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UVM HOMEPAGE

Of Time Signatures and Timeshares



From classical guitar recitals to timeshare sales: the road that led Sam Guarnaccia to UVM's Romance Language department had more turns than most.
(Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Sam Guarnaccia is a bundle of nervous energy in the minutes before Spanish 002 begins, positioning overheads on a projector, jotting key phrases on the blackboard, and sorting through stacks of handouts, accompanied by the anticipatory hum of students practicing the day's lessons.

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The fourth annual Translating Identity Conference, on Feb. 24, almost matched the record for largest student-run conference ever held at UVM (achieved by TIC in 2006).

THE WEEK IN VIEW

March 1, 12:30 p.m.
Lecture: "Legacy on the Land: The Hidden History of African Americans in the National Parks and Public Lands" with Audrey Peterman, 104 Aiken.

March 1, 2, 3, 4, 7:30 p.m.
UVM Department of Theatre's *La Ronde*, a dark, circular comedy by Arthur Schnitzler, \$7-\$17, Royall Tyler Theater.

March 2, 3:30 p.m.
Lecture: "African American Proverbs: Protest and Cultural Affirmation" with Anand Prahlad, professor of English, University of Missouri-Columbia. 413 Waterman Building.

March 4, 3 p.m.
University Symphony Orchestra Concert. Michael Hopkins, conductor, will perform Beethoven's *Leonore No. 3* overture, and feature UVM faculty member Sylvia Parker, piano, performing Chopin's *Piano Concerto No. 1* in E minor. Music Building Recital Hall.

March 5, 4 p.m. Faculty Senate Meeting. Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Of Time Signatures and Timeshares

Spanish instructor strings life back together

By Jeffrey Wakefield

Article published February 28, 2007



From classical guitar recitals to timeshare sales: the road that led Sam Guarnaccia to UVM's Romance Language department had more turns than most.
(Photo: Bill DiIorio)

Sam Guarnaccia is a bundle of nervous energy in the minutes before Spanish 002 begins, positioning overheads on a projector, jotting key phrases on the blackboard, and sorting through stacks of handouts, accompanied by the anticipatory hum of students practicing the

day's lessons.

If there's a hint of pre-performance electricity in the small room on the first floor of the Aiken Building, that should come as no surprise. On another day, in another year, in another lifetime, Guarnaccia was someone else — a promising, young, classical guitarist looking forward to a career as a conservatory teacher and concert artist.

A severe injury to his hand he neither dwells on nor describes ended those dreams. But like the new neural pathways he's created through exercise and sheer will, which have enabled him to play again, his life has found its own new channels, bringing him success and happiness he would once have despaired of achieving.

To the manner born

Guarnaccia is at the front of a room full of college Spanish students both by accident and birthright. His father, Sam Guarnaccia, Sr., taught Spanish and Italian and was dean of the prestigious Spanish Summer School for nearly 30 years at Middlebury College.

The younger Guarnaccia came under the spell of the guitar at the age of 18 during one of the family's periodic six-month stays in Madrid, where his father traveled on sabbatical. Guarnaccia was introduced by a family friend to Miguel Rubio, one of Spain's most celebrated classical guitarists. Rubio sensed something special in Guarnaccia, who had dabbled in

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classical guitar, and invited him to be his student.

The word for student in Spanish is *discipulo*, Guarnaccia says, and a disciple of Rubio he became. "I took lessons every day, all day," he says. His progress was rapid and deep, and Rubio invited him stay on after his parents returned to America. After a year of total immersion, Guarnaccia returned home more Spanish than American. "I spoke English with an accent," he says.

He enrolled at Middlebury as a Spanish major, but he missed the musical life. After a second stint with Rubio, Guarnaccia returned to the United States determined to be a musician. He earned an undergraduate degree at the North Carolina School of the Arts and a master's in fine arts in guitar performance at the California Institute of the Arts, two of the few institutions with classical guitar programs in the 1960s.

After graduation, Guarnaccia landed a job directing the guitar elective program at the University of Denver and had soon convinced the dean of the university's respected Lamont School of Music to launch a classical guitar major, eventually attracting 10 students to the program, a major success. The confident young musician also gave frequent recitals.

From time signatures to timeshares

Then came the accident.

