Orientation on Profitability in Small Business." The article, co-authored with William Baker of San Diego State University, examines two cultural factors present in companies. The first is the firm's market orientation, which reflects the degree to which strategic market planning is driven by customer and competitor intelligence. The second is the firm's entrepreneurial orientation, which reflects the degree to which firms' growth objectives are driven by the identification and exploitation of untapped market opportunities. The paper finds that both factors are drivers of profitability, one of which is direct and the other mediated.

*February 6, 2008*

#### **Publications and Presentations**

**Garrison Nelson**, professor of political science, wrote an op-ed article in the Nov. 3, 2007 edition of the *Boston Globe* titled "Border wars in fight for presidency." It focused on the early domination of New York in presidential politics (New York natives and/or residents received 47 major party nominations for president and vice president from the first election in 1789) and how the emergence of the New Hampshire changed that forever.

#### **Awards and Honors**

**DeMethra LaSha Bradley**, assistant director for academic integrity in the Center for Student Ethics and Standards, has been selected as a 2008 Annuity Coeptis Emerging Professional. The Annuity Coeptis award was created by the American College Personnel Association to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Philip Tripp. Annually three senior professionals and five emerging professionals are honored at a dinner where they can engage in lively and thoughtful discussions about professional issues. The Latin phrase "annuity coeptis" reflects Professor Tripp's optimism for the future of the profession by suggesting that the gods have smiled upon that which we have begun.

The College of Medicine Class of 2010 held an awards ceremony and reception on Feb. 1 in honor of their completion of the Foundations level of the Vermont Integrated Curriculum (VIC). The awards and recipients were as follows:

#### *Outstanding Foundations Course:*

"Cardiovascular, Respiratory and Renal Systems"

#### *Foundations Course Director Award:*

**William Hopkins, M.D.**, associate professor of medicine and course director, Cardiovascular, Respiratory and Renal Systems.

#### *Foundations Teaching Award:*

**William Hopkins, M.D.**, associate professor of medicine. The recipient of