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## URECA! (They Are Finding It)



Student researcher Erin Burke, toiling in the geography department's map room. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

From mobile robotic surveillance and efforts to empower women in Ethiopia to the Costa Rican coffee market, 25 students are completing projects funded by the university's Undergraduate Research Endeavors Competitive Awards.

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## Frances Carr Q+A

"the view" sat down with the vice president of research and dean of the Graduate College to discuss a new business incubator and the role of research in economic development.

## In Process: Tom

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## THE WEEK IN VIEW

**April 21, 9 p.m.**  
**Comedian Rick Bronson of the LOL Comedy Series performs his interactive show. North Lounge, Billings Student Center. Information: 656-2060**

**April 22, 7 p.m. Play:**  
**UVM Theatre concludes its 2003-2004 season with "A Festival of One Acts." Royall Tyler Stage. Tickets \$4. Information: 656-4455**

**April 22, 9 p.m.**  
**Poetry Slam: Buddy Wakefield shows why he's World Poetry Slam Champion. North Lounge, Billings. Information: 656-2060.**

**April 23, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Concert: UVM Lane Series presents "St. Lawrence String Quartet." Tickets \$25. UVM Recital Hall. Information: [laneseries](#)**

**April 23, 8 p.m.**  
**Speakers: "Chris & Aneesa, cast members of MTV's Real World Chicago season, talk about their experiences on the program. Free Admission. CC Theater, Billings. Information: 656-2060**

**April 24, 8 p.m.**  
**Concert: UVM's all-female a cappella group, Cat's Meow, will hold its spring concert with Partial Credit of RPI. Ira Allen Chapel. Information: 862-3784**

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**Mo Rocca**

Mo Rocca, correspondent for Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" and NBC's "Today Show," talks with students following his performance on April 15 at Patrick Gym. (Photo: Jon Reidel)

**Mo Rocca Keeps Class of 2004 Laughing, Thinking**

This year's invited guest of the Class of 2004 for the Senior Speaker Series took some time to walk around Burlington and familiarize himself with the area and university issues prior to taking the stage at Patrick Gymnasium on April 16.

After reeling off Vermont's state animal, bird, tree, fish, reptile and other Green Mountain emblems, comedic correspondent Mo Rocca of Comedy Central's *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* and NBC's *Today Show* opened his 90-minute performance with his impressions of the area.

"Is there some sort of shrub controversy going on here on the green or something," Rocca asked the crowd, referring to complaints over the removal of some trees during landscaping for the commencement ceremony. "I'm from New York City and I thought that was liberal. Don't get me wrong, I love shrubs, but ..."

Rocca, a Harvard graduate, kept students laughing with the same offbeat political humor he delivers on Stewart's show, which won a Peabody Award for its "Indecision 2000" coverage of the presidential race. His ability to tailor his show to make it relevant to the area is impressive. He joked about "not having met any Vermonters yet" due to UVM's high percentage of out-of-state students and about missing "your boy" Howard Dean since he dropped out of the presidential race.

Rocca, a regular on VH1's *I Love the 80's*, showed

**Math Grant Will Model Key Muscle Interaction**

The basic molecular physiology of muscles is a shaken-and-stirred cocktail of biology, chemistry and physics that is well-studied but, as yet, frustratingly elusive. Experimental measurements of forces produced by a key interaction have varied by as much as a factor of 10, as "noise" from lab setups obscures the underlying phenomena.

Daniel Bentil, associate professor of mathematics, hopes to cut through that noise by using various mathematical modeling techniques to confirm and extend experimental results measuring the force and displacement produced when key muscle proteins interact. His interdisciplinary project will be supported by a four-year \$643,373 grant from the National Institutes of Health, an unusual funder for a mathematician.

"It's rare to submit a grant like this to the NIH and get it funded. I had to convince them that I really understand how to do what I need to do and that the models could yield concrete results," Bentil says.

Bentil's interest in muscle proteins began when he arrived at UVM in 1995 and began collaborating with Dave Warshaw, chair and professor of molecular physiology and biophysics. Warshaw's experimental group investigates interactions of myosin and actin, proteins in muscle fibers that interact to produce force and allow muscles to contract. The myosin-actin combination converts chemical energy into mechanical energy and movement. Warshaw measures the reaction experimentally by using laser trap technology to connect a filament of actin protein with a myosin molecule and measure the force and displacement resulting when the combination moves.

