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EVENTS

NOTABLES

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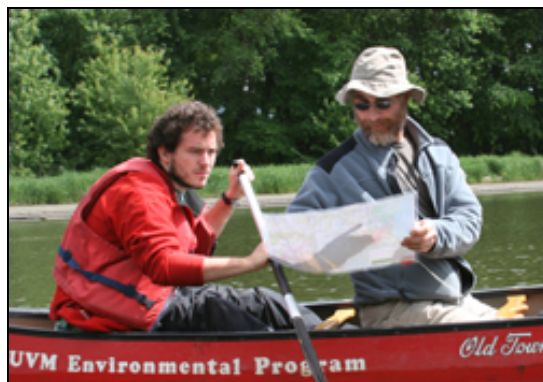
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UVM HOMEPAGE

Water Course



Paul Bierman, professor of geology, shows junior Mark Suozzo a map route as they paddle down the Winooski River during a new interdisciplinary watershed field camp. (Photo: Josh Brown)

From a canoe in the Winooski River, Paul Bierman, professor of geology, is trying to impress a practical truth upon eight undergraduates paddling nearby. He points up a fifty-foot-high mud-and-rock embankment that rises from the river's edge. The students — the first participants in a new UVM "watershed field camp" — crane their necks to look at several tidy bungalows perched at the top.

[FULL STORY ►](#)

Se Habla Español en la Granja

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The People Behind

[Clinical Trials](#) As Leon Strader checks in at the counter of the Hem/Onc clinic at the Vermont Cancer Center at UVM/ Fletcher Allen, he takes on more than just the role of a patient showing up for weekly chemo. He is also one of the thousands of patients across the country who advance the cause of medical science by helping to test new treatments as participants in a clinical trial.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

June 30, 3:30 p.m.
Broadway tunes sung by the musical theater performance class in a cabaret-style recital. Royall Tyler Theatre. Information: 656-2085 x 4.

July 9, 10, 11, 12, 7 p.m.
Sustainable Business Evening Leadership Discussions. 427 Waterman. [Information.](#)

CURRENT NEWS BRIEFS AND EVENTS

[Near-Waste-Free Events Served Up at Orientation](#)

[UVM Makes Pledge to Become "Climate Neutral"](#)

[University Launches Original Green Certification Program](#)

[New Web Resource Links Vermonters to Health Care Info](#)

[High School Students Explore Health Careers](#)

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EVENTS

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Water Course

By Joshua Brown

Article published June 27, 2007



From a canoe in the Winooski River, Paul Bierman, professor of geology, is trying to impress a practical truth upon eight undergraduates paddling nearby. He points up a fifty-foot-high mud-and-rock embankment that rises from the river's edge. The students — the first participants in a

new UVM [Watershed Field Camp](#) — crane their necks to look at several tidy bungalows perched at the top.

"The view might be great up there," he says, "but it's not a stable place to build a house."

"It pays to know a little geology," he says, describing how the sediment in the embankment may have been laid down as saltwater deposits 11,000 years ago when the Champlain Sea covered this whole area—and how those same sediments are now relentlessly eroding with each passing swash of riverwater. "But geology and hydrology are only part of the picture in making sense of this place," he says, "there is a human factor here that you have to deal with."

That is, if you're going to have an integrated understanding of what's going on in this watershed. Which is exactly the point of the camp, an intensive four weeks of measuring, mapping and monitoring that started on the slopes of Mount Mansfield and followed the changing pitch, rock types, natural communities, and human uses of the Winooski from its headwaters down to its yawning mouth at Lake Champlain.

Contemporary Camping

For decades, geology students earned their skills in the traditional "hard rock" geology field camp: a summer's worth of tramping about with a hammer learning how bedrock was built. And for decades, until the 1980s, about half of all geology graduates and other "geoscientists" got

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[The People Behind Clinical Trials](#)

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jobs in the oil and gas business. Field camp was a great preparation for oil prospecting.

Today, the petroleum industry hires less than 8% of all geoscientists. Now many jobs are in environmental problem solving, with one area of pressing importance in water resources. Hydrogeology, aqueous geochemistry and groundwater are some of the most popular courses being offered in geoscience programs across the country, while hard rock field camps are falling on hard times.

Instead of ditching the traditional field camp, Bierman and his colleagues — engineer Donna Rizzo, geographer Beverly Wemple, geochemist Greg Druschel, lake ecologist Mary Watzin, plus the course's organizer, Andrea Pearce, a PhD student studying geochemistry and engineering — have updated it to meet these new needs and trends.

"Typically the study of watersheds and the training of watershed-science students and educators are fragmented," Bierman wrote in the application for the National Science Foundation grant that is supporting this camp, "with geologists addressing erosion, hydrologists gathering flow data, ecologists monitoring communities, and engineers designing remediation strategies."

But 30 years of environmental policymaking since the Clean Water Act make it clear that solutions to watershed problems often require more than these forms of expertise — they require an integration of information from across disciplines. For example, which discipline is best equipped to explain and respond to vacation houses that may soon tip into a river?

