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## Research in Bloom



This detail from a satellite picture of Mississquoi Bay taken on Aug. 17 shows some of the extent of this summer's mass of algae. UVM experts are working to use images like this to help perfect monitoring of the potentially dangerous blooms. (Image courtesy of Leslie Morrissey.)

On the morning of August 18, two scientists aboard the university's research vessel checked their watches at exactly 11:30 a.m. and dipped a probe into Mississquoi Bay's thick mat of blue-green algae.

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## New Scholar

**Sampler** From the personal lives of ants to the professional entanglements of the French painter Ingres, new members of the university's faculty bring a diverse package of experience and interests to the work of teaching and scholarship.

## Inspiring Solutions

Assistant athletic trainer Jim Murdock has spent more than a decade working with Olympic athletes. His most fulfilling work, however, came last year when he became affiliated with the U.S. Quad Rugby team that he will join in Athens later this month for the 2004 Summer Paralympic Games.

## THE WEEK IN VIEW

**Sept. 2, 9 p.m. Event:** "Casino Night." North Lounge, Billings. Information: 656-2060

**Sept. 2, 8 p.m. Event:** Gregory Douglass performs at Rhythym & Brews Coffeehouse. Fireplace lounge, Living/Learning. Information: 656-4200

**Sept. 3, 4:30 p.m. Event:** "Women's Center Welcome Picnic." 34 S. Williams Street. Information: 656-4637

**Sept. 3, 9 p.m. Concert:** "Late Night Live" featuring The Flo' and The Year's Best. Free food and music. Cook Commons, Billings. Information: 656-2060

**Sept. 6, 8 p.m. Event:** Standup comedian Dane Cook performs live. Patrick Gymnasium. Information: 866-422-8849

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## NEWS BRIEFS



Marine move: The Charlotte Whale, the Perkins Museum's venerable cetacean, moved to new digs in Delehanty Hall last week, trailing the move of most of her colleagues in geology by a month or two. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

### Hope Ahead for Campus Parking Crunch

Campus parking director Katherine "Deac" Decarreau is responsible for making sure the university's 3,407 faculty and staff members and 9,500 undergraduate and graduate students have spaces to leave their cars and ways to get to their classrooms, offices or residence halls.

She approaches this daunting task with the basic premise that an organization must match its parking inventory with the parking demand. Sounds simple, unless the organization is in the midst of one of its largest construction booms in history.

With dozens of building projects underway at UVM, Decarreau says the number of parking spaces and their location is constantly changing and dependent upon the completion of these projects. At present, there are 4,685 available parking spaces on campus. That's down from the 5,119 spots last academic year, due primarily to spaces lost during the construction of a new parking garage located next to Gutterson and east of Patrick Gymnasium.

The new three-tiered, brick façade parking garage will add 550 new parking spaces to the existing surface parking lot. It's expected to be completed by January. The additional parking spaces are necessary to accommodate the increased need generated by the construction at University Heights, which is located on the south side of Main Street and northwest of Patrick.

Approximately 150 parking spaces were lost due to the University Heights project, which will add approximately 800 beds of new student housing.

### UVM Expert Skeptical of Sugarcoated Dietary Messages

Even before the nation's Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee released its report on Aug. 27, Rachel Johnson found herself in the middle of one of the nation's biggest food fights.

Johnson, a registered dietitian and dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, helped write the committee's last set of recommendations in 2000 and was not afraid to speak out then about how much added sugars Americans should eat.

"I guess I have sort of a reputation as the 'sugar queen,'" says Johnson, whose research spans a wide variety of obesity issues, including the importance of nutrient-rich foods such as milk and dairy products over nutrient-void foods such as soda and other sugar-sweetened beverages in children's diets. Johnson's research has been used to establish policies about what foods should be offered in schools nationwide to cope with the epidemic of childhood obesity.

So it's no surprise that *New York Times* food columnist Marian Burros called Johnson for the inaugural quote in Burros's Aug. 25 advance story on the recommendation. That story was subsequently published by a number of newspapers across the country before a *U.S. News and World Report* writer called Johnson asking for her insights on the tie between sugar consumption and obesity.

What's all the hoopla about?

For one thing, "The federal government has been giving Americans advice about what to eat for 100 years," says Johnson. "The ongoing message was to deal with Americans nutrient deficiencies."

But today, the problem is abundance instead of deficiency. "Now the average American is unhealthy – overweight or obese – and the government needs to shift its message," says Johnson.

