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Gaining Acceptance



Sophomore Caleb Grant gives a tour of the campus to prospective students. (Photo: Sally McCay)

Lauren Pierson has already been admitted to UVM, but has yet to accept. University officials did their best to try to convince the Pennsylvania native and hundreds of other undecided students to choose UVM at a recent Admitted Student Visit Day.

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Nobel Lecture

Jody Williams vibrates with moral authority and passion. But she's an uncomfortable icon. She advertises her ambivalence about life as a Nobelist – what do you do next? how does a private person live and work in such a public role? – and says she finds more inspiration in the work of beehive-haired activist from Armenia than she does in a roomful of heads of state.

Teacher Without

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

April 15, 9 p.m. Concert: "The Kinsey Sicks," an award-winning a capella quartet. Ira Allen Chapel. Information: 656-2060

April 16, 6 p.m. Lane Series Concert: Pianist Tien Hsieh, who will play music by Schumann, Rachmaninoff and Scriabin. Tickets \$25. UVM Recital Hall. Information: 656-4455

April 16, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mo Rocca, of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show." Sponsored by the Senior Class Council. Free admission. Patrick Gym. Information: 656-2010

April 17, 10 p.m. Concert: Ten Mile Tide, a San Francisco-based six-piece band. Billings North Lounge. Information: 656-2060

April 20, 4 p.m. Lecture: "Iraq and the Environment: Does Oil and Water Mix in the Marshes of Southern Iraq" with UVM's Saleem Ali and Stuart Leiderman of the University of New Hampshire. 001 Kalkin. Information: 656-4055

April 20, 4 p.m. Panel Presentation: "Child Care: Facts, Insights, Problems," with UVM's Nancy Brooks, Alice Fothergill, Kathy Fox and Caroline Beer. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. Information: 656-4282

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Cheryl Brown Henderson delivered a passionate speech to kick off a symposium exploring *Brown vs. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court desegregation case that carries her family name. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Brown Event Explored Past and Future of Critical Case

A two-day symposium celebrating the 50-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, which ended legally sanctioned school segregation, gathered academics, educators and leaders to campus April 8-9 to discuss the decision and its legacy.

"We wanted to focus on the issues, and examine the progress and the lack of progress after *Brown*," said Jill Tarule, dean of the College of Education and Social Services. The college organized the symposium, "Looking Back, Looking Forward: The Unfinished Business of *Brown v. Board of Education*."

Educational consultant Cheryl Brown Henderson, daughter of Oliver Brown, a Topeka, Kan., minister who was the case's lead plaintiff, gave a keynote address and led a seminar for educators. Michael Lomax, president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund (and outgoing president of Dillard University in New Orleans), also spoke, discussing race relations and education through, he said, "the personal reflections of a middle-aged African-American."

Lomax lauded the "tremendous progress" in race relations in the half-century since the decision, but emphasized that large problems remain. "While separate but equal is no longer the law of the land, separate but unequal remains a fact for many," Lomax said, discussing continued de facto segregation of schools. "Only the most privileged African-Americans have escaped."

UVM Study Finds Some Chemo Side Effects Under-Treated

An international study has found that most clinicians underestimate and under treat chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) when it occurs more than 24 hours following treatment. The study, led by oncologist Dr. Steven Grunberg, professor of medicine, appears in the April 12 online edition of the American Cancer Society journal *CANCER*.

According to the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, nausea and vomiting are the most feared side effects of cancer treatment and afflict about 50 percent of people who undergo chemotherapy. Despite the effectiveness of anti-nausea medications, these symptoms are not yet optimally controlled.

The major problem with CINV is that it can occur intensely within the first 24 hours after treatment, when physicians and nurses are often observing, but it can also occur beyond this timeframe, when the patient is at home and not in the care of a physician or nurse. Delayed CINV is more likely to occur in patients who receive high-dose chemotherapy, have experienced CINV during the first 24 hours following treatment, are female, young, and drink little or no alcohol.

"This study confirmed our suspicions that, though physicians and nurses have an absolutely accurate sense of acute CINV, they need to expect and more adequately treat delayed nausea and vomiting in chemotherapy patients," says Grunberg, who is also a physician researcher at the Vermont Cancer Center.

