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UVM HOMEPAGE

Conference to Feature Student Research



Tiny technology: The nanowires barely visible in the vial senior Zachary Burchman holds in his left hand could help improve the strength and power of existing nanotechnology devices. (Photo: Sally McCay)

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Putting the Squeeze on Heart Failure

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

April 17. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Earth Week Eco-Fair. See UVM's commitment to environmentalism, featuring class projects, student clubs and local organizations. Living and Learning Walkway (rain site: Fireplace Lounge, L/L). Information: 656-2060.

April 18. 8 p.m. Lane Series: *The Tempest*, performed by The Acting Company. \$34 and \$27 adults, \$30 and \$23 students. Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. [Information](#).

April 22. 6-8 p.m. "Selecting the Right Plant for Your Landscape" with landscape designer and UVM alumnus Brian Vaughan. \$5 Hort farm members/\$10 non-members. Horticultural Research Center, 65 Green Mountain Drive, So. Burlington. Information, registration: (802) 864-3073.

April 22. 6 p.m. Community Medical School: "The Joint's Not Jumping: Osteoarthritis and What You Can Do About It" with Sheldon Cooper, professor of medicine and director of rheumatology and clinical immunology. [Information and registration](#): (802) 847-2886.

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By The View Staff

Article published April 16, 2008

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Tiny technology: The nanowires barely visible in the vial senior Zachary Burchman holds in his left hand could help improve the strength and power of existing nanotechnology devices. (Photo: Sally McCay)

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On April 17 the Dudley H. Davis Center will host the university's first [Student Research Conference](#) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in

the Silver Maple Ballroom.

Sixty-two undergraduates and 81 graduate students from every UVM college and school will present the results of their original research, scholarship and creative activity via 79 poster presentations and 60 oral presentations.

Research projects cover a wide range of topics, from the Lake Champlain ecosystem, robotics, wireless networks, archaeology, mountaineering, and environmental justice to voting behavior, sustainable development, molecular genetics, nutrition, biofuels, organizational change, immigration, irrigation, and land use.

The event is free and open to the public. Students will be on hand to explain their work in lay language.

Many student research events have been held at the university in the past, according to Frances E. Carr, vice president for research and graduate studies, but they were organized at the unit and departmental level or focused exclusively on graduate student work.

As a premier small research university with a land grant mission, research is vital to UVM's identity, Carr said, and it's important that students be exposed to, participate in, and celebrate the creation of new knowledge.

"This is the beginning of what we hope will be an ongoing and growing

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celebration of student research institution-wide for years to come.”

Here, profiles of three students' projects provide a glimpse of the breadth of research on display at the conference.

A not-so nanoproject

The hardest part of Zachary Burchman's highly ambitious project, “Synthesis and Categorization of Nickel Nanowires Obtained by Template-Assisted Electrodeposition,” wasn't trying to grow nickel nanowires or use an atomic force microscope to test their mechanical properties. It was a requirement that would seem comparatively easy: coming up with three or four lines to describe it.

Burchman decided to start by defining nanowires. “They are very tiny rods of metal that exhibit extraordinary strength when compared to their bulk material counterparts,” he says, adding that they have multiple applications in the fields of medicine, aerospace, memory storage, energy storage, and electronics. “The primary focus of my research is in developing a consistent method to create the wires and then physically testing them to verify the consistency. The next stage in this research is to tweak the growth conditions to tailor the wires for a given application.”

This required some serious lab work using mini-filters with pores (kind of like a mold) in which he poured nickel to grow the barely visible nanowires. It also required the use of a scanning electron microscope to probe the mechanical properties of the nanowires by shooting electrons at them and by bending them to see how much resistance they could take. The point of nanotechnology, he says, isn't always to make objects smaller, but rather to make things like batteries more powerful without increasing the size of the object they're powering.

Burchman's advisor, Frederic Sansoz, assistant professor of mechanical engineering and materials science, calls the use of the atomic force microscope to probe the mechanical properties of the nanowires “a novel approach” since no research study exists on nickel nanowires where both controlled synthesis and nanomechanical testing have been applied together.

Work and play

From celebrities to presidential candidates, everyone has an opinion on the causes of autism. While research remains inconclusive whether it's genetics, vaccinations, or something else entirely that causes the debilitating neurological condition, Patricia Prelock, chair of communication science, has made headway using a play-based therapy to help autistic kids break through the barriers that keep them from communicating and interacting with others.

Prelock's research provided junior Erin Maskell-Ferland a point of entry into the complex field of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) research. For her summer research project as a McNair Scholar, “Maternal Perceptions

and Observations of Play in Children with and without Autism Spectrum Disorders," Maskell-Ferland used primary sources from Prelock's research (questionnaires given to mothers or primary caregivers and videotapes of autistic and typically developed kids playing together) and designed her own study.

"I looked at the mother's descriptions or the primary caregiver's descriptions of what they said their child would do in play, and then I compared it to tapes of the kids doing free play with each other," Maskell-Ferland explains. "Most of the parents were very correct with their assumptions of how their children play."

Existing literature about peer play among autistic children didn't ring as true, however. "A lot of literature said that autistic children are solitary players — that they only like to play with themselves. Our findings didn't completely support that. A lot of them actually participate in a lot of peer play with each other and more dramatic play," she says. Ultimately, Maskell-Ferland says this observational research could improve the diagnosis process and help get kids the therapy they need as early as possible.

