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[Lewis to Grads: 'Hold Down the House'](#)



The university graduated one of its largest classes ever as about 2,500 students participated in 2007 Commencement activities. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

The last time U.S. Congressman John R. Lewis spoke at the University of Vermont he was an energetic 22-year-old civil rights leader one year removed from orchestrating and serving as keynote speaker at the historic March on Washington. His return more than 44 years later as keynote speaker at Sunday's 203rd commencement was no less passionate and contained a similar message: get off the sidelines of society and help those in need.

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[Lost in the Grass?](#) For songbirds like savannah sparrows, streaky brown birds with a yellowish eyebrow stripe, and bobolinks, black birds that look like they're wearing a tuxedo backward and sound like the emphatic beeping of R2D2, the era of intensive hayfield management has created a nest of troubles. But Allan Strong, assistant professor of natural resources, is working to slow and reverse the dwindling numbers of these birds.

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

June 3, 4 p.m. Burlington Discover Jazz Festival Event. Major Jackson, associate professor of English, will present a multi-disciplinary collaboration between jazz, poetry and the visual arts. Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts. \$10 adults, \$7 students and seniors. [Information](#).

June 3, 5 p.m. Burlington Discover Jazz Festival Event: *Ostentatious Poverty*, an absurdist play by Rachel Perlmeter featuring the original jazz score by Patricia Julien, assistant professor of music. FlynnSpace. Donations accepted at the door. [Information](#).

June 5, 11 a.m. Staff Council meeting. 413 Waterman.

June 13, 3-5:30 p.m. UVM Job Fair, with a resume writing workshop from 4-5 p.m. Billings Student Center. [Information](#): 656-3494.

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Lewis to Grads: 'Hold Down the House'

By Jon Reidel

Article published May 22, 2007



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The last time U.S. Congressman John R. Lewis spoke at the University of Vermont he was an energetic 22-year-old civil rights leader one year removed from orchestrating and serving as keynote speaker at the historic March on Washington. His return more than 44 years later as

keynote speaker at Sunday's 203rd commencement was no less passionate and contained a similar message: get off the sidelines of society and help those in need.

An estimated 5,700 people attended the ceremony that was moved to the Multipurpose Facility at Patrick Gymnasium due to inclement weather. An additional overflow crowd of about 1,000 people watched a closed-circuit broadcast in Patrick Gymnasium. Lewis, a Georgia congressman since 1986 and a passionate advocate for civil rights, gave the crowd the type of fiery, emotion-filled address he's been known to deliver, challenging graduates to build a "beloved community," which he defined as a loving, non-violent community that works together to correct injustices.

"Whatever it is you care about — whether it's getting to the truth about the war in Iraq, global warming, shrinking economic opportunities for the middle class, or the injustice of poverty — you have to find your passion and make your contribution," said Lewis. "I knew that I could strike a blow against segregation and racial discrimination. I decided to get in the way. I decided to get in trouble. But it was good trouble; it was necessary trouble ... We may have all come over on different ships, but we're all in the same boat now."

Graduating class thanked for 'enduring change'

President Daniel Mark Fogel conferred degrees on 2,494 graduates, including 1,919 bachelor's, 401 master's, 57 doctoral, and 97 M.D. degree recipients, in addition to graduate certificates. Among degree recipients



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were students from 39 states and 46 international students from 20 countries. Approximately 1,104 graduates are from Vermont. The graduating class includes 168 African, Latino/a, Asian and Native American (ALANA) and bi/multi-racial students.

After thanking graduates for handling the past four years of unprecedented change at the university, including the construction of the Dudley H. Davis Center, with “flexibility, grace and patience,” Fogel reflected on some of the highlights of the past four years, including the visits of Desmond Tutu, Antonin Scalia, Elie Weisel and Barack Obama. He also reflected on the loss of three members of the UVM community: Michelle Gardner Quinn, a senior transfer student who was abducted and killed in October of 2006; professor James Peterson, who was shot and killed during a 2005 robbery in Iranduba, a small town near the Amazon River where he was conducting research; and Vermont Army National Guard 2nd Lt. Mark Procopio, a 2004 graduate who was killed on Nov. 2 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq while he and his patrol attempted to help a downed Marine helicopter.

All three “gave us great pride in what they’d accomplished and what they stood for, shining examples of the best of the University of Vermont community,” said Fogel.

Posthumous degrees were awarded to Gardner-Quinn, whose father, John-Charles Quinn, accepted the degree on behalf of his daughter in an emotional ceremony that drew a standing ovation from the capacity crowd. Eric D’Oench, a sociology major who died in 2006, was also awarded a posthumous degree, which was accepted on his behalf by his brother.

In addition to Lewis, the university presented honorary degrees to Henry Louis Gates, Jr., an internationally renowned scholar of African and African-American history and culture; Jackie M. Gribbons, a UVM administrative leader across four decades and co-founder of UVM's highly ranked graduate program in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration; Leonard Miller, a Burlington native and class of 1951 alumnus who has been a major supporter of UVM’s Center for Holocaust Studies; Floyd Rourke, the retired chair, president and CEO of Sandy Hill Corporation, a pulp and paper machinery company in Hudson Falls, N.Y. and chair of the Lake Champlain Cancer Research Organization; and Thomas Slayton, who retired this year from Vermont Life Magazine after 21 years as editor-in-chief of the publication. Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel, the Holocaust survivor who recounted his experiences in the award-winning memoir *Night*, received an honorary degree from the university on April 25 when he delivered a public lecture on campus.

