

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

Musical Refuge



The New England Conservatory in Boston will be the next stop for graduating music student Viktorija Knezevic. (Photo: Andy Duback)

When music major Viktorija Knezevic selected a piece for her senior piano recital, Sergei Prokofiev was a natural choice. The Russian master is her favorite composer, and because of Knezevic's own personal experience with the harsh realities of war and displacement as a Bosnian refugee, he is an artist she is especially suited to understanding and interpreting.

[FULL STORY ►](#)

PREVIOUS ISSUE

[URECA! \(They Are Finding It\)](#)
[March Finds UVM in the National News](#)
[Holocaust Studies Symposium Examines the Arts Under Nazism](#)
[Reading Motherhood](#)
[Frances Carr Q+A](#)
[The Fleming Museum Opens Up](#)
[Mo Rocca Keeps Class of 2004 Laughing, Thinking](#)
[Math Grant Will Model Key Muscle Interaction](#)
[Week of Environmental Events Planned to Celebrate Earth Day](#)

Republican Revival

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Working for a Job

Curt Dwyer '03 doesn't know Adam Hergenrother, but he knows how the senior finance major is feeling right about now as he feverishly tries to find a job prior to graduation on May 23.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

April 28, 7 p.m.
Lecture: "Sustainable Development," with Gus Speth, founder of the World Resources Institute. Reception at 6:00 p.m. in Kalkin Hall Lobby, lecture in Campus Center Theater, Billings Student Center. Information: 656-3177

April 29, 12 p.m.
Discussion: "Women at Noon: March for Women's Lives Report," stories from a few UVM affiliates who attended a pro-choice rally in Washington on April 25. 34 S Williams St. Information: 656-4637

April 29, 3 p.m.
Memorial Service for Dr. Joseph Warshaw, Dean of the College of Medicine. Ira Allen Chapel.

May 1, 2:30 p.m. Tour the constructed wetlands at the Spear Street Farm (500 Spear) in South Burlington with Aleksandra Drizo. Registration requested: 656-0321

May 1, 4 p.m. Talk: Bobby Previte, a musician the *New York Times* called a "magnificent jazz drummer." Southwick Recital Hall, Redstone. Previte will perform at 8 p.m., tickets are \$16.

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

NEWS BRIEFS

University Department Wins Award for Building Recycling

Running the numbers on the latest phase of the University Heights deconstruction project yields some impressive (and cryptic) results: 7,400 square feet of vinyl siding, seven toilets, 1,524 two-by-fours, 22 exit signs.

UVM Architectural and Engineering Services is working with the Burlington-based non-profit ReCycle North to salvage useable materials from demolition work that is paving the way for construction of the new 800-bed University Heights Student Residential Learning Complex. More than 70 tons of materials with a fair-market value of nearly \$20,000 have been recovered so far.

ReCycle North recognized the success of the effort on April 22 by presenting their annual Karen Taylor Reuse Award to the department. The group said that their association with the University Heights project has helped their operations grow significantly.

Open Benefits Enrollment Moves to May

The time to act on benefits – health care, dental, disability and life insurance – is *now*, as the traditional open enrollment for benefits is moving from November to May. Information sessions are moving to a new location as well: Marsh Dining Hall in Living/Learning.

Benefits fair sessions are set for April 29 (from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and April 30 (from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.) in the new Living/Learning Center location. The event will include plan vendors and human resources staff to answer questions or make changes. Adjustments individuals make to their benefits in May will take effect July 1, 2004 and end June 30, 2005. **There will be no open enrollment in November, except for flexible spending plans, which will remain on a calendar-year schedule as other benefits move to a fiscal-year orientation.**

Planned changes to the university's Blue Cross health plan for non-union staff will affect out-of-pocket medical costs starting in July; one way to reduce the cost of health care is to open a medical flexible spending account, which lets you pay these bills with pre-tax dollars. Participants in plans undergoing change will have a one-time-only opportunity to change their 2004 flexible spending plans in May.