Life under the lens

The baked landscape just north of Moab, Utah would seem one of the least promising places on earth to probe the soil in pursuit of life. But it's the diversity of the organisms contained in just a spoonful of this red crust that intrigues Brian Darby, a doctoral student in plant and soil science. The plots he has monitored through fieldwork in southeastern Utah and closer examination under the stereo microscope in a Hills Building lab are under study as part of a Department of Energy-funded grant he works on through Deb Nehrer, professor and chair of plant and soil science.

Explaining his work, Darby offers a chart showing the microscopic food web at work in the soil — multiple arrows on the schematic overlap in a dense network that illustrates the doings of the fungivorous nematodes, the zoophagus prostigs, the oribatid mites, and the like. There's a diversity of invertebrates in your backyard's dirt to rival most zoos, notes the grad student, who will finish at UVM this spring and head to a post-doc at Kansas State University.

At the upcoming Student Research Conference, Darby will discuss "Desert soil microfauna in a changing climate." The nitrogen cycling of such arid lands (which account for 35 percent of the global and United States land mass) is of particular interest to the Department of Energy. At his presentation, Darby will consider possible bigger picture scenarios as expected elevated temperatures and drought stresses life in the desert soil. But in 126 Hills Building, he is just as eager to share the small picture where such pursuit of knowledge often begins. "I can't let you leave without showing you a nematode," he says and places a plate under the microscope's lens.

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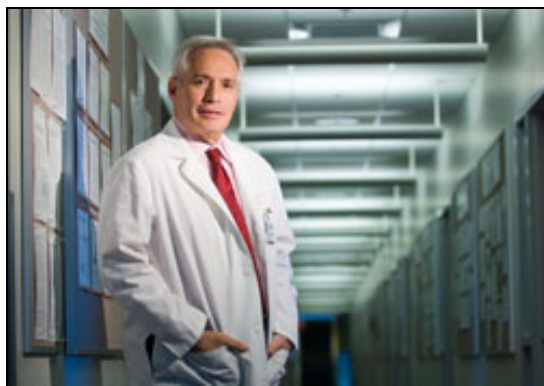
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UVM HOMEPAGE

Putting the Squeeze on Heart Failure

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published April 16, 2008

Martin LeWinter's University Scholar Lecture, titled "A Paradox: Failing Hearts That Contract Normally," will take place on Tuesday, April 22, at 4 p.m. in Waterman's Memorial Lounge. (Rajan Chawla)

Nearly everyone has had his or her blood pressure taken. This measurement, which determines the pressure applied to the walls of the arteries as the heart pumps blood through the body, is dependent on the force and amount of blood pumped, and the size and flexibility

of the arteries. Elevated blood pressure and its effects on the heart has been a consistent focus throughout Dr. Martin LeWinter's research career.

More than 5 million Americans are living with heart failure, according to the American Heart Association. Originally believed to be caused by depressed contraction function, heart failure today has changed along with the increased aging population. Now patients are just as likely to have a normal or preserved ability to squeeze, with the malfunction rooted in a stiffening of the heart muscle when the heart fills with blood between each contraction.

"As you age, everything gets stiff, less flexible," explains LeWinter, a 2007-08 University Scholar and professor of medicine and molecular physiology and biophysics. "When the heart fills, which is like blowing up a balloon, the pressures during filling can cause heart failure if they get too high."

A music major at Columbia University and longtime pianist, LeWinter could as easily be summing up his 36-year career as a leading heart failure researcher as describing the attraction of playing in a jazz band when he says "There's nothing more fun than being able to improvise in a group."

Relying on a cross-disciplinary approach

Improvisation has been one of the keys to LeWinter's research success.

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He has always made a point of collaborating with a cross-disciplinary mix of physicians and scientists at UVM. As a result, his research focus has included not only his original specialty area — how the heart relaxes after contracting and how this function is affected by diseases — but also how the heart uses energy and the proteins involved in heart function.

A graduate of New York University School of Medicine, LeWinter was an intern, resident and chief resident in internal medicine at Bellevue Hospital in New York City before traveling across the country for a cardiology fellowship at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine. Then a brand-new medical school, UCSD's faculty featured major innovators such as Dr. Eugene Braunwald, whose research discovery established heart attack as a progressive event; Dr. John Ross, who established a now-widely-used principal for diagnosing coronary artery disease; and Dr. Burton Sobel, UVM professor of medicine and biochemistry and former chair of medicine.

"UCSD was truly a hotbed of research in heart disease and cardiovascular function," LeWinter says. "It was a fantastic environment that allowed me to be productive early on and opened my eyes about how to do research. That was a life-changing thing."

LeWinter joined the UCSD cardiology faculty following his fellowship. In 1975, he published his first major paper in the journal *Circulation Research*, which established how the heart functions regionally and comes together to form a contraction. His work continued, with a focus on how the heart relaxes, then moved into the examination of the influence of external forces such as the pericardium — the thin membrane that surrounds the heart and the roots of the heart's aorta and the pulmonary artery — which plays an important role in determining filling pressures when the heart becomes enlarged. In 1985, he moved to Vermont to become chief of cardiology at UVM and the former Medical Center Hospital of Vermont, now Fletcher Allen. He was attracted by UVM's physiology department, led by the late Norman Alpert, who founded Vermont's Biotek Instruments, Inc., and the opportunity to meld his clinical cardiology interests with his research training in physiology and mechanics of the heart.

