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INTERview: Frank Bryan

The work of citizenship: Frank Bryan has spent his career explaining how "real democracy" works. (Photo: Sally McCay)

In honor of town meeting day, we spoke with Frank Bryan, associate professor of political science and author of the forthcoming *Real Democracy*, about tolerance, citizenship and the future of civic participation in the Internet age.

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She's Got Game(s)

"Sometimes when I'm at practice at 6 a.m.," says senior point guard Libby Smith, "I ask myself 'What am I doing here?' – then I remember how much I love the game."

Framing a Future

Like most artists, photographers struggle to balance their creative work with the jobs that pay the bills. Andy Duback, a UVM junior majoring in studio art, is already bridging those two worlds.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

March 7 5 p.m.
Talk: "The Landscape in Context: Poland's Wartime Memory and the Uses of History," Jonathan Huener, History. Fleming Museum. Reception follows. 656-0750

March 8 1-5 p.m.
Study Abroad Fair, Marsh Dining Hall. 656-4296

March 8 7:30 p.m.
Lane Series: Ensemble Corund, Swiss chorus performs Bach and Vivaldi, Recital Hall. 656-4455

March 9 Noon-3 p.m.
Equine Fair: Riding demonstrations, horse care, UVM Morgans. UVM Farm, Spear St., South Burlington. Park free at Gutterson, take shuttle. 656-2070

March 13 12:15 p.m.
Talk: "A Romance of 1850: Junius Brutus Stearns's 'Country Sparking,'" Alex Nemerov '85, History Department, Yale. Fleming Museum. 656-0750

March 13 12:30 p.m.
Brown Bag Series: "HIV and AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa," Glen Elder, Geography. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. 656-1096

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Men's B-Ball Ends With a Bang

Dismissed from its march toward the NCAAs in an overtime semi-final against Maine (61-59) in the America East championship, the UVM men's basketball team, nonetheless, can only view its season as a triumph.

Following the final game, Coach Tom Brennan told his athletes they had been "part of the best Vermont basketball team in the 102 years we have played the sport."

And, they have the stats and honors to prove it. The Catamounts, ranked fourth in a pre-season coaches' poll, compiled their first 20-win season and collected their first regular season title.

And, in a clean sweep of the America East Conference honors:

- Tom Brennan was chosen as America East Coach of the Year
- Sophomore point guard T.J. Sorrentine, of Pawtucket, R.I., received the Kevin Roberson America East Player of the Year award and was selected to the all-America East first team.
- Freshman forward Taylor Coppenrath, of West Barnet, Vt., was named America East Rookie of the Year and a second team, all-conference player.
- Senior center Trevor Gaines, of Farmington Hills, Mich., was selected for the all-America East first team.

It was just the second time in the 23-year history of the conference that one team took all three major awards. Brennan is the second coach in league history to win the award more than twice, also earning it in 1991 and 1998.

Sorrentine also has been selected for the 2002 U.S. Basketball Writers Association all-District I team.

Brennan also was chosen District I Coach of the Year by the National Association of of Basketball Coaches, an honor he also earned in 1992. He is now eligible to be named national coach of the year, to be named at the annual NABC dinner in Atlanta March 31.

Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team closed its regular season with a win (61-43) against Stony Brook. The top-seeded women will play Northeastern (#8) March 8, at 6 p.m., at the University of Hartford, in the quarter-final round of the America

Sponsored Programs on Track to Hit \$100 Million

Continuing a streak of attracting record totals of sponsored programs funding, UVM is closing in on a landmark \$100 million in awards for the current fiscal year.

"This is a testament to the quality of scholarship on this campus," says John Burke, vice provost for research. "We are competing and winning against faculty at Harvard, Berkeley and MIT in a highly competitive endeavor. Only 20 percent of grants are funded."

The previous record awards total was \$87 million in 2001. A final count will not be available until July, after the end of the current fiscal year.

The majority of sponsored program awards support specific research projects, though the total also includes instructional grants and donor-restricted development funds.

Sponsored programs awards have grown dramatically over the past 10 years, rising 55 percent since 1992. Research funding has grown even faster, rising 70 percent since 1997.

