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[Finding the Orchid](#)



Jane Kent, who joined the Art Department as an assistant professor in the fall, adapted author Susan Orlean's *The Orchid Thief* into an artist's book titled "The Orchid Thief Reimagined." One of the books is housed in UVM's special collections. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

In the aftermath of 9/11, New Yorkers searched for their own ways to return to normalcy. For artist Jane Kent, an assistant professor in the Art Department, this meant immersing herself in the creative process. From her Tribeca home, just five blocks from the World Trade Center, Kent would travel to her 39th Street studio and spend the day drawing orchids.

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[Protein Power](#)

University Scholar Dwight Matthews gets energized by challenging the "ratma" of his field. This term requires a full explanation, one that Matthews, a professor of chemistry and medicine, will offer on April 7 at 4 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, when he'll deliver a university scholar seminar titled "Measurement of Protein and Amino Acid Metabolism in Humans."

[Found Boys](#) The

history of Victorian-era undergraduates at Oxford and Cambridge is a tale of masculinity, racism, discipline, empire and the occasional teddy bear. Paul Deslandes, assistant professor of history, tells all about it in his new book.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

April 6, 5:30 p.m.
Speakout: "Take Back The Night!" sponsored by the Women's Rape Crisis Center, UVM Women's Center and SafeSpace. Speak out and march against sexual violence. Meet at UVM Green.
Speakout at Contois Auditorium in Burlington City Hall.
Information: 656-9538 or 864-0555.

April 7, 4:30 p.m.
Workshop: Writer's Workshop and Poetry Reading with author Olena Kalytiak Davis. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. **Information: 656-3166.**

April 7, 4 p.m.
Lecture: "How Fast Can Populations Spread: What We've Learned from Data and Models" with Professor James Clark, Duke University. 105 Marsh Life Sciences.

April 8, 7:30 p.m.
Concert: UVM Lane Series presents, "Music from China." UVM Recital Hall. Tickets: \$25. **Information: [Lane Series](#)**

April 11 4 p.m.
Lecture: "German Zionism and the Nazi Assumption of Power: Between Illusion and Reality" with Professor Frank Nicosia, St. Michael's College. 301 Williams Hall. **Information: 656-3430.**

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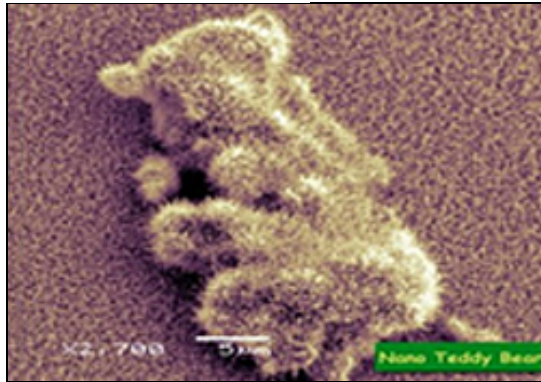
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**Nano Bear**

Senior Scott Fusare performed an experiment that created a microscopic image in the shape of a teddy bear that won second place in a national "Science as Art" competition.

"Nano Bear" Places at National Competition

In November, a grilled cheese sandwich bearing the Virgin Mary's image went for \$28,000 at Internet auction. In March, a pretzel shaped like the Virgin Mary holding baby Jesus sold for \$10,600. Food-art wannabees have been popping out of snack bags and rising from dinner plates ever since.

Scoffers might sniff that something is slightly rotten, but in the fertile world of the imagination, all things are possible: a million angels fitting on the head of a pin or even a teddy bear so small it can only be seen by electron microscopy. A University of Vermont senior who will graduate this spring with a BS in Electrical Engineering saw exactly that.

Scott Fusare performed an experiment last summer under electron microscope in which he grew 50-nanometer diameter zinc oxide on a silicon wafer using solid-vapor phase process. Fusare expected plain, flat, uniform results. When, due to surface contamination, it instead formed a three dimensional form, he declared the surprise shape a teddy bear. A little sepia coloration helped everyone else see it too.

In fact, 3,000 conference attendees at the Materials Research Society Conference in San Francisco on March 30 not only saw the fuzzy apparition, they voted UVM's Nano Bear into second place in the conference's first-ever "Science as Art" competition. Fusare and his professors, Frederic Sansoz, and Walter Varhue of UVM's College of Engineering and Mathematics had submitted the image into the competition. Nano Bear was in very good collegiate company alongside entries from California Institute of

Alumnus Returns Home to Help After Tsunami

When catastrophe struck his family and homeland, Saiful Mahdi G '01 put his doctoral studies at Cornell University on hold, left his wife and three young children in Ithaca and flew home to assist in the recovery. Mahdi, who earned his master's degree in statistics at UVM, suffered devastating personal loss, the deaths of 15 family members—including a brother, a sister, and his grandmother—in his home region of Aceh, Indonesia.

