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Filming a Forum



Honors College Students Lindsey Bryan, Devin Klein and Kesha Ram spent a week at the World Social Forum in Brazil researching a film about issues facing young people around the world. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Though prepared to experience anti-American sentiment during their trip to the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil in January of 2005, first-year students Kesha Ram, Devin Klein and Lindsey Bryan were nonetheless surprised at the disdain their international counterparts expressed for the United States.

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President Daniel Mark Fogel's message to the University of Vermont Board of Trustees during their Feb. 5-7 meetings began with a message of "profound sympathy and condolence" to those harmed by the carbon monoxide accident in the privately owned Redstone Apartments and a recap of the university's moves to support students affected by the tragedy.

Admissions Visitors

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

Feb. 16, 4 p.m.
Presentation: "University Scholars Presentation" with Beth Mintz, professor of sociology. Memorial Lounge, Waterman. Information: 656-3160.

Feb. 16, 6 p.m.
Lecture: "The University Climate and Admissions," with Don Honeman, director of admissions, and Jacob Diaz and Michael DeBowes, Dean of Students Office. Fireplace Lounge, Living/Learning Center. Information: 656-4200.

Feb. 18, 3:30 p.m.
Lecture: "Financial Crisis, 1800-1913: The Role of Foreign Currency Debt," with Michael Bordo, Rutgers University. Economics Seminar Room, 221 Old Mill. Information: 656-3064

Feb. 18, 3 p.m.
Concert: UVM Lane Series presents singer-songwriter John Gorka. UVM Recital Hall. Tickets: \$25. Information: [Lane Series](#)

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NEWS BRIEFS

New Professors-at-Large Program Seeks Intellectual Invigoration

A new program aims to invigorate intellectual life on campus by bringing eminent scholars to UVM for short residencies marked by lectures, collaboration and debate.

The James Marsh Professors-at-Large Program is expected to launch a long tradition of bringing outstanding individuals of international distinction in the arts and humanities, sciences, social sciences and applied fields to campus. The selection process for the inaugural group of professors-at-large begins in March, and those chosen will begin their terms on July 1.

The program, sponsored by the President's Office and recently endorsed by the Faculty Senate, will bring selected scholars to Burlington for multiple one-to-two-week residencies served over six-year terms. The sole mandate for professors-at-large is to invigorate the intellectual and cultural life of the university.

Chosen for their accomplishments, broad-ranging interests and personal and professional accessibility, professors-at-large will typically offer public lectures; hold office hours with undergraduate and graduate students; collaborate with students and faculty colleagues in scientific research, scholarly projects, and creative activities; conduct seminars and colloquia often with a cross-disciplinary emphases; and consult with students on undergraduate research projects and honors theses as well as on graduate theses and dissertations.

Professors-at-large are considered honorary members of the faculty and will receive a pro-rated salary with the program paying for travel; housing and meals; and other in-resident expenses. The program is funded primarily by the income from an endowed presidential position, the Daniel Clark Sanders Professorship, named for the first president of the university.

The process of selecting the professors at large involves a pre-proposal letter due on March 15, followed by in-depth full proposals on May 1. In future years this process will take place during the fall semester. Any individual faculty member, academic department, or group of departments can nominate individuals for the program.

The selection committee comprised of no fewer than 10 members of the faculty and, ex officio, the chief academic and chief research officers of the university will seek evidence of broad intellectual appeal across disciplines and fields of study, particularly for undergraduates.

Applications Hit Record Level

Applications to UVM have reached a record level of 12,889 in 2005, surpassing last year's total by 13.2 percent, according to a preliminary analysis. The previous high of 11,953 occurred in 1987 at the height of the university's "public ivy" era. Applications have increased by 80.9 percent since 1997 and by 63.4 percent since 2000.

The quality of the applicant pool is also up, with average SAT scores rising an average of approximately 15 points.

Diversity in the applicant pool also increased this year, with a 10 percent rise in the number of applicants identifying themselves African American, Asian American, Latino, or Native American.

According to the current count, Vermont applications have risen 5.1 percent over last year's total to 1,796, the third highest mark in the university's history. All of the applications numbers will increase, especially Vermont applications, as late applications are processed. "We are very pleased with both the size and quality of the applicant pool," said Don Honeman, director of admissions and financial aid. "It's more evidence that the word is getting out about the quality of the academic experience UVM offers."

