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Perennial Favorite



Leonard Perry, Extension professor and early Webmaster, with some of his beloved perennials. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

In 1995, while most of us were just grappling with the definitions of "WWW," "URL" and "HTML," Leonard Perry was growing his Web site as fast as the hops vines he researched at UVM.

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Honorary Degrees

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Saving the Barn

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

May 17 Noon Baseball vs. Northeastern, an America East game, Centennial Field. Second game on May 18, noon.

May 17 4 p.m. Graduate Hooding Ceremony, Patrick Gym. 656-3160

May 18 9 a.m. Commencement Recital, Class of '02 performers, Recital Hall, Redstone. Reception follows. 656-3040

May 19 9 a.m. Commencement ceremony, Centennial Field. Complete day's schedule at: [Commencement](#)

May 22 All Day The Vermont Honors Competition for Excellence in Writing, hosted by the College of Education and Social Services for finalists in grades 9-12. Winners will be announced that evening.

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Top Student-Athletes Honored

The Athletic Department honored 10 outstanding student-athletes at the annual senior letter winners' dinner last week. The top four awards – the Semans Trophy, the Sunderland Memorial Trophy, the Wasson Athletic Prize and the J. Edward Donnelly Award – went to four male and four female recipients. In addition, two senior student-athletes were honored with the Director's Recognition Awards. See a complete report on each winner at this [Athletic Awards](#) website.

- J. Edward Donnelly Award for the top athletes: Catamount men's basketball co-captain Trevor Gaines of Farmington Hills, Mich.; and Libby Smith, of Essex Junction, captain of women's basketball and men's golf. Gaines finished his four-year career as one of the top frontcourt players in UVM men's basketball history and hopes to continue playing basketball as a professional. Smith started every basketball game of her career, 122 straight, and led Vermont to two conference regular-season titles, an America East title, a NCAA Tournament appearance and an invitation to the WNIT. She will return in the fall as an assistant golf coach.
- Semans Trophy for leadership, loyalty and service: Jason Morris, of Anchorage, Alaska, captain of the men's gymnastics; and Krista Balogh, of Marlboro, N.J., captain of the women's swimming and diving team.
- Sunderland Memorial Trophy for persistence in overcoming obstacles: Jeff Guilmette, of East Montpelier, captain of the men's track and field team and winner of nine America East individual titles; and Megan Galbreath, of Essex Junction, captain of the women's soccer team and an America East Academic Honor student each year.
- Wasson Athletic Prize for outstanding academic and athletic achievement: Shaina Mulkern, of Magnolia, Maine, three-time All-American skier and captain of the women's alpine team this year; and Scott Radimer, of Charlotte, a captain of the men's swimming and diving team and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.
- Director's Achievement Award presented to senior student-athletes who have exhibited special characteristics and committed themselves to the university, its athletic program and community: Courtney Lamere, of Baldwinsville, N.Y., one of the top scorers in UVM women's lacrosse history; and Jeff Tarigo, of Southington, Conn., baseball captain and catcher.
- The Athletic Department Award: Tim and

UVM in the National News

April was a busy media month for UVM, with many appearances in national and regional outlets by faculty and students. Some highlights:

- Dr. Brian Garra, professor of radiology, discussed advances in ultrasound technology in an April 11 *New York Times* article. The new equipment that takes three-dimensional, color pictures has uses beyond monitoring fetal development, said Garra. "You get a smoother image, which increases the contrast in certain lesions, which makes them easier to see."
- Russell Tracy, professor of pathology and biochemistry, [was quoted](#) in *Science* magazine's April 12 issue concerning his research on a new molecule known as C-reactive protein. Growing evidence suggests that CRP, a molecular marker of inflammation, may be as important as cholesterol and clogged arteries in predicting heart disease.
- Laura Keys, graduate assistant in psychology, discussed the link between teen romance and depression in an April 16 [Reuters Health article](#). Keys was the lead author of a UVM study that surveyed the behaviors of seventh and 10th-graders.
- Esther Rothblum, professor of psychology and editor of the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, was featured in the *Boston Herald* for her civil unions survey, which found that women comprised nearly two-thirds of couples who received civil unions in the year since its legislation.
- The Vermont Math Initiative, directed by Ken Gross, professor of mathematics, was featured in the education section of the April 7 *Boston Globe*. "The ultimate goal is to train 300 elementary teachers a year and put VMI graduates in every Vermont elementary school as math tutors for other elementary teachers," said Gross.
- Men's golf team captain Libby Smith was [profiled](#) in the April 12 issue of *GolfWorld* magazine. The article noted that Smith, a senior from Essex Junction, also started all 122 games in her UVM basketball career.
- Paul Bierman, associate professor of geology, was featured on the front page of the April 30 *Burlington Free Press* in a story about parking garage excavation at Fletcher Allen Health Care. Bierman's core sample of sediment revealed that a glacier lake once existed at the site.

Quick Hits:

- David Neiweem, professor and chair of

Susan Hawley, longtime loyal fans of the UVM athletic teams.

Moving On In

Part traffic directors, part cruise-ship hosts and part Atlas Van Lines muscle, the UVM Welcome Crew annually greets new students and helps them get settled on campus.

This year's move-in day is Friday, August 23 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the Department of Student Life is once again seeking volunteers for the day. Last year, more than 250 faculty, staff, administrators and students greeted students, directed traffic and hefted a few stereos.

Volunteers can choose to be "welcomers" or "movers." Welcomers do not have to lift anything or climb any stairs. Volunteers can designate a morning or afternoon shift, and pick which campus area or residence hall they would prefer to work in. All volunteers will receive a T-shirt.

The deadline for volunteering is May 17. Fill out the form you received through campus mail or contact [Pat Brown](#), director of student life.

Fogel Interview Online

An interview with incoming president Daniel Fogel, on UVM's public affairs program *Beyond the Green*, broadcast in April on Vermont Public Television, now can be viewed online at [Fogel Interview](#).

