

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

[A Life in Museums](#)



Bittersweet farewell: Ann Porter is retiring from the Fleming Museum, where she has worked since graduate school. (Photo: Sally McCay)

When Ann Porter, director of the Fleming, decided to break her lifelong recreational addiction to museums, a melding of vocation and avocation that shaped her life and career for more than 25 years, she decided to turn in the unlikeliest possible direction.

[FULL STORY ►](#)

PREVIOUS ISSUE.....

[A Season of Winning Arguments](#)

[Town Meeting to Explore Corporate Control of Media](#)

[Fleming Museum Hosts Open House Weekend, Museum Sale](#)

[Teleconference: Improving Education for Disabled Students](#)

[Major Cancer Grant](#)

[Taking Stock of Census 2000](#)

[UVM to Guide California Preservation Project](#)

[Spike Speaks](#)

[Vermonters Value Wilderness](#)

[Minds and Legs](#)

Speed is of the essence on the last day of finals – even more so this year, when UVM cyclists are hitting books and pedals to simultaneously prepare for exams and Burlington's first national collegiate road cycling championships.

[Vermonters Poll](#)

Vermonters are wired to the Internet and worried about the economy, according to the 2002 Vermonters Poll.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

May 2 11 a.m.
Math Day Address:
"Cryptography: Using Mathematics to Tell Secrets," John Flynn.
104 Aiken.

May 10-11 Trustees' meetings. Places, committees, times: 656-7898.

May 14 7 p.m.
Baseball vs. Boston College, Centennial Field.

May 14 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Exhibit: Art Department Seniors, Colburn Gallery, Williams. Through May 18. Reception May 17, 5-7 p.m.

May 15 11:30 a.m.
Lecture: "Reflections on Stress and Human Spirituality," author Brian Seaward. Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

NEWS BRIEFS

**Baseball Bonanza**

The baseball Catamounts (20-13) have won six straight games, four in conference play, and 10 of their last 12. Under head coach Bill Currier, the team has won at least 20 games for the sixth consecutive season. This week the team swept a pair of double headers – against Brown and Binghamton. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Endowment Supports Bailey Collection

UVM alumna Consuelo Northrop Bailey (1899-1976) broke new ground for women in Vermont and the nation. She was the second woman east of the Mississippi to be elected state's attorney and the first in the nation to be elected lieutenant governor. In 1988, her sister Frederika Sargent donated Bailey's papers to UVM's Special Collections Department. Sargent now has established an endowment fund to preserve those papers, a gift of more than \$172,000.

Fredericka Northrup graduated from UVM in 1926 and Consuelo and their sister Mary in 1921. Frederika became a librarian, working for a time in the Billings library, while Consuelo earned a law degree and soon began practicing in Chittenden County. She became active in the Republican Party at the local, state and national levels. Her election as Chittenden County State's Attorney (1927-1930) was followed by a term in the state senate in 1931, two terms in the house of representatives (the second, in 1953, as speaker) and, finally, lieutenant governor in 1955. She chose not to attempt the next step, judging her chances of being elected governor of Vermont in the 1950s to be very slim. Nevertheless, Consuelo remained active in the Republican Party and was several times a delegate to the party's national conventions.

Shortly after receiving the 1988 gift, the Special Collections staff began organizing the 70-plus cartons of business, political and family papers. More material was added in later years, bringing the whole collection close to 100 cartons.

Students Grill Gubernatorial Candidates, Report on Web

Students in Richard Watts' class, ENVS 195: Politics and the Environment, have spent the spring semester researching and actively engaging in current environmental issues with candidates for governor and lieutenant governor of Vermont. The class has heard from Doug Racine, Anthony Pollina, Con Hogan, Peter Shumlin, Jim Douglas, Brian Dubie and Burlington Mayor Peter Clavelle.

During each session the students questioned and pressed the candidates on current environmental issues in such areas as transportation, energy and stormwater. In many cases, say the students, they were first to hear where the candidates stood on certain issues.