X-Ray Insight Into Fruit Fly Flight Muscles Published in 'Nature'

What is the connection between a fly's aerodynamic skill and human heart function? Using the nation's most brilliant X-rays, located at the Advanced Photon Source at the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory, a cardiac molecular motors expert from the University of Vermont and colleagues from the Illinois Institute of Technology and Caltech performed experiments to answer that and other questions.

The research team, including David Maughan, research professor of molecular physiology and biophysics, published their results in the Jan. 20 issue of the British journal *Nature*.

To conduct their research, Maughan and his IIT and Caltech colleagues merged extremely bright X-ray beams and a "virtual-reality flight simulator" for flies, designed by Michael Dickinson of Caltech, to probe the muscles in a flying fruit fly and examine how it generates the extraordinary levels of power that result in flight.

The selection committee, which is appointed by the university president based on nominees provided by the Faculty Senate and deans, reviews nominations based on two main criteria: the quality of the nominator's intellectual and cultural contributions and the nominee's capacity to make some of those contributions accessible to non-specialists. After their review, the committee will forward its recommendations to the university president, who will review the recommendations and make the final decision. As many as four new professors-at-large will be appointed each year with no more than 20 individuals holding appointments at any one time.

New Series Aims to Remove Dread from Class Discussion

Group discussions can inspire terror.

Not for Jennifer Dickinson, a linguistic anthropologist who cheerfully describes herself as a "talker," but for many anxiety-wracked undergraduates, who often would rather write their views on a midterm than air them publicly in a simple class conversation.

The assistant professor of anthropology, encouraged by Helga Shreckenberger, professor of German and Russian, and others in the Women's Studies Program, will give the first workshop in a new series, "Making Words Work for Women," which is designed to help students learn strategies for "speaking up and being heard." Dickinson's seminar will take place Feb. 18.

"I really look at it from an applied perspective," says Dickinson, who has been interested in how class conversation works and doesn't work since graduate school. "There's an ideal world in which everyone is recognized based upon their talents, and then there's our world, where if you don't participate, or participate well, there are consequences."

Dickinson, who is often struck by the perceptiveness of quiet students one-on-one, wants to share techniques for understanding — and, if necessary, changing the group dynamics of larger discussions. She also wants to discuss the "rules" of class conversation, and emphasize what's at stake for students. Dickinson believes that it's crucial for women to receive public credit for their ideas, yet cultural conditioning and the context of some classroom discussions (which are often dominated by one or two strong speakers) can make it difficult to secure that credit.

"What I want to do is teach people to become anthropologists themselves in some sense," she says. "Studies show that group dynamics get cemented very quickly, so as a student, what can you do to identify that dynamic and change it if necessary. Professors should be doing that, but they have a lot on their minds."

The second workshop in the series, on public

The intense X-rays allowed the researchers to identify changes in the crystal-like arrangement of molecules responsible for generating the rapid contractions of the fly's muscle with a resolution of 6/10,000th of a second. The flight simulator, which fools a tethered fly into thinking it is flying freely through the air, is necessary to produce a stable pattern of wing motion and enabled the team to capture X-ray images at different stages of muscle contraction. By combining the technologies, the researchers could reconstruct a 'movie' of the molecular changes in the powerful muscles as they lengthen and shorten to drive the wings back and forth 200 times each second.

"At the molecular level, the insect's flight muscle and a human heart are remarkably similar," Maughan said. "We biologists have always been amazed by how hard these muscles work. Now we have taken advantage of the fruit fly's small size and shone light right through the whole animal, illuminating the working muscles during flight and probing the molecular motions deep within the muscle cells."

These experiments uncovered previously unsuspected interactions of various proteins as the muscles stretch and contract. The results suggest a model for how these powerful biological motors turn "on" and "off" during the wingbeat.

"Small flying insects face an enormous task — generating enough power to overcome gravity, air resistance and drag — and they do this by beating their wings ferociously," said Maughan. "We found out that timing is key, where certain molecules have to be positioned exactly with respect to others during each phase of the wing beat in order to produce the high power output."

The researchers note that the many similarities between insect muscle and other oscillatory muscles, including human cardiac muscle, mean that the research may be adaptable for other uses.

"Both insect flight and human heart muscles store energy during each beat that is later used to help flap the wings or expand the heart after contraction. We found that flying insects store much of the elastic energy in the protein filaments themselves, which minimizes the power costs," Maughan said.

