

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

## Many Shades of Green



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Imagine a greener Aiken: A sod-covered roof for insulation and treating rainwater, perhaps. Or a three-story glass tunnel sliced into the structure to bring light deep into the building. Maybe a waterfall, pond and natural area. These are just a few environmentally nouveau ideas that four nationally renowned architectural firms put on the table during the May 3 and 5 competition to redesign the George D. Aiken Center.

[FULL STORY ►](#)

## PREVIOUS ISSUE

[Camp Colors](#)

[Center Announces 'Women of the Year' Awards](#)

[Jeffords Secures \\$1.6 Million in Funding for UVM Research](#)

[English Major Wins Kidder Scholarship](#)

[Baroque Ensemble to Perform May 7](#)

[Advanced Physics](#)

[Vermont Research Center Highlights Landscape Change Program](#)

[Class to Wash Cars to Support Afghan Women](#)

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## 200th

**Commencement** This year's Commencement, the first to be held on the University Green since 1962, will look forward as well as back, celebrating the institution's past and future and honoring the accomplishments and potential of an estimated 2,331 graduates on May 23 at 9:00 a.m.

## THE WEEK IN VIEW

*May 21, 7:30 a.m.*  
Trustees: Committee of the Whole. Memorial Lounge, Waterman.  
Information: 656-7898 or [Trustees](#)

*May 22, 7 a.m.*  
Trustees: Full Board. Memorial Lounge, Waterman.  
Information: 656-7898 or [Trustees](#)

*May 23, 9 a.m.*  
Commencement: 200th Commencement ceremony. University Green. Information: [Commencement](#)

*May 25, 10 a.m.*  
Event: Career Day. Faculty in science, math and technology departments offer tours of facilities and provide hands-on experiments for high school students. Patrick Gym.  
Information: 656-5467

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EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE



Howard Dean, physician and politician, argued for an incremental approach to covering the uninsured at a College of Medicine event. (Photo: Adam Riesner/UVM Medical Photography)

**Dean Discusses Insurance Coverage at Medical Event**

Speaking to an audience of 200 in Carpenter Auditorium, former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean lamented the millions of Americans who have no health care coverage during his lecture on "The Uninsured: Recognizing the Problem" at the College of Medicine on May 10. First-year UVM medical students organized the event, which received no advance publicity, as part of a nationwide effort to promote awareness and discussion of the national crisis of uninsured Americans as part of a national "Cover the Uninsured Week."

"Here we are, 50 years after health care became the standard for people in the industrial world," said Dean. "We are the only major industrialized country in the world that does not have health insurance for everyone. We've lost the balance between individual responsibility and collective responsibility," he continued.

The former presidential candidate, who reacted to his warm reception by making a joke about his shaky performance in Iowa, sketched out some of the features of the plan he advocated when he was a presidential candidate earlier this year. He had proposed a beginning plan in which every American under 25 would be eligible for Medicare if they do not have any other coverage. Dean emphasized his belief that moving toward any workable plan that can be refined and improved later is preferable to continuing the present situation. "You have to work with the present system, and with the present Congress," he said, explaining why his proposed plan is more practical than its alternatives. "Otherwise, the perfect becomes the enemy of the good. The

**UVM Conference Part of Effort to Get Rural Government Wired**

Michael Wright, an employee of the town of Essex, Vt., has developed the kind of government Web site that many participants at the Vermont Municipal E-Government Conference on May 18 would like to establish. Chip Sawyer, a member of the UVM Center for Rural Studies staff and coordinator of the conference, aims to give them the skills to produce one of equal caliber.

"We want to expand their capability of doing municipal government," says Sawyer, outreach coordinator for CRS. "The e-government Web site is the foundation."

About 55 public employees from city, town, and state government attended hands-on workshops at UVM, Springfield and Lyndonville co-sponsored by the Center for Rural Studies and Vermont League of Cities & Towns. Most came to learn how to create a Web site for their town or to improve an existing one.

Wright, a management information systems director in Essex, turned a rarely updated Web site into a 354-page information-packed gem [Town of Essex, Vermont](#) complete with ordinances, zoning regulations, commission minutes, road closings and game times for summer recreational sports.

The site is a model of how the Internet can offer a public service and allow people to do business with local government after the town doors have closed at 5 p.m. It gets 16,000 hits a month with about 40 percent of those seeking police information.

"Let's just say our last site looked 'non-professional,'" Wright says of the old site. "The new one has the history of the community and links us around the world to other Web sites. It's a boost for tourism because it shows people what we have to offer in all of Chittenden County. You don't have to be an advanced programmer to create one."

Mary-Margaret Zindren, director of communications and strategic initiatives with the League of Minnesota Cities, guided participants through the process of building a Web site based on a "best practices" manual for local government Web sites produced by her organization.

Zindren gave the Vermont town officers advice on web etiquette and standards for government, avoiding potential conflicts of interest, aligning

victims are the 40 million people in this country who are uninsured."