Roots and Routes

The spirit of the new camp might be summarized like this: a watershed doesn't care one whit about your disciplinary specialization. A watershed is a reality of nature and a fundamental unit of human life, a place where water and gravity, wildlife and people, forests and settlements, contaminants and sediments — all converge with an intricate messiness. A raindrop flows from mountaintop to the sea, joining a swirling mass of complexity that overwashes the boundaries of chemistry, geology, geography, hydrology, ecology and engineering.

So this experimental three-credit course was organized around a set of broad, interdisciplinary questions: What makes a mountain watershed unique? What creates ecological health in a stream? How do stream and river channels change over time? How does Lake Champlain reflect its watershed?

Each week, from May 21 until June 15, 2007, the students — some in environmental studies, some in civil engineering, one in mechanical engineering, one in sustainable agriculture, one studying environmental conflict resolution — spent several days gathering field data in streams, forests, on the UVM lake research boat, or floating in plastic canoes on

the meandering bottom reaches of the river itself.

For these students, an understanding of specific problems, like what makes a riverbank fail, began not with a textbook, but in the field, observing. “Notice the undercut banks here,” Bierman tells them, “but do you see the same thing over there, where the riparian forest is growing?”

This field trip led back to the classroom, where the students pored over aerial photographs that document the Winooski’s ever-shifting riverbed through the years. Then they headed into an on-campus hydraulics lab to explore how much bank strength is created by tree roots.

Fields of Data

“There are a lot of engineers that get pumped out of school into environmental companies that don’t have true field experience,” Donna Rizzo says, as the camp members sit around on the grass near the canoe take-out, eating lunch. “That’s a problem,” she says, noting how much slop and uncertainty there can be in even the most scrupulously gathered field data, and how easy it is to make precise calculations from imprecise information — with the risk of being entirely precise and entirely wrong.

“I’ve developed a huge appreciation for the difference between collecting data and analyzing data,” Rizzo says. Beverly Wemple agrees. “Students only get that by having to collect field data themselves,” she says.

Bierman and his team hope that this camp will spawn others like it across the country. “The richest thing may be getting to know the other faculty better,” he says. “We often research together, but how much teaching do we do across departments? This camp has really pushed us all to examine what interdisciplinary work really means. It’s not always easy, but that’s the point.”

Mark Suozzo, a junior civil engineering major who is applying for an internship in an environmental engineering company this year, seems to value the camp too. “We’ve done a lot of canoeing and we haven’t seen any catamounts yet,” he says with a smile, “but this is really neat. I’m getting a feeling for the whole river.”

For more photos related to this story, [visit the view's Flickr page](#).

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Se Habla Español en la Granja

By Jon Reidel

Article published June 27, 2007



Students in Franklin County practice Spanish terms designed to help them communicate with migrant workers on their farms. (Photo: Louise Waterman)

"¿Cuales vacas están en celo?" Not knowing the answer to this question (translation: "Which cows are in heat?") may not seem all that important to some people, but on a dairy farm that relies on milk and reproduction to survive, it's a crucial piece of information.

It's not the only key piece of info that needs to be clearly understood by everyone on the farm to keep things running smoothly and the communication challenges have increased with a more diverse workforce. In Vermont, the need for farmers to understand at least some Spanish has increased dramatically over the past few years as more than 2,000 Latin Americans are now employed in the state's dairy industry. Recognizing a communication gap between farmers and migrant workers, the university and the state joined forces to develop the Vermont Dairy Spanish Project with the help of a USDA grant.

The results of the program, which consists primarily of an intensive four-week course, have been extremely positive and are just now being felt throughout the \$400 million Vermont dairy industry.

Jonathan and Beverly Rutter, owners of Journey Hope farm in Bridport, took the inaugural course offered in Middlebury and say it's had a dramatic impact on the level of communication they share with the migrant workers on their farm, most of whom come from the Mexican state of Tabasco. Many of the terms they learned focused on the importance of clean milking and animal care — critical issues on a farm that is the largest shipper of organic milk in the state.

"There's no question it helped," says Beverly, who was pleased to be able to communicate in Spanish with some farmers she ran into at an auction recently who also took the course. "We used to talk with our workers in charades. Now we can actually have a conversation. My

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husband goes out every morning and talks to them and maps out the day. Everything runs much smoother."

Students sent to farms to help develop curriculum

The original idea to develop the Vermont Dairy Spanish project was conceived by Louise Waterman, agriculture resource management specialist with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Erin Shea of the Vermont Migrant Education Program and Dan Baker, assistant professor in Community Development and Applied Economics. "I look for service-learning projects that allow students to participate in integrated development projects," says Baker. "To do this we work on one piece of a larger issue and seek to contribute meaningfully in that specific area while considering the larger context in which the research is taking place. This was an ideal opportunity to engage students in a development policy issue of statewide importance and in which Vermont's experience can contribute the larger national debate on approaches to immigration management."

The first step in creating the course was to identify what phrases, vocabulary and technical instruction were most important for farmers to communicate to workers. Baker sent students in his service-learning course, Project Planning and Development (CDAE 273), to four dairy farms in Addison County to interview farmers about the specific Spanish phrases they wanted to learn to help run their farms. These were later compiled, analyzed and prioritized by the students in the class and presented to the Agency of Agriculture in a report edited by CDAE graduate student Mark Cannella. Dozens of phrases were identified: "Clean the alley" (Limpie el callejón); "Open the gate" (Abra el portón); "Speak slower" (Hable más despacio); and "Is the (leg) band red?" (¿Tiene una banda roja?).