A total of 24 nurses and physicians and 298 adult patients from 14 oncology practices in six countries participated in the study, which focused on assessments of patients receiving chemotherapy known to be highly emetic – likely to cause moderate to severe vomiting. Practices and patients filled out a one-page questionnaire for the study.

When comparing the results from both sources, researchers found that physicians and nurses accurately predicted the incidence of CINV during the first 24 hours, but more than 75 percent of these caregivers underestimated the incidence of delayed CINV. Among patients taking known highly emetic chemotherapy, clinical practices underestimated delayed nausea by 21 percent and delayed vomiting by 28 percent. Among patients taking know moderately emetic chemotherapy, practices underestimated delayed nausea by 28 percent.

Brown's opening speech mixed celebration of the court decision that carries her family name with careful consideration of its strengths, weaknesses and mythology. She pointed out that the decision was based on 11 separate cases from throughout the country with more than 300 plaintiffs. She also said that rather than starting from a single family wanting to enroll their child in a segregated neighborhood school, as is often thought, the decision was actually part of a concerted legal campaign that began in 1849 or earlier.

"The truth is more compelling than the myths," said Brown Henderson, urging that the decision's anniversary year (the case turns 50 on May 17, 2004) be a time for study and reflection about the decision's history and current relevance. "This is a wonderful opportunity to talk about issues we haven't talked about for decades," she said.

In addition to the historical reflections, the symposium also included an exploration of Hispanic identity and issues with a panel of faculty and staff, and another panel discussing ways to improve race relations at the university.

New Group Aims to Support More Athletic Scholarships

The Department of Athletics announced the formation of the Victory Club on April 13. The new group will provide comprehensive financial and community support for all varsity athletic programs. Robert Corran, director of athletics, made the announcement at a kickoff luncheon at the Sheraton Burlington Hotel.

The Victory Club, which replaces and brings together all sport-specific booster clubs and the Catamount Club, will provide financial support for athletic scholarships, operating enhancements and special projects as the athletic department moves forward with its strategic plan. The plan seeks to maintain the university's enviable record of academic excellence among student-athletes while aggressively pursuing a high level of success in athletics.

"The goal with this plan is to create a culture of excellence, both in the classroom and on the field, that is conducive to student-athletes having an exceptional experience at the University of Vermont," Corran said. "We have set higher expectations for academic and athletic success for all varsity sports and we must be able to provide a level of support which is consistent with our goals."

The club will be a primary vehicle to increase scholarship support, which will increase from 82 scholarships totaling \$2.4 million distributed primarily across eight sports to 124 scholarships totaling \$3.6 million distributed across 20 sports in five years under the plan. The inaugural membership drive begins today under the direction of Tom Crowley, assistant athletic director for development, and supported by 80 volunteer solicitors. Victory Club members will be entitled to a series of benefits, dependent on their membership level, including discounts on athletic tickets, access to hospitality areas, premium seating, VIP parking, post-season ticket priority

Celebrating Student Workers

It's not just about making copies: Student employees conduct choruses, offer relief after natural catastrophes, produce concerts, write for *the view* and do thousands of more mundane tasks to make the campus and community run. This is the week to celebrate their achievements. A bagel breakfast on April 14 recognized the top student employees and supervisors of the year.

Junior Michael Higgins was selected for nomination to the Northeast Association of Employment Administrators, where he won the 2004 Vermont Student Employee of the Year Award. Michael works in disaster relief for the Northern Vermont Chapter of the American Red Cross.

He was nominated by his supervisor, Kirsten Glennon, who began her career at the American Red Cross as a work-study student as well. She says of Mike's work, "His contributions to our organization are innumerable. Over the past three years he has consistently shown up for work with a smile and the drive to complete any task. He has responded to disasters across Northern Vermont, as well as health and safety casework, processed chapter donations, and much more."

Other UVM winners:

Helaine Alon plans events for the Rhythm and Brews Coffeehouse at the Living and Learning Center. She is highly motivated and always brings creativity and a fresh perspective to the coffeehouse. A highlight of last semester's programming was bringing the band Zox to perform gratis. "Helaine is without doubt a great leader and a huge asset to UVM," says supervisor Adam Warrington.