Amplifying a theme from an earlier portion of his talk, Dean went on to emphasize that expanding health care is a societal acknowledgement of shared responsibility and commonality, and that bonds of responsibility are a sign of a society's health.

Dean also criticized the 2004 Medicare reform bill, charging that it costs too much and will benefit drug and insurance companies more than senior citizens, though he did credit it for closing what he called an important loophole related to drug development.

"Cover the Uninsured Week" was a nationwide project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

"It is important for us to recognize this national problem on a local scale," said first-year medical student Justin Sanders, one of the organizers of the week's events. "As a physician and as one who has advanced the national debate on covering the uninsured, Governor Dean is in a good position to inspire us as a group of future and current health care providers."

*Staff from the view contributed to this report.*

### **Student Co-Authors Chapter in 'Baseball and Philosophy' Book**

*When sophomore Alex Ruck was asked to co-author a chapter with his father, Rob, for a book, *Baseball and Philosophy: Thinking Outside the Batter's Box* (Open Court Publishing), he knew his background in philosophy combined with his father's knowledge of the Negro Leagues of the early-to-mid 1900's would produce a memorable piece of work.*

*Their chapter, "The Negro Leagues and the Contradictions of Social Darwinism," argues for more analysis of the social context of sport by examining the assumptions of Social Darwinism, a movement that attributed differences between races and classes to natural law, and how those assumptions played out in the development of Negro Leagues. At a time when blacks were prohibited from competing in the major leagues, Social Darwinists argued that their absence was largely because of their inferiority; now, in an ironic echo of the past, the chapter observes that African Americans are believed to be genetically superior by some because of their strong presence in professional sports.*

*the view spoke with Ruck on May 11 during a study break from exams about his first published work, the process of writing a chapter with his father, and how he made the connection with Social Darwinism and the struggle of black athletes trying to survive in the Negro Leagues of the 1930s and 40s.*

***the view: How did the opportunity to write a chapter in this book come about and how long of a process was it to complete?***

Web development with community need and usability suggestions like making crucial information available in three clicks or less.

### **Musical Students Engineer a 'Ton-A-Tones'**

The "Magummeter" and "Mountain Survival Thermister" came, but the "Ton-a-Tone" conquered all at the inaugural engineering design awards competition. Also working to the advantage of first-year students and musicians Alex Stanton, Simon Hamermesh, Chris Hudson and Denny Kennedy was the fact their wireless musical instrument was the only project capable of playing rock classics like Deep Purple's "Smoke on the Water."

In a one-semester seminar, the team worked within parameters set by instructors Jeffrey Frolik, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, and Tony Keller, professor of mechanical engineering, to develop something that fit the needs of their band. They ended up with a foot-long device encased in brown 16-gauge steel that uses wireless technology and a pitch-shifting potentiometer.

The one-of-a-kind instrument produces unique synthesizer-like noises capable of producing sounds reminiscent of the effects in the rock classic "Frankenstein" by the Edgar Winter Group, which the prospective engineers performed on May 12 at an exhibition of project winners.

"We're all musicians, so naturally this was our first idea," says Hamermesh, who, along with other group members, labeled the different frequencies on the slide with the notes corresponding to the frequency like frets on a guitar. "As soon as we discovered you could use a small capacitor that cuts out tones, we said 'that's the instrument we want right there.'"

The Ton-A-Tone was one of 16 first-year design projects created in the fledgling design experience class. The goal of the course was to get students interested in engineering during their first year. With about one-third of the students enrolled in the program undecided regarding a major, Frolik and Keller wanted a component to the class that generate personal interest.

"What we're trying to do is get students excited about engineering," Frolik said. "They're going to get five semesters of math and theory, so we [wanted to] give them more right from the start."

Other projects included a humidity and temperate device that calculates the heat index; a wind meter that calculates wind chill; and a terrarium control device that automatically turns on a heat lamp to keep a lizard terrarium's temperature at optimal level. The wireless herpetology monitor was a clever way to turn a light on, but it couldn't trump the Ton-a-Tone's ability to play Clapton's "Sunshine Of Your Love."

ALEX RUCK: They approached my dad first and we wasn't going to do it, but then he talked to me, and since I'm interested in philosophy, we decided we'd do it together. He talked to them about it and they said 'that's fine' as long as it's good writing. I started working on it in a written expression class my freshman year. We worked to piece it together and later did the revisions at home, and then went at our different parts separately from there. He added a couple parts within mine and I within his. The entire Social Darwinism section is me aside from three paragraphs about baseball. I didn't really know what to expect as far the revising process once they got it. But it worked out more or less how I would have expected.

**How did you come up with concept of relating Social Darwinism with baseball and the struggle of the black athlete in the Negro Leagues?**

We brainstormed about what we could use and I came up with that idea. My dad did most of the stuff relating to the Negro Leagues and I did most of the philosophy stuff. I think Social Darwinism applies to a lot of cultural things, baseball included. In those cultural things you can just see the Social Darwinism manifest itself in the way the world of sport was run.

