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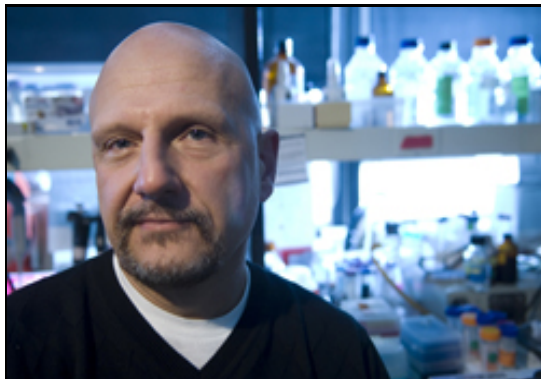
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UVM HOMEPAGE

Research Renegade Targets Genes



Cory Teuscher, professor of medicine, has become a leader in genetic susceptibility by directly targeting genes instead of cells to uncover the intricate workings of autoimmune disease and immune response. (Photo: Raj Chawla)

Cory Teuscher, professor of medicine, is a bit of a research renegade. A leading expert in murine immunogenetics, he looks at a problem by directly targeting genes instead of cells to uncover the intricate workings of autoimmune disease and immune response and some very significant discoveries.

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[by Degrees](#) Amy Crowley feels confident that the bachelor's degree she's working on in a new program offered by UVM at the Rutland Regional Medical Center will make her a better nurse. She'll know for sure in 2008, when she becomes one of the first graduates of a UVM pilot program designed to help working nurses earn four-year degrees.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

April 19, 7 p.m. Lecture: Nancy Dwyer, assistant professor of art and art history will speak on "Public Art: Transportation Solutions," as part of the UVM and Burlington City Arts' Environmental: Earth-Minded Art Lecture series. Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts, Church Street.

April 21, 1 p.m. Event: Michelle Gardner-Quinn Benefit Concert featuring Jazz Mandolin Project. Agricultural Engineering Parking Lot near Aiken Building. Information 656-2060.

April 24-25, 5 p.m. Film Festival: The traveling United Nations Association Film Festival will feature films and a discussion with founder and film critic Jasmina Bojic. CC Theater, Billings Student Center.

April 25, 4 p.m. Lecture: Overflow tickets still available for Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel's appearance. Patrick Gymnasium. Information: 656-1145.

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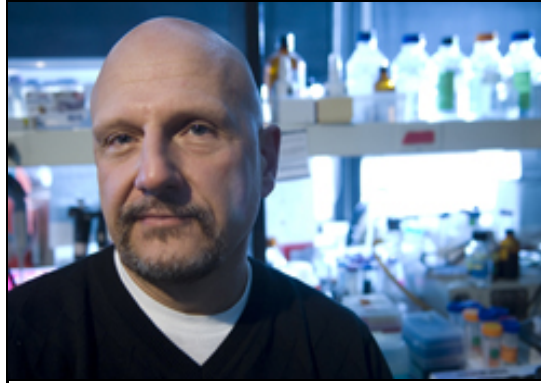
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Research Renegade Targets Genes

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published April 18, 2007



Cory Teuscher, professor of medicine, has become a leader in genetic susceptibility by directly targeting genes instead of cells to uncover the intricate workings of autoimmune disease and immune response. (Photo: Raj Chawla)

Cory Teuscher, professor of medicine, is a bit of a research renegade. A leading expert in murine immunogenetics — the genetic basis of the immune system in rodent models — Teuscher specializes in genetic susceptibility for both infectious diseases and autoimmune syndromes. He looks at a problem from the opposite direction — directly targeting genes instead of cells — to uncover the intricate workings of autoimmune disease and immune response and some very significant discoveries.

"Dr. Teuscher's approach takes a lot of time, considerable attention to detail, and a clear mind," says Dr. Ralph Budd, professor of medicine and director of immunobiology. "But in the end, he not only finds the susceptibility gene but also figures out what the gene does. He really wants to know how the identified gene works and how the environment influences its function."

Genes and environment in MS

Studies show that genetic factors make certain individuals more susceptible than others to multiple sclerosis (MS), a degenerative, inflammatory disease of the central nervous system that affects an estimated 2.5 million people worldwide. Keeping a keen eye on potentially unique interactions, Teuscher and colleagues were able to map a specific gene position on a chromosome that showed that nongenetic factors — including age and season of gestation — also influenced susceptibility to the disease in an animal model of MS.

Even in science, following the path of least resistance is the predominant route of choice. In a field where reaching a conclusion takes time, many scientists choose to prove or disprove a hypothesis as quickly as possible. But sometimes, the longer, winding road reaps sweeter results.

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The healthy immune system is remarkably well equipped. At the first sign of infection, specialized cells and helper cells mobilize to defend and remove the intruder. But sometimes, as in autoimmune diseases like MS, this system goes awry and the cells attack healthy cells.

Last spring, Teuscher and colleagues published research in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* that demonstrated further proof of both genetic and nongenetic inheritance. In this case, the researchers examined potential parental influences responsible for MS susceptibility. Using both disease-susceptible and resistant strains of mice, Teuscher and his team bred multiple generations, finding evidence that the Y chromosome influenced the incidence of autoimmune disease in both male and female mice, even though the Y chromosome does not directly influence female biology. They discovered that the females who had intra-uterine exposure to male sex hormones from neighboring male fetuses were disease-resistant. The finding regarding sex hormone exposure based on gestational position also has critical implications about the role that genetics plays in twin studies.

