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Dave Driscoll used to be New York City cab driver. Now he's a campus shuttle driver. He likes the shuttle better. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Growing up in Brooklyn, Dave Driscoll didn't like the tendency for New York City cab drivers to discriminate against people they didn't deem worthy of a ride. So when he became an NYC cabbie himself, he decided to do something about it.

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## THE WEEK IN VIEW

**April 3 3 p.m.**  
**Trustees: Full board meeting. President Fogel puts numbers to his vision. Memorial Lounge, Waterman.**

**April 3 4 p.m.**  
**Lecture: "Jamaican Performance Poetry," with Larry Breiner, Boston University. B-106 Angell.**

**April 4 1 p.m.**  
**Inauguration of Daniel Mark Fogel as UVM's 25th president. Patrick Gym. Reception follows. Information: 656-1266.**

**April 7 7:30 p.m.**  
**Presentation: "One in Four," slideshow and talk by a group of men who walked cross-country in 2001 to raise awareness about sexual assault. 235 Marsh.**

**April 9 5 p.m. Talk: "The Many Redemptions of the Shawshank Redemption," with Tony Magistrale, English. Memorial Lounge, Waterman. Information: 656-1297.**

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In a scene worthy of the art department surrealists below in Williams Hall, a four-ton cupola floats in space on March 18, 2002 on its way to renovation. (File photo: Sally McCay)

### Williams Renovation Wins Preservation Burlington Award

Skillful restoration of Williams Hall's historic slate roof and trademark copper ventilators earned the University of Vermont one of three 2002 Historic Preservation Awards given by Preservation Burlington, a community organization dedicated to preserving the architectural, historic and aesthetic vitality of the city.

The award was presented during a ceremony in Burlington's Union Station on March 26. Thomas Visser, professor of historic preservation, and Ralph Olberg, project manager in architectural and engineering services, accepted the honor on the institution's behalf.

The project entailed removing all of the building's roof slate and salvaging approximately half of it. Matching new slate came from a quarry in New Brunswick, Canada. The copper flashing was replicated with some modifications made to decrease ice build-up around the roof edges. All of the terra cotta caps and ornamental figures were cleaned, repined and re-pointed to their original locations. Deteriorated dormer windows were repaired, re-glazed and reinstalled.

Restorers found that two of the three copper cupola ventilators atop the roof were deteriorated to the point where they were ready to fall off the building. Vulcan Supply Corporation brought the fixtures to their shop in Milton where they were able to salvage many of the significant ornamental elements and reintegrate them with new copper ventilators designed to match the original structures.

### Men's Basketball Makes Academic 'Sweet 16'

If the NCAA men's basketball tournament was an academic competition, the University of Vermont would have made it to the Sweet 16, and, with a couple of upsets, could be playing in the Final Four.

Based on a recent study by the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport, 10 of the schools that made it to the round of 16 failed to graduate even half of their players in the last six years. Vermont, which lost to Arizona in the first round of the tournament, has graduated almost 95 percent of its players during the 17-year tenure of head coach Tom Brennan.

According to Richard Lapchick, author of the study and director of the institute, five of the teams in the Sweet 16 had basketball student-athlete graduation rates that were 32 to 49 percentage points lower than the school's overall student-athlete graduation rate.

Brennan's crew had a collective GPA of 3.01, which was higher than UVM's overall student body. Andre Anderson, David Hehn, Germain Njila, Scotty Jones, Corey Sullivan and Grant Anderson were named to the America East academic honor roll.

Lapchick's academic Sweet 16 bracket – based solely on graduation rates of 65 teams that made the tournament – looks vastly different than the 16 teams that qualified on the court. In fact, only six of the schools that made the round of the 16 would also have made Lapchick's Sweet 16.

If the schools with the top four graduation rates were playing in the Final Four, Stanford, UNC-Asheville, Butler and Wagner would be squaring off in New Orleans. Instead, Texas, which graduated 38 percent of its players during the same time period, and Syracuse (25 percent) will face off in one semifinal, and Kansas and Marquette will play in the other.

Vermont made Lapchick's Sweet 16, but not his Elite Eight, although graduation rates were close enough that a Catamounts upset wouldn't have been out of the question.

The study also revealed that 58 of the 328 teams playing in Division I failed to graduate a single black player in six years. Of the 65 teams that made the NCAA tournament, 19 had graduation rates of 25 percent or less with two programs posting graduation rates of zero, according to the study.

