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Boston's Rebound



Ordinary people: Historian Jacqueline Carr's work plumbs buried records to illuminate Boston's past. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Jacqueline Carr walks through the subway bustle and climbs the stairs from the T station into the late afternoon light of Boston's Copley Square. It's 1993 and Carr is a graduate student on the trail of a dissertation, a trail that she despairs went cold a few hours earlier during a visit to the Massachusetts State Archives in South Boston.

[FULL STORY ►](#)

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Grants Run the

Gamut From the reading habits of adolescents to the feeding habits of Chagas disease vectors, the 27 projects supported by Undergraduate Research Endeavors Competitive Awards involve dozens of disciplines and one theme: students working closely with faculty mentors.

Boosting Business

A Vermont EPSCoR-funded graduate fellowship at the new Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies has helped transform business student Will King into a business consultant, supporting him as he collaborates with start-up companies to transform their technical innovations into profitable businesses.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

April 20, 7 p.m.
Lecture: "The Gay American Indian Experience," with Brian Gilley, department of anthropology, ALANA U.S. Ethnic Studies, and Living/Learning Center Scholar in Residence. Living Learning, 216 Commons.
Information: 656-4200.

April 22, 5:30 p.m.
Banquet: ALANA Student Awards banquet to honor outstanding students. Wyndham Hotel, 60 Battery Street. Tickets: \$25 and \$12.50.
Information: 656-2980.

April 23, 8 p.m.
Concert: UVM Lane Series presents "'Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem."
Tickets: \$20.
Information: [UVM Lane Series](#)

April 25, 3:30 p.m.
Lecture: "Disasters Evermore? Reducing our Vulnerabilities to Natural, Industrial, and Terrorist Disasters," with Charles Perrow, Yale University. Memorial Lounge, Waterman.
Information: [Perrow](#)

April 27, Noon. Fair: Benefits Fair with retirement and insurance vendors, human resources staff, and representatives from other organizations benefiting university employees. Marsh Dining Hall.
Information: [UVM Benefits Fair](#)

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Farmer David Miskell (left) talks with local and national Sodexho employees about how his small organic farm can sell products to the giant food-service provider. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Sodexho, CDAE, Farmers Unite to Get More Local Foods Onto Campus Plates

As if on cue, the trucks rumbled by the Marsh Multipurpose Room, providing the 30 or so Vermont farmers and cheesemakers who had gathered there with a comical visual aid to emphasize the message they were hearing from University Dining Services staff.

Farmers and other producers were invited to campus last week by UDS — the in-house presence of the university's food services provider, Sodexho — for a "Sodexho and Vermont Foods Work Day" designed to show farmers how to get their produce, cheese and meat onto the plates of students, faculty and staff. UVM, which spends \$5 million a year on food, 85 percent of it from out of state, represents a large and potential market for Vermont farmers. But tapping that market will require all parties to change the way they do business, changes that both farmers and Sodexho seem increasingly willing to make.

The farmers learned that a key issue for getting their products into university eateries will be accessing Sodexho's network of distributors, large operations like Sysco Food Services and Sid Wainer and Sons Specialty Produce, whose trucks helpfully made their way across campus mid-morning just outside the room's wall of windows.

"Having 100 (farm) trucks driving up to Waterman and dumping off their products just won't work," says Josef Quirinale, UDS director of marketing and auxiliary services, who organized the event with the help of Helen Jordan, a graduate student in community development and applied economics. The conference was co-

Student Engineers Win Design Award at NASA Competition

Senior engineering student Phil Lindemann "loves" NASA, believes deeply in its mission and wants one day to work for the agency as an engineer. So when the fourth time was the charm for him, and he and his teammates won the prestigious engineering design award at the agency's annual "Great Moonbuggy Race" earlier this month in Huntsville, Ala., Lindemann could hardly imagine a sweeter title.

"I've been on the team for four years, and this vehicle was the culmination of past ideas and failures and refinements that all came together," says Lindemann, who began prep-work on the pedal-powered buggy this summer, joined later by a number of colleagues. "(Winning the award) is almost better than winning the race from an engineering standpoint. Winning the race is luck, it doesn't mean that you did the best engineering design, but when you win the design award, that's when NASA tells you that you did the best work... It really affirms you as being an engineer, it confirms that you do have what it takes to be in this field."

UVM's entry in the moonbuggy derby, which placed fifth of 28 college and university teams in the race across a half-mile lunar obstacle course, was sponsored by the [Vermont Space Grant Consortium](#) and a number of area businesses. Lindemann's teammates in Huntsville were Tom Dole, Pat Larcom, Karmen Anderson and Charlie Morin. VSGC staff member Laurel Zeno coordinated the project, and other engineering students worked on the project in Burlington over the fall and spring.

The group's award-winning innovation was a fluid, easy-to-use four-wheel steering implementation. Lindemann describes the design as "rugged, simple and clean." The judges also appreciated the sturdiness of the vehicle, which the team fabricated at corporate sponsor Tri-Angle Metal Fabrication's Milton shop.