"Genes are important, but it's the interaction of genes with the environment during development that sets the stage for how inflammatory disease will play out later in life," Teuscher explains. "In the PNAS study, environmental changes during the neonatal developmental period affected the Y chromosome, which in turn affected MS susceptibility."

Teuscher hopes to further examine what types of environmental influences could affect the developing fetus, including environmental estrogens, pesticides and other factors. "We don't know what these environmental influences are, but they can mimic and interact with genes during development," he says.

Targeting more villains

In addition to working on grants from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the National MS Society and other agencies, Teuscher serves as a mentoring scientist on the College of Medicine's newest Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in Immunology and Infectious Diseases grant. He is working with junior faculty member Gustavo Pedraza on a study to find out how *Bacillus anthracis*, the organism that causes anthrax infection, kills a cell. Their aim is to track one of the genes that confers susceptibility to anthrax to macrophages, key participants in the inflammatory process.

Although immunogenetics is clearly his specialty, Teuscher, with a colleague from Johns Hopkins, conducted a study that identified a link between antipsychotic drugs and severe weight gain. The research, which was featured in the *Wall Street Journal* in February, found that the drugs stimulate molecules in the brain that trigger appetite.

Listed among Teuscher's future pursuits is sequencing the Y chromosome to further examine the genetic changes and their role in MS

susceptibility, as well as looking at the changes occurring at the molecular level as a consequence of sex hormone influences and gestational positioning. He mentions that this latter effect also is seen in behavioral studies, citing Canadian research that has shown that an imprinting mechanism affects the estrogen receptor genes by turning them silent. Silent or not, there are tens of thousands of genes Teuscher has yet to map and a world of new information about immune system disorders to uncover.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Rohy Brings Rigorous Inquiry to Literary Studies

By Amanda Waite

Article published April 18, 2007



Valerie Rohy, associate professor of English, says that as a teacher, she wants her students "to see knowledge as radically contingent and open to question." (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

From the desk in her Old Mill office, Associate Professor of English Valerie Rohy pauses mid-interview with *the view* to chat with a student depositing an essay in the drop box outside her door.

Uncomfortable in the interviewee role, Rohy thanks the student for stopping by,

explaining with a laugh that he's saved her, if only for a moment, from "a fate worse than death."

Though she might not enjoy talking about herself, her teaching style or her pedagogical philosophy, as one of this year's Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award winners, Rohy has no cause to be modest.

Rohy is known by students for her depth of knowledge about literary critical theory and her uncanny ability to articulate succinctly the most complex theoretical thought. In her classes on theory, 19th century American literature and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) studies, Rohy has a reputation as a demanding professor who expects a lot from her students.

Emma Grady, a junior English major — a decision she credits to Rohy — enrolled last year in the professor's English 86: Psychoanalysis, Feminism and Queer Theory. "I was astounded by her wit and intellect," Grady remembers, "and, I must admit, extremely intimidated by the course load."

Balancing act

Like most great teachers, Rohy credits the influence of her own teachers. "My strongest influence was my thesis advisor at Tufts, Lee Edelman," she says. "In class, he was something of a daunting presence, because as people often say of him, 'he speaks in paragraphs.' He's remarkably articulate and also quite funny...I think I'm a very different kind of

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teacher — and probably a slightly less formal one — but he set the bar pretty high, and I think about his teaching style regularly."

Although the tall, bespectacled professor's intellectual presence (and syllabus) can be intimidating to students, she also is encouraging to her students, sympathetic to the many demands on their time and readily accessible for conversation outside the classroom.

"I do strive to be accessible," Rohy says, "and I mean that in all the different senses. I'm usually in my office seven days a week, and I try to keep my door open most of the time. I make sure students know they can stop by and see me at any time and for any reason, and I answer email quickly."

At the same time, Rohy, whose academic work often grapples with issues of gender and identity, is aware of the issues of authority facing women who teach. "You can't just assume you will be given authority, you kind of have to take it, but you also want to be approachable in all those other ways, so it's kind of a balancing act."

Rohy also is aware of the academic challenges she places on her students, a decision she has made with careful thought. "How do you communicate difficult materials and difficult and/or controversial concepts?" Rohy asks herself. "I'm having sophomores read Lacan (French psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan). How do you convince someone that they should persevere through something that's as impenetrable as Lacan's prose and explain it to them in a way that makes them feel it's worth it?"

Grady, who says she was so engaged by Rohy's course she found herself talking theory with her friends, felt that "Rohy made the challenge worth it."

Serving the community

Outside the classroom, Rohy has worked to raise the profile of LGBT studies across campus. "This is a campus that has an out and active LGBT community. ... My focus is on gay issues, and I have always been out at work." So when Rohy was approached by a student four years ago about starting a queer studies minor, she seized the opportunity. Three years later, the minor was approved and was implemented in fall '06. "Last I heard, we had three sexuality and gender identity studies minors, which doesn't sound like a lot, but it's not zero, so I'm pleased for it being the first year out," she says.