It would seem simple, then, to change governmental advice to something along the lines of "eat less." It isn't. The Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee couched their most recent recommendations in soft language such as "Choose carbohydrates wisely." Johnson says that's code for downplaying the importance of added sugars. Many people don't know that sugars are carbohydrates. And choosing them wisely is a far cry from eating less. The recommendation, therefore, is not as effective as it could be.

The north complex is pegged for completion by January 2006 (with 200 beds opening in fall 2005), with the opening of the south complex in fall 2006.

Decarreau says that more spaces were freed up this fall as Fletcher Allen Hospital employees moved into their new parking facility. The parking lots at the Trinity campus are also filled to capacity with the relocation of the Department of Geology and parts of the College of Education.

The bottom line after the completion of these projects: A net gain of 400 parking spaces by next August.

To help alleviate the parking pressure, Decarreau added a new shuttle route to the Campus Area Transportation System, a fleet of eight buses designed to reduce the number of vehicles traveling on city streets and parking in lots near the center of campus. The Redstone Express travels from Redstone campus to the Royall Tyler Theatre, around the campus green to Waterman, and back to Redstone.

### **Study Charts Unintended Consequences of New York School Reforms**

Educational reform often brings tough new rules that hold different schools to the same performance measures. But the implementation of those uniform standards is not itself uniform, according to a study of the varying responses of New York school districts to tough new graduation requirements. The research, which found substantial local differences, was published in the July issue of *Education Policy* by Cornell University's John Sipple and Kieran Killeen, a UVM assistant professor of education. Their research was featured that month in *Education Week*, a national education newspaper.

Sipple and Killeen surveyed superintendents, principals and teachers from a representative sample of 121 New York state school districts to see how the districts responded to the state's 1996 mandate that all students earn college-preparatory diplomas, an early example of the aggressive standards-based educational reforms now being debated and implemented nationwide. They found that local factors like a district's rural or urban location, size and wealth influenced how the state graduation requirement was put into practice. These variations raise concerns about equity for students and pose questions about the effects of standards-based educational reforms elsewhere.

"New York's aggressive educational standards were implemented years ahead of other states around the nation" Killeen says. "We think that some of the pressures educators identify in the surveys are indicative of what you're likely to see in other places."

The researchers found that districts serving greater proportions of poor students were more likely to offer students general equivalency degrees rather than the college-preparatory diplomas specified in the reforms. Richer districts, in contrast, were more likely to pursue expensive

"It is very difficult for the government to say we should eat less of anything because of food industry pressure," says Johnson.

Now that this Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee has made its advice public, the topic is open for discussion until Sept. 27. See [Dietary Guidelines](#) for a copy of the advisory committee document or to submit written comments on the guidelines.

### **Discounted Sports Tickets on Sale to Faculty and Staff**

Faculty and staff can purchase tickets for men's hockey and men's and women's basketball at a discounted rate starting Sept. 13 at the Patrick Gymnasium Ticket Office.

The purchasing options have changed from years past. General admission tickets for hockey are gone. Instead, the department is giving faculty and staff the opportunity to purchase tickets before the general public in special discounted packages. (To buy the equivalent of a season ticket, purchase all five of the packages.)

The packages, priced at \$40 unless otherwise noted, are as follows:

- Maine (Oct. 3), Trois-Rivieres (Oct. 10), UMass (Nov. 23) and Union (Jan. 29)
- Sacred Heart (Oct. 8), Colgate (Oct. 20), UNH (Nov. 27) and St. Lawrence (Feb. 12)
- Niagara (Oct. 22), Yale (Nov. 6), Dartmouth (Jan. 15) and Clarkson (Feb. 11)
- Niagara (Oct. 23), Northeastern (Dec. 4), RPI (Jan. 28) and Brown (Feb. 25)
- Princeton (Nov. 5), Cornell (Nov. 19) and Harvard (Feb. 26) (priced at \$30)

There will be a limited amount of single game tickets for sale on Oct. 4 at the regular price of \$15.

Faculty and staff can also purchase discounted season tickets for men's and women's basketball. Those packages will be \$6 per seat per game as opposed to \$8 for the public. This comes out to \$84 for the season per seat. Tickets for individual games go on sale Oct. 4.

Information: 656-4410

changes like reducing class sizes. Killeen says that such patterns of variation in district strategy raise important concerns.