Holding down the house

Among those in attendance for Lewis’ 1963 speech as chair of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee at the “Pride and Prejudice” Vermont Conference, was Carl Lisman, a 1967 graduate and chairman of the Board of Trustees. One year after his visit to UVM, Lewis led 600

peaceful demonstrators across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma toward Montgomery during what would become known as "Bloody Sunday." The disturbing images of the event helped hasten the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

"What I remember most about Congressman Lewis' first visit was the way in which he carried himself and expressed his opinion," said Lisman. "The man has a way with words. He tells it like it is. He was as impressive today as he was back then."

Lewis closed with a story about his aunt Seneva's house in Troy., Ala., which he described as an old shotgun house with holes in the ceiling that he could see stars through at night. One day a huge storm came up and his aunt started crying when the foundations of the house looked like they were going to give. But Lewis and his siblings held down the foundations and kept the house intact. He told graduates that we all live in the same house and must hold it down together.

"My friends, the storms may come. The winds may blow. The thunder may roll. The lightning may flash. And the rain may beat down on this old house. Call it the House of the University of Vermont. Call it the House of Burlington. Call it the American House. Call it the World House. We all live in the same house. We must never, ever leave that house. We must not give up; we must not give in; we must not give out."

Student awards announced

John M. Hughes, senior vice president and provost, announced the winners of the student awards. Christine Hertz won the Mary Jean Simpson Award, honoring the senior woman who exhibits the highest qualities of leadership, academic competence and character; Seth Bowden won the F.T. Kidder Medal, honoring the senior man ranking first in character, leadership and scholarship; Martin Klimes and Alaina Dickason won the Class of 1967 Award, presented to the senior who best exhibits leadership, academic competence and character, and who has earned the respect of faculty and fellow students; Lindsey Carfagna won the Keith M. Miser Leadership Award, recognizing outstanding service to the university; and Rhian Waters and Stephanie Onyekaba won the Elmer Nicholson Achievement Prize, recognizing the greatness of the student's UVM experience and the expectation that the student will make a major contribution in his or her field of interest. Bevin Alexandra Cohen, who starts work on a master's of public health (MPH) at Columbia in the fall, distinguished herself as the first graduate of the Honors College after completing the program in three years.

The UVM Alumni Association honored Richard Sugarman, professor of religion, with the George V. Kidder Outstanding Faculty Award, awarded for excellence in undergraduate teaching and advising. Sugarman concluded by saying that words from The Talmud best captured the way he felt about the award: "Much have I learned from my teachers; even more from colleagues, but most of all from my students."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Lost in the Grass?

By Joshua Brown

Article published May 23, 2007

A bird in the hand, but male or female? Ornithologist Allan Strong gently blows apart the feathers of a savannah sparrow, temporarily caught in a Shelburne farm field. (Photo: Joshua Brown)

This is supposed to be a trip in search of small songbirds that nest down low in the grass: savannah sparrows — streaky brown birds with a yellowish eyebrow stripe — and bobolinks — black birds that look like they're wearing a tuxedo backward and sound like the emphatic beeping of

R2D2.

Instead, in a wet hayfield behind Jim Maille's dairy farm on Dorset Street, in the strange blue-and-pink gloom of the pre-dawn, ornithologist Allan Strong peers at the sky, watching a tiny cloud of black specks rocketing north.

Did you see that?" he says to his post-doctoral student, Noah Perlut.

"What?" says Perlut.

"Brant," he says.

To one untrained reporter's eye, they're barely discernable as birds. The more skilled might guess they're some form of waterfowl. But Strong's years of careful looking allow him to home in on the subtle shapes of fast-flying feathers — and know that these specks are brant, a coastal goose rarely seen in Vermont.

You might say he's got the right search images in his mind when he looks for birds. Unfortunately, the grassland birds he's been studying in these fields — the savannah sparrows and bobolinks — have the wrong search images in theirs when they look for nest sites.

A Nest of troubles At least they're the wrong images now, in an era of intensive hayfield management. "These early-hayed fields are really



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attractive to these birds,” says Strong, an assistant professor in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, sweeping his hand across the shrub-free, rich green grass. “But they’re future death traps.”

When these sparrows and bobolinks look for a good place to nest, their search is probably based on landscape cues carried from thousands of years in their history, when they lived on the prairie. But now, when they settle down in Vermont grasslands during April and May, they stand little chance of successfully raising young. Strong’s research across the Champlain Valley, funded for the past six years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, makes it clear that nearly all their nests and nestlings will be wiped out by passing tractors and mowing blades before the young can fly. And with three harvests as the norm, the mowers will be back again too soon to allow adult birds to successfully re-nest.