"Without really having a lot of intention of doing that, I've defined my major service area as not just supporting the LGBT community," she says, "but also supporting the academic side of that. I really want students to not just think of LGBT studies as a personal issue and an identity issue or even an issue around political activism, but also as a subject in a classroom, an area of serious academic inquiry. I think there's still quite a ways to go in building that institutional presence at UVM, though we've also come a long way."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Professional Growth by Degrees

New program offers nurse chance to earn bachelor's degrees

By Jon Reidel

Article published April 18, 2007

Amy Crowley, shown here with her two-year-old son Max, has taken advantage of a new program designed to help working nurses earn four-year and advanced level degrees. (Photo: Shayne Lynn)

Amy Crowley feels confident that the bachelor's degree she's working on in a new program offered by UVM at the Rutland Regional Medical Center will make her a better nurse.

Extensive research data support her optimism. She'll know for sure in 2008, when she becomes one of

the first graduates of a UVM pilot program designed to help working nurses earn four-year degrees.

The RN-BS-MS Accelerated Program is based on a sabbatical work by Jeanine Carr, associate professor of nursing, titled "Shaping the Future of Vermont's Workforce." The program is, in part, a response to a recommendation by the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice that at least two-thirds of the nurse workforce have baccalaureate degrees or higher by 2010. Recent data link improved patient outcomes, including mortality rates, with nurses who have B.S. degrees or higher. In Vermont, only 32 percent of RNs have bachelor's degrees; only five percent have master's degrees.

The fledgling program will expand this fall to five hospitals covering all regions of the state including Rutland, Northeast Vermont Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Mt. Ascutney Hospital in Windsor and Springfield Hospital.

Taking the program to the nurses of the state

As a working nurse in the oncology department at RRMC and a mother of two children with a third due in November, Crowley doesn't have time to drive to Burlington for classes. Instead, she takes a course every Tuesday night in Rutland from professors who drive from UVM. Additional online courses keep her on track to earn a B.S. in three years. "I definitely think I'll be a better nurse because of it," she says. "When you're getting your

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associate's degree, it's more technical and focused on passing your boards. This program teaches you a whole new level of thinking."

Approximately 30 nurses are expected to enter the statewide cohort for the 2007-2008 academic year. They will be able to turn their associate degrees into B.S. degrees in three to five years. Vermont Technical, Castleton State and Lyndon State colleges have signed articulation agreements with UVM to offer the program.

"The bottom line is that we need more B.A. and higher degree nurses in Vermont," says Carr, who would like to add 12 more Vermont hospitals to the program. "Patient outcomes are better, and mortality rates are lower." Carr says she'd like to see more nurses go back to school so they can advance within the profession to nurse managers and higher administrative positions. Also, more nurses could become nursing professors, another area where there is a shortage. Carr speaks from experience on the value of education. She started her career after earning an associate's degree from Castleton State College and later went on to earn B.S. and M.S. degrees from Clemson and a doctorate from the University of South Carolina.

Experience versus education

Some longtime nurses argue that experience trumps degrees in terms of overall performance. The RN-BS program would allow for newer and experienced nurses to gain both.

Research by Linda Aiken, the Claire M. Fagin Leadership Professor of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania, revealed that for each 10 percent increase in the proportion of nurses with bachelor's degrees, the rate of mortality and failure to rescue decreased by 5 percent. The same study estimated that the odds of 30-day mortality and failure to rescue would be 19 percent lower in hospitals where 60 percent of nurses had bachelor or higher degrees than in hospitals where 20 percent of nurses had the same level of education.

A similar study by Anne Tourangeau, assistant professor of nursing at the University of Toronto, (published in the January 2007 issue of *The Journal of Advanced Nursing*) reported that a 10 percent increase in the proportion of baccalaureate prepared nurses was associated with nine fewer deaths for every 1,000 discharged patients.

"Earning a bachelor's degree helps nurses broaden the way they think about health care issues," says Nancy Sowan, associate professor of nursing at UVM, who currently teaches Community/Public Health Nursing in Rutland. "They're already very technically sound from experience, but this provides them with some new ways of thinking about their profession."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

UVM Athletic Program Receives NCAA Certification

By Lisa Champagne

Article published April 16, 2007

The NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification announced this week that the University of Vermont has been certified without qualification, as part of the association's second cycle of athletics certification. The purpose of athletics certification is to ensure integrity in the institution's athletics program and to assist institutions in improving their athletics departments.

A designation of certified means that an institution operates its athletics program "in substantial conformity with operating principles adopted by the Division I membership." Vermont sponsors 20 varsity sports (11 for men, 9 for women) in its intercollegiate program.

The certification process, which involves a self-study, was led by Ian deGroot, special assistant to President Daniel Mark Fogel, and included a review of these primary components: governance and commitment to rules compliance; academic integrity; equity; and student-athlete welfare.

The self-study committee included trustees, faculty, staff, students, student-athletes and alumni. The committee gathered and analyzed a wide array of data and solicited input from across the campus. The self-study report was submitted to the NCAA committee in May of 2006.

"We couldn't be more pleased with these results. ...The data and opinions gathered provide us with a clear understanding of program strengths and areas for improvement and a very large measure of confidence that the program is fully aligned with the operating principles of the NCAA and the values and mission of the university," said Robert Corran, director of athletics.

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UVM Students Talk with "Street Children" of India Via Digital Video

By Jon Reidel

Article published April 16, 2007

More than 100 students filled a room at the Medical Education Center on April 12 to talk live, via digital video conferencing, with children from India who once called the streets of New Delhi home.

