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[Field of Flags](#)



UVM students installed a "field of flags" on the UVM Green to commemorate Holocaust victims. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

The tragic calculus of the 2,400 small flags arranged on the UVM Green is this: Each one represents 5,000 souls taken by Hitler's Germany.

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[A Cultured Man](#) Paul Kindstedt's new book, he insists, is not really "his" new book.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

May 4, 7 p.m. Student-faculty debate: "Vermont should secede from the United States," with Frank Bryan, political science, and Alfred Snider, forensics. Royall Tyler Theatre.

May 4, 7 p.m. Film: UVM staff member Tom Connolly screens his first feature film, *Strangers in the Night*. Billings Campus Center Theater. Free and open to the public.

May 5, 7 p.m. Public stormwater discussion: UVM experts and citizens will talk about understanding and managing stormwater in their yards, neighborhoods and community. South Burlington City Hall. The event is part of UVM's [Redesigning American Neighborhoods](#) project.

May 12, 6 p.m. Discussion: "Asthma: State of the Art in the State of Vermont" with faculty of the Vermont Lung Center and the American Lung Association of Vermont. Carpenter Auditorium, Given Building. Information: 656-8928.

May 22, 9 a.m. Ceremony: The university's 201st Commencement will feature keynote speaker Ruth Simmons, president

[Students See a 'Green' Aiken](#)

[University to Hold Groundbreaking Ceremony for
New Student Center](#)

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of Brown University.
University Green.
Information: 656-
2005 or [UVM](#)
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NEWS BRIEFS

UVM Filmmaker to Screen First Feature Tonight

UVM staff member Tom Connelly is screening his first feature film, *Strangers in the Night*, on May 4 at 7 p.m. in Billings Campus Center Theater, a prospect that he doesn't mind admitting makes him nervous. The candor is fitting. Connelly's film production company's motto, after all, is "to make honest films."

"The film starts off in a very atmospheric mode," says Connelly, who works in a support role in Career Services. "There's about 30 minutes at the beginning of the film where there's a lot of dialogue, but when you're watching it, you feel there's a lot of unspoken tension, a lot of avoidance."

In an era of blockbusters, that slow unwinding isn't going to be to everyone's taste. But the story of three couples struggling with their relationships across the arc of one tumultuous night explores themes of alienation and disconnection, and its deliberate pacing echoes some of Connelly's cinematic inspirations: John Cassavetes, Jean-Luc Godard and Michelangelo Antonioni. The film is a long way from high-concept Hollywood, which suits Connelly, who went to film school at Long Island University's C. W. Post Campus, just fine. After all, going his own way was the *point* of launching into the daunting project of writing, directing, producing, editing and performing the soundtrack of his own film.

"I had written two screenplays beforehand that I tried to get read by agents, which was a really frustrating process. When digital started taking off with films coming out on digital that looked really good, I started thinking that I could probably do a feature on my own. When I started writing, I had it in my mind that I would shoot it, so I was writing it to be filmed and I decided not to follow any conventional formats," Connelly says.

With help from a coterie of friends, film-school classmates and a dedicated group of local actors, Connelly shot the drama on digital video last summer on a shoestring budget over four intense weekends. The director was pleased with the results, especially a few telling, carefully edited scenes of improvisation.

"I love how that happens, the way actors sort of take the shape of the character and these spontaneous moments occur," he says.

After shooting, Connelly spent months editing the film on a desktop computer with Adobe Premiere and is now in the process of submitting it to

Hilberg Named to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Raul Hilberg, professor emeritus of political science at the University of Vermont and a towering international figure in the discipline of Holocaust studies, was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on April 26. Membership in the academy, which was founded in 1780 by John Adams, James Bowdoin, John Hancock and other scholar-patriots, is one of the nation's most prestigious intellectual honors and is reserved for leading scientists, scholars, artists, business people and public leaders.

