

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

INTERview: Robert Costanza



The director of the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics found himself in the news shortly after arriving here. (Photo: Lisa Helfert)

Robert Costanza's move to UVM this summer, along with his colleagues in the Gund Institute, coincided with his provocative article in *Science* that magnetized media near and far.

[FULL STORY ▶](#)

PREVIOUS ISSUE

[Colodnys' Gift Music to our Ears](#)

[Long Named Inventor of the Year](#)

[Eleven Alumni to Enter Hall of Fame](#)

[Cohen Named Fleming Director](#)

[Heads Up](#)

[Fogel Era Begins](#)

[Alumnus Sculpts Award for International Group](#)

[Campus Ticket Store Closes](#)

[Lane Series Offers Stellar Season](#)

[Milk of any Ilk Good for Kids](#)

[Volkswagenball, Printmakers at Fleming](#)

First-Year Lecture

Bill Lipke wanted every new student at UVM to share a common intellectual experience. His musings eventually became the President's Lecture Series for First-Year Students.

Art 'Adventure' The *Washington Post* gave "The Adventures of Hamza," the exhibit art history Professor John Seyller curated at the Smithsonian Institution, a rave review.

Moving Experience

Intrepid reporter finds stories at moving-in day. A good cover; he gets to wear the helper tee but doesn't have to move much of the stuff himself.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Aug. 29 Noon
Video: "The Ugly Truth," Allen House 104, 656-8833

Aug. 29 6:30-8 p.m.
Lecture: "What's New in Depression: Adults and Geriatrics," Drs. Paul Newhouse and G. Scott Waterman. Ira Allen Chapel. Sally Ross Nolan, 847-9488

Aug. 31 2 p.m.
Women's Soccer Classic vs. Temple, Centennial Field; Sept. 1 2 p.m. vs. Georgia Southern.

Sept. 2 All day
UVM Holiday

Sept. 3 3-5 p.m.
Convocation: President Fogel, keynote speaker. Ira Allen Chapel. Reception follows in Billings. See article in Events section.

Sept. 4 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Activities Fest: Student clubs, local non-profits. Billings. 656-2060

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

NEWS BRIEFS



Our Common Ground

Hundreds of members of the new class of 2006 gathered on the green for a new ceremony designed to celebrate their induction into the UVM community.

Daniel Mark Fogel, UVM's president, spoke to the students and lit a torch. Faculty and staff lit candles from the torch and then moved into three-deep crush of students, passing the flame and handing out class pins and a printed card with the "Our Common Ground" statement. As the flame spread, moving from faculty and staff to student, and then student to student, the whole area began to glow.

Fogel concluded the ceremony by leading the students in reading "Our Common Ground." The pledge, which celebrates diversity and inquiry, reads in part, "we believe in the transforming power of education and agree to help create and foster an environment where we can discover and reach our true potential." The president then signed a printed version of the statement, then invited the class to add their names. *(Photo: Andy Duback)*

Trustees Focus on Students

At their Aug. 16-17 meetings, members of the University of Vermont Board of Trustees received good news about the class of 2006 and the budget for FY'03.

Academic and Student Programs Committee

The quality and quantity of UVM's incoming Class of 2006 reflects an increase over last year's first-year, first-time students, according to statistics presented by Fred Curran, director of institutional studies. The Class of 2006 comprises 1,325 out-of-state students and 535 Vermonters. Quality of new students is up, as measured by admissions ratings, SAT scores and high school rank percentile, Curran said, with about 170 more undergraduates students enrolled than last year.

Bryan to Share Insights Over Airwaves

Frank Bryan, professor of political science, has signed on as political commentator for WCAX-TV3, where he will provide predictions and his insights into Vermont's upcoming elections.

As he steps into his first regular gig as a pundit, Bryan hopes to focus more on the insight than on the predictions. "I'm uneasy with too much speculation," he says. "Political scientists aren't in the business of guessing what's going on in the backroom; we're in the business of analyzing data."

But after decades spent writing, lecturing and studying Vermont's politics, Bryan is excited about the opportunity to weigh in on a larger stage. "I'm like everyone else: I watch the commentators, and I wonder why they said this or didn't say that," he says. "Now I'm going to be there, speaking my mind, and that's a lot of fun."

Look for his live coverage on primary and election nights and periodic pieces this fall on the men and women who hope to serve in Vermont government. Bryan likely will be reporting on the man he's replacing as WCAX's politico, Tony Gierzynski, associate professor of political science. Gierzynski gave up the position to run for a seat in the Vermont House of Representatives.

Service to Honor Life of Mariafranca Morselli

UVM and the Vermont community will pay tribute to the life of Mariafranca Morselli, professor emerita of botany, in a public memorial service Aug. 29, 10 a.m. to noon, in Ira Allen Chapel. A sugar maple tree will be planted in a memorial ceremony on the Green in front of the Royall Tyler Theater following the service. Morselli, well known for her maple research, died Aug. 20, following an eight-month battle with leukemia. She was 80.

Morselli was born in Milan, Italy and received her doctoral degree in natural sciences and biology from the University of Milan. She joined UVM's botany department in 1964 and later became research professor and director of the university's Maple Research Center.

Widely published in the field of sugar maple research, Morselli received national and international recognition for her work. Her research examined the physiology and biochemistry of sugar maples, maple sap and syrup. She also collaborated with the USDA Forest Service to determine more efficient methods of maple syrup production.

However, the admit rate for first-time, first year students is 8.1 percent lower than last fall – and is, in fact, the lowest it has been since fall 1990, due to an 18 percent increase in applications. Total undergraduate enrollment is estimated at 7,650. This figure includes an increase of 160 returning and readmitted students – an indicator that efforts to increase student retention are paying off, Curran said. Final enrollment statistics will be presented at the trustees' October meeting.