Fogel talked about his thoughts on assuming the presidency and answered taped questions from several Vermonterers, including: SGA President Bill Tickner; Elaine McCrate, associate professor of economics; Burlington Mayor Peter Clavelle; Jeff Wilson, town manager for Manchester; and Molly Lambert, outgoing secretary of the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

The online access requires the RealPlayer media player. A free download is available at www.realnetworks.com/

music, was interviewed by Vermont Public Radio's Walter Parker on April 2.

- Cancer survivor Dr. Patti O'Brien, clinical assistant professor of medicine and physical therapy, was profiled April 29 in the *Burlington Free Press*.
- A fire-burning ceremony at UVM's Women's Center marked the beginning of sexual awareness month, as reported by local television and newspapers.
- Dr. Mark Plante, assistant professor of surgery and director of urological research, discussed an experimental non-surgical treatment for benign prostatic hyperplasia with the Australian men, in the Australian Associated Press.
- An April 9 *Boston Globe* article on the ascent of marathon man included comments from Bernd Heinrich, professor of biology.

TRIO Students Look to Graduate School

Two UVM students recently spent a sunny April weekend touring the halls of academe, thanks to the Barry K. Mansfield Graduate Exploration Program.

The program, named after a long-time director of the UVM TRIO programs, is designed to encourage Project STAY students to explore the possibility of pursuing graduate education. The grant provides funding for up to four students to spend an all-inclusive weekend in Boston, tour two or three graduate school programs and enjoy a theatrical performance.

Junior Tyler Mendoza, who enrolled in college after 10 years as an entrepreneur, sees an MBA as the next logical step in his career. He toured the business schools at Harvard and MIT and enjoyed lunch with a UVM alumna currently enrolled in the MBA program at Harvard. Senior Alma Piric, who hopes to pursue a career as a professional interpreter, visited Harvard University, the German Embassy and the Boston Language Institute. Piric is fluent in English, German and Bosnian and has a working knowledge of Russian.

Information: Carolyn Donahue, 656-4075.

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**Commencement 2002**

Historian David McCullough is the featured speaker at the University of Vermont's 2002 Commencement ceremonies on Sunday, May 19. For a complete schedule of events, see the [Commencement Website](#). (Photo: University Photography)

Reunion Weekend Speaker Series Open to All

Faculty, staff and the public are invited to join UVM alumni for the annual reunion weekend speakers series, Thursday through Saturday, May 30-June 1. About 1,000 UVM alumni and friends will return to the campus over the course of the weekend to renew their ties to the university and take part in a variety of activities.

Scheduled events open to the entire community free of charge are as follows:

Thursday, May 30

- 1:30-3:30 p.m. "Golden Gardens of UVM's Horticultural Research Center." Explore the grounds of the Horticultural Research Center with award-winning professor Mark Starrett.
- 7-9 p.m. "America's War on Terrorism: An Up-To-Date Analysis," Campus Center Theatre, Billings. How did the United States become a target for terrorist attacks? Gregory Gause, associate professor of political science and the director of UVM's Middle East Studies Program, unravels the complicated international politics of the Middle East.

Friday, May 31

- 9-10 a.m. "Women's History at UVM: From Grace Coolidge to Women Today," Lafayette room 100. Learn about the important, but often neglected, role that

Author to Discuss Vermont's "Battered Stars"

Civil War author Howard Coffin will be the guest speaker at the Friends of Special Collections event May 23, at 7 p.m., in Special Collections, Bailey/Howe Library.

His presentation, "The Battered Stars: Vermont's Ordeal in Grant's Overland Campaign, Spring, 1864," is excerpted from his current book, *The Battered Stars*.

When Ulysses S. Grant took command of Union armies in March, 1864, he resolved to fight until the Confederate forces under Gen. Robert E. Lee were stopped. In the campaign that began May 4, 1864, Vermont troops played a pivotal but costly role in some of the war's most terrible battles. Many hundreds of Vermont men were killed or wounded in the course of a few weeks. Vermont lost more men in the Overland Campaign, in proportion to its population, than any other state.

Coffin is the author of *Full Duty: Vermonters in the Civil War* and *Nine Months to Gettysburg: Stannard's Vermonters and the Repulse of Pickett's Charge*. Formerly press secretary to Sen. James Jeffords, Coffin has played a leading role in Civil War battlefield preservation.

Conference Adds Another 'E' to Government

New technologies are transforming government, making information more accessible than ever before. But the rise of municipal Web sites, e-mail addresses and electronic document repositories poses difficult questions about privacy and particular technology.

Enter the "Municipal E-Government Mini-Conference," which will probe how local governments can use information technology to better provide their services. Sponsored by UVM's Center for Rural Studies, UVM Extension and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the May 24 conference will provide informative sessions and hands-on computer training. It will take place at Castleton State College, the Howard Dean Education Center in Springfield, Johnson State College and UVM.

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.vlct.org/calendar>. Cost is \$50 for town officials, \$100 for others.

Elder Care Support and Workshop Scheduled

women have played in history. Melanie Gustafson, associate professor of history, will use her own and her students' work to illuminate the vital contributions women have made in shaping our country.

- 10:15–11:15 a.m. "Market Madness: How to Make a Volatile Market Work for You," Lafayette room 207. Interested in investing in the stock market, but intimidated by its instability? Invested already, but want to capitalize on the market's unpredictable movement? Get a behind-the-scenes view as Max Ansbacher examines factors that affect market direction and presents both bullish and bearish interpretations, as well as his own personal view. Ansbacher is a UVM alumnus and president of Ansbacher Investment Management, Inc., which manages more than \$70 million of assets, using option strategies. He also is the author of three books on investing.
- 11:30 a.m. "Remember Me to Harlem: The Letters of Langston Hughes and Carl Van Vechten," Waterman room 427. A book signing will follow the presentation. Emily Bernard, assistant professor of English and ALANA Studies, will discuss her recent book.
- 1–4 p.m. "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish," Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory. How are the fish, plants and creatures in Lake Champlain connected to one another and to us land-locked humans? Participate in demonstrations for kids and adults at the newly constructed Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory on Burlington's waterfront.
- 1:30–2:30 p.m. "Meeting Business Challenges in Today's Economy," Waterman room 427. Rocki-Lee DeWitt, dean of the School of Business Administration, will discuss how businesses can respond creatively to economic downturns.
- 3–4 p.m. "Memory & Aging: Progress on Alzheimer's Disease: A Twenty-Year Perspective," Kalkin room 004. Learn about two decades of advancement in Alzheimer's Disease from renowned scholar, clinician and consultant Dr. William Pendlebury, medical director of The Memory Center at Fletcher Allen Health Care.