The Cheese Does Not Stand Alone

Our headline is a shameless ripoff of one that flagged a *Rutland Herald Sunday Magazine* (March 1) story about UVM food safety expert Cathy Donnelly. "The cheese has an ally," by freelance writer Mark Bushnell, explicated Donnelly's work in a 3,000-word-plus article. Donnelly, professor of nutrition and food sciences, told the reporter that she has never been sick during her numerous travels – instant credibility for the microbiologist.

Donnelly also revealed that she doesn't eat raw sprouts, "a major source of salmonella," sushi or raw oysters, "microbiological disasters," quoted the *Herald*.

But, she loves and defends the unpasteurized, aged, hard cheeses the FDA scrutinized with a possible ban in mind. A report of her findings on the safety of these cheeses may be why the FDA called a halt to its investigations, according to the *Herald*.

For the complete article, see [The cheese has an ally](#)

East Championships.

See profile of Libby Smith in this issue: [She's Got Game\(s\)](#)

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**Sweet Sitar Music**

Allyn Minor, a skilled interpreter of North Indian classical music, plays on campus March 9. See story, below. (*Publicity photo.*)

Concert to Feature Hindustani Music

Philadelphia-based sitar player Allyn Miner will give a concert of North Indian (Hindustani) classical music on March 9, at 7 p.m., in Recital Hall on the Redstone Campus. Miner will be accompanied by Samir Chatterjee on the tabla. The concert is presented by the Friends of Indian Music and Dance.

Tickets (advance purchase highly recommended): Campus Ticket Store, 656-3085.

Information: 860-9556, or fimd@zoo.uvm.edu or visit [Indian Music](#)

Applications Open for Two Institutes for Women

Each year, UVM participates in two management-training opportunities for women, the Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration and the Management Institute for Women in Higher Education. Information sessions on both will be held March 7, 3-4 p.m., in Memorial Lounge, Waterman; and March 11, 12-1 p.m., in the Phi Beta Kappa room, Waterman.

The Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity will choose one woman to attend the summer institute, which is held at Bryn Mawr College and/or two women for the management institute, held at Wellesley College over five sessions during the academic year. UVM covers the tuition and provides a limited allowance for travel and expenses.

The curriculum in both programs includes professional and personal development,

Celebrate International Women's Day

UVM will host several events on March 7 and 8 to celebrate International Women's Day, including:

- March 7, 6 p.m., Film: *Blossoms of Fire/Ramo de Fuego*, 315 Living/Learning Commons. Peggy O'Neill-Vivanco and Luis Vivanco, assistant professor of anthropology, will lead the discussion.
- March 8, 7:30 a.m., Breakfast and Keynote, Waterman Manor: "Breaking the Silence: Global Concerns for Women with HIV/AIDS," Sondra Solomon, assistant professor of psychology
- March 8, 1-5 p.m., Study Abroad Fair, Marsh Dining Hall.
- March 8, 6 p.m., "Women and Disabilities," panel from Theatre Department, ACCESS Office and the Women's Center.

Information, complete schedule: Bonnie Campono, 656-3434 or Bonnie.Campono@uvm.edu

Olin Robison to Lecture on Foreign Policy

Olin Robison, president of the Salzburg Seminar, frequent commentator on Vermont Public Radio and former president of Middlebury College, will present this spring's Emerson Lecture at the University of Vermont.

Robison's talk is titled "U.S. Foreign Policy: What Will Change, What Will Not." The lecture will be presented March 14, at 7:30 p.m., in Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

The Emerson Lecture Series, established by the History Forum in 2000, honors Samuel F. Emerson, who was named UVM's first professor of history in 1890.

Teach High School in NYC

Jerry Garfin, principal of Christopher Columbus High School in the Bronx, will collect resumes and speak to teaching candidates for all 21 high schools in the Bronx, New York, on March 13, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 12-2 p.m., in Living/Learning E-107. Needed positions, according to Career Services, include math, science, English as a second language and guidance counseling.

Information: 656-3450

management in organizations, strategic planning, information systems and computer applications and fiscal management. The programs have some differences, with Bryn Mawr focused toward full-time faculty and administrators at grade 12 and above, and Wellesley focused toward full-time faculty and staff grade nine and above.