When he arrived in January, Mahdi quickly set to work not only assisting his own family but creating the Aceh Relief Fund, a grassroots, community-based effort to provide help where it is most needed. Backing for Mahdi's work came from an outpouring of donations from friends and the local Ithaca community. His original goal was simply to find help covering \$6,000 in personal travel expenses, but the fund is at \$75,000 and counting.

Approximately 4,000 people lived in Mahdi's village before the tsunami; he estimates that 700-1,000 survived the disaster. He acknowledges that his hopes for immediately mobilizing the community with the help of fellow teachers from the local university at first proved difficult. "Where to start? How to start?" Mahdi says in a phone interview while visiting his family in Ithaca during March. "When I got there I couldn't even motivate my colleagues."

But soon Mahdi's community began to move beyond the devastation with ARF dollars helping to establish a mobile clinic, distribute relief supplies and rebuild schools. "Things are getting better," says Mahdi, who anticipates returning to life as a doctoral student in July. "People show their resiliency."

To learn more about ARF and read Saiful Mahdi's "Journal from the Ground," visit [Aceh Relief](#).

UVM College of Medicine in Top 10 for Primary Care

The University of Vermont College of Medicine ranked ninth for quality in primary care training among the country's top 125 medical schools according to *U.S. News & World Report's* latest graduate school rankings. The rankings appear in the April 11 issue of *U.S. News and World Report* magazine and in the book *America's Best Graduate Schools*, on newsstands this week.

"We're proud to have moved up to the top-ten for primary care education—an area that's critical

Technology and National University of Singapore, and just behind the first place tie between Sandia Laboratory and University of California at Santa Barbara whose [entries](#) look like scenes from a science fiction movie.

"It's dirt," Varhue says of Nano Bear. "That is, after all, what the phrase 'surface contamination' really means. "These conferences look for something fun in addition to the science."

"When nanotechnology goes wrong, it makes good pictures," laughs Sansoz who attended the conference to present a paper recently published in the journal "Acta Materialia" on the molecular modeling of deformation of materials.

The bear brought home \$200 for UVM, a sum that rivals the best food visages at Internet auction. NSF-Vermont EPSCoR supported the cost of the equipment used to observe the "Nano Teddy Bear."

Astronaut to Speak on Record-Setting Voyage

Captain Jerry Linenger, retired United States Navy flight surgeon and NASA astronaut, will speak on "The Sky Is Not the Limit: 132 Days Off the Planet" Wednesday, April 13 in Ira Allen Chapel. Doors will open at 3 p.m., and Linenger will speak from 4 to 5 p.m.

Linenger held the record for the longest time in space for an American male after completing a five-month mission aboard the Russian space station Mir. During his tenure there, he faced numerous difficulties including repeated failures of life-support systems, a near-collision with a massive re-supply spacecraft, several computer failures that sent the space station tumbling uncontrollably through space, and the most severe fire ever aboard an orbiting spacecraft. In spite of these life-threatening events, Linenger and his crewmates accomplished all mission goals, including shuttle docking and space walking.

Linenger received a bachelor of science degree in bioscience from the U.S. Naval Academy and holds several advanced degrees including a doctorate in medicine from Wayne State University. He was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation, a National Defense Service Medal, and a Navy Commendation Medal with gold star among other honors. He is the author of *Off the Planet*, which recounts his time in space, and *Letters from Mir: An Astronaut's Letters to His Son*.

The lecture is free and open to the public. However, tickets are required and are available at the [UVM Bookstore](#) or through the [Student Government Association](#).

A UVM shuttle bus will transport those who use the overflow parking area at the Sheraton Hotel to Ira Allen Chapel. The shuttle will run from 3 to 6 p.m. For more information about Linenger's lecture, call Denise Zang at 656-3875 or Zancy VonHooks at 656-2918. Sponsored by the Office

in the state of Vermont and across the country," said UVM College of Medicine Dean John Evans. "Our most important mission is to educate caring and compassionate physicians, so this recognition of our school is especially gratifying."

Each year, *U.S. News* ranks professional-school programs in business, education, engineering, law, and medicine, based on surveys of nearly 1,300 programs and almost 9,600 academics and professionals conducted in fall 2004. The medical school rankings are based on assessments by medical school deans and senior faculty, admission acceptance rates, test scores, faculty/student ratios and other factors.

The primary care rankings include assessment of the percentage of medical school graduates who enter primary care residencies in family practice, pediatrics and internal medicine.

'Hidalgo' Screenwriter Coming to Everything Equine and Horse 2005

UVM Extension, Champlain Valley Exposition and Horse Works will join forces to create a Vermont's horse-lovers weekend, April 23-24 at the Exposition in Essex.

The second annual "Everything Equine and Horse 2005" will feature John Fusco of Stowe, an award-winning screenwriter, novelist and movie producer with his horse, Oscar, the equine star of "Hidalgo."

