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Elementary education student Catherine Dillon and first-grader Megan Fontaine read to each other throughout the semester at H.O. Wheeler Elementary School as part of the UVM America Reads & Counts program. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Six-year-old Megan Fontaine sits on the library floor of H.O. Wheeler Elementary School listening eagerly to UVM first-year education student Catherine Dillon as she reads from the pages of *Polar Babies* by Susan Wring.

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The high-stakes accreditation process has a way of concentrating the mind of a dean whose academic program is under the gun.

Season To Savor

Tom Brennan had reached a low point in his professional career. The fledgling coach of the men's basketball team had just completed his third season with a disappointing record of six wins and 21 losses, which, to his dismay, was better than the two seasons preceding it.

Environmental Evils

They are everywhere, evildoers whose mere particulate presence wreaks havoc on our unsuspecting airways. Some of these alien substances – pollen, dust, viruses, bacteria – have been causing human health problems for eons. Others are newer byproducts of industrialization.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

March 27 11 A.M. Colloquium: "Biological Catalysis by RNA," with John Burke, microbiology and molecular genetics, B112 Angel. 656-2594

March 27 12:30 p.m. Lecture: "Pioneers in Partnership," with Esther Rothblum and Sondra Solomon, psychology. John Dewey Lounge. 656-4282

March 27 5 p.m. President's distinguished lecture: "Communicating Competently Across Cultures," with Sharon Ting-Toomey. 108 Lafayette. Reception follows.

March 27 7 p.m. Reading and lecture: "Poetry and the Power of the Word," with poet Wanda Coleman. UVM Recital Hall. 656-4464

March 28 7:30 p.m. Speech: Maya Angelou, poet, educator, activist and best-selling author. Tickets available at Patrick Gymnasium door.

April 2 12 p.m. Event: "Healing Fire," for survivors of sexual assault. Women's Center, 34 S. Williams Street. 656-7892.

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Fourth-year medical students (left to right) Duc Do, Allison Devers and Susie Choi share news of their residency locations during "Match Day" on March 20. (Photo: Adam Riesner/UVM Medical Photography)

For Med Students, the Envelopes Please

The moments just prior to and following noon on "Match Day" are full of movie-quality drama. At about 11:45 a.m., students begin gathering in the halls. Then, at 11:55 a.m., Dr. Marga Sproul, associate dean for student affairs, begins her traditional walk to the medical school's post office carrying a stack of white envelopes. The pace quickens as she hands off the envelopes and they are swiftly delivered to each student's mailbox by noon. At noon on March 20, 83 UVM medical students opened the envelopes that sealed their fate – or at least their location, for the next several years.

The day is when senior medical students across the country find out where they will serve their clinical residencies. Match results are provided by a computerized matching system operated by the National Resident Matching Program that takes students' ranked preferences for residency locations and matches them to the preferences of the institutions where they interviewed. Certain specialties, as well as the military, assign residency matches separately from the NRMP system. Eleven students at UVM – two in the military, five matching to ophthalmology residencies, two matching to otolaryngology, one matching to neurology and one matching to neurosurgery – learned about their residency matches in February.

For fourth-year medical student Peter Leighton, the event was an opportunity to celebrate a milestone in the fulfillment of his lifelong dream to become a doctor, a dream that nearly got cut short on December 29, 2002, when Leighton suffered two seizures. After being rushed by

Faculty Win Defense Grants

Professors Paul Bierman and Christopher Landry are among 31 researchers at 18 academic institutions in 14 states who will receive grants in the amount of nearly \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Defense Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR).

A total of \$15.7 million over three years was awarded on a highly competitive basis for science and engineering research essential to national defense.

Bierman, a professor of geology, will continue to study how sediment moves across desert landscapes.

"This is important because it allows Army land managers to compare natural rates of landscape change with those induced by the maneuvers of tracked and wheeled vehicles, such as tanks," Bierman said.

Bierman and his team will measure rates of reservoir filling in Panama, the Southeastern United States and the Colorado River system; conduct impact studies at military facilities in Colorado and Alaska; and refine laboratory techniques to improve measurement abilities. Bierman has received U.S. Army support on aspects of this project for six years and has published papers on the subject.

Landry, an associate professor of chemistry, will continue a previously funded DEPSCoR project to detect and decontaminate the chemical warfare agent HD, or mustard gas, using porous inorganic materials. The project entails combining glass or ceramics Landry makes in his laboratory with a metal that breaks down mustard gas in an environmentally benign manner.

"The catalyst could be used by soldiers in the field," said Landry, as well as to safely dispose of stockpiled mustard gas.

DEPSCoR is designed to expand research opportunities in states that have traditionally received the least funding in federal support for university research. This year, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the Army Research Office, the Office of Naval Research and the Advanced Technology Development Directorate of the Missile Defense Agency solicited 19 proposals consisting of 168 projects.

For a full list of projects selected for 2003 DEPSCoR awards, go to [Bierman Award PDF](#).

paramedics to the intensive care unit at Maine Medical Center, he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Leighton, who matched to a family practice residency at Maine Medical Center, is thankful for what he has. "I know it sounds crazy, but I'm the luckiest man alive," says Leighton, who will undergo surgery soon and is looking forward to the birth of his and his wife Natasha's first child in May.

Mieder's New Book Cracks Wise

"Love is blind, but neighbors aren't."

"Better mate than never."

"A fool and his money are soon popular."

"If at first you don't succeed, you're average."

