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[Alvarez Encourages '08 Grads to 'Find Their True Pattern'](#)



President Fogel told graduates at UVM's 204th commencement ceremony: "It is now your time to build the life you have imagined, to go out into the world and make it a better place." (Photo: Sally McCay)

Celebrated novelist, poet and writer-in-residence at Middlebury College Julia Alvarez began her address to the Class of 2008 at UVM commencement activities on May 18 with a prayer. The prayer — borrowed from Mayan weavers — is one she recites every day of her writing life: "Grant me the intelligence and patience to find the true pattern."

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[Green](#) The bleachers at the New Hampshire International Speedway stood as empty as a Roman ruin. The UVM team sat in the infield eating sandwiches and watching a perky red car from McGill University weave deftly around orange cones. Their own sat motionless in a nearby garage. They had nothing left to do but go home.

May 21, 2008

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

May 27. 6-8 p.m. Shape Note Singing. Learn how to sing these early American songs with the UVM Traditional Music Club. Ira Allen Chapel.

May 29. 11:45 a.m. Staff Council Candidates Panel. Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

May 29-June 1. Reunion Weekend. [Information](#).

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By Amanda Waite

Article published May 21, 2008



President Fogel told graduates at UVM's 204th commencement ceremony: "It is now your time to build the life you have imagined, to go out into the world and make it a better place." (Photo: Sally McCay)

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In a speech punctuated by the poetry of Robert Frost, Czeslaw Milosz and Seamus Heaney, delivered to a capacity crowd in the Athletic Complex Multipurpose Facility, Alvarez shared stories from her early childhood in the Dominican Republic and from her relationship with her immigrant father, each revealing how she had struggled to find the true pattern of her own life.

Just as weaving and writing require the artist to "find the true pattern," so does life require it of each of us, she said to the graduates. "There isn't a standard outside pattern or a list of rules or a calendar with deadlines for what you are setting out to do today," the author told the graduating seniors. Instead, she encouraged each student to recite the simple prayer every day for the next year to help uncover their true life path.

"Big words like career, profession, they're misleading," she added. "Pay attention to what is already going on in your life. When are you connecting deeply with your joy and passion? What do you lose yourself doing? When are you having the most fun?"

Most important, the author concluded, is how you use what you

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learn about yourself. "We find our true pattern, we connect with our richness and our power, in order to give back, to serve our human family."

In service to the community, the world

Service to the community and to the world was a theme in comments made during Sunday's ceremony. Leaders of the Faculty Senate, the Board of Trustees, the Student Government Association, the Alumni Association, Staff Council, and UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel each shared with graduates the hope and confidence that the Class of 2008, which includes the first graduating class of the recently established Honors College, will put their education to use in service to others.

"You have become a part of the fabric and history of this university," Fogel said. "It is now your time to build the life you have imagined, to go out into the world and make it a better place."

Fogel conferred degrees on an estimated 2,596 graduates, including 2,069 bachelor's, 360 master's, 85 doctoral, and 82 M.D. degree recipients, in addition to 20 post-baccalaureate certificates. Among degree recipients were students from 46 states — including 1,095 Vermonters — and 18 countries. The graduating class included 167 ALANA (African, Latino/a, Asian and Native American) and bi/multi-racial students.

Receiving honorary degrees this year along with Alvarez were Daniel Burack, a class of 1955 alumnus, and his wife, Carole Burack, tireless volunteers and philanthropists who established the Dan and Carole Burack President's Distinguished Lecture Series, as well as a scholarship fund for students in teacher education; Eric Lipton, a class of 1987 alumnus, *The New York Times* Washington Bureau reporter, and 1992 winner of a Pulitzer Prize for explanatory journalism for stories co-written about the flaw in the Hubble telescope; Sister Janice E. Ryan, a member of the Sisters of Mercy religious order and former president of Trinity College, who has worked on projects to ban land mines and eliminate the death penalty, lobbied for mainstreaming special needs children, and served as Vermont's deputy commissioner of corrections; Gladys Clark Severance and Malcolm Severance, class of 1949 alumni and active members of the UVM community, where Malcolm served as professor, department chair, assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and a two-term trustee, and of the greater Burlington community, where Gladys taught junior high and high school math, co-founded a Meals-on-Wheels program, initiated Colchester's Girl Scout program, and managed Malcolm's four successful campaigns for the Vermont legislature.

Five students were honored with university awards. Kesha K. Ram won the Mary Jean Simpson Award, honoring the senior woman who

exhibits the highest qualities of leadership, academic competence and character; Gregory M. Rheault won the F.T. Kidder Medal, honoring the senior man ranking first in character, leadership and scholarship; Channel Hamilton and DaVaughn M. Vincent-Bryan won the Class of 1967 Award, presented to seniors who best exhibit leadership, academic competence and character, and who have earned the respect of faculty and fellow students; Rachel Gilbert Hopkins and Andrew Kehl won the Keith M. Miser Leadership Award, recognizing outstanding service to the university; and Joseph Thomas and Ashley Michelle Fowler won the Elmer Nicholson Achievement Prize, recognizing the greatness of the students' UVM experiences and the expectation that they will make a major contributions in their fields of interest.

The UVM Alumni Association honored Lynne Bond, professor of psychology, with the George V. Kidder Outstanding Faculty Award. Upon accepting the award, Bond shared with graduates her hope that they live "a lifetime full of wonder," that they "take the time to wonder what could be and act."

The ceremony concluded with remarks by John Gennari, associate professor of English and director of ALANA U.S. Ethnic Studies, on the importance of diversity in achieving excellence. Using the Red Sox's notorious history as a model for the necessity of a diverse organization, Gennari spoke about UVM's commitment to promoting diversity as part of its quest for academic excellence.

Although incorrect in the end — Burlington weather was warm and sunny commencement day — a forecast of inclement weather led to a decision earlier in the week to move the ceremony indoors.