Jennifer Carpenter is a music major working as the Assistant Music Director to Stanley Greenburg at the Lyric Theatre Company. Her conducting debut was the fall 2003 production of "Jesus Christ Superstar", which involved conducting a 40-member chorus and a 22-piece orchestra on the Flynn Center's Main Stage. She's currently working on Lyric's spring production of "The King and I".

Vanessa Goodman is described by her supervisor, Ella Martin, as "the best thing since Garden Burgers!" (Given the context, *the view* assumes that this is high praise.) Goodman works at ReCycle North, a non-profit agency dedicated to reuse, job skill training and poverty relief. Supervisors praised her efficiency, cheerfulness and "fabulous" work results.

Tobiah Schulman is a student supervisor at the UVM Greenhouse where she assists with plant production and horticultural care of campus conservatories. Her supervisor, Colleen Armstrong, says, "Tobi is less than five feet tall, but she can wrestle with an eight foot banana plant and put it in its pot." Tobi also has leadership roles with the Common Ground Garden and the Horticulture Club.

and special gifts.

Information: 656-0956

Rona Delay, assistant professor of biology, won the supervisor of the year award. Her nominator, Brianne Oliveri, says, "In the three years that I have worked for her, Dr. Delay has inspired me to work hard for what I want and to take life in stride. When I applied to the university I was hoping to find a professor that I connected with at more than just the academic level, and Dr. Delay has been that person for me. She deserves this award because of her dedication as an educator, mentor, and a friend."

Michele Cranwell nominated a team of three students in the Center for Rural Studies for the "Student Team of the Year" award. Group members Justin Pauletti, Stephen Hart, and Seth Herman took on the challenge of lead supervision of the CRS Annual Vermont Telephone Survey. They demonstrated excellence in taking this project from start to finish with high responsibility, accountability, and stellar performance. Cranwell says, "In the four years that I have worked with students at CRS, I have not seen such enthusiasm and willingness to assist at this level of responsibility. I am thoroughly impressed with their performance as a team."

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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'Cake' To Headline Springfest

The annual Springfest outdoor concert is set for April 24 at noon on the Bailey/Howe portico. The event is headlined by Cake, a popular country-inflected alternative act. The jam band Particle opens the show.

"Springfest this year is just an opportunity to get outside, see some great live music and enjoy oneself," says SA Concerts organizer Geoff Frazier. "Springfest began as an alternative to 4/20 but that aspect is much in the past as those traditions seem to have died out. There will also be vendors, clubs and organizations tabling and all sorts of games and fun stuff to do while you're there."

Tickets are \$10 for students and UVM employees, \$25 for the general public. They're available in Billings Student Center and at the Flynn Center in Burlington.

The substance-free show is presented by SA Concerts in association with Student Life, SGA, IRA, and the President's Office. The undercard for the show will feature local bands, including the winner of the residence hall "Battle of the Bands" to be held on April 16 at Ira Allen Chapel.

Volunteer Week Offers Chance to Celebrate and Participate

From student groups and campus-wide events to service-learning in the classroom and service as career development, UVM is committed to community engagement.

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, which runs April 17-24, university groups will highlight a sample of service projects that are happening on campus and in the greater Burlington community. The events will include:

- April 18, Food Salvage Hunger Banquet at the King Street Youth Center: A dinner created to raise awareness in the UVM community on the issues surrounding hunger and homelessness. All proceeds will be donated to a local nonprofit organization. Tickets: \$5. Contact: Laura Sforza - laura.sforza@uvm.edu
- April 22, Pizzeria Uno Benefit: Pick up a coupon in the Volunteers in Action office in Billings. Bring the coupon with you to eat at Pizzeria UNO's and 20 percent of the proceeds from your meal will benefit the Food Salvage program, which

Michigan Researcher Highlights Spring 'Forum on Aging'

Toni Antonucci, professor of psychology and a program director at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, will deliver the Armin Grams Memorial Lecture on April 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

The title of her talk is "Aging: A Family Affair."

