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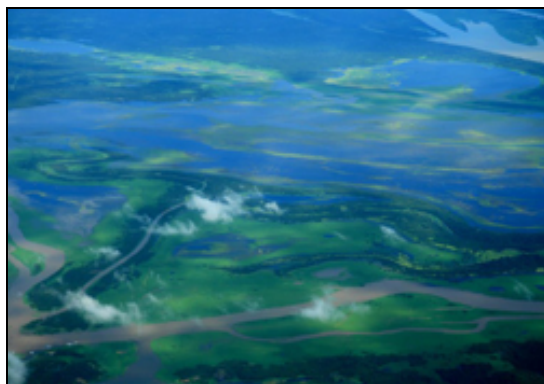
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UVM HOMEPAGE

Model Earth



The Amazon Basin is one of several regions MIMES scientists are using to help test and calibrate their model of Earth's ecosystems. (Photo: Azur Moulaert)

Human life benefits from models. Take two examples: the weather forecast and the highway map. Both of these models select one slice of the planet's boggling complexity and use it to allow informed guesses about the future. But what about land use? To what model should a land manager or government scientist turn when trying to weigh the economic value of, say, conserving a forest versus cutting it for a new housing project?

[FULL STORY ►](#)

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July 17, 2008

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

Sept. 4 and 5. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Board of Trustees Meetings. Davis Center Fourth Floor. [Information](#), [schedule](#).

Sept. 6. 9 a.m. Historic Tour of UVM. [Information](#), [registration](#). Tour begins at Ira Allen statue, Main Green. Tour runs Saturdays, through Oct. 11.

Sept. 6. 9 a.m. to noon. Leaf Casting Workshop. Create your own natural objects of art with leaf casts of your favorite large-leaf plant. \$20. UVM Horticultural Research Center. [Information](#), registration: (802) 864-3073.

Sept. 8. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Student Art Exhibit. Work will be on display through Sept. 19. Colburn Gallery, Williams Hall. 656-2014.

Sept. 9. Noon to 2 p.m. Community-University Partnerships and Service-Learning Open House. Learn about the programs and services that CUPS provides to faculty, community members, and students. North Lounge, Billings. Information: 656-0095.

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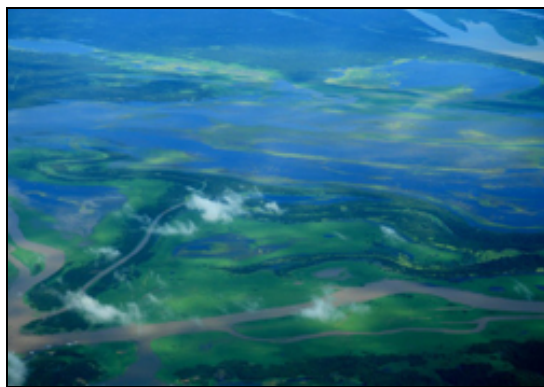
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Model Earth

By Joshua Brown

Article published July 16, 2008



The Amazon Basin is one of several regions MIMES scientists are using to help test and calibrate their model of Earth's ecosystems. (Photo: Azur Moulaert)

Human life benefits from models. Take two examples: the weather forecast and the highway map. Both of these models select one slice of the planet's boggling complexity — the atmosphere, the major roads — and use it to allow informed guesses about the future.

Rain this afternoon; better to fix the leaky roof than mow hay. Route 7 looks the fastest route to Shelburne.

As anyone who has planned a picnic or road trip knows, these models are sometimes wrong. But mostly they are right, or pretty close. We find them useful and go back to them time after time to help us make decisions.

But what about land use? To what model should a land manager or government scientist turn when trying to weigh the economic value of, say, conserving a forest versus cutting it for a new housing project?

Roelof Boumans, Robert Costanza and their colleagues at UVM's Gund Institute for Ecological Economics and around the world are building a new computer model that aims to fill this need. The [MIMES project](#) (for multiscale integrated models of ecosystem services) has some of the qualities of a weather forecast, some of a highway map. Its scope — the whole planet — is breathtaking, but they believe it will be as useful as these other models.

Since 1997, when Costanza's paper in *Nature* placed the value of earth's ecosystem services — like crop pollination, water purification, and soil creation — at \$33 trillion per year, there has been growing interest in ways to put a dollar value on what had previously been consider "free" or "external" to the economy. And

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the science of ecosystem services has exploded over this decade.

