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Playing With Paquito



Bright lights, bright horns: Alex Stewart is leading the UVM Jazz Ensemble to their biggest gig ever – a Flynn show with a Cuban master. (Photo: Sally McCay)

Just over a week before the biggest performance of their lives, Alex Stewart is teaching his students how to make an entrance. A musical entrance, that is. "Come in stronger," he instructs the horn players. "It's like walking in a door. You don't sneak in."

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Environmental Odyssey UVM

President Edward Andrews was troubled after reading a 1971 report calling the nation's environmental condition deplorable. He was bothered by the situation, and even more distressed by the apparent lack of an organized effort to improve it.

Renewing

Afghanistan In war-ravaged Afghanistan, a country struggling to feed its people, the sunn pest brings only more darkness. A new UVM program is taking aim at the insect as part of an international effort to rebuild the country's agricultural system.

INTERview: Dr.

David Fassler Does news coverage of disturbing events harm young children? How can parents recognize and cope with the signs of trauma in their children? Dr. David Fassler, a nationally recognized expert, offers insights into these and other topics.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

April 23 7:30 p.m.
Performance: "Songs for a Suffering World," poetry and jazz with David Budbill, William Parker and Hamid Drake. UVM Recital Hall, Redstone Campus. 656-0878

April 24 7:30 p.m.
Lecture: Becca Levy speaks as part of the Forum on Aging. Memorial Lounge, Waterman. Information: 656-3238 5

April 25 8 a.m. Event: Graduate student research day. Waterman Building locations: Memorial Lounge, room 427 and the Grace Coolidge Room. See lobby posters for specifics.

April 25 7 p.m.
Lecture: "Restoration and Stories of Home," with John Elder. Keynote of the ecological restoration conference. Memorial Lounge. Information: 656-0224

April 26 7:30 p.m.
Piano concert: The Weilerstein Trio. UVM Recital Hall, Redstone Campus. Information: 656-4455

April 30 5:30 p.m.
Ceremony: "Women of the Year," with guest speaker former Vermont Gov. Madeleine Kunin. Event celebrates campus women. Billings Student Center North Lounge. Information: 656-7892

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Willi Coleman will play a key role in UVM's diversity drive. (File photo: John Earle)

Coleman Named Vice Provost for Multicultural Affairs

Every appointment tells a story – of opportunities gained, of passions deferred. Willi Coleman, director of ALANA U.S. Ethnic Studies and an associate professor of history, and also a superb classroom teacher, was appointed vice provost for multicultural affairs by Provost John Bramley. She starts the new role on July 1.

"It wasn't an easy decision," she says of trading an academic hat for an administrative one. "I assure you: I love teaching too much to give it up for foolishness. I have a strong belief that it is possible to do what needs to be done here."

The newly created position, which was held by Rebecca Flewelling on an interim basis during a national search, carries an array of responsibilities. The duties will include responsibility for overall development, coordination and supervision of policies, programs and services relative to the university's commitment to diversity in recruitment, retention, climate and curriculum.

Coleman says she will bring her deepest personal convictions to her work. "I want to help UVM continue to come to grips with issues and concerns that concern me as an individual, as well as the institution and society as a whole," she says. "These are seriously large issues for us, and for society. A lot is riding on this."

Coleman praises the university's growing partnership programs with urban high schools and burgeoning ethnic studies program, which will offer about 20 courses next fall in a wide variety of disciplines. She also believes that the scope and centrality of her new job, as well as its

Poll Results Positive for UVM

Vermont residents have a consistently positive view of the University of Vermont across a variety of areas, according to a recent statewide poll conducted by the Center for Rural Studies. A full report of the poll is available at the [CRS Website](#).

The poll asked respondents to rate UVM in areas ranging from the university's academic quality to the benefit it offers to citizens outside Chittenden County. In each of seven areas but one, more than 70 percent of respondents put UVM in the top two categories of the ranking scale.

For instance, 79.8 percent agreed or strongly agreed that the University of Vermont helps economic development and job growth in Vermont. 81.2 percent agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "I would encourage a child or a close relative to attend the University of Vermont." 87.8 percent of respondents ranked the educational experience offered by UVM as good or excellent. 71.8 percent agreed or strongly agreed that UVM offers a good value for the educational experience it offers.