The compiled sayings and report were turned over to Command Spanish, Inc., a leading provider of occupational Spanish language training materials and programs for the workplace, which created a booklet and compact disk for the course. Dave Chappelle, a graduate student in CDAE and now the identification & recruitment coordinator with UVM Extension's Vermont Migrant Education Program, taught the first course in Middlebury and who is now writing his thesis on the Vermont Dairy Spanish Project.

Graduate student thesis shows positive outcomes

Based on surveys, in-class feedback and follow-up interviews, Chappelle's report concluded that the project achieved its objectives of improving on-farm communication, thus helping address a major problem hindering one of the state's largest contributors to the economy. His report also praised the work of Command Spanish Inc., and its emphasis on repetition and non-grammar instruction, both critical teaching focuses that lead to successful communication on the farm. Beverly Rutter says she has used the accompanying CD from the course at home to work on her Spanish lessons.

In addition to the Middlebury course, which drew perfect attendance from 17 farmers (no easy task given their schedules), another class was offered to 14 participants in Franklin County by the Cold Hollow Career Center. Given the positive feedback from farmers, future classes around the state are expected to be offered, contingent upon funding.

"The feedback from producers who participated in the Spanish language class was very positive," says Waterman. "The ability to communicate better with their Hispanic employees made the employees feel more welcome and increased their effectiveness as employees. Hispanic workers have become an essential part of Vermont's dairy industry and this class was a way to address the need for better communications and cultural understanding on the farm."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

The People Behind Clinical Trials

By Edward Neuert

Article published June 27, 2007



Leon Strader travels 150 miles every Thursday from his home in Hannawa Falls, NY, to Fletcher Allen Health Care to participate in a clinical trial. (Photo: Raj Chawla)

As Leon Strader checks in at the counter of the Hem/Onc clinic at the Vermont Cancer Center at UVM/ Fletcher Allen, he takes on more than just the role of a patient showing up for weekly chemo. He is also one of the thousands of patients across the country who advance the

cause of medical science by helping to test new treatments as participants in a clinical trial.

For Strader, the role of clinical trial study participant began with the suggestion of his oncologist, Dr. Steven Grunberg, professor of medicine. "I liked his attitude. He explained that there was a new drug being tested which might help me, in addition to the regular chemo," Strader says. "I figured there was no harm in trying, and a possibility it would give the cancer an extra kick. And it would help them learn more. Personally, I do feel sure it did some good." Strader's study is an "unblinded" test, unlike most drug studies, which are rigidly "double-blinded" — neither patient nor clinician knows whether they are receiving study medication or the standard of care.

And the three-hour car ride with his wife, Pat, from their Hannawa Falls, N.Y. home? "I wouldn't have it any other way," says Strader. "This is where I feel I'm getting the most up-to-date care, so this is where I'm going to come, ride or no ride."

Facilitating the research

Testing newly discovered therapies in humans is a critical step to bringing better care to the wider population. A carefully designed and conducted trial is the safest and quickest way to identify treatments that really work and to gauge the level of their effectiveness. At the College of Medicine and Fletcher Allen, the work of scientists and health care providers who are engaged in approximately 1,200 research projects is

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supported in a full range of ways by the college's Office of Clinical Trials Research (OCTR).

"We're here to support the researchers, to help frame the policies around clinical trials, and to work with other entities on campus to help make sure our trials run as smoothly as possible and in full compliance with all the appropriate rules," says Kimberly Luebbbers, R.N., who has directed the office for the past two years. The office itself has existed for the past six years, but clinical research at UVM has a decades-long history. For more than 40 years, UVM has been the site for one of the 80 General Clinical Research Centers supported by the National Institutes of Health.

"We have many, many stakeholders," says Dr. Robert Shapiro, the OCTR medical director. "We serve the public, to make sure studies run correctly, and that the public understands their value. We help investigators pursue their research ideas. We help the various sponsors of the studies. And we help the regulatory agencies, in that we make sure things are running in compliance with their rules."

Today, medical researchers in the U.S. conduct their research according to the strict guidelines of the Food and Drug Administration and other government agencies. Most trials are organized by the phase system, in which treatments are first tested on a small group for safety and tolerability (Phase I), then in larger Phase II groups where clinical efficacy is determined. Phase III trials involve the largest numbers of participants and are designed to give a much more definitive judgment on efficacy before a treatment is approved for general use.

"This is a complicated system, and with good reason," says Luebbbers. "The OCTR is here to help researchers and study participants come together within this safe framework." For researchers, that means helping them plan the protocol — the document that describes the objectives, methods, and procedures of a study. One of the services the OCTR provides is to liaison with UVM's Institutional Review Board (IRB), a committee of local researchers and lay people, appointed by the provost, who volunteer to review all studies in order to ensure that the welfare and rights of human study participants are thoroughly protected.