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Trustees Tackle Budget, Welcome New Chair

By View Staff

Article published May 21, 2008



Ian Boyce, a 1989 alumnus, was recognized as the new chair of the Board of trustees and presided over his first meeting. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

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the implementation of PeopleSoft data management system and lower than expected returns on short-term investments.

President Daniel Mark Fogel addressed the board about the challenges presented by a series of unauthorized expenditures that came to light in April, which caused an unexpected budget shortfall. He said plans were in motion to examine the efficacy of the university's internal controls and institutional checks-and-balances with the help of an audit committee.

"I pledge to the Board that I will extend my utmost efforts, in close consultation with you, to meet this challenge and take full advantage of the opportunity that it presents: the opportunity to develop a strong, more effectively managed organization through which our objective of building academic quality for the benefit of our faculty and staff, our students and alumni, and the people of Vermont will be best achieved."

To that end, Fogel announced the hiring of Richard Cate, Vermont State Commissioner of Education, on an interim basis to fill the vacant position of vice president for finance and administration previously held by J. Michael Gower who resigned in April. Cate, a lecturer in the Master of Public Administration program, is a seventh-generation Vermonter and 1971 alumnus with a wealth of



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financial experience running massive public institutions. As chief financial officer of the New York State Department of Education, Cate found and closed an \$11 million deficit in one year after a self-imposed department audit. While later serving as chief operating officer of the department in charge of a \$19 billion budget (three times the entire Vermont State budget at the time), Cate was responsible for a staff of 3,100 employees.

Ian Boyce, a 1989 alumnus, was recognized as the new chair of the board and presided over his first meeting. A college hockey All-American and member of the UVM Athletic Hall of Fame, Boyce used his opening remarks to emphasize his commitment to the role of chair, which he described as keeping strategic goals on track and working in concert with Fogel to advance the university's mission. "We're facing some significant challenges, but we will get through," he said. "I'm looking forward to working with all of you to advance the goals of the university."

Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee

Much of the committee's meeting focused on proposed renovations to Billings Hall, which will return the building to its historic role as a center for learning and research as home to the library's Special Collections, the Center for Holocaust Studies, and the Center for Research on Vermont. Randolph Meiklejohn of Schwartz/Silver Architects walked trustees through slides of current conditions and layout of the building, then presented the proposed changes, mostly interior, of the two-phased rehabilitation. Trustees approved the project as an institutional priority and voted to move it forward to the Budget, Finance and Investment Committee.

Board members were updated on the progression of the University Strategic Plan, which has evolved from seven strategic goals to five. Dale Jaffe, special assistant to the provost, said that while there is continuity between versions, the revised plan focuses more on how to achieve the identified goals. The board will vote on the plan at its September meeting.

Chris Lucier, vice president for enrollment management, apprised trustees of the gains made in Honors College and ALANA students in the incoming class, which have increased by 39 percent and 34 percent respectively. Lucier acknowledged the "team effort" that has led to another year of surpassed target enrollment numbers; the admissions office estimates that 2,410 students will join the Class of 2012. He also reported that the quality of students has increased, citing higher SAT scores and class rank for both in-state and out-of-state students. This fall will also see the highest yield of Green and Gold Scholars, Vermont students with the highest rank in their high school graduating class, at a projected 43 percent.

Following a report from Leah Burke, professor of pediatrics, and

Francine Bazluke, vice president and general counsel, on the project to revise and update the officers' handbook and the non-unionized faculty handbook, the committee approved two policy changes concerning appointments and terminations of senior administrators and for-cause terminations of non-unionized faculty.

The committee also approved adding the Graduate Student Senate president as an *ex officio* member of the Honorary Degree Work Group; changing the botany graduate program names to master of science and doctorate in plant biology; and signing a three-year contract with Priority One Services, Inc., the university's laboratory animal management company.

Budget, Finance and Investment Committee

In addition to passing the \$269 million general fund budget for FY 2009, committee members passed a tuition increase of six percent, bringing in-state tuition for 2008-09 to \$11,048 and out-of-state tuition to \$27,866. Room and board fees increased by six and seven percent, respectively, bringing the cost of a Basic Meal Plan to \$2,188 and Average Meal Plan to \$2,782. Room prices vary, with a private single with bath (the most expensive option) to cost \$7,180 and a traditional quad (the least expensive) to cost \$3,842. Student fees were raised from \$1,632 to \$1,796.

Committee members reaffirmed a commitment to socially responsible investing and the decision to divest from companies doing business or otherwise aiding the governing regime in Sudan. The policy, which will be reviewed annually, requires the university to consider moral, ethical, and social criteria when making investment decisions.

A resolution was also passed in favor of shareholder proposals that address climate change by calling for actions, reports and disclosures regarding the following areas:

- Report on a company's climate change and/or carbon reduction strategies.
- Disclosure of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Report and/or reduction of greenhouse gasses
- Increase energy efficiency of operations and/or products
- Increase investment in renewable energy sources
- Report on activities related to the development of renewable energy sources
- Report on company's compliance plans with international, national

or regional climate agreements

- Report on company's efforts to adopt a recycling strategy
- Disclosure of risk assessment related to climate change



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UVM HOMEPAGE

At the Speed of Green

By Joshua Brown

Article published May 20, 2008



Andrew Burston (L), a professional race car designer and judge at the International Formula Hybrid Competition, talks with sophomore Brian Leach, who helped build a race car with about 20 other student members of the Alternative Energy Racing Organization. (Photo: Joshua Brown)

They had nothing left to do but go home.

After months of designing, welding, and assembling their hybrid racing car, and days of near-round-the-clock programming on the electronics, the UVM vehicle had finally fired up just hours before the endurance competition—only to go silent again a few moments later. A pair of \$15 switches had failed. It was too late to get replacement parts. They were out of the race.

A defeat? Only in the way the Wright Brothers' first bumpy crash landings were a "defeat" on the path to human air travel. No, sir; this was a smashing success.