The teleconference offered a rare opportunity for UVM students to speak to the children whose plight they had learned about in a course titled "Street Children" with Jonah Steinberg, assistant professor of anthropology. In turn, a panel of eight "street children," a term used to define children who live on the streets of India's capital, asked questions of UVM students, professors and two local middle school students.

Most of the questions focused on life before and after the students arrived at [Salaam Baalak Trust](#), a nonprofit that helped the children get off the street and that co-sponsored the event, along with UVM and the United States Embassy India. The panelists, all of them boys or young men, said they came to New Dehli to escape abusive homes, except for one of them, whose parents had died. Most said they spent weeks on the street, usually at a train station where runaways congregate, before being approached by employees of Baalak Trust, which has provided care for 5,000 children annually since its founding in 1988. Noted filmmaker Mira Nair founded the NGO with proceeds from her film, *Salaam Bombay*.

One young man, now a successful freelance photographer, said he was initially reluctant to go to Baalak because he had heard it was like a jail for kids; he went in hopes of getting a free meal, but intending to leave after it. He ended up staying for seven years. Another youth said he hadn't eaten in two days and was about to collapse when Baalak took him in and changed his life. A teenager said, through interpreter Saleem Ali, associate professor of environmental studies who translated in English, Hindi and Urdu, that he went to Baalak of his own volition to avoid working as a domestic servant for the elite of New Delhi, who often recruit vulnerable children.

"I value experiential education, especially in anthropology," Steinberg said. "Students don't often meet the subjects we talk about. Readings have a way of stripping away voice. This was a very humanizing experience. Street children are real people with things to say for themselves. We were able to hear them today."

Baalak students Vijay Manju, Nath, Amit Gupta, Shekhar Saini, Sunil



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Gupta, Haran, Sanjay, Anand and Brijesh asked questions ranging from corporal punishment in schools to why Americans seem obsessed with action films. One wanted to know how panelists felt about George W. Bush. All the UVM students said they hadn't voted for him, leaving the Balaak student to ask how Bush was elected if no one voted for him. Ali explained that if the question were put to students in a more conservative state, the results might be different.

In response to a question from a UVM student asking what their opinions were of the United States, two Baalak students said they thought it had a history of being aggressive towards other countries. One student said he couldn't understand how the United States could tell other countries not to develop nuclear weapons when it has a large nuclear arsenal of its own. Another said he thought the United States and India had good economic relations.

Other questions from the Balaak students provided insight into their own experience and exemplified the differences in the backgrounds of the two panels: Are kids here beaten up much at home or in school? Is police brutality towards street children as much of a problem as it is in India? What would happen to a child who ran away from home?

"This was an amazing opportunity to take something we learned about and advance it further," said UVM student Hillary Pawulak. "It was a subject that really needed to be taken beyond the classroom, so we could get an actual perspective from the children themselves."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Bookstore Opens in Davis Center May 1

By Thomas Weaver

Article published April 17, 2007

As the academic year winds to a close, a new era is set to begin on campus as final preparations are made for the UVM Bookstore's move into the Davis Center. The bookstore inventory will be moved at the end of April, and the store is scheduled to open in the new student center on May 1. While the remainder of the building is still under construction, bookstore access will be through the east entrance at the oval drive, where there will be limited handicapped and short-term parking.

The old bookstore will go the way of former neighbor Carrigan Hall later this spring. Three weeks of asbestos abatement in May will be followed by approximately one week of deconstruction shortly after Commencement. Roughly 80 percent of the dismantled bookstore structure will be recycled, and the former building site will become green space.

The entire Davis Center project is on schedule to be completed for the opening of the academic year next fall. Tours of the building are available on a limited basis. To inquire about a tour or for more information, contact Kate Strotmeyer, kstrotme@uvm.edu.



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UVM HOMEPAGE

New Online Archive Makes History Accessible

By the view Staff

Article published April 17, 2007

The University of Vermont Libraries launched the Center for Digital Initiatives (CDI) on Monday, April 16, the first day of National Libraries Week. The CDI is a new online resource that allows any user with Internet access to view and search documents and photographs from the university's Special Collections. The CDI website is located at <http://cdi.uvm.edu>.

Previously, library patrons had to visit Bailey/Howe Library and wear white gloves to view these often fragile materials. The CDI allows them to access UVM's signature collections in digital form from a remote location. CDI's initial collection — more will follow — is a rich, searchable archive of more than 1,000 pages of materials generated by eight Vermont Congressmen, including such well known figures as George Aiken and Robert Stafford, documenting topics ranging from the abolition of slavery to social life in Washington, D.C. The first document dates from 1818, the most recent from 2004. The collection also includes photographs.

The collection is organized in categories that grew out of recurrent themes in the materials: Dairy and the U.S. Congress, Letters Home from Congress and Speeches.

Leahy, Jeffords secured funding

An initial grant of \$250,000 to develop the CDI was secured in 2005 through the joint efforts of U.S. Senators Patrick Leahy and James Jeffords, which enabled UVM Libraries to purchase hardware and software, hire a digital librarian and build the center's first digital collections.