"We're bringing a little bit of Hollywood to Vermont with John's appearance," said Betsy Greene, equine specialist at the University of Vermont Extension. Fusco, best known for his work on Native American subject matter, Western mythology and wild horses, is the author and creator of such popular movies and mini-series as "Thunderheart," "Dreamkeeper," "Hidalgo," and the animated hit "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron." He will be on hand to sign movie posters and Breyer models of his creations such as Hidalgo, Spirit, and Rain.

Meanwhile, equestrians can enjoy live demonstrations and seminars on biosecurity, training, business, barn safety, veterinary topics including nationally known experts Dr. Randel Raub, Bobby Atwood, Van Hargis, "animal communicator" Anita Curtis and Morgan horse bronze medalist Fred Merriam. In the new "kid's corner" a display of Breyer's model horses, hands-on projects, activities and games led by local 4-H members are planned.

"We're extremely pleased to be able to present the quality of workshops and clinics with these nationally-known horse experts," said Greene. "Everything Equine is a great way to bring together horse-related businesses, riding clubs and industry experts under one roof. People—the everyday horseperson, newcomers, professionals and serious competitors—will find something new and of interest at our expanding equine expo," she said.

An expected 150-plus exhibitors will have the

of the Provost.

Jazz Students to Play with Pros

Created just three years ago, UVM's Jazz Studies Program has grown rapidly, attracting 30 undergraduate majors and countless students minoring in the discipline, sampling courses, or performing in jazz ensembles. Program Director Alex Stewart's knack for working top jazz performers into the teaching program has become a hallmark of Jazz Studies at UVM. Students have learned from and played side-by-side with the likes of Clark Terry and Paquito d'Rivera.

Stewart's latest coup will give UVM students the opportunity to work and perform with the Chico O'Farrill Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra when the group visits Burlington for a Flynn Center concert on Friday, April 8. The current conductor, Arturo O'Farrill, will join the orchestra's percussionist to rehearse with UVM students in the afternoon on April 7 and April 8.

The UVM Jazz Ensemble, with O'Farrill taking turns on piano and conducting, will open the evening at the Flynn on April 8. Soloists from the O'Farrill orchestra will also sit in with students when the Jazz Ensemble plays "Manteca," one of the seminal works of Latin jazz.

For more details on the concert, see [Flynn Center](#).

latest products on display in 80,000 square-feet of indoor and outdoor exhibit space at the Miller Expo Centre complex.

Last year, the event turned the Vermont Equine Industry Summit into a much larger regional equine education event and drew more than 5,000 attendees from across New England, New York and Canada. It was held at Rutgers University in 2003 and Cornell University in 2002 and 2001.

Tickets are on sale at Horse Works in Williston; Guy's Farm and Yard stores in Williston, Barre and Morrisville; and Community Feed Store in Westminster Station, Vt. Advance tickets are \$6 per person. Daily tickets at the door are \$8 per person; two-day weekend passes are available for \$12. A family indoor horse show on Saturday evening is priced separately with very limited seating. Call 802-878-5545.

Sponsors are Poulin Grain, Inc., Guy's Farm and Yard, Purina Mills, WJOY, WOKO 98.9, KOOL 105, *The Equine Journal* and *Horsemen's Yankee Pedlar*.

theview

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A daylong "Symposium on Ethics in Public Life" is planned for April 15 to celebrate the retirement of longtime professor Alan Wertheimer from the political science department. (Photo: Bill DeLillo)

A Teacher's Tribute

On April 15, UVM will celebrate Alan Wertheimer's intellectual life in a manner befitting the man. Instead of gold watches and encomiums, politicians and scholars will gather for the daylong "Symposium on Ethics in Public Life." The program, primarily sponsored by the Mark Rosen Memorial Lecture Series, will begin with a "Welcome and Reception" at 8:30 a.m. in the John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill.

The event honors Professor Wertheimer and marks his retirement from the Political Science Department. Speakers at the symposium will include former Vermont Gov. Madeleine Kunin; Vermont Supreme Court Associate Justice John Dooley; and Harvard University's Arthur Applebaum, Dennis Thompson and Nancy Rosenbaum. The discussion will range from Iraq to judicial activism and gay relationships to presidential campaign ethics.

Wertheimer's career as a scholar and teacher of

Institute for Race and Social Division Director to Discuss Racial Inequality

Glenn Loury, professor of economics and the director of the Institute for Race and Social Division at Boston University, will speak about "The Superficial Morality of Color-Blindness" on April 11 at 3:45 p.m. in L207 Lafayette.

Loury, whose visit is sponsored through the Florence Davis Dean Lecture Series, has contributed to the fields of welfare economics, game theory, industrial organization, natural resource economics and the economics of income distribution. As a social critic and public intellectual, he is a frequent commentator on national and public radio.

Known for his conservative politics in the 1980s and for his subsequent shift to liberalism, Loury was a useful figure in the right wing movement during the Reagan years as an African-American who opposed affirmative action. He broke with the right in 1996 and has since published *The Anatomy of Racial Inequality*, a book that defends affirmative action and eschews "color-blindness" as the way forward in healing American racial inequality.