Similar experimental investigations of the interaction here and elsewhere have yielded promising results, Bentil says, but the experiments are prone to error. So he has been using an array of mathematical tools, especially stochastic differential equations, to mathematically model the interaction and, essentially, duplicate the experiments. His team, which includes two graduate students, has made good headway in modeling the mechanical aspects of their chosen forms of myosin and actin, but tying in the chemistry, which varies in every stage of the interaction, will be more challenging.

"There's a real cross-fertilizing between the modeler and the experimentalist here. It's highly interdisciplinary. I have to understand the fragility of the biology to propose a good model," he says. "If the model becomes predictive, it becomes a

slides throughout the show, including one of Joe Lieberman, who Rocca said would have been the first Jewish President had he been elected. He followed that slide with ones of Dick Gephardt, who he said would have been the first Albino president, and John Edwards, who Rocca called the first 14-year-old presidential candidate in U.S. history.

Rocca also showed clips from the *Daily Show*, including a classic appearance on Fox's *O'Reilly Factor* where he jokingly opposed (unbeknownst to conservative guest host Cal Thomas) an activist who supported the removal of Barbie dressed in lingerie from store shelves. When asked later by a student how he felt about the break up of Ken and Barbie, Rocca said he was worried about how their kids would deal with it, but that he was happy for Ken because he would finally get the chance to explore his sexuality after being initially forced into the marriage.

The show ended with a 30-minute question-and-answer session during which Rocca answered both serious and light-hearted questions. He stayed after the show and talked with students while sitting on the stage. One student wanted to know if Rocca thought some things were off limits for comedic purposes. Rocca used 9/11 as an example of an event that he said would "never be funny."

Another student asked if the election of celebrities like Arnold Schwarzenegger was the beginning of a trend where celebrities were the next wave of politicians. "What's next, comedians?" asked the student. "Are you in line for a political position?"

Defying expectations of giving an at least somewhat serious answer, Rocca replied by saying that he'd like to run for minority whip, "because it sounds really hot."

Established by the class of 2002 as a gift to the university, the Senior Speaker Series brings a nationally renowned figure to campus each spring. This year's event is made possible through a collaboration between the 2004 Senior Class Council, the Office of Student Life and UVMPM. The two previous speakers were Spike Lee and Maya Angelou.

### **March Finds UVM in the National News**

The university received national media attention last month for topics ranging from tuition increases in higher education to the neuroscience of nicotine to weight loss via the Internet.

Some of the top stories featured were:

- President Daniel Mark Fogel discussed the reasons behind rising higher education costs in a March 25 story on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition." Countering some lawmakers' claims that reckless spending is the key driver of rising tuition and fees, Fogel said that cuts in state appropriations, when combined with the rise in fixed costs, are primarily responsible for the increases. The segment, which featured other experts with varying points of view, also included

test for experiments, and it may produce insight on which new experiments should be performed."

The project, "Molecular Mechanics of Myosin Motor Proteins," will model the motion of two physiologically similar flavors of the myosin protein, myosin 2 and myosin 5, that act in very different ways to move muscles. Myosin 2, Bentil says, is collaborative: "rowers" moving actin in group bursts of effort. Myosin 5 behaves more like a porter, trudging solo for long distances along an actin-filament track. Bentil's group will need to thoroughly understand both behaviors to construct their models.

Bentil, an eclectic applied mathematician who once focused his attention on experimentally impossible questions of biological pattern formation (or "how leopards get their spots," as he puts it), appreciates that the equations he develops will be accountable to experimental results. He also finds the complexity and multiple factors of the myosin-actin interaction stimulating, because modeling it successfully requires a wide variety of techniques.

"It is not a trivial problem," he says, and laughs.

commentary from Tom Gustafson, vice president of student and campus life, who described some of the new buildings that will be constructed on campus. To listen to the interview, visit [Morning Edition Online](#).