In service of science

For Leon Strader, the familiar face that represents his clinical trial is probably that of Laurie Chassereau, R.N., the clinical research nurse who greets him and Pat every Thursday morning after their long ride. "She's become almost like a sister to me over the past few months," says Strader. Chassereau has been a research nurse for more than nine years. On a typical day in the clinic she will oversee the administration of Strader's therapy, as well as talking to potential participants for this study and others she is helping to manage.

Research nurses coordinate many aspects of the clinical trial, in addition to providing the clinical skills for various procedures — EKG's,

phlebotomies, patient assessments and gathering of vital signs — as well as the processing of blood samples and other lab specimens. They also help in recruitment efforts by coordinating advertising. “We’re kind of a jack-of-all-trades,” says research nurse Kathy Ferland. “As a nurse, you have to know a little bit of everything, depending on the study. The variety makes it challenging.”

Two other clinical trial study participants are examples of the age range of people who take part in trials. Emma Baker, from Wallingford, Vt., is just five years old, and she absolutely hates having her blood drawn, but her visits every three months help study whether two medications in combination will help combat pseudomonas, a bacterial infection of the lungs that can be life-threatening for children who, like Emma, have cystic fibrosis.

“I was told Emma was a good subject for this study, because she hadn’t tested positive for pseudomonas yet,” says Carol Baker, Emma’s mother. When Emma’s doctor (Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Dr. Thomas Lahiri) told us about the trial I said ‘sure, we want to do whatever will help the research.’ ”

Study participant William Patten is, at 68, old enough to have several grandchildren around Emma’s age. The need to be there for those grandkids is part of what led him into a clinical trial. After years of intense pain, Patten had knee replacement surgery two years ago. He volunteered to be part of a trial that is testing a new type of replacement joint that will hopefully give recipients more lateral movement. A few years ago, Patten could barely walk. Now, he’s regained his range of movement and actively supervises getting his young grandchildren off to school each weekday in his Vergennes, Vt. home.

Back in the Hem/Onc clinic, as the Thursday afternoon light slants through the windows, Leon and Pat Strader gather their belongings begin the long drive home. But first they say a warm goodbye to Laurie Chassereau. “I just can’t say enough about these people,” Leon says. “They really do take things to heart.”

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Near-Waste-Free Events Served Up at Orientation

By Jon Reidel

Article published June 25, 2007

Hosting a completely waste-free event involving hundreds of meals would have been almost impossible to pull off not so long ago. Even after more environmentally friendly products started entering the marketplace such as compostable eating utensils, the concept of producing zero waste at a major outdoor event is still daunting.

Organizers of the university's Summer Orientation program decided to take on the task anyway, pledging to serve more than 10,000 meals to students and parents at six, two-day summer orientation sessions in June. So far, at the halfway point heading into the June 22-23 session, the combined efforts of the UVM Recycling, Orientation and University Dining Services programs has produced a near-waste-free Orientation, minus some potato chip bags from a local vendor that were part of a pre-existing agreement.

"Initially, we thought it would be way too hard to do," said Jill Hoppenjans, assistant director of Orientation. "The reality is that it's been much easier than we thought. It took some planning, but Erica Spiegel (solid waste and recycling manager) and dining services worked with us and made it seem easy. I thought it might be too confusing for parents in terms of where to put stuff, but the lack of complaints said a lot. I think people were glad to see UVM put its commitment to the environment into action."

During their Orientation visit, approximately 2,500 incoming students and an equivalent number of parents are served three meals under a festival tent on the green between Chittenden-Buckham-Wills Hall and Cook Physical Science Building. Realizing that using washable plates to feed that many people at one time was not feasible, organizers chose products that could be either recycled or composted.

Totally compostable food service ware was chosen in place of traditional plastic eating utensils. The drink cups and utensils are made of cornstarch (a renewable resource) by Natureworks, which makes products using a bio-based resin called poly lactic acid (PLA). Organizers decided to use biodegradable coffee cups or "ecotainers" made by International Paper and compostable plates and trays made of plain, uncoated paper. Other green choices included coffee stirrers made of wood rather than the usual plastic; unbleached paper napkins; toothpicks; and bottles for condiments instead of individual packets of ketchup and mayonnaise.

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Leftover food went into a compost container.

Another major challenge was where to put all of the compostable material after each meal. Spiegel said signage was designed to help attendees separate out bottles and cans for recycling, as well as the non-compostable potato chip bag. The remaining items went into 90-gallon barrels marked “compost” and were later consolidated into a 20-cubic yard dumpster and hauled to the Intervale Compost Facility in Burlington by a private hauler already under contract with the university.

Spiegel said that as one of a growing number of universities committed to holding waste-free events, it should be easier for UVM to host other outdoor campus events now that it has established an effective process. “It’s not feasible for some indoor events, but it makes sense to do for a number of high profile special events that are held outdoors,” said Spiegel, who initially tested the concept at Mastering the Maze. “It hasn’t been nearly as difficult as a lot of people thought because everyone worked together to make it happen.”

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UVM HOMEPAGE

UVM Makes Pledge to Become "Climate Neutral"

By Jeffrey Wakefield

Article published June 25, 2007

President Daniel Mark Fogel signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, putting UVM among a vanguard of colleges and universities that have pledged to sharply reduce and eventually eliminate their institutions' global warming emissions and to accelerate research and educational efforts designed to equip society to re-stabilize the earth's climate.