Saturday, June 1

- 9:30–10:30 a.m. "UVM: Opportunities and Challenges," Campus Center Theater, Billings. With UVM about to welcome a new president, what are the opportunities and challenges facing our university? Learn about the future from our academic leader, Provost John Bramley.
- 3–5 p.m. "Recruitment and Retention of Multicultural Students at the University of Vermont," Allen House, the Center for Cultural Pluralism, 461 Main Street. Join alumni, faculty and staff for an afternoon reception as well as an informative session featuring speakers Marie Veafagnant, Sandra Spiegel and Josie Herrera.

The next support group meeting for elder care providers will be May 20 in the Phi Beta Kappa room, Waterman, at noon.

The next workshop will be May 30, at noon. Area attorney Gil Myers, an elder law specialist, will discuss legal issues.

Information, workshop location: Marge Bowin, mbowin@zoo.uvm.edu

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May 15-21

Awards and Honors

UVM Extension Specialist **Mary Carlson** was among 100 people inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame on April 11, in Chevy Chase, Md. She has been a member of the UVM Extension 4-H/Youth Development faculty for 34 years. She has received a Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents and two Meritorious Service Awards from the Vermont Association of Extension Professionals, and she was the recipient of the University of Vermont Extension Diversity Award last year. She has helped build a number of strong and vibrant state, national and international 4-H youth programs. The National 4-H Hall of Fame can be viewed at [4-H Hall of Fame](#).

Sophomore cross country and track and field athlete **Michele Palmer**, of Plymouth, Mass., one of the top runners in New England, has been selected as an Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar by *Black Issues in Higher Education* magazine. Palmer has competed in the last two NCAA Cross Country Championships for the Catamounts and is an all-conference runner in indoor and outdoor track and field. One of the top student-athletes, she has a 3.74 grade-point average in Environmental Studies, and is a two-time member of the America East Academic Honor Roll. See the *Black Issues In Higher Education* Web site at < a href="http://www.blackissues.com">Black Issues.

Karen Gross, a medical student at the College of Medicine, and a doctoral student in the Cell and Molecular Biology program, has received a grant from the Center for Inherited Disease Research that will provide more than \$1 million dollars in genotyping services for the final phase her thesis study, "Finding Genes for Fibroids." The data from this phase of her research will help identify the genes that predispose women to developing uterine fibroids. Gross currently is conducting research at the Center for Uterine Fibroids at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

The Center for Research on Vermont presented **Mariafranca Morselli**, research professor emerita of botany, with its inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award. Director Paul Eschholz said Morselli was inducted as the award's first recipient for her enduring contributions to research vital to the state and its citizens. Morselli directed the Maple Research Laboratory and built an international reputation for her expertise in maple physiology, maple sap and syrup chemistry, microbial ecology and maple cell and tissue culture. Since her retirement in 1988, she has continued her research and her work as a consultant for academic research and industry groups while participating actively in many civic and women's associations. She has published many journal articles on maple research and its history at UVM.

Dieter Gruenert, professor of medicine and director of human molecular genetics and a project advisor on National Public Radio's DNA Files program, will be joining the DNA Files team on May 20 at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City, where they will be receiving a 2002 Peabody Award.

UVM's **Historic Preservation Program** was among the people and groups honored by Vermont Joint House Resolution 215 for its part in establishing the North Street National Historic District in Burlington in 1996. Named in the resolution were students **Brian Knight**, **Elaine Park** and **Gabrielle Bourgeois** and Historic Preservation Director **Tom Visser**. In 2001, the National Park Service officially entered the district on the National Register.

Through UVM's Hughes Endeavor for Life Science Excellence (HELIX) program, undergraduate students are awarded competitive grants to conduct research over the summer months with a faculty mentor. In the fall, they will present

professional displays of their work. Summer grant recipients and faculty mentors are: **Nathan Boggs**, and **Mary Tierney**, associate professor of botany; **Rachel Burdge**, and **Willem Leenstra**, associate professor of chemistry; **Valerie Cook**, and **Cedric Wesley**, assistant professor of microbiology and molecular genetics; **William Damsky**, and **Peter Armbruster**, postdoctoral fellow in biology; **Adam Dow**, (Potsdam University) and **James Hoffmann**, associate professor of botany; **Claire Dunnett**, and **William Falls**, assistant professor of psychology; **Jillian Giardina**, and **Victor May**, professor of anatomy and neurobiology; **Joshua Gilbert**, and **Maggie Eppstein**, research assistant professor of computer science; **Jill Husson**, and Dr. Barry Finette, associate professor of pediatrics; **Stephanie Kasper**, and **Judith Van Houten**, professor and chair of biology, **Dimitry Krementsov**, and **Kathleen Trybus**, associate professor of molecular physiology and biophysics; **Matthew LeCompte**, and **Cedric Wesley**, assistant professor of microbiology and molecular genetics; **Laura Preston**, and **David Kerr**, assistant professor of animal science; **Eleanor Rees** and **Carlene Raper**, research associate professor of microbiology and molecular genetics; **P. Doug Renfrew** and **Sylvie Doublet**, assistant professor of microbiology and molecular genetics; **David Ryan** and **James Iatridis**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering; **Russell Wells** and **Judith Van Houten**, professor of biology; **Matthew Whelihan** and **Deborah Damon**, assistant professor of pharmacology; **Candice Woodbury** (Norwich University) and **Barbara Lyons**, assistant professor of biochemistry.