These slightly skewed versions of familiar proverbs don't exactly reflect universal laws of behavior. Rather, they are examples of proverb parodies – sometimes called fractured or anti-proverbs – created by adding contradictory comments to the original axiom.

Wolfgang Mieder, deemed by *Smithsonian* magazine as "the world's top proverb expert," has gathered more than 150 sapient maxims and juxtaposed each with several fractured and humorous variations in his new book, *Wisecracks! Fractured Proverbs*.

"Readers will encounter many familiar sayings as well as many new ones," says Mieder, professor and chair of German and Russian. Proverbs, he says, "reflect our human ability for endless creativity with language—an inclination that produces sayings that are sometimes wise, and other times just wisecracks."

Mieder, whose personal proverb library holds more than 5,000 volumes, collected the often humorous proverb variations from a wide variety of contemporary sources, ranging from newspaper headlines, speeches and advertisements to graffiti and cartoons. The book, illustrated by Elayne Sears, is the tenth in a series of Mieder volumes published by the New England Press. It will be available on April 1 – just in time for April Fool's Day.

Energy Drinks

It's 3 a.m. and the small white-and-green sensors are waiting on the tops of the campus's 80 vending machines, poised to entice passersby into purchasing a cold, refreshing beverage.

Called "Vending Misers," the small units are also saving energy – a conservative estimate by Richard Wolbach, energy management engineer, indicates the inexpensive devices will reduce the amount of energy needed to power the vending machines by 46 percent. This isn't small change: He says that translates into electricity savings of almost \$10,000 a year.

Harvey-Berino Named Nutrition and Food Science Chair

Jean Harvey-Berino, associate professor of nutrition and food science, has been appointed chair of the department, concluding a national search. Harvey-Berino had been acting chair since August when former chair, Robert Tyzbir, stepped back into his faculty position as professor of nutrition and food sciences.

"Dr. Harvey-Berino is an outstanding scientist renowned for her work in behavioral weight-control therapy. Her research has been continually funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1997. She has extensive experience as an extension specialist and, therefore, a deep understanding and appreciation for the mission of UVM Extension," said Rachel Johnson, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Harvey-Berino's research and publishing aims to unravel behaviors and factors influencing weight change – food preferences, cravings, stress, nutritional knowledge and exercise. She has worked on Type II diabetes prevention and nutrition improvement for people living in rural-agricultural areas. Most recently, she is measuring the value of computers in nutritional education and of the Internet in weight-loss programs. Harvey-Berino came to UVM in 1991 as an extension nutrition specialist after receiving her doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh and her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Pennsylvania State University.

She will oversee a department of 25 faculty and staff teach and conduct research and outreach in nutrition, obesity treatment, food safety, food science and food entrepreneurship. The department offers degrees in dietetics and nutrition and food science. Under Harvey-Berino's direction, the department plans to partner with animal science to offer a doctoral program and to attract a larger pool of high-quality graduate students.

"I hope to encourage a fully integrated food science and nutrition department so students understand how food gets on their plate and not just what happens to it once you chew and swallow," said Harvey-Berino.

New Online System to Schedule Campus Events

The "Bear Down 6," a 40-year-old form for requesting campus facilities and services, is dead. An online system is replacing the venerable paperwork as of today, March 26. Linda Seavey, director of campus planning services, says the old form has few mourners.

The new online central scheduling software, Resource 25 for event arrangements and Schedule 25 for academic scheduling, was selected after considerable research and consultation. The campus registrar began instructional scheduling with the software last fall; it is tied in to the "banner" student information

Standard vending machines, it turns out, are hardly miserly. They stay brightly lit and running all day and all night, seven days a week. The miser equipment shuts off their lights and compressors during off-hours, with the sensors ready to snap the machines to attention instantly if a potential customer comes within 30 feet with quarters in hand.

"Machines sit idle late at night and on the weekends. There is no need to have compressors and front lights running non-stop at these times," Wolbach says.

The change will prevent 176,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from escaping into the atmosphere. That's equivalent to taking one car off the road for 11,440 days or 110 cars off the road for three months.

Harvard and Tufts have also installed the machines and report significant energy savings. Wolbach says the transition has gone well here, with the exception of a complaint or two from students who thought the darkened machines were out of order. Wolbach doesn't want to deny anyone his or her liquid refreshment. He's getting the word out about the machine and will fine-tune units if necessary to make sure they are working properly.

"If someone comes close to the machine, we want it to come on," he says.

Once someone approaches a machine in late-night "miser" mode it stays on until the surrounding area has been vacant for 15 minutes. Once powered off, the device will monitor the room's temperature and will automatically re-power the vending machine at intervals to keep sodas chilled.

system, and also can work with the event software.

The new event system, with a link available at [Campus Planning Services](#), offers an on-line system for requesting space and services. Users will be able to search for and view space; request space and resources for an event; and receive confirmation of space and services electronically. There is also the option of having the event published to the web. Events are defined as non-instructional use by university departments, student groups and non-university groups.

The goal is user-friendliness as well as efficiency. The planning office demonstrated the program at March 20's "Mastering the Maze." The new program, Seavey writes, will make the demise of Bear Down 6 a "joyful historical passing."

theview

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Upcoming "Distinguished Lecture" to Focus on Cross-Cultural Communication

Cultural differences can be the source of communication breakdowns – even conflict – any time people deal with others they perceive as different from themselves. The subtle yet far-reaching ways culture shapes communication underlie the work of Stella Ting-Toomey, who is lecturing on campus March 27 and March 28 under the auspices of the President's Distinguished Lecture Series.