- Dr. Paul Newhouse, professor of psychiatry, was featured prominently in a March 1 *Los Angeles Times* article reporting on nicotine's potential as a treatment for disorders including Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. "For learning and memory problems, nicotine looks as good as or better than almost anything out there," said Newhouse, who is also director of the Clinical Neuroscience Research Unit.
- A March 31 New York Times article regarding unique museum acquisitions included a Burmese Parinirvana Buddha housed at UVM's Fleming Museum.
- Jean Harvey-Berino, associate professor of nutrition and food science, appeared on "The Today Show" on March 29 to address the topic of "cyberdieting." In her interview with Katie Couric, Harvey-Berino explained the results of a UVM study that found online diet programs are as effective as offline programs in maintaining long-term weight loss. "From a public health perspective, you can treat so many more thousands of people on the Internet than you can in person," she said.

For a complete list of campus stories reported in the local and national news media last month, go to [Recent News Coverage](#).

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Bluegrass-influenced picker Dan Cray will bring his steel string to campus on April 30 for a Lane Series concert at 7 p.m. in the Recital Hall. Tickets and information: [Lane Series](#)

### Week of Environmental Events Planned to Celebrate Earth Day

Environmentally conscious students have seven days of events planned to mark the 34th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22. The global celebration of the environmental movement was started in 1970 with a grass-roots initiative organized by former Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson.

Students kicked off the week of April 19-25 with potluck suppers, speakers, environmental films and a display of senior thesis projects by students in the environmental studies program. All events are free and open to the public with donations welcome at some events.

The offerings will include:

- Daily from 9am-3pm, Bailey-Howe Library portico: displays by campus environmental groups, free mugs and sign-up and information on "A Mother's Promise Campaign Petition."
- Daily at Slade Hall: local artists display Earth-inspired art.
- April 21, 7:30-10 p.m., Billings Campus Center Theater: film series and discussion on "Women & Population."
- April 22, afternoon at Bailey-Howe Library portico: local Vermont Ice Cream served in VSTEP mug.
- April 22, 7 p.m. in Billings Campus Center Theater: Tim Keating, co-founder and Executive Director of Rainforest Relief, will discuss how rainforests are exploited resulting in 100 to 450 extinctions per day

### The Fleming Museum Opens Up April 23-25

The Fleming Museum's annual open house weekend, April 23-25, offers free admission to exhibits for the general public, special programs and a sale at the museum store. The museum is currently showing "Arts of Asia," a sampling of new acquisitions, "Spectacles to Behold," with historic eyeglasses from the permanent collection, and "The Netherlandish Proverbs," a rarely seen painting by Pieter Brueghel the Younger.

Open house events include:

- April 23, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Stamp cancellation to celebrate the "Arts of Asia" exhibition. The Burlington post office will set up a station in the Marble Court to cancel stamped letters with a souvenir museum announcement.
- April 25, 2 p.m. Slide talk with Professor Wolfgang Mieder. Mieder will discuss "Follies and Foibles in 'The Netherlandish Proverbs.'"

On April 29, the museum will feature a talk with the artist T.E. Breitenbach at 6 p.m. An internationally exhibited artist, Breitenbach is best known for his painting "Proverbidioms," an modern adaptation of "The Netherlandish Proverbs" depicting 300 contemporary proverbs and idioms.

### Holocaust Studies Symposium Examines the Arts Under Nazism

"The Arts in Nazi Germany" is the theme of the 2004 Miller Symposium, to be hosted by the Center for Holocaust Studies Sunday, April 25, in Billings Campus Center Theater. The free, public event includes a full roster of lectures from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Two free performances will be offered in conjunction with the symposium: "An Evening with Madame F," and "Music of the Holocaust," April 22 and 24, respectively.

"An Evening with Madame F," which is co-sponsored by St. Michael's College, begins at 8 p.m. in the McCarthy Arts Center Recital Hall on the St. Michael's campus. A work of theater-with-music conceived by Claudia Stevens for her performance as pianist-singer-actor, it explores the life and death experience of music performance in concentration camps, drawing on survivor accounts. The piece was produced for television by PBS affiliate WCVE and for radio broadcast on "Voice of America" to Eastern Europe and South America.

"Music of the Holocaust," a recital program by pianist Paul Orgel, will be held April 24 at 8 p.m. in UVM's Music Recital Hall. Orgel is a versatile

in his talk, "Rainforests in Your Shopping Cart." Information: 864-1693

- April 23, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bailey/Howe Library green (rain site: Billings Hall): Environmental Fair featuring crafts, a recycled T-shirt sale, and information on wind energy, composting and recycling.
- April 23, 7-10 p.m. Billings North Lounge: Recycled Fashion Show and DJ with students strutting in donated recycled clothes; also, a showing of *Zoolander* and free food.