A previous publication by Maughan and Tom Irving of IIT demonstrated the feasibility of taking movies of molecular changes in live flies. UVM's Instrument and Model Facility, directed by Tobey Clark, built a rotating shutter used in the earlier experiment. IMF scientists Carl Silver and Gill Gianetti fabricated the high-speed device.

"How the fly's muscles turn off and on at 200 times a second has been a mystery that we now can solve in detail using these new technologies," Maughan said.

Maughan and his colleagues' research experiences with genetically malleable fruit flies has increased the potential for addressing much more specific questions about the roles of various

speaking, is scheduled for Feb. 28 and features Helen Morgan, a lecturer of theatre and former UVM debater. Morgan will discuss overcoming anxiety of speaking before an audience to artfully deliver public comments.

Dickinson believes that learning to understand discussion dynamics and speak up effectively is also a problem for many male students, and she plans to offer a version of her workshop to anthropology undergraduates.

A flyer with more information about the new series is available at [Women's Words](#).

Incident Evacuates Terrill Hall

Emergency personnel were dispatched to Terrill Hall on Feb. 16 to handle an incident involving a small amount of phenol that was accidentally put through an autoclave in a first-floor lab.

Phenol is a type of chemical used in laboratories to break open cells in order to extract genetic material. As a result of exposure to the chemical, roughly 20 people experienced some health symptoms including headaches and nausea. One staff member was taken to the hospital by UVM Rescue for evaluation and was released. Symptoms are alleviated with exposure to fresh air and long-term complications are not expected based on the type of exposure at Terrill this morning. However, if you were in the building and you have any health concerns, please contact the UVM Health Clinic at 656-3350.

In order to properly ventilate the building, Terrill was off-limits to faculty, staff and students for most of the day. The facility will re-open on Feb. 17, but please check www.uvm.edu for updates.

protein components in muscle function using mutant or genetically-engineered flies. Currently, Maughan is collaborating with Jim Vigoreaux, associate professor of biology, and Doug Swank of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, to determine what parts of the flight muscle proteins are responsible for the high speed.

Collaborators on the X-ray project, in addition to Dickinson and Maughan, are Gerrie Farman, Tanya Bekyarova and David Gore of IIT, and Mark Frye of Caltech.

Teacher Diversity Program Offers Scholarships

The Vermont Teacher Diversity Scholarship Program is looking for applications from students of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds interested in becoming public school teachers in the state. High school seniors, current college students or people planning career changes are eligible. The deadline for applications is April 7.

The program is meant to increase the diversity of Vermont's public school teachers. Students who are selected agree to teach in Vermont for one to three years and, in exchange, receive up to \$12,000 to pay off their college loans. Three Vermont Teacher Diversity Scholarship Program Scholars are currently teaching in classrooms in Burlington, Dorset and Northfield. Ten others are in education programs across the state.

Program scholars must obtain either a bachelor's or master's degree at a Vermont college or university. Upon completion of their degree and licensure, they must apply competitively for teaching positions throughout the state. Applications are reviewed regionally by committees in Bennington, Brattleboro, Burlington, Montpelier, Morrisville, the Northeast Kingdom and Rutland.

Information: Ms. Phyl Newbeck at (802) 241-3379 or phyl.newbeck@vsc.edu, or [Teacher Diversity](#)

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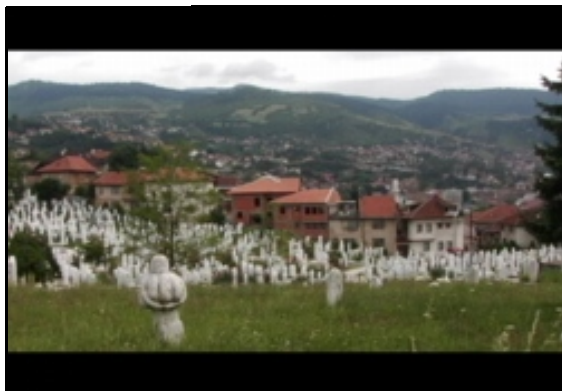
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Sarajevo, as seen in a still from a soon-to-premiere student documentary. (Image: *Gates Gooding and Aida Sehovic*)

Documentaries Depict a Recovering Bosnia

The premiere of *Bosna, poslije svega* ("Bosnia, after everything"), a documentary produced by senior geography major Gates Gooding and Aida Sehovic, class of 2002 and native of Bosnia and Herzegovina, will be held on Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Billings' Campus Center Theater. The event also features a showing of the short film *Sto Te Nema?* ("Why are you not here?"), which documents Sehovic's art installation commemorating the 1995 Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Filmed at locations throughout the country, *Bosna, poslije svega* examines the lives of Bosnian youth in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina. The documentary combines personal testimonies with images of cultural and political realities to reveal the complexity of a society in transition.

