

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

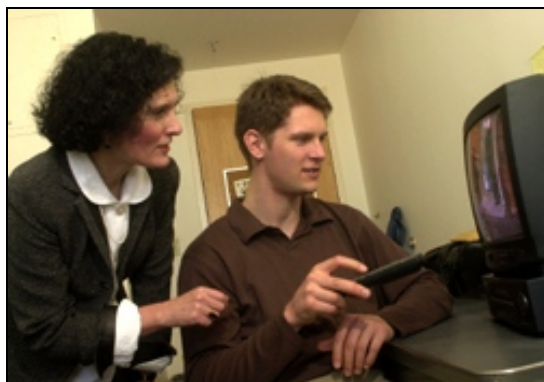
PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

Teaching Play



Patricia Prelock and graduate student Greg Unwin review videotape of a peer-play session to code the interaction. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Consider play: It's a fundamental human need, a chance for children to act out the dramas of adulthood and build friendships with others. But for many kids with autism, the inability to get a game going with another child is an ongoing source of frustration, isolation and pain. Professor Patricia Prelock is pursuing an in-home intervention study that may help them.

[FULL STORY ►](#)

PREVIOUS ISSUE

[Distinguished Lectures Offer Two Views of America: Multi-racial Melting Pot and Empire](#)

[UVM's Trinity Pioneers Tell How They Made the Move](#)

[Epidemiologist and Author Speaks on Pollution and Public Health](#)

[A Proverbial Picture Worth Thousands of Academic Words](#)

[Harvard Prof Asks, 'Is Profiling Always Wrong?'](#)

[Senator Visits New Medical Assessment Center](#)

[Sweet Knowledge](#)

[Trustees Review University Finances](#)

Research Reaches

Out Academic researchers getting together with the private sector to bring ideas to the marketplace for public benefit is a growing phenomenon that UVM hopes to tap into by launching the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies.

Talking 'Brown'

Brown, according to author Richard Rodriguez, is the hue of lust, confusion, complexity – and the future. We should embrace it lest it consume us.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

April 1, 12 p.m.
Event: Healing Fire Opening Ceremony. The ritual offers survivors of sexual violence a welcoming and comforting place to break the isolation they may feel. 34 S Williams St. Information: 656-7892

April 3, 6 p.m. The 3rd Annual "ALANA Talent Show." Come enjoy music, dance, poetry and other artistic stylings by students at the University of Vermont. First Come First Serve for Dining. Billings North Lounge. Information: 656-7882.

April 3, 8 p.m.
Concert: "Carmina Burana." The UVM Concert Choir under the direction of David Neiweem joins the 100-voice choir of the Burlington Choral Society, the Essex Children's Choir and the BCS Orchestra. Tickets: \$20, \$18. Ira Allen Chapel.

April 5, 3:30 p.m.
Colloquium: "Freedomland at the New Rican Village: Latin Jazz and the Making of a Latino Avant-garde Arts Scene in New York City," Wilson Valentin-Escobar, Henderson Fellow, ALANA U.S. Ethnic Studies, music and sociology. L311 Lafayette. Information: 656-2263

April 5, 7:30 p.m.
Panel: "You CAN Make A Difference," wotj by Ada Puches,

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

NEWS BRIEFS



Students Tim Krebs, Jessica Clark and Jillian Abraham presented a one-day workshop on biodiesel production in Dominica as part of their field workshop class. (Photo: Kate Dorr)

Spring is for Renewal (and Renewable Energy)

It's said spring break is a time to recharge batteries, and for twelve students who spent eight days in Dominica in the Caribbean Islands working in a renewable energy field workshop, the cliché was literally true.

Instructor Gary Flomenhoft, an adjunct faculty member in community development and applied economics and researcher at the Gund Institute, led the class, which aimed to demonstrate energy systems appropriate to the small, poor island, which currently imports all of its fuel and most of its energy despite what Flomenhoft calls "overwhelming renewable energy resources available but untapped on the island."

The student groups split into project groups focusing on various issues – solar hot water, photovoltaics, micro-hydro and biodiesel – with a center of operations at the island's Springfield Center for Environmental Protection Research and Education. The work got students' hands dirty (and their feet wet), as they assessed river flows for hydropower or installed wiring or repaired damaged solar energy panels.