NASA says the event was inspired by the original lunar roving vehicle project, which was successfully completed by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville during the 1960s and 1970s. NASA engineers then had the challenge to design and build a compact, light, flexible and durable vehicle that would carry astronauts on the Moon's surface during the Apollo missions. The race tries to offer a similar real-world challenge to students, asking them to design and build a human-powered vehicle that is small, light, simple, durable and fast.

"(The contest) lets you be creative. It lets you be

sponsored by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture and the Vermont Fresh Network.

Rather than servicing a fleet of pickups, Sodexho relies on its distributors to consolidate products from farms over a large geographic region. The distributors clean, prepare and clearly label the foods, in case a food-borne illness requires a product recall. Sodexho also requires farmers or the distributors representing them to have \$5 million in liability insurance.

These requirements are hard for small farmers to meet, so in the past they've rarely been part of the system. That's one reason that protesting Sodexho's food-buying practices has been a time-honored tradition for UVM students since the early 1990s.

Those protests stepped up last spring, when a group called Students for Peace and Global Justice obtained more than 600 signatures from fellow students demanding that Sodexho look closer to home for its food products. But this time, the students found the corporation quite willing to listen and make changes.

"This is a huge step," says junior Rebecca Snow, point person on food issues for the student organization, of the conference. "The university dining staff are Vermonters. They're interested in this, too."

Early in the day, however, farmers seemed daunted and a bit annoyed by the hurdles they would face in tapping into the Sodexho system.

For UVM to be "buying fresh Vermont produce" that's been shipped to a New Bedford, Mass., distributor and then back to the university, struck David Miskell, owner of Shelburne-based Miskell's Vermont Organic Tomatoes, as ridiculous. "UVM should be stepping in there," he complains during a morning break.

But by day's end, Miskell and many others seemed more upbeat, buoyed not only by Sodexho's new stance but by the news the Black River Produce, a Montpelier-based distributor specializing in Vermont products, was likely to be certified as a Sodexho distributor.

"It felt like a real beginning," Miskell says several days after the event. "It seems to me there was a real commitment to start a process. That hasn't happened before."

Fire Forces Evacuation of Residence Hall, No Injuries Reported

A forgotten pot of cooking oil in a Living/Learning C kitchenette caught fire at about 9 p.m. on April 17, sparking a blaze that spread to the kitchen cabinets and into an adjoining lounge, which was gutted in the fire. About 100 students were evacuated from the building.

Firefighters responded within minutes, and the fire was out within 10 minutes of the time the alarm was tripped. No students or rescue

an engineer," Lindemann says.

Instant-Messaging Goes Intellectual With New Library 'Live Reference' Service

First-year student Will Applegate needs some information fast for an impending term paper. Instead of taking his chances at the library — a place where he describes himself as "kind of clueless" — he logs onto the library's main Web site and tries its newest feature: [Ask a Librarian: Live Reference](#).

The technology, installed in mid-March, allows for students and faculty to communicate directly with a librarian in a running dialogue via an instant messaging technology. Bailey/Howe already accepts direct email questions, but live reference gives both parties the ability to communicate in real time and simultaneously "co-browse" Internet sites together.

Applegate's April 18 visit begins at about 1 p.m., shortly after the part-time service opens for the day. He receives a canned greeting, "Hello, Welcome to VRL, what can I do for you?" After entering his name and e-mail, he gets right to the point by typing his first question in a small box and clicking send.

"I have a lab report due soon," he types. "The lab is on water movement in plants. I was wondering if you could help me find information on different plants in different climates regarding the water movement in the different climates."

On the other side of the question at her keyboard is Daisy Benson, a library assistant professor who was instrumental in bringing the technology to the university. After being alerted by an alarm that someone is trying the new service, she pulls up a computer window and sees Applegate's name and question.

Prior to launching live reference with the help of incentive grants from the Center for Teaching and Learning, Benson and her colleagues familiarized themselves with online chatting by getting instant-messaging accounts. "We're not 19 and haven't been chatting all our lives," she jokes. "When you ask freshmen how they want information, chatting online comes up high. They are very lucid at it."

Benson loves the immediacy of the new technology and the ability to co-browse an online document with a patron and instruct them where to find more information at the same time. "Students and faculty can do a huge amount of research in advance of coming here. When we first started looking into it four years ago our goal was to give patrons a new feedback mechanism. There were questions that it might depersonalize things, but it's just a different method of getting information, and in fact, is very personal."

In Applegate's case, Benson tries to narrow down his focus and get to the heart of what he wants: "So you're looking at how water is taken in and

personnel were injured. The fire caused an estimated \$100,000 in damage to the “high” column of the residence hall, and forced students out of their rooms (the university made arrangements for them to stay in an area hotel), faculty out of their offices and closed the Campus Children’s Center for the day.