Hilberg, who retired from teaching at the university in 1991, was a young UVM professor when he published his 1961 landmark volume, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, a foundational piece of research that precisely documented the Holocaust and brought it "back to life" with a rigor and authenticity previously unseen. His honors and achievements are legion, including inspiring the university's flourishing Center for Holocaust Studies, which was established to celebrate and perpetuate his achievements.

"This great honor reinforces the considerable pride we take in the accomplishments of Professor Emeritus Hilberg, whose relentless scholarship established a foundation of knowledge for generations of Holocaust scholars to follow," said President Fogel. "Over the course of three decades here, Professor Hilberg excelled as a classroom teacher as well as a scholar, leaving an indelible impression on the 10,000 students who took his courses and his field of study."

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences named 196 new fellows and 17 new foreign honorary members to its ranks this year. Along with Hilberg, new members include Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist; Academy Award-winning actor and director Sidney Poitier; journalist Tom Brokaw; Google co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page; and architect, sculptor, and designer of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington, Maya Lin.

Hilberg is the fourth UVM faculty member recognized with membership in the academy. Bernd Heinrich, professor of emeritus of biology, was elected last year. Previously inducted were Susan Lowey, professor of molecular physiology and biophysics; and former Vermont Gov. Madeleine May Kunin, distinguished visiting professor of political science.

For more information on the academy, go to

festivals. As he waits to gauge the reaction to *Strangers in the Night*, this summer he'll shoot another feature, *80 Percent Inside*, with his production partner Paul Biagiotti.

[American Academy of Arts and Sciences.](#)

Tonight's screening of Strangers in the Night is free and open to the public.

UVM Scientist Helps Pin Down New Model of Mammal

C. William Kilpatrick, associate professor of biology, calls it a "rather remarkable discovery": A biodiversity researcher happened upon a strange rodent in a food market in Laos and sent a sample to the Natural History Museum of London. Another researcher, working independently, later followed suit.

After finding no trace of the animal in scientific literature, their suspicion was that the specimens represented something totally new. Painsstaking work in London and Kilpatrick's UVM laboratory analyzed the animal's bodily features and mitochondrial DNA and confirmed the hypothesis. The results of the study, a paper titled "Morphological and molecular investigations of a new family, genus and species of rodent," was recently published in the journal *Systematics and Biodiversity*.

"Right off the bat it was recognized as something unusual," Kilpatrick says. "So the question became, 'Just what is it?' "

To answer the question, Kilpatrick, who frequently works in Asia and is an expert in similar rodents, collaborated with paper lead author Paulina Jenkins of the British museum to investigate the animal at the molecular level. He completed partial sequences from two mitochondrial DNA genes, cytochrome b and 12S rRNA, that helped prove the species was new to science.

"To put this in perspective, the last new family of mammal was described in 1974, more than 30 years ago," says Kilpatrick. "Before that, something like 1905. So this was very exciting to be a part of."

Kilpatrick will present the paper in June and looks forward to hearing how his peers react to news of the revolutionary rodent.

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'Tuna', Bryan Square Off in Vermont Secession Debate

The topic of whether Vermont should secede from the United States will be debated on May 4 at 7 p.m. in the Royall Tyler Theatre. The debate is sponsored by the Lawrence Debate Union, UVM's internationally noted debate program, and the Speech and Debate Program at UVM. Admission is free.

The debate will feature two UVM faculty members debating on the opposite side of this topic, each debating with UVM undergraduate students as partners.

On the affirmative, in favor of secession, is Frank Bryan, noted UVM political science professor. Bryan recently published *Real Democracy*, a book that Bill Kauffman writing for the *American Conservative* described as Bryan's "magnum opus, the most searching and sympathetic book ever written about the town-meeting democracy of New England. The book is a veritable four-leaf clover of academia: a witty work of political science written from a defiantly rural populist point of view." Bryan will be debating with Julia Benjamin, a prize-winning UVM debater.