Loury's talk will deal with the issue of affirmative action as he makes a case for racial egalitarianism as opposed to racial blindness. He argues that this is the only way to undo the effects of slavery and past discrimination against African-Americans. According to Elaine McCrate, professor of economics at UVM and coordinator of Loury's visit, "He's probably one of the three or four most important economists doing work on racial equality in the U.S. today."

Loury earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics at Northwestern University and holds a doctorate in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, Loury has been a scholar in residence at Oxford University, Tel Aviv University, the

the political philosophy of law in the UVM political science department spans 37 years. During that time, he served as visiting professor at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and was selected as "University Scholar" for 1995-96, one of the highest honors at UVM. He is the author of three books: *Coercion, Exploitation and Consent to Sexual Relations*. This year, he has helped launch UVM's new Honors College by serving as one of five "core faculty" of the program, a position that includes teaching this semester's Honors seminar "Making Ethical Choices: Personal, Public and Professional."

When asked about Wertheimer, Frank Bryan, a fellow political science faculty member, said, "To me, he is the model department citizen; he believes in the department, he works hard for the department, and he's made some hard decisions to make the department better. He is Draconian in his commitment to his students and the quality of their education. Just think about what he's accomplished: He's been here since before we landed on the moon, since before Watergate, and he has published three important books through a university press when most of us are lucky to have published one."

The books that Wertheimer built his intellectual reputation with, *Coercion* and *Exploitation*, take knotty philosophical areas and methodically think through them in ways that are useful to political theorists, philosophers and lawyers. More than useful: One reviewer said of *Exploitation* that "no one interested in the topic will be able to ignore this classic work." Wertheimer's scholarly appeal, says his colleague Robert Pepperman Taylor, a fellow political science professor and dean of the Honors College, comes down to the clarity and rigor of his approach.

"These are issues which people tend to wax rhetorical about, but Al brings his extremely clear analytical mind to bear on problems that can raise a lot of heat, a lot of passion, a lot of rhetoric," Taylor says. "He insists that we speak clearly about these things and understand them clearly."

All events at the symposium are free and open to the public; and, of course, Professor Wertheimer will be there doing what he does, asking questions, listening closely, weighing arguments, thoughtfully negotiating the tricky philosophical waters of politics and life.

Delhi School of Economics and the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton among other institutions.

Information: 656-0192

Lt. Gov. to Speak at Environmental Job Fair

Environmental Careers in the Green Valley job fair and networking event will be held at Billings Student Center, UVM Central Campus, Burlington, on Tuesday, April 12, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie will speak about Vermont's growing Green Valley, and several Vermont environmental enterprises are expected to display and present. Businesses, agencies and organizations will exhibit displays, make brief presentations about their activities and meet informally with students and faculty in environment-related programs.

Students and educators are invited to network with Vermonters active in environmental fields, discuss internships and employment opportunities and learn more about careers that help preserve the environment and build sustainable communities. The event is co-sponsored by the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources and the Vermont Environmental Consortium.

Information: 656-3003

Lane Series Hosts Residency With Chinese Music Ensemble

Music From China, an ensemble that performs both ancient and contemporary Chinese music on traditional instruments, is coming to Burlington for a residency culminating in a Lane Series performance on April 8 at 7:30 pm at the UVM Recital Hall.

Other elements of the residency include a free concert and demonstration at the Fletcher Free Library on April 7 at noon; a dinner concert with food provided by A Single Pebble in a private home on April 6; and workshops and pre-concert discussions.

To see a list of the day's talks, their times and locations, visit [Political Science](#) or call 656-0427 for more information.

Evolutionary Psychologist to Speak at John Dewey Lecture Series

The John Dewey Honors Program's Julie Simon Monroe Speaker Series presents two lectures with Professor Leda Cosmides, Department of Psychology and Center for Evolutionary Psychology, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Cosmides, best known for her work in pioneering the new field of evolutionary psychology, will speak at 4 p.m. on April 13 at John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill on "Cognitive Adaptations for Social Exchange." She will speak the following day at 3 p.m. in Memorial Lounge on "Can Race Be Erased? Coalitional Computation and Social Categorization."

Cosmides first developed her interest in rebuilding psychology along evolutionary lines while an undergraduate at Harvard, where she earned a bachelor's degree in biology and doctorate in cognitive psychology. Cosmides, who completed her postdoctoral work at Stanford, won the 1988 American Association for the Advancement of Science Prize for Behavioral Science Research; the 1993 American Psychological Association Distinguished Scientific Award for an Early Career Contribution to Psychology; and a J. S. Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship.

Famed Theater Company Returns to Lane Series for Two Shows

On Sunday, April 10 and Tuesday, April 12, one of the world's most creative and inventive theater companies returns to the Lane Series with two shows: Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," and an original play based on H.G. Wells, "The Invisible Man."