Clean-up work began shortly after the blaze, and about 60 residents returned to the building’s “low” and “middle” column the night after the blaze. The children’s center re-opened on April 19. Thirty-eight residents who lived closer to the kitchen are staying in a hotel, and will stay there until the cleaning process is complete and they can return to their rooms. Contractors estimate that the clean-up of fire, smoke and water damage will continue until April 27. Students have returned to their rooms for brief periods to pick up essential belongings.

University in the News in March

From men’s basketball’s NCAA tournament upset to acupuncture to a *JAMA* study on age bias in chemotherapy, members of the University of Vermont community were all over the national news in March.

Herewith, a quick rundown of a few highlights:

- **Championship Basketball**, multiple national outlets. National publications covered the success of the UVM men’s basketball team in a front page story on Taylor Coppenrath in the *Boston Globe* on March 15, a March 19 article on SI.com featuring Tom Brennan, T.J. Sorrentine and Germaine Mopa Njila. Other articles on the team appeared in the *New York Daily News*, *Washington Post*, *Hartford Courant*, *Toronto Globe and Mail* and *New York Times*.
- **Acupuncture Acceptance**, *Boston Globe* and others. A March 22 “Health Sense” column, syndicated nationally by Chicago Tribune Media Services, focused on the growing acceptance of acupuncture, and included comments from Dr. Helene Langevin, research associate professor of neurology. Using ultrasound, Langevin has found that the 12 acupuncture meridians lie along sheets of connective tissue that surround organs.
- **Tablet Technology**, *BizEd*. The School of Business’ partnership with Gateway, which provided 180 tablet PCs to first-year undergraduates at a reduced price, was featured in an article on the tablet PC in the March/April issue of *BizEd* magazine.
- **Get Fit**, *USA Today*. An ongoing summer feature in the newspaper will provide a menu of healthy meals created at UVM for readers interested in eating better and losing weight. The article in the March 28 issue of the newspaper quotes Beth Casey Gold, clinical coordinator of the Behavioral Weight Management Program.
- **University Dining**, *University Business*. The March issue of the trade magazine

how it moves to different parts of the plant, correct?”

Applegate: “I was just wondering how that process was affected by the climate. Either scholarly articles or just information would be fine. I’ll take anything I can get.”

Benson: “Aha, the additional information about climate helps. Also, do you know, are there specialized terms to describe the way water is used by plants for different functions.”

Their interaction is transpiring like most online “reference interviews,” with Benson assessing what kind of information Applegate needs and how much. The work is demanding for librarians, as they must quickly and knowledgeably respond to diverse queries ranging from historical inquiries to science-based questions.

In the end, Benson gives Applegate what he wants: “I found 14 articles on your topic and a couple of them look like they might be right on target.”

Applegate, who says he liked the immediacy of live reference and intends to use it again, signs off satisfied: “That’s great... thank you very much for your help.”

ran a story on the growing trend of grocery stores on campuses and featured UVM's University Marché in a sidebar as one of the trendsetting markets/eateries offering fresh produce, prepared foods, and groceries.

- **Chemotherapy Study**, *Boston Globe*, ABCNews, multiple national outlets. Dr. Hyman Muss, professor of medicine, was lead author of a study published in the March 2 issue of *JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association*, in which he and colleagues analyzed data from randomized clinical trials of treatments for breast cancer. The researchers found that older women can benefit from chemotherapy and are often underrepresented in clinical trials of new therapies.
- **Iraq Vote**, *Washington Post*, *Seattle Times*, multiple national outlets. Frank Bryan, professor of political science, was quoted in a March 2 article on Vermont town meetings. The story focused on this year's vote to withdraw troops from Iraq. Bryan said of Vermont's historic vote to bring the troops home, "Vermont's always had a penchant for shooting its mouth off, and I mostly mean that in a positive way."

"UVM in the News" is a monthly summary of the best UVM stories reported in the local and national news media. The full report is online at [In the News](#). It is prepared by the Office of University Communications.

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MIT Speaker to Discuss the Quest to Document One of Einstein's Key Legacies

This year, the 100th anniversary of Einstein's "miraculous year" of scientific accomplishment, has been named the "World Year of Physics," and UVM's Department of Physics are sponsoring one celebration of the occasion on April 27 with a visit by Rainer Weiss, a professor emeritus of physics at MIT.

Weiss is part of LIGO, or the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, a continent-spanning project that aims to detect gravitational waves, which Einstein predicted in his theory of general relativity. LIGO comprises two widely separated installations (in Louisiana and Washington) within the United States that are operated in unison as a single observatory.

Weiss will discuss the massive and evolving project in a talk, "Einstein's 1918 Legacy: Gravitational Waves — what they will tell us, and how we are doing in detecting them," on April 27 at 4 p.m. in B-112 Angell. In the past, Weiss has said of the effort to detect gravitational waves, "The concept of what we're looking for is so important. The fact that the effect is tiny is just our misfortune."