But how to apply general ideas of, for example, the dollars-per-acre value of wetlands — for flood control and soil conservation — to specific wetlands along the Mississippi River hasn't been easy. And how the local dynamics of a particular wetland fit into the hydrology and value of the whole river has been even more difficult.

MIMES aims to change that.

The eco in economics

"The main purpose of the MIMES model is to get a platform for people to be able to quickly see the tradeoffs in specific land use changes and choices," says Boumans, "and how these choices play out at multiple scales," from the watershed to the nation to the globe.

"This is not an academic exercise," Boumans says, "it's practical."

The US Environmental Protection Agency agrees. UVM and the EPA entered into a new [partnership](#) this week to make the MIMES model available to the agency as it explores the benefits people receive from ecosystems in four regions of the United States.

"A skilled user can use our model to look at any place in the world, at any scale," says Azur Moulaert, the MIMES project manager. It gives them "an integrated picture of the value of ecosystems in their area," he says, and how these services connect to human welfare. "Every place has an ideal land use," he says — and the value of that use, compared to others, can be expressed in dollars.

Many policy makers are becoming increasingly clear that ecosystem services — in an era of climate change, rapid deforestation, and a global water crisis — must be addressed within economic decision-making. Consider Louisiana. The wealth and jobs created by the development of the Gulf Coast over the last 50 years must be placed in the ledger book against the added damage Hurricane Katrina brought because coastal wetlands have been destroyed.

"We have the baseline data to predict that if we do nothing to restore New Orleans wetlands, we're going to have another flood," says Moulaert. That's how MIMES is like a weather forecast. And the MIMES model can estimate the cost of different choices—different routes: doing nothing will likely lead to greater cost down the road while rebuilding wetlands "aggressively or moderately," he says, will ultimately be cheaper. That's how MIMES is like a roadmap.

Collecting data, calibrating the tool

To build the MIMES model, experts on nutrient cycling, biodiversity, water supply, waste treatment, soil formation — and many other

areas — have been gathering in Burlington over the last few years and communicating between universities and agencies in Brazil, Germany, the Netherlands, Philippines and the United States. Funded by the Moore Foundation, MIMES has been compiled from many types of information ranging from general formulas about rates of erosion to climate change models to satellite data.

Then to test and calibrate the model, the MIMES scientists have been partnering with universities and other institutions in locations that already have substantial amounts of data about their regional and local ecosystem services — including regions of the Pacific Northwest and the Amazon Basin.

For one of these calibration efforts, the University of Campinas in Sao Paulo, Brazil invited UVM researchers Azur Moulaert and Karim Chichakly to join them in a data gathering expedition last December. As one of several case studies they are developing for MIMES, they flew deep into the virgin jungle and proceeded to navigate 800 miles down the Purus River, a tributary of the Amazon, gathering information about water quality, fishing practices and road-building.

"MIMES will allow us to take the data collected and translate that into some kind of advantage or disadvantage to the local population or any population," says Boumans. "People there want to build this road; they see it as an economic benefit. But the model can help them ask: what happens to the water in the river once you build the road? What happens to your drinking water? Can you still grow fish?"

Eventually, users around the world will be able to access the MIMES model from a website to ask questions like this about their own regions. But what the answers will be remains unclear.

"The MIMES is so new, no one knows exactly where it's going," says Boumans. "It's like the ocean maps used by the Vikings; It's better than nothing, but there's an awful lot of *terra incognita*."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

An Enriching Experience

By Jon Reidel

Article published July 16, 2008



Darrion Willis (L) and Reggie Carter are among 17 incoming freshmen spending six weeks at the Summer Enrichment Scholars Program aimed at familiarizing students with campus before they start in the fall. (Photo: Sally McCay)

slim.

Willis and Carter, academically accomplished students who beat the odds and are attending UVM in the fall, know they can rely on each other and their shared life experiences if they need someone to talk to while adjusting to their new surroundings. Their bond is one of many that have already been forged during the first few weeks of the six-week Summer Enrichment Scholars Program (SESP) that includes 15 other students from various ethnic, racial, and multi-racial backgrounds, first-generation college-bound students and students from families with limited income.

These are the kinds of connections that SESP was designed to help facilitate for reasons that are best explained by its attendees.

"I've met about 50 friends so far," says Carter. "It makes thinking about coming here a lot easier. I can't wait to start in the fall." Willis was encouraged to apply to UVM by James Abbatiello, a 1997 UVM graduate and co-director of student affairs at Thurgood Marshall Academy. After his first week at SESP, Willis, the first in his family to attend college, knew he'd made the right choice.