Sto Te Nema? documents Sehovic's July 11, 2004 art installation in Sarajevo, which used the

Scientist Will Discuss New Tools for Understanding Black Holes

David Burrows, senior scientist and professor of astronomy and astrophysics at Pennsylvania State University, will talk about the birth of black holes on Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in 108 Lafayette.

Burrows's talk, "Peeking into Black Hole Birthing Rooms with the Swift Observatory," will discuss early results and aspirations for the just-launched Swift Gamma-Ray Burst Explorer. The observatory, launched Nov. 20, 2004, is just beginning its multi-year mission of detecting and studying the most violent explosions in the universe.

Burrows is team leader for the Swift X-ray Telescope, which was built by Penn State, Leicester University and the Brera Observatory. The XRT is one of three telescopes carried by the Swift GRB Explorer.

Information: [Physics](#)

A Cappella Conference Set For Feb. 25-27

Joe Antonioli, a member of the Center for Teaching and Learning staff and passionate aficionado of a cappella music, has helped organize a second Vermont A Cappella Summit, a collection of workshops and concerts that will take place from February 25-27.

Tickets for the event are \$50 (\$35 for students), and include admission to both concerts and workshops. They're available through the Flynn Regional Box Office. Tickets to individual concerts are also on sale. The concert schedule for the event follows:

- Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. Concert: "The

Bosnian ritual of gathering for coffee as a means of commemorating those killed. Nearly 1000 cups of coffee were set out for those who had been identified and re-buried to date, while 338 empty cups recognized those persons to be buried on that anniversary day. For more about the installation, see [Cups of Memory](#).

Gooding shot the video for both films and dedicated six weeks during the summer of 2004 to the filming of *Bosna, poslije svega*, a project funded by UVM's Undergraduate Research Endeavors Competitive Awards. The documentary is Gooding's first long-feature film.

Information: Aida Sehovic, 802-578-8138 or gatesgooding@gmail.com

V-Days Are Here Again

The UVM Women's Center will offer a benefit production of Eve Ensler's Obie-winning play, "The Vagina Monologues," on Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. in Benedict Auditorium, Marsh Life Sciences Building.

The event supports V-Day, a global movement that works to stop violence against women and girls. Proceeds from the UVM performance will benefit the Women's Rape Crisis Center in Burlington.

Tickets are \$5 for students, \$10 general admission, and are available at the UVM Women's Center on 34 S. Williams St. or the St. Michael's College Women's Center at 26 College Parkway, Colchester.

Information: cwehry@uvm.edu

VPT To Show 'Last Hurrah' Basketball Special

Vermont Public Television will celebrate retiring UVM men's basketball coach Tom Brennan and senior players Taylor Coppenrath, David Hehn, Alex Jensen, Germain Mopa Njila and T.J. Sorrentine with a special program airing Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m.

In the program, called "VPT Sports Special: The Last Hurrah!," the coach and the team's five seniors will join host Greg Madden for a 30-

Vermont Collegiate A Cappella Alumni Show," featuring a cappella groups and alumni from UVM and Saint Michael's College. See some of the former members of Top Cats, Cat's Meow, Hit Paws, and Sleepless Knights join current members for a night of singing and memories. Ira Allen Chapel. Tickets \$10 (\$8 students).

- Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m. Concert: "Raising Voices," a concert of professional groups including "The House Jacks," "All About Buford," "Syncopation" and "Sons of Pitches." Ira Allen Chapel. Tickets \$20 (\$15, students).
- Feb. 27, 2 p.m. Concert: "National Championship of High School A Cappella," the best groups from Vermont high schools will compete with counterparts from New Hampshire, Maine, and Connecticut for a chance to represent the Green Mountain State in the Northeast Regional competition. Ira Allen Chapel. \$10.

More information: [Vermont A Cappella Summit](#)

minute look back on their careers at UVM. VPT viewers will be invited to call with their questions at a toll-free number to be announced during the program.

The final home game for the coach and players will be the next evening, Feb. 24, when they play UMBC before a sold-out crowd at Patrick Gymnasium. Vermont Public Television will air the game at 7 p.m.