Benefits staff will conduct two information workshops on flexible spending accounts in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. They are

University Scholars For 2004-2005 Announced

The University Scholar Awards Program, which recognizes distinguished faculty members for sustained excellence in research and scholarly activities, has announced winners for the 2004-2005 academic year.

They are Richard Albertini, emeritus professor of microbiology and molecular genetics and research professor of medicine; Dwight Matthews, professor of medicine and chemistry; Beth Mintz, professor of sociology; and David Scrase, professor of German.

University scholars are selected by a panel of prominent faculty, based upon nominations submitted by their colleagues. A May 5 reception sponsored by the Graduate College will celebrate the awards. Additionally, each scholar will present a lecture during the next academic year. *the view* will profile each scholar before his or her public lecture.

Perkins Summer Science Programs Invite Applications

The Perkins Museum of Geology is hosting a variety of summer workshops for students, teachers and kids.

Science & Technology Governor's Institute (June 26 to July 3): "Understanding Where You Are: The Vermont Environment" is the focus of this one-week science Institute in which students experience first-hand the many facets of research. Using the University of Vermont campus as a base, the week begins with field studies of unique Vermont landscapes. Students integrate many environmental themes including soils, geology, botany, aquatic biology, hydrology, and water chemistry, and are part of integrative teams which address local environmental issues. Information and registration: www.giv.org

Environmental Science Day Camp (August 2-6): This program for grades 1-7 offers field excursions and walks that explore the natural world from an environmental perspective. Curriculum content may include botany, biology, geology, soils, hydrology, chemistry or other natural science themes. Hands-on activities and experimentation is tailored to separate age groups with breaks for lunch and recreation. Students work in small groups with approximately one teacher for every seven students. Registration information: geology.uvm.edu/museumwww/envisci

Lead Learner Program (June 26 to July 3): This program intended for Vermont high school science

scheduled for May 4 at 10:30 a.m. and May 18 at 10:30 a.m.

J. Michael Gower, vice president of finance and administration, plans to send a broadcast e-mail during the last week of April to affected individuals that will detail changes in the costs and provisions of the university health plan.

teachers pays them for participation in the Science & Technology Governor's Institute. Lead learners partake in all of the student activities and provide additional adult role-models for motivated young scientists. Orientation for the program takes place all day on May 27 and June 24. Applications and information: Christine.Massey@uvm.edu

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NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

EVENTS



Hot for Teitur: The singer-songwriter will play an acoustic show to celebrate the end of the UVMPM concert series's first year. (Photo: Adam Joseph)

Acoustic Party Celebrates Late-Night Success

UVMPM, the university's late-night student activity series, is celebrating its successful first year with a concert featuring acoustic singer-songwriter Teitur, a 25-year-old native of the Faeroe Islands on May 1 at 9:30 p.m. in North Lounge, Billings Student Center. The concert and refreshments are free to UVM affiliates.

The musician recently released his debut album, "Poetry & Aeroplanes," and recently toured with Rufus Wainwright. Teitur has also toured with John Mayer. UVM sophomore singer Kyla Graves will kick off the show.

Information: [bored](#)

Visiting Writer Pam Houston to Read

Pam Houston writes "the stories that might have emerged had an intelligent woman followed Hemingway around," according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Houston, author of the critically acclaimed collection of short stories, *Cowboys Are My Weakness*, will read from her forthcoming new novel, *Sighthound*, on May 3 at 5 p.m. in Billings Apse. The free, public event will be followed by a reception in Marsh Lounge. Preceding the reading, at 4 p.m., Houston will conduct an open class on the craft of writing fiction and nonfiction in Billings Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Lounge.

Houston is director of the creative writing program at University of California Davis. Her books include *Waltzing the Cat* and a collection of

Memorial Service for Medical Dean Joseph Warshaw Set For April 29

A celebration of the life of Dr. Joseph Warshaw, a pediatrician and dean of the College of Medicine who died on Dec. 29, 2003 of multiple myeloma, will take place at 3 p.m. on April 29 in Ira Allen Chapel.