And the judges knew it. For their innovative "GreenSpeed" hybrid gas/electric racing car, students from the University of Vermont's College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences won four prizes at the International Formula Hybrid Competition at the New Hampshire International Speedway in Loudon, NH, May 5-7, 2008.

Designed and built by members of a new student organization, [AERO \(Alternative Energy Racing Organization\)](#), the car won Chrysler's Best Hybrid System Engineering Award, the Best Hybrid-in-Progress Award, the Dartmouth College Thayer School Dean's Award for Most Innovative Design, as well as second place in overall

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technical design.

"The awards ceremony was pretty much a UVM love-fest," said Jeff Frolik, associate professor of engineering and the club's advisor.

AWD and Regen Brakes

This was mostly because the UVM team designed "GreenSpeed" as an all-wheel-drive hybrid with front regenerative braking that returns energy to the batteries. "These two things have not been done before" in the competition, said Doug Fraser, director of the [Formula Hybrid Project](#) at Dartmouth College that organized the event.

"It's held together with black duct tape, but we got so many compliments from officials about our design," said Andrew Laing '08 the AERO team leader.

"We want to mix the excitement of driving a race car—fast!—with the fact that the climate is changing—and we can't keep burning fuel like crazy," said Thatcher Friant '10, a member of the club who helped build the 679 pound vehicle with a 40 horsepower electric motor that works in parallel with a gasoline engine.

"Of course, it's a little disappointing not to be able to drive our car today," said Brian Leach '10, who was in charge of designing and building the mechanics of the car. "But this is fun. Working on this car is what I do every day. It's no different than a college sport."

Leach is already scheming improvements to the design, looking forward to getting behind the wheel next year. He wants to demonstrate that their low-slung car is not just well designed, but that its powerful lithium battery system will give the car "tremendous acceleration," he said, at low speeds.

The UVM AERO team made its inaugural participation in the competition against teams from Yale, Dartmouth, and more than a dozen other universities from as far away as Russia, Canada and Taiwan.

Behind the Wheel ... Almost

The UVM team presented their design on May 5, with automotive engineers grilling them on technical aspects of the car. Though the electronic control systems were hampered by a software bug—which meant the car couldn't race during the acceleration and autocross competitions—the UVM vehicle passed inspection on May 6. Having already made the design finals and with just five vehicles still running, the UVM team focused on the final competition, a 13-mile endurance test, the next day.

Under the leadership of Ed Johns '08, the electronics group in the

team made a pitched effort to solve the programming problems. "I was getting two hours sleep for days," Johns said. And on May 7, around 2:30 in the morning, the AERO car successfully came to life for the first time. Wild cheers went up.

But just a few moments later, "alas, a short fried a key component in the controller board, and we were out," said Frolik.

"It's funny, but predictable, that it came down to the cheap programmable stuff," said Laing, noting the whole car cost \$30,000, donated by numerous companies and supporters.

NASCAR Green?

Still, the UVM car's design stood out among the entries, said professional race car designer Andrew Burston, who was one of the judges. "What they've done is really smart, bold," he said, praising the team's elegant battery and four-wheel-drive system.

The team began work in earnest in January, designing the car, welding the chassis, collecting donations, and machining parts. "This new hybrid car uses both gas and lithium batteries and burns gas more efficiently through regenerative braking with a smarter engine that gets more gas joules onto the road," said Laing.

Laing's passion for the project results from his concern over the impact of carbon emissions on the environment and, as he terms it, a love for "driving really fast."

But there don't appear to be a great number of NASCAR fans who share Laing's concern. "It's been difficult to get people in motorsport interested in sustainability," said Burston, who spent years designing racing cars for the famed Lola Group. "But things are beginning to change, and cars like this one point the way to toward clean cars that are quick."

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Frank Bryan Receives Honorary Doctorate, Gives Commencement Address

By Lee Ann Cox

Article published May 19, 2008

Under the heading "What I believe..." that tops his website, Frank Bryan, John G. McCullough Professor of Political Science, quotes D. H. Lawrence: "Men fight for liberty and win it with hard knocks. Their children, brought up easy, let it slip away again, poor fools. And their children are once more slaves."

If Bryan believes this, he has built a career trying to stop it, teaching students the imperative of authentic democracy as he sees it—communal assemblies making law face-to-face. So it is fitting that Marlboro College, a small liberal arts college near Brattleboro with town-meeting style governance and a mission to train students to think clearly and learn independently, chose Bryan to deliver their commencement address on Sunday, May 18.

Bryan's address, "Democracy, Place and Technology: A new Paradigm for the 21st Century," stressed the imperative of preserving strong communities and said that these, "by definition must be small." Juxtaposing one of the most profound innovations of the 20th century, the automobile, with that of the 21st century, the "electronic highway," Bryan offered hope for society that might seem paradoxical.

Under the prevailing paradigm, which he argues the automobile helped create, "mass society with all its pathologies (that) led us into an oxymoron—mass citizenship," could lead us to believe that life on a human scale will eventually give way to life on a systems scale. But that thinking, Bryan told graduates, along with the idea that careers should be the organizing principle of our lives, must end.

"Place can and must become the new paradigm of the next century and beyond," Bryan said. "Place must become the organizing principle by which we live."

But the Web, he offered, is not an anonymous, soulless space that divides the citizenry further. It is in fact what offers him hope. "The electronic highway is not centralist in its implications. It is decentralist," Bryan said. "This highway can lead us home again and thus restore our democracy. A restored democracy will in turn save



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our nation.”

Bryan is the author of several books on state and local politics, including *Yankee Politics in Rural Vermont* and *The Vermont Papers: Recreating Democracy on a Human Scale*. For his tireless efforts to preserve small-town New England democracy, Marlboro College conferred Bryan with an honorary doctorate degree.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Extension Faculty Member Presents to Delegates of United Nations

By Jeffrey Wakefield

Article published May 21, 2008

UVM Extension faculty member Heather Darby knows how to hold an audience, usually a small group of Vermont farmers, who listen to her attentively while gathered in a corn or soy bean field in Hardwick or St. Albans.