"I wanted to get away from the city and break all stereotypes by coming here," said Willis at a July luncheon sponsored by the McNair Scholars Program, which also helps students of color, first-

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generation college-bound, and students from families with limited income enroll in Ph.D programs. "I knew UVM was going to push me and support me. Everyone is so liberal and open here. I feel very accepted and wanted. It's like a dream come true. My family is very proud of me and I don't intend to let them down."

Connecting with peers, campus, community

The goal of SESP, sponsored by the ALANA Student Center, is to improve retention by helping students form relationships, introducing them to the campus and surrounding community, acclimating them to a rigorous academic environment, and preparing them for the cultural and climate challenges they'll confront in the fall. First generation Vermonter, who face their own kinds of challenges at UVM, are also a target group of the program.

Students take a three-credit (usually math or English) course and a one-credit psychology course. They also work at the university in various areas such as the Department of Residential Life or the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources.

Maria Dykema Erb, director of SESP, says participants will seek each other out in the fall and eventually grow their network of friends across campus. "A lot of students come to the ALANA Student Center and hang out, study or cook foods from back home. Last year's cohort is very tight and helped bring other students into their group. They formed some really close friendships."

The program has changed somewhat since Wanda Heading-Grant, associate provost for multicultural affairs and academic initiatives, was a first-generation student from Trenton, N.J., and the only female African American student in the inaugural SESP class of 1982. A service learning element, for example, was added this year that has participants work at local non-profits and businesses such as Boys & Girls Club and Recycle North in an effort to create a connection to the surrounding community and forge relationships outside of the university.

"Relationships were very important to me, so there's a possibility I would have left UVM if I hadn't made those connections over the summer," says Heading-Grant. "I learned where to find people who looked like me for support, but I also learned that people who didn't look like me, cared about me and were there to help. If I didn't have that I'm not sure how it would have worked out for me. I might have called my mother to come get me."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Deep in the Souls of Carrots

Best-Selling Author Michael Pollan Draws Crowd, Advises Institute

By Lee Ann Cox

Article published July 16, 2008



Journalist and vocal advocate for change in America's food systems, Michael Pollan, shown here on a tour of Burlington's Intervale, gave his June 10 Aiken lecture in a t-shirt urging listeners to "Vote with Your Fork." (Photo: Sally McCay)

If Michael Pollan was hungry to deliver his message about the inevitable links between what we eat, sustainable agriculture, climate change and health, he came to the right church. Ira Allen Chapel was packed with believers, along with a few skeptics; overflow seating was beyond capacity.

People purportedly stacked bricks from a nearby construction site to reach high enough to see through windows. This despite crazy heat and a tornado warning.

But as Pollan, contributing writer for *The New York Times Magazine* and author of five books, including this year's *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*, now on *The New York Times* Best-Seller List for 17 weeks, had said in a prior telephone interview, Burlington is one of the centers of gravity in the burgeoning local food movement. Yet his pull here, as well as the level of knowledge and enthusiasm he met from consumers, food producers, and public officials, had a power that surprised even him.

"My big (impression)," Pollan said after his return to Berkeley, where he is professor of journalism at the University of California and director of the Knight Program in Science and Environmental Journalism, "was the intensity of the passion around this issue. I knew it was a place with a lot going on, but I wasn't prepared for the passion." (UVM is harnessing that passion — and the expertise here — into a purpose with a new food sustainability policy institute; see "Paradox to paradigm" below.)

Healthy food, healthy planet



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Pollan's lively talk cut to the core of what he calls "the American Paradox," that we are an obsessively health-conscious nation yet in terrible health. He blames, in part, reliance on a "food priesthood" to tell us what to eat, to offer "dietary salvation." He's coined the phenomenon "nutritionism," scientists (and a government beholden to special interests) studying and basing advice on nutrients in isolation from whole foods and the complexity of all that we eat.

By example he points to beta carotene, a compound richly supplied by carrots, as a nutrient that, despite former high hopes for a quick-fix supplement, may actually increase risk for certain types of cancer in pill form. Is it one of many other nutrients that makes carrots healthful? The complex interaction among them? "We don't know," Pollan laughed, "what's going on deep in the soul of a carrot."