At UVM, LeWinter delved into the study of mechano-energetics and how the energy utilized by the heart changes in heart failure. Surprisingly, LeWinter explains, the heart actually becomes more energy-efficient as it fails, in the same manner that an underpowered car gets better mileage. The problem, he says, is that the heart may not get enough "gas." The stiffness of the arteries creates a bigger workload for the heart and results in consequences for diastolic function. Identifying the causes and stresses that lead to that poor function, whether disease or a genetic mutation, is critical to identifying effective treatments.

Over the years he has collaborated with fellow faculty in molecular physiology and biophysics to look at how contractile proteins work in failing hearts, and colleagues in the cardiothoracic division of surgery to

examine cells at work in the cardiac tissue biopsied from failing hearts. He sees this willingness to collaborate as one of UVM's greatest strengths.

"It's rare to do 'garage science' these days," LeWinter explains. You need a group with different skills to look at how the heart works at multiple levels from the most basic aspects of cardiac contraction to the whole organ and everything in between."

New research, new advancements

One of LeWinter's more recent research targets are the proteins involved in the passive stiffness of the heart. One protein — called titin from "titanic" for its large size — works like a big spring inside the heart muscle cells. Collagen, the main protein found in connective tissue, also helps determine stiffness. LeWinter aims to find out how diseases, like diabetes, might modify that stiffness.

"Rarely will you find a clinician scientist who can bridge the expanse of knowledge between the amazing function of the human heart and the tiny molecular motors that make it contract," says David Warshaw, professor and chair of molecular physiology and biophysics. "Marty has that capacity and the unique ability to instill the enjoyment of basic science into his clinical fellows."

In addition to his very active research enterprise, LeWinter sees patients in the cardiology clinic at Fletcher Allen once a week and covers two rotations per year as an attending cardiologist in the hospital's inpatient cardiology unit. He also teaches UVM medical students. In 2006, he was awarded a \$1.25-million, five-year grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute as the principal investigator of a new regional consortium for conducting heart failure research in northern New England. After a year and a half of planning, the network expects to activate its first protocol this week.

Always ready to explore a different angle on heart failure, LeWinter would like to further examine several aspects of heart failure in women. Diastolic heart failure, including stiffness in the vessels and heart, is more common in elderly women. At about age 75, there is a large increase and separation between the rate of occurrence of this type of heart failure in men and women. By examining the effects of experimental drugs on human cardiac biopsy tissue, LeWinter hopes to identify potential drug treatments for this stiffness. Women also have a tendency to do better than men when they get heart failure, with one exception — women with heart failure who have diabetes. According to a discovery found in cardiac biopsies, these women appear to have a contractile deficit, which LeWinter and colleagues believe may be the result of oxidative damage.

There's no doubt that his years of research and clinical care have benefited numerous heart failure patients in Vermont, across the country and throughout the world.

"Dr. LeWinter is a nationally and internationally respected investigator," says Dr. David Schneider, professor of medicine and chief of cardiology. "His research has advanced our understanding of heart failure and improved our ability to care for patients."

LeWinter's University Scholar Lecture, titled "A Paradox: Failing Hearts That Contract Normally," will take place on Tuesday, April 22, at 4 p.m. in Waterman's Memorial Lounge.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Possessing Greatness

By Jon Reidel

Article published April 16, 2008



Junior Kristen Millar, shown here against No. 5 Duke doing what she's done better than anyone in the history of NCAA women's lacrosse: win a draw control. (Photo: Peyton Williams)

Imagine being able to do something better than anyone else has done it before — ever. Kristen Millar knows how it feels. The junior lacrosse star has a knack for doing one thing better than anyone else in the history of women's college lacrosse: beat her opponent to the ball and gain

possession during a draw (the equivalent of the faceoff in hockey).

It's a bit of an odd claim to fame, but nonetheless impressive. It's also just one of numerous achievements of the bi-lingual elementary education major, who is the first player from Canada to play women's lacrosse at UVM. In addition to making the America East All-Academic team, Millar is UVM's all-time leader in total points (165 and counting) and assists (64) and is 25 goals away from breaking Lyn Jordan's (1983-85) career goals record of 126. Millar broke the NCAA record of 223 career draw controls set in 2004 by Georgetown's Gloria Lozano in 31 fewer games.

"What sets Kristen apart is the fact that she is a very smart player," says UVM lacrosse coach Jen Johnson, a three-time All-American at Penn State and a co-captain of the Canadian National Women's Lacrosse Team. "She may not be the most athletic, but she is a great lacrosse player, and there is a difference. She is smart enough to be in the right place at all times and she gives us maximum effort for whatever we ask her to do."

Not one to talk about herself, Millar views her records as part of the lacrosse team's goal of becoming a national-caliber program. The 7-6 Catamounts notched their first win over a nationally-ranked team this year by beating No. 14 UNH and loaded its schedule with five ranked teams (the most in school history), including No. 5 Duke, Boston University, Dartmouth, and Stanford. With 13 sophomores and Millar returning next season, the future appears quite bright for a program that



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didn't even offer scholarships until after Johnson's arrival, and still operates with far fewer (five in 2007) than almost every team in the America East Conference.