"It changed the course of my life," he says. Not only was he unable to play, it also "made teaching at that level not an option."

A dark period followed. Guarnaccia quit his job at Lamont and went to Europe. Looking for a way to support his wife and young child, he turned to sales, hawking — of all things — timeshares for a Portuguese resort. With an outgoing personality and strong social skills, he occasionally made the big score but too often felt unsettled and insecure.

"If you have doubts, you're dead as a salesman, and I had a lot of doubts," he says.

He returned to Middlebury and took another sales job, and did reasonably well, but one morning, he woke up unable to live with the life he'd created and the self he had buried.

Guarnaccia quit his job, took custody of his children after his marriage ended, and began a new life adventure — without much of a plan. He supported the family, barely, by giving private guitar lessons and teaching Spanish at the Gailor School in Middlebury. He also found a new talent — music composition.

"I was ecstatic," says Guarnaccia. "It felt like a return to my real world, my real self."

Looking for more income in a setting he knew as benign, Guarnaccia approached Middlebury president John McCardle to see if he could put his sales and marketing experience to work for the college. McCardle pointed him toward the development director, but also wisely put him in touch with Middlebury's Spanish chair, Donna Rogers.

Taking a shine

"I was impressed that he was willing to try something new" in midlife, says Rogers, now a professor of Spanish at Dalhousie University in her native Nova Scotia. "He had a sense of adventure and a deep love for Spanish language and culture and music. You could see it shine in his eyes." She offered him a job. "Students liked him right from the beginning," she says. Guarnaccia devoted himself to his new craft, observing other teachers and seeking and sharing best classroom practices.

In the meantime, Guarnaccia had remarried — his spouse is Paula Guarnaccia, assistant dean for administration in UVM's College of Arts and Sciences. Wanting to come geographically closer to Burlington, he applied for jobs at both St. Michael's and the University of Vermont and received offers from both.

Mass appeal

As Guarnaccia's new professional life continues to flourish — he is a popular and effective teacher at UVM — his old one is reawakening in unexpected new ways.

Guarnaccia has composed the music for a liturgical mass written by J. Philip Newell, a noted theologian and scholar, whose best-selling books on Celtic Christianity, a faith that emphasizes humanity's potential for good, liberation-theology style politics, and the mystical presence of the divine, has earned him a following around the globe. (Both Guarnaccias are deeply involved in the faith and highly politically active.)

The deceptively simple music has proved to be immensely popular among both professional musicians and ordinary churchgoers. Guarnaccia, who is also performing again, is currently in the process of publishing a concert version of the work and is undertaking several new compositions.

Are the operatic ups and downs of Guarnaccia's life visible in the classroom? Yes and no. "I know he plays guitar," says Allison Neal, a junior biology major from Northfield, Vt., although she wasn't aware of the level of musicianship he had achieved.

A dashing figure in black jeans, brown Oxford shirt and swept-back, graying hair (whom students have rewarded with a chili pepper icon for "hot," on the Rate My Professor Web site), Guarnaccia's teaching is a performance of sorts. He often swoops into the aisles to get closer to students, drawing out an answer like a chamber musician supporting a soloist's line.

"I love the class," says Neal. "He brings his own experiences into the class and makes it a lot more alive."

After class ends, a gust of comradely laughter sweeps the room. Somehow, Guarnaccia has imparted both copious information and, perhaps, a zest for life and any vicissitude it might bring.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Mellow in Europe, Crazy in America

By Joshua Brown

Article published February 27, 2007

Studying reed canarygrass, professor Jane Molofsky and her post-doctoral associate, Sebastien Lavergne, discovered a way that some formerly mild-mannered plants become "genetic superstars" — and then invade new terrain. (Photo: Sally McCay)

Reed canarygrass is a bit like some people on vacation. At home, they stay on their side of the fence, and speak nicely with the neighbors. But jet them into Las Vegas and, by week's end, they are shoving other people out of the way in the casino.

Similarly, the reed canarygrass is well

settled in its native European range, not pushing out other species or expanding its terrain. But strains introduced into the United States are running amok ecologically, choking out native plants in wetlands — including in Vermont. Once praised as a fine forage crop, the grass now is considered an invasive pest in several states, and its range is growing.