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February 16, 2005

Awards and Honors

Leonard Perry, Extension professor of plant and soil sciences, was recently awarded the Horticulture Achievement Award of the Vermont Association of Professional Horticulturists at their annual meeting in Rutland, on Feb. 9. This is the most prestigious award bestowed by the association, which represents all aspects of the environmental horticulture industry in Vermont.

Burton Wilcke, associate professor and chair of biomedical technology, was invited by the Institute of Medicine to serve on a committee that will evaluate the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS relief. He was asked to serve because of his global health experience with laboratory surveillance systems. The appointment is for two years and will culminate with an IOM report.

A July 2004 *Cancer Research* article titled "Genotoxicity of therapeutic intervention in children with acute lymphocytic leukemia" has been selected to be abstracted in the 2005 Year Book of Oncology. Led by 2004 College of Medicine doctoral degree recipient **Sederick Rice**, the study's senior author was Dr. **Barry Finette**, professor of pediatrics. Co-authors included **Pamela Vacek**, biostatistician in medical biostatistics and research assistant professor of pathology; Dr. **Alan Homans**, associate professor of pediatrics; **Terri Messier**, senior researcher in the Vermont Cancer Center; and **Heather Kendall**, a graduate student in the department of microbiology and molecular genetics. Article abstracts featured in the *Year Book of Oncology*, which is published by Elsevier, were selected from more than 500 journals worldwide that reported the year's breakthrough developments in oncology.

Publications and Presentations

A number of members of the Department of Communication Sciences presented peer-reviewed papers at the annual convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, which was held in Philadelphia last November. The UVM authors who presented were: **Maria Short**, **Gayle Belin**, **Brooke Bitner**, **Barry Guitar**, **Rebecca McCauley** and **Patricia Prelock**.

Dr. **Polly Parsons**, professor of medicine, was lead author of a January *Critical Care Medicine* article titled "Lower tidal volume ventilation and plasma cytokine markers of inflammation in patients with acute lung injury."

February 9, 2005

Awards and Honors

A paper by **Bruce Beynnon**, associate professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation, has earned the 2005 American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine O'Donoghue Sports Injury Research Award. The award is given to the best overall paper that deals with clinical research or human in-vivo research. Beynnon and colleagues will receive the award and present the paper on rehabilitation of the knee following anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction at the AOSSM Annual Meeting Scientific Session in Keystone, Co., in July. The paper is co-authored by numerous Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation faculty, including: **Dr. Joseph Abate**, **Dr. Bjarne Brattbakk**, **Dr. Robert Johnson** and **Dr. Claude Nichols**.

Jane Kolodinsky, professor and chair of the Department of Community Development and Applied Economics; **Jean Harvey-Berino**, chair of the Department of Nutrition and Food Science; and **Linda Berlin**, lecturer in

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Filming a Forum

By Jon Reidel

Article published Feb 14, 2005



Honors College Students Lindsey Bryan, Devin Klein and Kesha Ram spent a week at the World Social Forum in Brazil researching a film about issues facing young people around the world. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Though prepared to experience anti-American sentiment during their trip to the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil in January of 2005, first-year students Kesha Ram, Devin Klein and Lindsey Bryan were nonetheless surprised at the disdain their international counterparts expressed for the United States.

The three UVM Honors College students spent most of their time at the forum participating in the Intercontinental

Youth Camp, an outdoor area where 35,000 young people from around the globe discussed social, environmental, political and economic issues. The forum, which drew more than 200,000 people including UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, was created to counter the World Economic Forum by pushing an agenda that puts social issues and environmental protection over economic interests.

Ram wants to share her experience by producing a film about the WSF. Her hope is that the film will educate students in the United States about the struggles facing other countries and how they can help bring about positive change through activism and responsible consumption.

"People are angry at the United States," Ram says. "Some students said they'd never felt so much anti-American sentiment before. It was overwhelming. One of my friends was accosted just for being from the U.S. But most of the people were really happy to see us, because the WSF allows people from all over the world to be in a dialogue together, and unfortunately, the hardest people to put in that dialogue are those from the U.S."

Part of the reason that Ram, Klein and Bryan heard a lot of negativity toward the United States, especially its involvement in Iraq, was because they asked for it, literally, in the form of questions for a film focusing on youth issues and empowerment based on their experiences at WSF. One of the questions they asked was how young people from other parts of the world viewed America and its youth.