A geographical statement, "The University benefits areas outside Chittenden County," prompted 77.2 percent to agree or strongly agree, a finding that was not influenced by the region from which respondents came.

The one question where responses dipped below 70 percent for the top two categories of response related to UVM's party school image, although answers still conveyed a favorable impression. 64.6 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that UVM "is doing a good job of moving away from its old image as a party school."

"When given a chance to express their opinions, it appears that the vast majority of Vermonters have a positive impression of the university and its impact on the state," says Jane Kolodinsky, co-director of the Center for Rural Studies and chair of community development and applied economics.

There were almost no statistically significant differences in answers when respondents were subcategorized by the demographic categories of sex, region, income, or education, or by whether or not they had children, a highly unusual result for opinion polls.

"The uniform nature of the results across demographic categories is further evidence that UVM has widespread favorability among Vermonters," says Kolodinsky. "There are no strong demographic pockets pulling the averages

designation as a vice provost position, sends a strong message that multicultural issues are central to the university's plan.

She's also frank about the fact that, in her view, the university has a long way to go in building and respecting diversity, mentioning the "horrifying" incident involving a campus police officer mistakenly holding a student of color at gunpoint.

"We cannot run away from race on this campus, because it will come and get us," she says.

Coleman, who joined UVM in 1996, is a scholar of 19th-century black women in America and colonial Mexico and founding director of the Center for Women and Ethnic Issues at California State University-San Luis Obispo. The self-described "dyed-in-the-wool professor" says she plans to teach one course a year after her first semester as a vice provost.

Successful Bali Class Moves to Belize

After conducting a cross-cultural counseling and psychology course in Bali for some time, David and Carla Osgood were forced to pause the program when war and terrorism intervened.

"It was hard to suspend a very successful course," says David Osgood, a psychologist at the Center for Health and Well-Being, "but we just returned from Belize and have developed a similar program with some of the Mayan healers in southern Belize."

The Continuing Education class, "Belize in Transition: Cross Cultural Counseling and Health Psychology in an Age of Eco-Tourism," is in the country July 17-31. Students will stay with local families and will meet intensively with each other and with Belizeans on a daily basis. The course is intended for teachers, counselors and others who wish to work on their communications skills in a intercultural context.

"With the everyday meetings, the students get to know the place and each other," Osgood says. "It's quite powerful to move into another culture in this way."

For more information about the course or how to register, [e-mail David Osgood](#).

New Top Vet Named

Ruth Blauwikel, a dairy expert most recently based in Minnesota, is the new university veterinarian. She was appointed by John Burke, vice provost for research.

"Ruth brings terrific experience and enthusiasm to our animal care program," says Burke. "As both a veterinarian and a Ph.D. scientist, she will have a direct and positive impact on our animal-related research and teaching programs."

Blauwikel assumed her new role as university

up and skewing the results."

There were two exceptions to this general rule: Fewer Vermonters whose family income is less than \$20,000 agreed that UVM is a good value (71.9 percent) than those who make \$20,000 or more (82.6 percent). And more Vermonters with less than a bachelor's degree believe that UVM helps economic development and job growth (82.6 percent) than those who have a B.A. degree or greater (75 percent).

The Vermonter Poll, of which the UVM research was a part, is conducted annually by the center. Researchers conducted 641 randomly selected telephone interviews were conducted between February 7 and March 5, 2003. The margin of error is 4 percent.

UVM Students, Employees Excel at Boston Marathon

Despite missing her personal goal of breaking three hours in the marathon, third-year medical student Amy Chekos of Burlington was the top Vermont woman at the 107th Boston Marathon and 32nd woman overall.

Chekos, who was running her 8th Boston Marathon and 19th marathon overall, finished 699th among all runners and 25th in the 18-34 age group, with an official time of 3:02:17. Her chip time – a more accurate computerized reading of running time – was 3:01:24.

The former all-conference runner from Wellesley College qualified in the 18-34 age group with a personal best of 3:00:36 at the Bay State Marathon in Lowell, Mass. in October of 2002.

"It was a hot day and the headwind posed a bit of a challenge," Chekos said. "Still, while my ultimate goal was to slip under three hours. I was on a 2:58 pace into the Newton hills but somehow, began to lose it as I approached Coolidge Corner."