Antonucci has previously held the offices of vice president and president of the Gerontological Society of America and president of the American Psychological Association's Adult Development and Aging Division. She was the editor of the *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences* for four years and has sat on the editorial boards of several other prominent journals. Her research interests include life span studies, aging, friendships, family systems, social interactions, race, caregiver burden and many others.

The free, public talk is co-sponsored by the University of Vermont Forum on Aging, the Department of Integrated Professional Studies, and the Center for the Study of Aging. Information: 656-3238 or [Forum on Aging](#).

Panel to Discuss Challenge of Mental Illness

The UVM chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness will be hosting a panel of students and faculty as they describe how they face a difficult challenge: successfully dealing with mental illness while working or studying at UVM. The event is set for April 20 at 4 p.m. in 103 Rowell.

The panel will share stories of their personal battles with depression, eating disorders, anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, and how these interact with learning disabilities or substance abuse, as well as what it is like to have a family member with mental illness

Information: namiuvm@uvm.edu

Grade A Party On Tap For April 19

Boasting maple, music and laboriously procured snow, the 13th annual Sugar-on-Snow party on April 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bailey/Howe Library portico will highlight the tradition and lore of a crucial Vermont industry in the most delicious possible way.

provides a free meal in the Burlington Community every Sunday night.

- April 24, Community Works: Join hundreds of students, faculty, and staff to complete service projects in and around the Burlington area. Sign up in advance as a group or an individual. Breakfast and lunch provided from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Use contact numbers below to register.

The free event offers the eponymous treat, rootsy tunes, and exhibits on maple science and history. It's a revival of the Dean Hills sugar party tradition that began in the 1930's.

Information: [Sugar-on-Snow Party](#)

Information, registration and schedule: [Hearts and Hands](#) or 656-2060

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86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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April 14, 2004

Awards and Honors

Judy Cohen, associate professor of nursing, retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve, Nurse Corps, on April 1 after serving 30 years in the reserves. She achieved the rank of captain.

Rachel Johnson, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, received an "outstanding alumni" award from the Penn State Nutrition Alumni Association.

Publications and Presentations

Rebecca Gajda, assistant professor of education, published an article, "Utilizing Collaboration Theory to Evaluation Strategic Alliances" in the spring issue of the *American Journal of Evaluation*. The article presents a theory of collaboration along with tools and processes for assessing collaboration that researchers and practitioners can use to evaluate their collaborative effort over time.

Marilyn Lucas, assistant professor of business administration, had an article appear in the April issue of *Management Science*. The paper, "Doing the Right Thing or Doing the Thing Right: Allocating Resources between Marketing Research and Manufacturing," highlights the importance of coordinating marketing and manufacturing decisions.

Dennis Mahoney, professor of German and Russian, has published a new book, *The Literature of German Romanticism*, which he edited for the Camden House History of German Literature series. The ten-volume series is the most comprehensive survey of German literature published in English.

Edward McMahon, research associate professor in community development and applied economics and political science, presented a paper evaluating the G8's commitment to support democracy in Africa at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York on March 25. This paper will form part of a council report evaluating progress in the G8's Africa Action Plan that will be presented at the June G8 meeting in Sea Island, Ga.

Burton Wilcke, associate professor and chair of biomedical technologies, has been invited to be teach in a one-week laboratory management workshop in Harare, Zimbabwe, April 26-30. The workshop is cosponsored by the Association of Public Health Laboratories and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Wilcke has been involved with Zimbabwe since 2001. In May, he will convene two symposia at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in New Orleans, May 23-27. They are "Emerging Infectious Diseases-2004" and "Global Health challenges: The critical role for laboratories." The first symposium will focus on diseases such as SARS, monkey pox and West Nile Virus. The second will outline how laboratories are essential in supporting communicable disease prevention, treatment and surveillance worldwide.

Teaching Activities

Carolyn Bonifield, assistant professor of business administration, hosted a guest speaker for in her "Marketing Communications" class on April 14. Bill Carter, the president/partner of Fuse Integrated Sports Marketing, a leading international action sports marketing services firm with offices in Burlington and San Francisco, spoke to her students.