The pledge commits UVM to developing a comprehensive institutional action plan to make the institution climate neutral. To date, 294 American colleges and universities have signed the pledge.

The challenge is sponsored by the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), Second Nature and ecoAmerica.

"UVM already has a large number of green practices in place; it only makes sense for us to build on this foundation and challenge ourselves to reach the next level," Fogel said. "Because we serve so many young people at a formative period in their lives, and because we are beacons for societal change in many ways, colleges and universities can have an impact on global warming far beyond our campuses and for years to come. We're privileged to be among those leading the way in this effort."

Fogel announced that, as a first step, the institution would conduct an audit of its carbon footprint, an effort that is already under way. Once the audit is completed, in fall 2007, and the university has studied the results, the planning process will begin.

In addition to outlining a series of steps for achieving climate neutrality, the plan would specify a date by which UVM would achieve that goal.

The pledge also requires UVM to take two concrete steps in the short term to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. The university will raise its existing green building standards to the LEED Silver level or its equivalent in new construction and major renovations. Currently UVM buildings must be built or renovated to the most basic level of LEED, the green building standards created by the U.S. Green Building Council. The university will also encourage further use of public transportation among faculty, students and staff.

These efforts and others likely to be included in the plan will build on a

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variety of existing programs at the university designed to promote sustainability. These include a green building policy the university adopted in 2005; the formation of an Environmental Council, made up of faculty, students and staff, in 1996; an effort that began in 1990 to improve campus efficiency in heating and electricity, which has resulted in millions of dollars in energy savings over that time; the launch in 2006 of the National University Transportation Center, a \$16 million initiative that will create and promote sustainable transportation technologies; a campus master plan that aims to make UVM a model for "environmental sustainability"; a strong local food push from the university's food services provider, University Dining Services, in collaboration with students activists and related faculty members; a long-standing, nationally recognized recycling program; policies that promote the use of public transportation; and long-standing academic programs in environmental studies and science, engineering, agriculture and life sciences, natural resource management, and health.

The Presidents' Climate Commitment is the first such effort by any major sector of society to set climate neutrality — not just a reduction — as its target. This undertaking by America's colleges and universities is inspired by efforts like the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, the U.S. Climate Action Partnership and other collective efforts by states and businesses.

The American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment is a high-visibility effort to address global warming by garnering institutional commitments to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions and to accelerate research and educational efforts. For more information, [the President's Climate Commitment website](#).

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EVENTS

NOTABLES

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UVM HOMEPAGE

University Launches Original Green Certification Program

By Jeffrey Wakefield

Article published June 25, 2007

The University of Vermont Extension unveiled a green certification program on June 21 targeted to a transportation sector that carries more travelers each year than the airlines, or Amtrak and commuter rail combined: the motorcoach industry.

The program is the first in the commercial transportation sector to recognize and encourage, via an official certification program, excellence in environmental performance and practice.

UVM Extension awarded the first Green Coach Certification (GCC) to Lamoille Valley Transportation of Morrisville, Vt. Lamoille Valley offsets all of its carbon emissions, averages over 250 passenger miles per gallon and runs its entire fleet of school buses and luxury motorcoaches on a blend of biodiesel. LVT saw a significant increase in sales after it began promoting its green practices to customers.

"We're proud to be recognizing LVT's strong commitment to the environment, stimulating growth in Vermont's growing green business sector, and helping launch a program that could significantly reduce carbon emissions in our state and outside it," said Douglas O. Lantagne, dean of UVM Extension.

Vermont is home to another motorcoach company, Bristol Tours of Bristol, Vt., that also helped inspire the creation of the GCC program, Lantagne said. Bristol pioneered the use of biofuels within the motorcoach sector, the first company in the state to do so and one of the first in the nation.

UVM also officially certified the motorcoach serving as the transportation for the Udall Foundation Legacy Bus Tour. The tour, which will make a two-day stopover in Vermont, is carrying 13 fellows from the Tuscon-based Udall Foundation, named for the late Arizona Congressman, on a 54-day, cross-country eco-journey covering 8,606 miles to highlight both the foundation's contribution to public service and to inspire others to become engaged.

The Udall bus, operated by LVT for the tour, is perhaps the country's greenest motorcoach: a first-of-its kind Motor Coach Industries J4500 LX coach model equipped with a 2007 clean-diesel Caterpillar engine running on biodiesel and using carbon offsets.

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"¿Cuales vacas están en celo?" Not knowing the answer to this question (translation: "Which cows are in heat?") may not seem all that important to some people, but on a dairy farm that relies on milk and reproduction to survive, it's a crucial piece of information. Recognizing the need for strong communication between farmers and the approximately 2,000 Hispanic workers in the Vermont dairy industry, the university and the state joined forces to develop the Vermont Dairy Spanish Project.

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A national pilot In addition to providing a Green Coach Certification to Lamoille Valley Transit, the university also announced a UVM Extension pilot program — designed by Extension staff Lisa Chase and David Kestenbaum — that will make GCC certifications available to motorcoach operators across North America.

The American Bus Association, North America's primary industry association, provided guidance to the university as Chase and Kestenbaum developed the GCC concept.