“The difference for a student earning a general equivalency degree and dropping out is not that great in terms of long-term income,” says Killeen. “But both are a far cry from the opportunity provided by a college-preparatory diploma, the one the state now requires of all graduates.”

Sipple and Killeen hope that their ongoing research, which was funded in large part by the Spencer Research Foundation, will win additional grants to analyze and extend their trove of data and, eventually, compare the response to reforms in New York with responses within New England states.

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## EVENTS



This fall, the Fleming Museum will a suite of four exhibitions on the theme, "An Eye Toward Nature." The first two exhibitions opened on Aug. 31. (Detail of Richard Ross photo courtesy of the Fleming.)

### Fleming Exhibits Depict Artists as Naturalists

The Fleming Museum will present a suite of four exhibitions on the theme "An Eye Toward Nature" this semester. The first is, "Fungi, Unicorns, and Beached Whales: Artists as Naturalists," which opened Aug. 31 and runs through Dec. 19.

The show features paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, and illustrated books, offering a historical overview of the many ways that artists have chosen to represent the natural world around them. The material from the Fleming's collections includes work by John James Audubon, Albrecht Dürer, Pierre-Joseph Redoute, Charles Demuth and Arthur Dove.

Another exhibit, "Bernd Heinrich: The Naturalist as Artist," opened in the museum's east gallery on Aug. 31. This exhibition is the first ever to document the prolific career of renowned field biologist and UVM professor emeritus Bernd

### Ecological Agriculture Seminar Series Starts Sept. 3

The fall Ecological Agriculture Seminar series begins Sept. 3 with "Why Ecological Agriculture," a talk by Frank Magdoff, professor of plant and soil science. Magdoff is also the Northeast Region Coordinator of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.

The seminar series is held Fridays at 11:15 a.m. in 101 Stafford Hall. The series features experts from the University of California at Berkeley, Cornell University and elsewhere along with UVM's specialists. Topics include: "Feeding the Hungry World Using Biointensive Methods," "Whole Pest System Management" and "Organic Agriculture at the Crossroads." For a full roster visit: [Ecological Agriculture Seminar Series](#).

The talks are presented by the department's William P. Raymond Fund.

### Environmental Council Meetings Begin Soon

The Environmental Council will hold its first monthly meeting of the fall semester on Sept. 8 in 427A Waterman.

Future meetings will be held the second Wednesday of each month. The group is still deciding whether to hold meetings from 1:30 to 3:30 or 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and solicits feedback from those interested in attending regularly. Contact [Ralph Stuart](#) for information or to share an opinion.

### Research-Tested Weight Loss Program to Open Enrollment

A six-month behavioral weight-loss program once only available to participants in research trials will

Heinrich. A selection of his original drawings, photographs, field notes, and specimen collections reveals how different mediums of study have informed his research and writings. The exhibition places Heinrich's work in the context of his personal history – his father Gerd Heinrich was also a distinguished field biologist.

Admission to the museum is free to UVM affiliates. The last two exhibits in the museum's nature-themed cycle focus on Asian artists and artwork and will open in September and October.

open to the community starting Sept. 14 and continuing every Tuesday evening through February.

VTrim is the research-based weight loss program used by the University of Vermont Weight Management Research Program. Participants will learn techniques to modify eating and exercise behavior and succeed at weight management. The program costs \$500 and will enroll 18 people. For details or the online registry visit: [VTrim for the Community](#)

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## NOTABLES

*Sept. 1, 2004*

### Awards and Honors

**Ana Barndollar**, a senior in animal science, was awarded first place in the National Undergraduate Original Research competition at the annual meeting of the American Dairy Science Association held in St. Louis. Graduate student **Diana Martinez** received second place in the northeast division of the graduate paper competition, while **Emma Wall** was awarded third place in the same division. **Russell Hovey**, assistant professor in animal science, presented an invited paper and was Barndollar's advisor, while **Thomas McFadden**, associate professor in animal sciences, served as advisor for Martinez and Wall. **Joanne Knapp**, assistant professor in animal science, was symposium chair, and **Feng-Qi Zhao**, assistant professor in animal sciences, presented an invited abstract.

**Robert Costanza**, director of the Gund Institute, was honored as a "revolutionary economist" in the September/October issue of *Adbusters*, a counter-cultural Canadian magazine. **Josh Farley**, assistant professor in CDAE, also of the Gund Institute, was named a "rising star" by the magazine. Costanza will also be included in Thompson-ISI's new list of the world's most highly cited authors, in the ecology/environment category.