"They would say things like 'we know not everyone in the United States is the same, but what we get from your media is Britney Spears, President Bush and war,'" Ram says. "When they want to protest something that the United States is pumping out into the world, be it political or social, they go to McDonald's or Wal-Mart because that's what they view as America."

Bringing images back home

Bryan says that the general beef with the United States at the forum was that it "deemed itself 'global policeman' and thinks it can boss everyone else around." But the documentary won't emphasize those points. When the seven

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[Trustees Report](#)

President Daniel Mark Fogel's message to the University of Vermont Board of Trustees during their Feb. 5-7 meetings began with a message of "profound sympathy and condolence" to those harmed by the carbon monoxide accident in the privately owned Redstone Apartments and a recap of the university's moves to support students affected by the tragedy.

[Admissions Visitors Center Opens](#)

The standard "This Old House" challenges — leaky roof, rotting floorboards, flawed foundation — paled in comparison to the symbolic concerns that Darina Mernicky and Tom Visser faced as they collaborated on the renovation of a 19th-century carriage house on South Prospect Street.

hours of footage is distilled to the final cut (with the editing help of first-year student Rob Andre, who makes amateur films on campus and does commercial editing work locally), Bryan says the film will focus on issues facing people of all nations. "Most of the people talked about how all races need to help each other and learn to live together as brothers and sisters," she says.

WSF organizers aim to promote that message by holding the event in developing countries to highlight the problems the people face in those places, a strategy the UVM trio found powerful and effective. "You heard things in the conference like 1.1 billion people don't have clean water to drink, and then walked outside and saw people drinking out of the gutter or living in garbage," says Ram, who found it difficult to film some of these scenes and often felt disrespectful doing it.

Ultimately, though, she felt it important to bring home a visual record of the level of poverty and environmental degradation and that hundreds of thousands of people are trying to do something about it.

Ram, who is pursuing a grant through the Center for Cultural Pluralism to support the film, says she doesn't expect the documentary to spur thousands of Americans to attend WSF conferences, but does think it's a way for people to become educated about the effect the U.S. could have on the rest of world.

"Education is the first step," says Ram. "I'm involved in things like trying to get fair trade coffee on campus, having local organic foods, and other concrete ways of addressing these issues. I don't want to sound preachy, but I think it's important for people who may not understand these things, and how they can make a difference, to get that education. And then from there, it's really up to them to do what they want with it."

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Trustees Discuss Vision Investments, Emergency Response

By University Communications

Article published Feb 16, 2005

President Daniel Mark Fogel's message to the University of Vermont Board of Trustees during their Feb. 5-7 meetings began with an expression of "profound sympathy and condolence" to those harmed by the carbon monoxide accident in the privately owned Redstone Apartments and a recap of the university's moves to support students affected by the tragedy.

The state of the university, Fogel went on to tell trustees, is sound. "UVM is well on its way to enhancing and securing for the long term its enviable position as one of the nation's handful of public ivies, a reputation it has long enjoyed — in witness whereof I am circulating the cover of a recent 'public ivies' college guide that ranks us in that elite company," he wrote in his report.

Fogel also noted recent news of an all-time high in application numbers that shattered the previous record, strong growth in research funding despite a national tightening in funding and a second New England Board of Higher Education award in as many years.

At the conclusion of the meetings, trustees approved funding for continued work on the utility infrastructure that underlies the university's growth plan; approved \$17.7 million to renovate the Wing-Davis-Wilks residence complex on Redstone Campus; and added \$7.5 million to the \$53.1 million previously budgeted for the new Student Residential Learning Complex to cover increased costs of construction materials. Trustees also discussed the best ways to keep the university's future debt spending within the guidelines in UVM's strategic financial plan.

The board's next meeting will take place May 20-21. Reports on the board's discussion and activities within its committees follows.

Facilities and Technologies Committee: The group unanimously approved the initial phases of a master planning project for campus utilities, renovations to the Wing/Davis/Wilks Residential Complex, and additional funding to cover higher than anticipated costs on the new Student Residential Learning Complex. During the meeting, the committee also listened to concerns voiced by a group from the United Academics faculty union.

The Utility Master Plan addresses the university's future energy needs by expanding on the resource of the central heating plant, creating capacity to produce chilled water for air-conditioning and using steam to generate electricity. Designed to dovetail with current building projects, the plan will take advantage of excavation for the Davis Center and other projects to bury new utility lines. Trustees approved spending \$19 million on the first two phases of the project, which includes work on the chilling capacity at the heating plant and deferred maintenance. Michael Gower, vice president of finance and administration, told trustees that the total project cost is \$36 million. With projected savings of \$1.9 million per year once the new system is in place, the utilities project would produce a positive cash flow within 20 years.