"The American Bus Association is pleased to see the University of Vermont recognize that motorcoaches are part of America's energy and environmental solution," said Peter Pantuso, president of the ABA. "Each full motorcoach takes up to 55 cars off the road, reducing carbon dioxide emissions, saving fuel and cutting our reliance on foreign sources of energy. We look forward to working with the university as they bring this program to fruition."

Other groups, including the Sierra Club, the National Wildlife Foundation and Clean Cities/Virginia are also supportive of the program.

After the pilot program is incubated at UVM, the university anticipates it would be handed off to an independent group that would act as the certifying body, Lantagne said.

UVM researchers think the program could achieve the kind of success for the motorcoach industry that organic food certification programs have for organic products, expanding awareness and driving up sales. "The program will allow consumers interested in green transportation to connect with the greenest providers," said Kestenbaum.

Under the current program model, UVM anticipates permitting motorcoach operators to become eligible for various levels of certification. To enter the program at the base level, motorcoach companies will be asked to demonstrate they are doing at least one of the following: running an EPA 2007 compliant engine; averaging more than 148 passenger miles per gallon; running on a B20 or higher blend of biodiesel a minimum of 80 percent of the time; running on an E85 or higher blend of ethanol 80 percent of the time; offsetting their carbon emissions through an endorsed carbon-trading program; or using hybrid electric motors.

Research surrounding the effectiveness of the GCC pilot is being conducted as part of a "signature" project in sustainable tourism by the new University of Vermont Transportation Center. The UVM Transportation Center is a sponsor of the Udall bus and is also supporting real-time emissions research being conducted on the bus throughout its journey.

Expanding to other sectors Chase and Kestenbaum view the popular and

widely dispersed motorcoach industry, which carried 631 million urban, suburban, and rural passengers in 2005, as a promising sector that will allow them to test a more ambitious certification program: ecolabels for other forms of commercial transportation.

After the GCC program is up and running, Chase and Kestenbaum hope the model will expand to a larger universe.

"Given Lamoille Valley Transportation's success, and the receptivity of the entire motorcoach industry, we have every reason to believe the program will catch on," said Kestenbaum.

If that happens, the certification program could be expanded to other sectors, such as transit fleets, taxi services, rail and the airline industry, according to Chase and Kestenbaum.

For more information about the Green Coach Certification program, contact David Kestenbaum at the University of Vermont at (802) 782-4753 or david.kestenbaum@uvm.edu.

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EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

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UVM HOMEPAGE

New Web Resource Links Vermonters to Health Care Info

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published June 25, 2007

Vermonters can acquire all of their health care information in one place with Vermont Go Local, a new web search tool that connects community members with information about local health care facilities, providers, support groups and programs throughout the state.

Recently launched by the university's Dana Medical Library, Vermont Go Local was created and is maintained by a staff including professional medical librarians to ensure that the information provided is accurate and current. Vermont Go Local is a joint project of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), University of Vermont Dana Medical Library, the Frymoyer Community Health Resource Center of Fletcher Allen Health Care, and Vermont 2-1-1, a program of United Ways of Vermont.

Vermont Go Local combines the United Way's 2-1-1 referral service listing with additional information culled by medical librarians to provide a comprehensive overview of statewide programs and services. The service is available via [MedlinePlus](#), the premier general information source about medical conditions and diseases from the National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health.

Consumers who search for information on a condition, such as diabetes, via MedlinePlus will retrieve a number of articles relating to the condition. The "Go Local" option allows them to view all resources, from advocacy services to endocrinologists to support groups, available to diabetic patients in a given Vermont county. Previously, health consumers had to first learn about a medical condition or diagnosis, then separately retrieve information about relevant local services from a variety of sources.

For more information about Go Local Vermont, contact Shiela Phillippe at 656-9322 or shiela.phillippe@uvm.edu.

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EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

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UVM HOMEPAGE

High School Students Expolore Health Careers at Medquest Camp

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published June 25, 2007

A select group of high school students from the region are spending five full days on campus this week participating in an in-depth exploration of health careers at the University of Vermont/Fletcher Allen.

Organized by the Champlain Valley Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and staffed by first-year UVM medical students, the MedQuest Health Careers Exploration Program offers participants an opportunity to shadow healthcare professionals, learn basic medical skills, develop leadership skills, receive CPR and first aid training, as well as engage in self-esteem and asset-building activities.

Qualified students, nominated by their high schools, live in the residence halls, eat on campus, have access to University of Vermont resources, and go to work with health professionals during MedQuest. This week, 15 area high schoolers will take part in the program.

The Vermont State Health Plan released in 2005 noted a marked shortage of health care workers in a number of specialty areas, including nursing and mental health. MedQuest participants learned about nursing careers and mental health the first day of the program from Mary Val Palumbo, UVM research associate of nursing and director of the Nursing Workforce, Research, Planning & Development Office, as well as UVM, Fletcher Allen and community agency mental health specialists.

On June 28, each participant will spend nearly three hours shadowing a healthcare professional on the academic health center campus, followed by lunch with a health care panel that includes a respiratory therapist, dentist and pharmacist.