If Americans look to experts for ever-changing nutrition advice (Oat bran! Low-fat! Omega-3s!), a bigger problem may be that we rely on the mainstream food industry — a big, commodity-based, profit-driven monolith — to deliver it to us. It's a model that Pollan believes can't continue. We buy heavily processed and packaged food, often seduced by labels promising health benefits, even as the process strips away nutrients at every stage. We rely on corn, particularly high fructose corn syrup and corn-fed beef, which is unhealthful and requires huge amounts of fossil fuels. The cost is so great that Pollan, a strong proponent of buying local or, better yet, growing your own, says how food is produced (cows or lamb fed on grass rather than corn, say) makes a greater environmental impact than how far or by what means it travels.

Paradox to paradigm

During his visit to campus, Aiken lecturer Michael Pollan also spoke to members of the Vermont Food Systems Leadership Policy Institute (VFSLPI), a new think tank of sorts that draws on experts throughout the university and state to conduct research and propose policies to make Vermont's food system more sustainable.

"We need to get across to people that this is a crisis," Pollan told VFSLPI invitees. "We're not going to deal with climate change until we deal with food." How America grows food, how America eats, how America confronts health, they are all of a piece, Pollan said. "Unsustainable is not a word that just means we don't like it," he emphasized. "We will run out of food... Can organic feed the world? One answer is, we sure haven't tried."

The institute, the brainchild of Rachel Johnson, former dean of CALS, and Cynthia Belliveau, dean of continuing education, grew out of the three-year-old Food Systems Leadership Institute funded by the Kellogg Foundation, in which UVM collaborates with Ohio State University and North Carolina State University. While the focus of

FSLI is more on large-scale farming, the new Vermont institute will have a smaller, more local focus.

"My big revelation the first year (we were involved in the FSLI) was that I thought the (leadership) fellows wanted to learn a different paradigm," Belliveau said. "But they wanted to hold on to the existing paradigm, not change it."

UVM, however, and the state's many small nonprofits, producers, and consumers working on sustainability are joining together in VFSLPI to "connect the dots" between them and create a new system.

The sustainability movement, Pollan argued, has traditionally been a grassroots, almost amateur cause that's taken place outside of academia, which he sees as both its great strength, and increasingly a weakness. The new farm legislation, his prime example, he considers a failure. "We were bought off," Pollan said. "We need to professionalize the leadership to take it to the next level."

That's the mission of VFSLPI, beginning with an effort to create a sustainability model on campus, an effort Pollan heartily supports. "You have this wonderful case study," he said. "It brings everybody into relationship and it gets you past talking. The university has enormous buying power and it's such a national issue — how institutions are going to fit into this movement. To the extent that (UVM) can develop a workable model, I think that becomes a big contribution.

Can a little state with tough soil in a cold climate lead the country in other directions? Pollan thinks it's possible. "The world is watching," he said.

Watch or listen to Pollan's public talk on the [Aiken Lecture Series website](#).

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UVM HOMEPAGE

McClure Donates \$5 Million to Launch Center on Aging at UVM

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published July 16, 2008

A \$5 million gift from Burlington philanthropist Lois Howe McClure, along with \$100,000 in funding from the State of Vermont, will support a new Center on Aging at the University of Vermont. UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel and Vermont Governor Jim Douglas joined McClure in announcing the new Center on July 10. Its mission will be to coordinate and support collaborative education, policy-making activities, and research in the gerontology and geriatrics arena. The Center on Aging gift is the largest single gift ever donated by the McClure family.

"This is a truly remarkable event for the University, the state and its citizens, and we are tremendously grateful for the support of this extraordinary Vermonter, Lois McClure, and for her ongoing vision and inspiration," said Fogel. "This gift presents an unprecedented opportunity for interdisciplinary work across our University, with our collaborators at the state level and with our community partners throughout Vermont. Together, we will lay a foundation for a Center that will serve as a national model of excellence and a tribute to the passion of Lois McClure."

Currently, Vermont has the second oldest median age in the country at 40.7 years and by 2030, it is projected that one in four Vermonters will be over the age of 65. For the last several years, McClure has been part of a statewide working group convened by UVM to identify, assess and recommend strategies for addressing needs, such as financial security and affordable healthcare, of Vermont's aging population.

"Aging is one of the greatest issues facing Vermont and we have many resources in our state, including our wonderful university, which is rightfully tackling the issue head on," said McClure. "A Center on Aging at the University of Vermont is the best way to achieve meaningful results as we work to meet the needs of an increasingly older society. I am pleased to make a gift to begin this vital effort."