"I'm so pleased I was able to work with Sen. Jeffords on this project that brackets Vermont's past and present," Leahy said. "CDI creatively harnesses modern technology to open windows to earlier periods of Vermont's history. By making these archives more accessible, it will also make them more useful."

"We're very grateful to both Sen. Leahy and former Sen. Jeffords for their insight into the importance of this innovative project and their support of it," said President Daniel Mark Fogel. "CDI represents the library of the future. It allows UVM to make its library holdings available to the entire world, significantly facilitating access, collaboration and the creation of new knowledge."

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"We chose to begin our digitization efforts with some of our most interesting Congressional papers, so we could highlight both Vermont's unique contributions to public policy and one of the university's major collection strengths," said Mara Saule, dean of libraries and learning resources.

Significant growth in future

In addition to those of Aiken (1892-1984) and Stafford (1913-2006), the CDI collection contains documents authored by Samuel Crafts (1768-1853); Jacob Collamer (1791-1865); Justin Morrill (1810-1898); and Warren Austin (1877-1962).

Also available are photographs of North Danville, Vermont, from around 1900, which depict agricultural landscapes, logging, mills, barn raisings and railroad bridges, providing a visual legacy of Vermont's agricultural, industrial and community history.

The digital collection will grow significantly in future years. Archivists hope to digitize selections from the papers of the other Vermont House and Senate members held by Special Collections, which date from 1791. Special Collections holds significant collections of 22 Vermont House and Senate members, and those of 52 members in total.

In addition to CDI's emphasis on public policy papers, plans call for the digitization of resources such as maps, photographs, artists books, newspapers and the literature of agriculture in Vermont.

New material will be added on a daily basis.

On Thursday, April 19, and Friday, April 20, from 1 to 3 p.m., the CDI, located in 313 Bailey/Howe Library, will hold an open house where visitors can learn more about the resource, enter an iPod raffle and enjoy refreshments.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Scholars Win Fulbright, Truman, Goldwater, Madison Awards

By the view Staff

Article published April 18, 2007

Four UVM scholars — two undergraduates, a medical student and a local teacher beginning graduate work — recently received notification that they have won prestigious national and international awards. The four recipients will wear the mantles of Fulbright, Truman, Madison, and Goldwater scholars beginning with the new academic year this fall. Abu Rizvi, associate dean of the Honors College, believes the breadth, and possibly the number, of awards in one year are unprecedented. He notes that two more scholars are awaiting decisions on Fulbright and Jack Kent Cooke awards.

The United Kingdom Fulbright, won by fourth-year medical student Justin Sanders, is the most competitive of that award; it receives the most applications for the fewest scholarships. Sanders, whom Rizvi calls “a remarkable individual,” is completing a residency at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx. He wants to study the practices of palliative care in a cross-cultural setting. Under the Fulbright award, he’ll receive a master of science degree in medical anthropology at University College in London.

Kesha Ram, an Honors College junior from California, was named a Truman Scholar for the coming year. She is the first Truman winner at UVM since 1995, according to Rizvi. Ram, recently elected SGA president, is a double major in natural resources and political science. The highly competitive Harry S. Truman Scholarship — approximately 80 are awarded nationwide — provides \$30,000 to juniors planning to attend graduate school in preparation for careers in public service. Winners also receive leadership training, graduate school counseling, preferential admission to premier graduate institutions and internship opportunities with federal agencies.

Laura Balzer, a junior Honors College student from California majoring in mathematics, has been named a Goldwater Scholar. The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship provides up to \$7,500 per year for educational expenses to sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue careers in mathematics, natural sciences or engineering. Only 28 mathematics scholars were chosen this year. After graduation, Balzer will pursue a Ph.D. in mathematical biology, which uses math models to simulate biomedical processes.

Katie Reen, an elementary teacher in Milton, received the Madison Scholarship from the James Madison Foundation. Winners, experienced


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teachers, must pursue a graduate degree in American history, political science, American constitutional history or government. Keen will begin her graduate program at UVM in the fall. The foundation awards only one applicant per state; Reen will receive \$24,000 for her studies.

All the winners received assistance in their pursuit of the awards from an office in the Honors College; the office helps interested students whether or not they are enrolled in the Honors College. Rizvi says the staff sends targeted emails to students based on their interests and grades, holds workshops twice a year and manages an informative Website. For more information, see [the fellowship information site](#).

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Wake up Nappers: Undergrads Present Research in Billings Lounge

By Amanda Waite

Article published April 18, 2007

On April 11, Billings Student Center was transformed from its usual mellow self — a favorite spot for students looking for a quiet place to read or even nap — to a bustling nexus of academic inquiry and debate. More than 30 students gathered to present posters on the research they've conducted under the mentorship of faculty in the first UVM undergraduate research fair.

The fair was planned and executed by the McNair scholars, a group of undergraduates accepted into the McNair Program, a national initiative brought to UVM in 2004 and designed to increase the number of first generation, limited income and underrepresented minority students going on to earn a doctorate.

After completing a summer research project, McNair scholars take a seminar course that requires them to engage in community service. The scholars knew many other students undertaking research projects in other programs, such as HELIX and URECA, as well as students working outside a formal program. They felt those students — especially those working independently — would benefit from sharing their work with others, and decided to organize the first undergraduate research fair. Lauck Parke, vice president for undergraduate education, championed the idea.