"It's one thing to want to be good, but until you truly believe it yourself, which can take actually beating a ranked team, it doesn't mean much," says Millar, who played for Canada last summer in the Women's Lacrosse World Championships. "This is the first year I feel like everyone on this team actually believes we can win at a high level. Even after our 20-5 loss to Duke we were more confident. We went into that game scared, but later it helped us beat UNH and almost beat Stanford. If we played Duke again, now our attitude would be 'Hey, let's try to beat the No. 5 team in the country.'"

Thank goodness for hockey

The fact that Millar is even playing lacrosse and is the all-time draw control leader at over 5.3 per game can be credited in large part to Canada's national pastime. She started playing hockey in her hometown of Whitby (about 40 minutes outside Toronto) at age six and immediately started taking faceoffs. Millar, who didn't start playing lacrosse until seventh grade as a way to stay in shape for hockey in the "off-season," showed an immediate skill for figuring out how to gain possession of an object against stronger opponents. "Learning to anticipate the drop of the puck definitely helped," she says.

Her philosophy today is simple: use her exceptionally quick wrists (she would never admit that) to flick the ball up in the air before her opponent, who is often bigger and stronger, tries to overpower her so she can use her rangy 5-foot-10 frame to gain control of the airborne ball. "I've been taking draws since I was pretty young and learned to rely on finesse instead of power," she says. "Some girls are a lot stronger than me and look to pull the ball to a teammate. I try to use my wrists to beat them to the ball and then flick it in the air and gain control."

In many ways, draw controls are arguably the most important stat because it gives a team more opportunities to score and limits the number of opportunities for the opponent to do the same. As Millar points out, that can be crucial against a nationally-ranked team used to scoring tons of goals.

Millar credits a newly instituted weekly team meeting for bringing the team closer. Goal setting is part of the meeting, which she says has gotten more ambitious each year of her career. More importantly, it has helped create a kinship that's resulted in a more unified front. "We've really worked on communicating and team bonding," she says. "We set goals in the past, but not everyone was on the same page. Now everyone states their goals and we talk them through until we all agree on them. I think you're starting to see the results of it and will continue to see more after I've graduated."

Catch the Catamounts

The Vermont women's lacrosse team will play three games in the next five days to wrap up the 2008 regular season. The team travels to Boston College on Wednesday, April 16, then hosts Oregon on Friday, April 18 and Binghamton on Sunday, April 20.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Pell-Eligible Vermonters to Receive Full Tuition Scholarships, Beginning with Incoming Class

By Jeffrey Wakefield

Article published April 16, 2008

The University of Vermont will offer grants and scholarships covering all tuition and fees to Vermont undergraduates eligible for Federal Pell Grants, beginning with the 2008 entering fall class, the university has announced. The Pell Grant program offers need-based grants to students with the greatest financial need, determined by a federally-regulated financial formula.

The financial aid packages being offered to Pell-eligible incoming first-year Vermont students reflect the new policy, as do those offered to date for the incoming fall class. Eligibility for the program is restricted to the dependent children of Vermont families.

Reflecting national averages for public flagship universities, about one-quarter of all entering Vermont undergraduates at UVM are Pell eligible in a typical year, approximately 150 students in an entering Vermont class of about 600. In addition to Pell grants, these students also typically receive grants from the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation and from the university. The new program will cover any remaining costs related to tuition and fees.

The program will be implemented over the next four years to cover all Pell-eligible Vermont undergraduates attending UVM. When fully implemented, the new initiative will represent an approximately \$750,000 investment over and above the \$12 million in institutional grants and scholarships for Vermont undergraduates with financial need the university is already spending, a 92 percent increase since 2001.

After analyzing its financial impact, the university decided to launch the program this spring in response to the downturn in the economy and to strive to maintain access for all Vermonters.

"As a public institution with a land grant mission, UVM prides itself on its accessibility," said Daniel Mark Fogel, UVM president. "This new program is another element of our commitment to investing in Vermont's future, in this case by making sure UVM is accessible to Vermonters who have significant financial need."

"The sticker price of a UVM education can be intimidating, especially to



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families with significant financial need in an uncertain economic climate,” said Chris Lucier, vice president for enrollment management. “We hope this new program will help get the word out that, after financial aid, cost need not be an obstacle for low income Vermonters who want to attend UVM, even when the economic outlook is unsure. We hope and anticipate that we’ll see more applications and enrollments among those Vermonters with the greatest financial need as a result.”

The program will also help retain students until they graduate, Lucier added. Its coverage will expand to cover anticipated increases in tuition and fees, so students and families have some confidence that they will receive support to cover tuition and fees over four years.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Senate President Appeals for Faculty Participation in Strategic Planning

By Jeffrey Wakefield

Article published April 16, 2008

At Monday's meeting of the Faculty Senate, senate president Robyn Warhol-Down renewed her appeal to faculty to participate in the strategic planning process underway at the university.

She called attention to an email sent to the university community by President Daniel Mark Fogel on Friday, which contained a draft of UVM's revised strategic plan, reminded faculty that the president had asked for feedback by Friday, April 18, and encouraged them to "speak up."

