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## Poetic Journey



Major Jackson's book of poetry, *Leaving Saturn*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. (Photo: Sally McCay)

"My ear, ultimately, is my audience," says Major Jackson, assistant professor of English and author of an acclaimed collection of poetry, *Leaving Saturn*.

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## The Pringle at 100

Cyrus Guernsey Pringle became UVM's first herbarium director in 1902, bringing with him his sizeable collection of botanical specimens. One hundred years later, the university will mark that event and the formation of the Botany Department with several celebrations.

**Paper Tiger** On a recent Thursday, the supply closet in the university communications office contained 17 reams of paper. That's about 8,500 sheets – but senior Lyndsay Hazen prefers to measure a different way. Seventeen reams of the wrong kind of paper, she says, is almost one tree.

## THE WEEK IN VIEW

**March 5 6:30 p.m.**  
**Talk: "A Holocaust Survivor Remembers,"** Henry Greenbaum, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Memorial Lounge, Waterman. 656-3356

**March 6 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Musical: Cole.** Matinee for student audiences with Q&A following. Tickets \$8. Royall Tyler. 656-2094 For other dates, times, see [UVM Theatre](#)

**March 6 12:30 p.m. Lecture: "Flexible Hours, Workplace Authority, and Women's Earnings,"** Elaine McCrate, economics. Marsh Lounge, Billings. 656-4282

**March 9 3 Lane Series Concert: Ensemble Corund, Swiss Choral group performs Bach's B minor Mass, chapel, St. Michael's College. Tickets: \$25/\$5 students with ID at door. 656-4455**

**March 10 2 p.m. Lecture: "Gender Politics in Afghanistan: Past, Present and Possible Futures,"** Margaret Mills, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Ohio State University. North Lounge, Billings. ADA visitors, call 656-3166

**March 11 5:30 p.m. Workshop: "Non-Profit Career Panel,"** with guest speakers from the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and the PIRGs.

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Renowned British mathematician Andrew Wiles will inaugurate the President's Distinguished Lecture Series, on March 10. Wiles is most famous for solving Fermat's Last Theorem.

### Fermat Theorem Mathematician To Launch President's Lecture Series

Renowned mathematician Sir Andrew Wiles will speak on "Solving Equations" as the first event in the new President's Distinguished Lecture Series on March 10 at 5 p.m. in Carpenter Auditorium, Given.

Wiles changed the landscape of modern number theory beginning in 1993, when he made front-page news worldwide for his spectacular proof of Fermat's Last Theorem, a famous problem that had baffled mathematicians since the 17th century. When an error was discovered in Wiles's calculation, jeopardizing his life's work, he managed to correct the 150-page proof and went on to open up, single-handedly, a new route to many problems in modern number theory.

"I can best describe my experience of doing mathematics in terms of a journey through a dark unexplored mansion," Wiles has said. "You enter the first room of the mansion, and it's completely dark. You stumble around bumping into the furniture, but gradually you learn where each piece of furniture is. Finally, you find the light switch, you turn it on, and suddenly it's all illuminated. Then you move into the next room and spend another six months in the dark. So each of these breakthroughs ... is the culmination of – and couldn't exist without – the many months of stumbling around in the dark that precede them."

A Fellow of the Royal Society, a foreign member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and a knight of the British Empire, Wiles is the recipient of the Swedish Academy's Schock Prize, the Wolf

### Child Obesity Epidemic Focus of University Scholar Lecture

Child obesity is an American epidemic, says Rachel Johnson, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The cost of treating obesity-related diseases now exceeds the cost of treating alcohol and tobacco-related diseases combined. Unless we effectively prevent and treat childhood obesity, she says, the current generation of American children may be the first that does not live as long as its parents' generation.

This disturbing news will be a starting point of nutritionist and obesity expert Johnson's University Scholar Lecture on March 12 at 4 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

In her talk, "Child Obesity - A Generation Cut Short?" Johnson will discuss childhood health risks and diseases formerly thought to be adult maladies. She'll discuss sugar and fats in fast food, portion size in restaurants, television advertising aimed at kids and high-sugar drinks in school vending machines.

Johnson's research emphasizes changing social and demographic trends in children's diets and methods of assessing healthy diets. She contributed to the Dietary Intake Reference report that received national attention last September (the one that recommended we exercise an hour a day), and she's the person responsible for all those articles and ads promoting flavored milk for kids. Johnson received the 2001 Award for Excellence in Research from the American Dietetic Association Foundation.