Mark Wanner, operations manager in the psychiatry department, lead the way among UVM men with a time of 3:09:21. Wanner, 37, who qualified for Boston with a 2:59:33 at the 2002 Chicago Marathon, placed 1,142 among all men and 1,206th overall. He also placed 790th in the 35-39 age group. His chip time was 3:08:21.

"It was brutal out there, way too hot," Wanner said. "It may have been the toughest race I've ever run... It was so hard. Everything external about the race was first-rate, completely inspiring, but my shuffle down Commonwealth toward the Citgo sign was just plain ugly."

Jean Harvey-Berino, chair of the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, finished in a time of 4:47:32 for an overall place of 14,385th and 5,070th among women. She also placed 1,560th in the 40-44 age group. She qualified in the 40-44 age group by completing the 2002 Las Vegas Marathon in a personal best time of 3:45:33. Her chip time was 4:22:55.

veterinarian on March 24. She will be responsible for animal care and the oversight of all teaching and research animal activities at the university. She is a member of the animal sciences department and will work closely with the dean's office of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the director of university research farms.

Blauwiekel earned a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Michigan State University and a doctorate in ruminant nutrition from Washington State University.

A total of 118 Vermonters completed the race with 44-year-old Jim Miller of Essex Junction posting the top time of 2:42:56. The sub-2:20 marathoner placed 88th overall, 76th among men and 20th in the 40-44 age category.

The 1,7046 finishers in this year's Boston Marathon had to run a qualifying time between September 28, 2001 and February 2, 2003 at a certified marathon in order to participate in the 2003 race.

theview

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Andy Warhol's 1970 print *Flowers* is now up at the Fleming. (Detail courtesy of the Fleming Museum.)

See the Fleming for Free

Somewhere, Andy Warhol is crying.

The famously commercially savvy (and deceased) artist, whose work is the highlight of a retrospective at the Fleming Museum, doubtless wouldn't approve of the museum's annual open house, which offers free admission from April 25-27. Merchandise at the Fleming's store, including Andy wigs, is also on sale.

At noon on April 25, representatives from the Burlington post office will be at the museum to offer a special pictorial cancellation on Warhol postcards on stamps. The cancellation celebrates the Fleming show, and is not available at the post office's retail window. The philatelic bonanza will take place from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

In addition to the Warhol show, the Fleming is displaying a collection of classic San Francisco rock concert posters. The show is ongoing, but a second collection of the posters was just installed on April 15.

Fleming admission, of course, is always free for faculty, staff and students, but museum staff point out that an open house is an opportunity to bring in family and friends from outside UVM before the Warhol show closes on June 8.

Grad Students Go for It

It's oral presentation and thesis season, and to commemorate this outpouring of intellectual energy, the Graduate College is sponsoring a research day on April 25 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Hip-Hop Band Headlines Second Spring Fest

The Roots, a seminal and critically acclaimed Philadelphia-based hip-hop/jazz ensemble, are the headliners of Spring Fest '03, a student-organized outdoor concert scheduled for April 26 on the Bailey/Howe green.

Also on the bill are Blackalicious, a Northern California duo who have collaborated with artists ranging from DJ Shadow to the Jurassic 5, who played a sold-out UVM show last fall. Rounding out the program are Burlington-based RAQ, a popular act melding a jam band instrumental sensibility with a funky groove.

Tickets for the show are \$15 for students, \$25 for others; they are available at the candy counter in the Billings Basement, at Pure Pop on Main Street in Burlington, or online at www.flynncenter.org.

In the event of rain, the show will move to Patrick Gymnasium.

Springfest, now in its second year, made a successful debut in 2002 with a bill led by Vida Blue, a band featuring Phish keyboardist Page McConnell. Student organizers said at the time that they hoped the show would be a "positive alternative" to 4/20 demonstrations, and the event proved popular enough to return the following year.

Supreme Court Expert Discusses Religion and Animal Sacrifice Decision

David O'Brien, the Leone Reeves and George W. Spicer professor of politics at the University of Virginia, will speak on April 25 at 3:30 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. His topic is, "Animal Sacrifice and Religious Freedom."

The constitutional law and Supreme Court expert will explore the court's 1993 decision in the "Church of the Lukumi Babalu Aye v. City of Hialeah." The church, which practiced a form of religion called Santeria, planned to establish a place of worship in the Florida city. Then an emergency meeting of the Hialeah city council passed a set of ordinances expressing "concerns" about religious practices inconsistent with public morals, peace, or safety, and also banning killing animals during rituals. The court's decision tossed out the rules on the grounds that they would stop the church's members from practicing their religion.