Working together through three AHEC centers and a program office, the UVM College of Medicine AHEC Program supports community-based initiatives to promote rural health educational opportunities and address health care workforce challenges unique to specific areas of the state. The Champlain Valley AHEC office will offer a second MedQuest camp on the UVM/Fletcher Allen campus in July. The Southern Vermont AHEC office offers three camps - one in Bennington the week of June 25, one at UVM in July and a third in Rutland in August. The Northeastern Vermont Area AHEC offers a MedQuest camp in July.



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For more information about the UVM AHEC Program, [visit its website.](#)

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EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Staff Council Elects New President

By the view Staff

Article published June 27, 2007

Zancy VonHooks, executive administrator for the Office of the Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies, has been elected president of Staff Council and will take office July 1.

VonHooks, who previously worked in federal research as a litigation analyst for a law firm in Cambridge, Mass. will succeed current president Eileen Hanerfeld.

Visit the [Staff Council's website](#) for information about the council and upcoming meetings.

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NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

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FEEDBACK

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UVM HOMEPAGE

University to Host Posture and Gait Research Conference

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published June 26, 2007

A multidisciplinary group of about 350 scientists from around the world will convene at the Wyndham Hotel on July 14-18 for the International Society for Posture and Gait Research's (ISPGR) 18th Conference in New England.

The university is co-sponsoring the meeting, which will highlight research on how the brain controls balance, posture and locomotion in health over the age span and in various disease conditions, including Parkinson's and stroke. Sharon Henry, associate professor of rehabilitation and movement science, is one of three conference organizing committee members, and will be co-presenting several research posters with UVM colleagues.

The opening keynote address, titled "Beyond Macpherson: Physiological mechanisms underlying postural responses," will take place Saturday, July 14 from 5-6:30 p.m., and will include presentations by Jane Macpherson, adjunct associate professor of physiology and pharmacology, Oregon Health & Science University. Fellow colleagues Lena Ting, assistant professor of biomechanical engineering at Emory University and Georgia Institute of Technology; Richard Nichols, Professor and Acting Chair of Physiology at Emory University School of Medicine; and Paul Stapley, assistant professor of kinesiology and physical education at McGill University, will also speak.

UVM research poster presentations will include: "Individuals with low back pain modulate their muscle activity with different tasks," by Andrea Trombley, research specialist in rehabilitation and movement science, Sharon Henry, Juvena Hitt, senior lab/research technician in rehabilitation and movement science, and Janice Bunn, research assistant professor of mathematics and statistics and rehabilitation and movement science; "Functional biomechanics of the abdominal wall - Analytical modeling of stability" by Mack Gardner-Morse, research engineer and lecturer in orthopaedics and rehabilitation and computer science, Ian Stokes, research professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation, and Henry; "Decreased forces response in people with chronic, recurrent low back pain" by Juvena Hitt, Sharon Henry, Stephanie Jones, former senior lab research technician in rehabilitation and movement science, and Janice Bunn; "Differentiating EMG patterns in subjects with and without chronic, recurrent, low back pain" by Henry, Christina Beardsley, former postdoctoral associate in orthopaedics and rehabilitation, Juvena Hitt, Stephanie Jones and Mack Gardner-Morse; "Individuals with low back pain

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demonstrate temporal alterations and increased lateral motion in sit-to-stand movements performed at different speeds: A Pilot Study" by Stephanie Jones, Sharon Henry and Juvena Hitt; and "Movement analysis of quadruped gait in human with and without chronic low back pain" by Helene Langevin, research associate professor of neurology, James Fox, research engineer in neurology, Debbie Stevens-Tuttle, research project assistant in neurology, and Sharon Henry.

For more information about the conference, [visit the ISGR website](#).

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NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

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FEEDBACK

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Free Film and Music Returns to Redstone

By the view Staff

Article published June 27, 2007

The Lane Series will host Film + Music on a Summer Night again this summer. The concerts and movie screenings, which are free and open to the public, will take place in the pine grove between the UVM Recital Hall and the Patrick Gymnasium on four Saturdays in July, beginning July 7. This is the event's third summer season.

This summer's theme is "Hooray for Hollywood! Movies about the Movies." The films are projected with state of the art equipment on a giant screen hung from the back of the UVM Recital Hall. Movies begin after dark, around 9 p.m., and will be preceded by a live musical event at 7 p.m. which is also free. The grounds will open for picnicking at 6 p.m. The event is alcohol-free and family friendly. Parking is available at the Gutterson garage - a short walk to the site.

The schedule follows:

Saturday, July 7

Music: Anais Mitchell. Vermont singer-songwriter just signed to Annie DiFranco's Righteous Babe Records.

Movie: *Singin' in the Rain*. Gene Kelley, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor sing and dance in this American classic.

Saturday, July 14

Music: The Will Patton Band. Hot-club style, Parisian jazz with some of Vermont's best swinging string players.

Movie: *The Purple Rose of Cairo*. Woody Allen's charming bittersweet story of a matinee idol who steps down from the screen and into the arms of the waitress who loves him.

Saturday, July 21

Music: The Duhks. Riveting, high energy bluegrass/celtic fusion from this Grammy- and Juno-nominated young quintet.

Movie: *State and Main*. David Mamet's take on what happens when a Hollywood production crew comes to shoot a movie in a small Vermont village.