Both events will be presented at the Theatre at McCarthy Arts Center at Saint Michael's College with "Twelfth Night," the masterful comedy of mistaken identity and the pitfalls of romantic love, running on Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m., and "The Invisible Man" on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Music From China is a musical ensemble that invokes the delicacy and power of both traditional and contemporary Chinese music. It includes the use of silk strings and bamboo winds with fiddles, lutes, plucked zithers, bamboo flutes, reeded mouth organs and hammered dulcimers. The percussive strength of drums, gongs, cymbals and woodblocks summons the spirit of ancient music and invokes the vitality of folk music and traditional opera.

Based in New York City, this world-class ensemble introduces audiences to the best of Chinese music both past and present. Music From China was founded in 1984 by Executive Director Susan Cheng and performs for audiences throughout the east coast and cities across the U. S.

The concert and residency is sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Multi-cultural affairs and the Asian Studies Program at UVM. Hospitality is provided by Dobra Tea and A Single Pebble.

Tickets, Information: 86-FLYNN or [Lane Series](#)

Filmmaker to Talk About Experiences

As part of Sexual Violence Awareness Month, filmmaker Angela Shelton will present her film "Searching for Angela Shelton" on April 13 at 7 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel. Her visit is sponsored by the Women's Center.

In the film, Angela Shelton travels around the country meeting 40 other women who share her first and last name in an effort to survey the experiences of American women. She found that over half of the Angela Sheltons she spoke to, including herself, had been raped, beaten or molested.

Shelton's film is a journey of self-discovery that culminates in the filmmaker confronting her own abuser, her father. An example of art as activism, the film shows the importance of breaking the silence around sexual violence. To learn more about the film and filmmaker, visit [Angela Shelton](#). The film is captioned, and the talk will be ASL interpreted.

Information: 656-7892

Aquila Theater of London and New York presents "Twelfth Night" against a background of romance and mystery. It tells the story of Viola, who, separated from her twin brother in a shipwreck, washes up on the shores of the mystical kingdom of Illyria where she disguises herself as a boy and becomes servant to the Duke, with whom she promptly falls in love. The play, which includes some of the funniest and most charming characters in all of Shakespeare, explores the universal themes of love and all its ambiguous effects on human behavior.

Aquila will take this great Shakespearean masterpiece and infuse it with their unique brand of innovative and exciting theatricality. This contemporary production will still encompass and enhance the shipwrecks, duels, love and jealousy, disguises, suspicion and ultimate reconciliation of Shakespeare's superb text.

Known for its original and dramatic adaptations of great works of literature, Aquila continues this tradition with "The Invisible Man." Set in Victorian London and rural England, it tells the tale of an English scientist whose obsession with the notion of invisibility eventually renders himself completely invisible. The scientist goes too far, however, and the invisibility proves more a curse than a blessing. Using their unique ability to create a magical and compelling world from a minimum of scenic artifice, Aquila will bring this work to life and somehow produce an invisible character on stage.

Tickets, Information: 86-FLYNN or [Lane Series](#)

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Awards and Honors

A new scholarship fund has been established to honor **Robert S. Tyzbir**, professor of nutrition and food sciences, for his "outstanding teaching, devotion to the fields of nutrition and dietetics and dedication to the welfare of his students." The Robert S. Yzbir Scholarship Fund will support undergraduate students in the department based on their academic merit and financial need. Donations toward the \$100,000 goal are being accepted by development officer Howard Lincoln.

Publications and Presentations

Jane Okech, assistant professor of counselor education and counseling, is making two presentations at the April 6-10 Annual American Counselors Association Conference & Exposition in Atlanta. She is co-presenting a paper titled "A New Model of Group Work Supervision: Empowering Group Work Supervisors by Clarifying Roles, Supervision Foci, and Supervisor Competencies." This paper has also been accepted for publication in the *Journal for Specialists in Group Work*. Okech will also be joining a panel of four Kenyan counselors in a second presentation titled "Voices from Kenyan counselors: HIV/AIDS counseling in Africa."

In Memoriam

Willard Miller, activist and UVM emeritus professor of philosophy, passed away March 31 at Fletcher Allen Hospital after a battle with cancer. He was 64. Professor Miller, who retired in March of this year, began his career in the University of Vermont's philosophy department in 1969. His scholarly interests ranged from Marxism and the history of American philosophy to the philosophy of education and political philosophy to radical ecology and animal rights. During his 36 years, he served as faculty advisor for numerous student organizations, including the Radical Student Union, the Union of Concerned Students, the Gadfly alternative student newspaper, and the Student Political Awareness and Responsibility Collective (SPARC). Miller was an engaged member of his community, working as an activist in such organizations as the Vermont Veterans for Peace, Burlington Area Draft and Military Counseling, the Green Mountain Fund for Popular Struggle, the Vermont Cuba Committee Haymarket People's Fund, and the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

Jeremy Felt, emeritus professor of history, died on March 8, 2005. His career at UVM spanned 39 years, during which time he served as chair of the History Department, Director of Area and International Studies, and as University Ombudsperson. Professor Felt directed Scandinavian Seminar, a national study abroad program in which many UVM students participated. His commitment to teaching and enriching the lives of undergraduates was recognized when he became the third recipient of the University's George V. Kidder Faculty Award. Professor Felt specialized in United States history, specifically, social reform and the progressive era of U.S. history. His publications include *Hostages of Fortune*, a book on the history of child labor reform in New York.