The University Scholar Awards Program, sponsored by the Graduate College, annually recognizes distinguished faculty members for sustained excellence in research and scholarly activities. The Scholars are selected by a panel of distinguished faculty, based upon nominations submitted by UVM colleagues.

### New Trustees Join Board

State Sen. James Leddy and Rep. Ed Amidon have joined the board of trustees as newly elected legislative members. Sophomore Marget Brue is the new student trustee. Their appointments took effect on March 1.

Governor James Douglas re-appointed Robert Young, who joined the board two years ago to fill a partial term as trustee, to a full six-year term. The legislature also re-elected Martha Heath, another current trustee, to another six-year term.

Prize, the Cole Prize of the American Mathematical Society and a medal from the International Mathematical Congress in Berlin. Born in Cambridge, England, he has been Eugene Higgins Professor of Mathematics at Princeton University since 1994.

The President's Distinguished Lecture Series, established last October, "offers excellent opportunities to attract internationally renowned scholars to campus," President Daniel Mark Fogel said. "The lectures are intended to enhance the intellectual vitality of the university, showcase our faculty, students and programs and bring the campus community together on a regular basis," he said. Each visitor will spend a full day speaking with students and faculty, presenting a public lecture understandable to a general audience and a smaller, more discipline-specific lecture.

A reception in the Health Science Research Facility gallery will follow Wiles's remarks. Both events are free and open to the public.

Information: Dave Dummit, 656-4344, or [dummit@emba.uvm.edu](mailto:dummit@emba.uvm.edu)

For a transcript of an interview with Wiles on the PBS program *Nova*, see [Nova](#)

### **Athletic Campus Draws Crowds**

Anyone who has tried to park at the Athletic Campus recently, especially on weekends, will not be surprised to hear that upwards of 75,000 visitors to its facilities will have come and gone by the end of March.

UVM serves as the host site for many high school state championships, attracting thousands of fans and potential students from across the state to campus. In early February, for example, the Harris-Miller Gymnastics Arena was packed with 1,500 fans watching the state gymnastics championships. During the week of Feb. 24, the campus hosted boys' hockey and boys' and girls' basketball championships at Patrick Gym and Gutterson Fieldhouse, bringing 20,000 fans to the Gut, while the basketball tournament games – semifinals and final – attracted another 13,000.

In addition to the high school events, UVM drew huge crowds to its own athletic events. More than 12,000 people cheered men's and women's teams, including hockey and basketball in late February. The final home game for women's basketball on March 5 will draw a large crowd to Patrick Gym, as well as a statewide audience on Vermont Public Television.

If the UVM men's ice hockey team enters a home playoff series in the ECAC tournament March 7-9, the games will be sellouts – with more than 4,000 people in attendance. And, should the men's basketball team make the finals of the America East tournament and be the top remaining seed, the Catamounts would host the championship game at Patrick Gym, with another sellout (3,228) virtually assured.

**James Leddy**, a resident of South Burlington, is a state senator and retired in 2000 as director of the Howard Center for Human Services. Leddy grew up in Vermont and graduated from Rice High School, the University of Ottawa and Barry University in Florida. He has served in the Vermont Senate since 1999 and is on the board of the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce. Leddy and his wife Clorinda have four children.

**Ed Amidon**, who lives in Charlotte, is a state representative and retired lawyer and mediator. He was previously a superior court judge and once served as president of the Vermont Bar Association. He is a graduate of Williams College and Harvard Law School. Amidon was elected to the house in 2001. He and wife Louise McCarren have four children.

**Marget Brue** is an active member of the Student Government Association. She is currently majoring in economics. Brue grew up in Burlington and graduated from Burlington High School. As an SGA senator, she served for one year as chair of the academic affairs committee. She is also active in the Lawrence Debate Union and economics club.

Former trustees Carolyn Kehler and Doran Metzger have left the board following the end of their terms.

### **Men's Basketball Team Heads to America East Playoffs**

Picked second in the preseason poll, the men's basketball team will head to the 2003 America East Men's Basketball Championships as the number two seed. The Catamounts are 18-11 overall and 11-5 in the America East. This year's second-place finish is the program's second highest in their 47 seasons of conference play. UVM's 18 wins to date are third in school history, trailing a school-record of 21 last season and 19 in 1946-47.

In the quarterfinals on March 9 at 6:05 p.m., the Catamounts will take on seventh-seed Albany, a team they beat last week 69-60, in the regular season finale at Patrick Gym. The quarterfinals and semifinals will be held at Boston University's Walter Brown Arena March 9-10.