**The Horticulture Club** took home its second national award in as many years as best small university horticulture club at the American Society for Horticultural Science conference held in July in Austin, Texas. **Mark Starrett**, associate professor of horticulture, is advisor to the club. Incoming club president **Jessica Waite** placed third in the vegetable judging competition.

**Anna Norgren Mahon '96**, finished 29th in preliminary hammer throw events at the 2004 Olympics in Athens Greece on Aug. 23. Her throw of 64.99m/213-2 was not enough to qualify for the competition among the top 12 finalists.

**Rebecca McCauley**, professor in communication sciences, was named a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. She will be honored at the 2004 Annual Convention in Philadelphia in November.

**Patricia Prelock** and **Brooke Bitner**, both communication sciences faculty, received a federal grant funding totaling \$270, 464 over three years for their Speech-Language Pathology Assistants Program, a collaboration with the State of Vermont's Department of Education. Prelock and **Steve Contompasis**, M.D., associate professor/pediatrics, received \$2.3 million in federal funding from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau for the VT-Interdisciplinary Leadership Education for Health Professionals (VT-ILEHP) Program. Prelock and **Claudia Vargas**, M.D., assistant professor in pediatrics, also co-edited the book, *Caring for Children with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities and their Families: An Innovative Approach to Interdisciplinary Practice*, published in July by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

### Publications and Presentations

**Dennis Clougherty**, professor of physics, and **Charles Foell**, a physics graduate student, published a research report titled "Vector Polarons in Degenerate Electron Systems," in the August issue of the journal *Physical Review B*.

**Abrar Khan**, M.D., assistant professor of surgery and director of transplantation surgery and immunology, presented a proposal for legislation for the development of solid organ transplantation in Pakistan, a country where only living-related transplantation of the kidney is performed. Khan proposed

the enactment of three pieces of legislation to establish a central infrastructure to allow transplantation to develop rapidly.

**Yvonne Janssen-Heininger**, associate professor of pathology, is senior author of a paper published in the June 15 *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, titled "Nitric oxide represses inhibitory kappaB kinase through S-nitrosylation." Co-authors on the paper include visiting scholars **Niki Reynaert** and **Karina Ckless**; **Amy Guala**, laboratory technician in the department of pathology; and **Albert van der Vliet**, associate professor of pathology. Janssen-Heininger is also senior author of a paper in the August issue of *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, titled "Reactive nitrogen species-induced cell death requires Fas-dependent activation of c-Jun N-terminal kinase." Co-authors include Guala; **Cristen Pantano** and **Brian McElhinney**, graduate students in pathology; **Richard Watkin**, post-doctoral associate in pathology; **Matthew Poynter**, post-doctoral fellow in pathology; and **Dr. Ralph Budd**, professor of medicine.

**Sanjeeva Murthy**, associate professor of physics, published an article with J.R. Knox of the University of Connecticut in the May issue of *Biopolymers* entitled, "Hydration of Proteins: SAXS Study of Native and Methoxy Polyethyleneglycol (mPEG)-Modified L-Asparaginase and Bovine Serum Albumin in mPEG Solutions."

**Jonathan Sands**, professor of mathematics, and **David Dummit**, associate vice president of mathematics, along with Blair Kelly of the National Security Agency, organized the Sixth Algorithmic Number Theory Symposium in June at UVM. This international conference attracted 105 participants and included the publication of proceedings. Sands also served as an organizer of the Number Theory Conference in August at the University of Minnesota in honor of Harold Stark. Sands was also an invited speaker at the Eighth Canadian Number Theory Association Conference at the University of Toronto in June and was one of the editors of the proceedings of a number theory conference, which is being published in September by the American Mathematical Society. It is titled, *Stark's Conjectures: Recent Work and New Directions*.

### Appointments

**Shane Cutler** has been named director of conference and event services in UVM's Division of Administrative and Facilities Services and will start in September. Cutler joins UVM from Plymouth State University, where he served as associate director of student activities for the Hartman Union Building and as chair of the university's facilities committee.

*August 25, 2004*

### Awards and Honors

**Matthew Wilson**, assistant research professor in the School of Business Administration and the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, was recently named principal investigator on a new three-year subcontract with Lincoln University, Christchurch, New Zealand. The primary purpose of the project is to account for the economic values associated with ecosystem services affected by agricultural, pastoral and horticultural practices in New Zealand.

