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The Iceman Goeth



Geologist Thomas Neumann's new study will explore the role melting water plays in the thinning and movement of Greenland's coastal glaciers. The country's melting ice holds enough water to dramatically raise sea levels worldwide. (Photo: Joshua Brown)

The fate of civilization rests on Greenland. This may be an exaggeration, but it is true that the two-mile-high ice sheet sitting atop this desolate country, the world's largest island, contains about as much water as fills the Gulf of Mexico. It's enough water to raise sea levels more than 20 feet, obliterating coasts and lowlands where much of our planet's population lives. That is, if all the ice melts.

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"Here's my question: I got an email from an editor about writing a food studies text book."

"Don't do it."

"I knew you'd say that."

[Policy Shop](#) Vermont's legislators make complex decisions while working only part-time and having limited access to staff. Well aware of these demands, Anthony Gierzynski started soliciting legislators in 1998 to find out what they needed to know and began having his students provide research-based information in response.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

March 30, 1:30 p.m.
Lecture: "Thinking Small: Scale and Desire," with Bill McKibben, visiting scholar in environmental studies at Middlebury College and author of *The End of Nature*, Ira Allen Chapel. Information: 656-2675

March 30, 4:30 p.m.
Workshop: Marjorie Sandor, essayist and winner of the 2004 National Jewish Book Award in Fiction, will speak on fiction writing. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. Information: 656-4047

March 31, 4 p.m.
Lecture: "The Value of Innovation in the 21st Century," with Nick Donofrio, executive vice president of Innovation and Technology at IBM. Campus Center Theatre. Information: 656-8157

April 3, 4 p.m. Lecture: Robert D. Rachlin, senior director of Downs, Rachlin & Martin PLLC and chair of the advisory board of UVM's Center for Holocaust Studies, will give a lecture titled, "From Weimar to Auschwitz: Carl Schmitt and the Jurisprudence of Exclusion." Williams, 301. Information: 656-3430

April 3, 6:30 p.m.
"Nothing Like Dreaming," a Vermont made feature film touching on mental health issues. Screening followed by a panel discussion and comments from the director, Nora Jacobson. Billings Campus Center Theater.

April 4, 12 p.m. Women & Gender Studies Brown Bag Lecture Series: "The

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By Joshua Brown

Article published Mar 29, 2006

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coasts and lowlands where much of our planet's population lives. That is, if all the ice melts.

Fortunately, that won't happen before mid-April, when Thomas Neumann will board a plane piloted by the 109th Air National Guard, loaded with a pallet of his dried food, satellite antennae, solar panels and very warm clothes. As spring flowers come up across campus, Neumann, a research assistant professor of geology — "I'm UVM's only full-time ice guy," he says — will land in Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. He'll spend six weeks poking GPS satellite receivers and radar probes into ancient, but shrinking, glaciers; it's the first step in a NASA-funded, three-year research project that he is directing.

"We want to know how meltwater contributes to the thinning and movement of coastal glaciers," Neumann says, pointing to a series of maps that project the retreat of Greenland's ice sheet over centuries.

Accelerating ice

His question might not seem urgent. Current estimates of how fast Greenland is melting, due to a warming global climate, put its contribution to sea-level rise at .02 inches per year. That's the thickness of a hair. If it maintains this pace, thousands of years will pass before the whole ice sheet has vanished.

But that pace is more than double what it was in 1996 — and long before

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Policy Shop

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the ice is gone seemingly small rises of sea level will create large global problems. An inch deep and 130-million-square-miles wide is “a heck of a lot of water,” says Neumann, that leads to increased erosion, more damaging storm surges and groundwater contamination. Even today, places like Bangladesh and Louisiana barely qualify as above sea level, and the oceans are now rising more than an inch per decade. By the end of the century, sea levels may climb one or two feet or more, but estimates are fuzzy. Most of this uncertainty lies in our poor understanding of how much water will come out of the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets.

Recent observations have scientists startled: over the last decade, the thinning of Greenland’s coastal glaciers has accelerated to a pace faster than previous forecasts had thought possible — and faster than simple melting of the surface can explain. Neumann is trying to figure out how this is happening, “and what it means for the fate of Greenland’s ice sheet,” he says.

Glacier scientists know that ice doesn’t just freeze or melt. It flows. Pressed by its own massive weight, a glacier will squeeze like taffy down to the sea, as it is built up at its other end by snowfall. The long-held assumption has been that the flow of huge ice sheets on Greenland and Antarctica is slow and steady. Most of the motion of the ice is driven from the deepest levels, and it once seemed that warmer air would take hundreds or thousands of years to change this. Current climate change models, like the ones used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, don’t account for the possibility of big glaciers suddenly starting to move more quickly in response to, say, an especially hot summer.