Studying this grass as a model, Jane Molofsky, associate professor of plant biology, and post-doctoral associate Sebastien Lavergne have discovered a novel mechanism to explain the surprising conversion of some plant species from quiet neighbor at home into expansive bully in new territory.

As they report in a forthcoming edition of the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#), the invasive power of this grass, brought to America in the mid-19th century and many times thereafter, comes not from any one individual plant, but from this history of multiple introductions from different regions of Europe.

Over decades, U.S. farmers and others have planted the grass as livestock feed, for erosion control, and for wastewater treatment — with plants taken from places as far apart as France, the Czech Republic, and Finland. These multiple introductions, and subsequent interbreeding, create a kind of biological stacked deck: Drawing on genetic variety from across the European continent, new strains have emerged in the United States with higher genetic diversity and more potentially advantageous

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qualities than their species brethren across the Atlantic.

"It's not that you're taking the ones in France and moving them to the U.S. and they're suddenly invasive," Molofsky says, looking over a green swath of reed canarygrass growing in a UVM greenhouse, "it's that you move some plants, and then you move some from somewhere else and they recombine here to form something better, genetic superstars."

The result: In America, reed canarygrass has developed traits, like faster emergence in the spring and larger root biomass, that allow it to become a rapid colonizer. In short, the grass is still the same species, but it has quickly evolved to be invasive.

And this has significance far beyond the headache of reed canarygrass. A noteworthy "implication of our paper is that not only do invasive species evolve but we show that they can evolve extremely rapidly," notes Lavergne, now at the University of Grenoble in France, striking a blow at the conventional view that evolution occurs at very slow rates.

In Vermont the state invasive exotic species committee has placed the grass on its watch list. "It shows the potential to be invasive in our climate zone," says Rose Paul, director of science and stewardship for the Vermont chapter of the Nature Conservancy. "It's not a plant that is banned for sale or transfer," — yet, she says, but "we're watching it," perhaps to follow Massachusetts, which has banned reed canarygrass

"If you drive around in Vermont you'll see that it has taken over whole areas of wetlands, and out West it clogs waterways and takes over irrigation ditches," says Molofsky. "It's a big problem in Alaska: it's preventing salmon runs, its changing habitats. It's becoming a larger and larger problem."

Molofsky's greenhouse- and field-based study, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, shows why. While the grass in its native Europe shows a typical decrease of genetic diversity at the edge of the range, constraining its ability to adapt and expand into new conditions, in the U.S. invasive range, they found a different story. There, the invasive plants thrive on infusions of Europe-wide genetic material, allowing them to quickly adapt to new conditions and continue their quiet march into new fields and wetlands.

"The problem is that these invasive species at the range margin are maintaining most of the genetic diversity, which represents a substrate for future evolution," Molofsky says, "so when climates begin to change we expect that some individuals from those populations will be able to grow in new conditions. But it is unlikely that native species have maintained enough genetic variability to move with rapid climate changes." Invaders persist, natives expire.

For land managers, farmers, nursery owners and others the implications of this study are also weighty. It seems likely that a considerable number

of horticultural and agricultural plants that currently seem benign could become invasive by the same mechanism that affected reed canarygrass, and that climate change will increase the intensity of this problem.

Other plants may soon follow this path. "Some in the nursery industry argue, 'well, we can have barberry here, because it's not invasive in Vermont.' My point is, 'yes, not now, but keep introducing it and let it mix, and, with climate change, we'll have it later,'" Molofsky says.

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Translating Identity Conference Engenders Dialogue

By Amanda Waite

Article published February 28, 2007

The fourth annual Translating Identity Conference, on Feb. 24, almost matched the record for largest student-run conference ever held at UVM (achieved by TIC in 2006).

Awareness of gender and gender identity issues on campus has come a long way, as have the annual

conferences, whose beginnings were humble.

"The first conference was organized in a matter of weeks," Dorothea Brauer, director of Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Questioning and Ally (LGTBQA) Services, recalls. "The students made the decision in February, and the conference was held in early April." Caitlin Daniel-McCarter '04, one of the students responsible for that first conference and a presenter this year, remembers that beginning event, held in one room in Old Mill. "We had two workshops at each session," and about 120 attendees, she says.