**What kind of response have you gotten? Did your editors like it when they first read it?**

I've gotten a positive response. Everyone whose read it has liked it. The Negro National League put it up on their Web site. My buddy, whose uncle doesn't know me, walked into his uncle's house in New York City and he was sitting there reading the exact chapter that I wrote just out of complete coincidence. I have no idea how it's done in terms of sales, but I think the series has done pretty well. One of the editors who read it really didn't like the take we wanted to use. He told us we were unfair to Herbert Spencer (British philosopher known as the father of Social Darwinism). I don't know who they think Herbert Spencer was, but hey. But he was the only one who didn't really like the concept. This guy just didn't like what we said about Spencer. There were like five or six editors that read the article and they all had good feedback except for some minor changes. We had to shorten it.

**Did growing up in Pittsburgh, considered by many the epicenters of the Negro Leagues, have anything to do with your interest in this topic?**

My dad wrote a book in the early 90s, *Sand Lot Seasons*, about Negro Leagues in Pittsburgh, so that's why it centered around that and partially, yes, because we lived in Pittsburgh. I played baseball for a while and I've always really liked it. My interest has been through my dad. The history [of the Negro Leagues] is sort of known, but not as well as it should be. They've done stuff at the ballpark and they've done stuff around town to make it more known in the last 10 years, but before that definitely not.

**This sounds like it's been a good**

**Psychiatrists Offer Insight Into Ugly News Topic: Torture**

President George W. Bush has labeled the recent abusive acts of U.S. soldiers on Iraqi prisoners as "un-American." The military claims the incident in Iraq is isolated, but is it? Over the past seven years, Amnesty International has received reports of torture in more than 150 countries. What kind of person does this to another human being?

"Prisoner abuse has been very common in all past wars," says Paul Newhouse, a professor of psychiatry and an army veteran who served as division psychiatrist for the 3rd Infantry Division and, during the first Gulf War, as assistant director of the psychiatry consultation service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. "There is no evidence that specific personality types are more prone to engage in this type of abuse — the average person can become abusive in extreme circumstances."

A landmark study at Yale performed in the early 1960s showed that study participants were willing to inflict pain on another human being if ordered to do so by an authority figure. Another study, conducted at Stanford in the 1970s, randomly assigned college students to play the roles of prisoner and guard. The "guards" became aggressive, while the "prisoners" became passive and subservient. Among other behaviors, it was noted that the guards would frequently humiliate the prisoners. When the prisoners "rebelled," the guards became more abusive.

David Fassler, clinical associate professor of psychiatry, specializes in childhood trauma and has commented widely regarding the negative impact of media on children in particular. He believes that the extremist rhetoric in the current media reinforces stereotypic generalizations and increases the risk of abusive behavior.

"When commentators refer to 'all Iraqis' or 'all Muslims,' this further encourages prejudice and discrimination, setting the stage for abuse, humiliation and even torture," says Fassler, who maintains that the young age of many soldiers also makes them more vulnerable.

"Soldiers who are 18 and 19 years old are still in the throes of adolescence," says Fassler. "They are buffeted by messages telling them that the 'enemy' is 'evil' with strange beliefs and values, which can bring about a sense of superiority and dominance. When the situation is further compounded by loose, lacking or inconsistent leadership, a breakdown of rules, structure and values is almost predictable. In times of extreme stress, even the most stable and predictable person can act in a cruel and unexpected manner."

Newhouse maintains that specific training to reduce the risk of this behavior may be useful, but that leadership is a much more important factor in preventing abuses by military personnel.

"The chain of command must act to ensure that these incidents do not occur by proactively

**experience. Is this something you think you might want to pursue after college.**

I'm thinking I'll probably become a writer or teacher or something. I was glad to have this experience.

setting the example for respectful handling of prisoners and by appropriate supervision," says Newhouse. "Abuse of prisoners, civilians and others is evidence of a failure of command leadership."

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## EVENTS

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

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FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

### HELIX to Host Career Day

The Hughes Endeavor for Life Science Excellence program will host its annual Science, Math, Technology and Careers Day on May 25.

Students from several Vermont and New York high schools will attend faculty presentations of scientific research in the areas of allied health, applied science, biomedicine, natural/ environmental science and physical science. From DNA analysis at a mock crime scene to a demonstration of cell imaging systems used in biomedical research, students will sample the opportunities and challenges of careers in the sciences.

Students who have participated in the HELIX/ EPSCoR high school outreach program also will present the results of research projects they have pursued throughout the school year from 12:40-2:20 p.m. in Patrick Gym.

Information: 656-5467 or [HELIX](#)

### Recycling Event Seeks Student Stuff

Bring out the old Ikea, the bursting bean bag chairs, the indiscretions of thrift-stores and Targets past: the Spring Move Out Project, set this year for May 28 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Loomis Street, will accept all unwanted re-usable items prior to the June 1 completion of many student leases.

The annual May move-out is a boon to local organizations: Last year, UVM recycling staffers collected five tons of clothing, food and household items and distributed them to local non-profits including ReCycle North, the Salvation Army, COTS and the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf.