As a result of the course, the students have created a Web site, [Vermont Politics](#) to educate voters in Vermont on positions these candidates addressed during their presentations. The site also provides information on environmental issues facing the state and invites visitors to vote for their candidate on the site.

UVM Student in Debut of TV program

UVM junior Andy Duback is featured in the premier episode of *Art Express*, a new program airing on Mountain Lake PBS May 9, at 8 p.m.

Art Express showcases established musicians, actors, dancers and filmmakers of western Vermont, northern New York and Quebec. The May 9 episode features a segment that shows how young artists in Burlington hope art can help make the world a safer place. It chronicles Duback's efforts to organize an exhibit at the One Main Street gallery in Burlington for young photographers, painters and sculptors. Some of the proceeds from art sales went to the locally formed Landmine Elimination Foundation.

Mountain Lake will encore the program May 12 at 6:30 p.m., May 19 at 3 p.m. and May 29 at 10 p.m.

To provide feedback on the program, email artexpress@mountainlake.pbs.org

LGBTQA Services Confers Awards

LGBTQA Services held its third annual end-of-the-year reception on April 26 in Billings Student Center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning UVM community members and their

Approximately two-thirds, principally the family and political papers, have been arranged and described, but much work remains according to Jeff Marshall, library associate professor. "While parts are open and accessible through a traditional paper-finding aid, the entire collection, rich in Vermont social and political history, will be made more useful by putting the finding aid in our database of manuscript holdings," he said. "Beyond this, the endowment funding will allow us to create a Web site with selected full-text documents from the Northrop/Bailey Papers, supporting materials, and links to other resources."

Unused funds from the endowment, if any, will be transferred to the Winston Sargent Scholarship Fund, established by Frederika Sargent in memory of her husband, Dr. Winston Sargent, to benefit UVM medical students.

Study Alcove Memorializes Alumnus

Students have a new study alcove, thanks to a gift from UVM parents Christopher and Joan Hausmann. On April 17, the couple made a gift to the Political Science Department to honor their son, Jeffrey, who graduated in 1994 and died in a drowning accident that summer.

The gift of furnishings for a reading/study alcove called "Jeffrey's Lair," his parents said, reflects his love for UVM and Vermont. The study alcove is on the 5th floor of Old Mill.

allies.

The celebration provided opportunities to showcase the organization's accomplishments over the past year, honor graduating seniors and acknowledge the work of the faculty, staff, students and alumni who have provided leadership.

Awards, some in the form of rainbow stoles, included the Weinstock Service Award and honors for student and faculty leadership and student advocacy and stewardship. Certificates of appreciation were awarded to the teams who organized National Coming Out Week, Free to be GLBTA, the Ally Training Manual, LGBT Studies exploration and several other initiatives.

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

[The View Homepage](#) | [UVM Homepage](#)

[News Briefs](#) | [Events](#) | [Notables](#)

[Print This Issue](#) | [Print Past Issues](#) | [Feedback](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

EVENTS

**Dog Day Afternoon**

Working dogs, like this young Newfoundland, will congregate at the Champlain Valley Expo on May 4. For details, see the story below.

Dogs with Jobs

UVM's Working Dog Day, a celebration of working and sporting dogs, returns May 4 after a two-year hiatus. This year, the event will be held at the Champlain Valley Exposition Center in Essex Junction, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Featured demonstrations will include freestyle and long distance Frisbee, tracking, retrieving, agility, flyball and obedience. Also strutting their stuff will be police dogs, therapy dogs, seeing eye dogs and assistance dogs. Sled dog rides and carting dogs will be available for children throughout the day. Visitors' pets, however, must remain at home.

The day also focuses on the role of dogs in our society and owners' responsibility to ensure their wellbeing. Information about breeds will be available from rescue organizations, humane societies, kennel clubs and other dog-related organizations.