Slippery problem

They probably should. On Feb. 17, a report in *Science* grabbed newspaper headlines, noting that satellite images show the flow rate of some of Greenland’s glaciers accelerated dramatically between 1996 and 2000 and then again between 2000 and last year — and that these faster-moving glaciers are being found farther north, too. All in correlation to the hottest decade ever recorded.

These new observations support a paper published in 2002, also in *Science*, proposing that meltwater might explain “rapid, large-scale, dynamic responses of ice sheets to climate warming.” The basic theory: warmer air means more meltwater and “these pools and lakes on the surface drain down through holes in the glacier to the bedrock,” Neumann says, “making it more slippery.” Sudden surges of summertime water provide a kind of colossal waterslide for the glacier.

“We know that these coastal glaciers have sped up by 50 percent,” Neumann says, drawing a blue line along the southwestern perimeter of the Greenland map. “But the question is: does the huge mass of ice, here, at the interior ‘notice’ that the edge is moving faster?”

This is a question his research aims to answer. With a string of GPS

satellite receivers, Neumann and his collaborator, Ginny Catania of the University of Texas at Austin, will be measuring glacier movement at 12 locations from the coast to the interior. The receivers, accurate to less than an inch, will be installed on poles dug deep into the ice this spring. Neumann and Catania will retrieve them in August to see how far and fast the ice has moved.

Meanwhile, they'll also be studying and mapping the flow and volume of water through and below the same glaciers, using radio-echo sounding equipment. By matching up the movement of ice with the movement of meltwater, they'd like to get a better understanding of how short-term, summertime changes in the velocity of coastal glaciers affect the stability of interior areas. How susceptible is the main ice sheet to sudden speed-ups and slides?

"Dr. Neumann's research will shed new light on the linkages between ice sheet melt and enhanced flow, which ultimately should improve scientists' ability to predict Greenland's contribution to sea level rise," says glaciologist Waleed Abdalati, manager of NASA's Cryospheric Sciences Program that is funding Neumann's project.

"At least we should be able to tell whether current glacial sliding models are up to the task," Neumann says. "I expect the model will conform to the observed data." And then he smiles. "But nature often has surprises."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Match Points

Faculty Mentoring Program is a winner for both new and experienced faculty

By Lee Ann Cox

Article published Mar 29, 2006



Amy Trubek (left) and Stephanie Kaza are one of the 44 faculty mentoring matches a UVM program made this academic year. (Photo: Sally McCay)

Amy Trubek and Stephanie Kaza laugh riotously after this exchange, with mutual understanding. They're like old friends, though they've known each other only since the fall when they were paired through the university's Faculty Mentoring Program.

Over spicy milk-and-honey-laced Indian brews downtown at Dobra Tea, the conversation continues in earnest: the imperative for junior faculty to evaluate critically the requests they get, the committees, the service, the writing and speaking, what leads to good connections and experience, what saps time without building the case for tenure. They track demands from designing tests for students requiring special accommodation, carving time for research, navigating the power plays of academia — issues an experienced professor can help a new hire sort out.

"I just wanted help figuring out the lay of the land, the cultural stuff," says Trubek, assistant professor of nutrition and food science, on why she got involved in the program. "Every institution has its own way of thinking about what's important."

Trubek comes to UVM with more than a decade of teaching experience and her second book near publication, so her mentoring needs are different from that of a recent Ph.D.

She is also an anthropologist working in the College of Agriculture and

"Here's my question: I got an email from an editor about writing a food studies text book."

"Don't do it."

"I knew you'd say that."

"Fast mentoring."

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[The Iceman Goeth](#)

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Life Science. That's the kind of interdisciplinary circumstance Kaza knows well. A professor in the Rubenstein School, she has a doctorate in biology but also a master's in divinity; she brings Buddhist thought to her environmental research and teaching. And she came to the university later in her career, at the same age as Trubek is now. The fit is a natural — and not accidental.

Making the match

"We take a lot into account with the pairings," says Peg Boyle Single, director of the mentoring program, an effort co-sponsored by the Provost's office and the Faculty Senate and supported by a small grant from the Ford Foundation that paired 44 faculty in mentoring relationships this year. The women's faculty caucus launched the program five years ago to help diversify the faculty as it became clear across campuses that women and nonwhite academics had less access to informal mentoring and its fruits: career success and satisfaction.

