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Jun Yu (right), professor of mathematics and statistics, hosts a delegation from China that visited UVM, IBM and other sites to learn about advanced pollution control technologies. (Photo: Joshua Brown)

From inside Burlington's water treatment plant, Chinese scientist Yang Bin looks out across Lake Champlain. Behind him, in holding tanks, quiet pools catch the mid-morning sun. Where the rays go down, the water is so clear that the bottom looks magnified and strangely gilded.

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### THE WEEK IN VIEW

*December 9, 8 p.m.* Top Cats Winter Concert. Ira Allen Chapel. \$5 students, \$10 general public. [Information and tickets.](#)

*December 11, 4 p.m.* Faculty Senate Meeting. Memorial Lounge, Waterman. Information: 656-2019.

*December 17, 3 p.m.* Holiday Organ Recital. Ira Allen Chapel. Information: 656-3040.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

## Pollution Solutions

### *Chinese delegation visits UVM College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences*

By Joshua Brown

*Article published Dec 06, 2006*

Jun Yu (right), professor of mathematics and statistics, hosts a delegation from China that visited UVM, IBM and other sites to learn about advanced pollution control technologies. (Photo: Joshua Brown)

front of him, the lake chop is up and bits of glinting snow rush past. He is surrounded by water.

The city of Chongqing, where Yang and his 14 co-travelers live, sits at the confluence of the Jialing River and the mighty Yangtze River. It is upstream from the largest hydroelectric project in the world, the Three Gorges Dam, impounding a reservoir that will, when complete, stretch 400 miles. The subtropical air in that region is humid and hazy. There, Yang Bin is surrounded by water too.

Problem is, people can't drink the drinking water in Chongqing without boiling it first. Because of the dam, the Yangtze runs 300 feet higher than it once did, and because the once-fast-flowing river is now slower, there is more silt in the water, gray and thick. The city is huge and one of China's biggest industrial centers, but it is bracing for more displaced people, more silt and more pollution as the water level behind the dam continues to rise over the next few years.

That's why Yang Bin and his colleagues have a keen eye on advanced American pollution treatments and other environmental technologies. They're part of a delegation of scientists and managers from the environmental protection bureau of Chongqing visiting the University of Vermont and other sites nearby, in a six-day tour hosted and organized by the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences.

From inside Burlington's water treatment plant, Chinese scientist Yang Bin looks out across Lake Champlain. Behind him, in holding tanks, quiet pools catch the mid-morning sun. Where the rays go down, the water is so clear that the bottom looks magnified and strangely gilded. In

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“The Yangtze is their lifeline, and it’s polluted,” says Jim Burgmeier, co-organizer of the tour with Jun Yu, both of whom are professors of mathematics and statistics. “They need expertise in air and water pollution controls, so we invited them here to gather information.”

### **Questions of cost**

Tom Dion, chief operator of the city’s treatment plant, holds up a small vial. “We have two types of filters, anthracite and sand,” he says, explaining how water is pumped out of the lake and through carbon, like what is in the vial, before it goes into homes and businesses. “But the water is so clear here, most of the time it wouldn’t even need to get treated to meet the drinking standards. It makes my job easy.”

With UVM’s Jun Yu as their translator, several of the visitors ask questions about the cost of the filtering chemicals, the volume of water treated (about 5 million gallons a day) and how to deal with chemical residue from the treatment process. The Chinese scientists in return describe how mud is one of their biggest challenges in managing the water supply in a metropolitan region of over 30 million people. They smile when Dion tells them that Burlington has 40,000 residents – but are amazed when he then tells them that the water supply of New York City is so clean (coming from upstate reservoirs) that it doesn’t need to be filtered at all, simply disinfected.

This treatment plant is just one of their stops on the tour. Following a welcome from President Daniel Mark Fogel and Dean Domenico Grasso, they talked with experts from IBM, Auburn Systems and other firms about industrial waste disposal; received lectures on campus from engineering faculty, including Nancy Hayden and George Pinder, as well as researchers from the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources; and visited the Vermont Law School. Many of them walked in snow for the first time when touring a ski area in Stowe to learn about its water management strategy.

“Learning about all these advanced technologies and ideas will be very useful to us back in our city in China,” says Guo Yijun, one of the leaders for the delegation, looking west toward the Adirondacks. “The water in Lake Champlain inspires us.”