This year, TIC offered 28 workshops spread out over four sessions, not counting the morning plenary, the keynote speech, and the evening entertainment. More than 500 people from across the United States and Canada attended.

"It's a different UVM," Daniel-McCarter says. She cites policies that allow trans students to change their student ID names before they are sanctioned legally and to find trans-friendly housing options on campus. She notes also that trans has been added to UVM's non-discrimination policy, a accomplishment due in large part to co-coordinator of the first TIC, Ethan Fechter-Legget '05.

This year's conference covered an impressive range of topics, from workplace transitioning to trans youth experiences to the treatment of



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trans people in the criminal justice system to a documentary on gender activism*. “We don’t have any specific quotas or regulations on content,” says conference coordinator and senior Rhian Waters. “It’s a matter of the pool we get and what fits best. We try to create the most variety we can in one day.”

While the conference purposefully does not focus on one issue for the day’s sessions (as do some other national trans conferences including Trans-Health) one organizational theme did emerge this year. “It was a conscious decision on our part to have bookends that dealt with aging in the community,” Waters explains.

The morning plenary, given by Brett-Genny Beemyn, director of the Stonewall Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, reported on the results of Beemyn’s survey of 3,500 self-identified trans people, the largest study of the transgender community in the United States to date. While Beemyn’s talk focused on the lives of younger transgender people, the evening keynote speaker, Tarynn Witten, senior fellow and executive director of the TranScience Research Institute, discussed aging among trans people.

Seeing the trans community through age and generational differences often uncovers some of the underlying tensions within the group, most prominently word choice and self-descriptive language. “We want some of our sessions to actively confront intra-group conflict,” Waters says. “And terminology is a part of that. Depending on who you’re talking to, some people think ‘queer’ is the most amazing word that we’ve ever reclaimed, and some people still have too many bad memories and think it’s bad for the community.”

Kai Kohlsdorf, a graduate student at the University of Cincinnati and workshop presenter, confronted the issue of terminology in his sessions on “genderqueer,” a term that applies to members of the community who resist the gender binary altogether, identifying as neither male nor female or, in some cases, as both.

Diverse as the trans population is, a strong sense of community (created largely online and through conferences like TIC) does exist. “It’s a close-knit community,” says Sarah Kern, a conference attendee from the Rhode Island School of Design. “I wish we had that in Providence.”

While conversing with fellow members of the trans community can at times prove challenging given the lack of an agreed-upon glossary of terms — a reality many trans people celebrate for its diverse and defiant nature — Kohlsdorf says the point of the conference is to “have that messy conversation and hopefully come out of it with something that we didn’t know before.”

Emma Kennedy, UVM sophomore and a member of the conference committee, agrees: “We want the dialogue to happen.”

*Conference buzz: Perhaps one of the biggest hits at this year's TIC was the showing of Warren Wilson College student Erin Remick's documentary *Embodied Revolution: A National Look at Gender Based and Body Conscious Activism*. [Watch the opening of the documentary, and learn more about trans issues.](#)

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UVM HOMEPAGE

UVM Receives \$700,000 for Hydrogen and Biofuels Research

By The View Staff

Article published February 27, 2007

The College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences has received a \$700,000 grant for transportation research focused on the adoption and use of sustainable hydrogen- and bio-based fuels. Funded through the U. S. Department of Transportation Research and Innovative Technology Administration, the grant was secured for UVM in 2005 by Sen. James Jeffords, now a distinguished James Marsh Professor-at-Large at UVM. The funding supports complex systems studies promoting environmentally sustainable engineering solutions for Vermont and the nation.

The college received the grant last summer, and, after a competitive process, has just designated the projects it will support, including optimizing safety and operations of future hydrogen fuel networks in cold climates; creating electric power for hybrid vehicles with farm bio-waste; and developing nanostructured materials for hydrogen fuel cells.

Each research project showcases the emerging complex systems expertise throughout CEMS and also develops key ideas and technologies to advance local, regional, and national priorities in energy security, environmental sustainability, and economic development. Research projects in CEMS also will complement developing transportation research at the USDOT-funded UVM Transportation Center.

More information: Dawn Densmore, CEMS director of outreach and public relations, 656-8748.