Tickets for the tournament are on sale at the Boston University ticket office, 617-353-4628.

Information: 656-4410

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**Community Medical School Begins**

This semester's Community Medical School, a slate of free, presentations for the public by expert physicians and scientists from the College of Medicine and Fletcher Allen Health Care, will focus on public health issues. The free lecture series will take place Tuesday evenings March 11 - April 22 at 6 p.m. in Carpenter Auditorium, Given.

The series includes a new addition – a Menopause Health Conference – on Saturday, March 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Lecture dates, topics and speakers include:

- March 11: "The Air You Breathe: How Environmental Toxins Like Asbestos Affect Your Lungs," by Brooke Mossman, professor of pathology.
- March 18: "The Science of Heroin Addiction and Its Treatment," by Warren Bickel, professor and interim chair of psychiatry and director, The Chittenden Center
- March 25: "The Skin You're In: What Does Your Largest Organ Do?" by Dr. Anita Licata, associate professor of medicine and Fletcher Allen dermatologist
- April 1: "Treating Obesity Surgically – Gastric Bypass," by Dr. Laurie Spaulding, associate professor of surgery and Fletcher Allen surgeon
- April 8: "What Makes Your Heart Beat: Pacemaker and Defibrillator Technology," by Dr. Mark Capeless, professor of medicine and Fletcher Allen cardiologist
- April 15: "Too Much of a Good Thing: Sixty Years of Antibiotics Successes and Failures," by Dr. W. Kemper Alston, associate professor of medicine and Fletcher Allen infectious disease specialist
- April 22: "Why Can't They' Quit? Smoking Addiction and How You Can Help," by Dr. John Hughes, professor of psychiatry and Fletcher Allen psychiatrist

Registration, information: 847-2886 or [Community Medical School](#)

**Indai Sajor to Open International Women's Day**

The university is celebrating International Women's Day with a week of campus and community events on the theme, "Confronting War and Creating Peace."

Author and lecturer Indai Sajor will deliver the keynote address on "The Profound Struggles of

**Panel to Explore Development Issues**

The university will partner with the Vermont Forum on Sprawl in a video and panel-discussion presentation on livable landscapes March 5 at 6:30 p.m. in 108 Lafayette.

The screening of *Livable Landscapes: By Chance or By Choice?*, an hour-long video which recently aired on Vermont Public Television, will be followed by a panel discussion on issues relevant to the Burlington and Vermont communities, with:

- Jon Erickson, associate professor of natural resources
- Molly Lambert, Vermont Captive Insurance Association, former secretary of commerce and community development for the state
- Nancy Nye, community development specialist, chair of the Vermont Housing Conservation Board
- John Roberts, dairy farmer, member of Vermont Housing Conservation Board
- Richard Watts, transportation/energy specialist, instructor Continuing Education
- Evan Goldsmith, Vermont Forum on Sprawl
- Breck Bowden, Patrick Professor of Watershed Science and Planning, panel moderator

Robert Costanza, director of the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics at UVM, will summarize the panel discussion and make closing remarks.

Information: Evan Goldsmith, 864-6310; or Breck Bowden, 656-2513.

**Historians in Time of War**

Joyce Appleby, professor emerita of history at UCLA, will discuss "The Role of the Historian in the Time of War," March 10 at 4 p.m. in Lafayette 207.

Appleby is the author of *Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans and Ideology and Economic Thought in 17th Century England*. She is past president of the Organization of American Historians and the American Historical Association. A reception will follow the free, public lecture, which is sponsored by Phi Beta Kappa and the John Dewey Honors Program.

Information: 656-4464.

**Indian Novelist to Speak**



the Asian Comfort Women: Military Sexual Enslavement," in Waterman Manor at 8 a.m. on March 7. Internationally renowned for her work on the Tribunal of the Asian Comfort Women, Sajor is Rockefeller director on gender and human security; program director for the International Crime Justice Institute; and former executive director for the Asian Center for Women's Human Rights.

In 1993, she initiated a court case for Filipino comfort women against the Japanese government to demand compensation and reparations for the war crimes committed by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II. She organized the Judgment of the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, in 2000 and has been an integral voice in many human rights organizations. Sajor was jailed for political reasons under the regime of Ferdinand Marcos, former president of the Philippines.