Accreditation Meeting Notice

In accordance with the Council on Academic Accreditation's Policy on Public Comment (effective January 1, 2002), the Department of Communication Sciences at the University of Vermont is seeking public comment as part of its review of the graduate education programs in audiology and/or speech-language pathology that have submitted Applications for Candidacy or Applications for (Re)Accreditation for review by the CAA. As part of this process, we are having a public meeting on May 3, 2004 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. at 304 Pomeroy Hall, Burlington, Vermont.

Comments should relate to a program's compliance with the published Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Education Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (Standards), effective January 1, 1999.

Copies of the Standards and/or the CAA's Policy On Public Comment may also be obtained by sending a written request to the CAA Office at ASHA, 10801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, by calling ASHA's Action Center at 800-498-2071, or by sending an e-mail to accreditation@asha.org.

April 7, 2004

Awards and Honors

Zuzana Srostlik, a sophomore in physics, has been selected as a Barry M. Goldwater scholar. Srostlik earned the honor through a nation-wide competition and is the only Goldwater scholar in Vermont this year. The award carries up to \$7500 a year in scholarship funding.

Matthew Wilson, research assistant professor of business administration, was recently awarded a grant from the UVM Global Outreach Committee to fund research and travel in mainland China. The objective of this grant is to assist graduate student training, travel and participation in a forthcoming international collaboration project in China from May 22 to June 6. The visit is being jointly sponsored by United States National Science Foundation International directorate, the Chinese National Science Foundation and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Publications and Presentations

Math doctoral candidate **Natalie Cartwright** and **Kurt Oughstun**, professor of electrical and computer engineering, recently published the article "Pulse Centroid Velocity of the Poynting Vector" in the March issue of the *Journal of the Optical Society of America*. This paper addresses, in part, the current controversy regarding superluminal optical pulse propagation in a dispersive channel.

Kathleen Manning, associate professor of integrated professional studies, gave several presentations at this year's National Association of Student Personnel Administrations National Conference and the American College Personnel Association. Her presentations concerned research-based models for student affairs practice, analysis of student engagement and professional literature in her field. Manning also recently co-edited a book, *Research in the College Context: Approaches and Methods* (Banner-Routledge).

Physics faculty gave many presentations in the Annual American Physical Society Meeting recently held in Montreal. **Dennis Clougherty**, associate professor, co-authored two presentations, with details of one to be published in *Physical Review Letters*. **Sanjeeva Murthy**, associate professor, co-authored two presentations and chaired one meeting section. **David Smith**, professor emeritus, co-authored two presentations. **Randall Headrick**, assistant professor, co-authored five presentations. Some presentations by Clougherty and Headrick included work from undergraduates.

Rick Vanden Bergh, assistant professor of business administration, had an article accepted for publication in the *Journal of Law and Economics*. The paper, "The Political Economy of State Level Administrative Procedure Acts," will be published in October.

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Gaining Acceptance

By Jon Reidel



Sophomore Caleb Grant gives a tour of the campus to prospective students. (Photo: Sally McCay)

other high school seniors on the tour, she's already been admitted to UVM, but has yet to accept. She has spent the past 36 hours in Burlington and will make her college decision based largely on her experience at this Admitted Student Visit Day, which brought about 1,000 families to campus. She's already taken similar trips to West Virginia University and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and has narrowed it down to UMass and UVM.

Pierson's friend, Erin Darnley, who attends the same rural Pennsylvania high school, came along for the ride. She has also been accepted to UVM, but arrived with Northeastern at the top of her list due to its urban Boston location. "They filmed the movie 'Signs' in my hometown," says Darnley. "I want to go somewhere where a lot is happening. There's more here [in Burlington] than I thought. It's a hard choice."

Like many of the students on the tour, Pierson and Darnley have different criteria for choosing a school. Some said the most important factor in their decision is the strength of a specific area of study. Others said the school's national reputation is key. Pierson's father, Dan, was most concerned about safety.

In the end, most students said it was a combination of things – the overall feel of the place as Lauren put it – on which they will base their decisions. "Just someone saying hello or talking to you can make a big difference. You remember that kind of stuff," Lauren says.