Despite that genesis, the program is not limited by race or gender. The emphasis is strongly on new hires to help socialize them to the university, but it is open to any junior faculty member (except College of Medicine faculty and one-year appointments). Boyle Single, who took over the program last spring in addition to her position as research associate professor in the College of Education and Social Services, has just expanded the program to include lecturers and research faculty.

"I really wanted to support everyone," she says, "and not just the tenure tracks."

That move puts the university ahead of the curve.

"(UVM's program) is very unusual because it's institution-wide," says Carol Mullen, associate professor at the University of South Florida and editor of the refereed international journal *Mentoring & Tutoring*. "It's very innovative and should be emulated."

Boyle Single's own research focuses on structured mentoring — she won't do what she calls a "match-and-go" program, which she likens to a dating service. In the online application process she asks "protégés" to identify what they want from the relationship and any traits they desire in a mentor — she'll match based on research methodology, gender, religious background, whatever. She strives to make the pairings cross-departmental to allow for an impartial mentor.

"You know you can really talk about your foibles and your doubts and everything else," Boyle Single says, "to someone who is not going to be voting on you."

She stays in touch with monthly coaching emails and occasional professional development workshops that she hopes to build into a program of monthly meetings. The contact from her, and cross-departmental and cross-college gatherings in particular, says Boyle

Single, help develop a sense of campus affiliation.

System support

Strong community ties are just one of the rewards reaped by protégés, mentors, and the institutions who support them. Research professor Michael Giangreco (once Boyle Single's informal mentor) and his protégé Jesse Suter work together in the Center on Disability and Community Inclusion. Despite the violation of the no intradepartmental guideline, the two say their match couldn't be better.

Concern over tenure votes isn't the issue for research faculty, Giangreco explains. For them, it's funding. "I'm particularly interested in doing things to encourage talented people who are on soft money to stay here," he says. "Jesse is an asset to our center."

So in addition to regular sessions where they discuss issues both practical and ethical, Giangreco provides "instrumental mentoring" where the senior person facilitates professional development opportunities for a protégé. Giangreco has arranged for Suter, a research assistant professor who is just finishing his doctorate in psychology, to be a guest reviewer for a professional journal, and he's secured a small research grant with Suter for a study they'll be collaborating on.

For Suter, who has had strong mentorship within his field, having a mentor in his new department as he makes the transition is ideal. "I feel like I'm the new kid in education," he says. "Michael is helping me bridge my psychology background into the center."

But mentoring isn't just good for junior faculty. Because Giangreco's field is special education, for instance, he's learning from Suter's expertise in psychology. New technology is another area where younger faculty can often offer support back to their mentors.

Yet it's the intangibles, the research shows, that stand out when considering the benefits of mentoring for more senior faculty. Mentors get a chance to reflect on their own careers and accomplishments, Boyle Single says, and many get re-energized in the process.

For Stephanie Kaza, mentoring has even higher meaning. "It's part of your obligation if you made it this far in the system to give back," she says. "You can't exactly give back to the people who've helped you because you're always junior to them, but you can certainly turn around and accept your own more senior status and help others.

She continues, "... (this) intergenerational exchange — it's not parental to children, but it is passing along wisdom through a kind of chain that helps a whole institution grow. I guess I would say that the more wisdom is exchanged, the wiser the whole place really becomes."

For more information about the faculty mentoring program, or to contact

Peg Boyle Single, go to [Faculty Mentoring Program](#).

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Policy Shop

Class lets students influence Vermont legislation through research and analysis

By Jon Reidel

Article published Mar 29, 2006



Real-world research: Anthony Gierzynski's students take on custom research projects at the behest of the state's legislators. Their work often influences policy. (Photo: Jon Reidel)

Vermont's legislators make complex decisions while working only part-time and having less staff support than almost anywhere else in the country. Well aware of these demands, Anthony Gierzynski, associate professor of political science, started soliciting legislators in 1998 to

determine their needs for objective, research-based information, an effort encouraged by Sen. Matt Dunne.

"I was surprised to find that the state's small, but extremely hard working staff was unable to respond with the kind of research I thought was available," recalls Dunne of his early days in the state senate.

Gierzynski's "Vermont Legislative Research Shop" course now helps fill that gap by putting students to work providing information and recommendations in response to legislative requests that often influence decisions on potential laws. The research ranges from investigating practices and programs in other states, drawing in academic research on issues and analyzing federal programs and grants. Democratic, republican and progressive legislators have offered praise for the student work.