March 30, 2005

Awards and Honors

Six students in the College of Letters and Sciences were named Academic Programs for Learning and Engagement scholars for the spring and summer. The program is designed to support student-faculty research collaborations

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Finding the Orchid

By Tom Weaver

Article published Mar 24, 2005



Jane Kent, who joined the Art Department as an assistant professor in the fall, adapted author Susan Orlean's *The Orchid Thief* into an artist's book titled "The Orchid Thief Reimagined." One of the books is housed in UVM's special collections. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

In the aftermath of 9/11, New Yorkers searched for their own ways to return to normalcy, the reassurance of the way things were. For artist Jane Kent, who joined UVM's Department of Art as an assistant professor last fall, this meant immersing herself in the creative process. From her Tribeca home, just five blocks from the World Trade Center, Kent would travel to her 39th Street studio and spend the day drawing orchids.

"It was incredibly restorative, just to sit there in this very small universe drawing these orchids for hours and hours and hours," Kent says.

A printmaker and abstract painter, Kent found that the act of making these drawings was a critical step in adapting author Susan Orlean's *The Orchid Thief* into an artist's book titled "The Orchid Thief Reimagined." Some 100 drawings emerged from the process, along with a sharpened strategy for the book.

"This is why these projects are so great, because you actually get to figure it out," Kent says. "It grew like a plant."

The completed piece consists of eight unbound screenprinted pages, which combine Kent's art with Orlean's words, and eight sheets of printed interleaving, all nestled in a silk-covered box. An edition of 35 was co-published by Grenfell Press and the Rhode Island School of Design, number six of which is at home in UVM's Special Collections.

Artist/Author

There are many approaches to artist's books, Kent says. When she considered creating one, she drew inspiration from a Jasper Johns-Samuel Beckett book called "Foirades/Fizzles."

"It was a combination of text and image," Kent says, "but it wasn't an illustrated text. It wasn't a case of words and pictures that would reiterate the words. That wasn't my interest."

Kent was a lecturer in printmaking at Princeton University in the late 1970s when she met writer Richard Ford, author of novels such as *The Sportswriter* and *Independence Day*. They discussed the possibility of doing an artist's book together, but as they both pursued other directions that notion would take a long time to germinate. In the mid-1990s, Kent got serious about an artist's book and got in touch with Ford. They collaborated in 2000 on a portfolio with seven Kent etchings complementing Ford's story "Privacy." Kent plans a future project with Ford working from a memoir of his mother.

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Protein Power

University Scholar Dwight Matthews gets energized by challenging the "ratma" of his field. This term requires a full explanation, one that Matthews, a professor of chemistry and medicine, will offer on April 7 at 4 p. m. in Memorial Lounge, when he'll deliver a university scholar seminar titled "Measurement of Protein and Amino Acid Metabolism in Humans."

Found Boys

The history of Victorian-era undergraduates at Oxford and Cambridge is a tale of masculinity, racism, discipline, empire and the occasional teddy bear. Paul Deslandes, assistant professor of history, tells all about it in his new book.

The artist says she is always on the lookout for unusual or evocative writing and found it in the 1998 creative nonfiction book *The Orchid Thief*. “She starts out with this story about a man on trial. From there she goes on to every subject in the universe and it just mutates and turns in on itself,” Kent says. “And that, I thought, was very compatible with my work. I always start out with a pretty singular form, and it mutates and mutates and mutates through the effort of working.”

Orlean was immediately receptive to Kent’s proposal and took on the job of selecting the passages that would go into “The Orchid Thief Reimagined.” The project with Kent was evolving at the same time Orlean was working with movie producers on the film *Adaptation*, in which screenwriter Charlie Kaufman (with the author’s blessing) takes outrageous liberties including depicting Orlean in ways unsavory and untrue. Not surprisingly given this, Kent found the writer generous and liberal in how she would allow her work to be reinterpreted. The art professor notes that sections Orlean selected for the artist’s book closely match passages spoken by Meryl Streep in the role of Orlean in *Adaptation*.

Picking through the density

It’s worth a visit to Special Collections to fully appreciate “The Orchid Thief Reimagined.” Taken from their box and pieced together, the colorful screenprinted pages and sheets of interleaving, printed in black monotone, reunite as a whole. For the sheets of interleaving, a convention in artist’s books to protect the printed pages (something like that slip of tissue in a wedding invitation), Kent worked from an old engraving of an orchid-hunting scene. She had the image digitally enlarged, then interpreted it in arabesque shapes, not unlike the patterns on the screenprinted text sheets. Cut into eight separate sheets, the mystery of these pages deepens until they are pieced back together to reveal an image of thick jungle.