The memorial service will feature Warshaw's friends, family, and colleagues, as well as university and political leaders including Sen. James Jeffords, Burlington Mayor Peter Clavelle, College of Medicine Dean John Evans and UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel. Dr. Lewis First, professor and chair of pediatrics, will preside over the ceremony.

A reception in Billings Student Center will follow the event.

At the request of the Warshaw family, the university has established a scholarship in memory of Joseph Warshaw to support M.D.-Ph.D. students in the College of Medicine. Warshaw formalized the program in 2001, and was a passionate advocate for the effort, which provides a training ground for students who have a strong commitment to creating new knowledge and putting it to work in the community. For information about the Joseph B. Warshaw Scholarship Fund, contact the medical development office at 656-4014.

[Click here](#) for Dean Warshaw's obituary.

Music Department to Present Diverse Concerts

The music department is presenting four concerts in late April and early May. All the events are free and open to the public.

The schedule is as follows:

- April 27, 7:30 p.m. The University Symphony Orchestra conducted by Michael Hopkins, assistant professor of music, will present "A Night in Russia," music of Tchaikovsky and Glazunov. Southwick Recital Hall, Redstone Campus.
- April 28, 7:30 p.m. The University Concert Band, conducted by affiliate artist Alan Parshley, will present "Classic American," a concert of music by some of the most influential composers of twentieth century in the United States. Southwick Recital Hall, Redstone Campus.
- May 3, 7:30 p.m. "From Broadway to Lincoln Center," staged performance of

essays called *A Little More About Me*. Her stories have been anthologized in *Best American Short Stories* and *Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards*. She also contributed to *Some of My Best Friends: Writings on Interracial Friendships*, a forthcoming book edited by Emily Bernard, assistant professor of English.

Information: 656-3056

Rosen Panel Probes Iraq's Future

Phebe Marr, author of *The Modern History of Iraq*, and Amatzia Baram, a professor at Haifa University, will discuss "The Future of Iraq: One Year After" on April 29 at 4 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building.

Marr is a former senior fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies of the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. and a scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. She will begin a fellowship at the United States Institute of Peace in the fall. She has testified on numerous occasions before Congressional committees on Iraqi issues, and has participated in the public debate on Iraq through articles, op-eds, and media appearances.

Baram is currently a senior fellow at the United States Institute of Peace and a professor of Middle Eastern history in Israel. He is the author of *Building Toward Crisis: Saddam Hussein's Strategy for Survival and Culture, History and Ideology in the Formation of Ba'thist Iraq*.

This panel will be presented by the Department of Political Science as part of the Mark L. Rosen Lecture Series.

music from operas and musical theater by Mozart, Sondheim, Handel and Jerome Kern and more. Southwick Recital Hall, Redstone Campus.

- May 9, 3:00 p.m. Four compositions by Michael Hopkins will be performed by Hopkins on the double bass with members of the Vermont Chamber Group: Sandor Shapiro, violin; Carolyn Lukancic, viola; Peter Brown, cello; and Robert Rachlin, piano. Southwick Recital Hall, Redstone Campus.

Information: 656-3040 or music@uvm.edu

Campus Health Group's Event Slams Tobacco

The UVM Center for Health and Wellbeing is taking on tobacco with a free concert and poetry slam on April 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Billings Campus Center Theatre. Leslie Nuchow is at the top of the concert bill, while award-winning local author and poet Geoff Hewitt will be featured at the poetry slam.

Nuchow, a singer and activist, was part of the Lilith Fair, an international tour of women artists who work to empower and uplift women. She has sung for Nelson Mandela and has been featured on "Good Morning America," MTV, CNN and "Dateline NBC."

This poetry slam will feature local poets performing their anti-tobacco work or poems that promote a tobacco-free lifestyle. The audience then judges their work based on the quality of the work and the drama of the performance. Slam organizers invite everyone to compete for the \$450 in prize money. Poets need to pre-register for the event.

For more information about the UVM Coalition Against Tobacco and to pre-register to compete in the poetry slam, call Natasha Thompson at 656-0505 or e-mail [Cheryl Diersch](mailto:Cheryl.Diersch@uvm.edu).