Earth Day week events are sponsored by Vermont Student Environmental Program, Student Environmental Educators Doing Service, SPROUTS and the Center for Ecological Living.

### Reading Motherhood

In an early celebration of Mother's Day, faculty will gather to read writing about mothers fictional and real. The reading, "Anything But Apple Pie: An Early Mother's Day Tribute" is scheduled for April 28 at noon in Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

The selections include:

- Philip Baruth, associate professor of English, excerpts from *Franny and Zooey*, by J.D. Salinger.
- Frank Bryan, professor of political science, "Mother Superior of Sleepy Meadow Farm."
- Willi Coleman, vice provost for multicultural affairs, "Mothering...on the Black Side".
- John Gennari, director of ALANA U.S. Ethnic Studies and assistant professor of English, "Mammissimmo: Dolly and Frankie Sinatra and the Italian-American Mother/Son Thing."
- David Huddle, professor of English, "The First Day" by Edward P. Jones

musician who teaches in UVM's Music Department and is Artist-in-Residence in the Humanities at Saint Michael's College. His program, which he has performed to wide international acclaim, brings together four outstanding piano works representing composers before, during and after the Holocaust. Featured are a Piano Suite by Pavel Haas, Piano Sonata by Gideon Klein, Piano Sonata No. 7 by Viktor Ullmann, and Suite 1938-1945 "Reminiscences" by Karel Berman.

Registration is not required for the performances but is requested for the Miller Symposium, which is sponsored by Leonard and Carolyn Miller. Information: [Holocaust Studies Events](#) or 656-1492

### Peering Through 'A Window on the World'

Entrants to the Office of International Education's annual photo contest are now on display in Bailey/Howe Library. The images will remain there through June. For information about the contest, including galleries of past entries, visit [A Window on the World](#).

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April 21, 2004

## Awards and Honors

**Paul Kindstedt**, professor of nutrition and food sciences, was named the first honorary lifetime member of the Vermont Cheese Council "in recognition of his outstanding lifelong commitment and service to the Council and Vermont cheesemakers" at the council's annual meeting on April 15.

**Jane Ross**, professor of nutrition and food sciences, was recently selected Vermont's 2004 Outstanding Dietitian by the Vermont Dietetic Association.

**Paula Fives-Taylor**, professor emeritus of microbiology and molecular genetics, was recently elected to the American Academy of Microbiology, the "honorific leadership group" of the American Society for Microbiology. AAM Fellows are chosen by peers to recognize "scientific achievement and original contributions that have advanced microbiology," according to AAM.

**Laura Massell**, a doctoral student and research associate in the College of Education and Social Services Educational Leadership and Policy Program, has been selected to participate in the Howard University Evaluation Training Institute this summer.

**UVM's animal welfare judging team** won third place following Michigan State University and Purdue in a national contest at Michigan State University March 5. Students competed against eight other top universities, including Cornell, Purdue and the University of Wisconsin. Team members **Mary Kate Bennett, Gena Fagerberg, Stephanie Fischer and Deborah Press** were led by faculty advisor **Russ Hovey**.

**Elizabeth Greene**, associate professor of animal science, was recently voted "2004 horse person of the year" by the Vermont Horse Council. This is in recognition of her statewide efforts through extension activities on behalf of the Vermont horse industry.

## Publications and Presentations

The journal *Remedial and Special Education*, republished an article co-authored in 1985 by **Susan Hasazi**, Lawrence Gordon and Cheryl Roe and called it "among the top 10 articles to have significant impact on shaping the field of special education." Hasazi is a professor of educational leadership and special education.

The same issue noted another article by authors **Michael Giangreco, Ruth Dennis, Chigee Cloninger, Susan Edelman, and Richard Schattman**, as a "future classic." All are research faculty at the university's Center on Disability and Community Inclusion except Schattman, who has gone on to be a school principal.

**Rebecca Gajda**, assistant professor of education, and **Jennifer Jewiss**, research assistant professor of education, recently co-authored the article, "Thinking About How to Evaluate Your Program? These Strategies Will Get You Started." It was published in the latest issue of *Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation*. The article introduces and demystifies common evaluation terminology and presents a series of strategies to help those delivering direct services and programs to begin down the road of program evaluation.