Williams Science Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the University Green Historic District. The building was built in 1896 with donated funds from Edward H. Williams of the Baldwin Locomotive Company of Philadelphia. The building's exterior includes a magnificent slate roof, ornate copper ventilators, dormers, terra cotta medallions and three reliefs of prominent scientists.

To preserve the building's historic character, the university assembled a team of specialists for the renovation that included architect Marty Sienkiewicz and the firms of H.P. Cummings Construction, Alpine Restoration, Vulcan Supply Corporation and Rodd Roofing.

### **Cuban Professor Visiting Campus**

Beatriz Díaz González, a noted scholar from the University of Havana, arrived in the United States on March 30. She is staying through April 11, a visit that will include a public lecture on April 8 in Waterman.

Her stay will be a bustle of activity – conversations with nine UVM classes, a morning at Champlain Valley Union High School, the open lecture, meetings of every imaginable sort, planning future Vermont-Havana exchanges – and Lynne Bond, professor of psychology, will have a hand in the at-times stressful task of arranging it all. The job could seem daunting, but Bond is happy her colleague can come at all.

"Getting a visa is a very, very tricky thing these days," Bond says. "They called her in late in the afternoon the day before her non-refundable ticket expired."

The visit is UVM's second from a Cuban intellectual in the past two years. Bond and others are active in Cuba as well, visiting the country for each of the last three years (see [Conquered by Cuba](#) for a *Vermont Quarterly* reporter's impressions of the most recent student visit), and the professor is pleased to have another chance to return the hospitality of her Cuban counterparts.

Díaz González is the current director of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences. She was trained in psychology and community development and has conducted scholarship on a variety of areas involving sustainable community development, specifically rural-agricultural community development. She is one of the leading scholars on the transition from state farms to agricultural cooperatives in Cuba, and its affect on both community quality of life and agricultural productivity.

Her talk, "Community and Human Development in Cuba," is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on April 8 in Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

### **Four Named University Scholars for 2003**

### **Cross-Cultural Exchange Researcher "Faces" UVM**

Cultural differences and a lack of understanding between people from other countries are at the heart of communication breakdowns and potential conflicts, according to Stella Ting-Toomey.

Ting-Toomey, a professor of speech communication at California State University-Fullerton, told about 65 people at Lafayette Hall during her "Communicating Completely Across Cultures" lecture on March 28 that language is the "key to the heart of culture" and that the "failure of face work" leads to conflicts like the war in Iraq.

Ting-Toomey's lecture was part of the President's Distinguished Lecture Series established last October. She gave a follow-up presentation the next day at Fleming Museum based on her extensive research, "Cross-Culture Face Concerns and Conflict Styles: A Face-Negotiation Perspective."

The researcher and author's face-negotiation theory assumes that people in all cultures try to maintain and negotiate face in all communication situations. This becomes problematic, however, when face is lost due to what is often an unintentional gesture or comment, especially in vulnerable interpersonal situations, Ting-Toomey said.

Problems like these often occur between cultures that focus on individualism like the U.S., and societies like China where collectivism is the rule of thumb. Ting-Toomey said she first became interested in cross-cultural communication when she moved from Hong Kong to Cedar Rapids, Iowa in the 1970s and had trouble adapting to the new culture.

"It was major culture shock," she said. "My image was New York, Chicago and L.A."

Ting-Toomey has since become highly sought after as a consultant by companies such as Motorola and Eli Lilly that want to expand to other parts of the world.

Ting-Toomey said that people in all cultures want to save face, and that in order to develop friendships, people must respect vulnerable situations and show honor and give respect to others. That can be difficult, she said, especially when people from collectivist societies clash with individuals from individualistic societies.

"Once you get an entry point you can get to know a person and get behind the cultural mask and develop a friendship," Ting-Toomey said. "In order to understand culture it is not enough to understand just their prescriptive differences (such as how to use chop sticks)."

### **Trustees Propose Competitive Tuition Increase**

Dan Archdeacon, Robert Nash, Patricia Prelock and Paula Tracy were named University Scholars for 2003-2004.

The award is intended to recognize sustained excellence in research and scholarly activities. The four professors were nominated by their colleagues, then selected by a faculty panel.

*the view* will profile each scholar before he or she delivers a public lecture during the next academic year. The following are biographical sketches of this year's recipients:

**Dan S. Archdeacon**, professor of mathematics and statistics. Archdeacon's research is focused upon combinatorial graph theory and, more specifically, topological graph theory, which deals with the question of how to draw graphs on surfaces. Graphs are useful models in many areas, including communication networks, transportation networks, process flow, map colorings and models of chemical bonds. Archdeacon considers how to draw graphs on surfaces such as the plane, sphere, torus and the projective plane. His publications include seminal contributions to his research areas. He is frequently an invited speaker at national and international meetings and is the managing editor for the *Journal of Graph Theory*, one of the leading publications in his field.