Jim Vigoreaux, professor of biology and director of the McNair Program, says that one of the best elements of the fair was the work students did to prepare each other for publicly presenting their projects. "They came up with the idea of having a workshop," Vigoreaux says. "Every student who attended the fair had to go to a workshop and learn how to do a presentation, and the students recruited faculty members to help with the workshop." The work they did, Vigoreaux says, paid off in the quality of the posters they presented.

Moreover, Jennifer Dickinson, assistant professor of anthropology and mentor to two students presenting at the fair, says the process of creating the poster was an important opportunity for students to further grapple with their research. "For both of my students," Dickinson says, "I can say that consolidating key data points and theoretical arguments into the limited space available on the poster was an important exercise. It really helped them to 'externalize' their findings with the goal of making them interesting and comprehensible to colleagues."

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Research spans humanities, sciences and education

Student research covered an expansive range of topics, from senior anthropology major Virginia Foster's work under the direction of Dickinson on "Folk Divination Customs in Contemporary Czech Culture" to senior biology major Kevin O'Connor's research with Assistant Professor of Biology Sarah Cahan, "Primary Polygyny in the Desert Seed-Harvester Ant, *Messor pergandei*."

Posters were adjudicated by category. First place was awarded to Foster in the category of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences; to senior geology major Lydia Smith for her work on "Geochemical Sulfur Cycling at Meromictic Green Lake, N.Y.," with Assistant Professor of Geology Gregory Druschel in the category of Earth, the Environment, and Engineering; and to junior biology major Lauren Gilligan for her work on "Microsatellites Reveal High Population Structure in a Chagas Disease," with Professor of Biology Lori Stevens in the category of Life and Medical Sciences.

Senior dietetics major Chris Rivard, who secured funding from a Bickford Keystone Award and researched the effectiveness of using virtual tools to learn about nutrition, said he was happy to have others to share his research with. After an intensive year of teaching himself about human iron metabolism, developing a virtual learning program to teach others about the process, and analyzing the results of his tests, Rivard was looking for a public outlet. "I think it's great because your heart goes into it," Rivard says, "and being able to share it with the public is a great opportunity."

But sharing their work wasn't easy. Students were required to stand with their projects and explain their work to passers-by, including faculty members who probed the students' knowledge.

"They were very well prepared," Vigoreaux says, "which I think is a credit to their mentors. I was quite taken aback by how well informed they were about their projects. Everyone stood their ground. I peppered a lot of them with hard questions," he says with a laugh, "and they really came through."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

John Todd's Living Machines to Be Featured in VPT Program

By the view Staff

Article published April 16, 2007

The work of John Todd, research professor in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, will be featured in Vermont Public Television's new show, "ReGeneration," Wednesday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. Part one begins with a look at one of the "living machines" designed by Todd, who has developed biological treatment systems to cleanse wastewater in Vermont and at sites as distant as China. The broadcast will repeat Sunday, April 22, at 6 p.m.

Pioneer business leaders, farmers and eco-designers from Vermont who make a living by sustaining the earth are showcased in the two-part program. Part two premieres Wednesday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. and will repeat Sunday, April 29, at 5 p.m.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Festival of One-Acts Plays April 18-21

By the view Staff

Article published April 16, 2007

Senior theatre department students in the directing class will present their final projects in a festival of one-act plays April 18-21, at the Royall Tyler Theatre. Plays begin at 7 p.m.

The 2007 festival will include *Oedipus Rex*, *Summer Sublet*, *Heresy at the Crossroads*, *Blue Moon Over Memphis*, *Degas C'est Moi*, *15 Minute Hamlet*, *The Red Balloon* and the world premiere of Greg Perkins' *Girl Scout: An Autobiography*, on April 18 and 20.

On April 19 and 21, the festival will present *Slacks and Tops*, *The Worker*, *The Man Who Couldn't Dance*, *Not My Fault*, *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls*, *War Letters* and *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enough*. Tickets are \$7 general admission and are available [online](#) or by calling the UVM Theatre Box Office at 656-2094. All tickets will be held at the box office. Box Office walk-up hours are noon - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and two hours before weekend performances.

The Festival of One Acts is not recommended for young children due to adult language and situations. The plays will be ASL interpreted for the deaf and hearing impaired on April 20 and 21.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Sugar-on-Snow Party Returns April 20

By the view Staff

Article published April 16, 2007

In the belief that Vermonters might have had enough snow this winter, but they never have enough maple syrup, the UVM Proctor Maple Research Center will host the 17th annual Sugar-on-Snow Party, Friday, April 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of Royall Tyler Theatre.

In addition to finding a good use for this season's surfeit of snow, the event will include music by Atlantic Crossing, exhibits, and a showing of the award-winning film, *Voices from the Sugarwoods*, in the UVM Bookstore.

The event dates back to the joint bicentennial of the university and Vermont statehood in 1991, when the Vermont Maple Industry Council's maple history committee revived the Dean Hills Sugar Party tradition that began in the 1930s and was fondly remembered by UVM and the surrounding community. Like its predecessor, this annual event seeks to highlight the importance of maple and maple research to the economy of the state.

Visitor parking is available in the water tower lot, off East Avenue, (with shuttle-bus service to the main campus approximately every 10 minutes) and in the visitor lot on College and Prospect streets.