"Promoting women's human rights means seeking out another vision of human rights that sees women as people and places them in the environment of which they are a part," Sajor told members of the The Advocacy Project in 1999. "Otherwise, violence against women will continue to be accepted as normal, even as the world changes for the worse. That cannot be permitted, any more than it can with war, hunger, and scarcity."

International Women's Day events at UVM also include:

- March 6 at 6 p.m. *The Way Home*, video and discussion. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill
- March 7 at 7:30 a.m. International Breakfast Buffet, Waterman Manor, \$3 per person. RSVP at 656-7924
- March 7 at 10:10 a.m. *International War Crimes Tribunal on Asian Comfort Women*, documentary and dialogue. Billings North Lounge
- March 7 at 11:30 a.m. "Women's Rights in War and Armed Conflict," with Indai Sajor. Billings North Lounge. Also participating will be Carolyn Elliot, professor of political science, and Kim Ead, director of the Peace and Human Rights Project at the Peace and Justice Center.
- March 7, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. "Midnight Jazz" with all-female jazz band Tonal Vision

Unless otherwise noted, events are free and open to the public.

Information: 656-7924 or 656-4296

### One Week to Register for Maze

Mastering the Maze is fast approaching, with one week remaining to register, say event organizers. Registration closes on Thursday, March 13.

Schedule of events, registration at: [Maze](#)

Amitav Ghosh, widely regarded as one of the most important and accomplished novelists in India, will discuss "The Immanence of Time: Mythic Swamps and Historical Memory" on March 10 at 5 p.m. in Billings Campus Center Theater.

Described as writing with "the microscope of Charles Dickens and the cinemascope of David Lean," Ghosh will visit campus as a Buckham Fellow in the Department of English. His most recent novel, *The Glass Palace*, is a sprawling family saga that begins in imperial Burma and continues through 20th century India and the streets of present-day Myanmar. *The Shadow Lines*, his most celebrated work, earned the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1989. Another novel, *The Calcutta Chromosome*, won the Arthur C. Clarke Award for best science fiction novel.

A reception in the Fleming Museum's Marble Court will follow Ghosh's talk. Both the reading and reception are free and open to the public.

Information: Jess Barrett, 656-4047; or Huck Gutman at [huck.gutman@uvm.edu](mailto:huck.gutman@uvm.edu)

### Dark Room Collective Poet to Read from Works

Poet Thomas Sayers Ellis, assistant professor of English at Case Western University, will read from and discuss his work on March 6 at 4 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. Ellis is the author of the books *The Good Junk*, *On the Verge: Emerging Poets*, and a chapbook, *Genuine Negro Hero*.

Ellis, an award-winning poet, co-founded the Dark Room Collective, a reading series for African-American writers in Cambridge, Mass. He was filmmaker Spike Lee's teaching assistant for two years at Harvard University and worked on the set of the film *Glory*.

Information: 656-4047.

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## Awards and Honors

**Catherine Donnelly**, professor of nutrition and food sciences, recently was appointed to a two-year term on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods. She is among 30 scientific experts, representing various aspects of human health, food safety and public health issues, chosen to serve. The NACMCF, established in 1988, provides scientific advice on public health issues relative to the safety and wholesomeness of the food supply, including development of microbiological criteria and review and evaluation of epidemiological and risk assessment data and methodologies for assessing microbiological hazards. The committee serves the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Food Safety and Inspection Service), Health and Human Services (Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), Commerce (National Marine Fisheries Service) and Defense (Veterinary Service Activity). The Secretary of Agriculture appoints committee members following consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

**Paul Reider**, who earned his doctoral degree in chemistry at UVM in 1978, will be honored March 25 by the world's largest scientific society for his pivotal role in the development of new therapies for AIDS, asthma and arthritis. He will receive the 2003 Earle B. Barnes Award for Leadership in Chemical Research Management from the American Chemical Society at its national meeting in New Orleans. As a vice president at Merck Research Laboratories, Reider and his team synthesized and helped deliver to patients in 1996 the first effective treatment for AIDS, called Indinavir, which still holds the FDA record for the fastest drug approval ever: 42 days. Through that project, and a similar approach he took with drugs to treat asthma and arthritis, Reider helped to change how pharmaceutical companies conduct research and expedite development of promising new medicines. A resident of Thousand Oaks, Calif., Reider is a member of the ACS division of organic chemistry.