Last Sunday, May 18, Darby engaged an audience of a different sort in a different place — a mix of delegates to the United Nations and representatives of international NGO's, about 35 in all — who listened just as raptly to a presentation she gave at Columbia University on the role of extension in promoting sustainable agriculture in Vermont.

The occasion was a meeting of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. Darby had been tapped for the presentation because she represents the Cooperative Extension System on the Committee on Sustainable and Organic Agriculture of the "Tri-Society," the combined American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America.

The UN commission, which meets annually, focused the 2008 session on Agriculture, Rural Development, Land, Drought and Desertification in Africa.

Darby, one of hundreds of experts who spoke to the commission, which held concurrent sessions around the city over a 10-day period, said the proceedings reminded her on a grand scale of the train of experts who give testimony to legislators in Montpelier. She spoke at a weekend symposium titled the City and Farm Linkages Showcase.

Darby chose to frame her topic — the role UVM Extension and sustainable agriculture have had in spurring a rebound in Vermont agriculture — with the personal narrative of the dairy farm in Alburgh her family has owned for 200 years.

The family had to abandon dairy farming, Darby explained, as part of the contraction in the Vermont dairy industry that has occurred over the past 60 years, which saw the number of dairy farms in the



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state shrink from a high of about 12,000 to a low of about 1,000.

Vermont farms — of all kinds — now number roughly 6,000, thanks in part to the new crops and techniques UVM Extension is promoting. Darby herself now operates a diversified — and profitable — version of her family's farm, photographs of which she displayed proudly to the audience.

Darby underlay the story with a message — that the days of a top-down approach, when extension officers had all the answers, are long gone. Vermont's success today has been spurred by collaboration: rather than lecturing them, extension now collaborates with farmers, helping them understand what their needs are, encouraging participatory research and education, and fostering networks with other farmers.

"It's possible to turn things around" with some of the new advances in sustainable agriculture, she said, "but it has to come from a different place. It's a ground-up movement."

The personal story combined with the hopeful message that bottom-up collaborative approaches can pay dividends struck home for audience members, many of whom were from Africa and Asia. They barraged her with questions and engaged her in discussion after she spoke. Several requested her presentation.

The coordinator of the weekend symposium paid Darby, who spoke last, the ultimate compliment. "She said the talk really tied everything together," Darby said, and was "just what they needed" to close the session.

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Senate Passes Resolution to Use Revised Greensheets on Voluntary Basis

By Jeffrey Wakefield

Article published May 21, 2008

The Faculty Senate ended what President Robyn Warhol-Down called a highly productive annual session by adding three more items of substance to its list of accomplishments at its final meeting for the 2007/2008 academic year on May 15.

Bob Low, emeritus faculty member in the Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, gave a presentation on the reform effort that has been underway over the last year to revise UVM's greensheets – the forms used for evaluating faculty for promotion and tenure.

Low directed a process that sought feedback and critiques of the current greensheets from the president and provost, deans, chairs, and faculty and examined similar forms from other institutions, eventually creating a “problem list” the revised form sought to address.

The goal was to create a new form and a new process that were clear and transparent, and which made needed information easily accessible to decision-makers.

“We want to put the right things in the right places, to go for clarity and transparency,” Low said. Too often evaluators “can’t find what they need” to answer the question: “What’s the evidence that the person deserves to be promoted?”

Low recommended that some faculty and administrators directing tenure and promotion processes next year volunteer to use the new form “as a trial balloon” while others could continue to use the old system. That motion was put to the senate.

After a lively debate – some faculty wondered if having two different evaluation systems in place was equitable, while others argued that the current system was already inconsistent across departments and academic units, a flaw the new form is designed to address – the measure was passed.

For more information on the new form, email Bob Low at Bob.Low@uvm.edu.

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Strategic Plan Update

Sociology professor Dale Jaffe, special assistant to the president, brought senators up to speed on the just completed revision of UVM's strategic plan. The revised plan is not significantly different "from the recent past," Jaffe said. It "narrows a bit" with five strategic goals rather than seven and shortens the mission statement while lengthening the vision.

A key step in the plan's trajectory now, Jaffe said, is campus participation. Warhol-Down renewed her call for faculty to join one of the five work groups, one for each goal, that will form in the fall to prioritize action steps for achieving the objectives under each goal.

The senate approved the revised Strategic Plan unanimously. It will go before the board of trustees in September for ratification.

Leah W. Burke, a professor in the Department of Pediatrics and chair of the senate's ad hoc committee on governance, presented the final changes in the Faculty Handbook for Non-represented Faculty. The revised handbook passed unanimously. In its April meeting, the senate had unanimously approved a revised handbook covering represented faculty, The Officer's Handbook.

Earlier in the meeting, the senate approved a Master of Accountancy degree, after a brief report by Cindy Forehand, chair of the Curricular Affairs committee. Warhol-Down also announced that Jim Burgmeier, mathematics professor and associate dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, had been elected as the new president of the Faculty Senate. Warhol-Down will serve the second year of her two-year term next year before giving way to Burgmeier.

Warhol-Down's remarks earlier highlighted the senate's many significant actions this year, from approving two new matrix centers, including the newest one – the Transportation Research Center, formerly the National University Transportation Center – to providing significant input to the university's system for prioritizing planned capital projects to approving the revised Officer's Handbook.

President Daniel Mark Fogel also addressed the senate. After listing UVM's "signal accomplishments" for the year, including research funding that looks to have "fully recovered" from a dip last year caused by cutbacks in federal spending and an incoming class that "by every measure is the most diverse and talented in the history of the university," Fogel alluded to the significant financial management challenges the university faces, which he said he would detail in his report to the board of trustees the next day. He

asked for questions, but none were forthcoming. Fogel encouraged senators to email him with questions and comments if they were reluctant, he said with a smile, to criticize him in public.