The committee approved a \$7.5 million increase — from \$53.1 million to \$60.6 million — in funding previously budgeted for the new Residential Learning Complex. A national surge in construction costs, steel and concrete in particular, has driven the increase, Gower told trustees. Committee Chair Robert Young agreed with the administration's decision not to diminish the scope, quality, or "green" aspects of the building projects. But he did urge the administration to learn from the experience as UVM moves forward on other projects and asked that the board receive more timely updates of potential

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[Filming a Forum](#)

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[Admissions Visitors Center Opens](#)

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cost over-runs.

The committee also approved \$17.7 million to fund the renovation of the Wing-Davis-Wilks residence complex on Redstone Campus. That action follows last November's \$2 million allocation for planning and budgeting on the project.

A group of approximately 15 members of United Academics, the faculty union, stood at the back of Memorial Lounge through most of the committee meeting holding green and gold signs reading "Put People in the Vision!" Near the end of the session, Young invited Nancy Welch, associate professor of English, to address the committee. Speaking as a member of United Academics, Welch listed a number of concerns with recent actions and future plans for the university including increases in staffing and compensation for the top administration, increasing benefit costs to employees, the loss of Extension faculty positions, and the poor state of classrooms in buildings such as Waterman and Williams Hall. Welch also encouraged the board to learn from "the scandals and cost-overruns" at Fletcher Allen Health Care and urged Board Chair James Pizzagalli to step back from agreements on labor projects because of his professional association with Pizzagalli Construction.

Young told Welch and fellow members of United Academics, "You've covered the waterfront on issues of interest. We're not here to debate, but you've provided food for thought for our committee. We will think about the issues raised. This university will ultimately rise and fall by how we all work together."

Finance and Budget Committee: The group also considered aspects of the utilities master plan and University Heights project later approved by the full board. The committee's resolutions approving the projects included language to authorize the use of commercial paper for initial borrowing and potential future long-term bond issues. The university's strategic financial plan calls for \$475 million in capital investments and proposes adding nearly 2,000 undergraduate and more than 700 graduate students to the university by 2013.

Some committee members expressed concern about the cost of the projects at hand, because, if adjustments aren't made, they will eventually put the university's debt service ratio close to the threshold suggested by PricewaterhouseCoopers. Michael Gower said that trustees would consider proposed adjustments to other projects to assure that the university remains within the parameters of the strategic model at their May meeting.

In other business, committee members approved meal plan rate increases of four percent and an average overall room rate increase of 5.9 percent. Proposed fiscal-year 2006 total cost increases are 5.2 percent for Vermont students and 4.7 percent for out-of-state students.

Academic and Student Programs Committee: Trustees approved a joint Environmental Science degree that will be offered through the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and College of Arts and Sciences.

Senior Vice President and Provost John Bramley announced that financial aid will be available for summer session courses beginning this year. Not only is this expected to increase summer enrollments, he said, it will also provide students with more opportunities to take courses outside their major. Bramley also recapped the strong preliminary admissions numbers for next fall: UVM has received record numbers of applications from ALANA and out-of-state students, and the third-highest-ever tally of Vermont applicants. Average SAT scores are up as well.

In other business, Frances Carr, vice president for research, updated the committee on the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies and other efforts being taken to strengthen and expand the university's role in economic development.

Jane Knodell, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, gave an overview of how the college is improving academic advising. Planned for the near future are a required pre-registration advising session for first-year students, and an online degree audit program, she said.

In other business, trustees approved minor changes to the final examination policy; changes in standards for academic minors; changing the master of physical therapy degree to a doctorate in physical therapy; establishing a master's entry program in nursing; changing the name of the Women's Studies program to Women's and Gender Studies; establishing an undergraduate major in Film and Television Studies; and terminating the Biomedical Technology degree.

Diversity Committee: Fifteen members of the campus LGBTQ&A organization, Free to Be, stood before the committee in protest, wearing bands over their mouths and carrying placards. The group wants the university to add the phrase "gender identity and/or expression" to the university's Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action policy statement which will be updated for the period March 1, 2005-February 28, 2006. The document, which President Daniel Mark Fogel issued on Feb. 16, contains an annotation stating that the sex discrimination prohibition in the policy will be interpreted to protect members of the university community on the basis of gender identity and expression. Using an annotation expedites the process of issuing the policy statement; the protesters' preferred solution of including the language within the document would require full board approval of the change.