“These birds are part of Vermont’s agricultural heritage,” Strong says quietly, as he untangles a male savannah sparrow from one of twelve nearly invisible mist nets he and Perlut and a group of other researchers from UVM and Plattsburgh State have festooned across the field. “The reason these birds are here is because we have a dairy industry.”

But since the 1960s dairy farmers have moved toward earlier and more frequent hay harvests because protein levels in grass are higher in the early season. Along with development of former farmland and reversion of fields to forest, this change in hay cutting is one major reason why Northeastern grassland songbird populations have been in steep decline. Some, like Henslow’s sparrow, are in a freefall toward extinction. It’s a painful irony that several centuries of agriculture allowed these birds to become established from New York to Maine and several decades of agriculture may be a primary cause of their demise.

But there is reason to hope, Strong thinks, that some changes could slow and reverse the dwindling numbers of these birds.

Cutting deals

“In May and early June the birds are really vulnerable, but if we delay the cutting beyond that, many birds can survive. We have very good nesting success for both of these species with cuts that range from late June to mid-July,” he says, even though some conservation guidelines suggest that waiting until August is necessary.

While dairy farmers have little flexibility to alter their cutting schedules — the early hay is economically critical in the cut-throat world of commodity milk prices — “there are a lot of fields out there that are managed like lawns,” he says. “Some people have what used to be a hay field that’s now a house on 20 acres: they keep it clear because they like it. These are the landowners we’re really thinking of as our primary target” for implementing later hay cutting, he says.

And if some farmers were to make a first cut in late May and then wait 65 days, the delay “could provide enough time for both species to successfully fledge young,” Perlut and Strong and their colleagues reported in a December 2006 edition of [Ecological Applications](#).

For farmers focused on the highest protein quality for dairy cows, much adjustment in cutting days is probably not going to happen, he says, but some might be willing to leave a few of their most bird-rich or grass — poor acres alone — especially with financial incentives available from the Vermont office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a part of the USDA: farmers who agree to cut before May 31 and let the field rest for 65 days can receive \$100 per acre.

“We’re trying to help the landowner, as well as the birds, with this new incentive,” says Toby Alexander ’94, state biologist for NRCS, “but no one has signed up this year.”

“Al and Noah have been very helpful to NRCS in developing this program,” he says. “It’s a hard pill to swallow for some ag folks, though; you’re getting rid of good cuttings. We may need to tweak the program for next year and up the incentive.”

Go to the people

In any case, Strong would like to travel around the state talking with farmers and other landowners. “We’ve got most of the basic biology licked. And we have a pretty good sense of what the birds need to keep viable populations,” he says. “Now it’s time to go to the people and talk about management.”

But there are still many unanswered science questions, like what are the evolutionary consequences of modern hay management (since the pairing behavior of the birds changes in response to a field being cut)? And where exactly do the adult bobolinks go when they abandon a mowed field?

The roughly 3500 birds Allan Strong and Noah Perlut, and a large cadre of other researchers and students, have caught and banded on both sides of Lake Champlain over the years will help provide answers. “But it’s our responsibility to get the word out about these birds, not just do the science,” says Perlut, as he gingerly turns over a quivering sparrow to look at four tiny plastic and metal rings, two clipped around each leg.

“Band 1881121156,” he says to Nate Zalik MS ’07, who writes the numbers in a field notebook, “bill length, 8.8, width, 4.06.” Then he looks up toward the rising sun. “Such cool little critters,” he says, and lets the bird go, dipping and darting across the glowing grass.

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Trustees Focus on Facilities and Funds

By Tom Weaver and Jon Reidel

Article published May 23, 2007



Trustees Harry Chen and Susan Hudson-Wilson listen to a presentation during the May 2007 Board of Trustees meeting of the Committee of the Whole. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Campus facilities needs and how best to finance them were a central focus of decisions and discussions at the May meetings of the university's Board of Trustees. The board approved \$14.6 in renovations that will begin this summer in Williams Hall, the Rowell Building, and

several other locations. Farther down the line, trustees voted conceptual support for the \$50 million plant science building and a \$5.5 million renovation of the Colchester Research Facility. And looking long-range, Board Chair Carl Lisman expressed concern that UVM has "clearly outgrown our physical wellness facilities," noting that Patrick Gym was built in 1961 when enrollment was 3,400. Lisman announced the formation of a new task force to explore options to enhance indoor space for fitness and recreation, large campus events, and varsity athletic competitions.

Plant Science takes step forward

The Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee voted unanimous support for the concept of a new \$50 million plant science building on campus and a \$5.5 million renovation of the Colchester Research Facility. Under the board's new format, the two building projects will be taken up by the Budget, Finance and Investment Committee at the board's next meeting, in September. That committee will decide on whether the university has the current financial capacity to undertake the project.

Rachel Johnson, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, gave an overview of the proposed plant science building and the academic work it would house. The departments of plant biology and plant and soil science would be main occupants of the three-story, red-brick building, which would include office, lecture hall/classroom, and laboratory space. The plant science building would be located between



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the water tower and Main Street, adjoining the current greenhouses and bordering the eastern end of the new oval at the Davis Center's entrance.