The May 28 event, which is free for most items, is sponsored by the Chittenden County Solid Waste District with support from the university, the city of Burlington and other local colleges. Information: [Spring Move Out Project](#)

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NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

## NOTABLES

May 19, 2004

### Awards and Honors

**Kerry Sibert**, a senior medical student, gave a poster presentation that was one of five out of 100 to win an award at the American Telemedicine Association, which took place in Tampa, Fla. on May 2-5.

The

International Education Office has announced the spring 2004 recipients of International Incentive Grants. Recipients are: **Lynda Reid**, music; **Hector Saez**, assistant professor of community development and applied economics and in the Environmental Program; **Matthew Wilson**, research assistant professor in the School of Business Administration and Gund Institute for Ecological Economics; and **Susan Yuan**, research assistant professor of education.

**The Women's Center Grant Program**, funded by the Mary Jean Simpson Endowment, announced its recent round of grantees. Winners were: **Janie Cohen** of the Fleming Museum, who will develop a web-based teaching resource that will focus on cross-cultural images of women, works of art by women, and objects of material culture that reflect women's history; **Gabriela Mora-Klepeis**, a geology laboratory technician, who will develop a new interactive program in the geosciences where undergraduate students are provided with experiences and opportunities to learn about earth systems; **Beth Holtzman** of the Women's Agricultural Network, which will conduct a series of educational and outreach opportunities for women farmers, educators and activists that will include staff, faculty, students, and alumni.

**The UVM Office of Community-University Partnerships and Service-Learning** named its first annual outstanding service-learning faculty and outstanding service-learning community partners at a ceremony on April 28. Winners included **Bob Costanza** and **Jon Erickson** from the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, who were nominated as a teaching team for their work in environmental science, **The Women's Rape Crisis Center** and the **Senior Art Guild**.

### Publications and Presentations

**Charles Rathbone**, associate professor of education, **Holly Buckland Parker**, program developer at the Center for Teaching and Learning, and UVM elementary education major, **Ashley Steele**, presented a poster session at the New England Educational Research Organization Conference in Portsmouth, N. H. on April 22 titled "Creating an Engaging Learning Environment through a Unique Faculty/Student Mentorship: Technology Collaborative Action Teams (TechCATS) at the University of Vermont."

Rathbone also presented a paper titled, "There's Something There that Got My Attention — It's Got their Attention as Well: Reflections on the Implementation of Complex Instruction in Real Live Classrooms," along with co-presenters **Bethany Brodeur**, an elementary education major, and **Jennifer Kennison**, a high school science teacher at BFA St. Albans, during the same conference.

**Ge Wu**, associate professor of physical therapy, **Juvena Hitt**, a laboratory technician in the department, and students **Wei Liu**, and **Deb Millon**, published a paper, "Spatial, Temporal and Muscle Action Patterns of Tai Chi Gait," in the *Journal of Electromyography & Kinesiology*.

**Wolfgang Mieder**, professor and chair of German and Russian, and **David Scrase**, professor of German and director of the Center for Holocaust Studies, are the editors of a volume of poetry and drawings by Joseph Hahn, *Die Doppelgebärde der Welt*. Hahn fled his native Bohemia and emigrated via England to the United States. His parents were deported to Theresienstadt in 1943. Much of Hahn's poetry and art is informed by the Holocaust and its horrors as well as today's wars, terror and environmental disasters.

Mieder is also the author of three articles dealing with the history of proverbs and proverbial expressions, medieval European proverbs and cultural aspects of proverbs: "Grundzüge einer Geschichte des Sprichwortes und der Redensart," "Lobgesang auf den Thesaurus proverbiorum medii aevi," and "Sprach- und kulturgeschichtliche Betrachtungen zum Sprichwort."

The Spring 2004 issue of the *Bulletin of the Center for Holocaust Studies* features three articles by UVM faculty. **Helga Schreckenberger**, professor of German, wrote an essay on the Austrian novelist Robert Schindel; **David Scrase** wrote about Victor Klemperer's diaries; and **Katherine Quimby Johnson**, administrative assistant in the Center for Holocaust Studies, reported on the children's opera "Brundibár." Also included are two book reviews by Scrase and German graduate student **Gabriele Wurmitzer**.

May 5, 2004

### Awards and Honors

Senior **Kevin Bouchard-Hall** won the "Best Young Rider" award at the Tour de Georgia. The cyclist finished 29th overall and 11 minutes behind winner Lance Armstrong. Bouchard-Hall, who rode for Team TIAA-CREF, the only amateur team invited to compete, beat out several professional athletes to win the award.

The **Lawrence Debate Union** has finished in the top 20 of the National Cross Examination Debate Association sweepstakes. The result, says LDU director **Alfred "Tuna" Snider**, shows "a strong performance by a group of mostly very young debaters." The debate squad also won their second consecutive Junior Varsity national championship this year.

**Charles Rathbone**, associate professor of education, was elected to the board of directors of the New England Educational Research Association as the Vermont representative.