## Publications and Presentations

**Gale Burford**, professor of social work, traveled in February to Amsterdam, where he gave the keynote address to participants at a symposium at vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Center for Kinderstudies, "Community Care and Professional Care: What Helps When?" He also gave an invited lecture, "How Can Family Group Conferences Halt Family Violence," to a conference that included women's shelter workers, police and other domestic violence professionals from throughout The Netherlands. Burford also met with a class of *pedagogiek* students at the university to discuss the use of family conferences in child protection work, and he consulted with a local child and family agency on the organization of their services. He was invited to spend an evening walking the Red Light District with a 38-year veteran of the community-based police force, who, as it turned out, is the person on whose character "Harry," the police officer in John Irving's *Widow for a Year*, is based.

**Andre Senecal**, professor of Canadian Studies, will appear in Vermont Public Television's historical documentary, *New England's Great River: Discovering the Connecticut*, March 10, 8-9:30 p.m. The program will repeat on March 15 at 5:30 p.m. and March 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. **Richard Pinckney**, associate professor of medicine, was lead author of an article titled "Effect of false positive mammograms on return for subsequent screening mammography" in the February 2003 issue of *The American Journal of Medicine*. Co-authors included **Berta Geller**, research associate professor of family practice, and Dr. **Benjamin Littenberg**, Henry and Carleen Tufo Professor of Medicine. This work draws on the Vermont Mammography Registry and investigates the behavior of women who undergo biopsy or other negative

work-up for cancer.

**Dana Walrath**, assistant professor of medicine, published an article titled "Rethinking pelvic typologies and the human birth mechanism" in February 2003 issue of *Current Anthropology*. This major invited article formed the centerpiece of a symposium of discussions on the evolutionary basis of childbirth.

Dr. **Charles MacLean**, associate professor of medicine, was lead author of an article titled "Patient preference for physician discussion and practice of spirituality: results from a multicenter patient survey" in the January 2003 *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. The article reports a large scale survey of physicians and patients that investigated the circumstances under which patients would welcome prayer and other manifestations of spirituality with their doctors.

**David Massell**, assistant professor of history, was an invited speaker at a conference, "Borderlines: Canada in North America," Feb. 27-28 at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. Massell briefed the largely Canadian audience of government, business and press leaders on the history of the relationship between the United States and Canada.

*Feb. 26 – March 4, 2003*

#### **Awards and Honors**

**Kirk McCaskill**, a 1983 alumnus, was selected this week for the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. McCaskill, who played hockey and baseball at UVM, had a 12-season career in professional baseball, playing with California Angels and the Chicago White Sox. At UVM, he was an All-American hockey player, runner-up for the Hobey Baker Award – for the best college hockey player in the nation – and an outstanding hitter and pitcher on the baseball team. He was inducted into UVM's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993.

**Robert Nash**, professor of education, was elected as an executive board member of the Society of Professors of Education. His term for the national position will be 2003-2005.

#### **Publications and Presentations**

**Carolyn M. Bonifield**, assistant professor of business administration, presented a paper titled "Product Returns on the Internet: A Consumer Side Study," at the 2003 Society for Consumer Psychology Winter Conference, on Feb. 22, in New Orleans. Along with University of Iowa co-authors Catherine Cole and Randall Schultz, Bonifield examines how specific aspects of the Internet shopping environment affect the ways in which consumers interpret certain signals such as return policies.

*Feb. 19-Feb. 25*

#### **Awards and Honors**

**George Pinder**, professor of civil and environmental engineering, received the 2003 American Society of Civil Engineering Julian Hinds Award for his pioneering, sustained and preeminent contributions to the science and practice of groundwater modeling and numerical solution methods and to the design of groundwater remediation strategies and groundwater quality management. Pinder's other honors include the American Geophysical Union's RCA Professor of Energy Resources Award and Horton Award and the Geological Society of America's O.E. Meinzer Award. In addition, he has been the recipient of the Eminent Scientists Award Medal and was named a University Scholar, in recognition of his contributions to research and scholarship.

**David Barlow**, 1969 doctoral alumnus, delivered the Lewis Distinguished Lecture at the Psi Chi/American Psychological Association National Convention last August. His lecture was titled "The Nature and Development of Anxiety and its Disorders: Triple Vulnerability Theory."

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## Poetic Journey

By Kevin Foley



Major Jackson's book of poetry, *Leaving Saturn*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. (Photo: Sally McCay)

"My ear, ultimately, is my audience," says Major Jackson, assistant professor of English and author of an acclaimed collection of poetry, *Leaving Saturn*.