**Dennis Mahoney**, professor of German and Russian, has published a new book, *The Literature of German Romanticism*, which he edited for the Camden

House History of German Literature series. The book is described as a "volume of sharply focused essays by an international team of scholars" that "deals not only with the most significant literary, philosophical, and cultural aspects of German Romanticism – one of the most influential, albeit highly controversial movements in the history of German literature – but also with the history and status of scholarship on the literature of the period." Mahoney's book is volume eight of the publisher's groundbreaking 10-volume history of German literature, the most detailed such survey published in English.

**Ge Wu**, associate professor of physical therapy, will be presenting abstracts titled, "Lower Extremity Kinematic Characteristics of Tai Chi Gait" and "Characteristics of Muscle Activities During Tai Chi Gait" at the Canadian Society for Biomechanics in Halifax, Nova Scotia in August, 2004. They are co-authored by **Juvena Hitt**, a staff member in the lab, and **Deb Millon**, a part-time student in engineering.

A special issue of the journal *Advances in Water Resources* has been published as a tribute to **George Pinder**, professor in the department of civil and environmental engineering. This issue can be accessed through electronic journals on the UVM libraries website.

### Charitable Activities

The **Center on Disability and Community Inclusion** and **Sigma Phi Epsilon** are teaming up to sponsor a team to join the first-ever Church Street Firetruck Pull benefit. The event is April 24 at 12 p.m. and will raise funds for Champlain ARC, a group that aids individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Information and contributions: 656-4031

*April 14, 2004*

### Awards and Honors

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

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

### Publications and Presentations

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

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

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

**Burton Wilcke**, associate professor and chair of biomedical technologies, has been invited to be teach in a one-week laboratory management workshop in Harare, Zimbabwe, April 26-30. The workshop is cosponsored by the Association of Public Health Laboratories and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Wilcke has been involved with Zimbabwe since 2001. In May, he will convene two symposia at the Annual Meeting of the American Society



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## URECA! (They Are Finding It)

### Competitive grant program fuels student research

By Lynda Majarian



Geography student Erin Burke is using climate data from throughout New England in her grant-funded research project. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

From mobile robotic surveillance and efforts to empower women in Ethiopia to the Costa Rican coffee market, 25 students are completing projects funded in October by the university's Undergraduate Research Endeavors Competitive Awards, or URECA. Through the competitive program, undergraduates working closely with a faculty mentor can receive a \$1,000 scholarship and up to \$3,000 for research experiences

that are over and above research normally conducted in the context of courses taken for academic credit.

Unlike most other undergraduate research programs, URECA doesn't limit research to the laboratory. In fact, funds are allocated for research projects in all disciplines, including the humanities, the social sciences and the physical and life sciences.

URECA recipient and social work major Princess Wood is investigating why many college women do not report sexual assault. "Through a series of focus groups, I'll be asking women if they are aware of services such as the Women's Rape Crisis Center to help determine if there is a link between their perceived access to these services and unreported sexual assault." She is recruiting women, whose participation will remain wholly confidential, from UVM, St. Michael's and Champlain College.

But before that can happen, Wood needs the approval of the university's Institutional Review Board. She's wading through that process with her mentor, Susan Roche, an associate professor of social work. Roche, says Wood, "also helps me to understand the practice and theory of doing research, and how to maintain ethical standards."

A senior and native of Castleton, Vt., Wood's interest in her research project stems from her work as a peer educator in the Peer Paradigm Project, which brought together campus and community resources to help keep women safe on campus. She originally applied for a research grant as a sophomore, when URECA was evolving from the older Stimulate Undergraduate Research and Faculty Mentoring (SUGRFAME) program. Her original proposal for the competitive grant was declined, but with faculty guidance Wood went on to create a winning proposal. She hopes to complete the project and a report on the results by October.

Erin Burke, a junior majoring in math and geography, is using URECA funds to study climate shifts across New England during the 1960s. Searching for reasons why the decade experienced intense droughts and frequent tornados, she is measuring standard precipitation index data, temperature data, tornado



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#### [Frances Carr Q+A](#)

"the view" sat down with the vice president of research and dean of the Graduate College to discuss a new business incubator and the role of research in economic development.