Publications and Presentations

Garrison Nelson, professor of political science, taught a seminar on "New England Politics" at Boston College this past semester. He also presented a paper on "White House Inheritors and Climbers: Presidential Kin, Class and Performance, 1789-2002," to the May 3-4 annual meeting of the New England Political Science Association in Portland, Maine. Nelson also chaired a panel on "New England Politics" at that meeting.

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."

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Perennial Favorite

By Cheryl Dorschner



Leonard Perry, Extension professor and early Webmaster, with some of his beloved perennials. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

In 1995, while most of us were just grappling with the definitions of "WWW," "URL" and "HTML," Leonard Perry was growing his Web site as fast as the hops vines he researched at UVM. Unlike more skeptical colleagues, Perry was convinced that the new technology really would go worldwide and become a web that linked common people as well as professionals and institutions.

Perry, Extension professor of plant and soil science, began by sharing information from the two courses he taught and his research (then on hops, and later comparative studies of greenhouse production methods, perennials forcing and hardiness and over-wintering practices). But as he surfed the Web, he couldn't resist – he began collecting gardening-site addresses like Vermont gardeners collect daylilies. Last count, he'd posted more than 250. Folks hungry for this new thing called "virtual gardening" started clicking. Suddenly his site was tallying up to 200 hits a day. He's gone on from there.

Even without a catchy URL, [Perry's Perennial Pages](#) has earned international recognition and a following as wide as the World Wide Web and as diverse as the 198 perennials he profiles online. Three years ago the *London Financial Times* named "Perry's Perennial Pages" one of top Internet gardening sites. In 2001 *Good Web Guide to Gardening* in the United Kingdom listed the site as one of the 100 best. The March 2001 issue of the French e-zine *ijardin.com* called Perry's Web site "*un de grands monuments d'internet.*" And several other sites such as the Duke of URL, 50+ Friends Club and Infography Superlative Site have made it among their top picks.

Flowering content

Perry is expert at parlaying course work, research and international garden tours into thoroughly accurate and lively Web content. In addition, the information he constructs and gathers becomes material for his Extension Service bulletins, radio and television segments and slide presentations. "I get a lot of mileage out of my articles that way," he says.

He's also been careful to maintain a user-friendly site. When, in 1997, Perry made it a priority to offer his content in six languages, he didn't just apply a computerized translation program. "A lot of this material simply doesn't translate literally," he points out. He called on the expertise of several professionals including Extension Assistant Professor M. Elena Garcia, to translate the pages into Spanish, and the internationally renowned horticulturist Eberhart Altmann of Hinesburg, for the German translation.

By 1998, he had revamped his homepage to cut loading time from 28 to 12 seconds. "I'm aware that most home users still have older, slower-loading computers, so my guiding principles are an emphasis on information versus graphics, simple layout for ease and speed of loading and making education fun and interesting," Perry says. "It's got to be user-friendly and doable by me,

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Saving the Barn

A new federal grant and ongoing capital campaign are aiming to safeguard the Morgan Horse Farm's main barn, a 124-year-old architectural gem.

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During its May meeting, the Board of Trustees gave the go-ahead to the most ambitious upgrade of UVM's student housing in the university's history.

because I have no (computer) training."

Perry even provides games on the "Perennial Arcade." "I get hits from really high-end growers who love to play the games and see how much they know," he says. "While I'm on vacation, I get out my garden catalogs and I make up games."

Breadth and depth

Perry's office in Hills is a 9x12 space hemmed by a wall of four-drawer file cabinets, which, if opened, would require Perry to scoot out of the way in his office chair. The tan drawers are dotted with scores of decorative magnets. Every inch of space is covered with books on shelves, awards, posters of Greece, potted begonias, aspidistra and philodendron. Silk ivy twines around the wall-mounted air conditioner and upward toward the green lace curtains. Mobiles and windsocks hang from the high ceiling.

A world map on the end of the bank of file cabinets prickles with pushpins in 38 countries from which Perry has received e-mails as a result of his Web site. Back onscreen, Perry posts kudos from fans – an Australian horticulture student acknowledges plant identification accuracy and thoroughness; an urban forester from Illinois applauds his mixed media approach; a Massachusetts teacher vows to use the site as a course resource; a woman from Cape Cod exclaims "It's things like this that make UVM seem even more exciting!"

Nowadays, with so many other Web pages readily linked by search engines, Perry's home page logs fewer hits. But what isn't calculated is the depth of the visits. Instead of gardeners just tapping into links and then clicking out of site, they spend more time on Perry's site taking online courses, looking up plants, solving problems by consulting Extension Service leaflets, listening to his radio segments or watching videos of *Across the Fence*.

Growing a Web site, says Perry, is "like writing a book that's fluid, dynamic, changing, and people are responding to it as you go – that's why I love it more than print media."

theview

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Historian McCullough, *MASH* Author Heinz Among Honorary Degree Recipients

By the view Staff



Two-time National Book Award winner and public television host David McCullough will address graduates at Commencement 2002 on May 19. (Photo: William McCullough)

David McCullough, author and historian, will be the featured speaker at the University of Vermont's 2002 Commencement ceremonies on Sunday, May 19.

Other honorary degree recipients include Edward Feidner, professor emeritus of theatre, W.C. Heinz, author and screenwriter, Jennifer Stanley, environmental protection advocate and philanthropist, and Victor

Swenson, long-time executive director of the Vermont Council on the Humanities.

Profiles of all honorees are below.

DAVID MCCULLOUGH

Doctor of Letters

"It might never have happened," says David McCullough, explaining why the past pulls so inexorably on his imagination. "The hardest and most important thing to convey in writing history is that nothing ever had to turn out the way it did."

Wise words, and yet it is still tempting to see McCullough's acclaimed career as a historian as preordained. At 15, he visited Thomas Jefferson's hilltop home, Monticello, a trip that enthralled him by making the great man's achievements tangible. After returning, he tried to emulate Jefferson's elegant copperplate handwriting and natural observations. "I went home and tried to keep a weather diary," McCullough remembers. "It only lasted for a couple of weeks, but I'd gotten the bug."