The finalized plan, incorporating feedback, will come to the senate at its May 15 meeting. If it passes, the plan will go the board of trustees for final approval, with implementation set to begin in the fall.

The implementation phase provides another opportunity for faculty participation, Warhol-Down said. Each of the objectives under that plan's five main goals will have an implementation team attached to it, which will determine the action steps needed to accomplish the objective.

"In the past, the administration has decided what actions to take," Warhol-Down said. "This process is different."

(Faculty and staff received an email from the president containing the revised strategic plan on April 11 at 12:20 p.m. but could also contact Eileen Hanerfeld in the Faculty Senate office at eileen.hanerfeld@uvm.edu for a copy.)

Provost John Hughes gave an update on the incoming class for next fall, stating that deposits were ahead of last year, significantly so for ALANA students. He also urged faculty to welcome students and families touring campus on admitted student days. "Since we are a tuition-driven institution," he said, "there is a reason other than civility to be nice to our guests."

In other business, the senate unanimously approved an update to the Officer's Handbook, a project spearheaded by Leah W. Burke, chair of the senate's ad hoc Committee on Governance, long in the making. The old handbook had not been revised since the late 1990s, and was made especially obsolete after faculty voted to unionize in 2001.

The new University Manual applies only to faculty covered by the

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Collective Bargaining Agreement. A separate handbook for non-represented faculty will also be developed, Burke said. Burke's PowerPoint presentation and a copy of the University Manual are available from the Faculty Senate office (email Eileen.hanerfeld@uvm.edu).

Larry Kost, chair of the Educational and Research Technologies Committee, made a presentation on the changeover in e-learning software that UVM is making from WebCt to Blackboard. Blackboard will now be fully supported across the university

Blackboard provides a number of advantages over WebCt, Kost said, principally in that it is fully integrated with student records. As a result, the system will be much easier for faculty to use.

Kost encouraged faculty to participate in workshops offered by the Center for Teaching and Learning ongoing through the end of August called "Getting Started with Blackboard."

After a brief presentation by Cynthia Forehand, chair of the Curricular Affairs committee, the senate unanimously approved a retitling of the Ph.D. program that had been called Botany to Plant Biology, in conformance with title changes in the program that had been made at the undergraduate and masters level.

The senate also passed a resolution brought forward by Curricular Affairs extending the last date of course withdrawal by two days. The modification will alleviate financial problems for students receiving federal financial aid that were caused by a change in Department of Education policy two years ago.

Psychology professor Lynne Bond made a presentation on the successes of the faculty mentoring program, noting that 89 new mentor-mentee pairs had formed in the last two years and that 24 new applications have come in for next year.

Registrar Keith Williams presented information on the portal system the university is in the process of implementing and urged faculty to participate in its design.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Jazz Ensemble to Perform with Luminaries Carla Bley and Steve Swallow

By Jeffrey Wakefield

Article published April 16, 2008

The University of Vermont Jazz Ensemble will perform with legendary jazz pianist and composer Carla Bley at the Flynn MainStage on Saturday, April 19, at 8 p.m.

The website allaboutjazz.com called Bley, a longtime collaborator and band-mate of such jazz icons as Charlie Haden, Paul Bley, Gary Burton, Jack Bruce, and her partner, bassist Steve Swallow, "one of the few great jazz composers of the post bop era." Swallow will also perform with the Jazz Ensemble.

After the Jazz Ensemble opens the concert with compositions Bley wrote for her big band, including two new ones that have never been recorded, Bley will perform with her trio, which includes Swallow and saxophonist Andy Sheppard.

Bley and Swallow will rehearse with the Jazz Ensemble on Friday and Saturday.

The band also will perform three pieces from Bley's 1996 record *The Carla Bley Big Band Goes to Church*. In these works, Bley, whose music often contains biting political and social satire, takes aim at hypocrisy while remaining attuned to deeper religious experience.

"This is some of the most difficult music we've ever played," said Alex Stewart, Jazz Ensemble conductor and director of UVM's Jazz Studies program, "not in a technical sense, but in its demands on the performer. In Bley's compositions the moods often shift suddenly. Much of the development occurs in the improvised solos. The musicians have to reach deep into their souls, or it just doesn't happen."

Since it was created in 2001, UVM's Jazz Studies program has brought a variety of well-known guest artists to UVM, in partnership with the Flynn Theater, including Wynton Marsalis, Grammy award winning jazz composer Maria Schneider, and Paquito D'Rivera, to work and perform with students.

Tickets for the performance are \$35, \$28, and \$23. For information, call (802) 863-5966 or visit the Flynn's website at flynncenter.org.

Carla Bley will discuss her life in jazz, her musical influences and

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aesthetic, and her compositions for both small ensembles and her legendary big bands in a free meet-the-composer, pre-performance lecture on Saturday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Flynn Center's Amy E. Tarrant Gallery.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Tickets? Anyone...Anyone...?

Tickets available this week for April 25 Ben Stein lecture

By The View Staff

Article published April 16, 2008

Author, actor, lawyer, economist, and humorist Ben Stein will speak at UVM on Friday, April 25 at 2:30 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel. The event is free and open to the public, but tickets are required.

Tickets will be available for the UVM community beginning Wednesday, April 16 at the Hoffman Information Desk on the first floor of the Davis Center. A UVM ID is required; one ticket per person. On Saturday, April 19, remaining tickets will become available for the general public.