Saturday, July 28

Music: Groovelily. Jazz-rock fusion with a very hot trio from New York.

Movie: *Sunset Boulevard*. Perhaps the ultimate of its genre: a film noir about the cruelty and seduction of Hollywood as a young writer gets sucked into the demented world of a former silent screen star.


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NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Global Challenge Winners Coming to UVM to Solve Global Issues

By Communications Staff

Article published June 27, 2007

A total of 17 Global Challenge students from as far away as China, India, Honduras, and Indonesia will join students from all over the United States at UVM on July 1-7 to explore how technology impacts society while working on one of four engineering projects including aeronautical engineering, biomass, wind energy, and/or robotics.

The students are winners of the Global Challenge, a National Science Foundation (NSF) Award that aligns U.S. students with students from all over the world to work in teams to develop unique, promising solutions to global issues. They will be in Vermont to participate in the UVM/GIV Engineering Institute. The 114 high school students enrolled will be challenged to think outside the box by UVM faculty and engineering research presenters. IBM, Hazelett, Qimonda, Shelburne Farms, McNeil Generation Plant, and General Dynamics will provide project tours Tuesday, July 3.

For more information go to [global challenge](#).



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NOTABLES

June 27, 2007

Publications and Presentations

Dr. **Robert Karp**, assistant professor of medicine, will represent the College of Medicine on July 11-13 at the first annual Geriatric Consensus Conference, sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges and Harvard Medical School in St Louis. The meeting will focus on confirming and expanding what is known about geriatrics education, working to develop agreement and goals regarding the outcomes all graduating medical students should attain, and strategies to implement them.

Awards and Honors

Marque Moffett, a graduate student in Biological and Biomedical Sciences at the College of Medicine, received one of twelve 2007 Student Research Achievement Awards from the Biophysical Society in recognition of her poster presentation in the "Biological Fluorescence" subcategory at The Society's 51st Annual Meeting in March. The 8,000-member Biophysical Society is a professional, scientific society established to encourage development and dissemination of knowledge in biophysics.

Dr. **Peter Cataldo**, associate professor of surgery, was honored as recipient of the 2007 Community Impact Award from the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) on June 6 during the Society's annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. Cataldo was recognized for his leadership in establishing a free surgery clinic that serves many of Burlington's low-income residents, and providing both care and coordination and administration for all surgical activities. In addition, the honor recognized Cataldo's volunteer efforts, which include an annual trip to Haiti with a UVM delegation of surgeons and other health care workers who provide surgical care for patients without medical service access, and fundraising for multiple sclerosis research and other charitable causes. He was nominated for the award by Dr. Neil Hyman, professor of surgery, who serves as president of the New England Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, chair of the ASCRS Standards Committee and vice chair of the ASCRS Quality Assessment and Safety Committee. The final selection for the Community Impact Award was made by the ASCRS Public Relations Committee.

A recent issue (17(2), 2007) of the *Journal of Inorganic and Organometallic Polymers and Materials* was dedicated to **Christopher W. Allen**, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry and Interim Director of the

Vermont Advanced Computing Center. He contributed an overview of his work in this area (C.W. Allen, "From Rings to Polymers", J. Inorg. Organomet. Polym. Mater., 17, 341(2007)). Other recent publications include: C.W. Allen, "Harry R. Allcock-A true Pioneer in the Field of Inorganic and Organometallic Polymers", J. Inorg. Organomet. Polym. Materials, 16, 273(2006); C.N. Myer and C.W. Allen, "Copolymerization of Chlorocyclotriphosphazene Derivatives Containing the Methacrylylbutedioxy and N-(Ferrocenylmethyl)-N-Methyl amino Substituents", J. Inorg. Organomet. Polym. Materials, 17, 143(2007); E.C. Hagberg, M.W. Hart, L. Cong, C.W. Allen and K.R. Carter, "Cyclophosphazene Containing Polymers as Imprint Lithography Resists" J. Inorg. Organomet. Polym. Mater., 17, 377 (2007); M. Chalichman, A. Derecskei-Kovacs and C.W. Allen, "The Origin of Endocyclic Bond Length Variations in Disubstituted Cyclotriphosphazenes", Inorg. Chem., 46, 2011 (2007). He also presented an invited lecture entitled "Polymerization of Phosphazenes with Methacrylate Containing Substituents" at the 223rd American Chemical Meeting in Chicago (March 2007) and a paper entitled "The Mechanism of the Reaction of Alkali Metal Phenoxides with Hexahalocyclotriphosphazenes" at the XVIIth International Conference on Phosphorus Chemistry, Xiamen China, April 2007.

Declan AJ Connolly, professor and program director of physical education and director of Human Performance Laboratory, was named associate editor of the *Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research*. He is currently physiology editor for *Research Quarterly in Sports and Exercise*.

Mark Phillippe, M.D., professor and chair of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Vermont College of Medicine, received a master of science degree in health care management from the Harvard School of Public Health on June 7, 2007. The Harvard M.S. Degree in Health Care Management is a two-year, part-time program created exclusively for physicians who work full-time in leadership positions in health care organizations. Most courses incorporate features of continuous learning, where skills learned in the classroom can be applied immediately to the participant's work site.

May 23, 2007

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