Though trustees were supportive of the need and concept for the new building, trustee James Betts and others raised questions about whether the current design would serve UVM's needs far enough into the future. "We'd feel terrible if we outgrew it before it opened in March 2010," Betts said. "Should we look at some increased capacity? Is this really wise, the best decision?"

Johnson, Provost John Hughes, and Bob Vaughan, director of capital planning and management, stressed that the building's size squares with long-range planning and budget considerations. Though trustees did vote for approval, the vote was accompanied by a request from committee chair Martha Heath for the administration to take an additional look at whether expanding the building's size would be advisable and feasible. Vaughan told trustees that if the project is approved next September, construction could start early in the summer of 2008, and the building would potentially be completed in March 2010.

Trustees also voted conceptual approval for renovations to the Colchester Research Facility, a \$5.5 million project that would add 34,000-square feet of available space, creating room to centralize cardiovascular research work and house additional College of Medicine research in Colchester.

Debating debt policy

The majority of time spent by the Budget, Finance and Investment Committee was on the university's debt policy. The university identifies two key financial ratios to set internal limits and provide a framework to evaluate both debt capacity and debt affordability. Trustees set a debt burden ratio limit of 5.0 percent and a viability ratio of 1.0 in 2003, but have revisited those standards recently to discuss whether loosening them to take advantage of near-record-low interest rates would be prudent.

Trustees were provided with a chart showing the debt ratio policies of peer public institutions. UVM's debt ratio of 5.0, which it expects to reach by 2008, was on the high side joining Miami (Ohio), Clemson, UNH, Wisconsin, UNC, the University of Colorado, William & Mary, Umass and UConn as the only institutions with debt ratios exceeding 3.0 percent. UConn, which receives major financial support from the state, topped the list with a debt ratio of 13 percent. With the debt structures not the same at each institution, trustees were cautioned that the comparisons weren't exactly "apples to apples." Trustees asked for debt ratio data on peer private institutions for the September board meeting.

Trustees were mixed about whether the university should take on more debt to pay for its current 10-year vision. Susan Hudson-Wilson was adamant that trustees take advantage of low interest rates in order to move the university forward because the opportunity may not come

again, adding that she would be in favor of moving to a 6.0 percent debt ratio and 0.8 viability ratio. Other trustees, including committee vice co-chair Robert Cioffi, sounded more hesitant about the possibility of overextending the university. Committee Chair Deborah McAneny called the discussion incredibly important. "This is one of the best discussions we've ever had," she said. "It's a tough and one where rational minds disagree."

"I would love to have unlimited resources to realize the vision, but we don't," said President Daniel Mark Fogel. "We've got to strike the right balance. I don't want to be overextended, overexposed or vulnerable. I'm of two minds on this and I honestly don't know the answer; but it's precisely this process of weighing the risks and benefits that will serve us well."

Other Board of Trustees meeting news:

The new task force announced by Lisman to measure the need for more recreational fitness space for students, varsity athletics and other major events such as concerts and future Commencements, will be chaired by former hockey star and current trustee Ian Boyce. The remaining committee members will be made up of four or five other trustees; four students; three faculty; three administrators; and three staff members. The committee was also charged with recommending a source of funding for its recommendation, which could range from mild upgrades of existing facilities to building a major arena, referred to by Lisman as an "activity center for health and well being."

Provost Hughes reported on the current enrollment figures for next fall's new class. "We've proven to be very popular and have exceed our targets," Hughes said. The provost noted that 2,637 students have paid deposits to join UVM's class of 2011 in August.

Wanda Heading-Grant, interim associate vice provost for multicultural affairs, provided an overview of the history of diversity at the university. Trustees asked Heading-Grant to suggest what she saw as key diversity issues on the horizon for UVM. She said she's concerned with increasing the number of African-American, Latino-American, and native American faculty in tenure-line positions. She also stressed the importance of fully implementing the six-credit diversity requirement for undergraduates and enhancing the multicultural education aspects of the UVM curriculum.

Trustees passed a six percent tuition increase that raised tuition for in-state students from \$9,832 to \$10,442 and from \$24,816 to \$26,306 for out-of-state students starting in the fall of 2007. Some trustees stressed the importance of the university continuing to increase financial aid to offset tuition increases.

Both Trustee Chair Carl Lisman and President Fogel spoke to issues of campus safety in their opening reports to the full board, each referencing the murder of Michelle Gardner-Quinn last October and the national tragedy on the campus at Virginia Tech this spring. Fogel noted that the

university has strong policies in place regarding intimidating or hostile behavior, and has worked in recent years with university and local law enforcement to develop strategies for handling a crisis situation on campus. The president also addressed student health and safety issues surrounding binge drinking at UVM and on campuses nationwide. Fogel pledged increased advocacy from his office next year in the search for better ways to combat this problem.

Trustees passed a resolution that reaffirmed their commitment to adopting a policy of targeted divestment from companies doing business with or otherwise aiding the governing regime of Sudan based on a model developed by the Sudan Divestment Task Force. The Committee on Socially Responsible Investment will review and reaffirm the resolution on an annual basis. Archer Mou, who left Sudan 19 years ago and who has worked to help end his country's genocidal violence, along with fellow Students Take Action Now Darfur (STAND) member and vice president Alex Bamberg, showed a short film on Darfur and presented the board with a large framed black and white photo of young child in a tree in Darfur for their work on the divestiture issue. Trustee John Snow, chair of the Committee on Socially Responsible Investment, accepted the gift on behalf of the board and administration.