UVM College of Medicine faculty researcher and physician William Pendlebury, will serve as the first director of the Center on Aging. The Center will focus on three strategic areas: an education core,

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which will support and promote geriatric and gerontology education both on campus and in communities throughout the state; a social science and policy core, which will drive research to aid major state policy decisions that impact the aging population; and a research core, which will provide an infrastructure that will facilitate collaboration among investigators involved in aging-related research.

"One of the first items on our agenda is to reach out to agencies throughout Vermont and get them on board as Center on Aging collaborators," said Pendlebury. "We also have a number of educational initiatives planned, including aging symposia in several communities around the state, a gerontology certificate program at UVM, and a Gerontology 101 course for adult learners."

The Center on Aging gift brings the McClure family's lifetime giving to UVM to more than \$8 million. McClure and her late husband "Mac", long-time members of the Burlington-area community, have supported many important regional institutions, including the McClure Multigenerational Center and the Visiting Nurse Association.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Blackboard Replaces WebCT as New Online Course Management System

By Jon Reidel

Article published July 16, 2008

When classes start on Sept. 2 students will have a new place to go for information related to their courses. Depending on how involved individual professors choose to become with a recently implemented online course management system, students may find blogs, wikis, videos, podcasts and other new media options awaiting them online for each of their courses.

The Blackboard Learning System, the university's new supported online course tool, replaces WebCT and is considered an upgrade that will allow professors to enhance the way they deliver information and interface with students. Blackboard, which acquired WebCT in 2006 as part of a merger, is the most commonly used e-learning system in higher education. The UVM College of Medicine implemented Blackboard in 2003, calling it the College of Medicine Education Tools.

"There's been a lot of pent-up demand for it, not only from faculty who want the change, but also from a lot of students who expect it," said Jill Jemison, an information technology manager in the College of Medicine who is helping implement the system. "It's a very flexible system that's easy to use. It allows professors to customize as little or as much as they want. Everything is in the box — it's up to the professors to choose the crayons."

Support for faculty

So far, 275 faculty members have attended one (or more) of the many [Blackboard workshops](#) offered by the Center for Teaching and Learning. "Introduction to the Assessment Tools in Blackboard" and "Blackboard Wikis and Blogs" have been particularly well attended. Once faculty have begun designing their interface, they can seek extra help and support during the "[Doctor Is In](#)" drop-in, help hours in 303 Bailey-Howe.

"We want to make the administrative and communications parts as easy as possible," said Mara Saule, dean of libraries and learning resources and champion of the move to Blackboard. "When a faculty member is ready to use the system we want to be there to support them. It has many applications and is very dynamic. The bottom line is it's helping students learn better."

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Ines Berrizbeitia, an information technology professional at the Center for Teaching and Learning who teaches professors how to use the system, says there has been a mix of older and younger faculty coming in for help; their questions range from basic to complex. One professor, for example, videotaped herself talking about audiology — the branch of science that studies hearing, balance and related disorders — and has downloaded video lectures for each day of the course. “That’s the beauty of it,” she says. “You can customize it to your course. We’ve had some old school faculty and some newer ones come in, and they all have different ideas. There’s some pressure on faculty to use it because it’s really becoming the norm for this age group, but they seem to be embracing it.”

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By The View Staff

Article published July 16, 2008

"Film + Music on a Summer Night," a perennial offering of the Lane Series and Summer University, continues this month with two more free outdoor concerts and movie screenings. Enjoy classic westerns, live music, and your own picnic, if you wish, just outside of the UVM Recital Hall, in Redstone Campus' pine grove.

The movies are projected with state-of-the art equipment on a large screen hung from the back of the Recital Hall. The grounds open for picnicking at 6 p.m., music starts at 7 p.m., and the movies begin after dark, around 9 p.m. Parking is available at the Gutterson garage, a short walk to the site.

The schedule follows:

Saturday, July 19

Music: Gandalf Murphy and the Slambovian Circus of Dreams. A quirky quartet from Sleepy Hollow, New York, performing an eclectic blend of folk, rock, hillbilly and pop.

Movie: *High Noon*. Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly star in this film about a marshal who must singlehandedly defend his town from a revenge-seeking killer and his gang. Tension builds as the clock ticks toward the shootout.

Saturday, July 26

Music: Wrecking Ball. Burlington musicians Brett Hughes, Tyler Bolles, Marie Claire, and Gordon Stone front this honkytonk meets electric-hillbilly band.