A shuttle running between the Patrick Gym and the Expo will be available for students 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Information, 656-2070 or visit: [Working Dog Day](#)
The day is free and will be held rain or shine. Food and beverages will be sold, although spectators are welcome to bring their own lunches. Free on-site parking will be available.

UVM Researchers Host Asthma Education Day

UVM's Asthma Clinical Research Center will hold an informational event on asthma – and its

Focus on Fuel Cell Car this Week

A car that's quiet, efficient, produces zero emissions and could eliminate the problems of battery technology is coming to UVM. The Ford Focus FCV, a direct hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicle will be on display May 2-3, 9-3 p.m. in front of Billings.

Faculty and students from Engineering and Mathematics, who are hosting the event, will be on hand 9-10 a.m. on May 2 to explain the technology and implications of the fuel cell. A representative of Ford also will be present to answer questions.

The Focus FCV uses a fuel cell that combines gaseous hydrogen fuel and oxygen from the air to create electricity to power the vehicle's electric-drive motor, producing only water as an emission. Ford plans to use hydrogen for its 2004 production vehicles.

Information, visit: [Think Technologies](#)

Vermont Research Annual Meeting Offers a Sense of Place

The Center for Research on Vermont, known for its rich trove of research-in-project seminars, designs its annual meeting in similar tradition. This event this year, on May 9, will include an expanded audience and feature alumnus and author Garret Keizer as keynoter.

In addition to the center's diverse membership – nearly 300 researchers working in a variety of fields, both at institutions and independently, who share a passion for Vermont research – and the general public, some 40 teachers will be invited to attend. These teachers will be participating in the July 1-12 Vermont Social Studies Summer Institute at UVM, which the Center is cosponsoring with the Regional Educational Television Network and the Vermont Alliance for the Social Studies.

Keizer, who received a master's degree in English in 1978, will speak on "Grown in Vermont: Understanding What We Mean By Place," at 7:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Theatre, Billings. Keizer, who lives in the Northeast Kingdom, taught English at Lake Region Union High School in Orleans from 1979 to 1996 and has been vicar of Christ Episcopal Church in Island Pond since 1983 and its priest since 1992. He is the author of *No Place But Here: A Teacher's Vocation in a Rural Community*; *A Dresser of Sycamore Trees: The Finding of a Ministry*; and *God of Beer*, a novel about young people in rural Vermont,

current research trial to test asthma medications – at the University Mall in South Burlington on May 11, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., in the JC Penney courtyard.

Activities will include free, two-minute breathing tests; asthma treatment mini-seminars; "Faces of Asthma," a slideshow featuring celebrities with asthma; access to asthma experts; and educational displays and literature.

See related view article: [Old Drug Holds New Promise](#)

recently published by HarperCollins. His new book, *The Enigma of Anger: Essays on a Sometimes Deadly Sin*, will be published this summer. His essays, "Why We Hate Teachers" and "Sound and Fury: The Politics of Noise," appeared in *Harper's* last year; the latter will be included this fall in Houghton Mifflin's *The Best Science and Nature Writing of 2001*.

Information: 656-4389 or crv@uvm.edu or visit [Center for Research on Vermont](#)

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

[The View Homepage](#) | [UVM Homepage](#)
[News Briefs](#) | [Events](#) | [Notables](#)

[Print This Issue](#) | [Print Past Issues](#) | [Feedback](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