### **A burgeoning relationship**

The Vermont tour was inspired by Jun Yu, who represented UVM, along with Burgmeier, on a trip in China last June. There, he made connections with the leader of Chongqing’s environmental protection agency and suggested a visit to campus because of UVM’s strengths in pollution management.

“They’re about where we were 20 years ago,” says Burgmeier, “except their problems are bigger.” One of the goals of the trip, he says, is to spur contracts and technology deals between UVM, Vermont-based companies and the Chongqing environmental agency.

Chongqing — located in the Sichuan province of southeastern China and one of four cities under the direct jurisdiction of China’s central government, along with Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai — is famed for its hot food. “When we were there, I told them I liked it really hot, and they obliged,” says Burgmeier with a laugh. “So, in return, I had them over to my house for some proper Texas barbeque” — and, presumably, big glasses of cold water.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

## INTERview: Daniel Mark Fogel

By Tom Weaver

Article published Dec 05, 2006



President Daniel Mark Fogel says his serious bout with pancreatitis changed him on a personal level. (Photo: Sally McCay)

*Personally and professionally, much has changed for President Daniel Mark Fogel over the past six months. the view recently sat down with the president to talk over his thoughts on being back on the job after recovering from a life-threatening illness, the unveiling and*

*discussion of "Signatures of Excellence: UVM in the 21st Century," and the tragic disappearance and death of student Michelle Gardner-Quinn.*

**THE VIEW:** You seem to have hit the ground running after your serious illness this summer. In what ways did the experience change you personally or alter your approach to your work as president of the university?

**DANIEL MARK FOGEL:** It's changed me personally. Some of it is as personal as my body shape. I'm more than 40 pounds lighter than I was before I got sick. More than 20 pounds of that was intentional; the first 18 pounds was in the ICU. The experience of nearly dying does change your whole perspective, I hope in very positive ways. There are all of the clichés. You realize how precious life is and how fragile it is and you realize how dependent you are on others. You're overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from family, friends and the community.

It makes you work even harder in terms of really trying to listen to people, to empathize with people. The experience of sheer existential terror makes you want to connect with other people in a more deeply attentive and profound way.

In a past interview in the view you said that your greatest worry as president of the university is for the well-being of our students; the greatest fear, that phone call that a UVM student has come to harm. The worst of those fears was realized in October with the loss of

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**Michelle Gardner-Quinn. Could you talk a bit about what that experience meant to you?**

(Long pause). First of all, it was just a devastating experience with the focus on the life that had been lost and empathy with family and friends of Michelle. I think for all of us it was just a terrible blow, a deeply wrenching experience on a personal level.

I'm going to be appointing a task force to really focus on the UVM issues, but we have to remember that Michelle was a young woman who was murdered in the city of Burlington, off-campus. This tragedy is a call on us to examine everything we do in terms of orienting students and ensuring that the campus is as safe and secure as it can be for all members of the community, and to address as educators and as stewards of a community that clearly is vulnerable, the terrible issue of violence against women. It is also a city issue, and I know Burlington leaders are committed to this as we are.

**When the "Signatures of Excellence" essay was sent to faculty, staff and students earlier this semester, you put your e-mail address on it for direct responses. What are you hearing?**

Not a lot. You know, it's funny, I got a few e-mails back, some of them very appreciative, one or two expressing, perhaps, a bit of irritation - "My department already does this...why are you saying this?" My response is, isn't wonderful that your department provides examples of the kinds of practices that we would like to run across the whole institution.

I think there has been generally very positive response... the thing that I feared most, and tried to address in the cover memos to faculty, staff and students, was that people would not notice the statement, almost verbatim from the first vision statement nearly four years ago, that this is not a blueprint or a set of promises, that it is really meant to be a stimulus to aspiration and discussion. Every day I think of things that I would like to see come out of it that are not actually in it as stated. Above all, I think the ball is in the court of the faculty. The Faculty Senate will be having a meeting on Monday, Dec. 11, largely devoted to this document. I'm hoping I'll hear more of the dissident voices I know are out there, that I'll have a chance to address those concerns, but also to let those voices help to shape this as it develops.