Ting-Toomey, a renowned researcher, author and professor at California State University Fullerton, will discuss cross-cultural communication, conflict styles and "face concerns" at her two talks. "Communicating Competently Across Cultures" is the subject of Ting-Toomey's public lecture at 5 p.m. March 27 in 108 Lafayette Hall. A reception will follow the talk in 308 Lafayette Hall.

"Anyone who wants to understand the key issues in better communication across cultures will be interested in this talk," says Sherwood Smith, director of UVM's Center for Cultural Pluralism and a faculty member in Integrated Professional Studies. Smith, along with Dale Goldhaber and Bridget Turner Kelly of IPS and Willi Coleman, associate professor of history and director of ALANA Studies, will host the program.

The following day, Ting-Toomey will give an in-depth presentation on theory and research, "Cross-Culture Face Concerns and Conflict Styles: A Face-Negotiation Perspective," at noon on March 28 at 101 Fleming Museum. Here she will present an updated version of her conflict face-negotiation theory, identify major research patterns and trends, suggest directions for future research, and practical applications of the face-negotiation theory. The presentation will benefit individuals seeking to better understand culture-based conflict styles from a particular theoretical lens.

Face-negotiation theory is about the concept of "saving face" – embarrassment. Toomey finds that some groups are most interested in saving their own face, while others are most interested in making sure that others are not embarrassed. She looks at how people understand the concept of saving face across different cultures.

"The face work that Ting-Toomey has done is really pioneering," says Smith. "And as businesses became more globally active, her scholarship has even more relevance. Her work has implications for the military, business and teachers communicating to students – but it relates to all aspects of interpersonal communication."

"High Priestess of Poetry" to Speak

Wanda Coleman grew up in a tough Los Angeles neighborhood, the daughter of a boxer and a domestic to movie stars, so she became a fighter – and a noted poet, author and *Los Angeles Times* columnist. Coleman, who has referred to herself as the *Ebony Amazon* in a poem and been hailed as the "high priestess of poetry," will read from her work March 27 at 7 p.m. in the UVM Recital Hall.

The free, public reading, "Poetry and the Power of the Word," will be the highlight of the poet's two-day visit to campus. She will spend most of her time leading a series of workshops and classes with students in the John Dewey Honors Program in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Coleman has published collections of prose and poetry including, *A War of Eyes and Other Stories*, *Native in a Strange Land: Trials and Tremors*, *Mambo Hips and Make Believe* and, most recently, *Mercurochrome*.

A retrospective on her hippie days, *Love-Ins with Nietzsche: A Memoir*, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Much of her work, including the solo CD, *High Priestess of Word*, is available on spoken word releases.

Coleman has reaped honors including the 1999 Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize, Harriette Simpson Arnow Prize and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Guggenheim Foundation and California Arts Council.

Introducing Coleman's reading will be Tony Magistrale, professor of English, who recently published an article on Coleman in *American Writers: A Collection of Literary Biographies*.

Burning to Heal

The UVM Women's Center will ignite a healing fire on noon on April 2 to bring attention to survivors of sexual violence. The fire will burn constantly until it is transported to Contois Auditorium for the "Take Back the Night Rally and Speakout" at 6 p.m. on April 3.

"The fire is meant to serve as a source of healing for survivors of sexual violence and as a place for the community to gather in healing solidarity," says Sharon Snow, the center's director, who is collaborating on the event with the Women's Rape Crisis Center in Burlington.

A group of survivors will light the fire at noon and

Ting-Toomey teaches courses in intercultural communication, interpersonal conflict management, and intercultural communication training. She has published numerous books, chapters, and articles, most recently: *Communicating Across Cultures*, *Managing Intercultural Conflict Effectively*, and *Communicating Effectively with the Chinese*. She has held major leadership roles in international communication associations and boards. She trains universities and corporations in intercultural competence practice and conflict management.

The President's Distinguished Lecture Series was established last October. "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," said UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel. Speakers spend a full day speaking with students and faculty, and present a public lecture understandable to a general audience and a smaller, more discipline-specific talk.

Norman Myers, honorary visiting fellow at Green College of Oxford University, is the next distinguished lecturer. He will speak on "Mass Extinction of Species: Why We Should Care and What We Can Do About It" on April 16 at 5 p.m. in Carpenter Auditorium, Given.

Lecture to Discuss the Language of Nazism

Karin Doerr, a professor at Concordia University, will deliver the fourteenth annual Harry H. Kahn Memorial Lecture on March 31 at 4 p.m. in Memorial Lounge.

Doerr's talk is titled "The Thread of Language Through History: From the Third Reich to the Present." Doerr is author of *Nazi German: An English Lexicon of the Language of the Third Reich*. The book documents the precise meaning of 6,500 words used by the Nazi regime.

Her visit is sponsored by the Department of German and Russian and the Center for Holocaust Studies. Information: 656-3430.

invite attendees to place sticks inscribed with messages into the fire. Participants may bring other items, such as dried sage, letters or other small offerings.

Speakers will include Celia Cuddy, executive director of Women's Rape Crisis Center; Anne Smith, UVM campus advocate; Jennifer Hughes, chair of the Student Government Association's Student Action Committee; Cathleen Wilson, survivor; and Princess Wood, student and peer educator.