Information and applications available in Affirmative Action office, 428 Waterman, 656-3368

Anti-War Group Envisions Another World

The National Anti-War Tour will stop at UVM on March 13, when participants will present a panel on "War and Resistance: Another World Is Possible," at 7 p.m. in the Campus Center Theatre, Billings.

Speakers will be: Medea Benjamin, founding director of Global Exchange; Colleen Kelly, September 11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows; Ahmed Shawki, editor, *International Socialist Review*; and David Bates, Campaign to End the Death Penalty.

The tour is sponsored by the International Socialist Organization, numerous UVM departments and groups and several community groups.

Poet Lynn Emanuel to Read at Writers' Workshop

The Writers' Workshop at UVM will host Lynn Emanuel, reading from her poetry, March 7, 4:30 p.m., in John Dewey Lounge.

Emanuel is the author of three books of poetry, *Hotel Fiesta*, *The Dig*, a selection of The National Poetry Series, and *Then, Suddenly*, which received the Eric Matthieu King Award from The Academy of American Poets. Her work has been featured in the *Pushcart Prize Anthology* and *Best American Poetry* in 1994, 1995, 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Emanuel has been a poetry editor for the *Pushcart Prize Anthology*, a member of the literature panel for the National Endowment for the Arts, and a judge for the James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets. She is a professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh and director of its writing program and of the Pittsburgh Contemporary Writers Series.

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March 6-March 12

Awards and Honors

Paula Fives-Taylor, professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, is the 2002 recipient of the Research in Oral Biology Award presented by the International Association for Dental Research. Fives-Taylor is internationally recognized for her pioneering research in adhesion and invasion mechanisms of microorganisms associated with tooth decay and gum disease. This highly competitive award for significant and sustained peer-reviewed research achievements was presented to Fives-Taylor at the 80th General Association Session on March 6 in San Diego, Calif.

Dr. David Fassler, clinical associate professor of psychiatry, was elected to the board of the American Psychiatric Association, as a trustee-at-large.

Publications and Presentations

Pauline Ratnasingham, assistant professor of business administration, recently hosted guest speaker Carl Lorenstone, in two sessions of her BSAD 141 classes, Management in Information Systems. Lorenstone founded Renaissance Information Systems, Inc., in 1994. He has taught relational database design topics as a member of Champlain College's adjunct faculty and through UVM's University Training and Development program.

Alan Budney, associate professor of psychiatry and director of the UVM Treatment Research Center, was one of two expert panelists featured in a national satellite teleconference titled "Marijuana: Weeding Out the Hype," on Feb. 28. The program was sponsored by the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy, the National Guard Counterdrug Office, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration/Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America.

Amor Kohli, a New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) Fellow in the Department of English and a doctoral candidate at Tufts University, contributed an essay titled, "Saxophones and Smothered Rage: Bob Kaufman, Jazz and the Quest for Redemption," in the winter issue of *Callaloo*, an African and African American literary journal. Kohli's article, part of a special issue devoted to jazz poetics, can be read online at [Callaloo](#)

Jeff Dinitz, professor and chair of mathematics and statistics, recently published three articles: with C.J. Colbourn and D.R. Stinson, "Quorum systems constructed from combinatorial designs," in *Information and Computation* 169 (2001); with I. Anderson, C. Rodger and B. Webb, "Combinatorics in Undergraduate Courses," in *Bulletin of the Institute for Combinatorics and its Applications* 32 (2001); and with **Alan Ling**, assistant professor of computer science, "The existence of referee squares," in *Discrete Mathematics* 232 (2001).

Kevin McKenna, professor of Russian and director of the Area and International Studies Program, has been invited by the Carnegie Corporation to address an international symposium on "Higher Education in Russia in the Post-Soviet Era." McKenna and **Kathleen Hoyt**, UVM trustee, will participate in the conference, to be held in Moscow, Russia, April 15-16. McKenna notes that post-Soviet Russia is turning to international models as it seeks to reorient its higher education system to the demands of the new century. Presidents and pro-rectors of more than 30 Russian state universities and administrators from universities in Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Uzbekistan and from the Russian Ministry of Higher Education will attend. Hoyt will also participate in

a special session on the role of boards of trustees in university governance.

In Memoriam

Several members of the UVM community died in recent weeks.