In 1955, after McCullough graduated from Yale with a degree in English, his aunt gave him a copy of Bruce Catton's searing Civil War history, *A Stillness at Appomattox*. "It was as if a window had been thrown open," McCullough remembers. "It had the breath of life in it in a way I had not yet experienced. In retrospect, I know it changed my life."

After honing his writing and reporting skills as a writer and editor at Time-Life, the U.S. Information Agency and *American Heritage*, McCullough published his first book, *The Johnstown Flood*, in 1968. Four years later, he finished *The Great Bridge*, a vivid account of the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge. In 1978, he earned his first National Book Award for *The Path Between the Seas*, a narrative describing how the Panama Canal was built. He won another

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National Book Award in 1982 for *Mornings on Horseback*, a depiction of Theodore Roosevelt's youth. In 1993, his best-selling *Truman* won the Pulitzer Prize and dramatically lifted the plainspoken former president's reputation. His newest book, *John Adams*, was published last year to critical praise and an immediate place on the best seller lists. It recently won McCullough's second Pulitzer Prize.

His work is diverse in terms of subject, but unified by themes. Again and again, McCullough uses his narrative talents to find the humanity within history, telling big stories from the vantage point of the ordinary (and extraordinary) people who lived them. His respect for contingency – the fact that historical figures acted completely ignorant of whether their efforts would lead to triumph or disaster – suffuses every page, enriching our sense of what it means to be Americans. "A lot of people think our institutions, our freedoms, our structure of government sprang to life fully formed," McCullough has said. "Well, it didn't just happen; people made it happen, and they did so with tremendous sacrifice, with great courage, and with great faith."

McCullough's commitment to public life extends his vivid descriptions of our shared past. He is a strong advocate for free public libraries, which he calls a "world of pure democracy." He fought hard, as co-chair of Protect Historic America, to preserve the historic character of Virginia's Manassas Battlefield. On Martha's Vineyard, where he has lived for decades with his wife of 47 years, Rosalee Barnes McCullough, he has spoken up for sensible environmental restrictions. His frequent appearances on public television, as host of *The American Experience* and narrator of the documentaries *The Civil War* and *LBJ*, have reached millions.

McCullough's wide audience, and sustained contributions to community and intellectual life, led *The Washington Post* to write, "If nations anointed historian laureate, David McCullough would surely be ours."

EDWARD J. FEIDNER

Professor Emeritus, Theatre

Doctor of Letters

Edward Feidner and theater are essentially synonymous at the University of Vermont. Feidner joined UVM's Department of Speech and Drama in 1958, and he single-handedly began the work of creating what would ultimately become a 13-member Department of Theatre.

Feidner's career at UVM was guided by his belief that Shakespeare should be the heart and soul of any university acting program. Shakespeare's plays, he attested, contain hundreds of interpretations and teach students and audiences something new with every performance. During a teaching career that spanned 36 years, he directed, produced or acted in more than 125 theatrical productions, including all but three of Shakespeare's plays.

Shortly after arriving at the university, Feidner affiliated himself with the newly created Champlain Shakespeare Festival, which gained international renown and enhanced the cultural reputation of UVM and Vermont for more than 30 years. Within three years, he became the first producer and artistic director of the Festival – a post he held for the next 18 years. Feidner not only kept the Festival going, he also raised money to pay his actors a living wage – a rarity in the world of summer stock.

In conjunction with the Festival, he created and served as executive director of the first interdisciplinary program at UVM: the Institute on Elizabethan Arts and Letters, which brought renowned national and international scholars to campus for the next six consecutive summers.

In 1965 Feidner was named the university's first director of drama; in 1972 he became UVM's first full professor of theatre; and in 1977 was named the first chairperson of the department. In 1969, when it was clear that UVM's thespians and other artists needed a professional-quality fine arts complex, but without adequate funds to create one, Feidner found a creative solution. He revived a proposal to transform what originally had been built as a gymnasium into the Royall Tyler Theatre – a venue that continues to serve as a premier performance hall and one of the university's architectural gems.

In 1974, UVM established the George V. Kidder Award, honoring excellence in teaching. It came as no surprise to the university community that Ed Feidner was its first recipient. More accolades followed, including citations by the New England Theatre Conference and the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences. On the occasion of its 25th anniversary in 1989, the Vermont Council on the Arts awarded Feidner a Silver Citation honoring him as one of Vermont's top 25 leaders in the arts.

By the time he retired in 1994, Feidner had influenced eight generations of college students with his indomitable personality and teaching gifts. At that time, Martin Thaler, chair of the Theatre Department, lamented that Feidner's passion and total commitment to theater would be difficult to replace. "He does it with his whole heart, mind and body," said Thaler.

Feidner's final act at UVM was an unforgettable performance in the title role of "King Lear" at Royall Tyler Theatre. Audiences who had the opportunity to see Feidner raging on the heath as the king whose illustrious reign was coming to a dramatic close have never forgotten the experience. The poetry, energy and professionalism Feidner brought to the role personified his contributions as the jewel in the crown of theater and liberal arts at UVM.

W.C. HEINZ

Doctor of Humane Letters

Wilfred Charles Heinz is better known as W.C. Heinz – a name carried in anthologies of sports writing and war reporting, emblazoned on the spine of novels translated into numerous languages and listed as a major influence by some of today's best writers. Neither name appears, however, on Heinz's best-known work.

In 1968 Heinz co-wrote the novel *MASH* with Maine physician Richard Hornberger under the pseudonym Richard Hooker. The book, the film, the television series – and Heinz's solo medical novels, 1963's *The Surgeon* and 1974's *Emergency* – portray the skill, compassion and especially the humor involved in the practice of medicine.