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UVM HOMEPAGE

Food-Borne Illness Study Seeks Participants

By The View Staff

Article published February 28, 2007

Recent headlines have increased public awareness about the risks, pervasiveness, and consequences of super-powerful, food-borne bugs, but few people are familiar with one bug that is so common, it often causes food-borne disease more frequently than *E-coli*, Salmonella or other food-borne bacteria. Called *Campylobacter*, infections from this bacteria account for more than two million cases of food-borne illness and up to 100 deaths in the United States each year.

Dr. Beth Kirkpatrick, assistant professor of medicine, is leading UVM's collaboration with the Navy Medical Research Center and Denmark-based ACE BioSciences in the development and evaluation of a new vaccine against *Campylobacter* infection.

Campylobacter bacteria have a high degree of antibiotic resistance, which has increased the importance of vaccine development to prevent this infection. In the United States, infections with *Campylobacter* are most common in young children, travelers, and military personnel, but infection is also extremely common in less developed nations.

The first study in this multi-part collaboration is a new clinical trial designed to define the illness caused by this bacterium in healthy volunteers. UVM will enroll between 48 and 56 participants in the first *Campylobacter* trial, which involves a screening period and a carefully monitored seven- to 10-day inpatient stay. Men and women between the ages of 18 and 50 in good health are eligible to volunteer. Participants will be financially compensated.

More information: Cathy Larsson, UVM study coordinator at 656-0013.



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UVM HOMEPAGE

Bob Kerrey to Speak on Foreign Policy

By The View Staff

Article published February 27, 2007

Former senator and Nebraska governor Bob Kerrey, will speak on "U.S. Foreign Policy in the Post-9/11 Era," on Monday, March 5 at 4 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel. Kerrey, who is president of The New School University in New York City, served eight years on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. He immersed himself in the details of communication technologies and led the post-Aldrich Ames reforms of the federal intelligence agencies.

Kerrey served in the United States Navy SEAL Special Forces unit in the Vietnam War, was wounded, and awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life." He was governor of Nebraska from 1983 to 1987 and served in the United States Senate as a Democrat from 1988 to 2001. He was a member of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (9/11 Commission) in 2003 and 2004.

His UVM appearance is sponsored by the Political Science Department as part of the Florence Davis Dean Lecture Series and is free and open to the public.



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UVM HOMEPAGE

Cindy Sheehan and Iraq Vets to Speak Against War

By The View Staff

Article published February 27, 2007

Anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan will speak on March 2, at 6:30 p.m., in the Campus Center Theatre. Sheehan, whose son was killed in Iraq, captured worldwide media attention when she protested outside President Bush's Texas ranch. She and Iraq War veterans will speak out against the war and occupation. Her talk, "End the occupation," and subsequent discussion is free and open to the public.

Information: Andrew Nelson, (802) 318-3453

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Major Jackson Finalist for NAACP Image Award

By The View Staff

Article published February 27, 2007

Major Jackson, poet and associate professor of English, is a finalist for the NAACP Image Award in the category of Outstanding Literary Work – Poetry for his 2006 volume, *Hoops*. (W.W. Norton). Jackson's *Leaving Saturn*, his first collection of poetry, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in 2003. Jackson is on leave this academic year at Radcliffe/Harvard, where he has a fellowship to write poetry.

The New Yorker magazine critic describes Jackson's *Hoops* as "witty, musical, and intelligent; he is equally happy discussing the war on terror .. or describing early crushes." Subjects of this collection include Columbine, Tupac Shakur, and – in a long, tribute poem – Gwendolyn Brooks.

Maya Angelou, a previous winner in this category, also is among the finalists for this year's award for *Celebrations: Rituals of Peace & Prayer*.

The NAACP Image Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements and performances of people of color in the arts as well as those individuals or groups who promote social justice. The 38th annual NAACP Image Awards will be broadcast on FOX TV at 8 p.m. March 2.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

TRiO Celebrates 30 Years

By The View Staff

Article published February 27, 2007

The TRiO program will hold a celebration in Billings for its 30th anniversary on Saturday, March 3, beginning at 9:30 a.m. for registration and ending at 2:30 p.m. with the awarding of door prizes.