"Last year was our first year to do this event," Snow says. "It was so powerful for so many people that the idea caught on, and this year there will be four healing fires at Vermont agencies. This is truly the purpose of the fire and a remarkable thing to pass along to survivors across Vermont."

For information, call 656-7892. The Women's Center is located at 34 S. Williams St.

Professor/Novelist from Cameroon to Speak

Novelist Alain Patrice Nganang will present two free public lectures on April 2.

A native of Cameroon who completed his doctorate in German studies at the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Nganang is a professor of French and German at Shippensburg State University (Penn.). His 2001 novel, *Temps de Chien*, which translates to "dog day," won the "Grand Prix de la Littérature de l'Afrique noire" in 2002 and is currently being translated into German and English.

Nganang will speak on "Autobiographies of Blackness in Germany: Massaquoi, Oji, and Mefire," at 12:30 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. His remarks concern three main figures: an Afro-German who lived in Germany during the Nazi period and emigrated to the United States to become editor of *Ebony* magazine; an African medical doctor who emigrated to West Germany as a result of civil war in Nigeria; and an Afro-German in East Germany whose police career went beyond the reunification of Germany. The brown-bag talk is part of a series sponsored by the Area and International Studies Program.

At 3:30 p.m. in the same venue, Nganang will lecture on "The Construction of Nature in Belgian and German Colonial Films." A reception will follow.

For information, contact Dennis Mahoney at 656-1476.

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March 26 – April 1, 2003

Awards and Honors

Alan Budney, associate professor of psychiatry and psychology, has been elected by his peers as a Fellow of the American Psychological Association for 2003. APA Fellows are selected for their exceptional and outstanding contributions to the research, teaching or practice of psychology. Fellows must also demonstrate the national impact of their work; this demonstration may include numerous research-based publications, leadership roles within psychology, or community service in their clinical practice. Budney joined the UVM faculty in 1990.

Fourth-year medical student **Julie Bykowski** is one of only 43 U.S. medical students who received a 2002-2003 Howard Hughes Medical Institute-National Institutes of Health Research Scholarship. As an HHMI/NIH scholar, she is currently receiving research training from Dr. Steven Warach at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. The focus of Warach's research is identifying promising experimental stroke therapies through the use of surrogate markers from magnetic resonance imaging. Bykowski will defer graduation from the College of Medicine until 2004.

Wolfgang Mieder, professor and chair of the Department of German and Russian, will receive the 2003 Celebration of Excellence Award from the Pizzagalli Construction Company at a luncheon in April. Created in 1999, the award honors college or university faculty members for outstanding personal achievements or excellence in their academic field. This year, Pizzagalli received 11 nominations from five colleges. Mieder was chosen for his skills as a scholar and teacher, particularly in the study of proverbs and their function in literature, the mass media, art, politics, advertising and other forms of communication.

Publications and Presentations

Wolfgang Mieder and **Janet Sobieski**, academic office coordinator of the Department of German and Russian, recently published *Proverbs and the Social Sciences: An Annotated International Bibliography* (Baltmannsweiler, Germany: Schneider Verlag Hohengehren, 2003). The bibliography contains 1169 publications in many languages from around the world. It enables scholars of the various social sciences to have the most important proverb scholarship relating to their disciplines at their fingertips. There are many entries for anthropology, ethnography, folklore, linguistics (neuro-, psycho- and sociolinguistics), pedagogy (education and teaching), political science, psychiatry, psychology, and sociology. Most of the books, dissertations, and articles listed in the book are characterized by an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to the study of proverbs. In addition to the key-word annotations for each entry, there are also comprehensive name, subject, and proverb indices.

Sanjeeva Murthy, associate professor of physics, co-authored the paper of the Physics Department coauthored the paper "Crystal Structure and Properties of N6/AMCC Copolymer from Theory and Fiber X-ray Diffraction" with Youyong Li and William Goddard III in *Macromolecules*.

Kathleen Liang, assistant professor of community development and applied Economics, participated in the 2003 Federation of Business Disciplines and Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship Annual conference in Houston, Texas between March 4 and March 9. Liang presented one article ("Love, Life, and Family Ties: Couples' Assessment of New Venture Creation And Business Development and Family Relationships") and one symposium

("Entrepreneurship Education For Young People, Low-To-Moderate Income Individuals, and Other Special Groups").

March 12 – March 25, 2003

Publications and Presentations

A landmark article, co-authored by **Dr. Richard Colletti**, professor of pediatrics and a pediatric gastroenterologist at Fletcher Allen Health Care, was published in the February 10, 2003 issue of the *Archives of Internal Medicine*. The article, titled "Prevalence of celiac disease in at-risk and not at-risk groups in the United States: A large multicenter study," demonstrates that celiac disease is a much more common disorder than has been recognized in the United States.

Connell B. Gallagher, director for research collections at Bailey/Howe, gave a slide-talk titled "The Art of the Book: From the 'Book of Kells' to Picasso" to the Elder Education Enrichment group in South Burlington on Feb. 14. He will give a slightly different version of this talk as part of the Fletcher Free Library "Booked For Lunch Series." The presentation is scheduled for March 20 at noon in the library's Fletcher Room.

March 5 – March 11, 2003

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.

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Educational Exposure

Education students find out early if they're cut out for teaching by spending time with elementary school children

By Jon Reidel



Elementary education student Catherine Dillon and first-grader Megan Fontaine read to each other throughout the semester at H.O. Wheeler Elementary School as part of the UVM America Reads & Counts program. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Six-year-old Megan Fontaine sits on the library floor of H.O. Wheeler Elementary School listening eagerly to UVM first-year education student Catherine Dillon as she reads from the pages of *Polar Babies* by Susan Wrang.