Dr. **Steven Shackford**, professor and chair of surgery, was recently elected to membership in the UVM chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. He was selected by the senior class membership of Alpha Omega Alpha and will be formally inducted at the AOA banquet in mid-May. The following members of the College of Medicine's Class of 2005 were also elected to AOA: **Alicia Casey**, **Jacob Lilly**, **Malaika Little** and **Bridget Quinn**. Students were elected on the basis of nominations from basic science and clinical departments that taught the students and nominations from members of the Class of 2005. Dr. **William Raszka**, associate professor of pediatrics, is the councillor for Alpha Omega Alpha. He coordinates the election process, with the help of **Nancy Moreland**, a staff member in pediatrics.

### Publications and Presentations

UVM music majors **Victoria Drew**, **Michael Gorgone** and **Rebecca Kopycinski**, under the guidance of **Sylvia Parker**, lecturer of music, gave the keynote presentation at the Intercollegiate Student Symposium of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences on April 24. Their proposal stemmed from an academic study of the classical sonata, one of the most important musical forms since the 18th century. Students were assigned to compose a piano sonata in style and form similar to the works of master composers studied in an Intermediate Theory class taught by Parker. At the VAAS conference, the students described sections of the composition project and played CD recordings of their own sonatas while displaying the scores on an overhead projector.

**Justin Joffe**, professor of psychology, recently published two papers in an edition of the *Journal of Primary Prevention* that he guest-edited, one ("Mental



NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

## Many Shades of Green

By Cheryl Dorschner



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Imagine a greener Aiken: A sod-covered roof for insulation and treating rainwater, perhaps. Or a three-story glass tunnel sliced into the structure to bring light deep into the building. Maybe a waterfall, pond and natural area. These are just a few environmentally nouveau ideas that four nationally renowned architectural firms put on the table during the May 3 and 5 competition to redesign the George D. Aiken Center.

One group even came up with a sundial that not only will register time on a three-story brick wall, but during the solstices its mirrors will set a series of beams of light dancing across the atrium.

Twenty-nine firms vied to participate in the design competition for an environmentally sustainable remodel of the home of the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources — an estimated \$7-\$10 million project for which fundraising has not yet begun. Four winning companies, Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates; Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott, Inc. in association with Michael Singer; Smith Alvarez Sienkiewicz Architects and William Maclay Architects & Planners, were invited to participate in the competition.

All were given the same seven-page, detailed request for proposal with requirements, budget and timeline. Each worked from the same goals for a retrofitted yet expanded Aiken Center with natural lighting, pure air, alternative heating and cooling methods, LEED certification (a rigorous national standard of a building's efficiency and environmental sustainability), reused and recycled materials and a restored landscape.

### Building a contest

Their on-campus presentations before more than 100 people were the culmination of nearly two years of work by students, staff, faculty and UVM's Architectural and Engineering Services who planned the contest and articulated their vision for a more comfortable, efficient and sustainable facility.

At the same time, this is barely the beginning.

"We believe that completion of this project would help move UVM into a leadership position among the nation's environmental universities," says Alan McIntosh, chair of the greening committee. "The new Aiken Center would also serve as a beacon for members of the campus and local communities interested in sustainability."

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### [Lab Leadership](#)

After spending eight hours rattling through the spectacular Zimbabwean countryside, Burton Wilcke arrived at a rustic clinic to find a lone scientist struggling to complete the urgent but impossible task of working up a long row of tuberculosis samples. The visit to the clinic underscored the importance of the topic that brought Wilcke to the country in late April: laboratory management and support.

### [Engineering Better Internships](#)

Computer science major Andrew Kalinen, one of the first students to participate in semester-long internships arranged by the new Vermont Information Technology Partnership, has this to say about his mentor, David Parker: "He's the best part of the whole thing, I wouldn't go anywhere without him."

### [200th Commencement](#)

This year's Commencement, the first to be held on the University Green since 1962, will look forward as well as back, celebrating the institution's past and future and honoring the accomplishments and potential of an estimated 2,331 graduates on May 23 at 9:00 a.m.

But it's not only the end product — a great building — that interests students and leaders alike. They see the process as a learning tool. Each panel was grilled by the audience, and questions invariably returned to how can students can be involved in every phase. Faculty repeatedly asked how courses might be structured around the building project.

"That the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources chose to do a design competition is a novel approach for UVM," says Don DeHayes, the school's dean. "Of course, Provost John Bramley is up to speed on the project and Robert Vaughan (Director of Capital Planning and Management) has been attending meetings."

But getting so many involved "was a remarkable educational experience," agreed McIntosh. "Panels of four to eight experts from the four firms not only spoke of their visions for a greener Aiken Center but also talked about the basics of green energy generation, water recycling and landscaping that both beautifies and functions with the building itself to minimize our ecological footprint."

The school is expected to select the competition winner on May 24. That firm will present a concept at a board of advisors meeting in June. The project will move through the necessary approval processes while the plan and the firm become part of the fundraising for the project.

For more information the contest and some sketches of possible design directions, see [Greening Of Aiken](#).