O'Brien is the author of many books, including *To Dream of Dreams*, *Judges on Judging* and *Constitutional Law and Politics*. His talk is part of the UVM Department of Political Science's Lyman J. Gould lecture series.

Students will explain their work starting at 10 a.m. in 427 Waterman, and starting at 8 a.m. in the Grace Coolidge Room. Posters in the building's lobby and the fourth floor hallway will identify the topics and locations of the various presentations.

theview

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*April 23 - April 29, 2003***Awards and Honors**

David Warshaw, chair and professor of molecular physiology and biophysics, was appointed to the Biophysical Society's membership committee at the organization's 47th annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in March. Founded in 1956, the society is a professional group established to encourage development and dissemination of knowledge in biophysics.

Dr. Stephen Leffler, associate professor of surgery, and Dr. Mark Levine, associate professor of medicine, were recently elected to membership in the UVM chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. The following members of the College of Medicine's Class of 2004 were also recently elected to Alpha Omega Alpha: **Susan Campbell, Carolyn Come, Kerry Sibert** and **Lavone Simmons**. The AOA faculty councillor for the UVM chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha is Dr. William Raszka, associate professor of pediatrics.

Students from the 2+2 Program in Dairy Farm Management (FARMS) took high honors at the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge on April 11-12 at Michigan State University. UVM upperclassmen earned third place, and Vermont Technical College second-year students took second place (the VTC students will spend their final two years at UVM as part of the program). The contest, organized and sponsored by over more than companies from the dairy industry, challenged students to analyze an actual farm business and its management records. **Wanda Emerich**, of New York's W.H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute, and **Don Maynard**, lecturer of animal sciences, coached UVM students **Jeff Sheldon, Sean Hardy, Keely McGarr, Rachel Pucetti** and **Liz Brunst**.

Michael Gurdon, professor of business administration, was re-elected as president of the Faculty Senate.

Publications and Presentations

Robert Richardson, extension assistant professor in the School of Natural Resources and director of the Vermont Tourism Data Center, spoke at the the first International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism in Djerba, Tunisia. He presented a methodology for measuring the impacts of climate change on tourism and local economies, along with the results from a study at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.

Barbara McIntosh, associate professor of business administration, was quoted in the April 6 issue of the *Wall Street Journal*. McIntosh discussed ways older adults can develop a new career, or enrich their current professions.

*April 16 - April 23, 2003***Awards and Honors**

Matthew Wilson, an assistant research professor of business administration with a joint appointment at the Gund Institute of Ecological Economics, was awarded an "early career" faculty award by the Vermont EPSCoR program to support Ph.D. student Shuang Liu in her research.

Joanna Reuter, a graduate student of geology, recently was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship Award. The highly competitive award offers recognition and three years of support for advanced study to approximately 900 outstanding graduate students.

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Playing With Paquito

UVM jazz musicians are looking forward to once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play on-stage with a Cuban great

By Lynda Majarian



Bright lights, bright horns: Alex Stewart is leading the UVM Jazz Ensemble to their biggest gig ever – a Flynn show with a Cuban master. (Photo: Sally McCay)

Just over a week before the biggest performance of their lives, Alex Stewart is teaching his students how to make an entrance. A musical entrance, that is.

"Come in stronger," he instructs the horn players. "It's like walking in a door. You don't sneak in – you come in with those horns in full splendor."

Stewart, an assistant professor of music, is rehearsing the 21-

member UVM Jazz Ensemble for a public performance with Cuban jazz musician Paquito D'Rivera. On Saturday, April 26, the ensemble will take the Flynn Theater MainStage with D'Rivera, his quintet and virtuoso trumpeter Diego Urcola for the first half of the show, returning to the stage for a grand finale.

It's only natural for the students to be a little nervous. They have forgone the pleasures of spending a rare warm Thursday afternoon outdoors, for instance, to rehearse in the cavernous Southwick ballroom.

"Let's face it," says junior Gayle Peryea, "none of us will play the Flynn again."

Learning by playing

But this is not the first brush with musical greatness for Peryea or senior Pam Simays, both music education majors and saxophonists. Last year, master trumpeter Clark Terry rehearsed and performed with the UVM Jazz Ensemble, one of several performing groups in the Department of Music.