A decision of the heart

There's a natural tension associated with spending a day at a place you may or may not spend the next four years of your life. Not only for the prospective students who may be agonizing over their decisions, but also for the parents who are trying to cope with the idea of their child no longer living at home.

Donald Honeman, director of admissions and financial aid since 1997, is intimately involved with the issues associated with this intense experience, and is well aware of what's at stake during this rare opportunity for the university to make a major impression.

With UVM basing much of its future plans on an increased enrollment of high quality students, convincing students to enroll who have already been

Lauren Pierson has a lot on her mind as she tries to listen to her father, a longtime friend, and a student tour guide talk as she and 15 other potential UVM students walk past Bailey/Howe Library on April 9. It's a sunny spring day and students are out in full force, creating the feeling that this is the center of the action. It's a good day for a tour.

This is Pierson's first visit to campus. Like the

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Nobel Lecture

Jody Williams vibrates with moral authority and passion. But she's an uncomfortable icon. She advertises her ambivalence about life as a Nobelist – what do you do next? how does a private person live and work in such a public role? – and says she finds more inspiration in the work of beehive-haired activist from Armenia than she does in a roomful of heads of state.

Teacher Without Borders

"To work and live and teach and learn at a university is one of the most privileged things we get to do," Glen Elder says. The power of this privilege, and the experience of seeing fellow South African graduate students "ripped out of their seats" because they were the wrong color or had the wrong politics, inspired his choice to teach at the college level.

accepted, is becoming increasingly important. A visit day, a common practice among most major universities, is a useful tool for persuasion.

Last year, the yield rate (the percentage of students who elected to matriculate at the university) for students who did not attend a visit day at UVM was 15.4 percent. The yield rate for students who did attend one was 51 percent. These statistics, while revealing, are somewhat skewed in that students who attend these events are often already leaning toward UVM. Honeman says many are down to two or three schools and that a screw up by the university during a visit period could have a negative impact.

When students first arrive for the welcoming session at Ira Allen Chapel, Honeman tells them to think of their visit as the final step in their college search process. Most of the fact-finding work has been done and an initial winnowing process has already occurred.

"It's designed as a subjective experience rather than a fact-finding one," Honeman says. "It's the final phase in the evolution of their college search. There's no more rankings, nor more fact-finding. It's not logical anymore. They're now down to a gut level decision. I tell them to make it with their heart."

Producing the ideal day

A visit day is designed to be relaxed, but full of informative events. A number of academic presentations are offered as well as tours and numerous receptions. There's also a series of question-and-answer sessions that are revealing in that they highlight what's important to students and parents.

Honeman says he's concerned that the question-and-answers sessions and tours may look "too packaged because we have it down to such a science." He compensates for this by not telling students on the Q&A panel what to wear, how to act or even what to say. "I tell them to just be themselves. I even encourage them to slip in something that frustrates them about UVM even though they rarely do."

The result is a relaxed, fun-loving, witty panel of UVM students loaded with information. Five students that served on a recent panel managed to answer questions ranging from safety to computer technology to dorm life. Casually dressed, each student appeared relaxed and confident and seemed to represent segments of the student body that would appeal to everyone.

Sophomore Caleb Grant, the most easy going of the group, kept the crowd laughing with many of his responses. When asked if he felt academically prepared when he came to UVM, he said he didn't really hand in any papers that professors liked his first year, but that he got some help offered by the university and made some noticeable improvements. Student moderator Mary Kathleen Bennett kept the group on task and provided precise answers to a number of tough questions, while other members brought different perspectives to the conversation.

"They do a great job here," says parent Dan Pierson. "We've been to some good other ones [visit days], but UVM's was the best. One woman took the time to answer about 15 questions after a presentation. It probably took 40 minutes, but she answered them all. You really do remember how people treat you on these visits."

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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How to Change the World

By Kevin Foley



Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams '72 shared the passion and pain of a career in activism in a campus lecture on April 13. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Jody Williams vibrates with moral authority and passion. But she's an uncomfortable icon. She advertises her ambivalence about life as a Nobelist – what do you do next? how does a private person live and work in such a public role? – and says she finds more inspiration in the work of beehive-haired activist from Armenia than she does in a roomful of heads of state.