On the negative side, against secession, will be Alfred C. "Tuna" Snider, speech communication professor and director of UVM's internationally recognized debate program. Snider, who sees debate as a vehicle for social change, has been at UVM for over twenty-three years, during which time he has reinvigorated the Lawrence Debate Union and become an internationally known debate coach and expert. Snider will be debating with Ethan Nelson, a prize-winning UVM debater.

The debate is designed to last an hour and will include an opportunity for the audience to ask questions.

Information about the debate: Julia at 802-542-

UVM Will Host a Job Fair May 25

The university will host a job fair on May 25 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. in Billings Student Center. The event is free and open to anyone interested in staff employment.

Attendees will learn how to transfer to new jobs at UVM, identify specific current openings and enhance skills. An hour-long workshop, "Dynamic Resumes...Get the Job You Want," will start at 4:00 p.m. UVM recruiters will provide university employment information to attendees. Hiring supervisors from several campus departments will also be on hand.

UVM positions cover the full range of employment opportunities including trades, maintenance, office/program support, computing, laboratory, research, financial, administrative and professional areas. Several departments including University Training and Development, Center for Health and Wellbeing, Athletics, University Bookstore, and Affirmative Action/Diversity and Equity Unit will be present to describe the wealth of resources available to UVM staff. A description of the total compensation package and salary information will be available. Refreshments will be served at the event, and there will be a raffle for attendees.

Billings Student Center is located at 48 University Place. Free parking will be available behind Ira Allen Chapel, on University Place and at the visitor parking lot on College Street.

Information, workshop registration: 656-3494 or [UVM Employment Office](#)

Community Event on May 7 Celebrates Service

Here and in nine other cities, UVM alumni,

5899 or Alfred at 802-656-0097

Information about Royall Tyler Theatre: Molly at 802-656-0094

Lecture Promotes Asthma Awareness

The faculty of the Vermont Lung Center and the American Lung Association of Vermont are holding a discussion on "Asthma: State of the Art in the State of Vermont" on May 12 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Carpenter Auditorium, Given Building.

Dr. Charles Irvin will speak on "Second Hand Smoke and Asthma: What You Should Know," and Dr. Theodore Marcy will discuss "What Is Exercise-Induced Asthma, and What You Can Do About It."

The lecture is part of a series of informational events marking May as Asthma Awareness Month. Asthma, a disease that restricts airflow in the lung's bronchial tubes and often leaves victims gasping for breath, affects more than 40,000 adults and nearly 13,000 children in Vermont.

Information: 656-8928

students, staff and faculty will volunteer in their communities by participating in the first annual Catamounts Care UVM Service Week, a program designed to connect and reconnect university affiliates across the country while also providing them the opportunity to serve the communities in which they currently live.

The Burlington-area event, Green Up Day Vermont, is set for May 7. Volunteers, who are encouraged to bring a rake and wear boots, gloves and work clothes, will meet on the Green at 9 a.m. to register, receive a complimentary T-shirt, and enjoy coffee and a light breakfast. At 10 a.m., volunteers will head to work sites. The morning concludes with a 12 p.m. celebration at Lawrence Barnes School.

Information, registration: [Catamounts Care](#)

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Awards and Honors

Healthy Farms, Healthy Agriculture: Protecting the Health of Animal Agriculture, a 20-minute video that grew out of a UVM biosecurity project, will be recognized as a national winner for communications by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents at its meeting in July. The program highlighting key areas for dairy farms to focus on when developing animal biosecurity plans is the work of Extension Dairy Specialist **Julie Smith**. The effort was part of a biosecurity education project funded by USDA at the request of Sen. James Jeffords and built on Smith's previously published booklet distributed to Vermont farmers.

Dr. **Robert Johnson**, professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation, received a lifetime achievement award from the International Society for Safety in Skiing. Johnson was recognized for his major contributions in the area of ski injury and safety research, which has led to a 90 percent reduction in ski-related fractures over the last 30 years and has helped stabilize the rate of knee injuries over the past 10 years.