Though Kent didn’t set out to reiterate words with pictures, she does capture both theme and mood with such techniques. “Going through the swamp, looking for this thing in this density,” says Kent. “It’s a way of dealing with the fact that you have to go through dense, muddy forest to come upon the jewel of the orchid—if you’re so lucky.”

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Protein Power

By Kevin Foley

Article published Apr 06, 2005



University Scholar Dwight Matthews, professor of chemistry and medicine, will deliver a university scholar seminar titled "Measurement of Protein and Amino Acid Metabolism in Humans" on April 7 in Memorial Lounge. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

University Scholar Dwight Matthews gets energized by challenging the "ratma" of his field.

This term requires a full explanation, one that Matthews, a professor of chemistry and medicine, will offer on April 7 at 4 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, when he'll deliver a university scholar seminar titled "Measurement of Protein and Amino Acid Metabolism in Humans." The seminar is a traditional part of the University Scholar award, a program in

which distinguished faculty annually recognize a handful of professors for sustained excellence in research and scholarly activities.

But for now, Matthews offers a brief explanation of his whimsical term for the vast gulf between metabolism in the human body and the function of proteins and their building blocks in rapidly growing laboratory animals.

"Much of the work you see on the biochemistry of metabolism refers back to *E. coli* or rats or mice. *E. coli* isn't us. And there's no comparison between man and rat," Matthews says. "Although some men may be rats, man in general is not a rat. And we've demonstrated that quite clearly."

Getting a handle on the human body's complex and complex dance of creating and breaking down proteins is important, Matthews says, because the processes are essential to life. And they're also affected by disease; AIDS, for example, wastes muscle. Understanding the subtleties of how that happens could offer insight into reversing it.

This kind of understanding is difficult to come by. Matthews's primary technique for learning more about the complex interaction of hormones, amino acids and protein in the human metabolism is stable-isotope mass spectrometry. Matthews and his colleagues administer doses of purified and enriched stable isotopes in quantities greater than would normally be found in the body. They then use the isotopes as tracers or labels on particular compounds to understand the flows and dynamics of how particular substances (often protein, or amino acids, which form proteins) are produced, disposed and converted.

Matthews has been refining his techniques since graduate school, when he developed pioneering hybrid gas chromatography-mass spectrometry instruments that let him analyze these enriched stable isotopes with an unprecedented degree of precision. Because the isotope-enriched compounds have greater mass than normal compounds, the techniques he developed let him unravel the 20 or more amino acids that might be present in a sample of blood and discern very fine differences in enrichment. Before UVM, Matthews pursued his research at Washington University and Cornell Medical College.

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[Finding the Orchid](#)

In the aftermath of 9/11, New Yorkers searched for their own ways to return to normalcy. For artist Jane Kent, an assistant professor in the Art Department, this meant immersing herself in the creative process. From her Tribeca home, just five blocks from the World Trade Center, Kent would travel to her 39th Street studio and spend the day drawing orchids.

[Found Boys](#)

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Make or Break Question

Stable-isotope analysis is important—and dogma, er, ratma-challenging—because it is one of the few ways to directly measure metabolism in humans. Many crucial metabolic processes happen in organs like the liver, so measuring them could demand highly invasive or dangerous techniques. Stable-isotope tracers can often reveal crucial processes through safe and comparatively non-invasive techniques like muscle biopsies.

"The human piece is the most difficult and satisfying part of doing this work. You're limited by what you can and can't do," Matthews says. "With rats, you can get access to crucial tissues, or genetically 'knock-out' certain traits."

The fundamental limitations of human research, Matthews says, pushes him to develop a host of "little tricks" to understand the subtleties of what goes on deep within the human body. The field has a host of stimulating complexities, from managing expensive and sometimes cantankerous instruments, to designing experiments and identifying and labeling compounds to measure specific (and often poorly understood) metabolic events, to preparing biological samples for mass spectrometry.

An example of one variety of "trick" Matthews uses lets him compare amino acid metabolism in the liver and the gut. He might give a subject a tracer both intravenously and orally, then measure and compare the dilution of the tracers in the blood. The difference lets him calculate the work done by the liver and the work done by the gut.

This *in vivo* work still regularly challenges textbook notions of human metabolism and often directly contradicts what is known of rat physiology. In rats, for example, insulin increases protein synthesis—for humans, the opposite is usually true. Leucine, an important protein stimulator, also functions differently in animals than people. Leptin, a highly publicized hormone that regulates weight in rats, was once thought to be a key to developing obesity treatments for humans, but so far hasn't panned out.

Matthews finds these disjunctions between the theoretical and the real amusing at times—and intellectually stimulating.