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NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

NOTABLES

*April 28, 2004***Awards and Honors**

Trina Magi, library assistant professor, won the Librarian of the Year Award from the Association of College and Research Libraries (New England chapter) for her outreach work concerning privacy issues posed by the USA-PATRIOT Act.

Animal Science students earned honors at the third annual North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge. UVM's team, which included juniors **Jesse Woods**, **Morgan Greenwood**, **Hannah Smart** and **Jason Fleury**, placed third among 25 teams competing at Penn State University. Junior **Sarah Messmer** was a member of an aggregate team that placed second. The students are members of the UVM/Vermont Technical College 2+2 program. The UVM/Vermont Technical Center team was coached by Kyle Thygeson of VTC and **Don Maynard** of UVM, assisted by UVM alumna Wanda Emerich.

Publications and Presentations

Elizabeth Greene, associate professor of animal science, was invited by United States Livestock Genetics, Inc. to give two presentations at the annual meeting of the British Morgan Horse Society in Chipping Warden, Oxfordshire, England. They were, "Morgan Growth Rates: Using the Past to Predict the Future," and "The Story Behind the Pain: Laminitis." Greene also presented two posters, "The Effect of Age of Dam on Birth Weight and Growth Rate of Thoroughbred Foals," and "Predicting Growth Rates and Mature Sizes in Morgan Horses" at the second European Workshop on Equine Nutrition in Dijon, France.

Cheryl Laskowski, assistant professor of nursing, was recently accepted into the 2004 Graduate End-of Life Nursing Consortium Training Program to be held in Pasadena, Calif., in June. In addition, she also recently had an abstract, "Differentiating Symptoms Related to Hepatitis C," accepted for presentation at the 2004 ACNP National Clinical Conference in Philadelphia in October.

*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 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.

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

Musical Refuge

By Tom Weaver



The New England Conservatory in Boston will be the next stop for graduating music student Viktorija Knezevic. (Photo: Andy Duback)

When music major Viktorija Knezevic selected a piece for her senior piano recital, Sergei Prokofiev was a natural choice. The Russian master is her favorite composer, and because of Knezevic's own personal experience with the harsh realities of war and displacement as a Bosnian refugee, he is an artist she is especially suited to understanding and interpreting.

"Prokofiev is both very mellow and gets very messy," Knezevic says. "He described the real life in Russia during a time of war. It is like what my family went through living in a place that was not our home, but we had to try to make it be our home. That's why I love his music."

Paul Orgel, an adjunct faculty member in UVM's Music Department, has worked extensively with Knezevic during her years at the university. Her graduation recital, Prokofiev's Piano Sonata No. 4 in C Minor, was an outstanding performance that Orgel calls the best he has ever heard at UVM. "Her piano playing is distinguished by intensity, technical polish, and increasingly, by color and variety of sound," Orgel says.

From Bosnia to Burlington

It has been a long journey for the Knezevic family to the proud moment of that recital and this spring's commencement ceremony, when Viktorija and her brother, Zeljko (a major in German and political science and the top player on the UVM tennis team) will both graduate. In 1991, Viktorija was 11 years old when she, Zeljko, and her parents traveled to Germany to visit their grandmother, who was ill. War broke out in Bosnia while the family was out of the country, and they were suddenly refugees. An unsettled eight-year existence in Germany followed, their stay regulated by a series of six-month visas.

In the midst of this difficult life, where she faced discrimination as a refugee and eastern European, music was a constant and a comfort for the young pianist. She continued the piano study she'd begun at age 6 and was on the verge of an important national competition when immigration matters forced the family's abrupt move to the United States. Another difficult period followed as Knezevic dealt with a second transition to a new country, new culture, and a sense of loss from missing the opportunity to compete in the much-anticipated German competition. "All of a sudden it was just gone," she says. "It was hard."