The poet, who would like to learn the upright bass someday so he could accompany himself, is explaining how he finds himself within his craft – how the rhythm of a line, worked and reworked, eventually becomes the rhythm of his heart.

"I'm looking for the music in language," he says.

Jackson's mellifluous stanzas have, over the last several years, brought the young poet accelerating amounts of attention and praise. His book was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, and he won a prestigious Library of Congress fellowship (one of two nationwide), selected by United States Poet Laureate Billy Collins. His poems have appeared in *The New Yorker* and *Boulevard*.

For all of his formidable intelligence and accomplishment, Jackson is short on personal pretense. ("Major is *wonderful*," cries English lecturer Eve Alexander on mention of his name in an Old Mill hallway.) This makes his retro tendency to attach capital letters unironically to things important to him – Art, being an Educator – inspiring rather than insufferable.

When you've got the goods, after all, you don't need to be cool. Jackson is comfortable admitting that Robert Frost's "Nothing Gold Can Stay" was a huge poem for him during adolescence; he even says that after snatching two poetry volumes off his grandparents' second floor bookshelves, collections of Frost and Langston Hughes, he carried the books with him constantly through high school.

"There seemed to be something sacred at that time to the reading of poetry. It wasn't the Bible, it wasn't fiction, it wasn't the newspaper, it was the one thing in the world that had one voice on the page speaking directly to me," he says.

### Widening the gaze

Jackson's poetry reading was a reminder to an occasionally brooding teen that he was not alone. In his writing, he tries to draw such intimate ties with readers.

"Our lives are inevitably steeped in the quotidian," he says. "I try to exploit that everyday in my work, use it to make a connection."

And so, for one of his poems' speakers, a urine-splashed doorway redolent of hot dogs and sauerkraut, becomes an altar of self-affirmation, a place to smoke

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### The Pringle at 100

Cyrus Guernsey Pringle became UVM's first herbarium director in 1902, bringing with him his sizeable collection of botanical specimens. One hundred years later, the university will mark that event and the formation of the Botany Department with several celebrations.

### Paper Tiger

On a recent Thursday, the supply closet in the university communications office contained 17 reams of paper. That's about 8,500 sheets – but senior Lyndsay Hazen prefers to measure a different way. Seventeen reams of the wrong kind of paper, she says, is almost one tree.



pot and dream. In this very specific landscape, there is so much of adolescence: the potentiality, the grandiosity, the self-consciousness and self-awareness. Ridge and 23rd in Philly becomes, for an instant, the entire world.

"My interest is the human experience," Jackson says. "Some people can write beautifully about the landscape in the absence of human beings, but I can't."

The landscape of urban Philadelphia, human and physical, is a recurring theme of his work. Jackson finds this both inevitable and, at least when filtered through some critics, limiting.

You'll find bodegas and blunts in Jackson's poems, skullcaps and the Cabbage Patch. There are allusions to hip-hop groups like BDP and De La Soul, but reading the work through racial or urban goggles obscures its tonal range. You lose the quirkiness and complexity of Jackson's personality, his love of family, music, visual arts, his willingness to probe himself with insight and occasionally self-deprecating humor.

"A poet's first book is an announcement of who you are," he says. "Then the gaze widens."

Jackson's field of vision is widening these days to encompass an eclectic array of writers, poets, musicians and artists. He is, he says, becoming more and more interested in heroes as the country lingers on the brink of war. So he's thinking and writing about Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Gwendolyn Brooks and Thurgood Marshall. Writing in a more explicitly historical and cultural mode, he says, is inspiring.

Urban writing, "it's another way to break out of the box," he says. "I'm not complaining, but I think it's fair to say that some critics and writers lack the language to really write about and understand another writer's ethnic background," he continues. "There's a kind of shorthand in use."

### **Rambling writer**

Jackson spent his first 25 years more or less exclusively in Philadelphia, studying at high-powered Central High School and Temple University. After finishing his undergraduate studies with the unlikely major of accounting, he took his number crunching skills and love of the arts to the city's Painted Bride Art Center.

He balanced the books, wrangled grants and arranged readings and residencies for writers including Derek Walcott, Philip Levine and Yusef Komunyakaa. He says the feeling of being immersed in a sustaining circle of artists, writers, musicians and intellectuals was a joy.

"It's one of my goals to bring that experience into the academy," he says.

Writing, teaching and ranging the reading and residency circuit doesn't leave much time for that, but Jackson's commitment is sincere. As a small first step, he will arrange a poetry event in Burlington as part of his Library of Congress fellowship. He's looking for other opportunities as well. He's enthusiastic about the Fleming Museum's multidimensional programs surrounding its Andy Warhol exhibit and would like to collaborate with the museum.