The book is one of Fontaine's favorites along with *Tummy Trouble* and *Just a Daydream*. She smiles and laughs as the story takes unexpected twists and turns. A dozen other first-graders are also

listening intently as their UVM "literacy buddies" weave tales of characters from far-away places.

The energetic Fontaine appears just as enamored with Dillon as she is with the story. For the young girl, the undergraduate's presence is clearly as important as the book she's reading.

"She's nice," Fontaine says of Dillon. "She reads to me and we talk about what we do in school. I like to read to her, too."

The reading sessions at Wheeler and the math games played between education students and children at Chamberlin Elementary School are part of America Reads & Counts, a federal program begun in 1996 with the objective of sparking collaborations to end illiteracy among children. The need was, and is, real: In 1994, the federal statistics indicated that 40 percent of fourth graders had not attained basic reading skills.

America Reads recruited college and university presidents to champion the establishment of new work-study tutoring programs. In December 1996, a steering committee of 21 presidents was created to recruit other institutions to the campaign. UVM launched the program locally in 1997 with the hope that it would benefit local school systems – and education students.

Into the fire

Jane Mekkelsen, education lecturer and director of the program, says interaction with elementary school children through the program has gone a long way in helping her students realize early in their college careers if they're cut out for teaching.

"It really confirms for a lot of them why they're in education," Mekkelsen says. "They realize that, hey, this is what I really want to do. This is why I'm in college. They find out what it's really like. We had one student say

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The high-stakes accreditation process has a way of concentrating the mind of a dean whose academic program is under the gun.

[Season To Savor](#)

Tom Brennan had reached a low point in his professional career. The fledgling coach of the men's basketball team had just completed his third season with a disappointing record of six wins and 21 losses, which, to his dismay, was better than the two seasons preceding it.

[Environmental Evils](#)

They are everywhere, evildoers whose mere particulate presence wreaks havoc on our unsuspecting airways. Some of these alien substances – pollen, dust, viruses, bacteria – have been causing human health problems for eons. Others are newer byproducts of industrialization.

‘kindergarten is too busy for me.’”

Dillon agrees that early exposure is critical. “It’s extremely important,” she says. “Students that don’t work with children early on may find out later that teaching isn’t for them and by then they’ve wasted a million dollars in two years. The earlier the better.”

Jill Tarule, dean of education, says the “buddy system” not only serves the beginning reader, but also means that CESS elementary education students have a chance to be in the schools during their second semester.

“As we say, it is critical that preparing educators are in the schools early and often,” Tarule says. “It is the only way they can get a sense of what lies ahead for them. It strengthens their commitment to the profession, and it gives them a chance to ‘teach’ one child.”

Freshman Erin Makowsky of Woodstock, Vt., says she looks forward to reading to her first-grader each month and has gotten something out of the experience she never would have gotten in a lecture hall.

“It’s definitely good to get involved with students early on,” Makowsky says. “It gives you a better idea of what to expect as a teacher.”

On the ride over to Wheeler in Burlington’s New North End, Makowsky isn’t looking forward to saying goodbye to her young friend now that the semester-long program is nearing its end.

Joseph Abruscato, an education professor who helps facilitate the program, urges Makowsky and the 27 other education students on the final bus ride to Wheeler to explain to their first-graders about why they won’t be seeing them again.

“You need to talk to your child about why you’re leaving,” Abruscato tells the students. “We don’t want you to be just another adult that disappears from their lives.”

Judging by the solemn expressions on the faces of the college students, saying goodbye won’t be easy on them either.

“Every time we come to see them they act happy to see us,” Makowsky says. “It will be sad to say goodbye.”

Needed attention

Approximately 95 percent of Wheeler’s students qualify for reduced-price lunches, while many others live below the poverty level and in broken homes. Having someone come specifically to see them is very important, according to teacher Nancy Radley, who says her first-graders at Wheeler always ask her when their UVM buddies are coming next.

“They think ‘wow, somebody’s here for me,’” Radley says. “It gives them the one-on-one attention in the classroom that they deserve that we can’t always provide. Everyone thrives in that atmosphere.”

Radley added that coming into contact with college students is important to her students because it makes the concept of going to college more tangible.

“College is such an abstract concept for kids around here,” Radley says. “Spending time with the (UVM) students makes college real to them. It shows them that they can go to college too.”

Mekkelsen said the program is effective in getting students more involved in the community and allows them to see Burlington from an angle other than the one outside their dorm room window.

“It gives them a different view of the community and really connects them with it,” Mekkelsen says.

As for the elementary school kids, Radley says they never quit asking her when their pals from the college are coming back.

"Two years later I've had students ask when they were coming back," Radley says. "It has a lasting impression on them."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Foresters to Accreditors: "No, thanks"

UVM department spurns accreditation, fueling a national debate about the field's future

By Jeff Wakefield



Somewhat paradoxically, spurning formal accreditation may give UVM's forestry department more opportunities to attract talented students like Chris Abel (left), who is pursuing a graduate degree, and senior Brent Oblinger. (Photo courtesy of the forestry department.)

The high-stakes accreditation process has a way of concentrating the mind of a dean whose academic program is under the gun.

Maybe that's why School of Natural Resources Dean Don DeHayes suggested last year, when the school's forestry program was up for review by the august Society of American Foresters, that the department forgo accreditation entirely.