**Robert J. Nash**, professor of integrated professional studies. Nash's scholarship investigates the relationships between applied ethics, moral and character education, and religious or spiritual belief. He was one of the first scholars in higher education to write about the philosophical connections among religious pluralism, multiculturalism and education at all levels. In the broadest sense, Nash focuses on defining the foundations of practice in education and human services. His scholarship has been reported in numerous articles, chapters, and books. Since 1996 he has authored five books that have garnered several national awards.

**Patricia A. Prelock**, professor of communication sciences. Prelock is an outstanding scholar and clinician whose accomplishments rest, in part, upon her ability to cross disciplinary boundaries in her work. She has made significant contributions in the areas of language development in autistic children, interdisciplinary assessment and intervention, and parent-professional partnerships. Prelock has consistently received funding for research and clinical preparation, and her work is consistently published in the top journals in her field. She has served in editorial positions and as an editorial consultant to a number of journals.

**Paula B. Tracy**, professor of biochemistry and medicine. Tracy's research focuses on understanding how blood clotting is controlled by blood cells called platelets. Platelets, and their products, are required to prevent excessive bleeding following injury. Under some circumstances, however, these same cells contribute to pathological blood clotting that, for example, may result in a heart attack. Tracy's research helps to determine how platelets can

The university's minimal dependence on state funding will result in minor tuition increases in comparison to other public institutions, trustees said during the March 30 Finance and Budget Committee meeting.

UVM plans a 5.6 percent non-resident tuition increase during the next fiscal year. The increase is significantly lower than planned by most New England schools. The University of Connecticut expects a 13.3 percent increase, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst anticipates a 6.5 percent rise. Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney recently proposed a \$100 million cut to state colleges and universities.

Trustees said that UVM receives just 10 percent (\$36 million) of its total budget from the state, ranking it 49th in the nation for per-capita funding of higher education. This makes the institution less susceptible to the nationwide state-budget crunch caused by poor economic conditions.

In-state tuition will probably rise 7.1 percent, a considerably smaller percentage than hikes proposed at other campuses. UMass-Amherst, for example, plans to raise in-state tuition by 15.4 percent, while UConn plans an increase of 10.7 percent. The University of Arizona proposes to raise in-state tuition by 42.3 percent.

UVM's planned tuition adjustment also stacks up well against private institutions in the Northeast, where proposed increases range from 4.8 to 6.5 percent.

Members of the committee sounded optimistic that future tuition increases would remain low in comparison to other institutions, especially ones heavily reliant on public dollars. Trustees said they expect continued relatively modest tuition increases to narrow the tuition gap between UVM and other public institutions.

UVM has received 25 percent more applications in the last two years. With SAT scores on the rise among all applicants, committee members expect the university's ability to attract high quality students to continue to increase as its price tag grows at a slower rate than its competitors.

achieve an effective balance between excess bleeding and excess clotting. The National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association have supported this work continuously during her UVM career. She also won a special recognition award from the AHA.

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### University to Inaugurate its 25th President

Daniel Mark Fogel will be inaugurated as the University of Vermont's 25th president on April 4 at 1 p.m. in Patrick Gymnasium. A reception will follow the ceremony.

Vermont Governor James Douglas, along with members of the trustees, faculty senate, student government, staff council and alumni council, will participate in the ceremony.

Past University of Vermont presidents slated to attend include Lattie Coor, Thomas Salmon and Edwin Colodny.

In addition to this presidential party, delegates from 68 colleges and universities in academic regalia will form a processional symbolic of the dates of the institutions' founding.

Music will be provided by the University Concert Band, University Percussion Ensemble, University Concert Choir and the Pipers from the St. Andrews Society of Vermont.

Everyone is invited to attend, but parking at the Athletic Complex lot will be reserved for visitors. Event organizers request that faculty, staff and students park in their designated parking zone and either walk or make use of the campus bus system to get back and forth to the Athletic Complex. The on-campus bus system runs on a convenient 9-minute interval between stops.

*the view* will cover the event in the April 9 issue.