#### [In Process: Tom Streeter](#)

In a trivial yet telling example of the Internet's sudden pervasiveness, Tom Streeter, who is spending a sabbatical working on a book about computer culture and liberalism, opened his PowerBook to write in his deliberately off-line home and was surprised to find the machine automatically negotiating a wireless connection to a neighbor's network.

counts and pressure data. Her faculty mentor is Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, associate professor of geography and Vermont state climatologist.

"She has access to weather data from different states in the region and has been great at helping me acquire it," notes Burke, whose project marries Dupigny-Giroux's climate expertise with Burke's mathematical and statistical background.

Burke, a Boston native who says her dream job is to be a research meteorologist, will intern at NASA in Maryland this summer where she will work with an atmospheric scientist. She plans to present her URECA research at a regional geography conference next year.

Other grant recipients for 2003-4 include:

- Senior David Ryan, who is conducting research on a robotic simulator for biomechanical testing of knee arthroplasty.
- Senior Laura Allen, for a comparison of habitat variety in forested and non-forested streams.
- Senior Amy Kirschner, who is measuring the re-launch of local currency known as "Burlington bread" as a method of sustainable community development.
- Junior Jennifer Scudder, for her analysis of unique pigmentation in swine mammary glands.
- Sophomore Benjamin Eldredge, who is creating a commentary on Roman friendship based on two Ciceronian letters.

"It's pretty impressive that all these projects are being conducted by undergraduates," says Patricia Redmond of UVM's new Honors College, whose office handles the administrative end of the program.

URECA is structured to introduce students to the challenges of obtaining funds from an external granting agency by mirroring the process of seeking external support. Grant proposals are reviewed and ranked on a competitive basis by the Faculty Senate Research, Scholarship and Graduate Education Committee. Over a semester or a summer, up to 25 awardees carry out their research and submit a final report detailing the outcomes. Students also have opportunities to present their work at national or regional conferences and to publish in peer-reviewed journals. For more information, go to [URECA](#).

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**INTERview: Frances Carr****The administrator discusses new method's bringing UVM research out into the wider world**

By Jon Reidel



Frances Carr, vice president of research and dean of the Graduate College, says the opening of the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies will help the university use its research for the public good. (Photo: Sally McCay)

*When Frances Carr, vice president of research and dean of the Graduate College, was hired near the end of 2003 she emphasized her belief that research should be conducted for the public good, and that researchers need to spend time with the people their endeavors will affect. To that end, Carr has helped enhance external funding for research and scholarship, which broke the \$100 million mark in 2002 and was close to \$120 million in 2003, and expanded the university's technology*

*transfer activities. Continued progress is expected in both those areas by the former vice president for research and professor of biological science at Binghamton University, especially with the March 2004 launching of the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies, a multi-faceted initiative that is expected to play a crucial role in boosting economic development in the state.*

the view sat down with Carr on April 9 to talk about her first six months on the job, what's next on her agenda, and what the opening of VCET means for the state and university.

**the view: The Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies has been in the works for quite some time. What was needed to bring it all together and make it a reality?**

FRANCES CARR: These types of activities take a while to establish. There was momentum from the Vermont Technology Council, of which John Evans was a member. He has been a leader in the recognition that there needs to be support for entrepreneurial activities around the university. VCET provides opportunity and support for tech transfer, basically for patent opportunities, and for establishing relationships with private companies who may need the support systems of the university – such as access to equipment, for example. What sets the tone differently is having an administration led by the president, who most assuredly shares the same perspective as the provost, an entrepreneur himself, recognizing the roles that faculty and students play in the generation of knowledge, and assuring that the knowledge is actually able to be used for the public good.

I think it's important to recognize that the federal government recognizes the importance of these kinds of partnerships for economic development. It's an important piece because there are those associated with universities and in the community in general, that say, 'well, that's not the role of universities.' Yes it is. The federal government has recognized that since the 1980 establishment of the Bayh-Dole Act: research is for the public good. It's public money that



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funded the research, therefore, there's an obligation to ensure that the results of the research are applied. It is part of the role of public research institutions – the mission of the land grant for sure – to ensure that we are able to improve the lives in the community in which we live. This is a different mechanism by which we do it. That's all.