NOTABLES

May 1-14

Awards and Honors

The UVM Women's Center has announced the recipients of 2002 grants from the Mary Jean Simpson Foundation. Simpson became UVM's third dean of women in 1937 and served the university for 17 years. Grants in her name are awarded annually to faculty, staff and students to conduct research beneficial to women. The awardees are: **Susan Holmberg**, research process analyst in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and **Jane Kolodinsky**, professor and chair of community development and applied economics, for "Empowering Women Through Financial Education and Services." Initially, female students and staff were provided with information and encouraged to use the financial services offered by the Vermont Development Credit Union, an organization serving low-income and under-served Vermonters. In Spring 2003, UVM affiliates who are new VDCU members will be interviewed to assess how the credit union's financial services impacted their financial status. Also receiving the awards: **Gail Rose**, research associate in the Health Behavior Research Center, and **Phyllis Bronstein**, professor of psychology, for "Evaluation of the UVM Faculty Mentoring Program." This project will evaluate the experiences of faculty who are part of the mentoring program. A pre-enrollment questionnaire has been administered to participating faculty. Next, Rose and Bronstein will administer post-questionnaire interviews. And, **Marilyn Lucas**, visiting assistant professor in the School of Business Administration, for "Vehicle Acquisition and Income for State Support Recipients in Vermont." This project will study how acquiring vehicles through Burlington's Good News Garage affects the income of primarily female state support recipients.

Sederick Rice, a graduate student in the cell and molecular biology program, was selected to present his dissertation research from an abstract submitted at the Biomedical Sciences Careers Project (BSCP) in Boston in March. This 2-day conference consisted of networking and mentoring for high school, undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate students. BSCP operates as a part of the Minority Faculty Development Program of Harvard University Medical School. He also was selected as a 2002 Minority Scholar in Cancer Research from the American Association for Cancer Research and was awarded a travel stipend to attend the AACR Meeting held in San Francisco in April. He presented a poster, "Comparative Analysis of Somatic Cell Mutant Frequencies in Children Prior to and During Antineoplastic Therapy." Rice also was selected to participate in the First Annual St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital National Graduate Student Symposium in Memphis May 9-12, where he will present his dissertation research, tour St. Jude's Research Hospital and engage with leading pediatric cancer research scientists.

Publications and Presentations

Jim Petersen, associate professor, and **John Crook**, research assistant professor, both of anthropology, recently presented a paper at an International Caribbean Archaeology Conference held in Leiden, Netherlands.

Rob Gordon, professor of anthropology, was the featured banquet speaker at the North Eastern Anthropological Association Meeting held in Bridgewater, Conn. He also presented a paper at Princeton University.

Caroline Beer, assistant professor of political science, had an article published in the *American Political Science Review*, Volume 96, Number 1: pp. 15-26, March 2002. The title of the article is "The Dictatorial Peace," co-authored with Mark Peceny and Shannon Sanchez-Terry. This is only the third time a member of the UVM Political Science Department has been published in the APSR, a highly regarded and very competitive publication. **Lokangaka Losambe**, associate professor of English, recently presented a paper on "Oludah Equiano and the Politics of Postcolonial Remembering" at the 28th annual conference of

the African Literature Association in San Diego.

Heather Hawkes, a junior in nutrition and food sciences, has designed a nutrition program to educate young people. Called "Food, Fun and Fitness," the program has been enthusiastically received by students at Edmunds Elementary School. Hawkes is teaching them how to cook and create nutritious meals, incorporate daily exercise and have fun doing both. A Volunteers in Action program participant, Hawkes was profiled by the *Burlington Free Press* as the "Volunteer of the Week" on April 23. She told the Free Press she plans to tour Europe and attend cooking and language school in France following her December graduation.

April 24-30

Awards and Honors

Robert Manning, professor of natural resources, received the 2002 Louis Twardzik Distinguished Alumni Award from Michigan State University on April 11. The award is named for a distinguished professor of park, recreation and tourism resources. It is presented to alumni who are "excellent in their professional endeavors, are respected nationally and have consistently moved the profession to new levels of success and recognition."

Mark Stoler, professor of history, has received the Distinguished Book Award of the Society for Military History for *Allies And Adversaries: The Joint Chiefs Of Staff, The Grand Alliance, And U.S. Strategies In World War II* (University of North Carolina Press, 2000). The award was presented on April 5 at the society's annual meeting in Madison, Wisc.

Paula Fives-Taylor, professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, received the International 2002 Research in Oral Biology Award, the highest honor given by the International Association for Dental Research.