**You and the provost have made it very clear that "Signatures" is a working document, an essay to spur further discussion. That said, what are the ideas that you feel most strongly about?**

I'm very committed personally to ideas like writing in the disciplines and the residential learning communities... I think the piece that will be most difficult to promote with the faculty is one that I'm prepared to maintain a pretty strong drumbeat for from the bully-pulpit. That's the idea of a commitment to ways of making sure that we're getting the outcomes that we want to get. It's not testing... I think we ended up calling it a

diagnostic process or a diagnostic assessment, where you can look at a student halfway through his or her undergraduate career and say, look these are outcomes we want for every undergraduate. You're a terrific writer, but you haven't shown us yet that you have the level of mathematical literacy that we think a college graduate should have. You've avoided taking a course: take this course. Or you took this course and you didn't do very well, you don't seem to know anything about philosophy or the history of ideas, so here are five books I want you to read by next semester, and we'll discuss them then.

**Any feedback from the faculty yet on that idea?**

No, and I'm sure there will be resistance and some of it will be well-motivated, in good faith and with some plausible basis. It is easy to look at this kind of proposal and say here is somebody who is trying to bring a Trojan horse into the university that is a higher ed version of No Child Left Behind, we don't need that.

You know, I'm not unsympathetic to that response. I think the proposal could be read that way, but to me, it's a misreading. We all know that we award degrees to students who don't represent the university as well as we would like, who don't have the full array of skills and knowledge that we would like educated women and men to have. And we have to ask ourselves conscientiously how we can really make sure that people who are certified with our degree have these basic foundations that we agree on through the appropriate forum, the Faculty Senate of the university. I don't think it can be done simply course by course.

**Former UVM President Tom Salmon was fond of the phrase "permanent whitewater" to describe the management of higher education in our era. What are the biggest rocks ahead that UVM will need to negotiate?**

I think very highly of President and Governor Salmon. I think he did very important things for the university when he was in this role. But I guess I don't see it as permanent whitewater. We've had some remarkably smooth sailing and with a good wind in our sails and with the vessel moving ahead at a good clip. There are so many positive indicators. I am worried about a lot of things, including the concern I've expressed many times, the safety of our students and of all members of our community. I worry about our ability to sustain a strong institutional profile in research and scholarship in the face of what we hope is a temporary stagnation of R&D funding... Then, of course, there is the challenge simply of building value in the university in a way that will allow us to continue to accrue resources to support the faculty, support the staff, support the students, support the programs, take care of the facilities.

**The university is making remarkable progress on the ten-year vision that was rolled out in 2003. Does any of this surprise even as stalwart an optimist as yourself?**

Like most people, I think, every time I go up Main Street my jaw kind of drops. It was just four years ago this past spring that I was still in Louisiana on conference calls with the trustees trying to persuade them that we should proceed with discussions of a student center, let alone approve it, let alone build it, let alone think that by next April we'll be opening the bookstore there. (There is also) the rapidity by which the Honors College came about, and I think the enormous buzz about the university around the country. The good, good coverage... I guess what has astonished me most, because it is almost like magic, is the steep, steep climb in the applications to the university. It is just unbelievable that we went from 13,000 to 17,775 applications for fall '05 and '06, and now we're running 35 percent ahead of that pace for fall '07.

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## The Acupuncture Connection

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published Dec 05, 2006



Dr. Helene Langevin, research associate professor of neurology, has shown a critical link between acupuncture and its effects on connective tissue. (Photo: Jordan Silverman)

For Dr. Helene Langevin, research associate professor of neurology and one of the nation's best-funded acupuncture researchers, an initial examination of the body's response to acupuncture needling has evolved into a six-year comprehensive examination of the reaction of connective

tissue to a variety of manipulations and its potential role in eliciting a therapeutic response.

Watching Langevin and her team work with a study participant is akin to watching a carefully choreographed dance performance. One research teammate holds the ultrasound transponder, Langevin holds a robotic needling device, and another colleague controls the computer, allowing them to simultaneously measure the depth, torque and location of the acupuncture needle while capturing ultrasound video of the connective tissue's response during the process. The kinds of images and data she gathers through this process are nothing short of astounding and, up until a few years ago, were unprecedented.

Langevin's first acupuncture study, begun in 2000, discovered connective tissue was involved in producing the "tug" (or resistance to pulling out the needle) resulting from acupuncture needling. Since then, she's examined connective tissue in people and animals to try and gain a better understanding of its biomechanical function.