On April 13, returning to the campus where she earned a psychology degree in 1972, the woman who won the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for her role as the coordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines alluded to her personal story repeatedly to emphasize that regular people can do remarkable things. Her message was that ambivalence, struggle, purposelessness are natural. And they can be overcome, one step at a time.

Williams graduated from UVM "terrified," she says, with no marketable skills after changing her major five times. "I wanted to be everything – and nothing," she told her audience in Billings North Lounge. A time of "floundering" ensued, a decade of odd jobs and secretarial gigs and graduate degrees and purposeless despair. And then, as it does in every conversion story, came the moment that changed everything.

She was handed a leaflet at a metro stop in Washington, D.C: "El Salvador – Another Vietnam?" She went to the meeting, then volunteered for the group that organized it, then began handing out leaflets, demonstrating, speaking publicly. "It touched me and changed my life. That one pamphlet at that one metro stop leading to that one meeting. I was touched, impassioned, motivated, empowered. I didn't have to quit my day job. I took the first step and volunteered... as I did it, I felt better about myself as a citizen of this country.... Every time I took the next step and the next step I was more and more empowered."

She went on to a leadership role in the group, spent time in Latin America, and then, peace came to the region – not because of the work of her fellow activists, but because of a shifting of the geopolitical tides. It was a confusing time for Williams, leading to a devastating period of introspection and endless reexamination of her goals and role in the world.

"I gave up activism. I wished I had the IQ of a large head of lettuce. I wished I could stop thinking... I bought a suit, my first, a black one at Casual Corner. I wrote a resume, I went to a career counselor... I was saved from myself by two organizations in November of 1991 who asked me if it would be possible to do something about landmines. I had never thought about landmines in my life."

A successful campaign

She started thinking, and the issue quickly became a no-brainer. With the



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Gaining Acceptance

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Teacher Without Borders

"To work and live and teach and learn at a university is one of the most privileged things we get to do," Glen Elder says. The power of this privilege, and the experience of seeing fellow South African graduate students "ripped out of their seats" because they were the wrong color or had the wrong politics, inspired his choice to teach at the college level.

eloquent simplicity and force of will that helped transform the campaign from a no-name nongovernmental organization to an international force that convinced 142 nations to sign and ratify a treaty banning the weapons, she gave the Billings audience the crux of her argument: Guns go home when a war ends, but land mines endure, killing and maiming innocents for decades.

She and her colleagues worked every relevant international institution from every possible angle, forming linkages between activists, UN agencies, non-governmental groups and individual governments. Each victory in the campaign, however small, was used to tirelessly pry loose additional concessions from other countries, and those concessions in turn, provided footholds for additional progress. The group reflects Williams's relentlessness: Even now, after the victories, after the Nobel, they press on, urging nations to live up to the terms of the treaty, calling them out when they falter. The end result is that most of the world has given up a conventional weapon that was universally used for 100 years – a first in human history.

The work goes on, and Williams still spends most of her time on it, but her role has changed. Not necessarily, she says, for the better. She is grateful for the prize and the visibility and opportunity it gave to an organization she believes passionately in. But the eternal activist, always in search of another challenge, sees the prize as a daunting problem.

"The Nobel? Big deal. Sure, it helps. It made my parents very proud, they can finally explain what I do.... But it only mattered then. What matters now is what I do next," she said. "... After the prize, I had five years of hell... I couldn't be the coordinator of the campaign any more, I had to be a talking head."

All the talking, the endless requests to, as she says, "opine on every human rights issue in the world" whether she knows anything about it or not, is difficult for an introvert more comfortable with action than words. But she has come to at least partially embrace it. She speaks, she says, to inspire, to prod "one person to go out and do more than I've done" at every talk. She believes it is possible, she says, because she has seen the remarkable effect ordinary people working together can have in the world. This sounds Pollyanish, but not in the forceful way Williams puts it.