Fogel concluded by saying the university faced significant challenges in the years ahead but that they were counterbalanced by “competitive advantages” the university enjoys over both public and private peers.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

'In Defense of Food' Author Michael Pollan to Give Aiken Lecture

By Lee Ann Cox

Article published May 19, 2008

Best-selling author Michael Pollan, a vocal advocate for change in America's food systems, will speak on June 10 as part of the George D. Aiken lecture series. The talk, "In Defense of Food: Connecting the Dots Between Sustainability and Health," will take place at 5 p. m. in Ira Allen Chapel with overflow seating in Billings Lecture Hall. The event is free and open to the public with seating on a first come, first served basis; no advance tickets are required. Book sales and signing will immediately follow the lecture.

Pollan, whose visit is hosted by the College of Agriculture and Life Science, is the author of five books, including the 2008 *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*, now on *The New York Times* Best-Seller List for 17 weeks. His last book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, named one of the best books of 2006 by *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, is a compelling tour of America's food supply, and its cost to the landscape and our health.

In his recent books and as a contributing writer for *The New York Times Magazine* Pollan has argued forcefully for small-scale, local production of foods and support for local farmers through farmer's markets and community supported agriculture programs. He sees local eating as a means not only for sustainable agriculture and healthful eating but for rural areas to preserve both their natural beauty and social character, an issue of especial significance to the values and economy of Vermont, where Pollan received his undergraduate education at Bennington College.

"I'm looking forward to coming to Burlington," Pollan said in a recent call from his home in Berkeley, California, "because it is one of the centers of gravity in the burgeoning local food movement in America today." A visit to the Intervale and to Shelburne Farms are part of his personal pre-lecture agenda.

Pollan is a professor of journalism at the University of California, Berkeley, where he is also director of the Knight Program in Science and Environmental Journalism. He is also the author of *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World*; *A Place of My Own*; and *Second Nature*.

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In his writing Pollan demonstrates a deep intellect and hard-hitting investigative journalism. But a sampling of *Eater's Manifesto* also offers some plain, simple advice: "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants" and "Don't eat anything your great-great grandmother wouldn't recognize as food."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

New Theatre Subscriptions on Sale July 15 for 2008-2009 Season

By Lee Ann Cox

Article published May 19, 2008

Beloved classics, contemporary twists, a Tony Award-winning musical ... the department of theatre announces its upcoming season with new subscription sales available starting July 15—online or by mail—with renewals available beginning June 9.

Subscriptions are \$36 for UVM faculty and staff as well as non-UVM students, seniors (over 55), and children. Subscriptions for all others are \$45. The box office opens for walk-up and telephone sales on September 9.

The 2008-2009 season:

- October 1-12, Eurydice, by award-winning playwright Sarah Ruhl and directed by Sarah Carleton. Single tickets are \$7 for UVM students; \$14 for UVM faculty, staff, other students, seniors, and children; and \$17 for all others.
- November 5-16, Cabaret, with lyrics by Fred Ebb and music by John Kander. Directed by Gregory Ramos. Single tickets are \$9 for UVM students; \$16 for UVM faculty, staff, other students, seniors, and children; and \$19 for all others.
- February 18-March 1, The Seagull, an adaptation of Anton Chekhov's play. Directed by Peter Jack Tkatch. Single tickets are \$7 for UVM students; \$14 for UVM faculty, staff, other students, seniors, and children; and \$17 for all others.

Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday matinees begin at 2 p.m. ASL interpreted performances will now be presented at the final Sunday matinee. Audio description is available on every 2nd Friday performance.

Subscription holders may purchase tickets in advance for the 18th annual holiday favorite, The Toys Take Over Christmas by Patricia Clapp. Performances will be held December 6-7 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 6 p.m. Tickets for non-subscription holders will go on sale October 14. All tickets for Toys are \$12 for adults and \$7 for children under 14.

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Group and class sales are available by contacting Molly Kurent, director of marketing, at (802) 656-0094 or Molly.Kurent@uvm.edu, or by calling the box office at (802) 656-2094.

For more information or to order subscriptions go to [UVM Theatre](#).



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UVM HOMEPAGE

Reunion Weekend Features Music, Speakers and Events May 29-June 1

By Jay Goyette

Article published May 21, 2008

Faculty, staff and the general public are invited to join UVM alumni for the annual reunion weekend speakers series and other events, Thursday-Sunday, May 29-June 1. Upwards of 2,000 UVM alumni and families representing more than 70 years of UVM history will return to the campus over the course of the weekend to renew their ties to the university and take part in reunion activities centered on the themes of environment, sustainability, and health.

New this year is the Reunion Kids Camp, a program for children ages four to thirteen who will attend the weekend's events with their alumni parents. The affordable camp (\$20 per child per session) will give Catamount kids the opportunity to take advantage of UVM's educational and recreational facilities while their parents enjoy reunion events. More information is available online at <http://alumni.uvm.edu/reunion/camp/default.asp> or by calling 888-458-8691.

Except as noted below, events are free and open to the public.

All Weekend

Re-education: The Sustainability of Our Planet Starts at Home — Patrick Gym Oval

Michael Wolbach '79 displays his Biotrekker, a biodiesel RV, and provides simple tips for beginning sustainability practices at home.

Thursday, May 29

8 a.m.-8 p.m. Registration — University Heights South Lobby
The University Heights South Lobby is headquarters for all Reunion registration and weekend event information.

11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. UVM Fitness Center Open House — Patrick Forbush Gutterson Complex

6:30-7:30 p.m. Intro to Salsa Dancing — Davis Center - Mansfield Room

Get warmed up for an evening of Latin salsa. Join us for this introductory salsa dance class led by Vika, instructor of salsa and other dance classes offered in the Burlington area. Dress

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comfortably. All ages welcome.