**Stanley Witkin**, professor of social work, received a Fulbright fellowship at the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi, Finland, where he will be a visiting scholar in the School of Social Welfare. The university also awarded Witkin an honorary doctoral degree at a ceremony held in May.

**Xindong Wu**, professor and chair of the Department of Computer Science, received the SIGKDD 2004 Service Award, considered the highest service award in the field of data mining and knowledge discovery. The Association for Computing Machinery award is given to an individual or group who has performed significant service to the data mining and knowledge discovery field, including professional volunteer services in disseminating technical information to the field, education and research funding.



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## Research in Bloom

**By boat and satellite, scientists at the Rubenstein school are seeking better and faster ways to detect and map flowerings of dangerous blue-green algae on Vermont waterways**

By Cheryl Dorschner

Article published Sep 01, 2004



This detail from a satellite picture of Mississquoi Bay taken on Aug. 17 shows some of the extent of this summer's mass of algae. UVM experts are working to use images like this to help perfect monitoring of the potentially dangerous blooms. (Image courtesy of Leslie Morrissey.)

On the morning of August 18, two scientists aboard the university's research vessel checked their watches at exactly 11:30 a.m. and dipped a probe into Mississquoi Bay's thick mat of blue-green algae. As it sunk deep below the scum, Leslie Morrissey, an associate professor of natural resources, and graduate student Sarah Wheeler looked heavenward – a nod to an unseen presence. Then they watched the digital numbers tick toward 50 on the monitor.

The unseen presence was a European Space Agency satellite that passed over the lake at precisely that moment and snapped a photograph called a spot image. Meanwhile, the numbers from the probe measured chlorophyll, a sign of how much light is passing through the lake water, and a potential marker of the presence of algae, if not its toxicity. Morrissey and Wheeler probed the water every 10 seconds measuring long transects of Lake Champlain. Their goal is to find better ways to locate and track areas of dangerous blue-green algae. That morning's newspaper put their efforts into context: "Algae blooms explode," shouted a headline, the story below reminding that the blooms can "contain toxins powerful enough to kill dogs and sicken humans."

Lake water is sampled and tested weekly to determine if any scum present is merely a late-summer annoyance or a blue-green menace laden with cyanobacteria, which can produce toxins that attack the liver or brain. Mary Watzin, an associate professor and director of the Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory, oversees the tests, with help from her staff, graduate students, the Lake Champlain Committee and volunteers.

Morrissey and Wheeler are part of a related effort hoping to eventually correlate on-water test results with information on satellite images to develop models with enough predictive power to reliably spot problems over large areas. Back at the computer lab, they and Suzanne Levine, associate professor of natural resources, use the chlorophyll numbers to create an algorithm that is applied to the map image. By adding color – red for areas thick with chlorophyll-producing algae, blue for expanses, they created the first big picture of a mass moving from Canada to New York and Vermont.

The day before another satellite system brought them a Lake Champlain photo showing the current location of the creeping bloom. "Just to see those plumes was fabulous," says Morrissey. What Morrissey wants to know now is whether satellite imagery can capture the nature of the bloom – whether it is merely

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### [New Scholar Sampler](#)

From the personal lives of ants to the professional entanglements of the French painter Ingres, new members of the university's faculty bring a diverse package of experience and interests to the work of teaching and scholarship.

### [Inspiring Solutions](#)

Assistant athletic trainer Jim Murdock has spent more than a decade working with Olympic athletes. His most fulfilling work, however, came last year when he became affiliated with the U.S. Quad Rugby team that he will join in Athens later this month for the 2004 Summer Paralympic Games.

green or toxic blue-green.

The trio, whose work is funded by the Vermont Water Resources and Lake Studies Center, takes advantage of any satellites already flying overhead for other purposes, and there are several bringing back highly detailed photographs to Morrissey. New satellites can analyze color with far more precision than their predecessors, and are better equipped to monitor conditions on water.

“Remote sensing offers potential solution to current challenges of algal-bloom monitoring,” Morrissey says. “If the new techniques prove accurate, the combined efforts of the satellite and on-the-ground teams should ensure that emerging blooms are detected and their toxicity assessed before tragedies occur.”