Trustees approved two resolutions related to partial refunding of the 1998 and 2002 bonds. The first resolution put into a place a document authorizing an advance swap with a counter-party to take advantage of recent moves in the bond market that could result in sufficient savings if a substantial change in the market occurred. The second resolution authorized the issuance of fixed-rate bonds for the refunding of bonds for 1998 and 2002 and long-term financing for approved projects that are being carried on commercial paper.

theview

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UVM HOMEPAGE

UVM Undergraduates Receive 2007 Barrett Scholarships

By Dawn Densmore

Article published May 22, 2007

The Barrett Foundation in collaboration with the UVM College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences has awarded \$6,500 scholarships to five undergraduate students to perform summer engineering research.

The Barrett Foundation has provided UVM CEMS with competitive awards to outstanding undergraduate engineering students for the last three years. Each undergraduate student project fits within a general research area of an active faculty member and allows students the opportunity to perform guided, self-initiated research. Richard Barrett is a 1966 UVM graduate and successful entrepreneur whose career was boosted by early internship experiences.

A brief synopsis of the 2007 award winners and their projects follows:

Project Title: Structural Assessment of Shelburne Farms Breeding Barn using Accelerometers

Peter Larson, junior civil engineering major from Hampden, Maine, will analyze the Shelburne Farms Breeding Barn using an accelerometer that can assess structural weaknesses that could cause the barn to collapse under heavy snows.

"In today's changing environment it is more important than ever to preserve unique historical structures such as the Breeding Barn at Shelburne Farms. Built in 1891, it was the largest unsupported open space in North America until the Chicago World's Fair in the 1940's," says Jean-Guy Béliveau, professor of structural engineering, and faculty advisor for the project.

A noninvasive method to determine the stiffness and loads of the truss members in the Breeding Barn will be used with wireless accelerometers from Micro-Strain, in Williston, Vt. These measurements will help determine if additional renovations are necessary for the barn roof, in particular for snow loads. Should wireless accelerometers prove to be an accurate method for determining the member loads in the structure, the technique could be used to assess other historical buildings and/or bridges for quantitative assessment of structures.

"The Barrett project allows me to do the two things I enjoy most:



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working on structures and historical buildings” says Larson, who plans to become a structural engineer. “I will be working with a graduate student, Nathan Maille, and will attach wireless accelerometers to the trusses to induce vibrations. This allows us to measure resonant frequencies and determine in-situ axial loads.”

Project Title: Applications of Neural Network Analysis: Pollutant Contamination and Leaf Wetness

Jeremy Matt, a junior civil engineering major from Marlboro, Vt., will create a neural network computer automated system that can assess processes ranging from the transport of contaminants through building materials to the prediction of leaf wetness, a leading indicator of disease in crops.

Matt will work to create a computer automated system to analyze applications ranging from quantifying leaf wetness for crop disease forecasts to tracking the transport of contaminants through building materials due to a chemical attack or spill. “Computers are great at picking up edges and by identifying edges in pictures we can identify such things as the number of water droplets on a single leaf to determine how wet a leaf actually is or the depth of chemical penetration in a building material,” says Matt. Using neural network adaptive programs provides feedback on how well each specific task is being done, which in turn allows the program to adjust and improve results.

In many cases, it is cheaper to simply tear down and rebuild contaminated buildings than to decontaminate them, but this is not an option for buildings with high levels of cultural or historic significance. If a contaminated building cannot be demolished and rebuilt, then restoration is costly and time consuming. Understanding how quickly and to what extent various contaminants can penetrate common building materials is important because this knowledge allows for more efficient decontamination.

The goal of this project is to develop methods to automatically analyze CT scans of building materials and photographs of plants and/or fields. The CT scans will be processed and combined into a three dimensional sample model of the building material. An Artificial Neural Network (ANN) will be used to quantify the contaminant transport characteristics of the sample. Professors Donna Rizzo and Mandar Dewoolkar will act as faculty advisors.

Project Title: Stream Temperature as an Indicator of Aquatic Habitat Quality for Coldwater Fish

Karen Sentoff, a junior in civil engineering with an environmental focus, from Liverpool, N.Y., will use data from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department to determine the impact of increased water temperature on cold water fish species in Vermont.

The ability of fish populations to survive and thrive is directly linked to the temperature of the water body they inhabit. Slightly increasing water temperatures inflicts stress on fish species local to Vermont streams, particularly during the summer season during low flows. As water temperatures change due to a variety of influences, the fish quality of life is compromised. A main objective of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is to identify and prevent such distress on the natural and stocked fish communities by protecting and conserving their ecological habitat. A quantitative measure of the habitat quality of Vermont streams, based on stream temperature, would assist in gauging the progress of the VTFW in their mission.