Shaping legislation

This spring's class took on a request from David Zuckerman, a Burlington progressive representative who wanted to know how voters felt about instant runoff voting, a system used for the first time in Vermont during the city's mayoral election. The approximately 15 students in the legislative shop class joined forces with Gierzynski's "Politics and the Media" course to conduct an exit poll of more than 1,000 voters.

"Only in Vermont could such a neat opportunity happen, where students

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[The Iceman Goeth](#)

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have a hand in shaping possible legislation for the future,” says senior Emily Kueffner. “Our small legislature really affords our class (the opportunity) to work, because we can find out information that legislators need help with. This class is by far one of the best classes that I’ve taken at UVM. I’ve appreciated all that I’ve learned because I can carry it on to other areas that I pursue further down the road.”

The IRV study, developed by students with some help from Secretary of State Deborah Markowitz, drew national attention and showed that about 65 percent of voters preferred the alternative system of voting. More than 58 percent of respondents said they would like to see the method used to elect a governor — a topic that is currently being discussed in Montpelier.

“(The class) provides real value to legislative policy makers,” Markowitz says. “...the information obtained by the survey is valuable as we decide whether and how to go forward with IRV in the future.”

Zuckerman agrees and adds that he finds the class a useful resource. “Whenever I’ve submitted a request they’ve always provided high quality information with a quick turnover,” he says.

Requests vary widely. One edition of the course was asked to look at methadone, aiding legislators in their eventual decision to pass a law setting up clinics. Gierzynski’s first class in 1998 was charged with finding out the effects of a major ice storm on syrup producers, and how the state could best help them. A portion of the state’s relief funding ended up being spent on plastic tubing as recommended by students.

Other projects have included research on corporate farms; GPS tracking of criminals; snowmobile safety; smoking bans; and a request from Dunne to look into states that require in-state licenses to purchase alcohol. Oregon and Vermont, the only two states that required in-state identification at the time, no longer do.

Just the facts

While sifting through IRV data at a recent session of the class, students talked about the importance of producing unbiased data that legislators may or may not like depending on how the conclusions jibe with their views. “That’s not our concern” says one student. “We’re just as interested in seeing the results as the next person, regardless of the outcome,” says another.

It’s this type of intellectual curiosity that Dunne, who is running for lieutenant governor, says drives him in his work as a legislator and the kind of energy he hoped to tap into when he first discussed the idea with Gierzynski.

“I wanted to leverage the energy of the students and their intellectual capacity to help solve complex problems facing Vermont,” says Dunne. “The class is an extraordinary model of service-learning, because it’s

actually 'public-service-learning' that's affecting change. Talk about civic engagement: there's nothing like changing the laws of the state to make a person feel empowered."

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Mar 22, 2006

An experienced higher education professional with an extensive portfolio in fundraising and strategic management will become vice president for development and alumni relations, President Daniel Mark Fogel announced March 22.

[New Option for Aspiring Nurses](#)

Mar 28, 2006

A new master's entry program in nursing will allow college graduates — even from non-science majors — to pursue a course of study that will allow them to eventually earn a master's of science degree and earn a license in one of five forms of advanced practice.

[Civil Unions Study Finds Not-So-Dangerous Liaisons](#)

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[Foundation Gift Provides for Summer Engineering Scholarships](#)

Mar 13, 2006

The Barrett Foundation presented a check during a March 10 ceremony that will provide \$53,000 to fund scholarships for five undergraduate engineering students to pursue research projects this summer.

[Certificate Program Aims to Move Employees from Web-Scared to Wired](#)

Mar 14, 2006

A new training program will make Webmasters out of even the least Web-bent UVM employees.

[Princeton Dean Lectures on Engineering for a Better World](#)

Mar 14, 2006

Maria Klawe, newly appointed president of Harvey Mudd College, said in a lecture entitled, "Engineering for a Better World," that virtually every problem today requires a solution that is interdisciplinary.

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New Development and Alumni VP Hired

By The View Staff

Article published Mar 22, 2006

An experienced higher education professional with an extensive portfolio in fundraising and strategic management will become vice president for development and alumni relations, President Daniel Mark Fogel announced March 22.

William Neidt is currently senior vice president for strategic planning at the University of Colorado Foundation, where he is leading the planning process for that institution's next billion dollar comprehensive campaign.