Even harder, the Knezevics lacked the money for a piano, not to mention the space in their small Old North End apartment. Life began to look up when Betsy Greene, a music teacher in the Burlington schools, welcomed Knezevic to play the piano at H.O. Wheeler Elementary. Workhorse public school pianos should all get such moments of glory, some Prokofiev to balance the years of "Chopsticks." Deeply impressed by what she heard, Greene quickly introduced

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Republican Revival

As he stood behind the podium at Ira Allen Chapel on April 19, preparing to introduce conservative author Dinesh D'Souza and surveying a house packed with supporters, demonstrators and students merely interested in a good political show, senior Sanjeev Yadav had a flash that the experience was what college is all about.

Working for a Job

Curt Dwyer '03 doesn't know Adam Hergenrother, but he knows how the senior finance major is feeling right about now as he feverishly tries to find a job prior to graduation on May 23.

Knezevic to her friend Paul Orgel.

To hear both student and teacher describe it, Knezevic's technical skills were strong when she began study with Orgel, but lacked for expression. "I think Viktorija has moved from a very mechanical and somewhat stiff approach to a more thoughtful, artistic way of looking at music," Orgel says.

For her part, Knezevic says she recently listened to a tape of a performance made near the end of her years in Germany. "It sounds like I'm too scared to give anything," she says and credits Orgel for helping her to improve in this critical way. "Paul tells me, 'You don't have to be scared. Give yourself. That is how you make music.' I am not afraid to be what I am, and that's a great feeling."

Hard work and support

But Orgel also counts himself among the loyal subscribers to the truism that making great music is 10 percent inspiration and 90 percent perspiration. From the day he met her, Knezevic knew the importance of long hours of focused practice. On a fairly typical recent day, Knezevic put in eight hours at her job at the Clarion Hotel followed by a 10:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. practice session in a tiny Southwick Building practice room. "Some people like to read for hours and hours, I like to practice," she says, shrugging.

That regimen figures to increase next fall when Knezevic plans to begin study at the New England Conservatory in Boston. Though performing and teaching piano are clear life goals, entering the conservatory was a difficult choice for Knezevic as she balanced taking on more tuition debt against the option of working to help her family.

"It is not an easy decision to make. I could stay here and help my parents and help them have a better life. Everything they've done has been for us, not for them," Knezevic says.

Her father, Zvonko, was a bookkeeper in Bosnia; her mother, Vlatka, an electrical engineer. Language and cultural barriers have made it difficult for both of them to work in their professions in the U.S., but they've put together multiple jobs to help support Viktorija and brother Zeljko, who is an honors student with plans for law school.

Zvonko Knezevic, who played bass in jazz bands in Bosnia, has been a steady source of encouragement for his daughter's musical aspirations, including the major step ahead. She'll join a talented class of students at the conservatory, but Viktorija Knezevic welcomes the stiff competition. Looking back on her earliest years in music, she recalls that her first motivation was earning the honor of playing last, the slot that went to the best musician in groups at recitals. Years and worlds removed from that beginning in Bosnia, the rewards are different but Knezevic's desire to excel remains the same.

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NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

Campus Republicans Speak(er) Up

By Kevin Foley



Sanjeev Yadav introduces speaker Dinesh D'Souza at an event sponsored by the Campus Republicans.

As he stood behind the podium at Ira Allen Chapel on April 19, preparing to introduce conservative author Dinesh D'Souza and surveying a house packed with supporters, demonstrators and students merely interested in a good political show, senior Sanjeev Yadav had a flash that the experience was what college is all about.

"The quality of speakers affects the kind of campus life we have. I talk with people at other schools where they attract famous speakers, and I want that for UVM," he says. "You want to listen and you want to learn and you want to see prominent speakers."

D'Souza's talk was sponsored by the College Republicans, arguably the university's largest and fastest growing political club, and certainly the one most successful at attracting speakers who fill halls. Yadav and several others revived the dormant group after 9/11 – in part because they wanted to broaden the discourse on campus. "There was a complete vacuum of speakers from the moderate-to-right side of the fence," he says. "September 11 was an impetus and wakeup call for a lot of us. That was a huge factor in restarting the club."