**Was there much discussion or debate early on about the mission of the incubator and its financial relationship to the university?**

It was expected to be a technology incubator and was not limited to a specific topic area. It was meant to be flexible, which is more reflective of how the technology is emerging, but also appropriate for what our size is. We're not Boston. It's not Cambridge Mass., where there are multiple incubators all over the place. It's the right size for us. Under the current policy there are flexibilities including royalties as well as equity. The policy has to fit the kind of institution. If a faculty member starts a company and that company is in the incubator, that specific arrangement is expected to make sure that the incubator is self-sustaining, so funds would go back to the incubator. There's no fiduciary responsibility for oversight by the university for that.

**As director of technology transfer, Todd Keiller is a key player in the effort to bring research to the marketplace. How would you characterize his role?**

He has an expanding role at the university, not only in terms of helping people understand the breadth of what tech transfer means, that it's beyond 'how do I file a patent?' He can help answer questions like 'what do I begin to think about in terms of market research?' 'How do I determine whether this is feasible or not?' 'Does anyone really care about what I've invented?'

Even if it's the most wonderful invention, it may be that a company may never buy into it in the sense of licensing it because of the cost of changing their whole way of doing business. So there's a whole education process about what it means to take your innovation advancement to market. So he's working with faculty in small groups to help them understand different types of funding mechanisms, to help them get connected with other entrepreneurs. His specific role is tech transfer, not the development of the businesses themselves. That doesn't mean he doesn't help people understand where in the paradigm they are and what he can help them with. That's Tom Rainey's role. Let's say you have an idea. Well, we need to get you to the right place. So the entrepreneur goes over to the incubator with Tom Rainey, and he links them in with venture capital networks, the Vermont Business Center, and other key players, so it's fluid. It's tremendously important to people who are starting out in business to have these resources. Tom Rainey is a very bright, committed individual who is engaged in Vermont and New England. He's done this before and has worked very hard to establish relationships throughout the area. He's a tremendous asset.

**Is there a timeline for when the incubator is expected to be up and running seamlessly?**

A lot of the pieces like the education aspects are already in place. We've already had a lot of calls from people who interested in being affiliated with the incubator. The first board meeting will be in the next few weeks and at that point it's expected that the framework of operations will be adopted. That's means that it really is open for business in the truest sense. The final IRS status is still pending.

**What are some examples of UVM research projects that could benefit from VCET?**

It's important to separate projects to show which are appropriate. Paul Krapcho (chemistry department), for example, has some tremendously exciting work focusing on the development of a new molecule that can be used for the treatment of non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Importantly, it's one that does not have the cardiac side effects of the ones that are available now, so you have a broader tolerance range in terms of the dosing. This is extremely important. A company in Seattle has the license for this technology. It has accelerated to phase 3 clinical trials, so if all goes as expected, it in fact should be available on the market in a year. That can have incredible returns in term of multiple millions. Those are very few and far between. That's the Gatorade hit. There's

usually a seven-year time limit. Sure, that coming back will financially benefit the individual, certainly the public, and the University of Vermont. Would that type of invention be in the incubator? No. And I'll just clearly say no. Why? Because it's a pharmaceutical. We're not going to be setting up a pharmaceutical incubator here because already this industry is very large, very complex.

When you think of the breadth of inventions coming from faculty, we have a lot of important research being conducted that is appropriate for the incubator. Micro strain technologies and the kits associated with diagnostics are more in keeping with the kind of incubator that we'll have here. We expect to see technologies in particular emerging from engineering partnerships with the life sciences or the environmental sciences. Devices that would monitor changes in the stress related to bridges, for example. Or the kind of technology that Chris Landry [assistant professor of chemistry] is working on. Medical technology. Platform-based diagnostics would be a really exciting opportunity for us as well. Fields where the creativity and the innovation is happening at the intersection of engineering, life sciences and the natural sciences.

**How have the faculty responded to the idea of VCET and collaborating more with the private sector?**

The overall sense that I've had in the months I've been here in terms of the cultural part, is that there has been a desire to move in this direction for quite some time. You can see that by talking with some faculty who went out and started their own companies and did their own patenting. Culturally, this institution has been ready to move in this direction. It's quite clear that Dan Fogel wants this to happen and recognizes the importance of entrepreneurship. It provides us with new opportunities to think about how we're providing an educational foundation for undergraduate and graduate students. They're not looking at their academic experience from the standpoint of, 'let me just take these courses;' they're looking at it as an opportunity to say, 'can I get an MBA at the same time I'm getting a biology degree?' They're asking questions that are appropriate to ask, and it pushes us to look at our academic organization and offerings.