Stein, perhaps best remembered for the iconic classroom scene in *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, has held a long and varied career, including stints as a trial lawyer for the Federal Trade commission; White House speech writer for presidents Nixon and Ford; co-host of the Comedy Central game show, *Win Ben Stein's Money*; and journalist and author on topics ranging from economics to self-help.

Most recently, Stein has become an outspoken supporter of intelligent design. He co-wrote and stars in the controversial film [Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed](#), which denounces Darwin's theory of evolution. *Expelled* opens at Merrill's Roxy Cinema on College Street in Burlington on Friday, April 18.

Information: 656-4630.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

First Film Fest Set for April 17

By The View Staff

Article published April 16, 2008

The first UVM student film festival will be held on Thursday, April 17 from 7 to 11:30 p.m. in the Grand Maple Ballroom, Davis Center.

The event, organized by UVM undergrad Max Tubman, will feature about a dozen short films, which will be judged by a collection of film professors and student panelists. Winners will receive gift certificates for local business sponsors, including Magnolia restaurant and Small Dog Electronics, among others.

UVM-student, latin-funk band Tequila Mockingbird will perform before the screening and during intermission.

Information: uvmfilmfest@gmail.com

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Panel Discussion Examines Sexual Identity of Scholars

By Amanda Waite

Article published April 16, 2008

Don't use the pronoun "I" in research papers. For how many years have teachers drilled this maxim into the minds of the burgeoning scholars in their classrooms?

The goal, ostensibly, is to create a piece of writing that is authoritatively omniscient and unmarred by messy personal details. But how realistic is it to set aside one's own identity (race, class, ethnicity, gender, religion) — one's own personal vantage point — when studying and writing or otherwise engaging in scholarly activities?

A recent panel discussion featuring UVM students and faculty — all members of the LGBT community — explored what it means to "come out" as a scholar and how their identity affects their research and writing.

For each of the panelists, including associate professor of English Valerie Rohy, assistant professor of history Paul Deslandes; graduate English student Jeff Bukowski; and undergrads Ricky Martin and Emma Kennedy, their identities clearly steered them to pursue their subjects and, for the professors, continue to play a hand in syllabus design.

"Where there are humans, there is sexuality," Rohy notes. Since it's hard to find a novel that doesn't include humans, the English professor quips, she would consider it irresponsible not to ask questions about orientation and identity when studying the texts, a fact that would remain true regardless of her own sexuality.

For Deslandes, who teaches courses on the history of Britain and on the history of sexuality, sexual identity invariably becomes a secondary point of interest in the British history courses. "I try not only to be the 'sex guy,'" he says, but professors' own research will always influence teaching topics in their courses.

Student panelist Emma Kennedy, a sexuality and gender identity studies minor, says that taking classes from LGBT professors on LGBT issues stems partially from a desire to learn about her own community and its history, one she says is still often omitted from history books. "When I take a class with a queer professor," Kennedy says, "I feel like I'm home."

Coming out to students, while certainly appreciated by Kennedy, isn't always the path professors take.

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"I think there's value in it," says Deslandes, who chooses not to announce his sexual orientation in class. "I think there's also value in leaving people guessing. 'Who is this guy, and what does he represent?'"

Kennedy says that for her, coming out isn't a decision she makes. "I come out as soon as I enter the room," she says, "and then it's just a matter of defending my territory."

The panel discussion was a part of LGBTQApril, a month-long program of events focused on sexual orientation and identity. See the full schedule [online](#), including a lecture by comic artist Alison Bechdel, author of the graphic novel *Fun Home*, on Thursday, April 24 at 6 p.m. in 101 Fleming.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Former UVM Professor Kaufman to Speak in Defense of Iraq War

By View Staff

Article published April 16, 2008

Robert Kaufman, professor of public policy at Pepperdine University and former professor of political science at UVM, will give a lecture titled "In Defense of the Bush Doctrine, the War in Iraq, and Regime Change in Iran" on Tuesday, April 22 at 3:30 p.m. in the Sugar Maple Ballroom, of the Dudley H. Davis Center.

Kaufman, who specializes in American foreign policy, national security, international relations and various aspects of American politics, has written for a number of major publications, including *The Weekly Standard*, *Policy Review*, *The Washington Times*, *Baltimore Sun*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. Kauffman's most recent book *In Defense of the Bush Doctrine* was published by the University Press of Kentucky in May 2007.

In 2000, Kaufman's biography *Henry M. Jackson: A Life in Politics* received the Emil and Katherine Sick Award for the best book on the history of the Pacific Northwest. His first book, *Arms Control During the Prenuclear Era* (Columbia University Press) studied the interwar naval treaties and their linkage to the outbreak of World War II in the Pacific. Kaufman also assisted President Richard M. Nixon in the research and writing of Nixon's final book, *Beyond Peace*. Kauffman is currently working on a biography of President Ronald Reagan with a focus on his presidency and quest for it.

The lecture is part of the Florence Davis Dean Lecture Series is free and open to the public. A reception co-sponsored by the Florence Davis Dean Lecture Series and the UVM Political Science Department will immediately follow the lecture.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

'Performing Identity' Class to Stage Original Theatre Piece April 22

By Lee Ann Cox

Article published April 16, 2008

Each of us gets up every day and puts on a costume. The buzz-clipped, heavily pierced young woman as conformist, perhaps, as the Oxford and khaki-clad professor. Who decides?