"We played in Ira Allen Chapel, and it was free for students," says Simays. "This time the stakes are higher. People are paying to watch us."

"I've only played in basements and small recital halls before," admits Chloe Bouscaren, a first-year music minor. "This is much more formal." Her parents are driving up from Boston for Saturday's performance at the Flynn.

Steadying the nerves of many student musicians may be the fact that D'Rivera will lead them in a dress rehearsal April 25 at 7 p.m. in the Southwick ballroom. It will be their first, and only, chance to practice with the headliner before their concert at the Flynn.

"It's music minus one at this point," Stewart explains as the ensemble launches into the playfully sensual *Chan Chan*. "The empty spots are where Paquito will come in with the melody."

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D’Rivera was a child prodigy who played clarinet and saxophone with the Cuban National Symphony Orchestra at a very early age. He is a founding member of the *Orquesta Cubana de Musica Moderna* and co-director of the iconoclastic *Irakere*, whose synthesis of jazz, rock, classical and traditional Cuban music had never been heard before. The recipient of several Grammy Awards, in 1991 D’Rivera received a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to Latin music.

“Getting to play with Paquito D’Rivera is an absolutely incredible opportunity,” says sophomore Audrey Leduc, student program director of the Living and Learning Center’s jazz suite and an accomplished trumpet player.

“His music is intense, very high energy,” says first-year business major David Light, who has been playing saxophone since the fifth grade. Like Leduc, he is familiar with some of D’Rivera’s recordings.

Cuban connection

Other ensemble members were introduced to the lively, infectious rhythms of Cuban jazz more directly. Through Stewart’s “Music of Cuba” class, many visited Havana and Guantanamo for two weeks in January, where they took workshops with professional Cuban musicians, listened to local bands and experimented with unfamiliar rhythm instruments.

“The trip connected us to the folkloric music of Cuba as well as contemporary popular music,” says Chris Gribnau, who plays trumpet in the ensemble.

Alex Toth wasn’t on the Cuba trip, but witnessed its effects on Gribnau. “He feels Latin jazz more and more every day,” says Toth. “I think Cuba had a huge part in putting this music further into his soul.”

“I’ve always loved Latin music, but now [after Cuba] I am more aware and appreciative of its nuances,” says trumpeter Leduc, an environmental science major and amateur salsa dancer. “Half my life is music, and half is science,” she explains.

Although the ensemble is divided between students preparing for professional careers in music and those who play out of passion alone, all seem to share a high opinion of Stewart, whom they describe as “an amazing sax player.”

“He knows how to make the sound happen,” says Bouscaren.

Stewart, a saxophonist and woodwind player, has toured Europe and North America with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra and accompanied performers such as Bill Warfield, Dave Stryker and Ray Charles on recordings and/or concerts. Since 1999, his energies have focused on teaching jazz studies at UVM.

“Latin jazz is the one of most exciting things happening in music now, and the students love playing it,” says Stewart. One of his goals is to bring a world-class musician to campus to teach and perform with students every year.

But right now, he has to buoy up those horns.

The UVM Jazz Ensemble, sans guest artists, will give a free concert in Cook Commons Cafeteria at noon Thursday, April 24.

Tickets to the Paquito D’Rivera concert at the Flynn, April 26 at 8 p.m., are \$24, \$19 and \$14, available at the Flynn Ticket Office at 153 Main St., Burlington, by calling 863-5966, and online at www.flynncenter.org. Students may receive a \$5 discounts off the \$19 and \$24 tickets.

A Latin jazz master class with D’Rivera and the UVM Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble will be held at the Flynn Saturday, April 26, at 2 p.m. The class is full, but observers may attend for a \$7 fee at the door.

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Environmental Odyssey

By Jon Reidel



Carl Reidel, shown here in his 1970's office in the Bittersweet, helped establish UVM's Environmental Program, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary. *(File photo)*

UVM President Edward Andrews was troubled after reading a 1971 report calling the nation's environmental condition deplorable. He was bothered by the situation, and even more distressed by the apparent lack of an organized effort to improve it.

The document, by UVM researcher Len Wilson, had a dramatic enough effect on Andrews that he started a bold mission to create the first

university-wide environmental studies program in North America.