#### **Toxic invader**

Blue-green algae is nothing new. “(It’s) been around for more than three billion years,” Levine says. “But the problem of toxic blue-green algae became more common since the 1950s, perhaps tied to increase in sewage treatment, fertilizer use and/or overall increase in populations.”

“Blue-greens are in all lakes and ponds and can even occur in slow-moving rivers. There have been toxic outbreaks all over the globe, including Europe, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Brazil, and other places,” adds Watzin. “We don’t know if all species that produce toxins can do it anywhere, because we know so little about what triggers toxin production.”

It is concern for public health and curiosity about these unknowns that fuel the combined efforts of the Watzin, Morrissey and Levine’s teams.

Watzin says she wants to figure out “why we’re having the blooms. I think they’re different than we ever had before, and I think they are more intense.” She counts off and disputes one theory for every finger on her hand, then postulates her own. “I’m an ecologist, so my focus is what in the ecosystem may be driving this – changes in the food web that may cause the increase.”

Watzin’s former graduate student-turned-employee Emily Brines is pursuing the ecological angles. Graduate student Meghan Kreider working on the potential connection between zebra mussels and microcystin, the liver toxin. Graduate student Todd Clason will begin a study this fall to determine whether the algae is wintering over in the mud of Missisquoi Bay instead of dying off each year. And new grad student Sam Couture, who will work on the algae project, has a special interest – his family dog was the first killed by the algal toxin on Lake Champlain.

Watzin’s work is funded by grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

“The focus of our study is different, says Morrissey, “they’re looking at toxicity, we’re looking for biomass. Working together we share samples, and when our turnaround (from image to information) is faster, we’ll really be able to help.” The team sees the day when the maps can reveal the location of the bloom so testers sample the area densest with algae. “This could save time and money,” she says.

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## A Sampler of New Scholars

By Kevin Foley

Article published Sep 01, 2004

From the personal lives of ants to the professional entanglements of the French painter Ingres, new members of the university's faculty bring a diverse package of experience and interests to the work of teaching and scholarship.

To capture some of the flavor of the group, *the view* caught up with a few new faculty to talk academics and life as they juiced up syllabi, moved into offices and prepared for the rigors of the semester ahead. (This sampling, it should be said, makes no attempt to be comprehensive; 47 faculty attended New Faculty Orientation this year, an event organized by the vice provost faculty and academic affairs, and we had time to talk with only a few of them.)

**Name:** Sarah Betzer

**Department and title:** assistant professor of art

**Training:** Ph.D., Northwestern University

**Recent experience:** visiting faculty, University of California at Santa Cruz

**Research interests:** Betzer is a specialist in 18th and 19th century French art, specifically on a group of artists working in the studio of the master painter Ingres (a name, incidentally, that Betzer jokingly says is one of the most difficult to pronounce for non-native French speakers). "I look at their portraits of women and how that intersects with art theory," Betzer says. The studio, she says, was in many senses an exception to the masculinist tradition of 19th century academic art making.

**Outside interests:** The outdoors, of course. She's also an opera fan looking forward to trips to New York and Montreal. Betzer, naturally, also loves museums, and she's looking forward to spending time at the Clark, the Frick and others throughout the region.

**Why she chose UVM:** Natural beauty, a strong and energizing department (she's particularly glad to be close colleagues with practicing artists), emphasis on undergraduate teaching, and its location in an area that feels culturally and politically comfortable.

---

**Name:** Sara Helms Cahan

**Department and title:** assistant professor of biology

**Training:** Ph.D., Arizona State University

**Recent experience:** post-doctoral fellowship, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

**Research interests:** Cahan studies the interplay of social life and evolution, usually with experiments and field observation of ants. "My basic working hypothesis is that everything changes when you go from a solitary environment," she says. Ants live in social colonies with rigid divisions of roles, some ants are workers, others reproduce. Cahan is looking at interbreeding between species right now, which is usually a costly evolutionary mistake (most hybrids are sterile, and therefore can't pass along their parents' genes), but is often adaptive with ants, who live in social colonies with divided roles.

**Outside interests:** "I'm a big outdoor person, a big canoe person," she says.

**Quirky personal fact:** Cahan is, she says, a "very dedicated quilter."

**Why she chose UVM:** After Michigan as an undergrad, and ASU as a grad student, Cahan is glad to move away from the research-1 university scene. "At UVM, you get plenty of interaction with undergraduate students, but in my department you also get to work with doctoral students," she says.