Neidt's fundraising career spans over 21 years at the University of Kansas' University Endowment Association, the University of California at Davis and the University of Colorado Foundation. Throughout his career, Neidt has planned and directed fundraising campaigns that have netted \$373 million in private support for his institutions.

Neidt will join the university's senior administrative team at a time when UVM's comprehensive \$250 million campaign is about 90 percent complete. The campaign runs through June 30, 2007.

"I feel fortunate to have succeeded in attracting Bill Neidt to UVM at this critically important time," said Fogel. "His demonstrated success in fundraising will give our campaign the final push it needs. Once we have completed our goal, Bill will play a primary leadership role in planning our next comprehensive campaign. Fundraising will remain a strategically important source of revenue as we continue to advance our goal of permanently joining the first rank of American universities. At the same time, we will continue to strengthen our relationships with alumni, parents and friends through the auspices of our development and alumni relations efforts."

Neidt, who will start his new position in May, said, "I'm excited to lead the development and alumni division at UVM. Private funding from donors, coupled with strong alumni support, will make a big difference in the university's future. President Fogel and his team have created good momentum in carrying out a new plan and vision, and I look forward to joining them in this endeavor."

Neidt holds a doctorate in educational administration with a business minor from the University of Kansas. His master's and bachelor's degrees are also from Kansas.



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By The View Staff

Article published Mar 28, 2006

A new master's entry program in nursing will allow college graduates — even from non-science majors — to pursue a course of study that will allow them to eventually earn a master's of science degree and earn a license in one of five forms of advanced practice.

The new program from the Department of Nursing was announced in late March. The program is currently accepting applications to fill its inaugural class of approximately 20 students enrolling in the fall 2006 semester. The MEPN curriculum consists of a 12-month full-time intensive pre-licensure educational program followed by a 24- to 30-month period in which students will earn a master's degree in nursing and be prepared for specialty certification and practice.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for people who already have college degrees to change careers without having to start over and earn another baccalaureate," says Sarah Abrams, an assistant professor of nursing who will coordinate the program.

The pre-licensure coursework, which includes clinical studies as well as basic science courses for those who did not take them as undergraduates, will lead to a certificate of completion that will entitle a student to take the national licensing examination to become a registered nurse and to be provisionally licensed in Vermont. Continued licensure is dependent on the successful completion of specialty study and a master's degree.

For more information, see [Master's Entry Program in Nursing](#) or speak to Barbara Mokenthin at 656-2018.

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Civil Unions Study Finds Not-So-Dangerous Liaisons

Research mapping civil-union seekers finds few demographic differences between homosexual and heterosexual couples

By Lee Ann Cox

Article published Mar 29, 2006

It's a safe bet that most people, wherever they stand morally and politically, have an idea of who lesbian women and gay men are, whether it's based on experience or images in the media. A skewed sample, either way. The true picture of homosexuality in America, urban or cowboy, with children or not, in or out of the closet, is far more elusive.

According to Glen Elder, associate professor of geography, who presented new and surprising research analyzing the lives of same-sex couples at a recent meeting of the Association of American Geographers, academics are equally at fault, basing studies on groups of gays and lesbians who are visible and concentrated. "We have produced a body of literature about homosexual lives," he says, "that tends toward the 'exceptional.'"

Elder and his colleagues have taken a more scientific approach to analyzing the lives of at least one subset of gays and lesbians: those who entered into civil unions in Vermont the first year they were offered, from July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001.

Vermont was the first state to legalize same-sex relationships in the form of civil unions, and at that time no other U.S. state or Canadian province offered anything comparable. Couples traveled to Vermont from all over the United States. Because civil union certificates, like marriage certificates, are public information, Elder was able to analyze all couples who got civil unions, whether closeted or not.

The ability to include couples without requesting their participation makes this research unique. Previous studies of gay and lesbian lives have relied on either the visibility of the population, their willingness to admit to being part of a stigmatized group, or "convenience" samples — such as surveying members of an organization or clientele of niche bookstores or bars — methodologies that are ripe for bias, both tapping into and reinforcing stereotype.

Elder's approach — using civil union data collected by co-authors Sondra Solomon and Esther Rothblum for a previous study — provided a large, national sample of same-sex couples, albeit one that naturally favors neighboring New England states.

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Using a Geographic Information System — and the expertise of undergraduate Josh Kowalski, a forestry major with a concentration in GIS and co-author on the study — the researchers were able to map where the couples reside and overlay the data on a feature class of U.S. Census tracts. With a focus on population density, race/ethnicity, age, household composition and home ownership, they then compared their results to national averages.