Movie: *Shane*. A mysterious reformed gunslinger arrives on a small ranch in the Tetons where he is pulled into a conflict between the local ranchers and farmers. Can Shane put his violent past behind him and settle into a life as a farm hand and decent man?

In the event of rain, the music and films will move indoors to the UVM Recital Hall; the first 300 attendees will be admitted.

Information: [Lane Series](#), 656-4455.

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Human life benefits from models. Take two examples: the weather forecast and the highway map. Both of these models select one slice of the planet's boggling complexity and use it to allow informed guesses about the future. But what about land use? To what model should a land manager or government scientist turn when trying to weigh the economic value of, say, conserving a forest versus cutting it for a new housing project?

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The streets of Southeast Washington, D.C., where Darrion Willis grew up, aren't unlike the ones Reggie Carter experienced as a kid in Baltimore. The crime rates are high, poverty is an unfortunate reality for many residents and the chances of attending college are slim. Willis and Carter, academically accomplished students who beat the odds, are attending UVM this fall, and the Summer Enrichment Scholars Program is helping them — and 15 other first-year students — acclimate to a new environment before the semester begins.

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If Michael Pollan was hungry to deliver his message about the inevitable links between what we eat, sustainable agriculture, climate change and health, he came to the right church. Ira Allen Chapel was packed with believers; overflow seating was beyond capacity. This despite crazy heat and a tornado warning.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Water-Inspired Art, Quilts on View at the Fleming

By The View Staff

Article published July 16, 2008

Two summer exhibitions are on display through August 24 at the Fleming Museum.

Water Works features water-inspired art and objects from the Fleming Museum collections. In this unique exhibition, ice-water pitchers from the late 19th century that graced elegant, upper-class dining tables are seen alongside water carriers from the American Southwest and holy water sprinklers from India. Contemporary water bottles and photographs of 19th-century European beach resorts reflect the importance of water across a variety of cultures. As the future of the world's water supply continues to be the focus of critical discussion, the pieces gathered in this exhibition reflect some of the important roles that water plays in human lives.

Also on display is *Stitched Together: Quilts and their Stories from the Fleming*. An intimate expression of personal taste and skill, the quilt has been a presence in the American home from the nineteenth century onward. Vermont women made quilts to keep their families warm, beautify their homes and demonstrate their skills in needlework. But quilts are not only functional and aesthetic, they also have fascinating stories behind their creation and care. From quilts made from a grandmother's wedding dress to a quilt stitched together from underwear to a quilt made to raise money for soldiers during the Civil War, every piece in this exhibition comes with an unusual story of its design and creation.

Visit the [Fleming Museum's website](#) for summer hours and more information about the collection.

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NOTABLES

September 3, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Representatives of the UVM Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program Office delivered a poster presentation and a workshop at the National AHEC Association (NAO) 2008 Conference in Denver, Colorado June 28 to July 1. **Dr. Richard Pinckney**, assistant professor of medicine, presented a workshop titled "Teaching health professionals about pharmaceutical advertising: experience from the Program in Wise Prescribing." **Laurie Hurowitz**, research assistant professor of medicine, delivered a poster presentation titled "Promoting Healthier Weight in Adult Primary Care in Vermont – A Public Health and AHEC Partnership." The NAO national conference takes place every two years and represents a nationwide sharing of successful efforts to connect students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health.

Awards and Honors

Betsy Greene, associate professor of animal science, received the 2008 Communication Award in recognition of Excellence in Use of Communications Media from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Greene was the national winner for her work with eXtension's HorseQuest website. Greene is also co-chair of the "HorseQuest Community of Practice" which includes over fifty national equine experts throughout the country.

Dr. Ted James, assistant professor of surgery, received the Cancer Liaison Physician Outstanding Performance Award from the Commission on Cancer (CoC) for his leadership and guidance as a physician champion. This national award recognizes physicians who go above and beyond expectations to improve and provide direction to their cancer program. James is among 55 recipients nationwide to achieve this recognition.

Rex Forehand, Heinz and Rowena Ansbacher Professor of Psychology and director of the University's clinical training program, received the American Psychology Association's 2008 Award for Distinguished Career Contributions to Education and Training at their annual meeting on August 15.

Adam Lock, assistant professor of animal Science, received the

2008 Young Scientist Award for Research for the Northeast by the American Dairy Science Association and the American Society for Animal Science. Lock is noted for his research on the role of fats and lipids in animal and human nutrition as well as studies with ruminant nutrition.