Dr. **Barry Finette**, associate professor of pediatrics, received one of seven Clinical Scientist Awards in Translational Research for 2002 from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. The award, which provides \$750,000 over a period of five years, will assist Finette's research in the area of "Mechanisms of malignant transformation in humans." See full story at [Barry Finette](#)

Dr. **Diane Magrane**, associate dean for medical education, received a \$15,000 grant from the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation to support a project titled "Building Collaborative Bridges across Clinical Clerkships." The project is focused on the reconstruction of clinical clerkship education at the College of Medicine. This past February, the college rolled out the first component of its new Vermont Integrated Curriculum, a clinical hands-on orientation for medical students. Three years ago, Magrane received a \$300,000 Macy grant to help with the building of the new curriculum.

Senior **Dana Stromberg**, recent recipient of a Governor's Award for community service, also has won the Samuel Fishman Memorial Fund Scholarship, 2001, for outstanding community involvement and leadership and is a nominee for the Neighborhood Leadership Award, which is given to those who make Burlington a great place to live work and play.

Publications and Presentations

Garrison Nelson professor of political science, contributed a chapter titled "Sideshows and Strategic Separations: The Impact of Presidential Year Politics on Congressional Elections," to *Politics In an Era of Divided Government: Elections and Governance in the Second Clinton Administration*, edited by Harvey Schantz. (New York: Routledge, 2001), pp. 105-128. He also published, with Richard Hogarty, an article titled "Redistricting on Beacon Hill and Political Power on Capitol Hill: Ancient Legacies and Present-Day Perils," in the *New England Journal of Public Policy XVII* (Fall/Winter, 2001-2002), pp.91-104.

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

A Life in Museums

By Kevin Foley



Bittersweet farewell: Ann Porter is retiring from the Fleming Museum, where she has worked since graduate school. (Photo: Sally McCay)

When Ann Porter, director of the Fleming, decided to break her lifelong recreational addiction to museums, a melding of vocation and avocation that shaped her life and career for more than 25 years, she decided to turn in the unlikely direction.

Tractor pulls might make an interesting hobby, she thought. "I wanted the most different experience from going to museum possible," she

says.

And then reality intervened. During a country drive she followed a sign to a smoky, noisy tractor pull in Barton and bought a ticket. "I'm now back to museums," Porter says.

But not for long – at least not as a professional. Porter, who worked at the museum in various capacities since her grad student days in 1976, and who became permanent director in 1991, will retire on June 30. Plans for her interim and permanent replacement are not yet set.

Porter is proud of her and her colleagues' accomplishments at the museum: successfully completing an arduous accreditation drive, launching a digitization project that will create a database of the museum's 20,000 objects, improving galleries for the European and American permanent collections, forging better ties with community groups and schools, developing a new gallery for the museum's permanent collection of Native American artifacts.

"We built on the strengths of the museum – the diversity of its collections, its strong ties to the community, its connection with the art department," Porter says.

A Summer of Her Own

Porter's post-retirement agenda, she says, is the "usual." She plans to clean out her house – "There I lack a selective curatorial eye," she says – and garden. Travel will follow, perhaps with a trip to Bolivia in the fall to visit her primatologist daughter.

"I am looking forward to being at home in Vermont for an entire summer without going to work," she says.

But Porter allows that she will miss her days at the Fleming.

"It sounds corny, but museums have a magic pull," she says, recalling how a diorama in New York's Museum of Natural History compelled her attention as a child. "It's such a privilege to be able to work with original, beautiful objects.

Minds and Legs

Speed is of the essence on the last day of finals – even more so this year, when UVM cyclists are hitting books and pedals to simultaneously prepare for exams and Burlington's first national collegiate road cycling championships.

Vermont Poll

Vermonters are wired to the Internet and worried about the economy, according to the 2002 Vermont Poll.

It's a way of understanding people by seeing where they put their hands."

Parting with the day-to-day intimacy with those evocative objects, leaving the work of caring for them and understanding them and appreciating them, will be difficult for Porter. So will be parting ways with a staff she calls wonderful and energetic. Standing upstairs in the museum's galleries, looking at a fine Luba carving of a mother with child, one of her favorite objects in the museum, Porter shakes her head.

"I'll miss her, I'll miss this," she said, looking around. "But I can always visit."

Porter's Picks

the view pressed Ann Porter to name some of her favorite museums, which was something like asking a mother to go on record about her favorite child. She complied, somewhat reluctantly, offering this list – and thinking of more museums, more destinations, with each institution she named.

- **Crafts Museum**, New York. "It's small, and always has the most beautiful exhibits."
 - **Sir John Soane's Museum**, London. "A weird testament to a very particular sensibility. He was an architect and curator, and the exhibits have essentially stayed the same for 150 years."
 - **The Met**, New York. "It's so big and overwhelming, but..."
 - **Guimet**, Paris. Porter calls this collection of Buddhist artifacts and Asian art "fabulous."
-

Past Porter

The image below appeared in the *UVM Record* in 1991. When we asked photographer Sally McCay to take another shot of Ann Porter for this story, echoing the original pose, Porter suggested, "This time, you can show me lying at the bottom of the stairs to contrast with my sassy younger self." *the view* respectfully dissented with this curatorial decision.



NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

National Bike Race to Cap Exam Week

By Tom Weaver



It is about the bike: Benjamin Peters, Bill Lockwood, Kevin Bouchard-Hall, Jason Baer and John Van Vranken (from left to right) live in a two-wheel temple on Adsit Court in Burlington. (Photo: Sally McCay)

When it comes to answering an essay question or stuffing the contents of a dorm room into mom and dad's minivan, speed is of the essence on the last day of finals.

On Friday, May 10, the day's usual swiftness will accelerate to a new level – 30 miles per hour and better – as UVM hosts the 2002 Collegiate Road Cycling National Championships. About the time the last final exams are being surrendered, the races

will be getting started with the most spectator-friendly event, the criterium. A sense of drama, and perhaps sadism, seem to have guided the design of the .8 mile criterium loop, which descends Maple Street from Summit to Willard and climbs the aptly named Cliff Street over the same stretch. The riders figure to tackle the hill more than 30 times in the race.

For the University of Vermont riders competing over the championship weekend, some of whom have a good shot at grabbing a national title, the rigors of the bike race will pale next to the work that has gone into hosting this national event. Approximately 350 athletes are expected in Burlington for the three-day competition – the May 10 criterium; a 65-mile road race on May 11; and a May 12 team time trial on Burlington's North Connector. For details, visit: [Cycling Nationals](#)

Cycling Central

To get the story of the UVM Cycling team and the 2002 Collegiate Road Nationals, I accept an invitation from Ben Peters, a senior in elementary education and president of UVM Cycling, to visit the Adsit Court house he shares with four cycling comrades.

Peters welcomes me at the door looking stubbled and sleepy, a blue knit hat snug on his head. The décor inside is college-guy classic with a pervasive cycling motif. Italian mountain biker Paola Pezzo (think Marilyn Monroe with a prodigious aerobic capacity) is the pin-up of choice. Trophies, treated with the carelessness of those who have many, fill the mantle and spill over onto the floor.

There's another heap of hardware in the dining room, where one wall of shelves is filled with food, more properly "fuel" in this house, where 15 to 20 hours a week on a bike is common. The familiar ramen packets that have kept generations of students alive are stacked next to a tub of whey protein and boxes of energy bars. Jason Baer, cycling house resident and team coach, points out that there is no room in the refrigerator for beer because of the jugs of milk and orange juice. Skeptical, I check and have to shut my mouth. It's true, beer-free and nutritiously stocked by any standard.

Museum Life

When Ann Porter, director of the Fleming, decided to break her lifelong recreational addiction to museums, a melding of vocation and avocation that shaped her life and career for more than 25 years, she decided to turn in the unlikeliest possible direction.

Vermont Poll

Vermonters are wired to the Internet and worried about the economy, according to the 2002 Vermonter Poll.

It's clear that this house, home to five guys (and 25 bicycles at last count), is characterized by a serious approach to both the fun and hard work of competitive cycling. This is the hardcore epicenter, but these riders aren't alone – UVM Cycling is a co-ed club sport more than 90-members strong with a core of 30 racers traveling to weekend mountain bike races in the fall and to road races in the spring.

Project with a Purpose

Baer, a 2000 UVM graduate who balances graduate work in statistics with coaching the team and his own fledgling career as a professional cyclist, gets credit for initiating UVM's bid to host the national championships. A nod also goes to School of Business Administration lecturer Stewart Paterson. For Paterson's class, BSAD 340, Production and Operations Management, Baer crafted a 50-plus-page proposal making UVM's case as host school.

"I got an A and we got the national bid, so it worked," Baer says with a smile.

As the nationals race promoter, Baer has taken a lead role in the extensive planning required. Students have overseen everything from making arrangements with the host hotel to arranging for police to handle traffic control along the road race course that will climb two Green Mountain gaps, Appalachian and Middlebury.

UVM gained experience and a valuable track record as host school with last spring's Eastern Road Championships in Burlington. Asked how this year's effort compares to the easterns, Peters says, "It's huge." He notes that the eastern race had a \$6,000 budget to manage; the nationals, \$50,000.

Championship Chances

It figures that the riders in green and gold will have plenty on their mind next weekend beyond their own performances. Still, this UVM Cycling squad, which has built a reputation over the past several years as a perennial power in eastern road and mountain biking, stands a good chance to drop the gracious host thing long enough to move to the front of the pack.

"We've got a strong team this year and should definitely be able to make a mark on the races," says Peters. Sarah Uhl, 2001 Junior Sprint World Champion, (see related article: [Sarah Uhl](#)) will do well in the criterium, and we've got a strong team in the road race with Kevin Bouchard-Hall, Mike Cody, Dave Sachs, and myself. It'll definitely be a throwdown though. We're looking at a few of the western schools as well as Penn State to be our main competition."

With a chance to prove themselves on a national stage, UVM's current crop of cycling standouts may one day join recent Vermont graduates such as Jessica Phillips, Lawrence Perera or UVM graduate student Katheryn Curi, riders who have earned pro contracts or are competing for the U.S. national team.

I ask Baer and Peters if these cycling alums rely on day jobs to support themselves. Peters replies, "No. Their work is training and racing, riding their bikes every day." And both of them give me a look that tells me they've just described their personal vision of paradise.

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

[The View Homepage](#) | [UVM Homepage](#)
[News Briefs](#) | [Events](#) | [Notables](#) | [Feedback](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

State of the State

For 12 years, the Center for Rural Studies has measured responses to important and controversial issues

By Kevin Foley



Jane Kolodinsky, co-director of the Center for Rural Studies, says the Vermonter poll shows that the state's residents are "trendsetters."
(Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Vermonters are wired to the Internet and worried about the economy, according to the results of the 2002 Vermonter Poll conducted by the Center for Rural Studies.

This year's telephone survey, which 734 randomly selected residents from throughout the state responded to in February, asked questions on a diverse array of topics ranging from the most serious issues facing the state to

civic and volunteer involvement to genetically modified organisms.

The mix of questions is deliberately eclectic, designed both to provide data to non-profit agencies and researchers (getting a question on the Vermonter poll, says Fred Schmidt, associate professor of community development and applied economics, is a "guaranteed thesis.")

"The poll is a balancing act," says Jane Kolodinsky, professor of community development and applied economics. "We get requests from non-profit and government agencies, in conjunction with applied projects."

While some polls strive to provide a glimpse at a population's thoughts on the same essential questions over time, the Vermonter poll attempts to pin down thinking on some of a given year's most controversial issues. The topical focus means that the content of the poll shifts dramatically from year to year, though some areas stay the same.