George Crooks, chemistry professor from 1930 to 1971, died on Feb. 25.

Dr. Douglas McSweeney, professor of surgery from 1977 to 1994, died last week.

Julius Dwork, professor of mathematics from 1954 to 1981, died last week.

Kate Svitek, alumna of the class of 2001, died sometime in February. She disappeared on Feb. 9 while snowbarding in Oregon, where she lived. Her body was found on March 4.

Ruth Kramer, retired staff member, died last week.

Veronica Sinkew, retired staff member, died last week.

Vernon Riley, recently retired assistant facilities manager for residential life, died on Feb. 25.

Feb. 27-March 5, 2002

Publications and Presentations

John Gennari, assistant professor of English, published an essay on "Miles and the Jazz Critics," in the book *Miles Davis in American Culture*. Gennari's article on "Bridging the Two Americas: LIFE Looks at the 1960s," appears in a book titled *Looking at Life Magazine*.

Emily Bernard, assistant professor of English, chaired a panel on "Langston Hughes and Cultural Formations" at the conference, Langston Hughes and His World: A Centennial Celebration, at Yale University, Feb. 21-23.

Tony Magistrale, professor of English, has been invited to give two lectures on Stephen King's work at Cecil College in Maryland.

Bret Golann, visiting assistant professor of business administration, presented a paper, "Achieving Responsiveness: Process Management and Market Orientation in Small and Medium-Sized Firms," at the school's monthly research seminar, Feb. 22.

Awards and Honors

Stephen J. Cutler, professor of sociology and the Bishop Robert F. Joyce Distinguished University Professor of Gerontology, has been selected to receive the 2002 Clark Tibbitts Award from the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. The Tibbitts Award recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of gerontology as a field of study in institutions of higher education. Cutler will receive the award at the associations's annual meeting in Pittsburgh Feb. 28-March 3. He will present a lecture at the meeting on March 1, "In the Country of the Old: Population Aging and Gerontological Education."

Feb. 20-Feb. 26

Publications and Presentations

Kathleen Liang, associate professor of community development and applied economics, presented an article, "Our Dreams Shall Come True: The Impact of Optimism in New Venture Creation On Entrepreneurs and Their Families" at the National Small Business Institute Directors' Association Conference, in San Diego, California, Feb. 8-10. Liang also conducted a symposium at the conference, "Service Learning and Teaching Entrepreneurship To Youth Groups: Exploring Different Approaches and Comparative Experiences."

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INTERview: Frank Bryan

Talking town meeting with the author of the forthcoming *Real Democracy*

By Kevin Foley



The work of citizenship: Frank Bryan has spent his career explaining how "real democracy" works. (Photo: Sally McCay)

On folding chairs in halls and cafeterias throughout the state, Vermont residents gathered to do the sometimes messy work of citizenship earlier this week, poring over their town and school budgets, deciding and discussing issues ranging from Act 60 to the price of gravel.

Frank Bryan, associate professor of political science, loves it.

"Democracy is learned at

home," says Frank Bryan, associate professor of political science and expert on town meetings. "Our national center is in decline because we're not training citizens at the localities any more. We have a country of people who have never had to sit through a town meeting. So they're not tolerant. They want what they want and won't settle for anything less."

Every year since 1969, Bryan and his students have fanned out to halls throughout Vermont, keeping detailed records on town meetings: How many people come, how long they stay, who speaks and what they talk about. The file is at 1,600 and counting. This store of data underlies Bryan's upcoming book, Real Democracy, which will be published by the University of Chicago press.

Bryan describes the book as an "attempt to explain in detail how face-to-face democracy works, when each citizen of a town is in effect a legislator and is called upon to legislate in a real way. It's the book we wish we had on the Athenian democracy."

In honor of town meeting day, we spoke with Bryan about democracy, tolerance and the future of civic participation in the Internet age.

THE VIEW: How did you spend town meeting day?

FRANK BRYAN: I started off in Starksboro, where I live, and it was the best town meeting we had in years. It went from 9 in the morning until 20 minutes of four, without a break for lunch, and we resolved some interesting questions. That one showed, once again, that attendance is high at town meetings when there are interesting issues to discuss and important matters to resolve. People won't come to town meeting unless they can make a difference. On Monday night, I went down to Weathersfield, where attendance was much lower, because they decide matters on an Australian ballot. I attended two other meetings, in my hometown of Newbury and in Washington.

How would you assess the state of town meeting in Vermont?

She's Got Game(s)

"Sometimes when I'm at practice at 6 a.m.," says senior point guard Libby Smith, "I ask myself 'What am I doing here?' – then I remember how much I love the game."

Framing a Future

Like most artists, photographers struggle to balance their creative work with the jobs that pay the bills. Andy Duback, a UVM junior majoring in studio art, is already bridging those two worlds.

It's survived remarkably well given the institutional biases against it. One of those biases is town size. A lot of Vermont towns have grown rapidly in the last 30 years, and the single most important variable that determines meeting turnout is town size. Another factor are "reforms" we've put in place to help town meeting that haven't worked: Australian ballots and Monday night meetings, which are bad for attendance in general and for women's attendance in particular. A third factor is that the state has taken over a lot of decisions that towns used to make.

But given the overall decline in American voter participation, town meeting has held up very well. Every four years, we vote for a president – and for senators, congressmen and governors. That's arguably pretty important, yet we have trouble getting even 50 percent of eligible voters to participate. In Vermont, towns under 2,500 have a meeting attendance rate of about 20 percent. But that act of participation occurs every year, not every four years. We attend every year, even though it kills a Monday or Tuesday night and costs a lot of us a day's pay because there's no holiday. If we held a Presidential election every four years and it cost one-fifth of week's pay to vote, what do you think turnout would be?

One suspects that the forces hampering town meeting over the last 30 years – population growth, expanding state reach – will only accelerate. What's in store over the next 30 years?

If the current trends continue town meeting is going to be difficult to sustain. My sense, though, is that America in general, and certainly Vermont is, becoming systematically more decentralized. More of us are working at home, instead of commuting into a workplace. And after long period of decline, I think local civic organizations are on the rebound. That's good for town meeting. I think there's a good chance that if we got rid of town meeting now, we'd want to bring it back in 50 years as part of this decentralization trend. I buy into the whole "electronic highway" thing. I think the computer is the automobile of our time, and that it will be as decentralist as the automobile is centralist.

This surprises me. Many have critiqued the computer as an atomizing force, not a decentralizing one, and therefore a bad thing for civic life. Yet you have a much more positive take.

That all depends on whether Aristotle was right when he said that "hermitry was a form of mental illness." Are people political and social animals? If we're not, town meeting is dead. And so is everything else. I don't think we're going to become computer hermits. I'm seeing a lot of life and activity in small towns, more than there was when I was growing up. But we're at a hinge point, and we'll just have to see.

What about all the ersatz "town meetings" we see around Presidential elections. Or Ross Perot's "electronic town hall"? Could you comment on the phenomena?

I'll comment: They are awful. They use town meeting as sort of a nostalgic reference point, and then abuse the whole concept. They're really plebiscites, where people call in and vote by the thousands, and plebiscites were Madison's worst fear. Plebiscites produce majorities, not subtleties. It's governance by public opinion in real time. And these Presidential candidates holding "town meetings," give me a break! They're forums, where one person does all the talking. Town meeting is about voting, man. These forums are like playing basketball without the score. They cut the heart out of the process.

Town meetings require small communities. It doesn't even work in Burlington; you'd need a small neighborhood council. And then you would need to give the neighborhoods real decisions to make. That takes hard thinking, but you can do it. And it would be good for democracy.

What are the strengths and weaknesses of real town meetings as instruments of democracy?

I think the habit of having to put up with neighbors, enemies, and friends in town meetings over time, suffering fools, realizing you're a fool sometimes, creates a sense of civic tolerance. You really have to be patient with people. Many of us beg for town meeting to be over because we're sick of each other, but we're back the next year. Slowly but surely you get more tolerant. I don't

think it's odd that Robert Putnam, in his book *Bowling Alone*, ranks Vermont as the most civically tolerant state. We develop a sense of duty to one another on a human scale. Someone said that Adolph Hitler as Chancellor of Germany was a horror; but in a Vermont town meeting, he would have been just another jackass. I think that is true. From the point of view of developing a democratic citizenry and governing well, town meeting is a success. After 15 or 20 years of meeting every year, you start to get it. You develop that tolerant habit of the heart that makes democracy work.

And the weakness?

Quantity. You don't get the quantity of participation. It's only once a year.

But some criticisms of town meeting come from those who ask too much. You can't hold it up as pure democracy, where everyone's there and participating. That's not the case and never has been. But people participate and speak and serve. The level of commitment is profound. We hear members of the U.S. Congress call themselves "public servants." But a town selectman who works for pennies – that's a public servant.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

She's Got Game(s)

Basketball/golf star Libby Smith is about to close one of the most remarkable athletic careers in UVM history

By Heidi Hill



Libby Smith, a captain of both the women's basketball and men's golf teams, is about to end her remarkable run at UVM. (Photo: Sally McCay)

"Sometimes when I'm at practice at 6 a.m.," says senior point guard Libby Smith, "I ask myself 'What am I doing here?' – then I remember how much I love the game."

Now the love affair is almost over, or at least ready to change venues. Smith has played her last regular season game, and in at most a few more weeks, depending on what the America East and NCAA tournaments bring, one of the most remarkable

athletic careers in UVM history will come to a close. Smith has started every game since arriving at UVM – well over 100 consecutive contests. And that's just basketball.

The civil engineering major is also a varsity golfer, the only female on a Division I team nationwide. If that weren't enough, she's captain of the squad: a fact that impresses others, if not her. Showing the perspective that serves her well as a graduating senior who successfully juggled the demands of two sports with a demanding academic major, she says of the captaincy, "It's just a formality really, an asterisk after your name."

For Smith, college has been about balancing a tricky schedule and competing priorities. She's succeeded brilliantly, even in all those spirit-sapping, early-morning practices. And now, some tournament play, a few months of classes, and it will be over.

In May, she's walking.

Close to home

Smith arrived at UVM four years ago, after a storied high-school athletic career in Essex Junction. She found the idea of attending college so close to home initially worrisome, but over time she's grown to appreciate it. Her parents have given her the freedom to do her own thing, yet are there when she needs them. And she has found UVM's small size conducive to similar support.

"It was tough at first not knowing my teachers," she says.

Over the years, however, Smith learned to communicate her needs to her professors so that she can successfully balance academics with her sports schedule. She says her small major offers an intimate circle of instructors and classmates. She also believes that the university has become friendlier to student-athletes during her time here. "Now, my teachers stop me in the hallway to find out how my game went," she says.

INTERview: Frank Bryan

In honor of town meeting day, we spoke with Frank Bryan, associate professor of political science and author of the forthcoming *Real Democracy*, about tolerance, citizenship and the future of civic participation in the Internet age.

Framing a Future

Like most artists, photographers struggle to balance their creative work with the jobs that pay the bills. Andy Duback, a UVM junior majoring in studio art, is already bridging those two worlds.

On the athletics side, coaches offer flexible practices so that every team member can attend, which can be a challenge if students have night labs. And since academics are a priority in the athletic department, a study hall is built into your schedule unless you have a 3.0 GPA or better.

Smith tries to bring the same competitive energy to school as she does to her sports. And as her teammates and opponents can attest, this is some prodigious energy indeed.

"This team has always been about drive, energy and enthusiasm," says Smith of her women's basketball team, which won the America East regular-season conference title. "We all sacrifice to reach the same goal."

Smith credits Keith Cieplicki, her coach, for the team's unity and enthusiasm.

"Coach always says that you're only as strong as your weakest link," Smith says. "He wouldn't pick someone with all the right skills if she wasn't going to fit in on the team."

Driving on

But even with the support of a team, when Smith steps on to the court or course, she succeeds by believing in herself and her skills. She hopes that her skills, and her confidence in them, will translate into success in the world beyond UVM.

Following graduation, Smith plans to pursue a career as a professional golfer. And at some point, she hopes to perform another balancing act. Smith wants to put her engineering skills to work in designing golf courses, and perhaps golf clubs as well – the perfect combination of her athletic and academic talents.

"It will be tough leaving Vermont," Smith says, but as a true Vermonter, she vows that she will come back.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Students Pursue Vocations through Winter Nights

By Lynda Majarian



This and other photographs by UVM student Andy Duback are on exhibit at the Daily Planet restaurant through March 16. Senior Jason Robinson and Alumnus Sabin Gratz also are exhibiting their photographs. (Photo: Andy Duback)

From Walker Evans's images of the poor during the Great Depression and Diane Arbus's psychologically disturbing portraits to recent pictures of New York's "Ground Zero," photographs have chronicled American life.

With unflinching honesty, documentary photographers expose the shadowy underside of our culture to remind us of our shared humanity. But like most artists, photographers struggle to balance their creative work with the

jobs that pay the bills.

Andy Duback, a UVM junior majoring in studio art, is already bridging those two worlds. A budding freelance photographer, he juggles photo assignments for *The Vermont Cynic*, *the view*, *Vermont Quarterly* and Burlington's weekly alternative newspaper, *Seven Days*.

When he's not in his dark room or at his part-time job at a pizza joint, he is in the classroom pursuing his own studies, working as a teaching assistant or instructing an after-school photography class at Burlington High School. Each summer, he leads summer outdoor expeditions for teenagers. The Milwaukee native also found time to join a protest against landmines at Union Station – an event that was filmed for an upcoming documentary on Mountain Lake (N.Y.) PBS.

Despite his abundant energy, Duback admits that it is difficult "to run a business that sustains me financially and find the time to photograph subject matter I find most interesting."

But he manages.

Duback spent several frigid January nights shooting a series of stark black and white photographs (including the shot of Libby's Diner, above) he calls "Winter Nights." The photos juxtapose inky blackness and an almost palpable chill with forlorn images of deserted gas stations, lonely roads and barren buildings.

"It was an opportunity to work with process and to present ideas," says Duback, who was inspired by the "Summer Nights" series by Robert Adams, an acclaimed photographer who documented the environmental destruction of the American West.

Another inspiration for Duback was John Miller and his two-semester course in documentary photography, offered as a humanities course in Continuing Education.

INTERview: Frank Bryan

In honor of town meeting day, we spoke with Frank Bryan, associate professor of political science and author of the forthcoming *Real Democracy*, about tolerance, citizenship and the future of civic participation in the Internet age.

She's Got Game(s)

"Sometimes when I'm at practice at 6 a.m.," says senior point guard Libby Smith, "I ask myself 'What am I doing here?' – then I remember how much I love the game."

"I really respect his work and his ability to create a layered vision," Duback says. "He taught me the techniques that allowed me to develop my own style."

The admiration is mutual. "I learned from him, too," says Miller, who recently collaborated with Howard Frank Mosher on a book of photography and fiction titled *Granite and Cedar: The People and the Land of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom*. See *Vermont Quarterly* article [View from the Kingdom](#)

"Andy produced some beautiful portraits of children using processes I hadn't seen before," Miller says. "I am impressed with his persistence and energy to pursue a career in photography. He pushes himself to go beyond just taking pictures and exhibits his work – that's something less than 2 percent of photography students manage to do."

The Exhibit

Duback's "Winter Nights" photographs are on display at the Daily Planet restaurant, in Burlington, in an exhibit titled, *Parapluie*, umbrella, in French.

The exhibit also includes photographs by UVM senior Jason Robinson, an art major known for his column, "Cynical Inquisition," in the UVM Cynic. Raised in Plattsburgh, New York, Robinson was only two years old when his grandmother gave him his first camera and 100 rolls of film.

"I proceeded to photograph individual pieces of gravel in my parents' driveway," he recalls. Fortunately, he has moved on from gravel to color images that capture the moment he describes as "when movement and light destroy the materiality of bodies, yet not beyond the point of recognition." His color photographs, populated by images of people who seem engaged in action off-camera, project an aura of quiet mystery.

Photographs by UVM alum Sabin Gratz complete the exhibit. Gratz prints all his photos directly from a computer, using one of several digital output devices. His photos in the exhibit were shot inside a Montreal subway. Gratz works for Glenn Moody photography in Williston.

Parapluie, runs through March 16 at the Daily Planet on 15 Center St., Burlington. There will be a closing reception, open to the public, March 10, 3-5 p.m.

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