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EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

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FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

## Lab Leadership

By Kevin Foley



Burton Wilcke helped teach a one-week course in late April for laboratory managers in Zimbabwe. (Photo courtesy of Burton Wilcke)

After spending eight hours rattling through the spectacular Zimbabwean countryside, Burton Wilcke arrived at the St. Peter's Mission Clinic to find a lone scientist struggling at the urgent yet impossible task of working up a long row of tuberculosis samples. The visit to the rustic clinic underscored the importance of the topic that brought Wilcke to the country in late April: laboratory management and support.

"He was processing 50 samples for an entire 100-bed hospital by himself. That's not possible. And he had no containment system, so he was at risk," says Wilcke, an associate professor and chair of biomedical technologies who has worked in laboratories and public health for 25 years. "On a personal level, I was struck by the dedication and the desire of the individuals working in this setting. It's amazing. They don't dwell on their professional issues or problems, they do their jobs."

Wilcke was one of five experts teaching a one-week laboratory management workshop in Harare co-sponsored by the Association of Public Health Laboratories and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has been helping to develop laboratory infrastructure in the country since 2001. The work is crucial: Laboratories are a key part of the battle against AIDS in a country where life expectancy has fallen from 61 years in 1990 to 34 years in 2002 because of one of the world's highest rates of HIV infection.

### Handing it over

Labs are essential for public health because they provide focal points for surveillance of the spread of infectious diseases and because they offer definitive diagnosis of those conditions, a crucial step for treatment. Wilcke was first invited to visit the country in 2001, when he took a trip to provide technical assistance and assess the country's resources as part of the effort to improve them.

"My reaction was one of being impressed on one level and, on another level, being concerned about challenges," Wilcke says. "I was impressed by the quality of the people. These individuals are well-educated, dedicated and good scientists. The challenge is getting them the necessary infrastructure, facilities, personnel and supplies."

In the first trip, and on other occasions, the CDC and APHL group had spent considerable resources on teaching particular technical procedures involved with HIV testing, Wilcke and his colleagues decided that they needed to move beyond technology.

"For a long time, the CDC and others, maybe even the APHL, viewed their role globally as teaching people to do specific tasks," Wilcke says. But there are larger needs in play: putting financial and administrative systems in place,

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management training and forming self-help networks.

The 2004 seminar that Wilcke helped teach gathered 22 lab leaders from throughout Zimbabwe for an intensive curriculum covering lab structure, funding, inventory control, best practices, “the nitty-gritty stuff,” as Wilcke puts it; but also leadership, communication and problem-solving. And while Wilcke and the four other course faculty were there to share their expertise, they also wanted to create a forum where Zimbabwean experts could teach each other.

The result, Wilcke says, were “outstanding and highly participatory” sessions that boosted his personal enthusiasm for his work. “Working with people who are so motivated and dedicated in the face of incredible obstacles is inspirational. It’s a privilege. Anything I can do to help them help themselves is a minor investment,” he says.

Wilcke hopes that the program will soon stop relying on people from the United States coming in to teach, instead recruiting leaders from within Zimbabwe. The country’s 16 provincial labs, which share common problems and needs, and have a vast store of knowledge collectively, are more effective working together rather than separately. If outsiders can plant seeds of more effective cooperation, the vast political, economic and cultural issues involved in the spread of disease outside the lab will still be in play, but the collaboration will help a crucial public health resource work better. And that, ultimately, will save lives.

In the three years between his visits to Zimbabwe, Wilcke sees the country’s labs modernizing and becoming more efficient. “I see changes happening, but it’s painfully slow in the light of more and more people contracting HIV,” he says. “So no, it’s not fast enough. But it is progress.”

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## Engineering Better Internships

### New program aims to align academia with information technology businesses statewide

By Kevin Foley

Computer science major Andrew Kalinen, one of the first students to participate in semester-long internships arranged by the new [Vermont Information Technology Partnership](#), has this to say about his mentor, David Parker: "He's the best part of the whole thing, I wouldn't go anywhere without him."

VITP, a collaboration between the computer science department and Vermont HITEC, a non-profit workforce development organization spun off from the South Burlington-based medical information systems company IDX, offers internships with a twist — to make taking on a skilled but inexperienced student an attractive business proposition, Vermont HITEC provides a full-time mentor with technical expertise to monitor and direct interns, relieving businesspeople of supervisory pressure.

The partnership placed 11 student interns to work on eight projects at four local businesses. The tasks, designed to be more challenging than those in a typical internship, ranged from network installation to custom software development to assisting in the regional roll-out of an obstetrical registry. That last opportunity, which first-year student Kalinen worked on all semester and will continue with in a full-time paid role over the summer, made sense only because of the program's mentoring component, says Frank Harris, director of architecture and infrastructure in Fletcher-Allen's information systems department and manager of the project.

"When I heard about the program, the mentoring approach made the difference for me in terms of going ahead with it. I had always considered having interns in here, but I worried that they might be a net drain," Harris says. "The UVM interns have really contributed. I've just had to give minimal amounts of direction periodically. I know there's a lot of mentoring going on behind the scenes that makes that possible."