Same sex, same lives

What's most interesting about this analysis, paradoxically, is the banality of the results. Civil union households simply don't differ that much from those of the general population. They appear to be in somewhat more populated tracts than the national average (5134 versus 4306), but not to the extent, writes Elder, that they are portrayed in the media or even in academic work on the geography of lesbian and gay lives. This suggests that while some couples with civil unions may live in "gay ghettos" such as San Francisco or Provincetown, they are also dispersed in towns and cities of varying sizes.

Broken down by age cohort, there is not much difference between the median age in civil union tracts (37) and national averages (35.9). Civil union households appear to reside in slightly whiter tracts than the national average. However, when broken down by specific race/ethnicity, it appears that civil union tracts are less likely to be African American (8 percent versus 13 percent for national tracts) or Hispanic (7.9 percent versus 11 percent), but more likely to be Asian American (8 percent versus 3 percent).

People living in civil union households live in places with similar numbers of married households (51 percent versus 48.1 percent). They have a slightly greater chance of residing in neighborhoods that have higher ratios of renters to homeowners (35.1:57.2 versus 33.3:60 for national averages).

Elder is quick to acknowledge that there are many variables and possible interpretations of the data. Same-sex couples who enter into civil unions may differ substantially from those same-sex couples who choose not to, whether for practical or political reasons. They may be more traditional and therefore more similar to heterosexual couples. And the study obviously looks exclusively at lesbians and gays in committed relationships, not those who are unpartnered, dating casually, or whose partners have died.

The picture is further complicated by potential differences in couples from Vermont, who were extended the state benefits of marriage, compared to out-of-state couples who based their decision solely on intangible benefits. It is no more possible to use this research to generalize about the lives of all lesbians and gays than it is to make blanket assertions about all heterosexual lives. But the research speaks quite specifically to the controversy surrounding same-sex marriage.

"It's surprising on the one hand, but also reassuring," Elder says of the results. "Gays and lesbians who aspire towards the symbolic and real material benefits of marriage are no different from other people who aspire towards domestic stability and material comfort. They are middle class; they want the stuff of a middle-class lifestyle. These are not people who are ripping the fabric of America."

Find articles on similar topics: [faculty geography](#)

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Mar 29, 2006

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[Local Attorney Will Discuss Foundations of Nazi Jurisprudence](#)

Mar 20, 2006

Robert Rachlin, an attorney with the Burlington-based law firm Downs Rachlin Martin, will deliver the 17th annual Center for Holocaust Studies Harry H. Kahn Memorial Lecture on April 3 at 4 p.m. in 301 Williams Hall. The title of Rachlin's lecture is "From Weimar to Auschwitz: Carl Schmitt and the Jurisprudence of Exclusion."

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[Kingdom Book Artist to Reflect on 50th Anniversary of Janus Press](#)

Mar 14, 2006

Vermont book artist Claire Van Vliet will speak on "Papermaking Collaborations in the Publication of Janus Press" on March 16 at 4 p.m. in Bailey/Howe Library.

[Talk Plumbs Therapy, Landscape and Wilderness](#)

Mar 14, 2006

Geography Lecturer Cheryl Morse Dunkley will deliver a Center for Research on Vermont research-in-progress seminar on March 30 at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. Dunkley's talk is titled "A Therapeutic Taskscape: The Relationship Between Troubled Youth, Wilderness Therapy and a Vermont Landscape."

[Seminar Looks at Herbalism in Vermont](#)

Mar 07, 2006

Kit Anderson, a lecturer in the Environmental Program, will give a talk, "Ancient Knowledge, Modern Synthesis: Local and Global Roots of Herbalism in Vermont" on March 9 at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. The lecture is part of the Center for Research on Vermont's research-in-progress seminar series.

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By The View Staff

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Participation is free and open to anyone interested in public health, but registration is required. To register online go to: [College of Nursing and Health Sciences](#) and click on "Learning from Katrina" under the Public Health Grand Rounds heading on the right. Attendance is limited to 20 people.

For more information about the program, go to: [Learning from Katrina](#)

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Carl Schmitt was a German jurist and political theorist who exercised strong influence on the late Weimar leadership and its creep toward absolute executive power, which laid the groundwork for the Hitler dictatorship. He joined the Nazi Party in 1933, three months after Hitler was named chancellor. His friend/enemy political paradigm, published during the Weimar period, and writing during the Third Reich furnished theoretical support to a legal system in which Jews were denied access to the laws protecting Aryan Germans, as Schmitt and other jurists strove to eradicate the "Jewish Spirit" from German jurisprudence.