Information: 802-899-4923 or 656-4389 or crv@uvm.edu

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Perkins Museum Hosts Science Day Camp

By the view Staff

Article published April 17, 2007

The UVM Perkins Geology Museum will host Science in Vermont, an environmental science day camp, July 16-20, for about 50 students entering grades 1-7 next fall.

The camp, started in 1999, is held at the museum in Delehanty Hall on UVM's Trinity Campus. Students meet each day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for programs led by local elementary school teachers and undergraduate education majors.

"This is a great summer camp option for people who work at UVM," says Christine Massey, adjunct instructor in education and geology, who directs the summer camp. Youngsters go on field excursions and walks to explore the natural world and get a sampling of botany, biology, geology, soils, hydrology and other natural sciences, she notes.

Information, registration forms: [Geology Day Camp](#)

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Free UVM Summer Camp Combines Fun With Research

By the view Staff

Article published April 18, 2007

Betsy Hoza, professor of psychology and an expert on children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, is holding a two-week summer camp for boys and girls ages 8-10 from June 18 to June 29 at various campus locations.

The federally funded research project is accepting inquiries until June 1. The free program accepts children with and without ADHD who pass an eligibility screening. Children take part in two research sessions during the summer program, with the remaining time spent in sports and games, art projects and swimming. "Our goal is for the children to have a memorable summer camp experience," says Hoza, "while we learn more about the self-concepts of children with ADHD."

Families receive \$100 for participating and receive a cognitive and achievement assessment.

Information: 656-4717.



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UVM HOMEPAGE

Kilik to Speak About Oscar-Nominated 'Babel'

By Jay Goyette

Article published April 18, 2007

Film producer and alumnus Jon Kilik '78 will return to campus on Monday, April 23 to discuss his latest production, *Babel*, nominated this year for an Oscar as Best Picture.

Kilik will be interviewed on stage at the Campus Center Theater from 5:30 to 7 p.m. by Todd McGowan, associate professor and director of UVM's film and television studies program. Clips from the film will be shown as part of the discussion. The event is free and open to the public with admission on a first-come-first-served basis. Tickets are not required.

Prior to the event, at 3 p.m., there will be a free screening of *Babel*, also in the Campus Center Theater.

After graduating from UVM in 1978, Kilik established himself as one of the most sought-after independent-film producers in the country. He has received critical acclaim for his films, many of which have a strong social conscience. He has collaborated on a number of film projects with Spike Lee and other major industry figures. Kilik's credits as a producer include *Pollock*, *Dead Man Walking*, *Malcolm X*, *Mo' Better Blues* and *Do The Right Thing*.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Dismantling Rape Culture Conference Set for April 24

Register by noon, Friday, April 20

By the view Staff

Article published April 18, 2007

On Tuesday, April 24, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Women's Center will sponsor a conference on Dismantling Rape Culture. The conference is free, but registration is required by noon on Friday, April 20.

Nandi Crosby, assistant professor in women's studies and sociology at California State University, Chico, will deliver the keynote address at 8:30 a.m. in Ira Allen Chapel, "Calling Third Wave to the Carpet: The Role of Third-Wave Feminism in Addressing Rape Culture." Nandi also is a poet and dramatic reader who has won many awards for her performances.

Three workshops will address topics that include cyber stalking, the relationship between alcohol use and sexual violence and the intersection of rape, identity and oppression.

Anthony Porter, co-founder of A Call to Men, will speak at 3:15 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel on "A Call to Men: Ending Violence Against Women." For the full schedule, see [Women's Center](#)

Register: [Conference Registration](#) or 656-4328.

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[Research Renegade Targets Genes](#)

Cory Teuscher, professor of medicine, is a bit of a research renegade. A leading expert in murine immunogenetics, he looks at a problem by directly targeting genes instead of cells to uncover the intricate workings of autoimmune disease and immune response and some very significant discoveries.

[Rohy Brings Rigorous Inquiry to Literary Studies](#)

Though she might not enjoy talking about herself, her teaching style or her pedagogical philosophy, as one of this year's Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award winners, Valerie Rohy, has no cause to be modest.

[Professional Growth by Degrees](#)

Amy Crowley feels confident that the bachelor's degree she's working on in a new program offered by UVM at the Rutland Regional Medical Center will make her a better nurse. She'll know for sure in 2008, when she becomes one of the first graduates of a UVM pilot program designed to help working nurses earn four-year degrees.

theview

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NOTABLES

April 18, 2007

Publications and Presentations

Charles Irvin, professor of medicine and director of the Vermont Lung Center, co-authored an editorial in the March 29 *New England Journal of Medicine* titled "Airway Smooth Muscle as a Target for Asthma Therapy."

Ximena Elizabeth Mejía, assistant professor in integrated professional studies and the counseling program, presented "Men Choosing Nontraditional Careers: Implications for Counseling and Pedagogy" at the 2007 American Counseling Association conference in Detroit. The presentation focused on the application of feminist therapy concepts and a review of literature on the characteristics and issues of males choosing traditionally female careers. A case study was included to elucidate one man's experience working for thirteen years in a female dominated field. Mejía advocated for change in the terminology used to depict traits and careers, to navigate away from feminine and masculine stereotyping and gender role prescription.