Kent Martin, a senior majoring in plant and soil science, was presented the Vermont Association of Professional Horticulturists achievement award on April 22. The award is presented to a student who shows great promise in the landscape horticulture field. Martin was also selected by the American Society for Horticulture Science, as Outstanding Undergraduate Horticulture Student for 2005. After a summer internship with the prestigious Bailey Nurseries in Yamhill, Oregon, Martin says he intends to launch his own nursery in Vermont.

Dr. **Christopher Morris**, associate professor of radiology, was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Radiology at a formal convocation ceremony on April 10 during the organization's 82nd annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Only 10 percent of American College of Radiology's 32,000 members are selected for fellowship. Nominees are considered based on their service to organized medicine; significant accomplishments in scientific or clinical research in the fields of radiology, radiation oncology, or medical physics; exemplary performance as a teacher; and their outstanding reputation among colleagues and the local community.

Dr. **Burton E. Sobel**, E. L. Amidon Professor and Chair of Medicine, was named president elect of the Council of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine at its annual meeting in April 2005. Founded in 1903, the SEBM is a not-for-profit scientific society formed to promote investigation in the biomedical sciences by encouraging and facilitating interchange of scientific information among disciplines. SEBM publishes the journal *Experimental Biology and Medicine*.

UVM's faculty union awarded its annual United Academics Jeffrey Brace Book Award for 2005-2006 to four students: **Samantha Robin**, a sophomore geology major; **Jillian Prentiss**, a sophomore social work major; **Elizabeth Greene**, a sophomore political science major; and **Kaoru Nakai**, a junior social work major. The students, who received \$500 scholarships, were recognized for having demonstrated an awareness of the power and privilege of education. The award is named after Jeffrey Brace, a black Vermonter, who was a slave, Revolutionary War veteran, farmer and memoirist.

April 27, 2005

Awards and Honors

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Field of Flags

By Kevin Foley

Article published May 04, 2005



UVM students installed a "field of flags" on the UVM Green to commemorate Holocaust victims.
(Photo: Bill DiLillo)

The tragic calculus of the 2,400 small colored flags arranged on the UVM Green is this: Each one represents 5,000 souls taken by Hitler's Germany.

Yellow is for the six million Jews, red for the 3.3 million Soviets, orange for the Poles, blue for the Gypsies. And still more colors in this ghastly rainbow, white for the disabled, green for Jehovah's Witnesses, pink for gays and lesbians — 12 million dead in all.

Junior Byron Murray, an organizer of the Holocaust remembrance project and a member of UVM Hillel, has spent years studying the Holocaust and the toll was familiar to him. But hefting the dense boxes of flags, a simple act that made the incomprehensible figures physical, was shocking all the same. "It really hit me picking up and opening those boxes and really looking at the flags and thinking that each one represents thousands of people," Murray recalls.

The goal of the effort, the idea for which the group borrowed from a similar memorial at Colorado State College, was to create a striking display that made passersby think about history — and the present. Murray firmly believes that the Holocaust is both a singular event and a manifestation of a historical pattern that persists today.

"I think it's important that we keep a vigil and we keep trying to grasp and understand what led to this, even though we can never really know," he says. "I want people to see this and not forget what happened — and what is happening. Darfur, for example."

Installing the field of flags, which will stay up through May 7, is only part of the group's extensive student-led effort to commemorate the Holocaust this week. They also arranged for Lani Silver, a prominent documentarian and oral historian who has interviewed 1,700 Holocaust survivors, to speak in a service on May 5 at 7 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. Student and community volunteers are reading names of Nazi victims in front of Bailey/Howe Library on May 4-5. A May 5 fundraiser barbecue and candle-lighting will link past with present, memorializing the past while supporting the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Project.

"This is the biggest project of this kind we've ever done, and the students have been amazing," says Susan Leff, the group's executive director. "They've led everything, raising thousands of dollars, making all the arrangements for posters and publicity, insisting on getting access to the Green..."

Making the memorial

On the blustery evening of May 3, about a dozen students gathered to



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Intercultural Connection

Senior social work major Meghan Manley has just arrived at an apartment in Winooski on a Sunday afternoon. As she walks towards the door members of an eight-person family who recently relocated there from a refugee camp in Somalia happily bustle to greet her.

A Cultured Man

Paul Kindstedt's new book, he insists, is not really "his" new book.

assemble the memorial. Using stakes, strings and an imprecise system of paces, they broke the flags out of the boxes and began arranging them along the green.

Fueled by pizza, the work proceeded gradually and somewhat improvisationally, flags going in and out of the ground as the volunteers worked to balance the triangle-shaped display. Hillel treasurer Adam Fox, a sophomore studying economics, organized the installation. Pausing in front of the completed third row, the plastic banners shivering in the wind, he explained why he got involved.

"This is not an extra-curricular project, it's about life and death and honoring the millions of people who died for being who I am," he says.

For more information about UVM Holocaust Remembrance week, see uvmhillel.org. The project was supported by many organizations and individuals on- and off-campus, including the UVM Women's Center, the Center for Cultural Pluralism, Holocaust Studies, the Department of Student Life and others.

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Intercultural Connection

By Jon Reidel

Article published May 04, 2005

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Yasmin Mohamed (left) likes senior Meghan Manley to take her shopping at Hannaford because the bread reminds her of Somalia. (Photo: Jon Reidel)

Senior social work major Meghan Manley has just arrived at an apartment in Winooski on a Sunday afternoon. As she walks towards the door members of an eight-person family who recently relocated there from a refuge camp in Somalia happily bustle to greet her.

Manley, who visits the family bi-weekly as part of an independent study under Susan Comerford, assistant professor of social work, has developed a close relationship with them,

especially 18-year-old Yasmin. They are only a few years separated in age, yet worlds apart. Even so, they connect, and today that's important because there's a problem.

The family, which is part of the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program, usually receives about \$600 a month for food, but they seem to have only gotten \$200 this month. Yasmin, who speaks the best English of the family, tries to explain the problem to Manley. In the meantime, Yasmin's father, Tussan, returns home from his job at the Shelburne Museum. He pulls out a phone bill and tries to explain to Manley through gestures and broken words that something is wrong with it.

Despite his concern with the bill and making ends meet, Tussan, who speaks fluent Italian, has faced far worse situations. "My three youngest children were born in refugee camps. It was very hard there. It's no good for anyone," he says. "Sometimes we would try to go get wood in the jungle and they would shoot at us. I dreamt every day of coming here."

Communicating without words

Manley and Sarah Forrest are the first students to work with Somali Bantu refugees through a service-learning-based independent study that Comerford hopes becomes a regular component of the social work curriculum. Both students submit journal entries to Comerford, who also meets with the students to discuss their experiences. There's no gathering of quantitative data, just a lot of time spent with people of another culture.

"I didn't want to read another book, so I chose this option," Manley says. "I wanted to know how to communicate with someone I couldn't understand."

Having worked for 14 years in Asia with refugees, Comerford has no doubt that the students will never forget the experience, which she says has numerous benefits for the students and refugees.

"As social work majors in one of the more homogeneous states in the nation, it's important for students to gain experience with people of color and who have very different traditions," Comerford says. "I think it's particularly

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important for students to be exposed to the early days (of their arrival) when there are a lot of challenges, so they can see their resiliency. It's a wonderful match because the refugees are in need of friends when they arrive."

And indeed, Manley was there to greet the family when they arrived in Burlington in February. They had never seen snow or experienced temperatures so cold. She recalls bundling up the youngest child in a jacket at the airport because he was cold and didn't have warm clothing. She knew right away that language would be a huge obstacle, but she eventually found ways to communicate without an interpreter.

"You figure out what works and what doesn't," she says. "This is something I'll have to do with families from other cultures in the future as a social worker."