But the group's invitations have extended beyond campus-barnstorming provocateurs like D'Souza, whose views about race and affirmative action stirred protests before both his recent visit and his first campus appearance in 2003. They have also hosted William Kristol, editor of the *Weekly Standard*, defense analyst Kenneth Adelman, whose dinner with Dick Cheney figures in a prominent episode in Bob Woodward's recent book *Plan of Attack*, and Daniel Pipes, a neoconservative intellectual, writer and member of the presidentially appointed board of the U.S. Institute of Peace. The group pays honoraria from its \$15,000 annual allotment from the Student Government Association, and often leverages the contacts of outgoing advisor Robert Kaufman, a professor of political science.

Democratic groups have been active as well, attracting former Gore campaign manager Donna Brazile to campus, and providing dozens of volunteers to Howard Dean's presidential campaign. Students on every side of the political divide say that political activists of all stripes seem to be gaining traction on campus.

"There's kind of a liberal stereotype in Burlington and the university. Now that I'm here, I see that there's a wide spectrum of debate. It's a politically active campus – progressives, socialists, Democrats, Republicans, everything," says Greg Hencir, a first-year student in the Rubenstein school, Teddy Roosevelt admirer and treasurer of the Campus Republicans.

"We have a constructive dialogue," says senior Doug Campbell, president of the College Democrats.

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UVM reflects national trends

The rebirth and growth of the Campus Republicans at UVM is part of a national story. A 2003 poll measuring the political preferences of college students by the Institute of Politics at Harvard found that students, as a group, are highly independent – but of those who identified with a party, more were Republicans (31 percent) than Democrats (28 percent). According to the *National Review Online*, the College Republican National Committee has tripled its membership since 1999, to 1,150 chapters.

Beyond party affiliation, the Harvard poll indicates that college students are becoming increasingly engaged with political questions. Two-thirds believe that political involvement can have tangible results, up 17 percent from a similar question in the 2000 survey, while 60 percent anticipate being more politically active than their parents. More than eight out of 10 say they'll vote in the 2004 election.

Yadav and Hencir are already gearing up for the election. Yadav says the Campus Republicans tend to focus on sponsoring panels, speakers and discourse, but they've recently become more active in party electoral politics by setting up internship programs with Gov. Jim Douglas's office and the state Republican party. They also helped with advance teams preparing for Vice President Dick Cheney's visit to Burlington; the volunteer effort, Yadav says, let four club members spend "30 seconds with the vice president."

"Next year is going to be an interesting year on campus. With the presidential elections, we're expecting to pull in a lot of new members," Hencir says.

Yadav, who no longer holds a leadership position in the club, expects to graduate in another semester. As his academic career winds down, the former student trustee is spending more time talking with potential alumni and community supporters for a \$500,000 fund that he hopes will help attract national-caliber political speakers to campus in perpetuity. Hencir hopes he succeeds.

"The club is really about bringing great speakers to campus. The two speakers I've seen have attracted a really mixed crowd in terms of their views," says Hencir. "That's a positive for the university. We come here to share ideas."

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NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

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Working for a Job

By Jon Reidel



Members of the Wall Street Seminar stand with professor James Gatti prior to leaving on a trip to New York where students presented their assesment of a company to seasoned Wall Street analysts.

Curt Dwyer doesn't know Adam Hergenrother, but he knows how the senior finance major is feeling right about now as he feverishly tries to find a job prior to graduation on May 23. Last year at this time, Dwyer, a 2003 alumnus, was frantically trying to find work with little success. "I tried and tried, and had no luck at all. At times it was downright discouraging, sending out what seemed like hundreds of resumes and not even getting any response."

Both Dwyer and Hergenrother say that perseverance is the key to landing a job out of college, but add that depending on the state of the economy, some years are tougher than others. Based on recent surveys, including one by CareerBuilder.com, about 71 percent of hiring managers say they plan to hire new college graduates in 2004, compared to 65 percent in 2003.

The difference between the bleak job outlook facing 2003 graduates and the more optimistic economic forecast in front of this year's seniors is evident when talking to members of both classes. The differences in the respective job searches of Dwyer and Hergenrother is, in many ways, reflective of this change and illustrates the challenges facing college grads from last year, compared to 2004.