Ryan Butryn, a graduate student in natural resources, will work together with Karen Sentoff on determining stream temperature variability. Data on fish counts from The Vermont Fish and Wildlife will be used together with water temperature data in specific locations.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to work with a graduate student, because I plan to continue in grad school after graduation, and working outside in nature this summer is also going to be a blast," says Sentoff.

Project Title: Role of Fuel Additives on Light Duty Vehicle Tailpipe Emissions

Iliana M. Vazquez-Spickers, a junior civil engineering major with an environmental option from Puerto Rico, will study how tailpipe emissions from light duty vehicles (LDV) affect air quality.

Not only do vehicle emissions contribute to air quality issues, but other factors are involved such as: type of vehicles, fuel type, and operation purposes. Light duty vehicle (LDV) engines are rather inefficient and result in incomplete fuel combustion releasing emissions of different pollutants that affect human health and contribute to air pollution. The broad focus of this study is to understand how the tailpipe emissions from LDV affect air quality. Professor Britt A. Holmén will act as Vazquez-Spickers faculty advisor.

Vazquez-Spickers is concerned about air quality issues, "We cannot live without air — it is as important as water quality issues," says Vazquez-Spickers. "It's all linked to global warming, and we need every nation to work together to obtain the ultimate goal of saving the environment for future generations."

Vazquez-Spickers would like to educate others from the University of Puerto Rico so that they will be inspired to make the necessary changes as well. We collectively need to walk, use buses, all of which will improve air quality. By using fuel additives, systems would be cleaner and better for the environment, leaving less tailpipe emissions, providing better air and reducing greenhouse gases.

Project Title: Microbially Induced Calcite Precipitation (MICP) for Civil and Environmental Engineering Applications

Charles Farmer, a junior civil engineering student from Knoxville, Tennessee, will study how bacteria impact the chemistry of the subsurface porous media thereby promoting the precipitation of calcite, for both enhancing the stability of soils and for sequestering pollutants such as highly toxic or radioactive metals.

"This is a new area of research with limitless possibilities for application," says Farmer. "The most promising is to increase soil strength for all kinds of civil and environmental engineering including creating stability in earthquake prone areas and for protecting roadways from flooding streams."

Farmer's research manipulates current bacteria in the ground to change the chemistry of the subsurface environment which causes "calcite" (limestone) precipitation to increase soil stability and strength. Recently applications for Microbially Induced Calcite Precipitation (MICP) have been researched and recognized in the geomicrobiology and engineering literature.

The MICP method involves using bacteria to alter the chemistry of the subsurface soils to promote the precipitation of calcite. This has applications for both enhancing the stability of soils and for sequestering pollutants such as highly toxic or radioactive metals and could be a useful in-situ technology for many engineering applications.

Farmer will test whether the MICP method can be used to fixate Arsenic and Chromium, two toxic metals, to assess possible field remediation applications of the technology. "The idea is to grab pollutants at the surface to protect groundwater from contamination," says Farmer. Farmer will work with professors Nancy Hayden and Mandar Dewoolkar on this research.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

The New York Times Features Study by UVM's Gund Institute

By Joshua Brown

Article published May 22, 2007

New Jersey may bring to mind dense cities, neon boardwalks and jokes about the turnpike. But it also is known for the watery quiet of the Pine Barrens, fine beaches and choice farmland.

In New Jersey, like elsewhere, conversion of open land for development has often been justified in economic terms: new jobs, more taxes. But what is the value — the economic value — of a bog, a salt marsh, or an urban park?

On May 21, 2007, *The New York Times* featured a new report by Robert Costanza and his colleagues at the University of Vermont's Gund Institute for Ecological Economics that answers this question for New Jersey in precise terms.

In an [article](#) on the front page of the Metro section, Pam Belluck reports that the study, commissioned by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, puts dollar values onto different types of natural lands. Storm-slowing sand beaches cash in at over \$42,000 per acre, freshwater wetlands at \$11,568 per acre and grasslands at \$77 per acre.

Costanza and his collaborators, including UVM professors Austin Troy and Matthew Wilson, developed the report by analyzing numerous studies of wetlands and other land types and by calculating the cost of replacing their "ecosystem services" — like flood control, pollination and climate regulation — with human-made substitutes.

The new report is part of a larger effort by the Gund Institute to study and quantify "natural capital" across the planet with the goal of conserving important lands and waters through a recognition of the economic value of ecosystems.



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[Trustees Focus on Facilities and Funds](#)

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Transcript of Wiesel Talk Available Online

By the view Staff

Article published May 23, 2007

A transcript of the talk Nobel Prize winning Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel delivered during his April 25 visit to campus is available in [PDF format online](#). (Note: PDF files and may require you to download [Adobe® Reader](#).)

Wiesel, who was awarded an honorary degree by President Fogel, spoke about the burden of memory, the importance of being a witness and his dedication to ending the genocide in Darfur.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Four Kroepsch-Maurice Winners Named for 2007-2008

By the view Staff

Article published May 23, 2007

The Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award recipients have been named for the 2007-2008 academic year. The awards, which are given in recognition of excellent classroom instruction, memorialize Robert H. and Ruth M. Kroepsch and her parents, Walter C. and Mary L. Maurice. Robert H. Kroepsch served as registrar and dean of administration at UVM from 1946-56. His wife, Ruth, graduated from UVM in 1938 and her father, Walter Maurice, graduated from UVM in 1909. All four were teachers.