Students in the class are now working on assessment reports evaluating their efforts during the workshop and identifying the next steps. Some are raising funds to complete their projects.

Call For Applications for Service-Learning Grants, Awards

The Office of Community-University Partnerships

Conference Explores Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education

Cheryl Brown was three years old when, by quirk of fate and alphabet, her family name was put on a Supreme Court case representing 13 parents who had tried unsuccessfully to register their children in all-white public schools in Delaware, Washington D.C., South Carolina, Virginia and Kansas.

Fifty years later, this landmark case, which ruled that segregation in public schools is inherently unequal and a violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, is said to have launched America's civil rights movement, and Cheryl Brown Henderson is traveling nationwide to dispel the myths, revive the truths and continue the work. She is coming to UVM April 8 to give the keynote address for a two-day conference, "Looking Back, Looking Forward: The Unfinished Business of Brown v. The Board of Education."

Cheryl Brown Henderson runs the nonprofit Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research in Topeka, Kan. and sits on the 50th Anniversary Commission established by Congress. But, she says, it took her a while to embrace her family's legacy.

"It wasn't until I was in college that it really hit me what the court decision meant, and that it had really done something that made a profound change," she told the *New York Times Magazine* in January. "By association, it hit me that this case bears our family name... It's a legacy, and you come to understand the responsibility that it bears."

The anniversary of the decision is being marked at various times nationwide, including May 17 – the date of the decision – with the grand opening of the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site at the former Monroe School in Topeka Kan., Henderson's home town.

The University of Vermont will mark this civil rights milestone April 8-9 with opening remarks and a lecture to educators by Henderson and another keynote address by newly appointed CEO and President of the United Negro College Fund and President of Dillard University, Michael Lomax. Lomax will receive an honorary degree at UVM's commencement ceremony in May.

The schedule follows:

- Thursday, April 8 at 4 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel, keynote address by Cheryl Brown Henderson.

and Service-Learning is seeking nominations for two recognition awards for faculty and community partners involved in service-learning courses. The awards will be granted at a recognition reception with President Daniel Mark Fogel on April 28.

The faculty prize acknowledges outstanding teaching in a UVM credit-bearing service-learning course. Nominees may be any UVM instructor who has taught a credit-bearing UVM service-learning course in the past 18 months. The award recipient will receive \$1,000 in professional development funds.

Faculty received a nomination form via campus mail. For more copies, please call or e-mail [Shelley Luff](#) at 656-9000. For more information, please call or e-mail [Courtney Lamontagne](#) at 656-0095. Nominations are due no later than April 12.

The office is also offering mini-grants of up to \$1,000 for planning and implementation of service learning projects for summer and fall 2004. An application mailing for the program went out via campus mail last week; applications and detailed budget requests are also due on April 12. Contact Lamontagne for more information.

Forums Spark Conversation on Vision's Means, Ends

In a faculty and staff forum on March 30, President Daniel Mark Fogel said that he wanted to clarify the difference between means and ends in his "Vision for the University of Vermont."

For a variety of practical reasons, he told an audience in Carpenter Auditorium before opening the floor to questions, the aspects of his plan relating to new facilities and increased enrollment had received much of the attention. These programs were emphasized early, he said, because of the need for trustee approval and because of the fact that a detailed enrollment management plan is "the only plausible engine" for funding other aspects of the plan relating to excellence in scholarship and teaching.

"The most critical, central and important elements of the vision remain to be shaped and defined," he said. "... The ends we're working toward are all about academic quality."

Fogel and Provost John Bramley will explain the means and ends of the plans, and answer faculty and staff questions about them, in a second Faculty Senate-organized forum on April 1 at 12 p.m. in Carpenter Auditorium, Given Building. Two Web pages – a January 2003 [explanation of the 10-year vision](#) and a PowerPoint version of a [recent financial feasibility study](#) – offer useful background to the conversation.

In the first session, Fogel said that he would pursue the end of academic quality with the tools of financial strength, facilities renewal, capital projects, expansion of faculty and staff, and increases in undergraduate and graduate enrollment.

- Friday, April 9 at 9 a.m. in Carpenter Auditorium of UVM's Given Building, keynote address by Michael Lomax.
- April 9, 10:15-11:45 a.m., two concurrent sessions, Henderson in Carpenter Auditorium on "The Unfinished Business of Brown: Preparing Educators to Help Fulfill the Promise"; panel discussion in Hall B of the Given Building moderated by UVM's Richard Johnson III.
- April 9, 1:30-3 p.m., in Carpenter Auditorium, "Our Reality: A Promise Deferred No More..." Panel Discussion led by Jill Tarule, dean of the College of Education and Social Services.

These free, public events are sponsored by UVM's College of Education and Social Services, Office of the President, Office of the Vice Provost for Multicultural Affairs, Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity, The ALANA Coalition. Information: 656-3424 or [Brown Conference](#).

For more on the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research visit [brownvboard.org](#).

He repeatedly emphasized that his vision was only an outline, to be filled in with consultation with the campus community. As one example, in response to a question about library renovations, he mentioned that the plan, in addition to entirely new facilities like the Student Commons, includes \$90 million over the next decade to renovate existing facilities, but that the process for allocating those funds is not yet in place.

The conversation – and questions – will continue for another 90 minutes on Thursday in Carpenter.

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

[The View Homepage](#) | [UVM Homepage](#)

[News Briefs](#) | [Events](#) | [Notables](#)

[Print This Issue](#) | [Print Past Issues](#) | [About Us](#) | [Feedback](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

EVENTS

Distinguished Lecturer Says the State of Public Health is Sickly

Dr. Victor Sidel will speak on "The Unhealthy State of Public Health" on April 6 at 3:30 p.m. in Carpenter Auditorium, Given Building. The talk is part of the President's Distinguished Lecture Series at the University of Vermont.

A scholar in the fields of public health, global health and social justice, Sidel is professor of social medicine at Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, N.Y., as well as adjunct professor of public health at Cornell University's Weill Medical College.

Sidel argues that our nation's public health system is suffering. Huge resources are being used for bioterrorism preparation despite the fact that many Americans are dying from preventable infectious diseases and food-borne illnesses.

"The threat of bioterrorism has reminded political leaders and the public of one of the ways in which public health protects us, but has done little to foster support of other critically important aspects of public health," says Sidel.

Sidel actively publishes on the health consequences associated with chemical, nuclear and biological weapons. He is co-editor of two books on the subject, *War and Public Health* and *Terrorism and Public Health*.

A founding member of the Physicians for Social Responsibility and the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Sidel is a proponent of human rights. He has served as president of the American Public Health Association, who awarded him the Sedgewick Medal for outstanding accomplishments in public health in 1997, and is also past president of New York City's Public Health Association.

The President's Distinguished Lecture Series brings top researchers to UVM to enhance the academic experience; showcase faculty, students and programs; and bring the campus community together.

Information: 656-3811

Sven Birkerts to Read from Memoir of Growing up Latvian

Sven Birkerts, a perceptive critic and essayist will read from his latest book, *My Sky Blue Trades*, on April 6 at 5:30 p.m. in Marsh Lounge, Billings.

At Latin Day, Tragedy Is the Theme but Fun is the Goal

Where do students dress up as Oedipus, Hecuba and Agamemnon; sing a *canticum novum* of Caesar; and take oral quizzes on Latin readings for rewards of *chocolata oscula*, or chocolate kisses? Only at Vermont Latin Day, to be hosted for the 28th consecutive year at the *Universitas Viridis Montis* on April 2 in Patrick Gymnasium.

Greek tragedy in the Roman perspective is this year's theme. Theaters were important in the Greek and Roman world, serving as assembly places and courts in addition to performance spaces. The first tragic performance in Athens is believed to have been in 534 B.C. In 2004, students from 12 Vermont schools who have spent weeks creating ornate sets and clever costumes will perform scenes from Antigone, Media, Oedipus Rex and other tragedies, complete with traditional elements such as lyric songs and dances, debates and murders committed offstage. Awards will be given for the best skit, highest per capita enrollment, Latin sight translation test and in several other categories.

Schools participating this year are Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans, Brattleboro Union High School, Burlington High School, Champlain Valley Union High School in Hinesburg, Essex High School, Harwood Union High School in Moretown, Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho, Milton High School, the Riverside School in Lyndonville, Spaulding High School/Peoples Academy in Barre, Whitcomb High School in Bethel and a group of home schoolers from St. Johnsbury.

The event begins with opening ceremonies at 9:20 a.m. and concludes with award presentations at 12:10 p.m. Skits will be performed and judged from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Information: [Latin Day](#)

Lecture Looks at Sainly Cuisine

"Wash your salad well, have dessert first, and don't forget to play with your food." Sounds like sound advice, but it's also the first half of the title of a lecture on "Eating and Cooking Lessons From the Writings of Christian Holy Women," to be presented by Cristina Mazzoni, associate professor of romance languages, on April 6 at 5 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

Among other women mystic writers, she will discuss Angela of Foligno (1248-1309) whose *Book of Visions and Instructions* recounts an unpleasant encounter with the devil while she was washing lettuce; Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (1648-

Birkert's memoir is composed of interweaving essays that mix stories of his youth as the son of immigrant parents during the 1950's and 1960's with tales of his ancestors in Latvia. He is author of six other books, including *The Gutenberg Elegies: The Fate of Reading in an Electronic Age*.

He has received Guggenheim and Lila Wallace fellowships, and in 1985 was awarded the Citation for Excellence in Reviewing by the National Book Critics Circle. He is currently editor of the literary journal *Agni* and teaches at Mt. Holyoke College and in the writing seminars at Bennington College. His UVM appearance is part of the English department's Buckham Writer's Workshop.

Canadian Poet to Read

Richard Harrison will read on April 1 at 3:30 p.m. in Billings North Lounge.

Harrison is a Canadian poet whose work has received critical acclaim and popular success around the world. He has published four books of poetry: *Fathers Never Leave You* (1987), *Recovering the Naked Man* (1991), *Hero of the Play* (1994), and *Big Breath of a Wish* (1999), which was nominated for the Governor General's Award for Poetry, Canada's most prestigious literary prize.

Harrison's visit to UVM will mark the American launch of the expanded, 10th anniversary edition of *Hero of the Play*, a book of poems about hockey that has charmed fans of hockey and poetry alike.

Information: Paul.Martin@uvm.edu or 656-9417.

1695) a major Baroque literary figure of Mexico who playfully used kitchen images to describe her intellectual pursuits; and Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897), whose sweet tooth permeates both her famed autobiography, *Story of a Soul*, and, as Mazzoni notes, "the syrupy image most people have of her."

Mazzoni is the recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences Spring 2004 Dean's Lecture Award.
Information: 656-1297

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

[The View Homepage](#) | [UVM Homepage](#)

[News Briefs](#) | [Events](#) | [Notables](#)

[Print This Issue](#) | [Print Past Issues](#) | [About Us](#) | [Feedback](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

NOTABLES

Awards and Honors

John Evans, dean of the College of Medicine, announced the recipients of the 2004 Dean's Award for Teaching in Primary Care at a faculty development workshop Feb. 7 at the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe. The award is presented annually to an outstanding clinical faculty member or members to recognize commitment to excellence in education and service. Dr. **David Henderson**, clinical instructor in medicine and a Bristol physician, was recognized for his exemplary commitment to teaching and his outstanding feedback to students. Mousetrap Pediatrics physicians noted for their highly effective teaching, as well as for their work in Milton-area schools and with community agencies, included Dr. **Frederick Holmes**, Dr. **Emanuele Chiappinelli** and Dr. **Joseph Nasca**, clinical associate professors of pediatrics; Dr. **Daniel Larrow**, clinical assistant professor of pediatrics; and Dr. **Roya Mansoorani**, Dr. **Deanne Haag** and Dr. **John DiMichele**, clinical instructors in pediatrics. Dr. **Maja Zimmerman**, clinical assistant professor of family practice and a Vergennes family practitioner, was honored for her nearly 20 years of dedication to clinical education, serving as an excellent role model, and for being an approachable, effective and receptive teacher.

Toni Kaeding, research associate in nursing, has joined the General Internal Medicine office as the newest fellow in outcomes research. Kaeding, who has been heavily involved in workforce analysis issues, will be investigating the use of telephone systems to improve chronic care during her fellowship.

Dr. **Benjamin Littenberg**, Henry and Carleen Tufo Professor of Medicine, was appointed to a committee of the National Cancer Policy Board of the Institute of Medicine on Assessing Improvements in Cancer Care in Georgia. Littenberg and **Laurie Hurowitz**, research fellow in general internal medicine, have each recently served The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development as grants reviewers in the Health Care Efficiency Research Program.

Dr. **Theodore Marcy**, associate professor of medicine and member of the Office of Health Promotion Research, has been appointed to the Vermont Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board by Gov. Jim Douglas. The board oversees expenditures for tobacco control in Vermont. Dr. Marcy, who will also serve as chair of the Evaluation Committee, replaced Dr. **John Hughes**, professor of psychiatry.

Publications and Presentations

Undergraduate **Charles Foell** gave a presentation of his theoretical research on polarons at the American Physical Society meeting held in Montreal. Foell's paper, "Vector Polarons in Degenerate Electron-Phonon Systems," is based on work done in collaboration with **Dennis Clougherty**, associate professor of physics. The American Physical Society March meeting is the largest physics conference of the year.

Dr. **Barbara Frankowski**, associate professor of pediatrics, and Dr. **Paula Duncan**, professor of pediatrics, presented a workshop titled "Positive Youth Development in Your Health Care Community" at the annual Society for Adolescent Medicine meeting in St. Louis on March 26. The workshop focused on a statewide project designed to improve the quality of health care delivered to youth ages 8 to 18 that is being led by the College of Medicine's Vermont Child Health Improvement Program.

Amanda Kennedy, research assistant professor of medicine, and Dr. **Charles Maclean**, associate professor of medicine, published a review of certain prescribing errors detected in UVM's recent Centers for Disease Control-funded project on diabetes. Titled "Clinical inertia: Errors of omission in drug therapy,"

the report appeared in the Feb. 15 *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*.

Donna Kuizenga, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of romance languages, recently published a translation and critical edition of *Madame de Villedieu's Memoirs of the Life of Hentiette-Sylvie de Molière* with the University of Chicago Press.

Undergraduate **Paul Mark** and **N. Sanjeeva Murthy**, associate professor of physics, were coauthors of a paper, "Wholly Aromatic Ether-imides. Potential Materials for n-Type Semiconductors" published in *Chemical Materials*.

Dr. **Alan Rubin**, research associate professor of medicine, will be a coauthor of a qualitative analysis of a yearlong mentoring program for a young faculty internist. Titled "A Year of Mentoring in Academic Medicine: Case Report and Qualitative Analysis of Fifteen Hours of Meetings between a Junior and Senior Faculty Member," the report is due to appear soon in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.

March 24, 2004

Awards and Honors

The Animal Welfare Judging Team in the Department of Animal Science placed third in a national judging contest held this month at Michigan State. This is the first time UVM has fielded such a team. Student members who competed were **Mary Kate Bennett**, **Gena Fagerberg**, **Stephanie Fischer** and **Deborah Press**. **Russell Hovey**, assistant professor of animal science, was the academic advisor.

Warren Bickel, professor and interim chair of psychiatry, has been elected President of College on Problems of Drug Dependence. Bickel's term will begin this June. The College is the oldest (est. 1929) and among the most prestigious scientific organizations addressing the study of drug dependence. Bickel's research concerns drug dependence, the treatment of opioid dependence and the use of behavioral economics to understand drug-taking behavior.

Dr. **Virginia Hood**, professor of medicine, has received a \$25,000 grant from the American Medical Group Association and Pfizer, Inc., Models of Excellence Collaborative. UVM is one of only four institutions nationwide to receive this grant, which will fund Hood's one-year program, titled "Getting to Goal: Patient-Directed Blood Pressure Control." The project's primary aim is to increase the achievement of a blood pressure goal of less than 130/80 in people at high risk for adverse cardiovascular or renal outcomes.

Physics student **Zuzana Srostlik** recently learned that she has been admitted to a summer research program at University of Hawaii. She is one of the seven students admitted for the summer program among 210 applicants nationwide. She will join research groups on astronomy projects.

March 10, 2004

Awards and Honors

Rick Vanden Bergh, assistant professor of business administration, has been named to the editorial board of the journal *Business and Politics* beginning this calendar year. *Business and Politics* solicits articles within the broad area of the interaction between firms and political actors. It is particularly interested in the use of non-market corporate strategy and efforts by policy makers to influence firm behavior through regulatory, legal, financial, and other government instruments.

Publications and Presentations

Sarah Abrams, assistant professor of nursing, recently had an abstract accepted for presentation at the 15th International Nursing Research Congress on July 22-24 in Dublin. The abstract is titled, "Caring for Persons with Dementia: Service Use and Policy Implications."

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

Teaching Play

University scholar's project aims to expand the worlds of children with autism

By Kevin Foley



Patricia Prelock and graduate student Greg Unwin review videotape of a peer-play session to code the interaction. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Consider play: It's a fundamental human need, a chance for children to act out the dramas of adulthood (or for grown-ups to escape from them) and build friendships with others. But for many kids with autism, the inability to get a game going with another child is an ongoing source of frustration, isolation and pain.

Patricia Prelock, professor of communication sciences

and a University Scholar in the social sciences and humanities this academic year, is pursuing a novel study that offers intensive in-home social training for kids with autism and their peers without it and monitors their interactions over the course of 15 weekly playdates. She'll present some preliminary findings from her ongoing project on April 1 at 4 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. The title of her seminar is "Facilitating Joint Attention and Social Interaction in Children with Autism."

Most of the past research on the topic, Prelock says, has focused on working with the children in school settings, instead of the home. Older studies have also tended to focus on training either the child with the disorder or on their peer without it, rather than working with both. By setting up within the comfortable confines of a child's own home, with his or her own toys, and offering training and consistent coaching from a skilled and sympathetic interventionist, Prelock hopes her pairs of children will spend more time actively engaged with each other and less time in conflict or ignoring each other. This, in turn, will hopefully help make a child who struggles in social situations better able to make friends, with all the therapeutic and existential benefits that such connections carry.

Much of the training is heartbreakingly simple. Some children with autism can't ask a potential friend about what they feel like doing, or even recognize why that kind of empathy might be important. So the interventionists teach kids how to suggest an idea for play, listen to a response, take turns, adopt another person's perspective and manage conflict.

"When I decided to do this lecture, it was risky, because this is new research and we are right in the middle of it," Prelock says. "We did two dyads last year, and we don't have all the data compiled yet. In the first there was some increase in interaction, but the results weren't all we wanted. Our second dyad just went crazy with the intervention and has been amazing. The child still has play dates with the first kid, but he has three other friends... he's attending birthday parties."

Social success

That kind of inclusion is more important than it might seem for a child with



PRINT | EMAIL THIS PAGE

Research Reaches Out

Academic researchers getting together with the private sector to bring ideas to the marketplace for public benefit is a growing phenomenon that UVM hopes to tap into by launching the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies.

Talking 'Brown'

Brown, according to author Richard Rodriguez, is the hue of lust, confusion, complexity – and the future. We should embrace it lest it consume us.

autism.

"Kids who have successful social relationships have better long-term outcomes in terms of being satisfied and successful," Prelock says. "All learning involves social opportunities – if you're in a classroom, and the teacher is doing peer groups and you can't work with a peer, you're not going to do well. Our ultimate goal is to increase their ability to attend to other things that are happening beyond what they're interested in and expand their view of the world."

Doing this requires patience, well-trained and empathetic student coaches to prod the play sessions in positive directions, and many hours spent painstakingly watching and coding videotapes of play. It also requires extensive travel and consultation with vulnerable families to conduct the research as sensitively as possible. Because of all these challenges, in-home studies measuring how well autism interventions work are not being produced at a pace matching the need for them.

"The brain research is sexy, and it's important and I use it, but I realized that we needed to do more efficacy research in intervention," Prelock says. "That's difficult because no one wants to do it. It's hard to control variables and we have to go with what the family and child needs."

Prelock and her graduate students can tweak their intervention strategies on the fly if observations of sessions or comments from parents reveal trouble spots. It's not the typical randomized, strictly controlled, double-blind pattern for research – but Prelock says it is possible, by conducting additional projects with her evolving research design and consistently replicating results, to eventually divine some sound conclusions from her single-subject projects.

Finding a balance between the requirements of academic research and the needs of families struggling with a confounding and profoundly difficult ailment is essential to Prelock.

"I'm trying to give something back to the families. They don't have to go to me, I'll go to them, and we'll leave them with some strategies," she says. "Instead of always asking children to be subjects in our research, we're giving *them* something at home."

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

[The View Homepage](#) | [UVM Homepage](#)
[News Briefs](#) | [Events](#) | [Notables](#) | [About Us](#) | [Feedback](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

Talking 'Brown'

By Kevin Foley



Race in America isn't black and white, says author and President's Distinguished Lecturer Richard Rodriguez. It's complex, ambiguous, changing, brown. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Brown, according to author Richard Rodriguez, is the hue of lust, confusion, complexity – and the future. We should embrace it lest it consume us.

"Children are being born today who have no precedent," said Rodriguez, who gave a President's Distinguished Lecture on March 29. The memoirist, essayist and PBS commentator drew his arguments from his 2002 book *Brown:*

The Last Discovery of America a broadside against American's traditional view of race.

"We don't conform to white and black. We are something else. We undermine your ideas about white and black," he said. The "browns," he went on to say, are 38 million strong and are not united by "blood," some shared racial descent, but instead by culture and language. Even those ties, which link the hugely diverse population of American "Hispanics" (a term Rodriguez says is historically suspect and unique to the United States), break down as Hindus fall in love with Jews, Italians woo Dominicans and Puerto Ricans romance African Americans, and the world grows ever more complex. And – yes – brown.

"All things brown in time," Rodriguez said.

Understanding the in-betweens

The children of these unions, who are being born in increasing numbers, explode our old binary descriptions and definitions of racial categories and open possibilities for deeper thinking and a wider conversation.

But allowing that complexity in has another side, one Rodriguez said he thought deeply about after September 11. He meditated on a photo of a cosmopolitan Osama bin Laden taken at age 14, as the boy posed in his designer jeans at the Beau-Rivage Hotel in Paris, knowing that in just a few years the boy would sequester himself with others exactly like himself to commit terrible crimes. Rodriguez also cited Columbine killer Dylan Klebold, "the grandson of an observant Jew who chose Hitler's birthday to kill," and John Walker Lindh, who felt rootless in affluent Marin County and ended up fighting for the Taliban.

"You have children at war with their own complexity," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez's notion of race in America, though superficially reminiscent of old ideas about melting pots, are something more ambiguous. Identity, individual history, doesn't melt away into a comforting and cosmopolitan broth. The brown state of mind, he argued, is about embracing multiple identities simultaneously. It's about skepticism toward notions of "purity," and reluctance to adopt simple ideas of historical identity.


[PRINT](#) | [EMAIL THIS PAGE](#)

Teaching Play

Consider play: It's a fundamental human need, a chance for children to act out the dramas of adulthood and build friendships with others. But for many kids with autism, the inability to get a game going with another child is an ongoing source of frustration, isolation and pain. Professor Patricia Prelock is pursuing an in-home intervention study that may help them.

Research Reaches Out

Academic researchers getting together with the private sector to bring ideas to the marketplace for public benefit is a growing phenomenon that UVM hopes to tap into by launching the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies.

The author said he frequently speaks at high schools, and is often appalled at the degree of self-segregation at school lunch tables. He said he sees tables for blacks, Mexicans, Koreans, nerds, athletes – every imaginable group. Rodriguez said that while he understood the impulse toward belonging to a clear group, the “brown” muddling of history makes acting on that urge difficult, maybe even dangerous.

His optimism for the future, he said, came through seeing many in America come to live with, and minimize, the conflicts inevitable when there are a multiplicity of identities jangling in close proximity to each other. Education, he said, can be part of the problem fueling conflicts – or a solution.

“You don’t come to a university like this just to learn about yourself...” Rodriguez said. “You come to embrace the other.”

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

[The View Homepage](#) | [UVM Homepage](#)

[News Briefs](#) | [Events](#) | [Notables](#) | [About Us](#) | [Feedback](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

Turning Knowledge Into Jobs

By Jon Reidel



UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel shakes hands with U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy who secured \$1 million in federal funding to help launch the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

The idea that academic research should be used for the public good is as old as the institutions that produce it. Partnering inventors and their respective institutions with the private sector to bring ideas to the marketplace for public benefit is a more recent phenomenon, however.

UVM has been engaged in some of this activity over the years, but recently took a major step in improving its position to capitalize on

the emerging area of technology transfer with the launch of the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies on March 29.

The targeted small business development program is designed to foster the success of new high-growth, high technology firms in Vermont, and is expected to play a crucial role in diversifying the state's economy, boosting economic development, and potentially bringing revenue to the university.

The number of business incubators similar to the new VCET has increased from 12 in 1980 to more than 1,000 nationwide today. The movement was made possible by the enactment of the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980, which allowed for universities and small businesses to elect ownership of inventions made under federal funding and to become directly involved in the commercialization process. These incubators played a role in the creation of approximately 35,000 companies by providing services and ideas needed to start a business.

The announcement of the creation of VCET at Farrell Hall on the Trinity College campus was attended by two key politicians who authorized funding for the center because they believed it would benefit their constituents. Sen. Patrick Leahy, who secured a \$1 million appropriation to help launch the center, and Gov. Jim Douglas, who requested \$125,000 for the center in the state budget, both say they see great potential for the business incubator to create jobs for the state.

"The Vermont Center for Emerging technologies and other Vermont incubators will tap the technology potential that we have in Vermont and transform that into jobs," says Leahy.

The university is also expected to benefit greatly from the incubator in a variety of ways. Frances Carr, vice president and research and graduate studies, says the research conducted at the university is aimed at improving the quality of life of Vermont residents and others. With the changing dichotomy between the public and private sectors over the past 20 years, however, Carr says, "as we move towards a more entrepreneurial economy, we recognize also that innovation and knowledge are the foundation for prosperity. Thus, research is the leading edge of educational development as well as economic vitality."

 [PRINT](#) | [EMAIL THIS PAGE](#)

Teaching Play

Consider play: It's a fundamental human need, a chance for children to act out the dramas of adulthood and build friendships with others. But for many kids with autism, the inability to get a game going with another child is an ongoing source of frustration, isolation and pain. Professor Patricia Prelock is pursuing an in-home intervention study that may help them.

Talking 'Brown'

Brown, according to author Richard Rodriguez, is the hue of lust, confusion, complexity – and the future. We should embrace it lest it consume us.

Measuring the benefits

Ideally, the university will turn its research into products that benefit people – and also make some money in the process. In 2002, UVM's sponsored projects funding exceeded \$100 million and in 2003 reached nearly \$120 million. The research generated from these monies could result in technologies and products that could be commercialized, spurring economic development in the state and funneling more money to UVM.

Put another way, the university, which has issued nearly 80 invention disclosures and licensed 26 patents in the last three years, hopes VCET will ensure that research papers don't sit on a shelf unused, or leave the state with the researcher to be developed elsewhere. A crucial feature of the VCET program is the ability to link client companies to specialty laboratory facilities and equipment, university technology, private investment capital resources, an extensive network of faculty, staff, and student interns, as well as alumni from the state's leading academic institutions.

A key player in the effort to bring research to the marketplace is Todd Keiller, director of technology transfer. His job is to promote the development of new knowledge and facilitate its application in ways that benefit society. With that goal in mind, however, he must also protect, market, and negotiate the sale of rights of commercially viable intellectual property to partners that can bring the property to market.

The payoff for effectively accomplishing these tasks could be a phenomenal sum for a university. Keiller says UVM has some patents with potential for millions of revenue for the institution and researcher, but adds that just one percent of all licenses yield more than \$1 million.

Carr recognizes the financial benefits of research being taken to the marketplace, but reminds that much of the research at the university is in areas such as education that produces benefits for a community that can't be measured in monetary terms.

"Dollars generated is not a good measure of research," she says. "Research can have a tremendous impact on a community that can't be measured in a dollar amount."

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

[The View Homepage](#) | [UVM Homepage](#)
[News Briefs](#) | [Events](#) | [Notables](#) | [About Us](#) | [Feedback](#)