Sen. Bernie Sanders is slated to speak following a welcome at 10 a.m. by Thomas Gustafson, vice president, student and campus life, in the Campus Center Theatre. The keynote address, "Then What?" will be delivered by Rocki-Lee DeWitt, dean, of the School of Business Administration.

Two workshops will follow lunch (available in the Round Room):

- "Being First Gen and LGBTQ," with Dorothea Brauer and John Mejia, director and staff assistant, respectively, of LGBTQQA services.
- "Who Got in the Doors? Higher Education Past to Present in the USA," with Sherwood Smith, director, Center for Cultural Pluralism.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Government Documents Collection Turns 100

By The View Staff

Article published February 28, 2007

The University Libraries' government documents collection will celebrate its 100th anniversary March 1 with an open house from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Bailey/Howe Library's government documents department. An exhibit marking the centennial of UVM's participation as a federal depository library, a program established by congress in 1813 to safeguard the public's access to government information, is currently on display in the Bailey/Howe lobby.

The collection, says Scott Schaffer, library assistant professor, "is not dry, like some people think." As evidence of that, the exhibit includes a report on the response to Hurricane Katrina, a N.A.S.A. account of the search for extraterrestrial life, and a study on the World Trade Center's building performance.

The collection "allows people the opportunity to really look at the real, primary sources," Schaffer says, some of which date back to the 18th century. "We want to give people a sense of the breadth of government documents," he says, "and that, in fact, federal government information includes almost anything you could think of—from congress to federal agencies to the courts. And it covers a range of topics—the environment, the military, space exploration, agriculture, forestry."

The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) provides these documents at no cost to designated depository libraries throughout the country and territories. Depository libraries, in turn, provide local, no-fee access to government information in an impartial environment with professional assistance. Ninety percent of UVM's collection has been hand-selected by librarians on campus.

University Libraries will celebrate at the open house with a raffle and other treats. The exhibit is on display in the library through March 9.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Events Celebrate International Women's Day March 7, 8

By The View Staff

Article published February 28, 2007

International Women's Day (IWD) will be celebrated on campus on Wednesday, March 7, and Thursday, March 8. International Women's Day, as recognized by the United Nations, is observed around the world on March 8.

Since its inception in 1911, it has been a day for women across the globe, divided by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, to come together and celebrate their long history of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development.

For a full list the days' events, [visit UVM's International Women's Day website.](#)

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NOTABLES

February 28, 2007

Publications and Presentations

Emina Burak and **Joel Shapiro** from the Lifetime Wellness program were invited to present at the World at Work, Work-Life Conference in Phoenix, Ariz. on Feb. 23. Their talk, "Linking Wellness to Incentives: A guide to an Innovative Health Promotion Program Model," highlighted the University's "Personal Best" program. Additionally, Ms. Burak was interviewed in the February issue of *Human Resource Executive* on the Lifetime Wellness Program.

Wolfgang Mieder, chairperson of the Department of German and Russian, is the author of three articles published in three different European countries. His essay on "'The Golden Rule and Moral Suasion': Frederick Douglass's Proverbial Fight for Civil Rights" appeared in Spain, the article on "*Sprichwörtliche Argumentation* in Martin Luther's *Sendbrief vom Dolmetschen*" was published in Finland, and his paper "*Zur sprichwörtlichen Sprache moderner Mini-Lyrik*" was published in Russia.

Cory Teuscher, professor of medicine, co-authored an article in the Feb. 20 *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* titled "Antipsychotic drug-induced weight gain mediated by histamine H1 receptor-linked activation of hypothalamic AMP-kinase." These research findings were featured in a Feb. 13 *Wall Street Journal* article titled "Antipsychotic Drugs' Link to Weight Gain Found."

Awards and Honors

Dr. Tania Bertsch, associate professor of medicine and director of clerkship programs at the College of Medicine, was nominated for the 2006 Association of American Medical Colleges Humanism in Medicine Award. This award recognizes a medical school faculty physician who exemplifies the qualities of a caring and compassionate mentor in the teaching and advising of medical students. The candidate must also possess the desirable personal qualities necessary to the practice of patient-centered medicine. Nominations for this award are submitted by the Organization of Student Representatives chapter of each U.S. medical school to the OSR Administrative Board's national selection committee. The national award recipient was recognized at the AAMC Annual Meeting on Oct. 28, 2006 and Dr. Bertsch and the other 52 nominees were recognized in a full-page ad that ran in *USA Today*.