"I went to the faculty eight months before the

accreditation process began and said, 'Do we want to do this?'" DeHayes says. "The faculty said, 'Yeah, we have to.' I said, 'Why?' They debated that issue for eight months."

At the heart of DeHayes' inquisition was an insight shared by many foresters in higher education, including UVM's faculty, who came to support the dean's viewpoint: the demands of modern forestry and the strict requirements of SAF, the field's only accrediting body, are out of alignment. UVM's formal decision not to seek SAF accreditation last December has put it at the center of modern forestry's efforts to redefine itself, and many other schools are keenly interested in the outcome.

"People are watching," says Michael Washburn, vice president for forestry and marketing at the Forest Stewardship Council and a former faculty member at Penn State and Yale.

DeHayes is no casual observer of forestry programs. As president-elect of the National Association of Professional Forestry Schools and Colleges, the much published professor of forest biology plays an active role in curricular reform in the field, adding even more portent to UVM's decision.

Forum for change

In addition to traditional timber extraction, forestry now demands expertise in areas like biodiversity, conflict resolution, and recreation "yet SAF hasn't grown with the boundaries" of the evolving field, says John Shane, chair of UVM's forestry department.

"Sustainability isn't even mentioned in the standards," DeHayes says.

In an accredited program, forestry majors who want a broader education need

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Season To Savor

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Environmental Evils

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to take all the SAF-required courses and add multiple new ones, Shane says, "but we still have only four years to do it in."

Something has to give and, in an effort to determine what, the university sponsored a high profile event starting March 16 – the Sustainable Forestry Forum – that attracted players from around the country. More than 60 forestry educators, employers, consultants and public servants came to campus for two days of debate, discussion and brainstorming. UVM will publish the proceeding of the forum in the coming months.

A theme that sounded with mantra-like regularity at the event is the need for contemporary foresters to develop integrative thinking and communications skills. To accommodate yet more coursework designed to build these capabilities, participants also cottoned to the idea of diversifying forestry programs, with each school offering a specialty. That's moving in the opposite direction of the SAF "one-size fits all approach," says Shane, but it may well be the way to go.

Under the specialization model, schools would offer a core curriculum shaped by the school's area of expertise, then allow students to take electives depending on their career interest. "If you were interested in forest technology, you'd take advanced GIS, spatial analysis, and statistics," Shane says. "If you wanted to be a wildlife biologist, you take lots of biology courses. Because of the core, all UVM grads would look somewhat alike, but they'd be different from Auburn or Maine graduates."

Considering the marketplace

Bubbling just below the surface of the lofty debate was a more practical matter that might also be tagged to the strictures of SAF accreditation: declining enrollments in forestry programs nationwide.

The issue, again, is lack of flexibility. "Forestry has been conspicuously inflexible" compared with academic programs it competes with, largely because of the SAF requirements, says Shane, who makes no apologies for paying attention to "marketplace" considerations.

Junior Liz Patterson is a case in point for the new kind of student forestry programs need to train – and attract. She's interested in "land management as a whole, not just timber extraction," where you have to "understand a lot of different interest groups who have a say over how a forest plan is developed and managed."

A group of forestry faculty recently met to debrief on the forum and consider the next steps in building new courses and curricula. There was a palpable sense of both exhilaration at the wealth of ideas that had been generated and a certain somberness at the sheer number of them.

"Follow-up is the key," Bill Keeton, assistant professor of forestry, tells his colleagues. "Or the forum will amount to a lot of great ideas that come to nothing."

Before dashing off to his next meeting, Shane said the forum was "very, very satisfying," amounting to a form of validation for UVM's position by independent thinkers "who weren't charged with validating us. Let's not let up."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

The Season to Savor

By Jon Reidel



Head basketball coach Tom Brennan (right) talks strategy with longtime assistant coach Jess Agel prior to the start of the University of Vermont's first round game against the University of Arizona in the NCAA tournament at Salt Lake City. (Photo: Sally McCay)

Tom Brennan had reached a low point in his professional career. The fledgling coach of the men's basketball team had just completed his third season with a disappointing record of six wins and 21 losses, which, to his dismay, was better than the two seasons preceding it.

Unsure if he had a future at UVM, or at the helm of any other college basketball program, Brennan took his 14-68 record into the office of then-athletic director Denis Lambert and

asked about his future.

"I told Tom that I had confidence in him and that he was my coach," Lambert says. "Vermont is a unique place. We look at things a little differently. We're not Alabama or UCLA. We can't win all the time. So we looked at graduation rates and Tom as a person. He was a very thoughtful and caring guy. He really cared about the students."

At most other Division I programs, 14 wins in three years would have resulted in a pink slip. But Brennan had proven he could win at Yale prior to coming to Vermont. More importantly, he continued to graduate players at a higher rate than the rest of Division I with some of his teams producing collective GPA's higher than the university's overall student body.

Brennan paid back university officials in 2003 for their support with a winning basketball team that qualified for the NCAA tournament with players who are as proficient in the classroom as they are on the court.

The 2002-2003 Catamounts posted a collective GPA of 3.01 to go along with their 21-12 record, which included a Denis Lambert Championship Trophy in the America East tournament and a chance to play top-ranked Arizona in Vermont's first appearance in the NCAA tournament ever. Andre Anderson, David Hehn, Germain Njila, Scotty Jones, Corey Sullivan and Grant Anderson were named to the America East honor roll.

"I'm just so grateful for everyone sticking with me," Brennan says. "My first three years at UVM we won only 14 games. Yet the support from the school and the community never wavered. Thank God I was given a 17-year window of opportunity to get to this point. It's so nice to reward the people that stuck by me."

Over the hump

Brennan took almost two decades to lead his team through that window. After his first three seasons, his record for the next ten years was 133 wins and 143

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Future of Forestry

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losses. Despite the mediocre performance, university administrators stood by the coach for reasons that seemed almost archaic in a time when coaches were routinely fired for simply not winning.

"We said, hey, everyone wants to win, but given where we're located and the resources we have, this is what we can expect," Lambert says. "I think (presidents) Lattie Coor and Tom Salmon both understood the limitations we had and were supportive (of Brennan)."

So with minimal expectations for winning, the Brennan era continued. He recruited some talented players over the years, but never a truly dominant overall team. Associate coach Jesse Agel, a 1984 UVM graduate who has been with Brennan for 15 years, says it was around 1999 when he saw the potential for the Catamounts to take their game to the next level.

But that would depend on Agel's and Brennan's ability to recruit in a state that could easily be ranked among the bottom five for producing major college basketball players. Agel, who had a solid track record for keeping the talent coming out of Vermont at home, knew that landing in-state star Matt Sheftic of Essex High School was critical if the program intended to reach its goal of making the NCAA tournament for the first time in its 102-year history.

"I was optimistic when we got Sheftic," Agel says. "I felt like he was a very key guy for us."

But the 6-foot-8 Sheftic, who received more than 100 scholarship offers, couldn't take the Cats to their first dance by himself. The following year, a scrawny 6-foot-9 kid from West Barnet, Vt., Tyler Coppenrath, joined the squad.

Coppenrath wasn't seriously recruited by any Division I schools, and hadn't even made the varsity basketball team at St. Johnsbury Academy until his junior year, so his expectations coming into UVM were low.

"I never figured I'd get this far or even play Division I college basketball," said Coppenrath, now an all-conference star, prior to leaving for the NCAA tournament. "Being from Vermont has made it special."

Agel and Brennan added a flashy guard from Rhode Island the same recruiting season who would give the Catamounts a potentially strong threesome. T.J. Sorrentine signed with the Cats early in the recruiting process, avoiding any potential recruiting battles that may have arisen over a state player of the year.

The result was last week's first-round date with Arizona and two more years of what should be the best in UVM history. The return of Coppenrath and Sorrentine, who sat out the year with wrist injuries, gives the Catamounts two former conference players of the year for the next two seasons – the first time that has happened in NCAA history.

Apropos ending

But even with the bright future ahead, Brennan celebrates the program's past. After UVM defeated Boston University in the America East Championship to earn a trip to the NCAA tourney, he drove the championship trophy to Stowe to the house of the man it's named after, the man who gave him the time he needed to build a successful team.

"It was an honor," Lambert says. "Tom is a good person and deserves all the credit. He really cares about his players."

Hometown heroes

For UVM's three international players, making the NCAA tournament has meant completely different things back home.

For Germain Njila, who grew up in Yaounde, Cameroon, before playing a year of prep school basketball at the Master's School in West Simsbury, Conn., making the NCAA tournament hasn't received a lot of attention back home where soccer is king. Njila, the first African native to ever play for the Catamounts, says he played some basketball for fun growing up, but that it's just not that big a deal in his hometown.

"We watched the Final Four growing up, but most people don't know that much about it," Njila says. "I played basketball for fun. It's not as big a deal there. I haven't heard much about it (from home)."

For forward Martin Klimes of Prague, Czech Republic, who sat out most of the season, impressing his family back home isn't as easy as it is for most athletes. His sister, Zuzi Klimesova, plays for the WNBA's Indiana Fever, and his parents played for the Czech Olympic team.

Perhaps the most impressive sibling of Klimes is his grandmother, who is regarded as the greatest all-around female athlete of post-WWII Europe.

In the case of Canadian David Hehn, whose level of notoriety went through the roof after hitting the game-winning shot that put the Cats in the NCAA tourney, the successful season has meant major exposure back home in Sarnia, Ontario where he's the toast of a town that dubs itself the "Kissing Capital of the World."

"You have no idea," Hehn says in reference to the reaction in Sarnia. "I couldn't believe the exposure. My dad has been getting phone calls from everyone we ever knew. It's been in the newspapers and on the radio. It's been crazy."

As for hitting the winning shot, the 6-foot-5 sophomore says it was the realization of the ultimate schoolboy basketball fantasy dreamt about by young players across the globe.

"Once I let it go, I wasn't thinking about the clock," Hehn says. "I remember thinking 'this dream could come true.'"

And with less than six seconds left on the clock, and the weight of a century of tournament-less UVM basketball on the line, it did.

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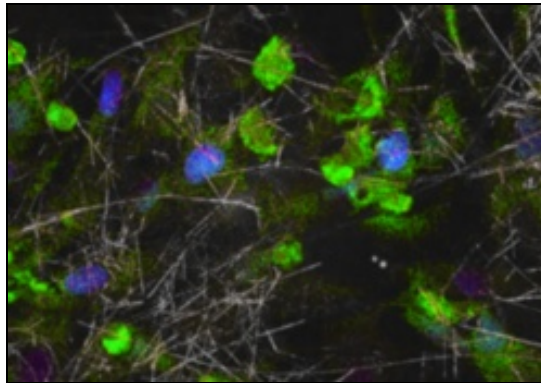
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UVM HOMEPAGE

Taming Environmental Evils

By Leslie McCullough



The needles are absestos fibers, the colored bodies are sensitive lung cells. Brooke Mossman uses high-resolution images like these to examine flourescently-labeled cells or tissues.