Lee Nelson, clinical professor of rehabilitation and movement science, received Massachusetts General Hospital's Institute of Health Professions Distinguished Alumni Award at their commencement on May 3, 2008. This award recognizes individuals who have worked to expand and refine the scientific basis for clinical practice through research and scholarship; contributed to new models of practice to foster provision of effective, affordable and ethical care; and contributed significantly to advancing the mission, reputation and standards of the Institute.

Monica Patton is one of fifteen fourth-year medical students to receive an American Medical Association Foundation Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship. Recipients were nominated by their medical school dean and chosen by a selection committee based upon their academic standing and financial status, as well as community involvement, letters of recommendation and personal statement. Each student will receive a \$10,000 scholarship to help defray medical school expenses. Currently participating in a clinical rotation at Maine Medical Center, Patton recently completed "The CDC Experience: Applied Epidemiology Fellowship at CDC," a competitive fellowship program that selects eight medical students from around the country each year to spend 10 to 12 months at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Students in the Department of Animal Science won awards at the national meetings of the American Dairy Science Association and the American Society for Animal Science in Indianapolis. **Emma Wall**, a doctoral student also in the Vermont Genetics Network Bioinformatics Core was the sole recipient of the H. Allen Tucker National Appreciation Award for travel to the American Society of Animal Science's annual meeting in Indianapolis last week. She presented two papers of significance to the Vermont dairy industry with her advisor, **Thomas McFadden**, as coauthor. They were, "The acute response to milk removal and the long-term response to frequent milking treatment involve distinct mechanisms" and "The persistent milk yield response to frequent milking during early lactation is associated with persistent changes in mammary gene expression." She was presented with a check and plaque at the awards dinner. **Lindsay Lord**, a master of science candidate won second place in the Northeast Graduate Student Competition for her presentation, "Photoperiod regulates diurnal expression patterns of genes related to immune function in PBMC of heifers." **Jennifer Scudder**, also a master of science candidate, placed third in the Northeast Graduate Student Competition with her presentation,

"Colicin E1 and EDTA have additive antimicrobial effects against E. coli isolates in bovine milk."

Denise Youngblood's book *Russian War Films: On the Cinema Front, 1914-2005* was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title. Youngblood, professor of history, has also received a grant from the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies to support her current project, "Double Vision: Soviet and American Films during the Cold War" (with Tony Shaw).

July 16, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Christopher W. Allen, emeritus professor of chemistry and interim director of the Vermont Advanced Computing Center presented a paper entitled "Cyclo- and Polyalkynylphosphazenes" at the International Conference on the Chemistry of phosphorus Compounds (ICCPX XV) in St Petersburg Russia in May. He also presented two invited papers, "Polyester: You wear it, you love it but do you know it" and "Cyclo-and Polyalkynyl phosphazenes" at the 35th Northeast Regional American Society Meeting in Burlington in June. He published an article on "The Mechanism of the Reaction of Alkali Metal Phenoxides with Hexahalocyclotriphosphazenes" in *Phosphorus, Sulfur, Silicon and the Related Elements* in 2008.

Frank Bryan, professor of political science, presented the address, "New England Democracy and America: The Road Not Taken" at a conference on "The State of New England: People, Politics, and Policies" at the Joseph Martin Institute for Law and Society, Stonehill College, Easton, Mass. on March 28, 2008.

Garrison Nelson, professor of political science, also presented a paper at the Stonehill Conference, "Running from New England: Will It Ever Lead the Nation Again." He also presented papers, "Party Leadership Selection in Congress: A Century of Change," to the Annual Meeting of the New England Political Science Association on April 25, 2008 in Providence, Rhode Island with Douglas B. Harris, Loyola College of Maryland and "Democracy, Diversity, and the 2008 Presidential Election: Mapping State Electoral Votes by Diversity Propensity," a paper for the Eighth International Conference on Diversity in Organisations, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on June 20, 2008. An excerpt of Nelson's speech, "Democracy and Diversity in 2008," delivered to the New York Regional Board of the Alumni of the University of Vermont on May 7, 2008 was published in the April, 2008 issue of *Vermont Woman* as "Mapping a Path for a Woman President," with maps by Geography senior **Michael J. Oldham**. Nelson conducted a number of interviews recently with Channel 3 on Vermont's congressional delegation; Channel 5 and Fox 44 on the 2008 presidential election and upcoming contests in

Vermont. National interviews have appeared in the *Boston Globe* and for the Cox Newspapers in the *Atlanta Constitution* and the *Kansas City Star*.