"I suspect that any physician who grew up reading or watching *MASH* walks around with some part of Hawkeye Pierce and maybe even a few other characters as well," says Dr. Lewis First, chair of pediatrics at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. "Similarly, *The Surgeon* is the kind of book that raises the bar when it comes to how physicians should interact with their patients."

Heinz first gained notice as a correspondent for the *New York Sun* in Europe during World War II. It is a time Heinz mentions often, always returning to the lesson that the brave boys whom he watched die did so not as individuals seeking private glory but as a team who looked out for each other. His dispatches are collected in the new anthology *When We Were One*.

After the war, Heinz turned his attention to sports writing. His first novel, 1958's *The Professional*, is being reissued this year in its fourth printing. Ernest Hemingway called the novel "the only good book about a boxer I have ever read and an excellent first novel in its own right."

In 1963, Heinz teamed up with legendary football coach Vince Lombardi to write the landmark *Run To Daylight!*, which went through 15 printings and was followed by an award-winning television adaptation written by Heinz and produced by Howard Cosell.

Selections from Heinz's sports writing are collected in last year's *What A Time It Was: The Best of W.C. Heinz on Sports*. Summing up his career in a recent article, *Sports Illustrated* concluded, "In an era when America's best sportswriters were as big as the athletes they covered, W.C. Heinz may have been the best of the bunch."

Heinz's active sports reporting ended abruptly. He was in Miami to cover the fight in which Cassius Clay stripped Sonny Liston of his heavyweight boxing

title. After the fight, Heinz rushed home to New York City because his elder daughter, Barbara had suddenly been stricken with an infection that ended her life at 16.

Soon after Barbara's death, the Heinzes moved to Dorset, Vt. Their second daughter, Gayl Bailey Heinz Pantalone, graduated from UVM in 1973.

The move to Vermont was a homecoming. Heinz had met Elizabeth Bartlett Bailey, a Vermonter, at Middlebury College and the two were married in the chapel there. Elizabeth died in February of this year – but not before the family had created a permanent connection to Vermont through establishment of the Heinz Family Trust, which will ultimately evolve into the Barbara Bailey Heinz and Gayl Bailey Heinz Fund. This fund will support the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont College of Medicine.

"It's fitting that the Heinz name will forever be connected with medical education and research," said First. "Creating this fund is an enormously selfless and generous act that has required sacrifice on the part of Bill and Elizabeth and Gayl. Now our job as physicians and teachers is to pass along the high standards laid out in Bill's writing and in the way the Heinzes have lived their lives."

Heinz sees the gift differently. "It wasn't a sacrifice. It's what we do. It's how we were brought up. I believe that you should be proud of your product and your service, but not of yourself. How could I be proud of myself after I saw so many kids die in the war? I got a byline and all they got was a line in the newspaper back home. We are embarrassed if anyone thinks we should be taking bows for what we have done."

JENNIFER BERGER STANLEY

Doctor of Laws

Jennifer Berger Stanley is a University of Vermont alumna whose service and philanthropy on behalf of the social causes she passionately believes in have made this nation and our world a better place.

A 1968 graduate of the Home Economics Education program in the College of Agriculture, magna cum laude, and member of the Mortar Board and Omicron Nu national honor societies, she was a home economics educator at Mt. Abraham High School in Bristol, Vermont, from 1968 to 1972 before leaving Vermont for New York City. In New York she led summer trips to the Canadian Rockies, Western Europe, and Chile on behalf of the New York Metropolitan Council American Youth Hostels prior to founding and directing the Education Program of the South Street Seaport Museum in New York City.

Her lifelong commitment to children – particularly children's education – and to environmental protection and conservation has made itself felt through her generous support of organizations devoted to advancing those social missions, both at the grassroots level and nationally.

In 1982 she founded the Oxford Kids Camp, Inc., to respond to the need for a summer program for children in her home community on Maryland's Eastern Shore. She still serves that program as its director, a labor of love that provides an opportunity for young people to develop their appreciation of the natural environment through authentic outdoor experiences. As Founder and Director of the After School Program at the Oxford Community Center, she has improved the lives of underprivileged families and children by making day care accessible to those of limited means.

That same vision of a better future for underprivileged children motivates her ongoing involvement with and support for The Robert Bowne Foundation, Inc., which sponsors out-of-school literacy programs for disadvantaged children and youth in the New York City area, and which she serves as President of the Board of Trustees.

Described by those who know her well as outspoken, dynamic, advocacy-oriented and refreshingly down to earth, Jennifer Stanley and her husband Ted

are among the nation's leading advocates for environmental protection and conservation. Together, they have supported and worked on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the largest conservation organization dedicated solely to saving the Chesapeake Bay through environmental education, protection and restoration. The Stanley Fund at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation supports the foundation's Environmental Defense Program, and Jennifer Stanley serves on the foundation's President's Council.

A firm belief in the importance of an educated and informed citizenry has meant significant funding for National Public Radio, whose acknowledgments of their support have made Jennifer and Ted Stanley familiar names to literally millions of NPR listeners.

The voice of a strong social conscience animating a life devoted to philanthropy speaks through the mission of Maryland's Town Creek Foundation, established by the Stanleys in 1981 to bring about "a healthy environment, an informed society, and a peaceful world . . . through public education, citizen action, and advocacy." Jennifer Stanley is presently Vice President of the foundation's Board of Trustees.

Vermont too has felt the Jennifer Stanley embrace. In addition to her generous support of the University of Vermont through the years, she has helped to advance the goals of a number of Vermont organizations, including the Vermont Natural Resources Council, the Institute for Sustainable Communities, the Madeleine M. Kunin Special Opportunities Fund, and the Lake Champlain Basin Science Center.

"Jenny Stanley is one of those extraordinary people who truly advance the interests of conservation in this country," says Ann Swanson, UVM '79, Executive Director of the tri-state Chesapeake Bay Commission and Chair of the Board of Advisors of the University's School of Natural Resources. "It's not solely about philanthropy. She knows how to work at the grassroots level to effect change in a progressive, activist way, but never divisively. There's a tenacity about her that's thoroughly charming. She knows just how hard to push to keep things moving in the right direction."

VICTOR SWENSON

Doctor of Humane Letters

The Vermont Council on the Humanities created a web of communication and learning in Vermont decades before any of us found the Internet. The council did it in person, nurturing the humanities through individual and group programs, especially in small communities. Founded in 1972, at the behest of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the organization has become the primary source for live cultural events for those small communities. In 2000, the most recent year with available statistics, the Vermont Council sponsored 2,900 events in 175 communities in all of Vermont's 14 counties.

Victor Swenson, the first and only full-time executive director for the council, who served from 1974 until his retirement on Feb. 1 this year, credits serendipity for the council's successes: "Vermont is the perfect state for this work. It has a trusting, accepting public, people who speak their minds, professionals who work with adults ... and citizens who generously support the programs." Equally important, he stresses, have been the people who have served on the council's board or shared their ideas and support.

Barbara Mieder, a past VCH board chair, recently paid tribute to Swenson's leadership, writing that he did not coddle the council "like an overprotective parent" but "coaxed [it] to independent adulthood."

A former professor of history at Johnson State College, Swenson has held sway with other scholars, says Cynthia Parsons, former VCH board member and former education editor at the *Christian Science Monitor*. As a result, he has drawn top experts, both as presenters and audience, to the council's annual, thematic conference.

Swenson also has been able to "read the humanities' needs in Vermont and to keep a goal in mind while seeking alternative routes to success," Parsons adds.

In his first few years on the job, Swenson says he traveled the state and "talked to every lively person and organization" he could find. One of his first lessons was that sponsoring films was "not that brilliant a way of reaching people." But, books and discussions about them, he found, would draw audiences. And, since 1978, book groups have been at the core of the council's work. "There are something like 65 book discussion themes," he says, "from Civil War history to the literature of the Northlands, in big and small libraries all over the state."

Swenson gets credit, also, for "taking on the issue of basic literacy, when he easily could have stayed with museums and scholars," Parsons says. Mary Leahy, director of Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, says Swenson has "spoken eloquently" about full literacy, which "had been a pretty silent topic here and in most other states. Providing literature to adult students and creating opportunities for them to discuss books together and with scholars has been his brilliant innovation. Victor has transformed literacy instruction from the realms of mundane remediation to fashioning a real invitation for everyone – regardless of their skills or life situation – to join the great, worldwide circle of readers."

Despite credentials that could have built an elitist resume – a B.A. in history from Oberlin; an M.A. in history from George Washington University; and a Ph.D. in International Studies from Johns Hopkins University – Swenson became the architect of a true, down-to-earth, Vermont institution.

So much so, that Parsons recommends this UVM Commencement honor be a "celebration of his true status as an everyman."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Saving the Barn

New grant and capital campaign will safeguard historic barn and its equine inhabitants

By Jeff Wakefield



Barnstorming: Stephen Davis, director of the UVM Morgan Horse Farm, is working to make his horses' home more secure. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

After 10 minutes of a specially arranged tour of the architectural wonders of the Morgan Horse Farm's main barn in Weybridge, a question eventually occurs to an early morning visitor: Where are the horses?

A flash of brown eyes behind the wire mesh door of a dark stall reveals that the farm's famous namesakes have been observing the tour all along, animating the barn with a quiet equine spirit.

What's hard to miss for even the most preoccupied visitor about the Morgan Horse Farm's main barn, a 124-year-old architectural gem on both National Register of Historic Places and the Vermont Register, is the structure's building material: wood.

New safeguards needed

It's everywhere, of course. In the painted walls and floors of the barn's museum-like reception area. In the vast hay loft, an engineer's nightmare of crisscrossing beams supporting the wide mansard roof. In the belvedere, a turret-like structure atop the roof. In every square inch, in short, of the proud, but also aging and potentially vulnerable, structure.

A recent \$365,000 federal grant secured by Sen. James Jeffords will make the horses much safer in their splendid home. The grant, along with matching funds raised by the university, will be used to install a state-of-the-art sprinkler system and chimney liner for the farm's furnace, among other upgrades.

"The fire protection is critical to safeguarding the bloodlines of these wonderful animals and to preserving the historic barn," says John Bramley, UVM's interim provost. "We're very grateful to Senator Jeffords for bringing these much needed funds to UVM."

The Morgan story

The Morgan horse, one of the first American breeds, originated in Vermont more than 200 years ago. As Vermonters migrated west, taking their Morgans with them, they introduced the rest of the country to the versatile breed, renowned for its endurance, speed and strength, despite its small stature.

The main barn was built in 1878 by the wealthy Weybridge philanthropist Col. Joseph Battell, who commissioned the Middlebury architects Clinton Smith and William Allen to design the structure to house the Morgans he was raising.

The architects designed the main barn in the French Second Empire style,

Perennial Favorite

In 1995, while most of us were just grappling with the definitions of "WWW," "URL" and "HTML," Leonard Perry was growing his Web site as fast as the hops vines he researched at UVM.

Honorary Degrees

David McCullough, author and historian, will be the featured speaker at the University of Vermont's 2002 Commencement ceremonies on Sunday, May 19.

Trustees Wrap-Up

During its May meeting, the Board of Trustees gave the go-ahead to the most ambitious upgrade of UVM's student housing in the university's history.

complete with elaborately carved bargeboards, decorative window surrounds, a slate mansard roof and the belvedere.

Concerned for the future of the horse as the automobile era dawned, Colonel Battell offered to donate his horse farm to the U.S. government if it would guarantee the continuation of the Morgan breed. In 1905 the U.S. Department of Agriculture established the U.S. Morgan Horse Farm with the University of Vermont in Burlington and in 1907 accepted Battell's offer, moving the farm to the Weybridge property.

In 1951, by an act of Congress, the Morgan Horse Farm was given to the state of Vermont to be used for the benefit of agriculture and to encourage the breeding of Morgan horses, which in turn asked the University of Vermont to be its custodian.