Information: [Weiss Colloquium](#)

A (Benefits) Fair to Remember

The month of May is a once-a-year opportunity to enroll in medical and dental plans, change or update insurance, waive coverage and make other human resources changes. To help explain the options, the Department of Human Resources is sponsoring a benefits fair April 27-28 at Marsh Dining Hall.

On April 27, the fair runs from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.;

Campus Events Celebrate Earth Week

A number of campus groups are sponsoring environment-related events this week in honor of Earth Week and Earth Day, which is April 22.

They include:

- *April 20, 7 p.m.* "Eco-Fashion Show," featuring designs by student Stevia Morton. Living/Learning Fireplace Lounge.
- *April 20, 7 p.m.* "Bio-Bus Fundraiser Concert," with Bubblin' Upstream (7 p.m.) and The Flo (9 p.m.). Proceeds benefit student Zach Carlson's [biodiesel awareness tour](#).
- *April 21, 4:30 p.m.* Book singing, with Nancy Jack Todd, author of *Safe and Sustainable World: The Promise of Ecological Design* 104 Aiken.
- *April 21, 6:30-9:30 p.m.* Gathering: "Earth Mindfulness Meditation and Candelight Vigil," with music and dance. Redstone Green.
- *April 21, 7 p.m.* Potluck, with author and minister Gary Kowalski discussing "Animal Rights: A Spiritual and Moral Issue." Marsh Dining Hall.
- *April 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.* "Earth Day Fair," with music from Bubblin' Upstream, Urban Flava, Bluestreet Band and The Normal Combo; arts and crafts sponsored by SEEDS; tabling by student organizations and nongovernmental organizations; displays of academic projects; a visit from a solar-powered bus; and a soapbox "speak out." Redstone Green.
- *April 22, all day.* "Earth Day Community Mural," L/L mural wall.

An Evening of One Acts

"A Festival of One Acts," the Department of

on April 28, the event takes place from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. As always, the fair will feature retirement and insurance vendors, human resources staff and representatives from other organizations benefiting university employees.

Open enrollment for the 2006 flexible spending program will take place in November.
Information: [UVM Benefits Fair](#)

Project CATalyst Offers Roundtable Sessions

If you are interested in how Project CATalyst is progressing, want to learn about some of the exciting features of PeopleSoft, or have questions about the project, consider attending a CATalyst/PeopleSoft Roundtable.

The CATalyst team will be holding monthly discussion sessions at locations throughout the campus. All sessions start at 1 p.m and last an hour. Each event will include a project update, a presentation by CATalyst experts on one aspect of PeopleSoft, and a question and answer period.

The first roundtable is scheduled for April 27 at 1 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. The session will focus on the electronic earnings statement (electronic paystub) in PeopleSoft. The new statement will offer the added convenience of being able to look at historical data, tax information, leave balances and more.

Future roundtable topics include:

- *May 17*, "An overview of the CATalyst/PeopleSoft Training Plan," 200 HSRF.
- *June 14*, "Managing Your Benefits Online," 225 Kalkin.
- *July 19*, "Training Enrollment and Compliance Training Management," 427A Waterman.

For more information on upcoming sessions including the functional focus and location, visit [Project CATalyst](#)

Theatre's annual student-led showcase of short plays and send off for graduating directing students, will take place April 20-23.

This year's festival will include plays by Edward Allen Baker, Christopher Durang, A.A. Milne, A.R. Gurney Jr, and others. The event is divided into two groups of six plays presented on alternating nights.

The works featured on April 20 and April 22 are "The Gas Heart," "Scuba Lessons," "The Seventeenth of June," "The Ugly Duckling," "This is our Youth" and "The Problem." The slate for April 21 and April 23 comprises "The Book of Leviticus Show," "Interiors," "Medea," "The Asshole Murder Case," "Impromptu" and "Fishing."

Tickets are \$4 and are available online or at the theatre's box office. (The festival is not recommended for children under 14 due to the language and content of the works.) The April 22-23 shows are American sign-language interpreted.

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NOTABLES

April 20, 2005

Awards and Honors

Student **Laura Douglas** won the undergraduate student paper prize for the best student paper at the Northeastern Anthropological Association annual meeting held April 3-6. Her paper, "Mzunguism: How Visions of Whiteness Control Our Developing World," draws on Douglas's experience as a volunteer in Africa to explore the multiple dimensions of racism in the developing world and how race and power influences the outcomes of development projects.

Charles Irvin, professor of medicine and director of the Vermont Lung Center, has been selected to serve on the molecular medicine faculty and respiratory physiology section of the Faculty of 1000. Faculty of 1000 is an online research service produced by Biology Reports and published by BioMed Central that highlights and reviews the most interesting papers published in the biological sciences, based on the recommendations of a faculty of selected leading researchers.