According to Langevin, acupuncture meridians are often located in between muscles, coinciding with the points where two connective tissue planes are coming together. Her previous research has shown that more pullout force is required to remove the needle from these points.

### Grant supports new approach

Though she's recently received her fourth National Institutes of Health

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grant, Langevin is about to experience a first; a study that will look at normal versus abnormal connective tissue.

"All of our grants so far have only looked at normal people, animals and tissues," said Langevin. "This is the first time we are looking at pathology — people with low back pain."

The \$1.9 million, five-year award from the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine will compare the acupuncture needling response in the connective tissue of 80 patients with back pain and 80 patients without back pain. In a pilot study of ten subjects conducted by Langevin and her colleagues, it appeared that needle response was abnormal in people with low back pain.

"If we can show that needle response is abnormal in people with low back pain, then we will have enough data to move onto the next level, which is to test whether these abnormalities can be reversed with treatment" says Langevin.

This latest grant is Langevin's third R01 to date. She and her team are just completing their second R01 — a study involving mostly animal work — and submitting a competitive renewal for that research. She is also applying for a Burroughs Wellcome Fund Clinical Scientist Translational Research Award and has three papers pending publication. Recently featured in a *Boston Globe Sunday Magazine* "Profile," Langevin is currently in Asia presenting her research findings and shows no signs of slowing down in the future. After all, she has a point to make.

For more information about Langevin's studies, contact Debbie Stevens-Tuttle in the department of neurology at 656-5552.

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## Enthusiastic Audience Greet 'Inconvenient Truth' Producer

By Caroline Gilley

Article published Dec 04, 2006

It's hard to imagine a more receptive audience for global warming activist Laurie David than the one gathered in UVM's packed Ira Allen Chapel on the unseasonably warm evening of Nov. 29. David, perhaps best known as the producer of the film *An Inconvenient Truth*, addressed a capacity crowd of more than 1,500 (even the overflow location CC Theater was standing-room only) with her talk "Stop Global Warming."

David, whose production credits also include the HBO documentary *Too Hot Not to Handle*, ticked off statistic after sobering statistic about the effects global warming will have on all of us, calling it "the most urgent challenge ahead of us...in the opinion of the world's most respected scientists." She argued that the issue will change the core of our communities forever, citing ways it could become very personal for Vermonters, such as wreaking havoc on tourism during the ski season and the maple syrup industry.

And while international scientists agree that the world community has less than ten year years to slow it down, David implored the audience not to go "from denial straight to despair" as many people have, but to realize we have the power to make change. "All of the solutions to this problem already exist," David said. "What's missing is the will to solve it. We need a serious and immediate shift in attitude. It's about change, not sacrifice...and about mind-blowing opportunity. We could start a clean, green industrial revolution."

Afi Ahmadi '93, a member of the Vermont Regional Alumni Board, which worked with the Office of Alumni and Parent Programs to bring David to UVM, said that the event supported the board's goal of broad community outreach. "When the opportunity arose to invite Laurie David, one of this country's leading environmentalists, to UVM, one of this country's leading institutions for environmental education, it seemed to be the perfect fit," Ahmadi said.

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## Nursing Students Produce Public Service Announcements

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published Dec 06, 2006

Nursing students from the Class of 2008 took on the role of film producer in an effort to promote healthy lifestyles in the region through a series of 30-second health promotion public service announcements (PSAs), which began airing on Burlington public access television station RETN Channel 16 on Dec. 4.

The 15 PSAs are part of coursework for their health promotion class with Hendrika Maltby, associate professor of nursing. The spots feature photos of students and community members and are designed to build awareness and promote prevention for a variety of health-related issues, including colon cancer, breast cancer, women's and men's heart disease, adolescent smoking, as well as making healthy life choices and keeping children safe in public and online.

Maltby and the students plan to distribute the PSAs, following their premier on RETN to a variety of television stations around the state in hopes of getting them aired. The PSAs on RETN Channel 16 can be seen on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 2:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10 at 12:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.

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## Honor Society for Non-Traditional Students Inducts Inaugural Members

By Jeffrey Wakefield

*Article published Dec 06, 2006*

Alpha Sigma Lambda, the university's newly created honor society for non-traditional students, has inducted its first members.