"The biochemistry of metabolism is fascinating. There are all these little pathways, and you can pick up a book and they'll sketch them right out for you and it will tell you exactly how an amino acid is degraded, and then you start to look at it in detail, and the book is completely wrong," Matthews says. "That's what's fun for me, when you really start understanding for the first time what's really going on in people."

Now Matthews is turning some of his attention and expertise to the emerging field of "proteomics," which quantifies the expression of proteins and has many applications in clinical research.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Found Boys

Historian's book locates masculinity at Oxford and Cambridge at the height of the British Empire

By Kevin Foley

Article published Mar 28, 2005



Paul Deslandes, assistant professor of history, explores the provocative history of Victorian-era undergraduates at Oxford and Cambridge in his just-published book *Oxbridge Men* (Indiana University Press). (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

The history of Victorian-era undergraduates at Oxford and Cambridge is a tale of masculinity, racism, discipline, empire—not to mention teddy bears, pretentious student literary reviews and, of course, boat racing.

Paul Deslandes, assistant professor of history, drawing on years spent painstakingly parsing hundreds of undergraduate publications, illuminates the culture of the two legendary educational

institutions in his just-published book *Oxbridge Men* (Indiana University Press). Deslandes' study covers a moment in time where the most privileged men from the world's most privileged country were molded into a professional elite ready to meet the demands of commerce and colonialism, giving his deft unpacking of student culture and concerns a wide, sometimes ugly, resonance.

This isn't an institutional history, or quite an analysis of Victorian educational policy and politics. Instead, says Deslandes, it is a story of the social construction of masculinity, an angle that caught the historian somewhat by surprise. "When I started the project," he recalls, "I had no intention of writing about masculinity." But as he paddled through his oceans of material, marking cryptic quips and cross-referencing anonymous student chapbooks against official college records, he found young men at Oxford and Cambridge returning to the same themes over and over again.

"The primary concern wasn't so much their status, they felt fairly assured of their status, but rather with their position in that society as men at a point of time where things are changing rather rapidly," Deslandes says.

Tracing the web

From adorning their rooms to attending huge annual boat races with men and women watching from opposite sides of the water to marking student "types" like the swishy "aesthete" or bad-boy "blood," a central feature of Cambridge and Oxford life from 1850 to 1920 was inculcating a constellation of notions of what manhood should be all about.

The wealthy and accomplished undergraduates, so assured in many respects and so insecure in others, again and again returned to similar ideas. They focused on the role of college life of moving from boyhood to manhood, operations of discipline within the university, examinations for degrees, and boat races as athletic rituals and gender rituals.

Though he was originally drawn to his subject matter by the evocations of

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Cambridge life in Evelyn Waugh (character Sebastian Flyte's teddy bear captured his attention, and the bear emerged again, this time as a real undergraduate affectation, in his historical analysis) or, especially, the Oxford of E.M Forester, Deslandes himself never formally matriculated at either school and isn't even a hard-core Anglophile, contrary to the opinion of many when they first hear about his research project.

This outsider status—Deslandes was raised in New England, trained in Toronto—helps give him the distance necessary to develop a fully contoured, critical study of the universities. While Deslandes finds much to admire about the intellectual stature of both institutions, and even of the relaxed intellectualism, athletic ability, ability to work in concert on a team (as in rowing) and chivalry of their “ideal” Victorian undergraduate, he's not nostalgic about them and isn't afraid at looking at touchier topics like how the privileged young men thought about women and foreigners.

“Any historian worth his or her weight writing about masculinity is always going to be casting a suspicious eye on it,” says Deslandes. “One of the things I try to do is to look at the way that this form of masculinity that gets so celebrated and elevated within these institutions acts as a kind of oppressive force for both the men going through those institutions and for the people excluded from those institutions.”

The critique isn't a crude analysis of right or wrong, but a careful look at power dynamics. And while Deslandes is versed on every relevant curricular change and official statement at the institutions relevant to his study, he generally prefers to look at the operations of power from the vantage point of individual lived experience.

He strives, he says, to understand his subjects as they understood themselves. Both in conversation and in his book, Deslandes alludes to a line from anthropologist Clifford Geertz, one of his intellectual inspirations. Geertz, Deslandes says, defines culture as a “web of significance (man) himself has spun.” Tracing that fragile personal web a century or more after it formed drew him to those unguarded student writings—not to mention drawings of college rooms, and even the routes (as recorded by campus proctors for disciplinary hearings) that students took to their assignments with prostitutes.

“The study is very much informed by other disciplines,” says Deslandes, ticking off literary studies and literary criticism, geography, gender studies and, especially, anthropology as examples of ways he bolstered his social history-based analysis. “I took very seriously some of the insights of cultural anthropologists who gave me a language and a way of understanding of how you can make sense of repeated and ritualized actions... actions related to examinations, relationships of students, deans, et cetera.”

Now, after nearly a decade's work is finally in print in book form, Deslandes is turning to another project he feels has book potential: a cultural history of male beauty in the 19th and 20th century Britain, particularly the way attractive faces were deployed in advertising and propaganda.

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