This year's winners are Martin Thaler, professor of theatre; Emily Bernard, associate professor of English; Mandar Dewoolkar, assistant professor of engineering; and Robert Erickson, senior lecturer in computer science.

Look for profiles of the winners in the fall and spring issues of *the view*.



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UVM HOMEPAGE

Gordon, Irvin, LeWinter and McConaughy Named University Scholars

By the view Staff

Article published May 23, 2007

The University Scholar Awards Program, which recognizes distinguished faculty members for sustained excellence in research and scholarly activities, has announced winners for the 2007-2008 academic year.

They are Robert Gordon, professor of anthropology; Charles Irvin, professor of medicine and molecular physiology and biophysics; Martin LeWinter, professor of medicine and molecular physiology and biophysics; and Stephanie McConaughy, research professor of psychiatry and psychology.

University Scholars are selected by a panel of prominent faculty, based upon nominations submitted by their colleagues. Each scholar will present a lecture during the upcoming academic year.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Reunion Weekend Set for May 31-June 2

By Jay Goyette

Article published May 22, 2007

Faculty, staff and the general public are invited to join UVM alumni for the annual reunion weekend speakers series and other events, Thursday-Saturday, May 31-June 2. Some 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. Except as noted below, events are free and open to the public.

Thursday, May 31

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Vermont Institute of Artisan Cheese Reception, UVM Recital Hall Lobby.

Learn about the Vermont Institute of Artisan Cheese and the growth of artisan cheese making in Vermont. Refreshments and samples of Vermont artisan cheeses will be provided.

6:30-8 p.m.

Voices of Vermont at Reunion, UVM Recital Hall. "Oil, the Persian Gulf and American Policy in the Middle East." Gregory Gause, professor of political science.

Friday, June 1

10-11 a.m.

Voices of Vermont at Reunion, University Heights South Multi-purpose Room. "Stock Market Views: Deciding Where the Stock Market Is Heading Now." Max Ansbacher '57 will examine the different factors that affect market direction. Mr. Ansbacher is president of Ansbacher Investment Management, Inc., a New York-based firm which manages over \$180 million in assets using option strategies.

1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Dudley H. Davis Student Center Tours, Dudley H. Davis Center. Tour the Dudley H. Davis Center, new home of the UVM Bookstore as of May, and soon to be new Student Center. This 220,000+ square foot Center is where the academic, co-curricular and social lives of the UVM community will converge. Space is limited. Register for tour at University Heights South lobby.

1:45-3:15 p.m.

Voices of Vermont at Reunion, University Heights South Multi-purpose


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Room. "Helping Students Talk About Hot Topics on a College Campus Without Getting Burned: Pluralism in Action." Robert Nash, professor of education, presents his idea of "moral conversation" as an effective way to talk with one another about highly controversial issues on pluralistic college campuses.

3:45-4:45 p.m.

Voices of Vermont at Reunion, Fleming Museum. Tour of Special Exhibitions at the Fleming. Fleming Museum director Janie Cohen and curator Evelyn Hankins will lead a tour of two special exhibitions: "Burlington and Winooski 1920-2020: The Evolution of Our Built Environment," and "Ambreen Butt: I Need a Hero," a site-specific project that brings together the centuries-old traditions of Indian miniature painting with a profound engagement with contemporary themes.

Saturday, June 2

11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Catamount Pep Rally and Celebration of Classes, Ira Allen Chapel. Celebrate UVM and the accomplishments of each reunion class and individual alumni. Guest appearances by former UVM athletes and coaches and emeriti faculty. Entertainment by the UVM Alumni Band, conducted by D. Thomas Toner, professor of music.

12:15-3 p.m.

Catamount Cookout, Reunion Tent (between University Heights South and Harris Mills Dining Hall). Featuring live jazz, Marco the Magician and Face Painting by Learning Express. Dress: UVM attire (t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, etc.). Adults \$15, Children \$8 (under 4 free).

2:45-3:45 p.m.

Voices of Vermont at Reunion, Royall Tyler Theatre. The Vermont Painted Theatre Curtain Project. The Vermont Painted Theater Curtains have been designated as one of America's Treasures. Over 175 of these curtains have been found all over Vermont. Michele Pagan '73 will present images of the painted curtains by various artists as well as photos documenting the restoration process the for the Royall Tyler curtain.

1-4 p.m.

Campus Shuttle Tours, departing every half hour from the reunion tent. All aboard for a 30-minute tour of the UVM campus. Learn about the new Dudley H. Davis Center, the University Heights student residential learning complex and more as your hosts take you on a trip down memory lane and into UVM's future.

1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Dudley H. Davis Student Center Tours, Dudley H. Davis Center. Tour the Dudley H. Davis Center, new home of the UVM Bookstore as of May and soon-to-be new student center. This 220,000+ square foot Center is where the academic, co-curricular and social lives of the UVM community

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Registration Headquarters in the University Heights South Lobby.
Registration will be open from Thursday morning, May 31 through Saturday afternoon, June 2.