---

**Name:** William "Troy" Donahoo

**Department and title:** assistant professor of medicine

**Training:** MD, University of Colorado

**Recent experience:** assistant professor at Colorado; research subject advocate at the University of Colorado Health Science Center

**Research interests:** "I'm interested in the physiological regulation of body weight, specifically peripheral regulation, in part how skeletal muscle and

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### Research in Bloom

On the morning of August 18, two scientists aboard the university's research vessel checked their watches at exactly 11:30 a.m. and dipped a probe into Mississquoi Bay's thick mat of blue-green algae.

### Inspiring Solutions

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adipose tissue talk to brain," he says. His research has been funded primarily by the National Institutes of Health. He'll collaborate with Richard Pratley, MD, another new hire to the diabetes and metabolism translational medicine unit, among others.

**Outside interests:** The Colorado native enjoys running, family time and, occasionally, skiing.

**Why he chose UVM:** "UVM has a long history and is well known in metabolism and weight regulation, even though some of those people have retired, potentially being a part of that tradition was exciting," Donahoo says.

---

**Name:** Gregory Druschel

**Department and title:** assistant professor of geology

**Training:** Ph.D., University of Wisconsin

**Recent experience:** post-doctoral fellowship, University of Delaware

**Research interests:** Druschel, a microbial geochemist, is interested in the role microbes play in the transport and reactivity of sulfuric metals. He's conducted fieldwork in St. Albans (involving phosphorous), Yellowstone and in the Pacific, using tools ranging from microelectrodes to taking core samples of sediment layers.

**Outside interests:** Druschel is an enthusiastic cook with a fondness for ethnic cuisine, most recently North African food. After arriving at the university in January, he took up snowshoeing. "We needed something to do in the winter," he says.

**Why he chose UVM:** The balance of a somewhat smaller school emphasizing research in parallel with teaching.

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**Name:** David Jones

**Department and title:** assistant professor of business administration

**Training:** Ph.D., University of Calgary

**Research interests:** Jones, who was trained in industrial and organizational psychology, studies perceptions of fair and unfair treatment in the workplace, and how those employee perceptions influence behaviors like turnover, lateness, absenteeism, theft and sabotage. Jones often does field work, using surveys and self- and peer-reporting to analyze worker perceptions and how they play out in performance. He'll often offer managerial training in fairness to companies in exchange for data, an aspect of his work he particularly enjoys. "When I'm selling these ideas to an organization, I talk about the impact on the bottom line, but I also don't hide that I think there's an important moral consideration to fairness," Jones says.

**Outside interests:** Jones enjoys snowboarding and mountain biking. He's also a passionate traveler. "I try to get overseas at least once a year," he says. "My last big trip was a month in Egypt."

**Why he chose UVM:** "When they were hiring for this position, they were explicitly looking for someone who had a background in ethics, social responsibility and corporate responsibility," he says. "It was a great fit for me. I was also impressed by the positive teaching and research environment at the business school and the collegiality among its faculty."

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**Name:** Kenneth Mello

**Department and title:** assistant professor of religion (a joint appointment with ALANA U.S. Ethnic Studies)

**Training:** Ph.D., University of California at Santa Barbara

**Recent experience:** assistant professor, University of Minnesota-Duluth

**Research interests:** Mello studies American Indian religion. A native New Englander, he focuses on the tribes in the Northeast, particularly in Maine, where much of his family is from. His dissertation concerned contemporary religious identity in native communities in Maine. "I was interested in the notion of invisibility that surrounds native people in this region. There is a huge variety of experience, from being Westernized and Christianized, to folks who are trying to get back to old traditions," he says.

**Outside interests:** "I'm a big family guy," Mello says. "I have a little boy who is four years old, and I like to do whatever with him. Any time I have away from this, that's what I do."

**Why he chose UVM:** Mello was satisfied with his tenure-track job in Duluth—until he saw an advertisement for a position at UVM, one of his "dream places" to work. Growing up outside of Boston, he was very familiar with the university, and was drawn, he says, its "more intimate learning atmosphere."

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**Name:** Gregg Newschwander

**Department and title:** chair of nursing

**Training:** Ph.D., Marquette University

**Recent experience:** associate dean, Catholic University of American School of Nursing

**Research interests:** Newschwander's clinical work is in pediatric emergency trauma. His teaching experience has been in pediatrics, research and trends,

and policy. He'll teach starting next semester, but the bulk of his efforts will be in administration.