He left the Painted Bride to earn a master of fine arts degree at the University of Oregon. Then, without a book but with some strong publications, he took a tenure-track job at Xavier University in New Orleans. He won a book prize there, and *Leaving Saturn* was published by the University of Georgia Press last year. He started at UVM last fall.

Jackson sees the moves as part of a journey, an unfolding process, discovering aspects of himself and his voice through travel.

"I've always loved New England," he says of coming to Vermont, to UVM. "I remember thinking one night in a swimming hole near Ripton about how great it would be to just live here."

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## The Pringle at 100

By Cheryl Dorschner



Cyrus Pringle and his assistant Filemon Lozano working in 1910-era Williams Hall. (Archival photo by B.F. Lutman, courtesy of the botany department.)

Cyrus Guernsey Pringle became UVM's first herbarium director in 1902, bringing with him his sizeable collection of botanical specimens. One hundred years later, the university will mark that event and the formation of the Botany Department with several celebrations, says current Pringle Herbarium director and botany professor David Barrington.

On March 12 at 7 p.m., Barrington will speak at

the Vermont Institute for Natural Sciences in Montpelier about the herbarium and Pringle's plant explorations. Beginning in May, naturalists will lead Cyrus Pringle botany walks in Vermont areas where Pringle collected specimens. The Fleming Museum will launch an extensive exhibit of Pringle's writings, specimens and memorabilia next fall.

### Early interests

Pringle was born in East Charlotte in 1838. "He was well-schooled in Hinesburg and Bakersfield, Vermont, and later at Stanbridge, Quebec," according to the *Life and Work of Cyrus Guernsey Pringle*, by Helen Burns Davis and published by the University of Vermont in May 1936.

Pringle entered UVM in 1859, but when his older brother died during Cyrus' first semester of study, he had to abandon college to work the farm for his already widowed mother. Much later, Pringle was awarded honorary degrees from UVM and Middlebury College.

It was on his mother's farm where his grandfather had planted apples and pears that Pringle grafted apples at age 19, started a nursery in 1858 and, in the 1870s, crossbred new potato varieties such as Snowflake, Alpha and Ruby. He sold seedlings of lilies, gladioli and wheat. He grew more than 100 varieties of Iris and nearly all the then-known species of lilies. His Hubbard squash seeds brought a dollar a pound at one time, and he ran a veritable hospital for bulbs. "People sent him their sick specimens from great distance to healthy Vermont and his skillful practice," according to Davis's account.

### Pacifist to botanist

In 1863, Pringle was drafted into the Union Army along with two other Vermont Quakers. He was jailed and later "staked to the ground with his arms outstretched and legs racked," Davis wrote, and was threatened with death because he refused to perform military duties. He would not give in and after the torture wrote in his diary that it had "been the happiest day of my life – to be privileged to fight the battle for universal peace." President Lincoln personally intervened to gain the parole of the three Quakers.

Pringle began to collect plant specimens. He first attempted exploration of Camel's Hump in 1874 but abandoned it two years later for Mount Mansfield, which was much richer in flora. In 1878 he exhibited Vermont specimens at the

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### Poetic Journey

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### Paper Tiger

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Paris Exposition. In 1880 he was commissioned by the American Museum of Natural History, the famed Harvard botanist Asa Gray and the U.S. Census to collect plant specimens on the U.S. Pacific Slope and explore the forests there. Five years later, he was commissioned to collect in Mexico. Many of his specimens were the first specimens (called "type specimens") of new species. Pringle worked in Mexico for 26 years until his death in 1911.

By the end of his life, he had distributed an astounding 500,000 sheets of some 20,000 species – 29 new genera and 1,200 new species, 100 new varieties and four new combinations, unsurpassed by almost any other collector. More than 100 years later, these specimens are still among the best collected and preserved.

"His species are beautiful," Barrington says. "This art shines where plants are reduced from three to two dimensions. But what is important is that they display the character of plants to scientists."

And, no, although he bred potato varieties, there is no connection between Cyrus Pringle and that fabricated snack food that bears the same name. Barrington says, "We wrote to Proctor and Gamble asking where they came up with the name. They wrote back and said they just picked it because they thought it was a good name." .