Further information is available at the UVM Reunion 2007 [website](#).

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Town Meeting Called to Discuss Clinical and Translational Science Award

By view Staff

Article published May 23, 2007

The campus community is invited to participate in a town meeting hosted by Dr. Richard Galbraith, professor of medicine, on May 29 at noon in Carpenter Auditorium, Given Building to update the campus community about preparations being made to compete for a large infrastructure grant from the National Institutes of Health.

The major objective of the grant, a Clinical and Translational Science Award, is to facilitate and encourage interdisciplinary collaborations between diverse members of the faculty at UVM with elements of the clinical and translational research enterprise. This is an opportunity to learn about the CTSA, but also for faculty and staff to provide input and offer suggestions.

Information, call (802) 847-2777 or email ctsa@med.uvm.edu.

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Publications and Presentations

A number of faculty from the Geography Department attended and presented at the 103rd Association of American Geographers (AAG) Conference in San Francisco. **Matthew Hannah**, associate professor, presented a paper on biopolitics and digital security. **Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux**, associate professor, presented two papers on the use of AirMISR multiple view angle imagery for monitoring wetlands in central Maine. One was given at the AAG itself and the other at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. **Pablo Bose**, George Washington Henderson Fellow, presented a paper titled "Reclaiming World City Status: Diasporic Transnational Subjects and the Transformation of Kolkata." **Sasha Davis**, assistant professor, organized and chaired two panel sessions on aspects of militarism and militarization in addition to presenting a paper titled "Nature takes over: Constructing terra nullius and scales of control." He also took part in a panel on activism and research titled "Claiming Political Space" which was organized by former UVM geography graduate, **Nathan Clough**.

Glen Elder, associate professor of geography, presented a paper titled "Breaking the Global-AIDS-Poverty Syndrome in Africa" at the 7th Northeastern Workshop on Southern Africa. The conference was held in Burlington and was attended by 60 delegates from countries that included South Africa, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, Ireland, and Sweden.

David Jones, assistant professor in the School of Business Administration, will be presenting two papers this July at the International Association of Conflict Management in Budapest, Hungary. In one paper, Jones analyzed interview data from individuals who engaged in revenge at work and developed a theoretical framework for understanding triggers of revenge motives and behavior. In his second paper, Jones and co-author **Sarah Carroll** from Hofstra University examined cognitive processes involved in workplace revenge. In Study 1, they analyzed accounts from avengers who claimed to have had calculated thoughts before engaging in revenge (e.g., avengers first considered different options and planned specific acts of revenge). In Study 2, they developed a measure of calculated revenge cognitions for future research and found that scores on the measure are associated with attitudes towards revenge, personality traits (e.g., negative affectivity, lower agreeableness, and dishonesty), and prior revenge at work.

Annie Viets, lecturer in the School of Business Administration, presented a workshop titled, "Ethics in Mediation" at the Annual Spring Conference of the Vermont Mediators Association at Vermont Technical College in Randolph on May 10. Dr. **Robert Orr**, retired Chief Ethics Officer of Fletcher Allen Healthcare, was the keynote speaker. Viets is on the Board of Directors and Treasurer of the VMA.

Awards and Honors

Dr. **Lewis First**, professor and chair of pediatrics and senior associate dean of medical education, received the Ambulatory Pediatric Association's 2007 Miller-Sarkin Mentoring Award at the Pediatric Academic Societies' Annual Meeting in Toronto May 6th. The Miller-Sarkin Award recognizes the contributions of an individual who has provided outstanding mentorship to learners or colleagues, both locally and nationally, and serves as a model to others who aspire to mentor others as they mature. First is currently a member of the Executive Board of the National Board of Medical Examiners and recently served as chair of the Step II Committee of the United States Medical Licensing Examination. He is also co-editor in chief of "AAP Grand Rounds", a monthly national newsletter that reports on articles of interest that are of relevance to the practicing pediatrician, as well as co-editor of several textbooks, including "Pediatrics" (Elsevier, 2004) and "Pediatric Medicine" (2nd Edition, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 1993).

Dr. **Julia Johnson**, professor of obstetrics and gynecology and vice chair of gynecology, has been accepted as a member of the 2007-08 class of Fellows in the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women. ELAM, a program of the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, is an intensive one-year leadership training program with extensive coaching, networking, and mentoring opportunities. The program's aim is to expand the national pool of qualified women candidates for leadership in academic medicine. Approximately 45 candidates are chosen each year through a competitive selection process; applications for the 2007-08 class were more than double the number of available spaces.

Dr. **C. Lawrence Kien**, professor of pediatrics and medicine, has been appointed to serve on the National Institutes of Health's Clinical and Integrative Diabetes and Obesity (CIDO) study section. The CIDO study section reviews clinical research applications related to carbohydrate, lipid, and energy metabolism in the setting of diabetes or obesity, as well as translational research focused on the neuroendocrine regulation of all aspects of energy homeostasis involving central nervous system control of appetite and energy expenditure.

May 2, 2007

Publications and Presentations