#### Mentoring mission

Working with Vermont HITEC President Gerald Ghazi, computer science Chair Xindong Wu arranged for members of the nonprofit's staff to become adjunct faculty members, and helped set them up with office space in Votey so they could conduct office hours close to the students.

For the irrepressibly enthusiastic Wu, the program is a dynamic way of furthering his prime goals for the department — excellence in teaching, service and scholarship. Beyond providing crucial practical experience for undergraduate and graduate students, Wu hopes that the program will nurture working relationships with local firms that will lead to larger projects that tap faculty expertise and lead to grant funding or a marketable software project.

"This is a win-win-win situation," he says.

Local companies get skilled assistance and an early look at potential future hires, the computer science program gets new community partners and a sweet carrot to dangle in front of prospective students and the students themselves get a for-credit introduction to the world of work with an expert advocate on their side. For students like Kalinen, that was crucial.

"I'm strong with programming and the technical aspects, but there's a lot of meetings and doing business things that were new to me," he says. "It's a real confidence and resume-booster."

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#### [Lab Leadership](#)

After spending eight hours rattling through the spectacular Zimbabwean countryside, Burton Wilcke arrived at a rustic clinic to find a lone scientist struggling to complete the urgent but impossible task of working up a long row of tuberculosis samples. The visit to the clinic underscored the importance of the topic that brought Wilcke to the country in late April: laboratory management and support.

### The “Vermontsourcing” movement

Ghazi’s independent non-profit is at the center of the effort to, as he puts it, “offer real value to business and real education for students.” Richard Tarrant, founder and chairman of IDX, a former UVM trustee and a supporter of the program, places that drive within the wider context of boosting Vermont’s global competitiveness.

“We’re trying to get these CS majors domain expertise, a sense of what’s going on with customers using these systems rather than just having them programming a back room,” Tarrant says, explaining how a program like VITP could develop local talent. “Outsourcing is moving those back-room jobs. You need to understand a business so you can apply and direct those programmers. That’s how you offset the outsourcing trend and keep jobs.”

As the partnership expands to include area schools like St. Michael’s College and Middlebury College this summer, Tarrant and Ghazi hope that the VITP model of directed internships will disseminate university expertise to technology businesses nationwide. It’s too early to say, but after only one semester, Ghazi is enthusiastic about the prospects.

“These students add so much value to the business. They fill holes that no one recognized before they were there,” he says. “They bring incredible perspective and enthusiasm. They aren’t just note-taking and shadowing, they are, many times, taking leadership with the safety of a mentor behind them.”

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## Commencement Turns 200 In Style

By the view Staff



The university's 200th Commencement will be held on Sunday, May 23 on the University Green, the site of numerous graduation ceremonies until the mid -1950s. (File photo: University Photography)

The University of Vermont's 200th Commencement, the first to be held on the University Green since 1962, will look forward as well as back, celebrating the institution's past and future and honoring the accomplishments and potential of an estimated 2,331 graduates on May 23 at 9:00 a.m.

President Daniel Mark Fogel will give a multimedia address with a historical emphasis. Pulitzer Prize-winning

playwright David Mamet will also give a keynote speech. The speakers will address the anticipated 10,000 attendees from a stage located at the main entrance to the Waterman building, facing University Row. Three large screens will project images of speakers, students, guests, as well as historic and contemporary photographs.

"Few universities are able to commemorate a 200th graduation," Fogel said. "This occasion provides an opportunity to reflect with pride on the great public university we are now and to look forward with anticipation to future we have planned."

An on-green commencement will alter traffic and parking patterns around the university. Some streets near the university will be closed May 22 and 23, in connection with event activities. University Place and South Prospect Street will be closed from Colchester Avenue to Main Street, and College Street will be closed from South Prospect Street to South Williams Street. Parking on area residential streets is by city-issued permit only. Parking for the commencement ceremonies is available at designated lots on campus. For more information on parking, call 656-2031 or visit [Street Closings](#).

The outdoor location is of course vulnerable to the vagaries of weather. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be held at the Indoor Tennis Facility in the Athletic Complex. There will be no academic procession, and students may sit with their families and friends. Overflow seating will be available in the adjoining Patrick Gymnasium (closed-circuit TV). For information on this possible site change, visit the [UVM home page](#) or call (802) 656-3309 or toll free (800) 903-6601 beginning early Sunday morning.

In addition to the student awards and diplomas, the university will award six honorary degrees during the ceremony. The honorees are as follows:

- David A. Mamet, a director, essayist, novelist, screenwriter and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright.
- Florence Knoll Bassett of Coconut Grove, Fla., was recognized last year for her contributions to 20th century modern design with the National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists and art patrons. She is a strong advocate for conserving farmland and supporter of UVM's

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College of Medicine and Proctor Maple Research Center.