### "Gaypril" Celebration Set to Kick Off

The university's LGBTQA office, along with several campus and community organizations will host "Gaypril," a monthlong celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning campus and community members and their allies. The roster of performances, films, exhibits and special events includes:

- April 11. LGBTQA Awards and Community Celebration. Billings North Lounge, 3:30 p.m.
- April 12. Translating Identities Transgender Conference. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Online registration required.
- April 13. Alumni and Campus Community Jazz Brunch and special showing of the Andy Warhol Work and Play exhibit, Fleming Museum, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

### A Call to Service

"Community Works," an event scheduled for April 12, will bring students, faculty and staff together to volunteer in the community. Registration for the program, which is organized by the Office of Student Life, closes on April 4.

Volunteers will help several area non-profits including Champlain Valley Head Start, Starr Farm Nursing Center, Burlington Parks and Recreation, Fletcher Free Library, Ronald McDonald House, Recycle North, UVM HIV/AIDS task force and the Green Mountain Club.

Participants will gather in Cook Commons at the Billings Student Center at 9 a.m. for breakfast and an opening address by President Daniel Mark Fogel before heading out to their volunteer sites. After three hours of service, groups will return to Cook Commons for a reflection session and celebration lunch.

This event is the second of the spring. In the course of the February 22 and April 12 events, 300 students, faculty and staff are expected to volunteer more than 900 hours of service to the community. For information and registration, visit [Hearts & Hands](#) or call 656-2060.

### Top Evolutionary Computation Specialist to Give Talk, Workshop

David Goldberg, a computer scientist at the University of Illinois who wrote a book on genetic algorithms that is the fourth-most-cited reference in his field, is conducting a workshop on April 7 at 10 a.m. in 427 Waterman.

His keynote address is titled, "Prospects for a Golden Age of Computational Innovation: How Competent, Efficient Genetic Algorithms Will Change Our Future."

"Just as steam power gave humankind a kind of mechanical leverage that greatly amplified the capability of an individual during the industrial revolution, so too will genetic algorithms and other forms of computational innovation provide us with a kind of innovation leverage... that will vastly multiply our ability to solve difficult problems," writes Goldberg in the abstract of his talk.

In addition to the keynote, the event will include a chalk talk, a registration-only luncheon and a workshop featuring Goldberg along with local computer scientists. The day is sponsored by the UVM Evolutionary Computation Group.

- Free to students, \$10 general admission.
- April 14. "Queer Art Show" Opening. Williams Hall Foyer.
- April 15. *Girlfight*. Film and Discussion. Billings CC Theatre, 6 – 8:30 p.m.
- April 21. Presentation: UVM alum and *Heather Has Two Mommies* author Leslea Newman gives a talk: "You Can't Be a Lesbian, You're Jewish!" Memorial Lounge, Waterman. 5:30 p.m.

Evolutionary computation is an emerging discipline that, very broadly, encompasses methods for simulating evolution on a computer. For more on the field and conference, see [Interdisciplinary Workshop in Evolutionary Computing](#).

For more information, including admission and registration requirements and a complete calendar of events, go to [UVM LGBTQA](#) or call Dot Brauer at 656-8637.

### Exploring the Life of "Mother Prindle"

"Mother Prindle," as Vermonter Almira Greene was known to her thousands of social work clients, is far less well known than the husband she divorced, botanist Cyrus Prindle (nee Pringle), but she led a remarkable and important life.

A Center for Research on Vermont event led by writer Kathleen McKinley Harris will explore Mother Prindle's life, religion and late-19th century historical milieu. The talk, "Mother Prindle: Quaker From Vermont," will take place April 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

For more information, please call the Center for Research on Vermont at 802-656-4389 or visit the [CRVT site](#).

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*April 2 – April 8, 2003*

### Awards and Honors

The **Vermont Child Health Improvement Program** in the department of pediatrics received a \$300,000, three-year grant from the March of Dimes. The program's proposal on improving prenatal risk assessment and quality of care was selected by the March of Dimes Vermont Chapter and submitted to the national organization along with 59 other applications from chapters across the country. The Vermont Chapter was one of only four chapters chosen to award its organization with a grant. UVM faculty involved include **Judith Shaw**, director of VCHIP and research assistant professor of pediatrics; **Dr. Eleanor Capeless**, professor of obstetrics and gynecology; **Dr. Peter Cherouny**, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology; and **Dr. Charles Mercier**, associate professor of pediatrics.

**Mark Bouton**, professor of psychology, has been elected President of the Eastern Psychological Association for 2004-05 and will serve as President-Elect in 2003-04. The EPA is one of the larger regional divisions of the American Psychological Association. Its former presidents include notable psychologists like B.F. Skinner and Florence Denmark.