Jim Murdock, a UVM assistant athletic trainer, has been selected as one of the National Athletic Trainers' Association's 2005 Athletic Trainer Service Award recipients. The award recognizes outstanding service to the athletic training profession and the National Athletic Trainers' Association at the state and district level. Candidates for the award must have held the Certified Athletic Trainer credential conferred by the Board of Certification for at least 15 years.

Publications and Presentations

"Quantifying effects of altered temperature and precipitation on soil bacterial and microfaunal communities as mediated by biological soil crusts," a project led by **Deborah Neher**, associate professor and chair of plant and soil sciences, was featured in a federal report titled "Our Changing Planet." The document will supplement the fiscal 2004 and 2005 budgets submitted by the President to Congress. It documents the work of the government's climate change science program.

Coyote research by **Brian Mitchell**, a postdoctoral associate in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, has two recent publications. He was the principal investigator in "Coyote Depredation Management: Current Methods and Research Needs" in the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* and published "Coyote Movements and Social Structure Along a Cryptic Population Genetic Subdivision" in *Molecular Ecology*.

Appointments

Troy Krahl has joined the Vermont Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research as the program's business manager. Krahl has worked previously as the laboratory manager for Professor Mercedes Rincon in the College of Medicine. He recently completed his MBA at UVM, and prior to that, received a bachelor's in physics from the University of California, San Diego.

Charitable Activities

Led by third-year medical student **Alicia Guilford**, the 2005 College of Medicine MS walk team raised more than \$6000 for the Vermont chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society on April 16, surpassing their goal of \$5000. The team of 13 students, faculty, and friends included Guilford; **Beth Hart**, professor of biochemistry, who raised the team high for the third year in

a row with more than \$2700; fourth-year medical students **Christina Alavian**, **Julie Alosi**, **Carolyn Brenner**, **Selin Caglar**, **Michelle Delenick**, **Lisa Emrick**, **Miki Ford** and **Tiffany Frazar**; third-year medical student **Katherine Wagner**; second-year medical student **Sharon Yegiaian**; and first-year medical student **Rachel Allen**.

April 13, 2005

Awards and Honors

Two UVM students earned second place among a field of 17 competitors in a research competition at the Society for Engineering Education's New England Conference. Senior electrical engineering major **Richard Ketcham** and **Dov Pechenick**, a junior majoring in microbiology, presented "Elastography Techniques for Computerized Tomography." Their advisors are **Jeff Frolík**, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, and Dr. **David Kaminsky**, associate professor of medicine.

Nora Mitchell, adjunct assistant professor of natural resources in the recreation management program of the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, has received the George Wright Society Cultural Resources Management Award, one of the organization's four top annual awards. Mitchell was cited "for her many innovations in cultural landscape management and heritage preservation." Mitchell is founding director, since 1998, of the Conservation Study Institute of the National Park Service in Woodstock, Vt. and previously founding director of the NPS's Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation. The George Wright Society is a national nonprofit association of researchers, managers, administrators, educators and other professionals who work on behalf of the scientific and heritage values of protected areas.

Four Vermont farms were among the 24 receiving this year's **Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education** grants as part of UVM's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program. Awards total \$138,803. Vermont projects granted are: At Sweetgrass Farm in Hardwick, Jodi Lew-Smith's mustard green seed crop production; David Marchant's matted row strawberries planted as a weed suppressing cover crop at River Berry Farm in Fairfax; a comparison of biodegradable and black plastic mulches at Laura Sorkin's Cave Moose Farm in Cambridge and Mary Whitcomb's educational plan for alternative manure management at the North Williston Cattle Company in Williston.

Publications and Presentations

Domenico Grasso, professor and dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematics, opened the Society for Engineering Education's New England Conference at Fairfield University April 8-9 with his keynote address, "Engineering Thought: Oxymoron or Great Challenge."

Ongoing research by **Esther Rothblum** and **Sondra Solomon**, both members of the psychology faculty, and **Kimberly Balsam**, who received her Ph.D. from the program, was featured in an article in the American Psychological Association *Monitor*. The story is available online at ['A Crucial Time' for LGB Research](#). Another member of the department, **Mark Bouton**, was covered in the article [Fresh Funding for Translational Research](#) in the same issue of the publication.

Jianke Yang, associate professor of mathematics and statistics, was the principal investigator of the study "Necklacelike Solitons in Optically Induced Photonic Lattices." The research was published in the March 25 *Physical Review Letters* journal and described in an article in the April issue of *Technology Research News* magazine.

In Memoriam

Stuart "Red" Martin, longtime friend of UVM's College of Engineering and Mathematics, died April 2 at age 91. He was scientist, mathematician, engineer and founder of the state's first television station. He endowed a professorship, the Dorteian Chair for Computer Science, in memory of his wife, the late Dorothy Martin.