8-10 p.m. Spanish Harlem Orchestra — Davis Center - Grand Ballroom

Since its original conception by producer Aaron Levinson in 2000, Spanish Harlem Orchestra (SHO) has established itself as a standard bearer of contemporary Latin music. Directed by world-renowned pianist, arranger, and producer Oscar Hernández, the thirteen-member all-star ensemble has reintroduced the classic sounds of New York City Salsa to music lovers worldwide. United We Swing, SHO's third album, is a stunning follow-up to their 2004 Grammy award-winning album Across 110th St., and their 2002 Grammy nominated debut, Un Gran Día En El Barrio. Tickets are \$30 per person (\$15 students) are available at the door or [online](#).

Friday, May 30

All Day

Book Signings, Authors & Artists Events — Davis Center - Henderson's Café

Meet local and UVM-affiliated authors and artists at the new Henderson's Cafe in the UVM Bookstore. A variety of authors will be signing their books all day.

7 a.m.-10 p.m. Registration — University Heights South Lobby
University Heights South Lobby, headquarters for all Reunion registration and weekend event information.

8:30-10:30 a.m. Voices of Vermont at Reunion: "Sustainability in the 21st Century" — Davis Center - Silver Maple Ballroom
Sustainability has become the largest movement in the world. Martha Perkins '58 will moderate this interactive event, which will include panelists Gioia Thompson '87 G'00, Director of UVM's Office of Sustainability; Megan Camp '84, Education Director at Shelburne Farms; and Richard Faesy from the Vermont Energy Investment Corp.

10:30-11:30 a.m. Voices of Vermont at Reunion: "The Vtrim Weight Management Program" — Davis Center - Livak Ballroom
Join UVM professor Jean Harvey-Berino for a presentation about Vtrim, the research-based weight loss program that has been responsible for many success stories in the local community. Learn how to modify your eating and exercise behaviors and succeed at weight management. Professor Harvey-Berino will also share recipes from The Eating Well Diet, the hardcover cookbook based on the Vtrim weight loss plan.

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Voices of Vermont at Reunion: "Healthy Investing in Today's Market: What You Need to Know to Stay Well Balanced" — Davis Center - Livak Ballroom
What do you need to know to be sure to reach your financial goals?

Understanding your financial situation and being prepared for changes are crucial to your health and well-being. Christine Moriarty '84, Certified Financial Planner, will explore the ways money affects our lives and how we can come from a balanced approach when interacting with it on a daily basis.

11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. UVM Fitness Center Open House — Patrick Forbush Gutterson Complex

1-2 p.m. Voices of Vermont at Reunion: "Strong Women and Men Live Well" — Davis Center - Livak Ballroom

Dr. Miriam Nelson '83, bestselling author and nationally-recognized nutritionist, will provide the latest research on diet, exercise, health, and aging. She will discuss the consequences of a poor diet and inactive lifestyle on the health of the nation. In addition, she will provide strategies to help you live a longer, healthier, and happier life as you grow older. Following the presentation, Dr. Nelson will sign copies of her Stay Young, Strong Bones, and Strong Hearts books.

3:30-4:30 p.m. Voices of Vermont at Reunion: Tour of Special Exhibitions at the Fleming Museum — Fleming Museum

Janie Cohen, Director of the Fleming Museum, leads a tour of Special Exhibitions. This spring, the Fleming is pleased to present two exciting artist's projects – Michael Light: 100 Suns and Between Soft Machines and Hard Science by David Powell. Both are unique opportunities to focus on a specific subject through an artistic perspective; in Light's case, the subject is America's nuclear age, and in Powell's case, the history of science. Also see the Fleming's collection of Sri Lankan masks in Wolcott Gallery.

6-9 p.m. Live Brazilian Jazz — Davis Center, Grand Maple Ballroom

7-10 p.m. Cynic/WRUV Reunion and Open House — Davis Center - Ansbacher Cynic Office

Gather with current and former Cynic staffers and their families, tour the new Cynic/WRUV offices and talk to recent Cynic/WRUV alumni while enjoying the brand new Davis Center. Cash bar. Hosted by Vermont Cynic/WRUV.

9 p.m.-Midnight Live Jazz at Brennan's Pub & Bistro — Davis Center - Brennan's Pub & Bistro

Enjoy the smooth sounds of Peter Krag's Student Jazz Trio as you explore all that the fabulous new Davis Student Center has to offer.

Saturday, May 31

All Day

Book Signings — Davis Center - Henderson's Café

Meet local and UVM-affiliated authors at the new Henderson's Cafe in the UVM Bookstore. A variety of authors will be signing their

books all day.

7 a.m.-10 p.m. Registration — University Heights South Lobby
University Heights South Lobby, headquarters for all Reunion registration and weekend event information.

7:30-11 a.m. UVM Fitness Center Open House — Patrick Forbush
Gutterson Complex

10:30 a.m.-Noon Reunion Celebration of Classes — University Heights Amphitheater
Join us for live Dixieland jazz and a special celebration of the Reunion classes. Class photos will be taken at this time - spouses and children are welcome in the class photos. (Fair weather only.)

11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. UVM Fitness Center Open House — Patrick Forbush
Gutterson Complex

Noon-2:30 p.m. Catamount Cookout — Reunion Tent (between University Heights South and Harris Mills Dining Hall)
Don't miss this fun for the whole family, including a gourmet cookout, music by Top Hat DJ, Marko the Magician and face painting by Learning Express. Dress is casual. Adults \$15, Children \$8 (under 4 free).

1 p.m. Tour of the UVM Greenhouse — UVM Greenhouse (on main campus)
Tour forms at the entrance to the UVM Greenhouse where it connects to Stafford Hall. The tour will last approximately 45 minutes.

1:00-4:00 p.m. Campus Shuttle Tours — Reunion Tent (between University Heights South and Harris Mills Dining Hall)
Climb aboard the CATS shuttle for a tour of the UVM campus. You won't believe all the changes! Shuttles depart every half hour from the Reunion Tent.

2 p.m. Tour of the UVM Greenhouse — UVM Greenhouse (on main campus)
Tour forms at the entrance to the UVM Greenhouse where it connects to Stafford Hall. The tour will last approximately 45 minutes.