Awards and Honors

David Harrison, associate professor of business administration and Nicole Maria Stata Chair was recently named the winner of the William N. Kinnard Young Scholar Award for 2007. The award, presented annually by the American Real Estate Society, recognizes "important research contributions to the real estate discipline achieved under the age of 40." Harrison's research focuses primarily on the areas of mortgage markets and real estate investment trusts.

Emily Stebbins, a graduate student in Community Development and Applied Economics, was selected as one of only 20 2007 Eno Leadership Development Fellows. The Class of 2007 includes representatives from 17 campuses located in 14 states who are pursuing careers in transportation.

April 11, 2007

Publications and Presentations

Dr. **Mark Plante**, associate professor of surgery and director of urologic research, is lead author of a paper titled "Phase I/II examination of transurethral ethanol ablation of the prostate for the treatment of symptomatic benign prostatic hyperplasia" in the March 2007 *Journal of*

Urology. Plante also was featured in a *Reuters Health* article on the study on March 20.

Deborah O'Rourke, assistant professor of rehabilitation and movement sciences, **Michele Barnier** of the department of pediatrics, and **Peggy Owen Sands**, clinical assistant professor in the Vermont Interdisciplinary Leadership Education for Health Professionals program, presented a poster on "The prevalence and management of lower extremity contractures in children with cerebral palsy: a survey of Vermont physical therapists" at the American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Meeting February 14-18 in Boston. O'Rourke also delivered an invited presentation as part of the meeting's Section on Pediatrics Practice Forum on the topic of pediatric pain. O'Rourke recently received a UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences Blue Cross Blue Shield Research Incentive Grant award of \$15,000 for her proposal titled "Health-related quality of life in Vermont children with cerebral palsy."

Robert Ross, research assistant professor of medical laboratory and radiation sciences, will present a workshop titled "Vermont Worksite Wellness Project" at the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association 2007 Spring Distinctively Blue and Focus on Providers Conference in Chicago on April 17. Funded by a grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and launched in May 2005, UVM's Vermont Worksite Wellness Project is run in partnership with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont. The study aims to evaluate several types of workplace wellness programs in Vermont companies with between 51 and 249 employees, to identify which model yields the best health outcomes and is most cost-effective.

Jeanine Carr, associate professor of nursing, and **Anne O'Brien**, extension instructor in continuing education, will present a paper titled "Shaping the Future of Vermont's Nursing Workforce" at the Nurse Leadership Summit on April 25-26 at the Killington Grand Hotel in Killington. The conference is sponsored by the Vermont Organization of Nurse Leaders and the Vermont Nurse Internship Partnership.

Awards and Honors

Burton Wilcke, professor and chair of medical laboratory and radiation sciences, was nominated and served on the Institute of Medicine group that released the report of its congressionally-mandated charge of evaluating the status of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) on March 30. PEPFAR is the single largest U.S. foreign aid program targeting a single disease in history. Wilcke was the only medical laboratory scientist working with IOM on this effort. He served with Dr. **Charles Carpenter**, who recently came to UVM as a Marsh Visiting Professor, on the treatment subcommittee.

Dr. **Ralph Budd**, professor of medicine and director of immunobiology, has been appointed chair of the National Institutes of Health's Immunity and Host Defense Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, for the term beginning June 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2009. NIH study section

members are selected on the basis of their demonstrated competence and achievement in their scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of their research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals, and other significant scientific activities, achievements and honors. According to the NIH, the skill and leadership offered by the chairperson determine to a significant extent the effectiveness and efficiency of the review group.

April 4, 2007

Publications and Presentations

John Gennari, associate professor of English, had his new book "Blowin' Hot and Cool: Jazz and Its Critics" (University of Chicago Press, (2006), chosen by the American Culture Association as its winner of the 2007 John G. Cawelti Award for the Outstanding Book in American Culture Studies.

David Jones, assistant professor in the School of Business Administration, will be presenting two papers at the annual meeting of the Academy of Management in August of 2007 where he will also serve as the Discussant for a symposium on corporate social responsibility. One paper, co-authored by Martin Martens (John Molson School of Business, Concordia University), titled "Fairness heuristic theory: Do overall fairness and trust certainty mediate and moderate justice effects?" was chosen for inclusion in the best paper proceedings. They found considerable support for recent theory about how employees evaluate and respond to fairness in the workplace across two samples (1,340 members of a blue-collar union and 881 professionals from an international transportation company). Jones' second paper, titled "Corporate volunteer programs and employee responses: How serving the community also serves the company," results showed that the company-funded volunteerism program at Green Mountain Coffee Roasters (GMCR) was associated with employee attitudes and behaviors that benefit the company (e.g., cooperative work behavior) and its employees (e.g., job satisfaction, organizational pride). Based on this study, David and Mike Dupee (vice president of corporate social responsibility at GMCR) conducted a learning forum at the SoL Forum on Business Innovation for Sustainability in Atlanta at the end of March. Jones and Dupee will also be conducting a workshop on corporate volunteerism at the spring conference for the Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility in Burlington.

Berta Geller, research professor of family medicine, had a manual published by the National Cancer Institute titled "Designing Print Materials: A Communications Guide for Breast Cancer Screening."

Donald H. DeHayes, dean of the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, received an invitation to participate in the Tallberg Forum in Sweden in the summer of 2007. This invitation-only meeting gathers world leaders in a think tank type of forum to consider the question "How in the World Can We Live Together." DeHayes will be