"I personally was concerned with how we [as a nation] were damaging the land, air and water," recalls Andrews. "People just didn't seem to care. It seemed to me that universities ought to be the ones leading the exploration of the solutions to environmental problems, and training students to go out and solve them."

With the Environmental Program celebrating 30 years of mounting success and respect with a week of festivities that began on Earth Day, Andrews' vision has matured. The program has graduated upwards of 2,000 majors and minors who are now in key environmental positions around the world.

"UVM's Environmental Studies Program and Earth Day have come of age together since their conception three decades ago..." says Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. "[The program] has helped make Vermont a nationally recognized incubator for good environmental science and for sound principles of environmental stewardship... I am enormously proud of them..."

Environmental resistance

Building a university-wide program didn't come easily for Andrews at the time the university was in the midst of a financial retrenchment. He also faced considerable opposition from several academic departments that were considering possible environmental majors.

"There was more than just a little resistance," Andrews says. "Deans don't want anything that's going to impose on their territory. That's when leadership has to stand firm. And if you do it right, you can win."

Andrews appointed a planning/search committee to find a director for his new program. The committee asked Carl Reidel, then at Williams College, to prepare a prospectus for a UVM program incorporating the findings of the Wilson report.

But finding a director to start a program in a fledgling field would prove difficult. It would also attract some colorful, albeit wildly inappropriate,

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applicants from a variety of fields, including one man who showed up at the Burlington International Airport dressed in a red-lined vampire cape.

"We had a lot of laughs on that committee," says John Ewing, who was on the search. "It was a very new field at the time, so we spent a lot of time talking about the type of person we wanted."

With the group struggling to find a suitable director, one of its members asked Vermont Gov. Phil Hoff in a Waterman hallway if he knew of any potential candidates. Hoff suggested Reidel, whom Andrews subsequently called and asked if he was "the person who wrote this program prospectus which no one we've interviewed so far has a clue how to implement."

"I was familiar with Carl's reputation and thought he possessed the qualities necessary to make the program a success," Hoff says. "He turned out to be the ideal choice."

Some departments viewed Reidel's hiring in 1972 as inimical to their efforts to create environmental majors. Aware that this could ignite intense inter-college competition, Andrews declared that the new program – with trustee endorsement – was to be university-wide, with the director having an independent budget and reporting directly to the president through the academic vice president.

While Andrews had the authority to establish the new academic/administrative unit, only the faculties of the various colleges could approve specific courses and a major or minor curriculum. Thus, Reidel's primary task became convincing the various academic units on campus to adopt the new major in environmental studies. The faculty signed on, and a landmark program began and continues to flourish today.

"We envisioned, and then built, the Environmental Program as a catalyst for innovation, challenging scholars in every discipline to become engaged in the quest to understand and resolve environmental problems," says Reidel, who retired from UVM in 2000. "It's exciting now to hear President Fogel talk of UVM as 'the environmental university in the 21st Century.'"

Building the perfect beast

The program's early staff, many still with the university today, provided the foundation for growth. Tom Hudspeth, now a revered professor of environmental studies, signed on in 1972 as assistant to the director. Hudspeth proved to be a critical addition and key to the program's mission of bringing students and the community together to solve the state's environmental problems.

"That was an exciting time," says Hudspeth, who received a Kidder faculty award in 2002. "Carl was the politician. He knew how to schmooze with the various faculty politicos to make things happen. I worked engaging the community and building relationships with various environmental groups, which later netted internships and jobs for students. A lot of students were disenchanted with their majors because they were so divorced from the real world. We insisted they participate in the community by doing various environmentally-related projects."

When the program moved into the Bittersweet building in 1973, it included Reidel, administrative assistant Janette Brown, Hudspeth, and Assistant Director Phillip Wagner, a professor of geology.

Hudspeth and Jean Flack (now Richardson) were the first full-time faculty with primary assignments in the program. Associate Director Mark Lapping, Professors Leslie King and Ian Worley (the program's current director), and adjunct faculty Justin Brande and Bill Eddy were also crucial to the unit's early success.

Over the years, the program went from modest growth in the 1970s to a major influx of students in the mid-80s. Despite an enrollment increase of 400 percent between 1988 to 1992, the program received an increase in budgetary support and faculty of just 25 percent, which included the hiring of Stephanie Kaza, who is a founder of the University Environmental Council, which she still chairs.