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## Paper Tiger

### Senior is stumping for 100 percent recycled paper purchasing

By Kevin Foley



Senior Lyndsay Hazen has a clear message for UVM: Buy recycled paper. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

On a recent Thursday, the supply closet in the university communications office contained 17 reams of paper. That's about 8,500 sheets – but senior Lyndsay Hazen prefers to measure a different way. Seventeen reams of the wrong kind of paper, she says, is almost one tree.

Hazen, who won a grant from the National Wildlife Federation to promote recycled paper

on campus, is convinced that protecting old-growth forests should start right here.

"We need to start driving the market for recycled products," she says. "So I wanted to start here and try to figure out what's stopping people from buying recycled."

Her surveys and conversations show that it isn't the university. It's cost. And, maybe, education.

Recycled paper comes in a confusing number of brands and qualities. Since there are no clear standards for labels, a cursory glance at a "recycled" ream is often not enough to tell if the paper actually came from pre-used stock. (Paper mills recover waste scraps at their plants. This is good, but it isn't recycling.) The gold standard, Hazen says, is a paper entirely made from "post-consumer recycled" materials.

A good intermediary step is to select a paper made from 30 percent post-consumer-recycled paper (as is the case at communications). And while you're at it, make sure the paper is unbleached, since that technique for artificially whitening stock produces dioxin, a dangerous chemical.

"Totally recycled paper is indistinguishable from paper made from virgin trees," she says. "The industry has come a long way. About five years ago, UVM tried a recycled paper that was an ugly off-white and jammed copiers instantly. This is nothing like that."

And so Hazen, with the help of her grant, is proselytizing the aesthetic and environmental virtues of recycled paper, handing out free sample reams and copies of a how-to brochure and fact-sheet she wrote, "Buying Recycled Paper at UVM." Her efforts have been greeted with support and enthusiasm, but her message has been slow to show up on supply orders.

#### Six bucks more a case, that's all she asks

Despite the new recycled paper's better quality and lower prices, as well as an

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#### Poetic Journey

"My ear, ultimately, is my audience," says Major Jackson, assistant professor of English and author of an acclaimed collection of poetry, *Leaving Saturn*.

#### The Pringle at 100

Cyrus Guernsey Pringle became UVM's first herbarium director in 1902, bringing with him his sizeable collection of botanical specimens. One hundred years later, the university will mark that event and the formation of the Botany Department with several celebrations.



innovative 1999 environmentally preferred purchasing policy at UVM, one campus survey showed that only about 30 or 40 percent of departments regularly bought paper that was at least 30 percent recycled.

A large part of the reason for that, Hazen says, is cost. Completely recycled paper costs about \$6 more a case than virgin paper; 30 percent recycled cost an extra \$2. Hazen concedes that the differential is significant. But she argues that a department paying, say, 10 percent more for its paper could conceivably come out ahead by reducing copies, printing double-sided copies and using other paper-reducing techniques.

Staples, the office supply giant and major UVM vendor, has committed itself to achieving an average of 30 percent post-consumer recycled paper and phasing out purchases of paper products from endangered forests. The federal government, also, is urging its units to buy at least 30 percent recycled paper. These large-scale moves promise to push recycled paper prices even lower and make buying green require less green.

As the rest of the world catches up to the university's early pro-recycling stand, Hazen and her colleagues on the UVM Environmental Council hope that the university will continue to drive ahead, and start moving toward buying 100 percent post-consumer-recycled paper. She's planning to prod the institution along by following the example of colleagues at Cornell University and pushing student-government resolutions supporting buying pure recycled paper.

In the meantime, she has some words of advice.

"Badger Enviro-Graphic," Hazen says. "You'll like it."

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## Paper Trail

Hazen and the Environmental Council urge campus purchasers to try 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper. Here are some highlights of their case:

- It's hard to say how much paper UVM buys in a given year, but we *recycle* 300 tons of the stuff. If that 300 tons were all 100 percent recycled, we'd save 6,000 trees, 210,000 gallons of water, 300 cubic yards of landfill space and enough energy to power a home for 48 years.
- The university's purchasing policy encourages going green. The paper, while pricier, looks and performs the same as other paper. It's been tested in the library and president's office; it's fully in use in purchasing, physical plant, the School of Natural Resources and student government.
- Some Staples options if you're convinced: Badger Enviro-Graphic (100 percent recycled); also Hammermill Savings, Boise-Cascade Aspen and Union Great White (30 percent recycled).
- [E-mail Lyndsay Hazen](#) for a sample ream, advice on more proven 100-percent recycled papers or a copy of her brochure.

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