2-3 p.m. College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Open House — 104 Stafford Hall
Hosted by Dean Rachel Johnson.

2-3 p.m. College of Nursing and Health Sciences Open House — Brickyard Lounge - Rowell Building
Hosted by the Dean's office.

3 p.m. Tour of the UVM Hort Farm — UVM Hort Farm (off Green Mountain Drive in South Burlington)
A shuttle bus will depart from the Davis Center and return by 4:15 p.m.

2-4 p.m. Reunion Broomball- Demo and Matches Gutterson Ice Rink
The classes of 1983 and 1988 invite you to the first annual Reunion Broomball exhibition and matches. Demos, shooting contests, exhibition games, and broomball matches promise fun for all ages and abilities. Interested broomball players should contact Paul Carney, class of 1988, at paul@ishtot.com.

4-8 p.m. UVM Fitness Center Open House — Patrick Forbush Gutterson Complex

5:30-7 p.m. Reception & Open Exhibits at the Fleming Museum — Fleming Museum
Cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres; galleries open with optional guided tour.

9 p.m. - Midnight Urban Blight Concert — Davis Center - Livak Ballroom
Get ready to "Go Bouncing" because Urban Blight is returning to Burlington for a special Reunion weekend concert! Tickets are \$50 per person and are available at the door or online at alumni.uvm.edu/urbanblight.

Further information is available at the [UVM Reunion 2008 website](#).

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Salsa with the Spanish Harlem Orchestra, May 29

By Jay Goyette

Article published May 21, 2008

The Davis Center's Grand Maple Ballroom will be home to the classic Latin sound of the Grammy Award-winning Spanish Harlem Orchestra on Thursday, May 29, at 8 p.m.

Directed by world-renowned pianist, arranger, and producer Oscar Hernández, the thirteen-member all-star ensemble has reintroduced the classic sounds of New York City salsa to music lovers worldwide. A standard bearer of contemporary Latin music, the group won a Latin Billboard Award for Salsa Album of the Year-Best New Group in 2003.

Tickets for the event, presented by UVM Alumni and Parent Programs and the UVM Lane Series, are \$30 for members of the general public and may be purchased [online](#) or by calling (888) 458-8691.

Free salsa dance instruction will be held in the Mansfield Room on the third floor of the Davis Center from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Nationally Ranked Sailing Team Prepares for Nationals

By View Staff

Article published May 21, 2008



Members of the nationally ranked UVM sailing team practice on Lake Champlain from afternoon until dark for much of the year. (Photo: Courtesy UVM Sailing Team)

The nationally ranked UVM sailing team continues to prepare for its first-ever trip to the Spring National Dinghy Championship on June 2-4 in Newport, R.I.— the national championships of college sailing.

The No. 7 ranked Catamounts, who are coming off a fifth-place finish at the New England Championships and a third place finish at the Eastern Semi-Final regatta, are the only club team ranked among the nation's top 10 in *Sailing World* magazine's latest poll. The team, funded by the Student Government Association and through fundraising, trail only No. 1 Boston College, Georgetown University, St. Mary's, Brown University, Yale University and the College of Charleston in the national rankings.

Some of the 40 members on the team, which practices on Lake Champlain in eighteen Flying Juniors, received regional and national recognition this season. Head Coach Justin Assad was unanimously voted NEISA Coach of the Year by other college coaches in New England. Sophomores Clinton Hayes and Coco Solsvig became the first UVM sailors in history to be named first team All-NEISA. Junior Christine Bletzer was named second team All-NEISA, and junior Tyler Baeder was named Sportsman of the Year Runner-Up.

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May 21, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Dr. **Richard Zubarik**, associate professor of medicine and chief of endoscopy at Fletcher Allen, presented an abstract titled "Pancreatic Cancer Screening in a High-Risk Population: Preliminary Data of a Multi-Center Trial Employing Carbohydrate Antigen (CA) 19-9 and Endoscopic Ultrasound" at Digestive Disease Week® 2008 in San Diego on May 19. With support from the Vermont Cancer Center and the Lake Champlain Cancer Research Organization, Zubarik examined the effectiveness of a new screening method for pancreatic cancer using CA 19-9, a tumor marker that is most often used to monitor disease progress as well as predict survival rates, with endoscopic ultrasound. He found that Stage 1 pancreatic cancers were more likely to be detected using this protocol. The finding is significant because a nationally-accepted screening tool for pancreatic cancer does not exist.

Barbara Arel, assistant professor of Business Administration, published an article entitled "The Influence of Auditor Experience on the Persuasiveness of Information Provided by Management," in *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory* (Volume 27, Number 1, May 2008.) The paper is co-authored with Ed O' Donnell, from The University of Kansas and Steven Kaplan, from Arizona State University. The study investigates whether experience limits auditors' reliance on management-provided information when that information is more favorable than an objective benchmark. The findings suggest that as auditors gain experience, they also gain persuasion knowledge, which allows them to deflect management's persuasion attempts.

Brooke Mossman, professor of pathology and director of the environmental pathology program, is a coauthor on a May 2 *Science* article titled "Innate Immune Activation Through Nalp3 Inflammasome Sensing of Asbestos and Silica." These research findings identified the role of the Nalp3 inflammasome in particulate matter-related pulmonary diseases and support its role as a major proinflammatory "danger" receptor.

Mercedes Rincon, associate professor of medicine, was the lead author of a May 2 *Science* article titled "Phosphorylation by p38 MAPK as an Alternative Pathway for GSK3 β Inactivation." Coauthors

on the paper include **Dwight Matthews**, professor and chair of chemistry, and postdoctoral associates **Tina Thornton** and **C. David Wood**, as well as **Alexander Aronshtam**, a lab research technician in the immunobiology division of medicine. The p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) is a key intracellular protein that regulates inflammatory cytokine production and modulates T cell function. Rincon and colleagues' research identified an alternative pathway for the inactivation of GSK3 β , which is involved in metabolism, neurodegeneration and cancer.