Making a connection

Manley and Forrest say they never know what to expect when they show up to meet their respective families. Sometimes Manley helps the six children, who range in age from five to 18, do their homework, but most of the time she goes grocery shopping with Yasmin. Sometimes they just banter: The family teases Manley about not yet being married with children, which is common for women in their early 20's in Somalia.

On the recent Sunday visit, Manley, Yasmin and her mother are shopping at Hannaford because Yasmin, a student at Winooski High School, likes the bread there. They buy about 15 tomatoes because Yasmin likes to make her own pasta sauce, among other fruit and vegetables. "When we first came to a grocery store they were like, 'wow, look at all this.' Now they're on a mission and know exactly what they want," Manley says.

Across town in Burlington's North End, Forrest is becoming equally close to another family from Somalia. She teaches them English, helps them shop and assists with any unexpected crises that arise. She recently went to work on English with the family, for example, but wound up taking one of the sons to the emergency room. She says they've become close and have been able to communicate on such a deep level without speaking the same language.

Once, when Forrest was about to leave, one of the children, a boy named Osman, said something to her about a 'mother' that she couldn't understand. The child explained himself to his 14-year-old nephew, who then translated it to Forrest. She wrote the following journal entry about the experience:

"'You are like a mother because when you first are born, your mother teaches you everything, and you have been like a mother to us,' explained Osman. 'I thought I was going to cry. I had doubted that I had an impact on their lives or that I was making a connection with this family. At that moment, I knew that I was making a difference and that I was building a relationship with people I thought I would have nothing in common with. It was a moment I will never forget.'"

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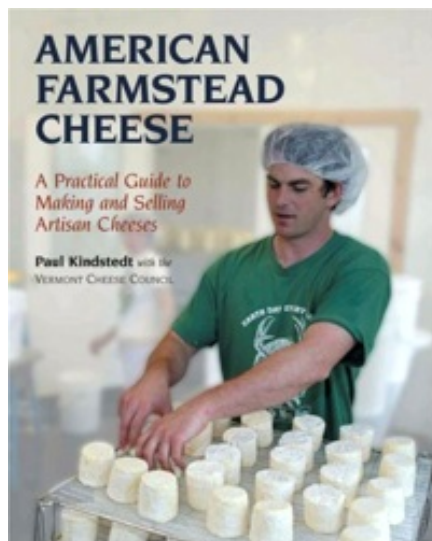
By Kevin Foley

Article published May 04, 2005

Paul Kindstedt's new book, he insists, is not really "his" new book.

The professor of nutrition and food science, whose encyclopedic knowledge of cheese microbiology has made him a key resource for Vermont's thriving grassroots cheese industry, sees *American Farmstead Cheese: A Practical Guide to Making and Selling Artisan Cheeses* as a way of giving something back to the area farmers who have sustained him with stories, funding, interesting research projects and — yes — sublime specimens of the English-style aged hard cheeses he adores.

So he is sharing author's credit on the book, which will be published this month by Chelsea Green, and will give any royalties to the Vermont Cheese Council, a trade organization aimed at supporting the state's cheese producers. The group's members contributed three chapters, covering the real-world issues that Kindstedt says that he as an academic doesn't know "beans" about.



"There are tons of cheese books — cheese chemistry, cheese technology — but they are almost all written for industrial cheesemakers or academics. There are a few cookbooks for farmstead folks, but nothing designed for artisanal cheesemakers that provides tools and knowledge written in a way that they can actually use and understand," Kindstedt says. "The objective was to take the complex science that I deal with in my research and put it in a format they can actually use by reducing it to what's really crucial."

The moment for the project is ripe.

Artisanal cheese in general, and the proliferation of high-end Vermont cheeses (the state has more

cheesemakers per-capita than any other) in specific, has commanded considerable media attention, including a recent *New York Times* feature that suggested that cheese is the new wine and shared anecdotes of professionals dropping out of careers with dreams of producing sublime goat cheese.