"I'm tired of hearing people complain. Emotion without action is absolutely a waste of time... If people see change as necessary but they take no action, I don't want to hear from them, even if they are heads of state, diplomats, generals... I won't talk to them any more.

"If you care enough to complain, volunteer for one hour a week," she said. "If that doesn't fit into your schedule, one hour a month."

Williams was invited to campus for her Mark L. Rosen Memorial Lecture by Distinguished Visiting Professor of Political Science Madeleine Kunin, a former Vermont governor.

theview

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Teacher Without Borders

By Lynda Majarian

"To work and live and teach and learn at a university is one of the most privileged things we get to do," Glen Elder says. The power of this privilege, and the experience of seeing fellow South African graduate students "ripped out of their seats" because they were the wrong color or had the wrong politics, inspired his choice to teach at the college level.



And regarding teaching: Elder thinks large lecture-format classes get a bad rap. The associate professor of geography says he "thoroughly enjoys the drama and performative aspects of large lectures" and likes the energy students bring to the setting. Not that he doesn't enjoy teaching smaller, seminar-type classes. In fact, his prowess in a variety of classrooms earned him a 2003-4 Kroepsch Maurice Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Elder teaches courses in political geography, feminist geography and the geographies of sexualities, most of which are informed by his extensive research and field work in South Africa. He led four student field programs to the country from 1995-98, the era that

saw the abolishment of apartheid. "We were literally witnesses to society changing before our eyes," he recalls.

During one trip, Elder was driving a van of students through Nelson Mandela's neighborhood, and pointing out the South African president's house, when a security van pulled him over. President Mandela, it seemed, was on his way home, and was curious about the UVM students. "He spent 45 minutes talking with them and asking them questions about what they wanted to do with their lives," Elder says. The only drawback, he notes, is that this once-in-a-lifetime event occurred relatively early in the field trip, and understandably, no other activities could elicit the same enthusiasm among students.

Crossing borders

At UVM, the breadth and scope of Elder's scholarship have landed him not only in the geography department, but also among the faculty in Women's Studies and Area and International Studies, where many of his courses are cross-referenced. He also teaches in the Living/Learning Integrated Social Science Program.

He considers academic advising to be an essential part of a professor's role, though he views it as more of an art than a science. "Anyone can help a student add up credit hours," he says, "but it takes skill and imagination to get to the core of someone's passion." Another goal of advising, in Elder's view, is to help students "build a foundation for a life of critical reflection."

While Elder adamantly believes every undergraduate should spend time roaming the stacks at Bailey/Howe Library, he extensively uses the Internet in his classes. "Americans tend to have an insular view of the world," he says. The technology that places mountains of information at students' fingertips, while it must be adjudicated, gives them "a comparative sense of who they are in the world," he says. For instance, he says that the irony of being able to access 30 African newspapers online, while 97 percent of the African continent has no



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Nobel Lecture

Jody Williams vibrates with moral authority and passion. But she's an uncomfortable icon. She advertises her ambivalence about life as a Nobel laureate – what do you do next? how does a private person live and work in such a public role? – and says she finds more inspiration in the work of beehive-haired activist from Armenia than she does in a roomful of heads of state.

access to computers, is not lost on the students.

Outside the classroom, Elder's students perform internships and conduct original research. They also help out with the Northeastern Workshop on Southern Africa that Elder hosts annually in Burlington. Students have opportunities to read papers by international scholars in advance, so they can fully participate in lectures and discussions.

Through his "Geography of AIDS" class, students have interned at VermontCares, an organization providing support for people living with HIV/AIDS throughout the state. The experience, he says, helps to underscore the profoundly different geographical factors that affect Americans and Africans living with the virus.

His "Political Geography" students undertake research on the culture, economy and myriad other aspects of the Vermont/Quebec borderland. In fact, creative student research inspired Elder's newest research project on borders and borderlands throughout the world. Borders, he says, "are where nations are most unstable and porous, and where you find the most contradictions." The project, which will culminate with a book, tentatively will include a Vermont-based study involving HIV/AIDS in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

Elder, who is on sabbatical this year, recently conducted a fellowship in Montreal and taught in South Africa. He's off to Paris and other destinations before he returns to UVM this fall.

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