The long and short roads to success

After failing to land an accounting job by summer, Dwyer started bartending on Long Beach Island, NJ, where he'd spent summers working on a restaurant bus. He eventually landed a temporary position as a staff accountant for an insurance company through a temp agency. Numerous phone calls and resume mailings later, the temp position lead to a full time spot at a different company as a staff accountant. He now happily works for a CPA firm in Philadelphia.

Hergenrother has already had eight interviews in Boston and New York, resulting in at least one offer and likely more. "I definitely have more of an optimistic view this year. But it's been tough. I have worked very hard and used every single connection I had. I know a lot of students who still don't have jobs, but some of them are hoping something will just come along. But it just doesn't work that way. You have to be extremely diligent."

Although she took a much less circuitous route than Dwyer, Alexa Swainson '03, an engineering and business major, recalls "spinning a web of contacts" by feverishly networking over the phone in an attempt to land her current job as a business integration software sales specialist with IBM. She established herself immediately by posting the highest score in IBM's global sales school for new hires and has been a leading salesperson ever since.

Like many companies last year, IBM laid off some employees and hired very few new ones straight out of college. Swainson, who is involved in IBM's new

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When music major Viktorija Knezevic selected a piece for her senior piano recital, Sergei Prokofiev was a natural choice. The Russian master is her favorite composer, and because of Knezevic's own personal experience with the harsh realities of war and displacement as a Bosnian refugee, he is an artist she is especially suited to understanding and interpreting.

Republican Revival

As he stood behind the podium at Ira Allen Chapel on April 19, preparing to introduce conservative author Dinesh D'Souza and surveying a house packed with supporters, demonstrators and students merely interested in a good political show, senior Sanjeev Yadav had a flash that the experience was what college is all about.

hire program, says IBM intends to double its number of new college hires in '04.

"Obviously there are cycles in the economy, so it's really the luck of the draw," Swainson says. "It would have been nice to have graduated four years ago when some of the my friends were getting signing bonuses with incredible companies. But the market has been corrected and a lot of them lost their jobs. The economy made it challenging to find good jobs last year and it got frustrating at times. You just had to work a little harder. Some people want immediate gratification and think a great job should just fall in your lap, but that's not the way it is."

Strategies to enter, and survive, in the 'real world'

Each student has a slightly different story about landing a job, although most cite networking and being aggressive as essential to the process. UVM faculty and staff have played an increasingly proactive role in helping students make these critical connections.

"There are a lot of things happening that are aimed at helping students get jobs," says Jennifer Fath, career and professional development coordinator in the School of Business Administration. "Students have to take the initiative to take advantage of these services and to go after jobs."

Fath's job was created last year as part of a push by Rocki-Lee Dewitt, dean of the business school, to improve the career development aspect of the school. The new position was designed to provide career counseling, internships, present seminars and workshops, set up networking trips and maintain alumni and business community connections. Her services are available to students in all majors.

The Marketing Club and the Investment Club took separate networking trips to New York City this year to meet key alums. Fath held a career awareness night for the sophomore class attended by alumni, staff and employers. She also helps bring recruiters to campus. Professor James Gatti took a select number of students to New York as part of his [Wall Street Seminar](#) where students presented assessments of companies and stock to seasoned analysts.

Senior Oliver Mathews, who scored a job as a financial analyst at investment bank, Houlihan, Lokey, Howard & Zukin, credits Gatti for getting his resume in front a senior vice president at the firm, who is a UVM business alum. He also credited Gatti and others at UVM with helping him prepare for the interview.

"The interview lasted three hours and consisted of six, half-hour sessions, each with a different high-level employee..... four hours after my interview, the man who initially interviewed me in Vermont called me to extend a job offer. I credit my success to good preparation and to following the advice of all those wiser than me who counseled me on this matter."

Even tougher than landing the first job, a number of graduates say, is making the adjustment from college life to the working world.

James Keller '03, who also works for Houlihan, Lokey, Howard & Zukin, says "the hours are brutal," adding that the biggest thing he had to re-learn was attention to detail. "In school, if you finish something, you feel like it's done. In the real world, when you think you're done, it's only halfway there."

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