Vermont's Most Serious Issue: Economy and Jobs

The poll's "easy opener" – that's survey talk for a warm-up question that establishes the telephone caller's bona fides as a non-telemarketer – asks respondents for the most pressing issues facing Vermont over the next 10 years.

The 2002 poll found that 22.5 percent rated "economy and jobs" as the most pressing issue, almost twice as many (11.6 percent) as in 2001. Other top issues of concern for Vermont residents this year were education (12.6 percent), sprawl and land use (9.7 percent), the environment (8.8 percent), taxes (7.9 percent) and health care (7.9 percent). For more detailed results, and additional analysis as it becomes available, consult the [Vermont Poll Results](#) page.

Wired and Ready

Another ongoing area of interest for the poll is computer ownership and Internet connectivity. This year, 79.2 percent of the residents polled said they

Museum Life

When Ann Porter, director of the Fleming, decided to break her lifelong recreational addiction to museums, a melding of vocation and avocation that shaped her life and career for more than 25 years, she decided to turn in the unlikely direction.

Minds and Legs

Speed is of the essence on the last day of finals – even more so this year, when UVM cyclists are hitting books and pedals to simultaneously prepare for exams and Burlington's first national collegiate road cycling championships.

had a computer. In 2001, the number was 75.8 percent, and in 2000 it was 68 percent.

More than 60 percent of this year's respondents said they had used the Web to make a purchase.

Awareness of Genetically Modified Organisms

Since 1994, the poll has asked respondents questions about genetic engineering and food. Then, the issue was the use of rBST to increase milk production, and whether producers had to label rBST milk. Now the hot issue is genetically modified food.

"Although Vermonters are seen by some as strange birds, we mirror the national population," Kolodinsky says. "Vermonters give insight into what the rest of the country might say in the future. We're finding now that other national polls are catching up to what Vermonters said about the genetically engineered foods issue three and four years ago. We're trendsetters."

Findings from this section of the 2002 poll include:

- 96 percent believed genetically modified food items should carry special labels (4 percent felt labels were unnecessary)
- A narrow majority (51 percent) said they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the amount of information available on GMOs. Twenty-six percent said they were satisfied or very satisfied.
- Poll respondents overwhelmingly (60.3 percent) said they would first look for information on GMOs on the Internet. Other popular informational sources were print media (16.1 percent), university sources (7.5 percent) and government agencies (2.8 percent.)
- The poll also asked respondents to rate the trustworthiness of various sources of information about GMOs. University researchers were viewed as being the most reliable sources, followed by government agencies, consumer advocacy groups, the Internet, the media and business sources.

Volunteerism and non-profit activities

Civic involvement, as measured by contributions of time and money, is another continuing area of interest for the poll. Analysis of this section is still underway, but some intriguing results are already in.

Almost 65 percent of those questioned volunteered at least some time during 2001. The median amount of time volunteered was 20 hours. The survey, which was conducted in February and March, asked how much of that time was related to Sept. 11. The median response was zero hours, but the mean (average) response was eight hours, suggesting that a small group of individuals volunteered large numbers of hours after the attacks.

The survey found that 46.6 percent of those questioned gave between \$1 and \$500 annually to charity. About eight percent didn't contribute at all, and 5.1 percent said they donated more than \$5,000. Nearly 18 percent of those questioned said they gave between \$1001 to \$3000.

Snapshot of a State

The poll is supported by the groups and agencies that use the data that it collects, but Schmidt and Kolodinsky are mindful of its public, academic mission. Vermont poll results are never proprietary, even when the questions are sponsored by outside groups. All survey findings are posted on the Center for Rural Studies Web site within six months.

"This is an applied survey – that's what we do here," says Kolodinsky. "But we go beyond that. If a graduate student or myself is working with a group, we try to meet the needs of the organization and of academics. Those are the best kinds of questions to include and the best kinds of connections to make with the community."

Related Sites:

- [Center for Rural Studies](#)