Five new faculty members have been added in recent years. The hiring of Hector Saez, Cecilia Danks, Saleem Ali, Jon Erickson, and Adrian Ivakhiv has the program at full faculty for the first time in five years.

"We now have a full, wonderful array of new faculty to move us into the new century to continue our mission of the betterment of earth and all her inhabitants," Worley says.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Renewing Afghanistan

UVM entomologists win funding to assist in rebuilding a poor country's capacity to feed itself

By Kevin Foley



Pests have attacked Afghan wheat with devastating results. A new UVM project hopes to help farmers like this one raise healthier, larger crops. (Photo: S. Blake/ICARDA)

In Afghanistan, a country ravaged by drought and war and struggling to feed its people, the sunn pest brings no light, only more darkness.

The insect, which resembles a stink bug, lurks on the fringes of wheat fields. When it feeds, it razes the plants, destroying anywhere from half to nearly all of the crop. The bug's piercing, sucking mouthparts drip with foul saliva containing enzymes that

ruin the grain's flavor and poison the wheat's gluten, the precious protein that lets bread rise.

The sunn pest brings devastation to a country that can ill afford more of it, which is why the UVM Entomology Research Laboratory aggressively pursued funding to help fight it in a highly competitive grant process. In January, the group found out that they had won a \$200,000, eight-month grant administered by the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas.

"Foreign governments have given Afghanistan millions of dollars to buy wheat seed," says entomologist Margaret Skinner, one of the project's leaders. "You can give farmers all the wheat seed in the world, but if you don't manage the sunn pest, there isn't going to be a crop to harvest."

Pursuing the pest

Vermont scientists will assist in the attack on the bug on three primary fronts: They will conduct a workshop in Kabul with Afghan extension agents to explain the pest's basic life cycle, biology and management. They will also offer extensive training at an international research center in Aleppo, Syria, to help scientists from the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and Kabul University set up an integrated pest management laboratory targeted at the bug. Finally, the group will translate technical manuals about the pest into Dari and Pashto so that Afghan officials can distribute the texts to farmers.

"We feel strongly that we can help," says Bruce Parker, professor of plant and soil science and the lab's project leader. "We can help manage the insect using control methods other than chemicals."

Bill Reid, a UVM laboratory technician, will travel to Syria within the next month to begin work with Afghan and other colleagues to establish the Kabul lab, which will develop biological methods (such as insect-killing fungi, a subject of the group's ongoing sunn pest-related work) to attack the pest. Parker and Skinner will visit Kabul for the workshop in August, part of a swing that will take them to meetings and ongoing research sites in Iran, Syria and Turkey.

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Playing With Paquito

Just over a week before the biggest performance of their lives, Alex Stewart is teaching his students how to make an entrance. A musical entrance, that is. "Come in stronger," he instructs the horn players. "It's like walking in a door. You don't sneak in."

Environmental Odyssey

UVM President Edward Andrews was troubled after reading a 1971 report calling the nation's environmental condition deplorable. He was bothered by the situation, and even more distressed by the apparent lack of an organized effort to improve it.

INTERview: Dr. David Fassler

Does news coverage of disturbing events harm young children? How can parents recognize and cope with the signs of trauma in their children? Dr. David Fassler, a nationally recognized expert, offers insights into these and other topics.

If the first phase of the project goes well, Parker hopes the group can secure additional funding for a second phase of more involved work in Afghanistan. The effort, he says, is crucial: Wheat and barley are staples in Afghanistan, though already economically marginal for farmers, and sunn pest infestations have had devastating effects. Parker believes that the group is "well positioned" to get an award for another phase, because of experience with the insect and years of successful collaboration with ICARDA.

"We hope that insect-killing fungi will have the potential to manage the problem," says Skinner. "The nice thing about getting into a country early that doesn't have a tradition of using chemical pesticides is that you have a window to explore other techniques."

The group's expertise with fungi and other natural enemies to the sunn pest, which is found predominantly in the Middle East and Central Asia, grew gradually out of work on the tarnished plant bug, a scourge of Vermont farmers. The tarnished bug has a life pattern that resembles that of the sunn pest, so Skinner thinks the circle of the research will eventually close.

"I believe that what we learn from working with the sunn pest will bear fruit with the tarnished plant bug, and our work with Afghan farmers will improve our work with farmers here," she says.

Borderless bounty

Conversations with Skinner and Parker about the project contain many of the themes to be expected from entrepreneurial, primarily grant-funded researchers. But talk of the lab's growing prominence in the Middle East, long list of publications and innovations in biological controls turns repeatedly to more personal themes.

Both Parker and Skinner have spent time in the region for decades, developing a personal connection with the land and people and a fierce desire to help them, to try, in Skinner's words, "to give a little something back."

Parker agrees, explaining his thoughts this way. "We have a commitment to and a belief in international agriculture," he says. "We divorce government and politics from our work. We don't worry about borders. We worry about solutions."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

INTERview: Dr. David Fassler

Psychiatrist and childhood trauma expert Dr. David Fassler discusses the media and childhood trauma

By Jennifer Nachbur

These are traumatic times for everyone. But 'round-the-clock news coverage of the war and its aftermath – not to mention sniper shootings, kidnapping and global terrorism – may be particularly difficult for children who are exposed to upsetting images on a near-daily basis but have fewer resources for dealing with them.

Dr. David Fassler, an associate professor of psychiatry who is a nationally recognized expert in children's response to stress and trauma, has commented on this phenomenon and related topics in a number of national news stories. Reporters working on pieces ranging from children and the war to the Elizabeth Smart kidnapping case have drawn on Fassler for context and expertise.

Fassler received his medical degree from Yale. He is the author of *Help Me, I'm Sad: Recognizing, Treating and Preventing Childhood and Adolescent Depression*. Through his work as a trustee of the American Psychiatric Association and with the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, he has helped develop guidelines for parents and teachers on talking to children about a variety of stressful situations, such as the events of 9/11, the D.C. sniper shootings, the space shuttle tragedy and most recently, the war in Iraq.

the view: How did you get involved in the field of childhood trauma?

DAVID FASSLER: I first became interested in children's reactions to stressful situations as an undergraduate at Wesleyan, where I did research on reducing pre-operative anxiety. In medical school, I did my medical thesis on children's fear of needles and completed a family practice rotation working with the Rutland social services office.



What types of experiences result in emotional trauma for children?

All kinds of experiences can be emotionally stressful, difficult or traumatic for children. Some are obvious – such as physical or emotional abuse, exposure to violence, divorce, the death of a parent or coping with chronic illness – but many are less obvious, such as a parent's depression, teasing in

school or moving far away from familiar people and surroundings.

Can jarring television images of events like September 11 and the war in Iraq cause serious trauma in children?

Research clearly demonstrates that repeated exposure to violent, confusing or disturbing images has detrimental effects on the emotional well being of children and in particular, younger children. It's important for parents to monitor what their children watch on television and to even watch with their kids so they can offer explanations and answer questions.

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In war-ravaged Afghanistan, a country struggling to feed its people, the sunn pest brings only more darkness. A new UVM program is taking aim at the insect as part of an international effort to rebuild the country's agricultural system.

Which is more traumatic for a child – a single devastatingly traumatic experience or years of repeated abuse?

Both acute and chronic or repeated trauma are difficult and stressful experiences for children. How a particular child responds will depend, to some extent, on his or her stage of development, personality, coping skills and previous encounters. In my experience, chronic trauma often has more devastating, long-term effects on a child's self esteem. Both acute and chronic trauma can lead to symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder, which can include frequent or intrusive memories of the event; play in which some or all of the trauma is repeated over and over; upsetting and frightening dreams; acting or feeling like the experience is happening again; or developing repeated physical or emotional symptoms when reminded of the event.

What happens to a child who has been kidnapped, like Elizabeth Smart?

In general, children who have been abducted experience feelings of guilt, anger, fear, anxiety and confusion. Symptoms of post-traumatic stress and depression are also common. It's usually better to let them adjust and adapt at their own pace. Recovery takes time, and it's almost never complete. This kind of experience often has very long-lasting consequences.

What is the long-term effect of childhood trauma?

Severe or prolonged childhood trauma increases the risk of future psychiatric problems, including depression, anxiety disorders and substance abuse. It can also cause problems with self-esteem, school performance and peer interactions. Children who have experienced previous trauma are at greater emotional risk when confronted with future trauma.

The good news is that we can help most kids who have experienced trauma. However, there's no one approach or formula that works for all kids. Treatment needs to be comprehensive and individualized to the needs of the particular child.

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