In "Performing Race, Gender, and Sexuality," a new course designed and taught collaboratively this spring by assistant theatre professor Gregory Ramos and associate English professor Emily Bernard, students have been exploring — through both literature and theoretical writings — ideas about identity and how the roles we perform are often less natural expressions of who we are than social constructs we've

wittingly and unwittingly adopted.

The class culminates on Tuesday, April 22 at 7 p.m. in Royall Tyler Theatre in a staged reading of an ambitious original work weaving students' research and writing, legal cases, Congressional acts and emotional first-person testimony, into a docudrama that draws parallels between the contemporary fight for same-sex marriage and the 1967 landmark civil rights case *Loving v. Virginia* ending legal, race-based restrictions on marriage.

Combining the disciplines of English and theatre to make these points about private issues — the solitary experience of writing and the public realm of acting — mirror for Ramos and Bernard the ways in which personal decisions about issues like marriage get debated and decided in open, impersonal forums.

"There's a kind of legal apparatus, an invisible body, determining how you'll live your everyday life," says Bernard. She points to a scene in the piece in which a lesbian couple get separated during the birth of their child; one woman accompanies the struggling infant to neonatal care, then is denied the right to return to her partner—or her child—because she isn't "family:"



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"In that moment," says the character, Jessica, "I came to understand how illegitimate I was. I left (my partner) running back to (my baby). But there, the same questions stood, like an iron gate separating me from my daughter."

The ambition behind the class is to get students to ask better questions about their own lives and about the social construction that creates situations like the ones in this work and others surrounding experiences of race, gender, and sexuality.

"We want to arm them with the ability to start asking why people behave the way they do," says Ramos. "If they're thinking, why does that person who I perceive as a person of a different race behave in a way that I don't understand, and why does that person who I perceive to be of a different sexual orientation behave differently than I think is appropriate... we want them to take the work into their daily experience and understand that there are much larger reasons for why people behave and make choices the way they do."

Jana Pollack, a senior English major with a theatre minor, says that the class has been eye-opening, though she's taken lots of classes on race and literature and grew up with a mom who worked for gay rights. For Pollack, reading Kenji Yoshino's, *Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights*, told the story of the class. Everyone, she says, is covering something; everyone is wrestling with something about themselves.

"It takes real work to be vigilant, to just be aware," Bernard says. "I mean you step back into the ring every day when you're interested in doing something besides being safe." Making fewer judgments, then, about how others are outfitted and more about what our own choices reflect.

Image: Gregory Ramos rehearses the original work created by his "Performing Race, Gender, and Sexuality" class, which will be performed on Tuesday, April 22 at 7 p.m. in Royall Tyler Theatre. (Photo: Lee Ann Cox)

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Harvard Medical Anthropologist to Lecture on International Health Care

By The View Staff

Article published April 16, 2008

Arthur Kleinman, professor of anthropology and social medicine at Harvard University, will deliver two public lectures on Friday, April 18. At 2:30 p.m., he will lecture on "Inequalities in Health and Health Care in China: A Retrospective and Prospective View," and at 3:30 p.m. he will speak on "Global Health: Challenges and Opportunities Facing An International Movement Today." Both lectures will be held in Carpenter Auditorium, Given Building.

Kleinman is one of the world's leading medical anthropologists and is a major figure in cultural psychiatry, global health, and social medicine. As an anthropologist and psychiatrist, he has studied Chinese society since 1968, focusing on depression, epilepsy, schizophrenia and suicide.

He is the winner of numerous awards and honors, including the Franz Boas Award of the American Anthropological Association, its highest award. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Science and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is a consultant to the World Health Organization.

His most recent book, *What Really Matters: Living a Moral Life Amidst Uncertainty and Danger* (Oxford University Press, 2006) explores issues of morality and suffering through stories from six ordinary people's lives.

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April 16, 2008

Publications and Presentations

The March 2008 issue of NIDA Notes from the National Institute on Drug Abuse featured an article titled "Combination Treatment Extends Marijuana Abstinence" focused on research by **Stephen Higgins**, professor of psychiatry and psychology and co-director of the Human Behavioral Pharmacology Lab and Substance Abuse Treatment Center, and colleagues. The research team found that using a combination of vouchers and cognitive-behavioral therapy may be more effective in keeping marijuana abusers abstinent in the longer term than vouchers-only and CBT-only programs.

Rick Vanden Bergh, professor of business administration and expert on corporate strategy in the political environment, was featured in an article on CFO.com about how the accounting profession still gives most of its campaign contributions to Republicans, but that the portion going to Democrats is growing. Vanden Bergh tells CFO.com that proving the exact motivation behind corporate political donations is a difficult feat, adding that contributions to congressional representatives and senators are more effective for firms in a regulated profession (such as accounting) because those legislators play a more pivotal role than the president in policy making and in the oversight of regulatory institutions such as the SEC. CFO.com notes that in a recent paper called "Targeting Corporate Political Strategy: Theory and Evidence from the U.S. Accounting Industry," Vanden Bergh analyzed the corporate strategy of the accounting profession when Democrats took over in 1992, following Bill Clinton's election. His paper argues that firms in the early 1990s made their donations with the intent of directly influencing policy decisions, though he acknowledges another theory that says firms simply shift their donations to the party with the most influence. "It could easily be that the shift in power is driving the shift in contributions," he says. "If Obama or Clinton wins, it will be the first time in eight years that Democrats control all three branches and it would likely [cause] a major shift."