Sixteen students were inducted during a ceremony on Dec. 1 in the North Complex of the University Heights Residential Learning Complex. To be eligible, students must have 24 graded hours at UVM and GPAs that are in the 90th percentile of all UVM students with at least that many graded hours.

Approximately 500 non-traditional students are currently enrolled at UVM. To be considered nontraditional, students must be 25 or older, married, or single parents pursuing a conventional undergraduate degree at the university.

The chapter was formed in May 2006 after a year-long process spearheaded by Thomas McLeod, a 49-year-old non-traditional student living in Montpelier who is pursuing a dual degree in computer science and mathematics. Honors College Dean Robert Pepperman Taylor is the advisor for the group.

"Non-traditional students can become invisible on campus, especially to each other," said McLeod. "The honor society is a step forward in helping us develop a sense of identity and community at UVM. It's very rewarding to see the process that began 18 months ago come to fruition with the induction of our first members."

In addition to McLeod, newly inducted members of Alpha Sigma Lambda include the following students: Marina Asaro, Lionel Beasley, Gregory Carpenter, Matthew Casari, Abbey Dattilio, Christine Griffis, Joi Hart, Raymond Hebert, Ian Kavanagh, Scott McClure, Claudia Mucklow, Andrew O'Brien, Peter O'Callaghan, Glenn Steinman, Kate Sudhoff, Eve Tyrrell-Berinati and Kristen Watson.

Madeleine Kunin, former governor of Vermont, delivered a keynote address at the ceremony and was inducted as an honorary member.

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## Vayda Named Fellow of Food Systems Leadership Institute

By The View Staff

*Article published Dec 06, 2006*

Michael Vayda, associate director of the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station and associate dean and professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, has been named a fellow of the Food Systems Leadership Institute, a program designed to give leaders in higher education, government and industry an intensive two-year experience that broadens understanding of integrated food systems and develops leadership responsibility.

The FSLI focuses on the need for cultural change and a multidisciplinary approach toward broader, more collaborative and inclusive food systems perspectives. Fellows are prepared to articulate a food system perspective that focuses on healthy humans, environments, communities and economies.

Vayda's work at UVM is very much involved in the development of healthy communities, especially in his role as associate director of the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station, a UVM program established in 1886 that serves the needs of the state through agriculture and agriculture-related research on topics such as water quality, health and nutrition.

He will join 19 other fellows in three, week-long residential sessions, one of which will be hosted by UVM in June 2007. An individual leadership project and group capstone project are also requirements of the program, along with leadership mentoring. President Fogel will serve as Vayda's leadership mentor.

Fellows credit the FSLI experience with preparing them for new responsibilities. More than half of last year's class has accepted or considered advanced positions. Others are bringing a renewed sense of purpose to their current leadership roles, using their enhanced abilities to bring cultural change to their organizations, in line with a broader vision of future food systems.

"It's not strictly about advancement," says Robert Egger, president of DC Central Kitchen and a member of the FSLI Commission who delivered a lecture on the power of nonprofits at UVM earlier this fall. "We want the fellows to move up so they can expand their influence, but we also want them to develop a real vision of just how complex and interconnected the food system is so that they're prepared to help us effectively meet the serious challenges the future holds."

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The FSLI was formed through the partnership of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. UVM is one of three lead institutions responsible for operating the FSLI, along with partners at North Carolina State and The Ohio State University.

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## Staff Bazaar Set for Dec. 7

By The View Staff

Article published Dec 04, 2006

The Staff Council's annual holiday bazaar is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Billings Student Center. Offerings will include wreathes, crafts and artwork. There will also be a bake sale and a raffle.

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## December Graduates to be Honored at Recognition Celebration

By The View Staff

*Article published Dec 06, 2006*

Hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students will be honored Saturday, Dec. 16 at the Graduates Recognition Celebration at Ira Allen Chapel.

The celebration begins with a buffet brunch from 9-10 a.m. in the Billings Student Center followed by a ceremony from 10-11 a.m. at Ira Allen Chapel. Provost John M. Hughes and President Daniel Mark Fogel will offer remarks as will other members of the administration and faculty.

December graduates, who will not be asked to wear caps and gowns, are also welcome to attend the 203rd Commencement Ceremony on May 20, 2007. Diplomas for December graduates will be available shortly after the May Commencement.

Questions pertaining to the celebration should be directed to Leslie Logan, administrator of university events, at 656-1266.

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