Jeanine Carr, associate professor of nursing, was named director of the

Honors College Program for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Meghan Cope, assistant professor of geography, was recently invited to join the editorial board of the journal *Urban Geography*, one of the leading scholarly publications in urban studies nationally and internationally. Cope's interests are in the social and spatial divisions of cities, particularly as they relate to race, gender, class, and youth issues.

Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, associate professor of geography, has been appointed to serve a five-year term on the editorial board of the *Physical Geography* journal. She will aid in guiding the advancement of climate science and climatology published in this prestigious outlet.

Domenico Grasso, dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, was invited to participate in a daylong forum in Washington for the World Justice Project, an initiative of the American Bar Association. Headed by honorary co-chair and former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the project seeks to promote justice through worldwide initiatives to promote the rule of law. The Feb. 28 forum will bring together leaders from many fields - medicine, religion, journalism, engineering, business, government and NGOs, among them.

In June, Grasso will receive the 2007 Robert H. Goddard Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement from the Alumni Association of Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The award is conferred on alumni who have extraordinary professional careers.

Anne Liske has been hired as UVM's first sexual violence prevention coordinator under The Vermont Approach, a comprehensive, collaborative, strategic plan for sexual violence prevention in Vermont. Liske, who began work on Feb. 12, was the executive director of the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Violence for the past seven years. She will work with **Susan Roche**, associate professor of social work and the project's director on campus.

David Novak, assistant professor in the School of Business Administration, **Lisa Aultman-Hall**, director of the Transportation Center at the University of Vermont, and **Darren Scott**, associate professor of geography at McMaster University have been awarded a peer-reviewed grant for approximately \$92,000 from the New England University Transportation Center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The research project, "Using Network Disruptions to Measure System Robustness," expands on previous published work by Aultman-Hall, Novak and Scott involving the Network Robustness Index, a system-wide modeling approach to evaluate network performance with an aim to maximize reliability of the overall transportation system and to minimize system vulnerability. This particular research project specifically addresses the need to improve the NRI to account for sparsely connected nodes/areas such as those often found in rural areas that have only one link connecting them to the remainder of the network. These critical links are

essential for emergency evacuation and provision of essential services.

February 21, 2007

Publications and Presentations

Paul Besaw, assistant professor of dance, presented a new duet choreographed for and performed by UVM dance students **Yaicha Bryan** and **Julia Ricklis** at the American College Dance Festival Association's New England Regional Conference at Williams College. The dance, entitled "Through," used the music of J.S. Bach and Andrea Parker. Besaw also presented a master class in modern dance technique for regional dance students, as well as mentored a UVM student for the presentation of the dance "Pressed," choreographed by junior Yaicha Bryan and danced by UVM students in an informal concert.

Chris Koliba, assistant professor in Community Development and Applied Economics, had an article published in the Jan. 2007 edition of *Administration and Society* titled "Inquiry as Intervention: Employing Action Research to Surface Intersubjective Theories-in-Use and Support an Organization's Capacity to Learn." The article recounts the attempts of social science researchers to employ an action research process to promote and support organizational learning within a public school setting. Addressing concerns with regard to the methodological challenges of translating individual perceptions into organizational themes or problems, the authors discuss the use of intersubjectively constructed accounts to support organizational learning.

Awards and Honors

Emily J. Stebbins, a graduate student in the Department of Community Development and Applied Economics, received UVM's "University Transportation Center Student of the Year" award for 2006, presented by the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 21, 2007.

February 14, 2007

Publications and Presentations

Frank Manchel, professor emeritus of English and film studies, has published a new book, *Every Step a Struggle: Interviews with Seven Who Shaped the African-American Image in Movies*. The book includes conversations with Lorenzo Tucker, Lillian Gish, King Vidor, Clarence Muse, Woody Strode, Charles Gordone and Frederick Douglass O'Neal. The interviews, combined with pictures, documentation and extensive annotation, recount through the words of key participants what happened to many film pioneers when a new generation of African-Americans rebelled against stereotyped film imagery.