Marilyn Cipolla, associate professor of neurology, presented a study at the International Stroke Conference in February 2008 that was published in a special April supplement to the journal *Hypertension*. Titled "Pregnancy Reverses Hypertensive Remodeling of Cerebral Arteries," the article reports on Cipolla's findings that pregnancy reverses hypertensive remodeling of cerebral arteries. Though the mechanism behind hypertensive remodeling was previously fairly unknown, Cipolla's research found evidence of a protective mechanism that prevents damaging pressure from getting to the microcirculation and causing edema formation. Pregnancy reverses this circumstance, thereby predisposing women to eclampsia, a serious complication of pregnancy.

Awards and Honors

Trina Magi, library associate professor, was presented with the 2008 Vermont School Library Association Award on May 13, 2008 at the Vermont Library Conference in recognition of her "dedication, leadership, and collaboration with the Vermont School Library Community." Trina was specifically recognized for her work this past year as chair of the Vermont Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee, which successfully worked with school, public, and academic librarians, the state library, parents groups, and state lawmakers to introduce legislation that would strengthen Vermont state law regarding the confidentiality of library records. Gov. **Jim Douglas** signed the legislation into law this week. The new law (S. 220, "An Act Relating to the Confidentiality of Library Patron Records") will take effect on July 1, 2008. The law specifies that only a court order from a judge could force the release of a library patron's records. The previous law allowed librarians to release the records on their own volition.

Nicole B. Chittenden, assistant dean/business operations administrator of the School of Business Administration, was presented with a "Rising Star Award" at the Vermont Council for Quality's Annual Recognition and Award Ceremony on May 14, 2008. The award is granted to those individuals who are newly affiliated with Vermont Council for Quality and who have been hugely supportive of the program. Nicole completed VCQ's 3-tiered Baldrige training--approximately 50 hours--to be certified as a

Vermont Council of Quality Performance Examiner. She then volunteered to be a member of the team that conducted the three-day site visit that resulted in Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Vermont earning this year's Governor's Award. The site visit takes countless hours, not only on site, but also driving to and from and working after hours to complete the necessary work. Nicole was one of six people on the Site Visit Team. Nicole was also instrumental in the School of Business Administration becoming a Bronze Sponsor of Vermont Council for Quality.

Lee Nelson, a physical therapist and clinical professor of rehabilitation and movement science, received MGH's Institute of Health Professions Distinguished Alumni Award at their commencement on May 3, 2008. The criteria for the award include: expanding and refining the scientific basis for clinical practice through research and scholarship; contributing to new models of practice to foster provision of effective, affordable and ethical care; and contributing significantly to advancing the mission, reputation and standards of the Institute. The MGH Institute of Health Professions is an independent affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital, which operates within the Partners HealthCare System – the nation's second largest integrated health care system.

Dr. **Melody Brown Burkins**, associate dean in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, has been appointed to the National Academy of Sciences U.S. National Committee for the Geological Sciences (USNC/GS). Managed by the National Academies' Board on International Scientific Organizations (BISO) in the National Research Council Policy and Global Affairs division, the USNC/GS is composed of a diversity of earth systems scientists from academia, research, government, and industry who have received honors in their field and support the promotion of earth systems science and policy issues in the U.S. and throughout the international community. "I am extremely pleased to see one of our newest colleagues recognized by the National Academies for her earth and environmental research experience as well as her skill connecting the world of science and policy," said **Domenico Grasso**, Dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (CEMS). "Melody's enthusiasm for promoting scientific excellence and applications beyond the walls of academe will be an asset to U. S. National Committee efforts, just as it is for UVM and Vermont." As one of 20 U.S. National Committees coordinated by the National Academies, the USNC/GS represents U.S. interests to the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), a member union of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). The USNC/GS also acts as the adhering body to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) International Geoscience Programme (IGCP). In August, a USNC member detail will represent U.S. geoscience interests to the 33rd International Geological Congress "Earth System Science: Foundation for

Sustainable Development" meeting in Oslo, Norway.

Dr. **Virginia L. Hood**, professor of medicine and a nephrologist at Fletcher Allen, has been re-elected to serve a second three-year term with the Board of Regents of the American College of Physicians (ACP), the main policymaking body of the nation's second-largest physician organization. She began her second term during Internal Medicine 2008 -- the ACP annual scientific meeting held in Washington, D.C., May 15 through 17. Dr. Hood is the incoming 2008-2010 chair of the national ACP Ethics, Professionalism, and Human Rights Committee, chair of the ACP International Subcommittee for 2007-2009 and an ex officio member of the ACP Membership Committee. She has held numerous leadership roles at both the national and statewide levels of ACP over the past 17 years.

Judy Cohen, professor of nursing, was appointed Faculty Nurse Scientist at the Yvonne L. Munn Center for Nursing Research at Massachusetts General Hospital. The Munn Center was established in 2003 to provide nurses an opportunity to identify new ways to reshape, influence and improve the delivery of patient care and nursing practice.

April 30, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Several members of the department of pharmacology contributed to an April 30 PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Science) Early Edition paper titled "High blood pressure arising from a defect in vascular function." Among the co-authors are **Mark Nelson**, professor and chair of pharmacology, **Adrian Bonev**, research assistant professor of pharmacology, and **Michael Wilkerson**, postdoctoral associate in pharmacology.

Jan Carney, research professor of medicine and associate dean for public health, co-authored a "Brief Communication" titled "Community-Academic Partnerships: A "Community-First" Model to Teach Public Health" in the open-access e-Journal Education for Health on April 21.

April 23, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Wolfgang Mieder, professor and chairperson of the department of German and Russian, is the author of the book "Hänsel und Gretel: Das Märchen in Kunst, Musik, Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen," which deals with the origin, meaning, and modern survival of one of the best known fairy tales. The book includes 145 illustrations