Rachlin, senior director of Downs Rachlin Martin and an active volunteer for local and statewide community organizations, has published scholarly articles and book chapters in two publications on the Holocaust, and currently serves as chair of the advisory board of the Center for Holocaust Studies of the University of Vermont. Rachlin has also published articles on technology and the law, book reviews and articles on aviation.

Information: 656-3430



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Is Free Will an Illusion?

By The View Staff

Article published Mar 22, 2006

Derk Pereboom, professor and chair of philosophy, will, presumably of his own volition, deliver the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Lecture on April 6 at 5 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. Pereboom's talk asks, "Is Free Will an Illusion?"

He summarizes the talk as follows: Are human actions freely chosen? Are we morally responsible for what we do? The common-sense answer to both of these questions is yes. But this answer is threatened by the fact that our best scientific theories support the view that factors beyond our control produce all of our actions. Philosophers have developed several general strategies for reconciling science and common sense. This lecture will contend that in the case of free will and moral responsibility, reconciliation is ruled out, but that this does not undermine moral goodness or render life meaningless.

Pereboom's areas of interest are in free will and moral responsibility, the nature of mind, philosophy of religion, and the history of early modern philosophy. He is the author of *Living Without Free Will* (Cambridge University Press, 2001). His current research focuses on the possibility of a physical account of consciousness, and the problem of evil for theistic religion.

The College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Lecture award honors a colleague who is an outstanding teacher-scholar; that is, an individual who is an acclaimed scholar or artist in his/her profession and who has demonstrated an unusual ability to share that excellence with students. The college views this as a celebration of the high quality of its faculty.



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UVM HOMEPAGE

Lectures Cover Crucial Health Topics

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published Mar 22, 2006

UVM and Fletcher Allen experts will take on essential health topics from cancer screening to migraines to hormone replacement therapy during the spring Community Medical School.

The free, public lecture series takes place each Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 p. m., March 28 through May 9, in Carpenter Auditorium in the Given Medical Building. The lecture dates, topics and speakers are:

- *April 4*, "Colon Cancer: Screening Strategies, Prevention and Treatments," with Dr. Neil Hyman, Labow Professor of Surgery, chief of general surgery, and Fletcher Allen colon and rectal surgeon.
- *April 11*, "Not Just for Men: The Myths, Hype and Facts about Women's Heart Attacks," with Dr. Friederike Keating, assistant professor of medicine and Fletcher Allen cardiologist.
- *April 18*, "The Migraine Syndrome: Symptoms, Triggers, Treatments and Prevention," with Dr. Robert Macauley, clinical assistant professor of pediatrics; Fletcher Allen interim medical director of clinical ethics.
- *April 25*, "Too Close for Comfort: Toxins in the Home," with Wolfgang Dostmann, associate professor of pharmacology.
- *May 2*, "It Burns! Causes and Treatments of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease," with Dr. Edward Borrazzo, assistant professor of surgery and Fletcher Allen gastrointestinal surgeon, and Dr. Stephen Willis, assistant professor of medicine and Fletcher Allen gastroenterologist.
- *May 9*, "Hot Flash: Looking Beyond the Debate on Hormone Replacement Therapy," with Dr. Julia Johnson, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, vice chair of gynecology, director of reproductive endocrinology and Fletcher Allen gynecologist.

Community Medical School is sponsored jointly by the College of Medicine and Fletcher Allen Health Care. Free parking is available on-site. Information, registration: 847-2886 or [Community Medical School](#)

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Day of the Dead (Language)

By The View Staff

Article published Mar 23, 2006

The Vermont Classical Language Association and the UVM Department of Classics will host the 30th annual Latin Day celebration on April 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Patrick Gymnasium.

The event affords high school Latin students throughout Vermont the opportunity to demonstrate and put into action what they have been learning in class through skits, song, translation competitions and displays. The proceedings are free and open to the public.

Information: 656-3210 or [Latin Day](#)

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Event Spotlights Graduate Research

By The View Staff

Article published Mar 27, 2006

Graduate students will showcase their work on March 31 from 12 to 5 p. m. on the third floor of the Billings Student Center. The event provides an opportunity for faculty, undergraduates and the surrounding community to learn about graduate-level research through a series of oral and poster presentations of thesis and dissertation research by graduate students.

The oral presentations and more than 60 research poster will address a variety of research, from cheese production and community redevelopment, to breast cancer and local food markets. Much of the work examines topics of current and long-term importance to the Vermont community.