**Rocki-Lee DeWitt**, dean of the business school, has been elected to a three-year term as a member of the Board of the Lake Champlain Region Chamber of Commerce. She was also appointed by Governor Douglas to serve as a member of PAGE, the Project to Advance Government Efficiency. She joins other government and business leaders to "initiate a review of how government can function better, utilize technological advances and improve our systems and processes."

### Publications and Presentations

**Marilyn Lucas**, visiting assistant professor of business, presented a paper titled "On the Evaluation of a Small Donation-and-Sales Program", at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Northeast Decision Science Institute in late March. The paper was written in collaboration with C.F. Nicholson of Cornell University.

### In Memorium

**Brady Blackford Gilleland** of Burlington, professor emeritus of classics, passed away on Feb. 15. A memorial service will be held Sunday, April 27 at 3 p.m. at the Unitarian Church in Burlington.

*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.



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## The Good Times Roll

By Jon Reidel



Dave Driscoll used to be New York City cab driver. Now he's a campus shuttle driver. He likes the shuttle better. *(Photo: Bill DiLillo)*

Growing up in Brooklyn, Dave Driscoll didn't like the tendency for New York City cab drivers to discriminate against people they didn't deem worthy of a ride. So when he became an NYC cabbie himself, he decided to do something about it.

"I was kind of an idealist," Driscoll says. "Cab drivers are very discriminatory in who they pick up in New York, so I decided to pick

up anyone and take them anywhere. I got to see all sides of the city, but I ended up quitting after someone tried to kill me."

Seeking a safer line of work and locale, Driscoll packed his bags and headed for the tranquil hills of Vermont. But his love for driving and meeting people was hard to get out of his system. After a stretch as a school bus driver, Driscoll, 55, started working for the university in 1999 as a shuttle bus driver.

"I like the environment of the university and the energy of the young people," Driscoll says.

### A friendly fleet

Driscoll is one of nine fulltime drivers for Campus Area Transportation System, which is operated by the Department of Transportation and Parking Services. The UVM shuttle system began in 1990 and has a fleet of eight buses, which operate fare-free for UVM students, staff, faculty and visitors.

Most of the drivers come from different backgrounds, but have one thing in common – they love to ferry people around. The transition of moving to CATS from a previous transportation job seems like a natural progression as drivers get older, and grow tired of trying to control school children or worry about the person in the back of their cab.

"It's a lot better than driving a school bus," says Mike Altman, a supervisor in the department. "Students here are very well behaved. I'd say 10 out of 15 of them say thank you when they get off the bus."

Margaret Jackson is the grande dame of the CATS drivers. Prior to moving to Vermont, where she started driving for the Burlington Parks and Recreation Department, Jackson drove a cab in New York City for more than 20 years. Altman asked Jackson to come work for him one day while talking to her on a lunch break from their respective shuttles.

"She offered me part of her sandwich, so I remembered that," jokes Altman. "She's been around for awhile and seems to like her job. We have a pretty diverse group of drivers."

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### Wireless Warning

Kurt Oughstun, professor of electrical engineering and mathematics, isn't paranoid. But you won't find him plying Shelburne Road with a cellular telephone locked to his ear or chatting on his cell between classes at Votey.

### Maya Angelou

Even from Patrick Gymnasium's farthest bleacher seats, Maya Angelou's luminous stage presence shone like the rainbow she encouraged her audience to be.

### 9-11 and Civil Liberties

Stephen Schulhofer of New York University is troubled. A tide of what he calls "9-11 opportunism" has led to "exponential" growth in the government's powers of law enforcement and intelligence gathering – an expansion of power that the scholar believes is inimical to the Constitution.

Driscoll says the life of a shuttle bus driver isn't what most people think. Much of the time it's a fairly social profession, he says, but adds that it can also be isolating. Without being able to take breaks, save for a 30-minute lunch break, and having to focus intently while driving, it can also be physically demanding, Driscoll says.

"A lot of times it's just you driving," Driscoll says. "But I think some drivers like the isolation. I have days that I don't feel like talking. Another drawback is that we don't have much contact with our peers because they're driving at the same time."

#### **Shifting gears, reaching out**

But make no mistake – Driscoll loves his job. One of his favorite runs is the Trinity Campus/Waterman/Jeanne Mance route because his passengers tend to be non-traditional or international students. He's learned about other cultures by speaking with people from India, Mexico, Russia, China, Korea, Brazil, Ghana, Greece, Switzerland and other places, he says.

Driscoll describes his encounters with people as a series of short conversations that eventually create a larger portrait of each passenger. People are constantly going in and out of Driscoll's life, with most never returning. One international student wasn't allowed back in the country because he was denied a visa.

Altman says drivers are sometimes the only people that new students know or can talk to on a regular basis until they make friends. Some of his drivers also become close with students with special needs who depend on them for transportation.

"Some students are lonely and our drivers sort of adopt them," says Altman. "Every year we have two or three students that become our mascots. Some students who have handicaps our drivers have befriended."

As parking becomes more of a premium on campus and the shuttle routes are consequently expanded, the number of CATS riders has increased from 592,157 during the 1999-2000 academic year to 650,441 last year. A late night downtown run was recently added to accommodate students coming home after a night of revelry.

Driscoll says the students are little louder at night, but still respectful. He recently joined in with a busload of students who were singing on their way back from a late night downtown excursion.

"It's a little bit more of an experience at 2:45 a.m.," Altman says. "Occasionally some of them are pretty pumped up, but we haven't had any real problems."

Chris Tallman, a first-year student from Barre, Vt. is one of three student shuttle drivers who all happen to live on the same dorm room floor. He says driving 20 to 25 hours a week has allowed him to meet more people than he would in just about any other line of work.

"You get to meet a lot of people," Tallman says. "I have people come to me when I'm not working who remember riding on the shuttle. I'll probably do it all four years in college."

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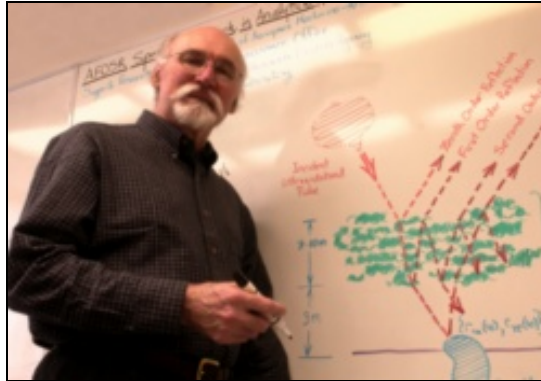
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## A Wireless Warning

By Kevin Foley



Electromagnetic maverick: Kurt Oughstun works to challenge his field's "dogma."  
(Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Kurt Oughstun, professor of electrical engineering and mathematics, isn't paranoid. But you won't find him plying Shelburne Road with a cellular telephone locked to his ear or chatting on his cell between classes at Votey.

"We are conducting what amounts to the largest medical trial in the history of the world," says Oughstun, an expert in electromagnetic fields

who is conducting controversial research that indicates certain kinds of phased radars can deeply penetrate, and possibly change, bodily tissues. "If I were going to design an epidemiological trial to see if these things were safe, this is what I would do... if ethics weren't a concern."

Oughstun's professional interest and passion, the same now as it was in his Ph.D. research 25 years ago, is on rapidly pulsed electromagnetic waves, such as those used in powerful military radar. This might seem to have as much to do with cell phones as a match does with a flame-thrower, but Oughstun's meticulously mathematical assault on a cherished approximation for measuring pulse velocity – and his explication of a disturbing potential interaction between certain pulses and human flesh – has left him skeptical of the common assurances as we vault headlong into a wireless future.

"As data transmission rates continue to increase, wireless communications systems will approach closer to, and may, in the not-so-distant future, exceed the conditions necessary to produce (changes) in living tissues," Oughstun told the trade publication *Microwave News*.

### A peck of pulses

Quickly pulsing powerful electromagnetic waves, it turns out, enhances their range and lets them penetrate far deeper into materials that diffuse standard radar. This has a host of potential implications ranging from finding tumors buried deep in the body's tissue to pinpointing bunkers under desert sand. The United States Air Force has been a long-time grant supporter of Oughstun's work.

The usual mathematical toolkit for making sense of the behavior of pulsed waves is called the group velocity approximation. It is simple, straightforward and, in Oughstun's view, wrong. His rejection of the approximation in favor of trickier but far more exacting mathematical techniques is a key difference between him and others working in the area. It's also the source of pride for the independent-minded professor.

"They cling to this thing like dogma," he says. "I've had people tell me they'll take a vague approximation over an exact result."

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### Maya Angelou

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### 9-11 and Civil Liberties

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That view is beginning to shift (if not enough for Oughstun's liking) as the theoretical approximation breaks down under the reality of ever faster and more powerful pulses. Oughstun prefers the approach of early 20th century French physicist Marcel Brillouin, who looked at the approximation rigorously and proved that it yields pulses going faster than light in some cases. Oughstun chuckles at the ridiculousness of this, even as he chafes at how Brillouin's work has been largely ignored.

Brillouin's work also predicts that a sufficiently rapid pulse will, when it strikes an opaque body, produce a precursor field, a special type of wave-field that decays more slowly than a standard pulse. (Normal radar decays at an exponential rate when it strikes, say, a cat; the precursors decay arithmetically.) Now that technology is catching up to theory, Oughstun is using his elaboration of Brillouin's techniques to model the behavior of phased radar as it strikes a variety of dispersive bodies.

"And it concerns me," he says.

When a phased pulse penetrates the human body it could, Oughstun says, reverse the polarity of the electrical fields attached to molecules in the tissue. This, in turn, might prove hazardous to health, perhaps by breaking down the "barrier" between blood and the brain. That's not the electrical engineer's field of expertise, but he's heard enough from doctors to worry.

"All I can do is calculate what the field would be in the body. Someone interested in certain types of molecular dynamics would have to work out what this might mean for cell charges," he says. The issue has gained some attention recently, as the National Academy of Sciences looks into the potential health effects of a huge radar facility on Cape Cod, PAVE-PAWS, designed to detect incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles. Oughstun was asked to give public testimony during the hearings.

#### **Dispersing dogma**

Oughstun's speculation about the side effects of phased pulses is not common wisdom, he cheerfully admits. While the precursor fields should be easy to detect experimentally, little published work has been done to incontrovertibly establish their presence. Oughstun has recently spoken with a Dartmouth experimentalist who is in the early stages of measuring the precursor fields.

If that sort of work picks up momentum, Oughstun's relatively lonely position in his discipline may become more common. And that, one speculates, might be a little tough for a mustachioed researcher who prizes thinking differently and brandishes a nasty letter from a renowned Yale physicist with pride.

"I am very comfortable going my own way," he says.

Just don't ask him to go there with a cell phone.

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## Maya Angelou Shines in Campus Visit

By Lynda Majarian



"I have never heard a voice I didn't like": Maya Angelou, shown here with UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel, spoke of humanity and acceptance during her campus visit. (Photo: Sally McCay)

Even from Patrick Gymnasium's farthest bleacher seats, Maya Angelou's luminous stage presence shone like the rainbow she encouraged her audience to be. The 74-year-old poet, activist, actress and author began her remarks at Patrick Gym on March 28 with a 19th-century gospel song: "When it looked like the sun wouldn't shine any more/God put a rainbow in the clouds."

"You are the rainbow," she told a spellbound

and near-capacity audience of students, faculty, staff and community members. Her lyrical, unflinching voice flitted silkily from songs and poems to personal anecdotes and sage advice for almost an hour. The tall, imposing woman sat down periodically during her remarks. "I have a bad knee," she said, "and the other knee is feeling sympathetic toward it today."

Born Marguerite Johnson in 1928, Angelou spoke briefly of her childhood in rural Stamps, Arkansas – a story of segregation and survival that is already etched in the hearts of millions of people who read *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, her memoir of growing up black and poor in the 1930s and 1940s. A no-nonsense, religious grandmother and her crippled Uncle Willie raised Angelou and, she said, taught her to love learning. "I can still recite my multiplication tables perfectly," she noted. After her uncle's death, Angelou learned from his legacy that a life seemingly lived small can touch others in very meaningful ways.

Ancestry and family history were among her presentation's recurring themes. Whether your ancestors were Scandinavian or Slovak, she told the audience, or brought to America on slave ships against their will, "Someone stayed alive so you could live." Consequently, she said, each life comes with a responsibility to live up to its potential – not necessarily through grand gestures that change the world but through developing the traits of kindness, peacefulness, helpfulness and courtesy.

"Whatever happened to courtesy?" she mused, imitating the stilted jargon that passes for polite exchange today. Simply smiling and sincerely wishing someone "Good morning," Angelou said, "is a gift you can give others."

### Language and life

Angelou, who is Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University, advised the many students in the audience to use their university experience "to lay down the heavy burden of ignorance," especially using the tool of language.

Angelou said she tries to get a rudimentary grip on the native language whenever she travels. She shared her experiences as a young actress in a

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production of "Porgy and Bess" that traveled to Yugoslavia. During a visit to a local household, the ancient matriarch and patriarch screamed when they laid eyes on their first African-American, but Angelou was able to maneuver them through their initial fear by speaking their own tongue, and before long the trio was sipping slivovitz.

Angelou's mastery of language and storytelling comes from a deep love of both. "I have never heard a voice I didn't like," she said in her deeply comforting cadence. Angelou also values the written word. She encouraged the audience to "Go to the library on Monday, or tomorrow, and check out some books of poetry," and recommended some of her greatest influences: Paul Lawrence Dunbar, James Weldon Johnson, Langston Hughes, Shakespeare, Poe and the Bible.

"Poets," she said, "study their craft just as open-heart surgeons do."

Angelou also advised students to study at least one language other than English – not only to communicate, but also to foster respect and tolerance for people whose ideas and culture may differ vastly from their own. With knowledge comes understanding, she believes.

"I am a human being," she said, repeating the phrase from the ancient Roman playwright Terence like a mantra. "Nothing human can be alien to me."

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Maya Angelou's appearance was underwritten by the Senior Speaker Series, which was established by the Class of 2002 as a gift to enrich the cultural and intellectual experiences of the university community. More than \$40,000 in contributions this year, mostly in the form of small gifts from university affiliates, parents and alumni, will secure the series through 2004. For information or to make a contribution, call UVM Alumni & Parent Programs, (888) 458-8641.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

## Legal Scholar to Examine Civil Liberties after 9-11

By Kevin Foley

Stephen Schulhofer, the Robert B. McKay Professor of Law at New York University, is troubled.

A tide of what he calls "9-11 opportunism" has led to "exponential" growth in the government's powers of law enforcement and intelligence gathering – an expansion of power that the professor believes is deeply inimical to the Constitution and American ideals in many cases.

"We have now detained an American citizen, arrested in the United States, without any access to a lawyer or the courts," says Schulhofer. "There is a staggering potential for abuse in that. This power is antithetical to the Constitution... you simply can't imagine something more antithetical to Anglo-American conceptions of jurisprudence."

The professor, who speaks with the passion of an advocate and the calibrated deliberativeness of a legal scholar, will visit the University of Vermont on April 10 to meet with an undergraduate political science seminar and give a lecture, "Law Enforcement and Civil Liberties in the Wake of September 11th," at 4 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill.

Schulhofer's talk grew out of his work writing *The Enemy Within*, a report issued by the liberal Century Foundation. More deeply than that, says Alan Wertheimer, the professor of political science and legal philosopher who arranged the visit, Schulhofer's skeptical take on civil liberties after 9-11 are an indirect extension of his influential work on consent and criminal law.

"His book *Unwanted Sex* was highly programmatic and influential," says Wertheimer, whose honors seminar is reading the book and will discuss it with Schulhofer. "It's an attempt to re-orient rape law away from the notion of force – a traditional definition of rape – and rather put sexual autonomy at the center."

### Consent and coercion

It's clear how deep personal and intellectual concern with individual autonomy make the Jose Padilla case – the American citizen currently being held without a lawyer on charges he conspired with Al-Qaeda to produce a radioactive bomb – but Schulhofer is also bothered by the separation of powers issues legislation like the USA-PATRIOT Act raises.

"The federal executive branch, in the name of fighting a war on terrorism, has acquired comprehensive new powers to conduct secret searches, to spy electronically, to obtain access to previously confidential financial and educational records, to detain without charge, to preclude public hearings, and to restrict access to counsel for both foreigners and citizens, in both military and civilian systems," Schulhofer writes in *The Enemy Within*. "To an extent that has received virtually no attention, many of these new powers are not limited to terrorism cases; some are not relevant to international terrorism cases at all."

Schulhofer doesn't object to all of the Patriot Act's provisions. He says many are necessary revisions to statutes superannuated by technology. "On the other hand," he says, "other moves are either unnecessary or are far more dangerous than they could possibly be worth in fighting terrorism."

This fuels another frustration: Media coverage of the changes, he thinks, has generally been "exceedingly simplistic and quite misleading," especially on

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television.

“The issue is presented as a trade-off between protection and civil liberties. If you put the issue that way, the overwhelming majority of people think security is more important than civil liberties,” he says. “What is never discussed is that the majority of the powers the administration has claimed represent an assault on separation of powers and the courts in ways that have zero to do with terrorism.”

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Stephen Schulhofer will elaborate on these arguments in his Mark L. Rosen Lecture on April 10 at 4 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge. The Department of Political Science’s annual Rosen lecture is a memorial for a 1963 graduate of the department, Mark Rosen, an accomplished insurance lawyer who died in 1991.

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