They are everywhere, evildoers whose mere particulate presence wreaks havoc on our unsuspecting airways. Some of them – pollen, dust, viruses, bacteria – have been causing human health problems for eons. Others, such as asbestos fibers and silicate dust, humankind unleashed on itself. For decades, the tools needed to investigate the impact of these invaders did not exist. But today, with incidence of respiratory disease on the rise, environmental pathologists utilize huge

advancements in technology to uncover the biological mechanism behind these disease-causing environmental agents.

"In the broadest sense, environmental pathology is the study of diseases attributable to environmental factors in the world around us," says Brooke Mossman, professor of pathology and director of the College of Medicine's Environmental Pathology Research Group. With almost a quarter century of support from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the college is one of only four medical schools in the country that has an NIEHS approved and funded environmental pathology training program. The group has grown to include 22 faculty investigators, the core of whom are in the pathology department. The program both conducts current research on environmental health problems, and helps train new researchers who will run the laboratories of tomorrow.

"Students are brought into the laboratories of well-funded research investigators in a strong collaborative research environment," Mossman says. "Because we're a small school they can interact with many members of the program."

The training grant benefits also reach beyond the environmental pathology program, enabling the development of specialized courses, such as one that explores the ethical issues of research, and the establishment of a weekly seminar program which attracts internationally recognized professionals from outside the university. Both courses and seminars are open to students and faculty university-wide.

Now, as the environmental pathology program nears its silver anniversary, a five-year, \$7.5 million program grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of NIH is enabling EPRG researchers to do important investigations of environmental lung disease.

"The whole goal is to look at the environmental agents – asbestos, silica, and nitrogen dioxide – that are important in terms of Vermont and important in terms of causing disease in the lungs," says Mossman, who is perhaps best

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known for discovering how asbestos disrupts cell signaling to cause the virulent mesothelia cancer.

These toxic agents hit close to home for Vermonters, despite the Green Mountain State's reputation for a clean environment. The Vermont town of Eden was home to one of only two asbestos mines in the United States. Although the Eden mine closed years ago, asbestos-related lung disease is still a health issue in Vermont, as is exposure to mineral dusts from the granite and marble quarries throughout the state. Another local pollutant, nitrogen dioxide, is a ubiquitous by-product of the state's countless wood stoves and indoor combustion products – it is even created by the beloved Zamboni machines that groom hockey rinks.

Defending the lungs

As a science, environmental pathology is relatively new. It began in the 1960s, when the first cases of tumors caused by asbestos were reported. Since then, environmental pathology has become more than just examining tissue and noting its conditions. Today's environmental pathologists look deeper. They isolate genes, look at molecules in cells, and try to uncover the mechanisms behind the tissue reactions.

"The lungs are the most common target for any environmental agent. It's where most of your 'insults' (the medical term for an injurious or traumatic event) come from. Our hypothesis is that the epithelial cells that line the mucus membranes of your nose, your throat, and your lungs are the ones that are going to be hit first by any environmental agent that you inhale," says Mossman. "Their initial responses to injury and inflammation govern the subsequent responses of other pulmonary and inflammatory cells that may lead to injury or disease. So if you want to modify your response, you focus on [those epithelial cells] to stop the initial signal."

During the course of a day, the 8,000 to 9,000 liters of air breathed in by the average person's lungs meets 8,000 to 10,000 liters of blood pumped in by the heart. Unlike any other internal organ, the lungs are constantly exposed to our external environment. They serve as a direct interface with the outside world and the constituents of the air in our homes and offices, including a range of troublesome elements.

The lungs, with their tiny air sacs called alveoli, are sometimes simplistically compared to sponges. Yet they are actually far more complex than many other organs. The lungs must play multiple roles – supplier of oxygen, remover of wastes and toxins, defender against hostile intruders. They contain at least 60 different cell types, each with its special tasks and abilities.

"It's just like you walking around in the world," explains Nicholas Heintz, professor of pathology and EPRG researcher. "You can see, you can hear, you can tell how hot or cold it is. You are just processing information constantly. It is the same at the cellular level. There are many, many inputs that need to be sorted through in order for cells to make decisions. So when cells are confronted with an insult, like asbestos or inhaled particulates that cause injury, they need to take that information and create a response. And they do that by a very complicated series of signaling mechanisms that go from the membrane into the nucleus and regulate gene expression (the process by which genes cause particular traits to appear)."

Inhaled particulates, such as asbestos, damage lung epithelial cells. This insult then triggers a cell response. That response – whether it is the manufacture of airway-clogging fibrous cells, inflammation that constricts airways, or a host of other responses – ultimately leads to lung disease. What is not well understood are the ways various lung cells signal to each other and mediate this constellation of events. Mossman, Heintz, and other EPRG investigators are looking at different types of cell signaling pathways and signaling proteins in pulmonary epithelial cells that may all interact to influence cell proliferation or death and may ultimately be important in initiating lung disease.

"The intent of the grant is to try to link very specific members of signaling pathways directly to outcomes through gene expression," Heintz says. "If you understand the basic process, there is a way you can intervene to prevent either short-term or long-term responses that lead to disease outcomes."