In the 50 years the University of Vermont has been custodian of the Morgan Horse Farm, UVM Morgans have been exported around the world. The permanence and stability of the UVM Morgan gene pool are the strengths that lend to the program's stature as a beacon for the Morgan horse industry.

A beautiful barn

UVM, it turns out, is custodian not only an important breed but also a historic structure.

"With its mansard roof and distinctive brackets under the eaves, the barn has architectural distinction in its own right," says Emily Wadhams, commissioner of the state Division of Historic Preservation and an adjunct faculty member at UVM. "But its primary significance is the role the site has played in the history of Morgan horse. Since 1907, Weybridge has been the focal point for Morgan horse activity in North America."

"It's a special building that really showcases the history of the breed," says Karen Plaut, chair of UVM's Department of Animal Sciences. Historic preservation aside, though, it's clear where Plaut's enthusiasm lies. "Preserving the genetics of the first American horse is what's really important."

The Jeffords grant will contribute to a \$2 million capital campaign the Morgan Horse Farm currently has underway, designed to ensure the future of the property and the program through immediate facility improvements and the establishment of an endowment fund. To date, UVM has raised nearly \$200,000 in matching funds.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Trustees OK Budget, Bonds, Housing Plan

By the view Staff

During its May meeting, the board of trustees gave the go-ahead to the most ambitious upgrade of UVM's student housing in the university's history. Good news on the admissions front and a valedictory address by Interim President Edwin Colodny also highlighted the May 9-11 session. Brief coverage of some of the committees' actions follows. For a complete report, visit: [Trustees](#)

Facilities and Technologies Committee

Trustees approved the first phase of UVM's Residential Life Master Plan, passing four resolutions proposed by Annie Stevens, interim assistant vice president for student affairs: a 200-bed student apartment project on Redstone Campus; a 600-bed residence hall project at University Heights; a Living and Learning residence hall renovation project; and a family student housing renovation and rehabilitation project at Fort Ethan Allen in Colchester. The total estimated cost of these four projects, included in the university's proposed FY02 General Obligation Bond Issue, is \$85.5 million.

Interim President Edwin Colodny and President-elect Daniel Fogel expressed strong support for the Student Commons Proposal. The board voted to set aside \$250,000 for further development of the project's plan and established an ad-hoc trustee task force to assist in the planning process. If approved, the Student Commons project would be completed in 2006-2007.

Academic and Student Programs Committee

Quality was the watchword used by Don Honeman, director of Admissions and Financial Aid, as he provided an overview of the Class of 2006, expected to total 1,850 students. A 20 percent increase in applications offered opportunities for more selective admissions for this fall's incoming first-year students, he said. As of May 7, Honeman reported that 1,894 students had made deposits for the fall semester, 48 percent of whom scored at the highest levels on an academic composition evaluation tool that admissions uses to predict college success. Other standard indices, including high school class rank and SAT scores, were also up overall for the Class of 2006. In addition, UVM expects to matriculate about 180 transfer students and to selectively admit about 50 prospective students on a record waiting list of 800. A total of 107 ALANA enrollments marks a slight decline from last year, Honeman said.

Trustees approved the consolidation of the Schools of Nursing and Allied Health, to be called the College of Nursing and Health Services.

Finance and Budget Committee

Trustees discussed and approved several resolutions, including the premises for the FY '03 budget, increases in tuition, room and meal plans and fees and a \$120 million general obligation bond issuance.

Nate Peters, director of financial analysis and budgeting, presented trustees with a FY'03 budget proposal of \$370.2 million, 6.4 percent higher than the current budget, based on the premise of \$1.7 million net additional revenue and \$1.1 million net additional expense. In addition to the base budget, trustees approved \$1.9 million for specific Capital Campaign expenditures over the coming year.

Trustees approved a 3.5 percent increase in undergraduate tuition. Total tuition and fees for instate students will stand at \$8,3220 and out-of-state, \$20,810, with financial aid increasing 3.1 percent. Room and meal plan rates also will increase (e.g., a double room will be up 4.8 percent to \$4,232) for a combined total of 4.6 percent. Student fees will increase 7.8 percent to cover costs associated with the new degree audit system and free-transcript-for-life

Perennial Favorite

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Honorary Degrees

David McCullough, author and historian, will be the featured speaker at the University of Vermont's 2002 Commencement ceremonies on Sunday, May 19.

Saving the Barn

A new federal grant and ongoing capital campaign are aiming to safeguard the Morgan Horse Farm's main barn, a 124-year-old architectural gem.

program.

Trustees approved a \$119.9 million bond proposal, which primarily will finance construction and rehabilitation of student housing, deferred maintenance, UVM's share of the Perkins building rehabilitation and planning for the proposed Student Commons. Chairman James Pizzagalli noted that UVM was committing to a steady annual 5.5 percent increase in room rates to service that portion of the debt.

Committee of the Whole

Trustees unanimously elected Dean Maglaris of New Canaan, Conn., a 1967 UVM alumnus, as chair of the board. He praised the tenure of Interim President Edwin Colodny and Interim Provost John Bramley, whom he said had been an effective team. He also said that achieving a solid financial foundation is the first and most important objective moving forward, both for capital investments and for annual operations. He suggested a long-range goal to build UVM's endowment to \$1 billion in 10 years, double annual grant revenues by the fifth year and trim operating expenditures through enhanced efficiencies.

In closing remarks, capped by a standing ovation from trustees and spectators, Colodny reviewed his year in office "from Convocation to Commencement."

"I said I wouldn't be a caretaker," he recalled telling trustees on accepting appointment as interim president, and he reviewed the wide range of programs and initiatives moved forward during his year in office.

Advancement Committee

President-elect Daniel Fogel reported on the draft case statement for the university's development campaign. Fogel said the case has been worked on over the past several months and will be revised and refined several more times before it's ready for a final trustees' review. Key themes are Dedication to Excellence in the Liberal Arts, Commitment to Environmental Teaching and Research, and Leadership in the Life Sciences and Biomedical Research.

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