**Outside interests:** He occasionally runs marathons and half-marathons, not so much out of competitive interest as a desire to "add some structure to exercise." Running, he says, "is a nice time to get some thinking done."

**Why he chose UVM:** Newschwander is enthusiastic about UVM's strong networking system, which has a number of active nursing partnerships within the community. He also says that the nursing program has strong support from the dean, provost and president. He's also been commuting from Pennsylvania to Washington, D.C., an exhausting pursuit. "I wanted to bring my family somewhere nice to settle and be together," he says.

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## Inspiring Solutions

By Jon Reidel

Article published Aug 17, 2004



Jim Murdock was selected athletic trainer for the defending gold medal U.S. Quad Rugby team that will travel to Athens for the 2004 Summer Paralympic Games. (Photo: Sally McCay)

Jim Murdock's welcome to the rough-and-tumble world of the paralympics was softened by the therapeutic humor used by disabled athletes facing the challenge of living and playing in a wheelchair.

Murdock, an assistant athletic trainer at UVM, will assist the defending gold medalist U.S. Quad Rugby team that will travel to Athens for the 2004 Summer Paralympic Games, which begin Sept. 17. A trainer of Olympic athletes for more than a

decade, Murdock got his first taste of the spirit of working with paralympians in June at Lake Placid.

"One of the guys got knocked over in his wheelchair," says Murdock, who was initially surprised by the amount of wheelchair contact allowed in the sport. "I ran over to him and said, 'are you okay?' He says to me, 'I can't feel my legs.' They got me good. But it's that kind of humor that helps them deal with their situations."

The biggest challenge for Murdock was making the transition from working with "able-bodied Olympians" as they are called by paralympians, to understanding the special needs of the paralympic athlete. The athletes in quad rugby, also called wheelchair rugby, have a combination of upper and lower extremity impairment. Most have sustained cervical level spinal injuries and have some type of quadriplegia as a result.

The aggressive nature of quad rugby, originally called murder ball, keeps Murdock busy. Players are often thrown from their wheelchair after being slammed by another competitor.

"It's been the ultimate battery re-charger for me," says Murdock, who is working on a Ph.D. at UVM. "It's such a unique experience to work with this type of athlete. They dedicate their entire lives to it."

### New athletic answers

Bryan Kirkland, a 12-year veteran of the sport and a member of the Sydney gold medal team, says Murdock has brought innovative ideas to the 2004 squad. As a member of Home Depot's Olympic Job Opportunities Program, which enables 177 athletes to work part time at full-time wages while training, Kirkland works out six days a week and is constantly looking for ways to improve his performance.

"Jim has brought us a whole new game," says Kirkland, who is from Leeds, Ala. "We're constantly trying to solve problems with equipment and our arms getting torn up. He talks with us and finds out what we need. He's just so knowledgeable. Me personally, he helped me get some shin guards to strap my

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### Research in Bloom

On the morning of August 18, two scientists aboard the university's research vessel checked their watches at exactly 11:30 a.m. and dipped a probe into Mississquoi Bay's thick mat of blue-green algae.

### New Scholar Sampler

From the personal lives of ants to the professional entanglements of the French painter Ingres, new members of the university's faculty bring a diverse package of experience and interests to the work of teaching and scholarship.

legs down, which has really helped my performance. He's the man."

The needs of Kirkland and other quad rugby players can vary depending on their classification. Players are given a classification number from one of seven classifications ranging from 0.5 to 3.5, with 0.5 level players having the greatest impairment.

The rules of the game make it challenging for all levels. Four athletes per team attempt to pass a volleyball back and forth and score by breaking the plane of the eight meter-goal line at end of the court. The defense tries to take the ball away and prevent the opposing team from scoring. Full wheelchair contact is allowed, as long as players don't "spin" an opponent by hitting him sideways.

Murdock says the sport is an important physical and emotional outlet for the athletes, some of who lost the use of their arms and legs after having playing sports in high school and college. "The same focus, desire and dedication of the regular Olympian is there with the paralympian – maybe even more so."

Murdock says working with such committed athletes has been humbling and inspiring.

"It's rewarding because they let you know how appreciative they are of you," he says. "They are very down to earth people. Unfortunately, because of the professional-athlete mode that society is in, many athletes are not this way. The paralympian is different, maybe because they've had to overcome some serious obstacles. It's like they say: It's not the size of the dog, it's the size of the fight in the dog."

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