Awards and Honors Three members of the department of pediatrics will serve in national editorial leadership roles as part of an upcoming change at *Pediatrics*, the peer-reviewed journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and preeminent journal in the world in its field. Dr. **Jerold Lucey**, Wallace Professor of Neonatology and *Pediatrics* editor-in-chief for the past 34 years, will step down as of January 2009 and become editor-in-chief emeritus. Stepping up as the new deputy editor will be Dr. **Lewis First**, professor and chair of pediatrics and senior

associate dean for medical education. In addition, Dr. **Jeffrey Horbar**, Lucey Chair of Neonatal Medicine, will become one of three new associate editors for the journal.

Robert Karp, associate professor in the department of medicine and a leader and innovator in clinical care and education with a specialty in geriatrics, has been named a 2009-2010 Frymoyer Scholar for his project titled, "Improving Basic Medical Student Competencies in Clinical Geriatrics."

April 9, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Dr. **Magdalena Naylor**, associate professor of psychiatry and director of the MindBody Medicine Clinic, is lead author of a February 2008 article in the journal *Pain* titled "Therapeutic Interactive Voice Response for chronic pain reduction and relapse prevention." Co-authors on the paper include Dr. **John Helzer**, professor of psychiatry and director of the Health Behavior Research Center, and **Shelly Naud**, researcher/analyst in the department of medical biostatistics.

Kevin C. H. Chiang, associate professor of business administration, co-authored an article with Kirill Kozhevnikov, Ming-Long Lee and Craig Wisen that was published in the spring, 2008 issue of Real Estate Economics. The article is titled "Further Evidence on the Performance of Funds of Funds: The Case of Real Estate Mutual Funds." The study examines funds of funds that are created when investment companies invest in other investment companies. Although the additional layer of fees incurred by funds of funds has a negative effect on returns, there is empirical evidence that real estate funds of funds generate superior performance net of fees and risk adjustments. The evidence is inconsistent with a growing consensus that most actively managed mutual funds do not, on average, generate excess returns after adjusting for fees and risk. This study explains this apparent contradiction and finds that most real estate funds of funds do not outperform their benchmarks under alternative risk adjustment specifications.

The March 2008 issue of *NIDA Notes* from the National Institute on Drug Abuse featured an article titled "Combination Treatment Extends Marijuana Abstinence" that focused on research by **Stephen Higgins**, professor of psychiatry and psychology and co-director of the Human Behavioral Pharmacology Lab and Substance Abuse Treatment Center, and colleagues. The research team found that using a combination of vouchers and cognitive-behavioral therapy may be more effective in keeping marijuana abusers abstinent in the longer term than vouchers-only and CBT-only programs.

Awards and Honors

Valerie Esposito, a doctoral student in natural resources and ecological

economics, has been selected to participate in the Advanced Graduate Workshop on Poverty, Development and Globalization, organized jointly by Columbia University's Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD) and University of Manchester's Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI). The highly selective, all-expense paid workshop (10 percent acceptance rate) will be held in the summer of 2008. The acceptance letter was signed by Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz.

Tian Xia, assistant professor in engineering, is one of 17 faculty from universities around the world including Singapore, Toronto, Gosudarstvennyi Upravleniya, Georgia, California, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Massachusetts, Colorado, and New York, who received the prestigious 2008 IBM Faculty Award. This competitive worldwide program is intended to foster collaboration between researchers at leading worldwide universities with IBM research, development and services organizations. The IBM Faculty Awards recognize full-time professors at accredited universities with Ph.D or MBA programs promoting courseware and curriculum innovation to stimulate growth in disciplines and geographies that are strategic to IBM. Xia received this award for his extensive research on mixed signal VLSI circuit design and test, adaptive and multifunctional VLSI Design, and Reconfigurable FPGA Design and Testing. He is a member of IEEE- Computer Society and IEEE- Solid State Circuits Society. "This internationally competitive award highlights the importance of industry alliances with education," says Domenico Grasso, Dean of the UVM College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences.

April 2, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Jane Okech, assistant professor in the Graduate Counseling Program, is scheduled to present two papers at the Annual American Counseling Association Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii on March 27-31. Both papers are based on empirical studies: " Doctoral Research Training of Counselor Education Faculty" and "The experiences of expert group work supervisors: An exploratory study."

Russell Tracy, professor of pathology and biochemistry and senior associate dean for research and academic affairs at the College of Medicine, is a co-author on an article in the March 27 *New England Journal of Medicine* titled "Coronary Calcium as a Predictor of Coronary Events in Four Racial or Ethnic Groups." Tracy heads up the central laboratory for the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA), which is a long-term, multicenter study designed to locate and identify genes contributing to the genetic risk of subclinical cardiovascular disease (CVD) and evaluate the impact of lifestyle and environment on the expression of these genetic components of CVD.

Kathleen Liang, associate professor of community development and applied economics has given presentations at multiple conferences