A keynote address by members of the Graduate College and a catered reception will follow the event at 4 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Graduate Student Senate and Graduate College.

Information: 656-3345

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Professor-at-Large Will Discuss Preventing Injuries, Violence

By The View Staff

Article published Mar 28, 2006

David Hemenway of Harvard University, who is one of the university's first three James Marsh Professors-at-Large, will give a talk, "While You Were Sleeping: Success Stories in Injury and Violence Prevention" on March 30 at 3:30 p.m.

Hemenway arrived on campus on March 27. In addition to his public talk, the economist and director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center and the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center was scheduled to talk with students in five separate courses, attend a lunch with economics faculty and speak with members of the economics club. The James Marsh Professors-at-Large Program brings non-resident scholars to campus for several visits over the course of a six-year term-of-office. The program is designed to enrich UVM's intellectual life.

The other two current professors-at-large are Sowah Mensah, an ethnomusicologist, composer and a "master drummer" from Ghana, West Africa and professor of music at Macalester College and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., and David Orr, chair of the Environmental Studies Program at Oberlin College and world-renowned environmentalist.

Hemenway is a provocative and productive investigator and professor of health policy at the Harvard School of Public Health. A former Pew Fellow on Injury Control, he was a Senior Soros Justice Fellow and held a Robert Wood Johnson Investigator Award in Health Policy Research. He is past president of the National Association of Injury Control Research Centers. Hemenway has written six books, most recently *Private Guns, Public Health* and scores of peer-reviewed journal articles on public health topics such as motor vehicle crashes, falls, fractures, fires, suicides and child abuse.

Much of his current work concerns firearms. Hemenway is studying the effects of gun carrying; how guns are stored and whether training can improve storage practices; the external costs and benefits of gun ownership; the use of guns in self-defense; gun use among adolescents; guns on college campuses; the relationship between gun prevalence and homicide, suicide and unintentional gun deaths; and the effects of changes in the legal drinking age on youth violence. See this 2004 *Harvard Magazine* [article](#) for more information on Hemenway's recent work.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Kingdom Author to Speak During National Library Week

By Amanda Waite

Article published Mar 29, 2006

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Mosher, who will discuss how he became a writer in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, has published eight novels and one nonfiction book. Three of his novels, *Where the Rivers Flow North*, *A Stranger in the Kingdom* and *Disappearances*, have been made into feature films. *Disappearances* will premiere on April 7 in Essex Center.

Mosher's lecture, which is hosted by the English department and The Friends of Special Collections, takes place during National Library Week (April 2-8), during which time library patrons are invited to visit UVM's Bailey/Howe Library or Dana Medical Library to enter a raffle for gift certificates to the UVM Bookstore and other local businesses and offer feedback on campus library services.

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March 29, 2006

Awards and Honors

Howard Ball, professor emeritus of political science, has received a Fulbright award. He will serve as John Marshall Distinguished Professor of Law and will be visiting Budapest, Hungary in 2006-2007. This is his second Fulbright award; he also was distinguished lecturer in the School of Law at Sofia University in 2003. His 31st book, *Justice in Mississippi: The Murder Trial of Edgar Ray Killen*, will be published in August by the University Press of Kansas.

Publications and Presentations

Charles Foell, graduate student in physics, presented a paper entitled "Effective Mass of Vector Polarons" at the American Physical Society March meeting in Baltimore. The international meeting is the largest physics conference of the year. The work was done in collaboration with his advisor **Dennis Clougherty**, professor of physics.

The **Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese** announced will participate — for the first time ever — in Cheese Art 2006, one of the world's most prestigious cheese festivals. The legendary six-day event, taking place in Italy from June 27 to July 2, is hosted by the Sicilian research center CoRFiLaC and is globally recognized for its renowned promotion of the traditional values and culture of cheesemaking. VIAC will be one of only two American academic institutions participating in the festival. The other is from Cornell University. The Vermont delegation will include faculty members and graduate students associated with the Institute, as well as a number of Vermont cheesemakers. **Catherine Donnelly** and **Paul Kindstedt**, co-directors of the institute, will be featured speakers at the event.

March 15, 2006

Awards and Honors

Declan Connolly, associate professor of physical education, was one of three finalists invited to Washington, D.C. in July for the National Strength and Conditioning Association's "Educator of the Year" award.

Stacey Sigmon, research assistant professor of psychiatry, was awarded a four-year, \$3 million R01 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse