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## Summer Searching



Sonja Hoelzl, a foreign exchange student from Germany, is one of many students and faculty that performed research over the summer. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Frances Carr, new vice president of research and dean of the Graduate College, sees research in broader terms than the rigid dictionary version defined as "the methodical investigation into a subject in order to discover facts, or a scholarly or scientific investigation or inquiry."

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## Invisible Apartheid

After conducting extensive fieldwork for his new book, *Hostels, Sexuality and the Apartheid Legacy*, Glen Elder, an associate professor of geography, knows the suffocating and obscuring aspects of life as a poor South African well. He has also located some sites of ingenuity and hope.

## While You Were

**Gone...** From new deans to new coaches to new medical research, a quick summary of summer news for those who spent the hot months off-campus (or off-line).

## THE WEEK IN VIEW

**Aug. 28 4 p.m.**  
Seminar: "Kir Channel Modulation by Reactive Oxygen Species," with Robert Leach of the University of Leeds. B-333 Given.

**Aug. 30 2 p.m.**  
Women's soccer takes on Stetson. Centennial Field.  
Information: [uvmathletics.com](http://uvmathletics.com)

**Sept. 1 8 p.m.**  
Twilight induction ceremony for the Class of 2007 on the UVM Green.

**Sept 2. All day.**  
Classes begin.

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Russian river: Kevin McKenna (right) leading a Smithsonian tour in St. Petersburg during the city's summer of celebration.

### McKenna Leads Smithsonian Tour of St. Petersburg's Tercentennial

From its founding in 1703 by Tsar Peter the Great as the "Venice of the North," to the socialist Leningrad years of the 20s, 30s, and early 40s, to its current reputation as a city on the cusp of an economic and cultural comeback, few people know the history of St. Petersburg better than Professor Kevin McKenna.

McKenna, who has been studying various aspects of Soviet and post-Soviet Russia for more than 30 years, is one of five professors nationwide who have been giving historical tours and lectures on St. Petersburg for the Smithsonian Institute. He was the only one asked to lead a Smithsonian Journeys tour to St. Petersburg from Aug. 3-11 for the 300th anniversary of the city known as Russia's "window to the west."

"It was an honor," McKenna says. "About 20 people from all over the county went on the tour. In the 34 years I've been going to St. Petersburg, this was the most beautiful I've ever seen it look."

An authority on Catherine the Great and 18th-century Russian literature, McKenna attributes the sprucing up of this city of 4.7 million to its yearlong 300th anniversary celebration. As leader of the Smithsonian tour, he took participants to historically significant parts of the city, including the Hermitage museum, where McKenna has been a guest lecturer for many years.

McKenna says there are rumblings that St. Petersburg, often referred to as Russia's "second capital," could become its nation's real capital for

### Former Vermont Governor to Teach at UVM

Former Vermont Gov. Madeleine May Kunin has accepted a joint academic appointment as a distinguished visiting professor of political science at UVM and St. Michael's College. The presidents of both universities announced the three-year appointment at an Aug. 25 press conference in St. Michael's Hoehl Welcome Center.

"I have strong attachments to both institutions," Kunin said at the meeting.

The three-term governor, who served from 1985 to 1991, earned a master's degree in English literature at UVM and has previously taught at St. Michael's College.

"It's a treat to work with students, to hear their questions and perspective and to share mine," she said. During the fall 2003 semester, she will be a guest lecturer in several academic disciplines, where she will discuss public service, the upcoming presidential race and other timely topics, in addition to being available to meet individually with students.

During the spring 2004 semester, she will teach a course at UVM and Saint Michael's that is tentatively titled "Doing Good," or "What is the Public Good?" She will invite some of her own role models as guest lecturers to her class, she said. During the 2004-5 academic year, Kunin will spend most of her time at St. Michael's as the institution celebrates its centennial. She will teach primarily at UVM in 2005-6.

"My goal is to get students involved in public life in their communities, and for some to step over the line into politics," said Kunin, who served by presidential appointment as ambassador to Switzerland, her native land, from 1996 to 1999. She noted that while many people seem disillusioned with politics, "many UVM and St. Michael's students are active in campus volunteer programs, and they are looking for meaningful lives that include public service."

"We are exceedingly fortunate to welcome Ambassador Kunin as a faculty member," said UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel in announcing the appointment. "Her lifelong commitment to public service and her efforts to improve education, protect the environment and advocate for all members of our community will truly serve as an inspiration to our students."

Marc A. vanderHeyden, Saint Michael's College president, said, "Our students will be the

the first time since 1917. President Vladimir Putin is a native of the area and a number of government ministries are being relocated from Moscow to St. Petersburg.

"There's been considerable talk about it," McKenna says. "For the first time in a while St. Petersburg is getting more capital and attention, especially with Putin being elected. I don't think it will happen, but there has been a lot of focus on it lately."

In addition to teaching all levels of Russian language, McKenna teaches survey courses of 19th-20th century Russian literature as well as individual-author courses on Pushkin, Gogol, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, Pasternak, and Solzhenitsyn.

### The Class of 2007 Arrives

The University of Vermont will welcome one of its largest, strongest and most diverse incoming classes on Aug. 29 when an estimated 1,900 members of the Class of 2007 arrive on campus.

Nearly 200 members of the incoming first-year class arrived Aug. 23, to participate in TREK, a unique experiential learning program sponsored by the Department of Student Life. Some students are involved in community service projects: performing maintenance on the Long Trail and Catamount Trail and pitching in to build a house with Habitat for Humanity; other new students are on wilderness and leadership TREKs.

The Class of 2007 reflects UVM's continuing success in attracting more high quality students, as determined by admissions ratings, SAT scores and high school rank. This year's incoming class comprises 1,360 out-of-state students with combined mean SAT scores of 1152, surpassing last year's incoming class by nearly 12 points. An estimated 540 Vermont first-year students had combined mean SAT scores of 1124, an increase of 17 points over last year.

African, Latino/a, Asian and Native American (ALANA) enrollments also are up this year, with 470 ALANA undergraduates currently registered for classes, compared to 420 last year. Of the 140 first-year ALANA students expected to begin classes this fall, about 25 graduated from Christopher Columbus High School in the Bronx and City on a Hill in Boston, institutions with which UVM has a partnership agreement. Twenty-one new students are Green and Gold Scholars — top students from Vermont high schools who will receive full tuition, four-year merit scholarships to UVM.

Opening weekend activities include opportunities for first-year students living on campus to hike Camel's Hump, explore Montreal and tour Ben & Jerry's factory. The Class of 2007 will gather for a picnic on Aug. 30, and for a twilight induction ceremony on the Green at 8 p.m. on Sept. 1. For a full list of Opening Weekend activities, go to <http://www.uvm.edu/openingweekend>.

beneficiaries of Ambassador Kunin's remarkable experience in public life."

Kunin was Vermont's first woman governor, and the fourth woman to serve as governor of any state. During her tenure, Vermont's teacher salaries rose from 49th to 26th place in the national ranks, and *Fortune* magazine rated her as one of the top 10 education governors in the nation. Her accomplishments also include serving on the executive committee of the National Governors' Conference (1985–1990); chairing the New England Governors' Conference (1988); and serving as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education (1993–1996), where she played an integral role in getting President Clinton's education reform agenda enacted into law.

In addition, Kunin is founder, former president and continuing board member of the Institute for Sustainable Communities, an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to help communities around the world address environmental, economic, and social challenges to build a better future shaped and shared by all.

### UVM to Offer New Forensic Concentration

The Perry Mason types dominate crime fiction, but when it comes to real crime fighting, most cases are solved by highly trained forensic scientists who use physical, biological, medical and sometimes the behavioral sciences to analyze and evaluate physical evidence relating to matters of law.

Physical evidence "does not forget," according to Paul L. Kirk, a legendary Berkeley professor who is known as the father of criminalistics. "It is not confused by the excitement of the moment...It cannot perjure itself; it cannot be wholly absent."

Since O.J. Simpson introduced most of America to DNA evidence, public and media interest in forensic science has skyrocketed. More than 26 million weekly viewers, for example, have made *CSI* the most popular program on American television. Dramatic series such as *Law and Order* have a cult following; Court TV and like programming bring real trials into living rooms.

An increasing number of prospective college students, including UVM applicants, are looking for colleges that offer programs in forensic science. Responding to that need, the Department of Biology will offer a new undergraduate concentration in forensic biology starting this year.

The cornerstone to the new concentration is an upper-level seminar course that will encompass all aspects of crime scene investigation, from gathering evidence, DNA analysis, forensic entomology and toxicology to chain-of-custody protocol and court testimony. Guest lecturers and adjunct instructors will include Dr. Steven Shapiro, Vermont's deputy medical examiner, and other professionals who ply their forensic skills in Vermont crime labs, law enforcement

Classes begin Sept. 2 for an estimated 7,840 undergraduates; 2,350 graduate, post-baccalaureate certificate and non-degree students; 425 transfer students; and 392 medical students. Overall, nearly 3,950 students are expected to live on campus.

### **New Finance VP Says UVM Opportunities Add Up**

It wasn't long after J. Michael Gower got a call from a headhunter about a job at UVM that he became familiar with the 10-year vision of President Daniel Mark Fogel. He wasn't necessarily looking to move from North Carolina, but the more he heard about UVM and the role he could play in implementing Fogel's vision, the more intrigued he became.

Gower, a 44-year-old senior executive with more than 20 years of financial management experience, accepted the job as vice president for finance and administration shortly after visiting Burlington. He starts work in September to ensure that the university's finances and operations support day-to-day activities, as well as long-range objectives.

"This particular position hasn't existed for a while, so there's an opportunity to do some new and exciting things," Gower says.

Gower, who calls Fogel's plan "an ambitious goal, but not a pie-in-the-sky one," was most recently a consulting manager in the Education Advisory Services of PricewaterhouseCoopers in Durham, N.C., where he advised university and academic health center clients on financial management, strategic planning and effective use of information systems.

At UVM Gower will lead a team that includes the Office of Human Resources, the controller, treasury operations, physical plant, risk management, auxiliary services, transportation and parking, and related financial administrative services. He will focus on strategic cost reductions; educating the community about the university's financial structure; seeking out new revenue opportunities; reviewing the university's debt-management practices; and supporting labor negotiations and the colleges, faculty, students, and staff through efficient services and effective use of information technology.

"President Fogel was looking for a partner to take on these sort of roles in support of him and (Provost) John Bramley," Gower says. "I'll be involved in the nuts and bolts of the budget — all of the things that keep the trains running on time. It will be important for me to clearly explain to the trustees how the vision is going to work."

Prior to Gower's current position, he served for 10 years in various positions at Duke University and Duke University Health System, including assistant vice president for finance. He received his undergraduate degree from Duke University and a Master of Business Administration from its Fuqua School of Business.

and the courtroom.

"Our intent is to position students to be adequately prepared for careers and graduate study in this discipline," says Judith Van Houten, professor and chair of biology.

"We're offering the courses and knowledge that employers and graduate schools are telling us they are looking for," adds Bill Kilpatrick, professor of biology.

Kilpatrick provides expert testimony on DNA fingerprinting — which has made regular fingerprints practically obsolete — in state and federal trials throughout New England. He will co-teach the forensic science seminar with Bill Bress, Vermont's State Toxicologist and adjunct professor of biology and pharmacology.

"People are more attuned to crime and, since 9/11, are more aware of what the FBI and other law enforcement agencies do," says Bress, who is also a forensic toxicologist. The tremendous depth of information now available to forensic experts, he says, has made people more aware that crimes are solved "not by some guy with a gun, but by highly trained scientists."

While the forensic science concentration is new for UVM, Kilpatrick notes that several former biology students who self-designed a program in forensic science now work at crime labs throughout the nation. The new concentration will provide a more directed and comprehensive education for biology majors, primarily through the seminar and by enhancing the forensic aspects of related science courses.

Despite having spent the majority of his life in the south, minus a two-year stint at Cornell, Gower said he's looking forward to living in Vermont where he and his son, who will be a freshman in high school in the fall, can pursue their love of skiing. His wife and daughter will move after his daughter finishes her senior year of high school this year.

theview

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

pho 802.656.2005  
fax 802.656.3203

[theview@uvm.edu](mailto:theview@uvm.edu)

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Richard Shindell opens the 2003-2004 Lane Series with a Sept. 25 performance.  
(Publicity photo: Marinko Matura )

**Diverse Offerings in New Lane Series**

This year's Lane Series program opens at the UVM Recital hall on Sept. 25 with folk-inflected singer/songwriter Richard Shindell, who has collaborated with Joan Baez, Dar Williams and many others.

The performance kicks off one of the Lane Series's most eclectic and interesting seasons, with shows ranging from the classical and early music for which the Lane has developed an international reputation to cutting edge classical theatre, solo piano, jazz, blues, folk music and more.

Scheduled performances include operas like *Don Giovanni* and *Tosca*, as well as the classic guitar by the Hot Club of San Francisco, blues by Cephas and Wiggins, and the acclaimed young St. Lawrence string quartet.

Lane Series performances are held on the UVM campus in the Redstone Recital Hall, Ira Allen Chapel, Royall Tyler Theatre; and in Burlington's Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. To explore this year's series in detail, order a Lane Series brochure (call 656-4455), or checking out the Lane Series web site at [The Lane Series](#).

**New York Rangers Return to the Gut**

The New York Rangers will play their annual Blue-White intrasquad game on Sept. 15 at 6:30 p.m. in Gutterson Fieldhouse. The team is in Burlington for their annual training camp, with open practices beginning on Sept. 12 in the fieldhouse.

The team has trained at UVM eight out of the last nine years, and the scrimmage game often features established National Hockey League stars. Among those expected to play in the game are Eric Lindros, Bobby Holik, Darius Kasparaitis and Brian Leetch.

Tickets are \$8 for the general public, \$5 for UVM students, faculty and staff and children 12 and under. They will go on sale beginning Sept. 2 in the UVM Athletic Ticket Office. For more information, call the office at 656-4410.

The training sessions, which are free and open to the public, are scheduled on Sept. 12-16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at gutterson Fieldhouse. Parking is limited.

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### Awards and Honors

**Francine Bazluke**, vice president and general counsel, was named president of the National Association of College and University Attorneys at the association's annual conference in June. Founded in 1960, NACUA seeks to advance the effective practice of higher education law for the benefit of the colleges and universities. The organization comprises more than 3,000 attorneys who represent nearly 660 institutions. Bazluke has served as UVM general counsel since 1992.

**Heather Bouchey**, assistant professor of psychology, was selected for a 2003 Illinois State University Alumni Award in honor of her professional achievements. Bouchey was invited to visit Normal, Ill., in October to accept the award and deliver a colloquium.

**Stephen Cutler**, professor of sociology and Joyce professor of gerontology, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and conduct research at the University of Bucharest, Romania during the spring semester of the 2003-2004 academic year. He will study the long-term consequences of the precipitous changes in Romanian population policy that occurred in the mid-1960s.

**Glenn Rogers**, extension regional farm business management specialist, was elected President of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents at the group's annual meeting held in Green Bay, Wisc., during July. Rogers served as Northeast Vice Director and Director from 1987 to 1991 as well as National Vice President for NACAA in 2002. In 1997 he helped organize and chaired the facilities committee at the NACAA Annual Meeting in Burlington, which attracted more than 2000 attendees.

### Publications and Presentations

Several presentations by College of Medicine faculty were featured at the 19th Congress of the International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis meeting, which took place in Birmingham, England in July. Invited speakers included **Kenneth Mann**, professor and chair of biochemistry, who presented "What does all that thrombin do?"; Dr. **Mary Cushman**, associate professor of medicine and pathology, who presented "The epidemiology of venous thrombosis"; and **Paula Tracy**, professor and vice chair of biochemistry, who presented "Platelets regulate thrombin generation at their membrane surface through several unique activation-dependent mechanisms." Oral presenters included **Saulius Butenas**, research associate professor of biochemistry; **Nancy Jenny**, research associate in pathology; **Beth Bouchard**, post-doctoral associate in biochemistry; and **Carla Vossen**, visiting graduate student in the department of pathology. Poster presenters included Dr. **Edwin Bovill**, professor and chair of pathology; Saulius Butenas; and Carla Vossen. **Russell Tracy**, senior associate dean for research and academic affairs and professor of pathology, was a session chair.

Mary Cushman was co-author of an Aug. 7 Women's Health Initiative study report published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* titled, "Estrogen plus progestin and the risk of coronary heart disease."

Dr. **Harold Dauerman**, associate professor of medicine, and Dr. **Burton Sobel**, professor and chair of medicine, published an article titled "Synergistic treatment of ST-segmentelevation myocardial infarction with pharmacoinvasive recanalization" in the Aug. 20 issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. Dauerman also published an editorial in the

journal's Aug. 6 issue titled, "The early days after ST-segment elevation acute myocardial infarction: Reconsidering the delayed invasive approach."

A number of UVM Extension affiliates gave presentations at National Association of County Agricultural Agents' July annual meeting in Green Bay, Wisc. **Betsy Greene**, extension equine specialist, presented papers and posters on equine management; Wendy Sorrell, extension 4-H livestock specialist, presented a poster; **Rick LeVitre**, extension farm labor specialist, presented a poster and paper on labor issues; **Chester Parsons**, extension sheep specialist, presented a poster on the use of wool mulch in reducing erosion. **Jeff Carter**, extension assistant professor, led discussions on ways to improve programming for new extension educators. **Larry Myott**, extension maple specialist, and was featured in a video on professional excellence.

Dr. **David Krag**, S.D. Ireland professor of surgery, and **Takamuru Ashikaga**, professor of statistics, published an editorial in the Aug. 7 *New England Journal of Medicine* titled "The Design of Trials Comparing Sentinel-Node Surgery and Axillary Resection." Krag is principal investigator of the National Surgical Breast and Bowel Project randomized study on sentinel-node biopsy currently underway, which will enroll about 5500 patients.

A paperback edition of Mark Stoler's *Allies and Adversaries: The Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Grand Alliance, and U.S. Strategies in World War II*, was published in August by the University of North Carolina Press. The book earned Stoler, a professor of history, the 2002 Distinguished Book Award from the Society of Military History.

Dr. **Benjamin Suratt**, assistant professor of medicine, was lead author of a report in the Aug. 1 issue of the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* titled, "Human pulmonary chimerism after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation."

**Arthur Woolf**, associate professor of economics, was interviewed in the July issue of *Vermont Business Magazine*.

### In Memoriam

Business Professor Emeritus **Jacque Grinnell** died on July 26. Grinnell joined the UVM faculty as a professor of accounting in 1978, and his years of service to the University would include two years as interim dean of the School of Business Administration, 1985-1987, before his retirement in 2002.

English Professor Emeritus **Littleton "Tiny" Long** died on July 23. Long's career at UVM began in the fall of 1949 and continued until his retirement in 1985. A beloved and respected teacher, Long was also the faculty advisor to the senior honor society, Mortar Board, for 33 years.

*July 16, 2003*

### 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.



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## Summer Searching

By Jon Reidel



Sonja Hoelzl, a foreign exchange student from Germany, is one of many students and faculty that performed research over the summer. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Frances Carr, new vice president of research and dean of the Graduate College, sees research in broader terms than the rigid dictionary version defined as "the methodical investigation into a subject in order to discover facts, or a scholarly or scientific investigation or inquiry."

Carr, who previously served as vice president for research and professor of biological science at Binghamton University, believes

research is a broader endeavor that encompasses all disciplines and enriches the lives of those who perform it.

"To me, research is across disciplines," Carr says. "It's looking at perspectives in philosophy. It's understanding global dynamics. It's studying proteomics. It's understanding where we are and where we are going. It's also for the public good. We need to spend time with the people it will affect."

Carr, who is responsible for enhancing external funding for research and scholarship, developing a comprehensive research plan, and expanding the university's technology transfer activities, is walking into a university fresh off a summer of discovery. With the guidance of their mentor professors, hundreds of students, including the two dozen who were awarded URECA grants through the provost's office, were involved in summer research in one form or another.

Granted, a large percentage of the major research dollars Carr will be going after will support faculty with years of previous research experience. Buy it's nonetheless the graduate and undergraduate investigators — the research grunts if you will — that will be performing many of the tedious, yet necessary, aspects of the university's research endeavors.

"I did undergraduate research, and for better or worse, that's why I'm here," Carr says. "This is a very rich and exciting place for undergraduates and graduates to work alongside post-docs and faculty and learn by the process of inquiry."

### The engineer

Graduate student Jon Miller performed the type of study over the summer that his mentor, Professor Dryver Huston, likes to categorize as fundamental research, or the type where "you look at the way things work and try to discover ways to improve or control it."

Miller has been building a robot since spring capable of inspecting bridges completely on its own. With funding from MicroStrain of South Burlington, which is owned by Steven Arms '81 and produces of innovative microsensors, Miller's creation rolls on the girders of the LaPlatte River Bridge on Rt. 7 in

 PRINT |  EMAIL THIS PAGE

### [Invisible Apartheid](#)

After conducting extensive fieldwork for his new book, *Hostels, Sexuality and the Apartheid Legacy*, Glen Elder, an associate professor of geography, knows the suffocating and obscuring aspects of life as a poor South African well. He has also located some sites of ingenuity and hope.

### [While You Were Gone...](#)

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Shelburne collecting relevant data.

Powered by a stripped down remote control truck with a wooden chassis on top and some sophisticated sensors and photo equipment attached to it, the bridge inspection machine is capable of feeding information to Miller that otherwise would be difficult to attain without the use of expensive human energy.

"A lot of money is spent on bridge inspections around the country," Miller says. "Right now you have to send a person out on the bridge to inspect it, which can be dangerous and take a lot of time. This (robotic) inspection device, can take photographs in tough spots, collect data and measure the structural integrity of the bridge on its own."

Miller may turn his summer research into his thesis project for his master's degree in mechanical engineering. He's also hoping that the prototype, which is specific to I-beam structures, will help pave the way for future remote inspection devices on all sorts of structures.

"I definitely think that the practical experience I've gotten from my research will carry over to my job," Miller says. "There's a big difference between being in the classroom and forcing yourself to do things in a lab by yourself."

### **The scientist**

When Sonja Hoelzl was growing up in a small town in East Germany, she never thought of going to college. Instead, she finished high school and went to work for a local plant assembling various pieces of machinery like everyone else in her town. Her parents were proud and didn't see the need for a college education.

But after nine years of hard work at the same company, Hoelzl yearned for more. So she enrolled at a local college and started working towards a bachelor's degree, followed by work on a master's degree in mechanical engineering at Technical University of Munich. Wanting to study abroad, she decided to complete her research project for her master's degree at UVM where she had some friends who recommended the school.

"Going to college wasn't that important where I grew up," says Hoelzl, who was the first in her family to earn an undergraduate degree. "At first my parents weren't very supportive, because they saw going to school as a loss of a five years of wages. But then they started to support me. I'd worked for nine years at that company. I wanted more."

When she arrived at UVM, Hoelzl started to build a mock component of a larger multi-million-dollar machine to study the mechanics of membrane masks for their use in the manufacturing of computer chips with collimated plasma lithography. The project, which included Hoelzl building her own machinery, was carried out for JMAR Technologies of South Burlington. Having put together dozens of components at her pre-college job, the mechanically inclined Hoelzl had little trouble constructing it.

"You learn more by doing," says Hoelzl, who is back in Germany where she will complete the results of her research. "It was a great experience."

### **The traveler**

As far as Lydia Sanders is concerned, her 6,000-mile journey on the Trans-Siberian railroad from Vladivostok to Moscow and St. Petersburg – often referred to as the greatest rail journey on earth – was one massive three-month research project.

Sanders, a part-time student and telecommunications information assistant at UVM, flew from Los Angeles to Tokyo on May 20, and then arrived in Vladivostok (Siberia) where her odyssey truly began. She spent the next two months traveling via train across Russia getting to know the people, enduring sickness, and writing a journal and taking photos. She will put together a presentation of her trip for a class.

Prior to her departure, Sanders prepared for her journey by taking Russian courses and talking extensively with Russian Professor Kevin

McKenna, an expert on Russian culture and one of the nation's foremost scholars on St. Petersburg.

Like dozens of other UVM students and professors, Sanders' travels showed her a side of a country she never would have seen in a classroom.

"Even if I didn't consciously conduct research, I learned so much by spending time with the people and traveling with them," Sanders says. "Now I'm back in the routine of going to work, but I feel different. It was an amazing experience."

By the end of her trip, Sanders' Russian-speaking skills had improved, as had her knowledge of the social, economic and historical structure of the country. She even learned a little about the legal system after a brush with the law for supposedly trespassing on private grounds.

"Once we understood how it (legal system) worked, we didn't have any trouble getting out of it," says Sanders, who was surprised by the freedom officers are given in determining the cost of alleged fines and how quickly they collect them. "Before I left, professor McKenna told me all the stuff that the travel guides don't tell you. I discovered some more things on my own. It was a fascinating trip."

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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## Apartheid's Invisible Women

### Geographer's new book traces the lives of the women transforming transitory housing meant for men

By Kevin Foley



Mapping the invisible: Geographer Glen Elder's new book explores the lives of women in a once-male South African labor hostel. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

On bad days in the East Rand, writes Glen Elder, associate professor of geography, the smelters and factories in the rusting industrial section of South Africa produce a bruise-yellow haze that "suffocates everything except the piercing beams of taxi headlights."

After conducting extensive fieldwork in the region to write his new book, *Hostels, Sexuality and the Apartheid Legacy* (Ohio University Press), the

South African-born Elder knows the suffocating and obscuring aspects of life in East Rand well — but he also is aware of its sites of ingenuity and hope. And so he chose to conduct research at the KwaThema Hostel complex, which was built decades ago to literally keep 7,000 black male migrant workers in their place, but has now transformed, encapsulating key aspects of the South African experience both before and after apartheid.

As the system of racial repression crumbled, Elder argues, women and their children, often Zulus from other regions, used their new freedom of mobility to move to the hostel in hopes of finding work as laborers and domestics. The migration has fundamentally altered the character of KwaThema (and other migrant labor housing), but the women remain, for official purposes anyway, hidden in plain sight.

"These women not attached to men were almost invisible," says Elder. "They lived these almost illegal shadow lives."

The geographer speaks in the past-tense advisedly. Although it has been little more than ten years since he began his fieldwork, the 30 women whose stories inform the book's analysis have suffered terribly since then. In 1999, when Elder began another round of follow-up interviews, all but one of the 30 women were HIV-positive. Two-thirds of them were dead.

"But in the middle of all the sadness are really cool stories of people working and making lives for themselves," says Elder, describing how the women turned their hostel quarters into sites for micro-industries ranging from beer-brewing to clothes-mending. "An intelligent government policy would be to look at how these smart and intuitive women did this and help them. But instead, the state wanted to transform hostels into family housing. Women were ignored in the planning. There were assumptions that all households have children and are headed by males."

#### Imposed spaces

As he spent time around the hostels talking with the women and with planners, Elder began to see "the weird ways that unquestioned sexist and

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#### [While You Were Gone...](#)

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heterosexist development plans can hold back great ideas." He recalls a meeting where planners discussed hostel upgrades with "stakeholders," men. After the meeting, Elder pointed out the women gardening outside to the planners, who essentially shrugged.

"There was this assumption that these were not appropriate families, that poor, uneducated single moms should have nothing to do with decisions," he says.

Race and ethnicity, obviously, are key categories in both contemporary South Africa and during the apartheid regime. But as he looked at the hostel and the economic, social and regulatory forces that created and sustained it, Elder became convinced that gender, specifically a deeply engrained "heteropatriarchy" that sought to reinforce its favored types of families and roles, was crucial to understanding the geography of both the hostel and the country at large, which is scarred with phony "homelands," segregated townships and gated white neighborhoods.

Gender theory therefore became crucial to framing his mountains of data into a harmonious whole. It was, he says, the best way to "step back from the minutiae," and look at the underlying patterns. One of those patterns was HIV. South Africa is the world's most HIV-infected nation, and the poor Zulu workers that Elder studied are among the country's most infected citizens. In his conversations and observations, Elder found that the women were not promiscuous risk-takers. The source of the widespread HIV infection was, as it is so many other places, poverty and new mobility. This deadly poverty is abetted by a society whose elites prefer to ignore and cordon off poor women — except for when their domestic labor is convenient.

"Something is keeping women poor in South Africa and it's killing them," says Elder. "We need to understand their systematic disenpowerment."

While painfully aware of this darker reality of life in South Africa, Elder maintains that he is positive about his country's prospects. The governmental myopia toward its interlocking assumptions about gender, sex and race after apartheid belies its more progressive, experimental approach to issues ranging from land redistribution to justice.

He applauds the "remarkable" truth and reconciliation commissions that probed the truth about apartheid-era crimes, and he calls the country's new constitution the world's most democratic, offering protection based on race, sexual orientation and health status. But, he makes clear, apartheid still mars the landscape. The hostels, which once facilitated the system with a convenient source of disposable labor, are a small example of that. Freedom of movement is changing them, but old habits of mind (and huge structural problems in education and public health) have kept that change from being pure progress.

But in the midst of them, resourceful women, parents and grandparents, though officially invisible, still managed to create new lives for themselves and transform a once male space. The government, Elder thinks, could begin to see them more clearly and listen to them, perhaps offering small loans, better security and health care, and quarters that fit a multiplicity of family configurations. Listening to women and giving them more tools to improve their lives — from cash to female condoms — could slow the spread of HIV and further erase the stain of apartheid from the land.

"I remain optimistic about South Africa," he says.

### **Onward with Elder**

Elder's book came out in June, as he began a yearlong sabbatical that will find the professor helping to host a major conference of Southern Africanists in Burlington in early September, working on fellowship in Montreal, and spending some time in South Africa to work on new projects there. Elder is also trying to develop a new Vermont-based study, possibly something involving HIV in the Northeast Kingdom. The geographer also recently won a 2003-2004 Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award; look for a profile of his classroom approach in a future issue of *the view*.



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## While You Were Gone...

By the view Staff

From new deans to new coaches to new medical research, a quick summary of summer news for those who spent the hot months off-campus (or off-line).

**NEW DEANS:** Robert Pepperman Taylor, professor of political science, is the first [dean of the new honors college](#). Frances Carr is the new vice president for research and dean of the Graduate College. John Evans, special assistant to the president, was named acting dean of the College of Medicine while Dean Dr. Joseph Warshaw is on medical leave. Dr. Lewis First, professor and chair of pediatrics, was named the first senior associate dean for educational and curricular affairs at the College of Medicine.

**OTHER LEADERSHIP MOVES:** J. Michael Gower is the new vice president for finance and administration (see story this issue); Frances Carr is the new vice president for research and dean of the graduate school (look for an interview in a future issue of *the view*). John F. Gates is the new chief of staff to the president and provost.

**COACH-A-RAMA:** The hirings were fast and furious: Kevin Sneddon for hockey (Mike Gilligan stepped down to concentrate on coaching golf and development), Sharon Dawley in women's basketball (Keith Ciepicki left for Syracuse), Bill Reichelt for skiing (the former alpine coach took over the program after Chip LaCasse's retirement) and Matt Belfield for cross-country and women's track (incumbent Ed Kusiak retired).

**WITH SURGERY AFTER HEART ATTACKS, DON'T DALLY (AND OTHER MEDICAL FINDINGS):** Dr. Harold Dauerman, associate professor of medicine, wrote an editorial in the August 6 issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* arguing performing interventional procedures (angioplasty, bypass surgery) soon after heart attacks. The upshot, in Dauerman's view: Quicker is better for these procedures. Dauerman is also currently enrolling patients in a multi-center trial investigating a new medication that may improve outcomes for patients with heart attack who will be undergoing early cardiac catheterization.

In an editorial in the August 7 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Dr. David Krag, SD Ireland professor of surgery, and Takamaru Ashikaga, director of medical biostatistics, argue for larger clinical trials of sentinel-node biopsy, a procedure breast cancer patients undergo to determine whether cancer cells are present in the adjoining lymph nodes. Their paper accompanied a study by the European Institute of Oncology reporting that the commonly performed procedure is safe. But the Vermont researchers say more work is necessary to conclude that the sentinel-node biopsy procedure does not result in reduced survival.

"The pivotal issue regarding the safety of sentinel-node surgery in patients with breast cancer is whether it results in a reduction in survival -- even a relatively small reduction," wrote Krag and Ashikaga.

Another medical study published on June 23 in *Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association* found a new marker for stroke risk. "This study demonstrated that in the elderly, where stroke risk is greatest, a high level of c-reactive protein 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."

**NORTHERN FOREST GRANTS COME IN:** The Northeastern States Research

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### [Invisible Apartheid](#)

After conducting extensive fieldwork for his new book, *Hostels, Sexuality and the Apartheid Legacy*, Glen Elder, an associate professor of geography, knows the suffocating and obscuring aspects of life as a poor South African well. He has also located some sites of ingenuity and hope.

Cooperative, jointly directed by the University of Vermont's School of Natural Resources and the Hubbard Brook Project of the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station, recently announced almost \$1.8 million in research grants to study the Northern Forest and its communities. The grants were made possible through the efforts of U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt) and Judd Gregg (R-NH). The NSRC funded 25 proposals this second year of the partnership, with grants between \$13,000 and \$224,000.

UVM projects funded include studies of recreation and tourism, conservation easements, factors influencing productivity in the forest, community values and discourse, ecological indicators of suburban sprawl, and more.

**A NEW CAT FOR HATS:** UVM's [redesigned athletic logo](#), which debuted during break, is sleeker and sharper than ever. The cooler cat is part of an effort to boost athletic merchandising.

**ZOO FLEW:** The "zoo" designation in UVM e-mail addresses is gone forever; while this doesn't require any changes of campus e-mailers (the system just ignores the "zoo"), it's a good opportunity to remove the unnecessary designation from Web sites and return addresses. And while you're at it, update your anti-virus software here and at home (the software is free from [CIT](#)), lest you unwittingly start sending thousands of messages with the subject line "Re: Screensaver."

**re-VIEWING SUMMER:** Some links to major stories published in *the view* this summer that you may have missed:

- [Theatrical Reality](#): Jeff Moderger, chair of theater, spends summers at a beachside Rhode Island theater, enjoying the sunshine and offering young professionals real-world training.
- [Green Without Sheen](#): Don't expect the environment to become a major issue in the 2004 campaign. Deborah Guber, assistant professor of political science, explains why in *The Grassroots of a Green Revolution*.
- [Summer of Science](#): UVM students win grants to spend a summer of study.
- [Book Asks, Can Good Citizenship Coexist with Strict Religion](#): Jan Feldman, associate professor of political science, explores Lubavitch political culture in her new book.

theview

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

pho 802.656.2005  
fax 802.656.3203

[theview@uvm.edu](mailto:theview@uvm.edu)

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