**You said when you were hired that you took this job because you were told the university was ready to move to the next level and was committed to expanding research and the role of the graduate school. Has that been the case?**

There's a tremendous amount of excitement and energy here. It's what I thought was here. There's so much creativity that you can just feel the energy. The only thing I'm disappointed in is that I haven't been able to meet as many faculty as I would have wanted to have by this time. So it's a high priority for me to get out and find out more about what's going on in departments across the entire university in all disciplines. There was a tremendous foundation here, and I think that the leadership that is here now is really laying the groundwork for the university to blossom. The support for the graduate programs and research is clearly here. It's not just lip service. It seems that everything at the university is aligned in the right direction.

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## In Process: Tom Streeter

### An early glimpse at a sociologist's emerging book examining the Internet's rhetoric and reality

By Kevin Foley

In a trivial yet telling example of the Internet's sudden pervasiveness, Tom Streeter, who is spending a sabbatical working on a book about computer culture and liberalism, opened his PowerBook to write in his deliberately off-line home and was surprised to find the machine automatically negotiating a wireless connection to a neighbor's network.

The associate professor of sociology has studied the social ripples of emerging media since his graduate student days, when his dissertation explored the birth of cable television technology that expanded conventional broadcast's four channels to a whopping 25.

"There was this utopian, euphoric rhetoric around cable," Streeter says. "Cable was going to feed this new kind of democracy. Not to mention, everyone was going to get rich."

Sound familiar? But while the excesses of Internet boosters present resemble the overstatements of cable impresarios past, Streeter isn't particularly interested in debunking the crudest claims of the Internet's transformative power. He is convinced that the technology is an important and lasting social force. For him, even the vast speculative bubble that sent the technology stock index surging to 5000 before plummeting to less than 1200 at one point, is proof that the Internet is radical and transformative. That was real money bet in real office suites, after all.

"Part of what's fun talking about the 1990's is that you find lots of romanticism in boardrooms having a huge impact," Streeter says. "It's a political object lesson. The Internet phenomenon lets you undercut certain kinds of triumph of the marketplace rhetoric because it was created by public funding. It's a huge technological triumph that came outside the private sector to some extent."

Streeter's in-process book, which has the working title of "The Net Effect," will incorporate some of its arguments from his 1999 article, ['That Deep Romantic Chasm'](#), which borrowed a metaphor from Samuel Coleridge Taylor's poem "Kubla Kahn." The verse is set in Xanadu, which computer pioneer Theodor Nelson adopted as a name and model for an ever-expanding (and never completed) early vision of a proto-World Wide Web with linked content. In Nelson's work, and that of another network visionary, *Whole Earth Catalog* creator Stuart Brand, Streeter sees echoes of Coleridge and William Blake's 19th century romanticism, in which individuals freely explore, grow and express themselves.

That vision of individuality contrasts with market liberalism, where unfettered individuals act to maximize their economic utility, and hints the "chasm" of his title. The computer and the Internet, transformative as they are, aren't a space free from regulation, excluding perhaps a brief moment in the mid-1990's when the emerging technology first caught on. Among Streeter's goals with the book is to analyze the clashing and melding of romanticism (which Streeter sees as a recurring cultural pattern, not a historical moment), liberalism and neoliberalism within the expanse of a new medium.

The book will look at the recurring cultural pattern of technological romanticism; the social assumptions of early computer visionaries; the shifting interplay of corporate interests and government regulation on the 'net and the response of the anti-copyright "open source" movement; Internet libertarianism; the compelling quality of on-screen interaction and more.



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"the view" sat down with the vice president of research and dean of the Graduate College to discuss a new business incubator and the role of research in economic development.

"There is a very American habit, dating to the 19th century, to receive each new technology as a savior..." Streeter says. "But it's hard to dismiss the Internet as just another bubble. I've been struggling to make sense of it. It's unique. What's going on? What difference does it make?"

Streeter confesses to some trepidation at taking on an immense topic early in its unfolding (he says the sociological literature of the telephone is maturing only now, 128 years after Alexander Graham Bell). But he's been pulled in by the richness of the subject matter and the way it feeds his long-standing interests in technology, society, regulation and rhetoric.

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