- Edwin I. Colodny of Burlington is well known and respected for his years of service to Vermont, the Burlington community and the university. UVM made big strides during Colodny's 13-month interim presidency (April 2001 to June 2002), with endeavors that ranged from launching a quarter-billion-dollar capital campaign to reorganizing the university's academic structure.
- Naturalist Charles W. Johnson of East Montpelier has enhanced environmental awareness through public service and books including *In Season: A Natural History of the New England Year*, and *Bogs of the Northeast*, the first popular book to deal with bogs in a comprehensive yet authoritative manner.
- Michael L. Lomax of New Orleans, La., is president and CEO elect of the United Negro College Fund, the nation's oldest and most successful minority higher education assistance organization. He was president of Dillard University from 1997 to 2004.
- Author and activist Grace Paley of Thetford is currently Vermont State Poet. Her honors include Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, the National Institute of Arts Award and Vermont Governor's Award for Excellence.
- Stephen B. Rubenstein, a 1961 graduate, of Little Falls, N.J., grew Rubenstein Properties from a small family business to a conglomerate of industrial, real estate and defense contracting companies that utilize environmentally sensitive design. An alumnus and longtime advisor to the UVM Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, he has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the environment and to education.

For longer biographies of recipients, visit [Honorary Degrees](#).

### College ceremonies and events on May 23

- 11:00 a.m., The Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources Reception, George D. Aiken Center. Tickets are not required. Information: 656-3010
- 11:45 a.m. College of Arts and Sciences Ceremony. The academic procession will form at 11:15 a.m. at the CBW Green. University Green. (Foul weather: Procession forms at 11 a.m. in hockey rink, ceremony will be held in the Indoor Tennis Facility) Information: 656-3344
- 11:45 a.m., College of Nursing and Health Sciences Ceremony, Ira Allen Chapel. Speaker: Speaker: Jacqueline M. Kelly, Class of 2004, College of Nursing and Health Sciences. The academic procession will form in the Billings Center Theater between 11 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. A reception will follow for graduates, faculty, family and friends in North Lounge, Billings Student Center, University Campus Center. Information: 656-3858
- 11:45 a.m., College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Ceremony, Gutterson Fieldhouse/Indoor Track. Speaker: David L. Abbott, retired president and CEO of Purina Mills, Inc. The academic procession will form at 11:00 a.m. in the hockey rink. A reception for graduates, faculty, family and friends will follow the ceremony in the Marsh Residence Dining Hall. Reception reservations (required): 656-2980. (Foul weather: The academic procession will form at 11:00 a.m. in the hallway above the hockey rink.)
- 12:30 p.m., College of Education and Social Services Reception, Harris-Millis Main Lounge. Light refreshments will be served in the Harris-Millis Main Lounge from 12:30-2:00 prior to the college's ceremony. [CESS Ceremony Information](#)
- 1:00 p.m., The Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources Ceremony, Gymnastic Facility, Patrick Gymnasium. The procession will form in the downstairs hall at the entrance to the left of the facility at 12:30 p.m. Information: 656-3010
- 2:00 p.m. School of Business Administration Ceremony, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. The academic procession will form between 1:15 and 1:30 p.m. Speaker: Charlene T. Begley, president and CEO of General Electric Companies. A reception for graduates and their families will follow the Wyndham Burlington Hotel. Information: 656-3177
- 2:00 p.m., College of Engineering and Mathematics Ceremony, Patrick Gymnasium. • speaker: Aaron Mandell, UVM alumnus, founder and former chief technology officer of a company developing next-generation microchips using conductive plastics. The academic procession will form at 1:45 p.m. in the south hall. A reception will

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immediately follow in Cook Commons, Billings Student Center.  
Information: 656-3392

- 2:30 p.m., College of Education and Social Services Ceremony, Gutterson Fieldhouse. The academic procession will form at 2:00 p.m. in the ice rink. Information: 656-3468
- 12:30 p.m., College of Medicine Ceremony, Ira Allen Chapel. Speaker: Dr. Zail S. Berry, UVM clinical associate professor of medicine and end-of-life care specialist. The academic procession will form at 2:00 p.m. in the Campus Center Theater. A reception at 4:00 p.m. will be held in the HSRF Gallery.

#### **Other commencement weekend ceremonies and events**

- May 21, 4:00 p.m. Graduate College Hooding Ceremony, Patrick Gymnasium. The academic procession will form at 3:15 p.m. at the Indoor Tennis Facility. Reception to follow. Information: 656-3160
- May 22, 10 a.m. Phi Beta Kappa Induction Ceremony, Waterman Manor, Waterman Building. Initiates will sign the chapter's register volume, now in its 157th year. Guests welcome. Information: 656-4626
- May 22, 10 a.m. ROTC Commissioning, UVM Recital Hall, Redstone Campus. A reception will precede the ceremony at 9 a.m. Reservations not required. Information: 656-2966
- May 22, 4:30 p.m. Robing of Ira Allen, University Green. Join the Class of 2004 for this annual tradition of planting the ivy and dressing the founder. Sponsored by the TOWERR and Boulder societies.

*For a full schedule of Commencement activities, call 656-2005 or visit [Commencement](#).*

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