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Boston's Rebound

By Tom Weaver

Article published Mar 28, 2005



Ordinary people: Historian Jacqueline Carr's work plumbs buried records to illuminate Boston's past. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Jacqueline Carr walks through the subway bustle and climbs the stairs from the T station into the late afternoon light of Boston's Copley Square. It's 1993 and Carr is a graduate student on the trail of a dissertation, a trail that she despairs went cold a few hours earlier during a visit to the Massachusetts State Archives in South Boston. Researching the experience of community members during the siege of Boston and in the

immediate aftermath of the Revolutionary War, Carr had high hopes for finding first threads of that story in archived court records.

She isn't after the lives of the great men but, in the vernacular of the late 18th-century, "the middling and the lower sort." The once-promising court records date back to the 17th century with the exception, Carr discovered that day, of a 12-year black hole of missing records at the close of the 18th century.

"I was devastated," Carr recalls. From South Boston to Back Bay, it was a long ride on the Red Line.

Standing in Copley Square, Carr looks up at the Boston Public Library and decides to give the rare book room a try. More hurdles — closing time is just minutes away, she needs a letter of introduction — but Carr pleads the case of a humble graduate student and earns an audience with the director. He offers to show her some sources that might help, Boston's "taking books" which were used to record facts relevant to assessing property value and include details about residence, occupation, family, even medical conditions. "They brought one volume out and I opened it and I thought, 'Oh, my gosh. This is a wealth of information.'"

Untold story

Carr, who joined the Department of History faculty last fall, not only found the seeds of her dissertation in those records, but also her first book, *After the Siege: A Social History of Boston, 1775-1800* (Northeastern University Press, 2004).

Reading letters from the period during her graduate study at Berkeley initially piqued Carr's interest in this difficult passage in Boston's history. Further reading indicated that it was an important story that had not been adequately told. "We tend to spend all this time on the 1760s and early 1770s and then there is Lexington and Concord, and then Boston kind of disappears," she says.

Regionally, the focus shifts to Philadelphia and New York. In Boston, the focus of the historical literature shifts to the lives of the elite and political doings. "This community was completely devastated," Carr says. "It fell apart, and



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Grants Run the Gamut

From the reading habits of adolescents to the feeding habits of Chagas disease vectors, the 27 projects supported by Undergraduate Research Endeavors Competitive Awards involve dozens of disciplines and one theme: students working closely with faculty mentors.

Boosting Business

A Vermont EPSCoR-funded graduate fellowship at the new Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies has helped transform business student Will King into a business consultant, supporting him as he collaborates with start-up companies to transform their technical innovations into profitable businesses.

could easily have just disappeared."

During the British siege of Boston the population dropped from 16,000 to 2,000. "How do you rebuild from that — 10 months of occupation, terrible devastation, a small pox epidemic? Where do you start?" Carr says. There are no simple answers to those questions, of course, but the professor notes that Boston's enduring sense of community, held together through institutions such as the town meeting, was critical to its survival. While New York and Philadelphia raced past them economically and culturally, and even little Salem to the north boomed as the Hub floundered, "Bostonians never questioned if they were going to be there," Carr says.

Walking history

Looking back, the assistant professor admits that the thrill of discovering the taking books was tempered, somewhat, by the simultaneous discovery that they had never been transcribed. "I think I had no idea what I was getting into," she says, "because I think I probably would have turned and gone the other direction."

Carr persevered and then traced details gleaned from the taking books through other sets of documents to piece together lives of individuals and how they formed a community. While researching and writing, and particularly while walking the city, Carr says she developed an imagination for seeing Boston's 18th century past on today's streets. It's a skill Carr has already put to use in the classroom in her short time on the UVM faculty. Last fall, she took a TAP class down to the city as part of their study of "The Faces of the American Revolution."

With Professor Carr leading the field trip, it was a certainty the students would learn about some new faces beyond the standard line-up. Walking past Faneuil Hall, Carr says she is likely to think of Elizabeth Fadre, a widow with two children who made her living by running a tavern in the area. The story of this one woman, an ordinary individual trying to make her way in extraordinary circumstances, resonates because it reflects what so many overcame to keep their community alive. Carr traced her life to 1785, when she knows Fadre married again, but then the woman's trail disappears.

"I don't know what happens to her," Carr says with the wistfulness of one talking about a lost friend, "but someday I hope to find out."

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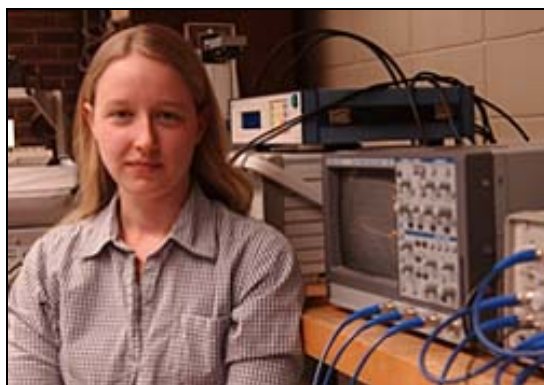
UVM HOMEPAGE

Grants Run the Gamut

Competitive program gives undergraduates in many fields a taste of how research works

By Jon Reidel

Article published Apr 20, 2005



Senior Carrie Black's URECA-funded optics project, she says, was an opportunity to "finally see the big picture." (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

From the reading habits of adolescents to the feeding habits of Chagas disease vectors, the 27 projects supported by Undergraduate Research Endeavors Competitive Awards involve students working closely with faculty mentors to complete projects in diverse disciplines.

Students apply for URECA grants by submitting proposals evaluated by a panel of university experts. If their proposals succeed,

they win a \$1,000 scholarship and up to \$3,000 for research. In its application process and overall administration, URECA is structured to mirror the requirements of external granting entities.

Many URECA-funded projects are later submitted for publication or lead to more extensive work after graduation. In the wake of an April poster presentation of URECA projects, *the view* spoke to a few students participating in the program to illustrate the range and diversity of the projects they undertook.

Student: Meggan Bucossi

Major: psychology

Adviser: Michael Zvolensky, assistant professor of psychology

Project: "Evaluating the Moderating Role of Anxiety Sensitivity on Smoking in Terms of Panic Psychopathology." As a former smoker, Bucossi brought a personal interest into her research. "I've struggled with anxiety myself and have friends who have as well, especially in college. It's a vicious cycle where people smoke to relieve anxiety, when in fact it increases the levels of it. I know I used to have a cigarette to relieve anxiety not knowing that it was making it worse." Her work attempted to expand on past research done on the moderating role of anxiety sensitivity in regard to smoking frequency effects on panic vulnerability among a sample of regular smokers. She also wanted to identify associations with previously undocumented panic-related processes.

Results: Adviser Zvolensky says that, despite evidence linking smoking to the future risk of panic psychopathology and more severe concurrent panic processes, not all smokers are naturally at the same level of risk for experiencing such psychological problems. So projects like Bucossi's that identify moderating factors in the smoking-panic relationship are important. He adds that the URECA findings suggest anxiety sensitivity may moderate the relation between level of smoking and panic psychopathology variables, a conclusion with implications for future research. "Meggan's performance has been nothing short of stellar, and I anticipate that the findings will ultimately hold scientific and public health merit," he says.

Quote: "The whole URECA process was a valuable experience for me, especially in terms of understanding the grant writing process and the background of the research I was doing," says Bucossi, who expects that the skills will apply to her post-graduation job at Brown University, where she'll

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[Boston's Rebound](#)

Jacqueline Carr walks through the subway bustle and climbs the stairs from the T station into the late afternoon light of Boston's Copley Square. It's 1993 and Carr is a graduate student on the trail of a dissertation, a trail that she despairs went cold a few hours earlier during a visit to the Massachusetts State Archives in South Boston.

[Boosting Business](#)

A Vermont EPSCoR-funded graduate fellowship at the new Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies has helped transform business student Will King into a business consultant, supporting him as he collaborates with start-up companies to transform their technical innovations into profitable businesses.

write grants and participate in research into substance abuse and domestic abuse.

Name: Carrie Black

Major: physics

Adviser: David Smith, professor emeritus of physics

Project: "A Study of the Infrared Reflective Spectra of Titanium Optical Glass." Before she began the URECA process, Black knew she wanted to work on an optics project with a senior investigator. "I was interested in anything that I could study intensely, and this gave me the chance to study optics," she says. Her project involved a trip to the National Synchrotron Light Source at Brookhaven National Labs, a federal scientific facility in Upton, N.Y. Black helped make reflective measurements on samples of Corning ULE glass containing 7.5 percent titanium and 92.5 percent silica ranging from the far infrared through the visible wavelengths, which she believes is the first time this type of glass has been measured over as wide a spectral range.

Results: Two differences emerged when comparing the titanium-containing glass data with the reflectance spectra of glassy silica. First, the infrared reflectance spectra of silica glass and titanium glass were almost identical. The second difference came to light when they compared silica glass with measurements taken by other researchers on a 6 percent titanium/94 percent silica glass in the ultraviolet spectrum. These readings showed that titanium ions introduce a new absorption between 5 and 6 electron volts. The ions also reduced the reflectivity of the host titanium by a factor of one half, a greater effect than anticipated. This suggests that the titanium ions do not significantly affect the chemical bonding in the glass, but that titanium does strongly perturb the excited electronic states of the silicon-oxygen bonds responsible for UV absorption.

Quote: "With this project I was finally able to see the big picture. We hope to extend our research and publish on it," says Black, who is hoping to advance the project next fall as a graduate student in physics at UVM.

Name: Nilima Abrams

Major: community development and applied economics

Adviser: Dan Baker, lecturer of community development and applied economics

Project: "Documentary Film as a Development Tool for Indian School Children." As she was growing up in South Burlington, Abrams's parents often took her to India. "I've been going there since I was little and I'd seen the poverty, but I didn't know the politics behind it. It's pretty overwhelming when you're young. It was so sad." So she decided to make her own film focusing on the struggles of Indian children, and an effort to prevent child labor through education. By showing the despair of the children — and success of Child Care India, a program that has successfully prevented child labor through education — Abrams hopes more people will become involved with the effort.

"Documentary film can be an effective tool for development using the guidelines of Paolo Freire (author of the *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*): empowerment, education and social change."

Results: Abrams has shot 11 hours of film so far, which she'll refine into a finished project. She hopes to show the film as many places as possible, including the Roxy in downtown Burlington, where 2003 URECA grantee Gates Gooding showed his documentary film "Bosnia, after everything."

Quote: "Hopefully it will help raise awareness and money," she says of her project. "The goal is to give the participants a direct, empowering voice, to articulate their complex struggles. Video is a suitable media for education on this unique situation."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Boosting Business

By Kevin Foley

Article published Apr 18, 2005

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MBA student Will King (right) is working with Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies Director Tom Rainey via a half-time fellowship funded by Vermont ESCoR. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

A Vermont EPSCoR-funded graduate fellowship at the new Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies has helped transform business student Will King into a business consultant, supporting him as he collaborates with start-up companies to transform their technical innovations into profitable businesses.

"These people are passionate, incredibly knowledgeable and hardworking. They have the answers, but maybe

they aren't sure of all the questions," King says of the entrepreneurs he has been working with. "Sometimes they haven't fleshed out their business plans because they're just too busy. That's where I come in."

King, who is in his last semester of the master's of business administration program, is being mentored by VCET Director Thomas Rainey as he consults with the center's client companies for 20 hours a week. The seven-month fellowship offers a stipend and tuition reimbursement — and is offering invaluable experience and contacts for King, who will soon ramp up his job search.

Creative collaborations

Rainey says the idea for creating a science-technology business development fellowship emerged from his conversations with Chris Allen, professor of chemistry and director of Vermont EPSCoR. The goal is to couple an educational experience — doing things like shadowing business development and technology transfer experts at the university and producing academic work relevant to the center — with real-world work supporting clients.

"Will is working with two of our client companies doing business audits. He's looking at their marketing, accounting, legal issues and business operations," Rainey says. "We're identifying gaps where they exist, and helping to fill them."

Rainey, King and other VCET staff, for example, are compiling a list of dozens of local business service providers (accountants, lawyers, marketing experts and the like) who are willing to work with VCET-affiliated companies pro bono or for reduced rates. That kind of effort is part of the center's vision of leveraging university and community resources to help nurture small Vermont-based businesses with high growth potential.

The center has been open for about a year, but to date has been a "virtual incubator," with no real office space of its own. That is changing this month, as the center's staff moves into a newly renovated 4,000 square-foot space in Farrell Hall. Client companies will lease portions of the space to house their labs or offices, while other affiliate companies will draw on the center's expertise and relationships but remain physically located elsewhere.

Boston's Rebound

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Grants Run the Gamut

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Rainey cautions that VCET, which aims to support start-up companies based on intellectual property (whether their own patents or technology licensed from others), is more than a landlord. The idea is that the center will partner with its client businesses, offering expertise, advice, access to certain UVM resources and facilities, and even introductions to venture capitalists or business-service providers.

“(A VCET client) needs to be a business where we can have some impact through the services we’re offering. We’re not interested in being a mailbox or office space. It’s not about real estate, it’s about the full package of service and the relationships we have,” Rainey says.

The fellowship fits

EPSCoR director Allen, who hopes to support the graduate VCET fellowship on an ongoing basis if it proves successful, says the effort is a “logical step forward” for his program, whose full name is Vermont’s Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. “Our program focuses on building on science and technology infrastructure around Vermont,” he says, “and one of the hallmarks of the Vermont approach is the inclusion of the private sector.”

Allen notes that EPSCoR annually brings in millions in funding to support a constellation of efforts designed to improve the competitiveness of Vermont scientists and engineers both in academia and the private sector. These efforts have long included starter grants for tech-based companies to pursue research and development, and Allen sees the VCET fellowship as a way to extend that effort, providing operational support to new companies as well.

Beyond the practicalities of helping entrepreneurs with great technology refine their knowledge of business issues like marketing and logistics, Allen envisions the fellowship as an educational experience. “The theme is not just service to entrepreneurs, but also service to the student,” he says. “When a (fellow) finishes his or her MBA, they’ll have a huge component on their resume that is very unique.”

King, who has a professional background in technology and Internet sales, says he’s already gained plenty of contacts through his work on the fellowship. He’s also enjoying the opportunity to do meaningful work before graduation.

“This has been about putting into practice what they’ve been teaching me for the last few years,” he says.

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