Affinity for fromage

All of this might create a picture of Kindstedt as a slow food romantic bewitched by traditional agriculture, and there's some truth to that. But this convenient caricature neglects another facet of his professional life, one on display on a bulletin board next to his office door. He has spent much of his career deconstructing cheese, often mozzarella, for industry, honing the complex techniques necessary to get consistent product out of factories that might produce a million pounds of curd a day.

The paper titles, dozens of them, tell the story: There's Kindstedt on commercial mozzarella cultures, on whiteness, on the all-important issue of "chewiness." The farmstead cheese guru's roots, it turns out, are in the factory. Mostly — his graduate mentor at Cornell, Frank Kosikowski, founded the American Cheese Society, an artisanal group, in 1983 and quickly pressed an unwilling Kindstedt into an organizing role.



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Intercultural Connection

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"I thought they were nuts, that these people were hippies. I was a third-year Ph.D. student, and my idea was to take cheese and deconstruct it and recreate it in my own image, to use science to give industry the tools to tailor that cheese to a target audience, making it more uniform, standardized, everything that the American Cheese Society is against," he says.

Kindstedt figured he would continue with the group until Kosikowski signed off on his dissertation. Then he returned to UVM as an assistant professor (Kindstedt is an undergraduate alumnus, transferring here from the University of Chicago to study dairy technology largely because the program offered him, a Massachusetts native, in-state tuition through an exchange program) and immediately found himself "sucked into" a farmstead project.

After that, he says, his contradictory career accelerated, as he established an industry-based research program while simultaneously doing plenty of consulting for the tiny cheesemakers sprouting in Vermont. "They'd have problems from time to time and come to me, the cheese guy at UVM. I couldn't turn them away, and so I start gradually getting to know these folks and begin admiring what they're doing," he says.

Kindstedt jokes that the split, which continues today as he pursues large-scale cheddar research, was "schizophrenic," but in writing the book and as a leader of UVM's Vermont Institute of Artisan Cheese, a public-private research and education partnership, he found that his widely separated professional experiences put him in a rare and important place.

"It turns out that the dichotomy, straddling both worlds, has become really critical at this juncture because of regulatory issues. There's this antagonism between large and small cheesemakers on either side of the spectrum — they don't like each other, they don't trust each other," he says. "But you really need to have a bridge between them because of federal policy... if artisans are going to survive, the policies need to work for them, but until recently, it's been the industrial end that has the lobbyists and credibility to influence the process. So you need folks, academics, to bridge the gap."

Cheese culture

Food, says Kindstedt, is memory. It's culture. It's symbolic. It can preserve the land — and families.

He has believed this since he spent childhood reading a neighbor's handed-down issues of *Vermont Life* or mourned the nearby dairy farm that became a housing tract. Kindstedt, it seems, is a scientist with the sensibility of an historian — his adolescent pleasure reading was the 11 volumes of Will and Ariel Durant's *The Story of Civilization*, and the four months of sabbatical time he spent researching the history and culture of farmstead for the book, he says, was "a joy, like a vacation."

Asked about that history, of the 18th century rise, 19th century fall, and the late 20th century rebirth of farmstead cheese, Kindstedt launches in with brio of a born teacher, riffing through a 15-minute tour of cheese-related agriculture, industry, history, economics and microbiology. Much of this material, he says, came from the book research, and he's deploying it in a new class, "Cheese and Culture."

Up next: Perhaps collaboration with an anthropologist to investigate early cheesemaking artifacts, which Kindstedt says are often misunderstood in the literature. Or maybe something on the policy side someday, since he passionately believes that small cheesemakers and farmers need creative public support. In the meantime, though, there's sharing the book: a meticulous collection of information that will give artisans tools to help them hone their art and work their land.

"They have given me so much. They led the way and made Vermont famous for cheese beyond cheddar. In some academic circles I get credit for that, credit that I don't deserve. I was there to give a little bit of help, but these people flourished, and they would have flourished without me. I helped them out bit by bit but... I have this stature that I honestly don't deserve... That's the idea of giving them the book."