Several Dana Medical Library faculty and staff members presented posters at the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting in Chicago in May 2008. **Donna O'Malley**, library associate professor, presented a poster titled "A Medline Station in the Clerkship Clinical Skills Exam." **Nancy Bianchi**, library associate professor, presented a poster titled "An Analysis of Clinical Questions Asked at Professor Rounds: a Retrospective Review" at the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting in May 2008. **Shiela Phillippe**, library assistant professor, **Christina Kussey**, library assistant professor, **Lesley Boucher**, head of circulation/reserves, **Marianne Burke**, library associate professor and director, Dana Medical Library, and **Colin McClung**, library support assistant, presented a poster titled "Academic Medical Center to Rural Clinic: Ensuring Fair and Accurate Representation in Go Local." **Laura Haines**, library assistant professor, presented a poster titled "Measuring the Effectiveness of Community Outreach: The Community Medical School Project." Dr. **Peggy Carey**, assistant professor of family medicine, and **Laura Haines** also co-presented a poster titled "Information Rx As Patient-Physician Communication Tool and Community Health Information Program." Haines received one of four 2008 EBSCO Information Services/MLA Annual Meeting Grants, which are designed to cover conference-related expenses.

Donna O'Malley and **Christina Kussey** presented a poster titled "Benefits of Integrating the Library Reserve Function With Blackboard," at the Association of American Medical Colleges Northeastern Group on Educational Affairs Annual Meeting in April 2008. O'Malley also co-authored another poster at the meeting, which was titled "Teaching Evidence-Based Literature Retrieval to Medical Students and Residents." O'Malley is the author of a Winter 2008 Clinical Laboratory Science article titled "A Survey of Scholarly Literature Databases for Clinical Laboratory Science."

Susan Lowey, professor of molecular physiology and biophysics, is lead author of a July 18 *Journal of Biological Chemistry* article titled "Functional Effects of the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy R403Q Mutation Are Different in an α - or β -Myosin Heavy Chain Backbone." Co-authors on the article include **Alex Hodges**, postdoctoral associate in molecular physiology and biophysics, **Sheryl White**, research assistant professor of anatomy and neurobiology, **Robert Low**, professor emeritus of molecular physiology and biophysics, and Mercedes Rincon, associate professor of medicine.

Judith Shaw, research assistant professor of pediatrics and director of the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, and **Sharon Henry**, associate professor of rehabilitation and movement science,

have been selected to participate in the 2008-09 Management Institute for Women in Higher Education, an integrated series of five seminars offering women administrators and faculty professional leadership and management training, sponsored by the New England branch of Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) and held at Wellesley College.

Kathleen Trybus, professor of molecular physiology and biophysics, is senior author of a July 11 *Journal of Biological Chemistry* article titled "Functional Effects of Nemaline Myopathy Mutations on Human Skeletal α -Actin." **Becky Miller**, postdoctoral fellow in molecular physiology and biophysics is first author on the paper.

Dann Van Der Vliet had an editorial titled "'The Art of Business' in Vermont – Where benefits are for the dogs and the pizzas are flat" published in the August issue of *Vermont Business* magazine. The piece focused on how Vermonters and their businesses have long been innovative, creative, thrifty, and artful as Vermont people and businesses continue to lead their respective industries. On May 21, a rare assembly of seven business leaders gathered to discuss what "the art of business" means to them today and why it matters. Brought together by the popular 7X7X7 panel at the Vermont Business and Industry Expo, each panelist shared a tip that demonstrated how they incorporate creativity in the workplace and what the tangible benefits were. These business owners and leaders each shared one common trait: passion for their fellow employees.

Curt Ventriss, professor of public policy, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, and adjunct professor, Institute for Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University, was invited to give the keynote policy lecture at the international forum entitled "New Direction in Policy Research" in Brazil. The forum was sponsored by the Federal University of Bahia, Federal University of Santa Catarina, and State University of Santa Catarina. Professor Ventriss's keynote lecture was entitled "The Implications of Participatory Policy Analysis: A Reexamination." The lecture was presented to doctoral students in policy and to the faculty of the sponsoring universities in Brazil.

Awards and Honors

Gayle Belin, clinical associate professor in the Department of Communication Sciences has recently become president of the Vermont Speech Language and Hearing Association (VSHA). Her term runs from 2008 through 2010. She was also one of 20 participants selected from a nationwide pool to take part in a Leadership Development Program through the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA).