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Summer of Science



The mysteries of summer: John Murch takes readings with radio frequency test equipment on the UVM campus as part of a research project funded with a URECA grant from the provost's office. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

John Murch's idea of the perfect summer differs from the more conventional vision shared by students longing for a carefree summer break structured around a casual summer job that allows for maximum beach exposure, fun-filled nights, and some quality sleep time.

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Green Without

Sheen A recent New York Times article described how Democratic candidates are trying to find a new political language to talk about the environment. UVM political scientist Deborah Guber, author of a recent book on green attitudes, doubts that their efforts will have much electoral impact.

Theatrical Reality

Jeff Modereger can't resist Rhode Island's picturesque South County. He spends summers there, working at a converted barn theater, and showing students what it takes to succeed in the business.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

July 29 4 p.m.
Lecture: "Why Read George Perkins Marsh Today," with David Lowenthal. Reception following. Special Collections Reading Room, Bailey/Howe Library. RSVP: 656-2138

August 1 5 p.m. "First Friday ARTWalk," at the Fleming Museum. The galleries are open for special hours until 8 p.m., with a talk by artist Elizabeth Billings at 7 p.m.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

NEWS BRIEFS



Big hat, bright flowers: Junior Michelle Keegan is helping to keep Stafford's flower showcase in shape for garden tourist and appreciative campus passersby.

Stafford Gardens a Hotspot for Colors, Tour

Eye-popping pink, orange and gold amaranth leaves shimmer in front of burgundy corn-like plants called 'Purple Majesty' millet. Otherworldly globes of alliums are tucked among the cosmos.

The description of the scenery suggests a garden idyll, but the setting is actually outside neo-industrial Stafford Hall, and there's more to see there than flowers: Some folks on campus are placing bets on which of the fast-growing empress trees queued along the building's walls will reach the second floor windows first.

These attractions were enough for the building to earn one of the nine places on the Flynn Center Garden tour on July 13, an event that brought more than 450 flower fans to UVM as part of their all-day tour. (Revenues from the \$30 tickets support the center's educational programs for children.)

Stafford's remarkable annual gardens attract plant aficionados because the 3,500 specimens include rare items not readily available to nurseries and because of the daring combinations of plants and colors. Black pansies cozy up to purple ornamental peppers, and multicolored vegetables such as pink-ribbed kale and red lettuce nestle into beds with flowers.

Students grow the plants at the Horticultural Research Farm (often from seed) under the direction of Mark Starrett, associate professor of plant and soil science. Master gardeners from UVM Extension and students placed them into beds in May. Michelle Keegan, a junior in plant

UVM Receives National Award for Environmental Protection Project

The Environmental Health and Safety program received a national award at the International Conference on Campus Safety held July 15 in Nashville, Tenn. The award, given by the National Safety Council, recognizes innovative environmental protection practices in higher education.

The innovative practices commended by the National Safety Council came about through UVM's participation in the Environmental Protection Agency's Project XL. Named for "eXcellence and Leadership," Project XL enables higher education institutions to modify hazardous waste regulations created for industries so that they are realistic in a university environment. For example, in-line waste collection has been the most common citation in higher education though the dripping of chemicals into containers is necessary in university lab procedures. Through Project XL, the regulation has been adjusted such that in-line waste collection is permitted as long as the conditions of the collection are defined.

UVM, the University of Massachusetts-Boston, and Boston College have been working jointly on Project XL's New England Universities program for three years.

"These schools were pioneers," said Tom Balf, Project XL director for C2E2 (Campus Consortium for Environmental Excellence). "In the late 90's when EPA changed the rules of engagement for how they would inspect higher education laboratories and how they would penalize institutions for failing to conform, UVM, Boston College and the University of Massachusetts Boston took the initiative to work with EPA and state agencies to develop and pilot an alternative, regulatory model tailored to the unique needs of research and teaching labs. It has been an extraordinary learning experience and an effective partnership for all parties involved."

Project XL is one of more than a dozen innovative projects facilitated by EPA New England. It encourages testing of cleaner, cheaper, and more efficient methods designed to achieve environmental results superior to those obtained under current regulations and policies. The project also streamlines regulations relating to labeling of containers and paperwork compliance.

"In most of the citations of higher education institutions for hazardous waste violations, there was no release to the environment involved," said UVM environmental safety manager Ralph Stuart. "Rather, the issue was compliance with regulatory requirements for labeling of containers in the lab,

and soil science, maintains the gardens with funds from the UVM Horticulture Club. The club is looking for additional sponsors for maintenance, Starrett says.

Taylor Named First Dean of Honors College

Robert Taylor, professor of political science and director of the John Dewey Honors Program, returned from sabbatical to a new job: He is now dean of the University of Vermont Honors College.

"I see it as a wonderful challenge. Done well, the Honors College could be a great benefit to the entire university," he says. "This could raise the bar of admission and the quality of intellectual life among students in general. This is not a program where we will set honors students apart from everyone else. We will give them enrichment and supplemental activities, but the whole faculty will see better students in their classes."

The new college, a top priority of President Daniel Mark Fogel, will enroll its first class of students in fall 2004. As envisioned by Fogel, Taylor and the university-wide Honors Council, which laid the foundation for the new college over the past year, a key part of the Honors College curriculum will be a interdisciplinary first-year course that all honors students take.

As he begins his new job, Taylor will focus on evaluating faculty proposals for that first-year course, developing other academic and non-academic components of the program, working with the admissions office to recruit appropriate students and guiding the program through the Faculty Senate as necessary.

In addition to attracting more highly qualified and motivated students to the university, and enriching their experience once they arrive, Taylor hopes that the program will improve the intellectual climate on campus by providing a venue for successful collaboration across the boundaries of different colleges and schools and sponsor more visits to Vermont by distinguished scholars.

"Every wonderful visiting scholar we bring to this campus through the program is someone who will speak to the university at large, and to faculty," Taylor emphasizes.

Taylor also hopes his new role will allow him enough early morning hours to refine and submit a book manuscript exploring the democratic ideals of some key Progressive Era figures. He wrote the draft during a sabbatical funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

RELATED LINKS:

- [Dewey Eyed](#) (a profile of Taylor's role with the College of Letters and Sciences honors program)
- [Faculty Senate Recommends Honors College](#)

documentation of training for lab workers, etc."

UVM's participation in Project XL has resulted in improved worker training and more organized labs with more frequent inspections. The project also simplifies regulation requirements through the merging of OSHA's safety requirements with the EPA's waste disposal regulations.

"The regulation we're testing allows us to dovetail our safety program and our waste disposal program so that there is one set of procedures for lab workers to follow that satisfies OSHA and EPA requirements and that offers workers the needed flexibility in doing their work," said Stuart.

Because paperwork compliance falls to administrators under the new regulatory scheme, faculty and lab workers have more time to focus on safety in their labs. They also have more time to teach creatively, which has resulted in faculty replacing toxic chemicals with safer chemicals.

"Overall, we're very pleased with the results that all three of the schools have obtained on the XL Labs project," said Gina Snyder, EPA New England's project manager. "The schools have applied holistic environmental management approaches to combine the main requirements of state and federal environmental rules with OSHA's chemical hygiene program requirements. Not only that," she continued, "but in this project the schools have gone well beyond the existing requirements. Like any experiment," Snyder said, "it hasn't been perfect in every single respect, but the changes in chemical management and lab worker training are positive, and we'll recommend the three year extension."

With the extension, UVM will continue to investigate solutions to current regulations and will continue to improve lab safety.

June and July Bring E-Mail Change

The zoo is closed (for e-mail, anyway).

As of July 1, the name of the university's UNIX computing cluster is no longer part of campus e-mail addresses. "theview@zoo.uvm.edu," therefore, is now simply "theview@uvm.edu." (Campus addresses also take the standard form of firstname.lastname@uvm.edu, as in Kevin.Foley@...) The change, which was announced last fall, does not require e-mail users to take any action. But now might be a good time to update your e-mail software's client to remove the obsolete extra characters.

The previous week, on June 26, the subject lines of entreaties from suspiciously hard-pressed lesser members of the Nigerian royal family and anatomical enlargers – e-mail "spam," in other words – began carrying a scarlet [SPAM] notation to indicate their suspect origin. A scale of pound signs added to the subject lines of these messages, ranging from [SPAM: #] to [SPAM: #####], indicates the software's certitude that the labeled message is indeed a bulk solicitation of some sort.

HELIX Summer Interns Tackle Diverse Projects

Student winners of this year's Hughes Endeavor for Life Science Excellence program grants are in the laboratory and the field working closely with faculty to study everything from ant communities to Zucker rats.

The competitive program, known as HELIX for short, provides student interns with a summer salary of \$3,220 and \$1,500 for supplies. In the fall, they meet to present their research and learn what their peers are doing in research.

This year's students, faculty mentors and projects are:

- Chris Baker and Thomas Fowler, research associate professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, "Site Directed Changes in Schizophyllum commune Pheromones for Determination of Amino Acid Functionality in GPCR Activation."
- Nicholas Kaczmar and Nicholas Gotelli, professor of biology, "Ant Community Structure (in Kerby, Oregon)"
- Kyla LaRock, with Mina Peshavaria and Thomas Jetton, research assistant professors of medicine, "Mechanisms of Pancreatic Beta Cell Mass Expansion in the Young Zucker Rat"
- Dena Marinucci and Dwight Matthews, chair of chemistry and professor of medicine, "Quantitation of Glutamine in Physiological Samples"
- Carolyn McGuinness and Umadevi Wesley, research associate professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, "Study of Gene Silencing Mechanisms in Human Cancer: Methylation, Expression, and Mutational Analysis of Dipeptidyl Peptidase IV (DPPIV), a Potential Tumor Suppressor Gene"
- Tanya Mulvey and Karen Plaut, chair of animal sciences, "Effect of TGF- α and - β 1 on Cell Cycle Kinetics of Murine Mammary Epithelial Cells"
- Robert O'Brien and Jeanne Harris, assistant professor of botany, "A Screen for Jasmonic Acid Insensitive Mutants of *M. truncatula*"
- Brianne Olivieri and Rona Delay, assistant professor of biology, "Expression of the Chloride Cotransporter NKCC1 in Olfactory Epithelium"
- Stephanie Paulk and Lori Stevens, professor of biology, "Investigating Chagas Disease through Vector Genetics"
- Rajesh Reddy and Dr. Peter VanBuren, assistant professor of medicine, "Thin Filament Phosphorylation: A Likely Mediator of Myocardial Failure"
- Revell Sandberg-Diment and Scott Gordon, assistant professor of chemistry, "The Development of an Efficient, Environmentally Benign Method for Synthesis of Peptides"
- Jessica Schwartz and Sally Huber, professor of pathology, "Natural Hormonal Fluctuations within Female Mice Influence Myocardial Infection"
- Elizabeth Wyzik and David Bucci, assistant professor of psychology, "Development of

The labeling system allows users of most e-mail clients to easily create a filter that directs questionable e-mails to a special folder for periodic review and deletion. The [UVM WebMail](#) server also offers a variety of tools to manage spam e-mail, ranging from the simple to sophisticated. Computing and Information Technology invites feedback (if not foreign business entreaties) on the new software; see [New system to Help with E-mail Spam](#) for more resources and an address to send comments to.

Dean Williams of CIT offers campus Web surfers another tip on taming a dread Internet scrouge, the pop-up window, in [this article](#). His best advice on controlling pop-ups involves switching to a browser like Mozilla or Netscape (or Safari on Apple's OS X) that provides a checkbox to disallow pop-up windows in the program's preferences area.

Study Finds New Marker for Stroke Risk

A College of Medicine researcher working with colleagues nationwide published the first prospective study to explore the relationship between atherosclerosis – the build-up of plaque in the arteries – and a marker of inflammation in the risk of stroke. The article, titled "C-Reactive Protein, Carotid Intima-Media Thickness, and Incidence of Ischemic Stroke in the Elderly," appeared online on June 23 in a rapid access issue of *Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association*.

C-reactive protein is a blood marker of inflammation, which indicates cardiovascular disease risk. Carotid intima-media thickness is determined using special ultrasound technology to measure the amount of atherosclerosis in the carotid artery, which leads to the brain.

"This study demonstrated that in the elderly, where stroke risk is greatest, a high level of CRP is more predictive of stroke if your carotid artery wall is thicker," says senior study author Dr. Mary Cushman, associate professor of medicine. "But if your wall is thin, then CRP is less important in determining stroke risk."

Over 10 years, researchers followed 5,147 men and women age 65 and older who were participants in the Cardiovascular Health Study, a longitudinal observational study investigating risk factors for cardiovascular disease in the elderly sponsored by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. The study began in 1989 with baseline testing, including an identification of participants' CRP blood levels and carotid wall thickness. Study participants were divided into four groups according to CRP level. Participants underwent annual physical examinations and were contacted by phone six months after each exam.

Participants suffered a total of 469 ischemic strokes during the 10.2 years of follow-up. The study authors found that participants in the group with the highest level of CRP were 60 percent more likely to suffer a stroke than the participants with the lowest CRP levels. When divided further into three groups according to carotid IMT, in those participants with thicker carotid artery walls

a Rat Model of Attention
Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder"

For more about the students and their projects,
go to [2003 Summer Interns](#).

there was a larger correlation between CRP level
and stroke incidence, compared to those with
thinner artery walls.

"These results suggest that higher levels of CRP
may be associated with the type of artery plaque
that is more likely to break off and cause a
stroke," Cushman says. "However, it is still too
early in the investigation process to recommend
that all people have their CRP or carotid wall
thickness measured."

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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Fleming Showcases Vermont Women Artists

A new show at the Fleming Museum, "Ten Vermont Women," features sculpture, painting and crafts from artists selected as finalists in the National Museum of Women in the Arts "From the States" program.

The exhibition includes Elizabeth Billings of Tunbridge, who was selected by the national group to represent Vermont and whose weavings from natural materials were exhibited in Washington, D.C. earlier this year. The other artists are Particia Bursleson of Townshend; Kathryn Lipke Vigasaa of Waterville; Janet McKenzie of Island Pond; Lynn Newcomb of Worcester; Sue Rees of North Bennington; Kathleen Schneider of Winooski; Meg Walker of Charlotte; Dana Wigdor of Brattleboro; and Barbara Zucker of Burlington.

The exhibit will run through Sept. 7. The opening reception is scheduled on July 20 from 4 to 6 p.m. For more information, see [Fleming Museum](#).

George Perkins Marsh Biographer to Speak July 29

David Lowenthal, professor emeritus of University College London and author of the magisterial biography *George Perkins Marsh: Prophet of Conservation*, will speak at Bailey/Howe library on July 29th at 4 p.m.

The talk will place Marsh in the wider context of the man whose multifaceted energies brought him from business to politics and finally to scholarship as he became a polymath intellectual in American society in the mid-and-late-19th century. He will discuss how Marsh's life and works serve as a springboard into a whole range of topics newly relevant to our time, from environmentalism to biblical translation, to pragmatism and public stewardship, and to Vermont political life.

Lowenthal is author of more than 15 books. His talk at the Special Collections Reading Room celebrates the paperback edition of his recent Marsh biography.

A reception will follow the talk. Please call 656-2138 to reserve a spot.

NHL Star St. Louis to Play in Benefit Golf Tournament

The College of Medicine will sponsor the Second Annual Peter A. Martin Brain Aneurysm Research Fund Golf Tournament on Aug. 19 at 8 a.m. at the Kwiniaska Golf Course in Shelburne.

National Hockey League phenomenon and former UVM star Martin St. Louis, a 1997 graduate, will play in the tournament, as will recently retired UVM hockey coach Mike Gilligan.

Named in honor of former Shelburne resident and Point Bay Marina manager Peter Martin, the tournament's goal is to raise funds to support research about the causes and treatments of brain aneurysm – a weak, bulging area in the wall of a brain artery. The rupture of a brain artery, called a subarachnoid hemorrhage, causes death in about half of the people who experience a brain aneurysm. Martin suffered two subarachnoid hemorrhages, the second of which took his life at age 39 on September 18, 1999.

"I am pleased to have the opportunity to support important research at my alma mater, while at the same time helping to raise awareness about brain aneurysms," said St. Louis, who plays right wing for the Tampa Bay Lightning.

The Peter A. Martin Brain Aneurysm Research Fund was established by the Martin family in 2000. Last year's golf tournament raised more than \$10,000 and this year's goal is set at \$15,000. For more information about the tournament or fund, call Matt Sayre in UVM's Medical Development and Alumni Affairs Office at 802-656-4014.

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Awards and Honors

Paul Bierman, professor of geology, and his lab associates have received several grants recently. These include \$130,000 from the National Science Foundation Geography to study rapid erosion in the New Zealand mountains, and \$199,000 from NSF Geology to work on erosion in the Appalachian Mountains. The group also won \$30,000 to study erosion in the Great Smoky Mountains from the United States Geologic Survey.

Dr. **John Hughes**, professor of psychiatry, has been selected as the 2003 recipient of the Alton Ochsner Award Relating Smoking and Health from the American College of Chest Physicians. The award, which recognizes outstanding and exemplary scientific investigations related to tobacco consumption and health, will be officially presented to Hughes during a award ceremony on Oct. 26 in Orlando, Florida. The award is named for Dr. Alton Ochsner, who pioneered research into the connection between cigarette smoking and cancer over 60 years ago.

Dr. **Julia Johnson** has been promoted to professor of obstetrics and gynecology. She was also recently selected as chair of the Continuing Medical Education Committee for the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and as chair of the Subcommittee for Reproductive Endocrinology for the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The doctor was featured prominently in an article that appears in the current issue of the American Medical Association's weekly publication, *American Medical News* in the article [Menopause medicine: Custom-fit quandary](#).

Publications and Presentations

Donna Kuizenga, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of romance languages, recently published an article titled "Playing to Win: Villedieu's Henriette-Sylvie de Molière as Actress," in *Theatrum mundi. Studies in Honor of Ronald W. Tobin*, edited by Claire Carlin and Kathleen Wine.

Wolfgang Mieder, chair of the German and Russian, edited *Der Klügere gibt nicht nach: Sprichwörtliche Aphorismen von Gerhard Uhlenbruck*. The book is a compilation of so-called anti-proverbs in the form of aphorisms by the German author and physician Gerhard Uhlenbruck. Mieder also published an article titled "Wir leben! Vor uns die Sintflut!: Zu den sprichwörtlichen Aphorismen von Nikolaus Cybinski" in *Muttersprache*. The paper discusses the proverbial aphorisms of the modern German author Nikolaus Cybinski. Mieder also edited a reprint of Ignace Bernstein's two-volume *Catalogue des livres parémiologiques*. With more than 6,000 titles, the catalogue registers the most important proverb collections from around the world.

Sanjeeva Murthy, associate professor of physics, published a paper titled "Deformation in Lamellar and Crystalline Structures: *in situ* Simultaneous Small-Angle X-ray Scattering and Wide-Angle X-ray Diffraction Measurements on Polyethylene Terephthalate Fibers" in the July issue of *Journal of Polymer Science: Part B: Polymer Physics*. In the article Murthy and his co-authors reported on the influence of structure on polymer properties in semi-crystalline polymers. Dr. Murthy also presented seminars on this topic at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, India on June 25 and at the National Chemical Laboratory in Pune, India on June 27.

Sylvia Parker, lecturer of music, attended the College Music Society International Convention in Costa Rica from June 18 to June 26, where she premiered solo piano works by composers Stephen Yip and Dinos

Constantinides at the University of Costa Rica. She also performed music of Jose Sequeira in a lecture-recital with clarinetist Diana Fukunaga.

Helga Schreckenberger, professor of German and Russian, is the author of two articles on modern female novelists. Her paper, "*Über Erwarten grauenhaft: Der 1. Weltkrieg aus weiblicher Sicht*," Adrienne Thomas: *Die Katrin wird Soldat* (1930)" appeared in *Von Richthofen bis Remarque: Deutschsprachige Prosa zum 1. Weltkrieg*. Schreckenberger describes the biographical background of Adrienne Thomas, mentioning her experiences during World War I as a Red Cross nurse. The second paper on "*Literarisierung von Erlebtem Helga Glantschnigs Realismuskonzept*" was published in Hildegard Kernmayer and Petra Ganglbauer (eds.), *Schreibweisen. Poetologien. Die Postmoderne in der österreichischen Literatur von Frauen*. Schreckenberger deals with modern discussions of realism and analyzes several novels by the Austrian writer Helga Glantschnig.

In Memoriam

Marjory Power, professor emerita of anthropology, died on June 26. She was 73. She joined the University of Vermont faculty in 1974 and retired in 1996.

June 18 – July 16, 2003

Awards and Honors

Burton Wilcke, associate professor and chair of biomedical technologies, was asked by the World Health Organization to serve as an advisor to their Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response Department, as they establish a set of core capacities for National Public Health Laboratories globally. Wilcke joined program members in Lyon, France on June 16-17.

Two UVM teams received awards at the Corporate Cup Challenge and State Agency Race in Montpelier on May 15. A team of runners from the **Admissions Office** took second place in the five-kilometer event. The members were **Emina Burak**, **Gail Rose** and **Liz Hamlin**. A walking team from Bailey/Howe Library with **June Trayah**, **Lori Holiff** and **Annette Mailhot** participating won third place.

Second-year medical student **Andrew Tinsley** was selected as one of approximately 10 national recipients of a 2003 Summer Orthopaedic Research Fellowship from the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation.

Publications, Presentations and Grants

Dr. **John Hughes**, professor of psychiatry, published a paper titled "Efficacy of Nicotine Patch in Smokers with a History of Alcoholism" in the June issue of *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research*. In the article Hughes and his co-authors reported that nicotine replacement therapy works as well for smokers with long-term sobriety as it does for smoker without a history of alcoholism.

Garrison Nelson, professor of political science, presented a research paper, "Educating Presidential Nominees: The Collegiate Connection, 1789-2000," at the annual meeting of the New England Political Science Association in May. Nelson also received the John C. Donovan award for the best faculty paper at the 2002 annual meeting. That paper was titled "White House Inheritors and Climbers," and will appear in the Fall/Winter 2003 issue of the *new England Journal of Public Policy*.

The **Charles A. Dana Medical Library** has received a one-year, \$25,000 grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine-New England Region at the University of Massachusetts, Worcester, to develop a coordinated approach to providing high-quality health information to the public through the Vermont Cooperative Consumer Health Information Project.

Academic Appointments

The department of pediatrics welcomed new faculty member Dr. **John-Paul Capolicchio** as Vermont's first physician to specialize in pediatric urology. The

new assistant professor of pediatrics previously served as a pediatric urologist at Montreal Children's Hospital and McGill University Health Centre. Capolicchio is lead author of a report titled "A Modified Access Technique for Retroperitoneoscopic Renal Surgery in Children," which appears in the July 2003 issue of the *Journal of Urology*.

May 21 - June 17, 2003

Publications and Presentations

William Averyt, associate professor of business administration, presented a paper on "Internet Governance and Domain Name Policy: The U.S. and the Canadian Models" at the U.S.-Canada Business Conference in April at Indiana University.

Stephen Dempsey, associate professor of business administration, had a paper, "On the Benefits of a Mathematical Solutions Approach to Time Value of Money Instruction: Arguments and Evidence," accepted for publication in the *Journal of Accounting Education*. In March, he presented the paper at the International Applied Business Research Conference in Mexico.

Rocki-Lee DeWitt, dean and professor of business administration, co-authored the article, "Stuck in the Middle: A Control-Based Model of Managers' Reactions to Their Subordinates' Layoffs," in the *Journal of Managerial Issues*. Her co-authors are Linda Klebe Trevino of Penn State and Kelly A. Mollica of Wake Forest University.

Dr. **Susan Harvey**, assistant professor of radiology, is lead author of a paper titled "Increase in cancer detection and recall rates with independent double interpretation of screening mammography," which appeared in the May 2003 *American Journal of Roentgenology*. Co-authors on the paper include **Berta Geller**, research associate professor of family practice; Dr. **Robert Oppenheimer**, associate professor of radiology; **Leslie Riddell**, research project analyst in the Office of Health Promotion Research; and Dr. **Brian Garra**, professor of radiology.

Wolfgang Mieder, professor and chair of German and Russian, has published a paper on Mozart both in German and English. The English version, titled "'Now I Sit Like a Rabbit in the Pepper': Proverbial Language in the Letters of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart," appeared in the *Journal of Folklore Research*. He is also the author of a paper on social criticism in modern German poetry, "*Sprach- und sozialkritische Redensartengedichte*," in the Finnish journal *Neuphilologische Mitteilungen*.

Wolfgang Mieder is also the author of a new book *Der Rattenfänger von Hameln. Die Sage in Literatur, Medien und Karikature*. The book treats the well-known legend of the "Pied Piper of Hamelin," dealing with its complex origin in the thirteenth century and its involvement in German history as well as with folk songs, poems, prose texts, caricatures and advertisements based on this significant motif of an ambivalent leader. The book contains numerous illustrations from art and the mass media, including many Anglo-American references.

Several abstracts and presentations by UVM faculty were featured at the 26th annual Society of General Internal Medicine meeting, which took place in Vancouver, British Columbia, from April 30 to May 3. Dr. **Mark Pasanen**, assistant professor of medicine, and colleagues presented "Racial Differences in Narcotic Use for Chronic Pain" at the opening plenary session. Dr. **Alan Rubin**, assistant professor of medicine, directed a pre-meeting course titled "A Curriculum for Medical Errors." Dr. **Charles MacLean**, associate professor of medicine, led a workshop session titled "Primer on Root Cause Analysis of Errors in Diabetes Care." Dr. **Zail Berry**, clinical associate professor of medicine, presented a course titled "Opiates for chronic pain: a review of the evidence." Abstract presenters included: Dr. **Benjamin Littenberg**, Carleen and Henry Tufo Professor of Medicine and director of the division of general internal medicine; **Amanda Kennedy**, post-doctoral associate in medicine; Dr. **Richard Pinckney**, assistant professor of medicine; Dr. **Paul Turner**, assistant professor of medicine; **John Searles**, research assistant professor of psychiatry; Dr. **Anne Dixon**, assistant professor of medicine; Dr. **Alan Rubin**, assistant professor of medicine; **Robert Ross**, research assistant professor of medicine; Dr. **Susan Wehry**, associate professor of psychiatry.

Helga Schreckenberger, professor of German and Russian and Director of Women's Studies, has edited a volume of essays titled *Ästhetiken des Exils*. The book is based on the papers delivered by twenty-one scholars from Europe and the United States at a 1998 UVM conference Shreckenberger organized. The various papers deal with the aesthetic traditions and innovations of numerous exiled authors as for example Bertolt Brecht, Alfred Kerr, Stefan Heym, Mascha Kaléko, Erich Fried, Anna Seghers, Jakov Lind, Hilde Domin, Paul Celan, and others.

Helga Schreckenberger and **David Scrase**, both professors of German and Russian, contributed entries to the *Reference Guide of Holocaust Literature*. The book is divided into two sections on writers and works so that readers can get detailed information on the biographical background of the various authors and interpretative comments on their major literary works.

Awards and Honors

Sarah Abrams, assistant professor of nursing, is the new co-editor of the journal *Public Health Nursing*, a bimonthly publication that includes theoretical discussions, timely reviews, dynamic clinical reports, and commentary by the nation's health care leaders.

Kathy Boland, clinical assistant professor of family practice, **Amy Jaeger**, adjunct assistant professor of nursing, and Dr. **Dominic Jaeger**, assistant professor of medicine, and colleagues from Fletcher Allen's pharmacotherapy and Community Health Improvement staff were recently honored with an Outstanding Outpatient Medication Safety Program Award from the Institute for Safe Medication Practices for their exceptional work on the Affordable Medications Project, the Smart Medications Project and the Academic Detailing Project.

Dennis Mahoney, professor of German and Russian, advised a team of undergraduates that won second prize at a German theatre festival held at Mount Holyoke College on May 1. The students, **Ernesto Hernandez**, **Michele Chamberlain** and **Miranda Harrison** wore 18th-century costuming on loan from the UVM Department of Theatre.

the view, which is produced by University Communications, won a bronze medal for staff writing in the national CASE Circle of Excellence Awards. *the view* was the only non-magazine to win a national medal; the other winners in the category were the University of North Carolina, Tulane, Johns Hopkins, Penn and Brown.

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- [Archived Notables: November, 2001](#)
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theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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Summer of Science

By Jon Reidel



The mysteries of summer: John Murch takes readings with radio frequency test equipment on the UVM campus as part of a research project funded with a URECA grant from the provost's office. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

propagation characteristics for outdoor campus environments for common wireless frequency bands. This includes spending the summer in a lab and walking around the UVM campus taking readings with radio frequency test equipment and a personal wireless device.

Exotic sounding it may not be, but the \$3,000 Undergraduate Research Endeavors Competitive Award grant that made Murch's summer research possible helped land him an internship at MicroStrain, Inc., producers of innovative micro sensors and one of Vermont's fastest growing technology companies. It also gave him valuable grant-writing experience, cash to purchase equipment and pay himself a stipend if he chooses, and the possibility of having his results published in a major journal.

Being your own boss, deciding how to spend profits, and greatly increasing your chances of getting into graduate school? Not bad when compared to some of the more traditional college summer work alternatives involving low pay, unpleasant work conditions, and a boss lurking over your shoulder.

"Being a URECA winner has helped me in many ways," says Murch. "It got me an internship and helped me get other grants. After re-writing the URECA grant 30 times, I got a feel for the grant writing process and it became a lot easier."

A win-win summer

Murch isn't the only one taking advantage of available grant money. Some 25 students won 2002 URECA grants – awarded through the provost's office – ranging in size from \$700 to \$3,000. This allows students the opportunity and resources to pursue independent research, and work closely with active faculty members who are leading scholars in their fields.

Similar grant opportunities are available through the Hughes Endeavor for Life Science Excellence program (see [this story](#) for current projects). Both grants mirror both the application process and the execution of a program that would typically be funded by an external granting agency. A final report detailing the outcomes of each project is required, which may be suitable for presentation at regional or national conferences and/or publication.

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Not that Murch isn't having fun this summer. In fact, the sophomore-to-be is doing exactly what he wants:

Investigating

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Green Without Sheen

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Theatrical Reality

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Jim Vigoreaux, associate professor of biology, has been working with URECA grant winners for years and is currently mentoring Rachel Humphrey, who has earned research money through URECA, HELIX and pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc. Her topic: Expression of human cardiac myosin binding protein C in *Drosophila* flight muscles deficient for flighin.

"There's nothing like researching a topic and applying it in a lab setting," Humphrey says. "You can run into a lot of unexpected things in the lab, so you learn how to overcome them. These grants have allowed me to continue my research over a longer period of time."

Vigoreaux says the grants and the accompanying money give students a good idea of how much research equipment costs, and puts real-life pressure on students to produce quality results when they present them to the people who gave them the money in the first place.

"These grant programs are win-win situations," Vigoreaux says. "Students get experience in the lab and make money, and we (professors) get valuable help. It's also something that they can put on their resume. It's a big deal for those that get published (about 10 percent)."

Not lab rats

Not all grants are used for hardcore scientific lab research. Some projects are based more on social research like that of Leila Zayed, who is studying how young women perceive the oft-used term "post-feminism" by mass media sources and sociologists.

Zayed says that the use of the term "post-feminism" by media outlets and sociologists implies one of three things: That women are moving away from feminist ideals and are migrating towards more traditional gender roles; that although women may embrace feminist ideals, they believe that women on the whole have achieved equality on all important fronts and have no further gain to make by continuing the fight for sexual equality; or that while women do embrace feminist ideals, they wholeheartedly reject the label "feminist."

According to her research, Zayed found that not only are the first two statements "completely unfounded and merely speculative claims," but that the younger a woman is, the more likely she is to embrace feminist ideals. However, she is also more likely to reject the label "feminist."

"I believe that this phenomenon is due to a strong backlash against the feminist movement that began many moons ago and continues through venues such as Rush Limbaugh with the coining of terms like "feminazi," she concludes.

As for the URECA grant that funded her research, and gave her the opportunity to attend the annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society in Philadelphia, Zayed says it simply wouldn't have happened without it.

"Without the grant monies I simply would not have been able to afford such an enriching event," Zayed says. "I would not have been able to participate in the current dialogue of sociologists without this generous fund. It was a dream to move from the position of student to active sociologist."

theview

University Communications
86 South Williams Street
Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Green Without Sheen

Political scientist Deborah Guber's book uses public opinion polls to explore the enduring strength, and confounding weakness, of the environmental movement

By Kevin Foley

In early July, a long *New York Times* article described how Democratic candidates are trying to find a new political language to talk about the environment, redefining the debate away from science and toward morality, justice and national security.

Deborah Guber, who spent 12 years poring over every modern poll conducted measuring public attitudes about the environment to produce a doctoral thesis and, then, in January, her MIT Press book *The Grassroots of the Green Revolution*, suspects that these carefully conceived efforts will probably not have much influence on the 2004 presidential election.

"There just isn't a political spark out there for the environment right now," says the assistant professor of political science.

If, as the political clichés have it, social security is the deadly "third rail" of politics, then talking with Guber and reading her clearly written, exhaustively researched book suggests that the environment is a political tar pit, welcoming on the surface, but a hopeless morass within.

This seems paradoxical. Since the early 1970's, an evolving green consciousness has changed the way that millions of Americans eat, travel, play and throw their garbage away. Store space devoted to organic foods and "ecological" cleaners has grown like a runaway compost heap. An overwhelming 83 percent of Americans polled in 2000 agreed with the broadest goals of the environmental movement.

But in the midst of all this, Guber observes that Al Gore, author of *Earth in the Balance*, barely mentioned green issues during his failed presidential campaign. His opponent, a former oilman, gave the most eloquent and evocative speeches on the importance of protecting land, water and resources. She also observes that there hasn't been a truly major piece of environmental legislation passed in more than a decade.

The green paradox

By analyzing the contradictions, trends and holes in public consciousness of the environment – that public opinion being the green movements "grassroots" – Guber has arrived at a set of interlocking explanations.

As an issue, she argues that the environment is both strong and weak; support for it is broad (recall the 2000 poll) and fairly consistent over time, but not very deep. When voters are asked to rank environmental concerns on a scale compared with other problems, or relate environmental concerns to economic ones, voters' bright green tinge fades to a pallid celery. The majority wants a greener planet, but doesn't want to pay for it.

This is troubling enough for environmentalists, but as they seek to gain enough traction to move political debates Guber says they face even more obstacles. The first is that there isn't actually a real debate: Nobody is "against" clean air and water.

"No one goes there. Opposing the environment is like kicking a sick puppy," says Guber. "So the trick is to try to differentiate yourself [from opponents] without appearing to be an extremist, and that's very difficult to do."

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And, despite repeated efforts to frame environmental issues in immediately resonant terms of “morality” and “justice,” green concerns, by their nature, are forward-looking and scientific. This is a difficult problem, Guber says, because polls indicate that Americans are quite willing to trade off an abstract future for a concrete present and, she says, because of the dismal level of public understanding about the environment.

“Most people just don’t know very much,” she says. “They think aerosols release CFC’s and damage the atmosphere – not true today. They think most oil spills are caused by major industrial mishaps, big business, when most is caused by day-to-day activity.”

If the environmental movement could educate the public about the real issues involved, she adds, individuals might “personalize the risks in a different way.” They might also be less vulnerable to the practice of “greenwashing,” in which politicians and interest groups take advantage of the squishiness of environmental opinion and the complexity of the issues to portray environmentally harmful policies as helpful, or to just score symbolic points at the expense of substance. But this isn’t the direction that many of the largest groups have chosen to focus their energies on, Guber says.

“A lot of what the movement does is not grassroots. It’s scary direct mail,” she says.

That raises funds necessary to lobby legislators, but it has a corrosive effect on mobilizing public opinion because it makes individuals feel impotent. “You need to convince people that there actually is a solution that they can do something about,” says Guber.

Guber’s green future

Though a critic of many environmentalists’ tactics, the professor is sympathetic toward the broader movement. In the last, forward-looking chapter of her book, she proposes ways environmentalists can help ordinary people back up their environmentalist sympathies with concrete actions.

She argues for better public education about ecological issues and more market-based incentives that provide immediate rewards for earth-friendly actions. And, yes, she argues for a language of “civic environmentalism” that resembles the attempts of Democratic primary candidates to talk about the issue in more resonant ways. Beyond that, she asks for more honest debate and disagreement around environmental policy instead of relying on a hollow consensus that protecting the environment is good. This shallowness favors symbols over actions, and distances policymakers from the consequences of their proposals.

As environmentalists, pundits and politicians of all parties look forward to the next election, the next elusive tack to use environmental concerns to woo crucial “swing voters,” Guber is spending her summer research time looking back.

After spending more than a decade concerned with polling data, a stretch ranging from a brief and disquieting stint as an undergraduate pollster to writing a scholarly book analyzing polls, Guber is ready to look at public opinion in a different kind of way. The current project occupying her in her home office in St. Albans is a look at the ideas about democracy that shaped the creation of the Adirondack Park during a crucial period in the mid- to late-19th century.

As she immerses herself in old newspaper editorials in preparation to write and present a new article, and, eventually, another book, Guber takes pleasure, appropriately enough given one of her first book’s key arguments, in a small paradox: her new project is both a departure and an extension of the topic she worked on previously.

“The work and methods are very different,” she says, “but this is getting at a moment that helped shape the grassroots opinions I write about. It’s a prequel done after the fact, sort of like George Lucas moving from *Star Wars* to *The Phantom Menace*.”

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Theater student Corrin McCarthy works on a prop for an upcoming production at the Rhode Island theater where she's spending her summer as an intern. (Photo: Jon Reidel)

The beaches of Rhode Island's picturesque South County start calling Jeff Modereger in spring. The pull is irresistible to the associate professor of theater. For the past 25 years, he has made the trek south to the sandy coastline and old Victorian home where he lives just minutes from his workplace – a 1929 converted barn in Matunuck that has hosted theatrical performances by the likes of Marlon Brando, Helen Reddy, Jessica

Tandy and Mae West.

Modereger, chair of UVM's theater department, has succumbed to the intoxicating combination of theater and the beach every summer since 1977 when he started working at the Theatre-By-The-Sea helping put on Broadway-caliber musicals such as "Chicago," "Always... Patsy Cline," and "Guys and Dolls." A quick stroll around the post card-like compounds with its expansive gardens, rustic restaurant and cabaret, and carriage-house living quarters for theater employees, makes it clear the place is in the blood of the Rhode Island native.

"Aside from being an absolutely beautiful area, it became a home to me," Modereger says. "There are a lot of memories here for many people. It's a special place."

Modereger's love of the area is deep, but not as deep as his love of the theater. His students say he puts his heart and soul into his teaching at UVM, but for Modereger, the classroom isn't enough. He wants to give his students a real theater experience to help them make their avocation their vocation.

Enter theater, stage left

An opportunity to make that dream a reality presented itself seven years ago when a friend purchased the theater. Modereger saw the sale as an opportunity to satisfy his annual yearning for the beach and to put students in a professional theater setting. With the owner wanting more of a focus on educational theater, Modereger started recruiting college students to work there.

"Bringing students here has to do with the quality of people and the level of professionalism that they're exposed to," he says. "As a teacher I get to watch the students apply what they learn in the classroom in this professional, real world setting. I see the light bulb go on and I know that they finally get it."

Modereger, who is a professional scenic designer and production manager, started bringing 30-plus students each summer to Matunuck, including about seven UVM students he considered serious about careers in theater, and who could handle the intense nature of the 60-hour work weeks.



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"We call it summer theater, not summer stock," says Modereger. "Summer stock implies that it's cheap, sleazy or that we cut corners. But we take care of our people here. There is a high level of professionalism."

Living in the 'Real World'

Seven recent UVM graduates and current undergraduates are spending the summer at Theatre-By-The-Sea in a setting that could easily be mistaken for an episode of MTV's "Real World." Students share close quarters in a renovated carriage house above the Seahorse Grill, a restaurant-bar and cabaret.

Students who envisioned a carefree vacation on the New England coast got a rude awakening. The six-day workweeks don't allow for much beach time or late-night revelry and can grow tense as show time approaches.

Alex Bombard, Corinn McCarthy, Robyn King, Jodi LeDec, Maryann Carlson, Bart Cannizzaro, and Katalin Wargo have been working since May in wardrobe, props, electrical, painting, stage management and carpentry.

"Because of the intimacy of the situation, you have to break down any walls," says McCarthy, who graduated last year. "There's no room for attitudes and you can't hide anything. We've learned how to live and work together."

Bombard, who just graduated from UVM, says "everything is mentally draining and some physically." But in spite of having just one day off per week, two of the UVM students have found the time to get engaged on the nearby beaches of Matunuck.

Theatrical reality

With students coming from all over the country to work at Theatre-By-The-Sea, the UVM contingent gets a chance to see how their skills stack up. After checking out their peers from other institutions, most say they feel well prepared to handle a wide variety of tasks thanks in part to UVM theater program's commitment to teach students every aspect of the trade.

"Doing everything as a collaboration is a brilliant part of the UVM system," LeDec '03 says. "It's all interrelated. Everything that you're learning makes you a more valuable person in this industry."

Modereger says actors and some other members of a production sometimes hold themselves in higher regard than other members of the cast and crew. A healthy respect for all positions is created when people have to perform the jobs of others, he says.

"We have everyone do everything at UVM," Modereger says. "It gives them a healthy exposure to the entire machine. I remember an actor who we had do props tell me that he'd ' never been treated so badly by actors in all my life."

Cannizzaro, a 2001 alumnae who has worked on multiple professional productions since graduating, says a summer at Theatre-By-The-Sea is good training for students considering a career in theater. The only unrealistic aspect of a summer in Matunuck is that the producers treat the cast and crew far better than most professional operations.

"It can get pretty tough sometimes," says Cannizzaro, a stage manager who has worked two straight weeks setting up performances in 14 different cities. "You sleep five hours a night and wake up not knowing where you are. But you learn how to make major decisions on your own. You have to solve problems quickly and move on. You can't get that kind of experience from a textbook.

Some of the students have lined up work for the coming year, while others will return to UVM in the fall. Most expect theater jobs, always hard to find, to come a little easier after a summer in Matunuck. Modereger says a stint at Theatre-By-The-Sea, a former stop-off for wealthy Bostonians traveling to their summer homes in Newport, is a major addition to a resume.

"It totally enhances your UVM experience," Bombard says. "I felt like a much more valuable member of the UVM theater department after being here. When you go back to school, you feel like you can do anything,"