The committee agreed to discuss the issue in future meetings. The group also heard a continuation of a presentation by Annie Stevens, assistant vice president of student and campus life, and an update on the Web-based campus climate survey to take place April 4-15.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

New (But Old) Admissions Center Worth a Visit

By Thomas Weaver

Article published Feb 08, 2005

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Old and new: A just-renovated carriage house is serving as a welcoming, atmospheric first-stop for prospective students. (Photo: Thomas Visser)

The standard “This Old House” challenges — leaky roof, rotting floorboards, flawed foundation — paled in comparison to the symbolic concerns that Darina Mernicky and Tom Visser faced as they collaborated on the renovation of a 19th-century carriage house on South Prospect Street.

The stakes were high for the UVM architect and the associate professor of historic preservation. Their job

was taking a building that had most recently housed a boat and other natural resources field equipment and converting it into a new visitors center for prospective students. Higher education folk wisdom says that most students decide if they’re going to attend a school during their first 15 minutes on campus. As UVM works to build enrollment numbers in an ever-more-competitive market, that first impression is critical and the university needed a new space that was not only attractive and functional, but one that made a strong statement about the institution.

UVM’s crucial first 15 minutes haven’t always been magical in the past. Jane Welcome, who manages the university’s campus visit programs, says that visitors have long gathered in Admissions’ snug reception area, then trooped across campus rain or shine to Waterman, Billings, or Lafayette — wherever suitable space was available for the pre-campus-tour presentation. Approximately 15,000 prospective students and parents visited UVM last year, says Welcome.

Proximity to the existing admissions building was important for the new visitor center, but eating up more green space with a brand new facility would have collided with city regulations on lot coverage. Though looking at the small, weathered carriage house and seeing a visitors center took considerable imagination, Visser said the conversion was an ideal opportunity for UVM to put its mortar where its mouth is.

“There’s a continuing recognition that as much as possible we should reflect the principals and goals of the university in our buildings,” Visser says. “With this project we’ve maintained the character of the neighborhood, reduced the environmental impact by preserving greenspace, and essentially recycled an under-utilized structure.”

Mernicky and Visser were in close communication throughout the process, balancing preservation of the building with the practicalities of the building that needed to be. According to Visser, the carriage house was originally built in the 1840s and moved to its present location in the 1880s. Given the carriage house’s rough condition, the best solution was to essentially preserve the exterior shell — slate roof, old clapboards, a hayloft door, and 19th century windows — and construct a totally new building inside.

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Trustees Report

President Daniel Mark Fogel’s message to the University of Vermont Board of Trustees during their Feb. 5-7 meetings began with a message of “profound sympathy and condolence” to those harmed by the carbon monoxide accident in the privately owned Redstone Apartments and a recap of the university’s moves to support students affected by the tragedy.

Past and future

That combination gives the building an interesting feel. Standing in the modern reception area with its gas fireplace, one looks out onto South Prospect Street through a double-set of windows. The interior windows are new, but the exterior panes have the soft-focus, rippled quality of 19th-century glass. Jeffrey Fellingner, a carpenter and recent graduate of UVM's Historic Preservation Program, worked on rebuilding the sashes, a five-week project. While there was consistency in the "9-over-6" pane pattern of the windows, Fellingner notes that it was clear that each had its own history – often characteristic of a cobbled-together carriage house — and he faced the challenge of matching a number of different trim patterns. Making such effort is worth it, says Fellingner: "Windows are everything in a building."

The central and most dramatic feature of the interior space is the presentation area, which seats 75. It's a large, bright room where an overhead network of thick hemlock beams constructed by Vermont Frame creates the feeling of a New England barn while sleek light fixtures, exposed ductwork, and fist-sized steel bolts add a modern, industrial vibe. Visser says that juxtaposition sends a deliberate message: The building's design team wanted to create a space that says the University of Vermont is forward-looking with a clear sense of its past.

On Feb. 4, a group of about 20 prospective students and parents gathered in the new center for a slide presentation and talk by an admissions counselor before heading out on student-led campus tours. There were still pictures to hang and a few bugs to work out, but it was clear that the old building, which had long shifted form and function in the fine Yankee tradition of matching resource to need, was gracefully stepping into its next life.

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