The committee approved new bachelor of science degrees in environmental engineering and in biochemistry, the latter an interdisciplinary program offered through the colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Arts and Sciences and Medicine.

Interim Provost John Bramley also noted a "cogent and cohesive focus" on developing an athletic training/exercise physiology program, an area of surging popularity among students.

Facilities and Technologies Committee

Following the May meeting, an ad-hoc trustee task force, chaired by Jim Pizzagalli, was established to develop a project plan for the Student Commons. An RFP process yielded three top firms, who later were interviewed and toured the campus. The task force will present an update at the October BOT meeting and a final report is due to be presented at the December. If approved, the Student Commons project is expected to be completed between 2006-2007.

Finance and Budget Committee

Trustees received reports on budgets for FY '02 and '03 and a preliminary timeline for FY '04 planning parameters and accepted restricted gifts and grants for the year totaling \$102.2 million, up from \$87.7 million the previous year.

The FY '03 budget has an operating amount of \$371,078,642. Of that, 68 percent is expected to come from general fund and income/expense activities, including tuition, residence system, and Continuing Education; and 35 percent from restricted sources such as grants, contracts, gifts or endowment income. The total budget is expected to increase by 6.7 percent; the general fund portion is budgeted to increase 3.3 percent.

Interim Provost John Bramley reported that the CE budget should be balanced in FY'03, including a \$3 million return to the general fund, but that a \$10.8 million accumulated deficit remains to be paid back.

Advancement and Constituency Committee

Ian deGroot, vice president for development and alumni relations, reported a total of \$27,421,116 in private gifts and commitments raised this year, the second highest ever. The total of 19,934 donors represents an increase of 8.8 percent over the previous year. He said staffing for the campaign is nearly complete, with 10 positions filled during FY '02 and 26 members of a National Campaign Steering Committee recruited, their first meeting scheduled for Sept. 25 in New York.

Detailed article at: [Trustees Meetings](#)

Morselli shared her knowledge with various audiences, from fellow scholars to faculty and staff. She was an advocate for education and encouraged women to pursue careers in the sciences. She received numerous awards throughout her career, including the North American Maple Syrup Council's Outstanding Research Award and the International Maple Syrup Institute's Research Service Award. In 1991, Morselli became the first woman inductee of the National Maple Museum Hall of Fame.

What We Did Last Summer

If you were out of UVM news and e-mail reach this summer, here are some highlights you missed:

- After more than three decades of service to his alma mater, director of athletics **Rick Farnham** will retire in June 2003. He has been the university's top athletic administrator since 1992. He graduated from UVM in 1969 with a degree in physical education, and was a member of the varsity football team as a place kicker and offensive lineman from 1966-68. He served as an assistant football coach in the early 1970s and head coach of men's lacrosse from 1978 to 1982. He was named an assistant director of athletics in 1975. "There have been many memories during my tenure, but the most positive reflections I have are working with the dedicated coaches and the quality student-athletes they continue to bring to the university," Farnham said. Complete story at: [Farnham Retires](#)
- **Erica MacConnell**, one of the best alpine skiers in UVM history, is returning to her alma mater to coach the women's alpine ski team this year. A four-time All-American and the 2001 NCAA Champion in the Giant Slalom, MacConnell won the J. Edward Donnelly Award as the school's top female student-athlete in 2001. As a senior, she won four ski carnival races, finished in the top two in 10 of 12 events and ended her run with an NCAA title and a fourth-place finish in the slalom. "Erica is one of the best skiers we have ever had here at UVM," said Chip LaCasse, director of skiing, said. "She was a two-time captain for me, and she has ability and the experience to work very well with our women's alpine team. I couldn't have hired a better coach, or a better person."
- Alumna **Anna Norgren-Mahon '96** continued her national domination of women's throwing events recently by breaking the American record in the hammer throw for the third time this year. It's tough to pick a single golden moment from Mahon's outstanding season, but one likely suspect is her performance at the 2002 USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships on June 24. With a sell-out crowd watching the meet at Stanford University, Mahon cut loose a 230-foot 6-inch throw that gave her the women's national hammer title

Nominations Sought for Honorary Degree Recipients

The Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees is seeking nominations for worthy recipients of honorary degrees, to be conferred at Commencement 2003. Nominations are due by Sept. 25 and the committee will make submit three to five names to the board of trustees at the Oct. 11-12 meeting.

Nominees should have made outstanding achievement and service in at least one of three areas – the nation and the world; Vermont; or UVM. Of particular interest are candidates in UVM's five strategic priority areas – liberal education, the environment, health, technology and engagement and connectivity.

Submit nominations to Vice Provost Lauck Parke, care of Leslie Logan, president's office, 349 Waterman Building, Burlington, VT, 05601. Your letter should describe how the nominee fits the criteria and why the nominee should be honored by UVM. Please include biographical information and current nominee contact information. As this process will result in numerous highly qualified nominations, it is imperative that nominators keep their nominations confidential.

UVM in the Media

Faculty members continued to grab the attention of the national media this summer. Among the prominent placements were:

- **Rachel Johnson** acting dean CALS, in *The New York Times*. The article focused on her studies of children who drink flavored milks.
- **Robert Manning**, professor of natural resources, and graduate student **Megha Budruk** in the *Boston Globe*, on their surveys of visitors to the Boston Harbor Islands National Park this summer to assess overcrowding.
- **Mark Usher**, assistant professor of classics, commented on a national resurgence of interest in ancient Greece and Rome in *USA Today*.
- The July issue of *Discover* magazine featured comments by Dr. **Paul Newhouse**, associate professor of psychiatry and director of the Clinical Neuroscience Research Unit, regarding the clinical use of nicotine for disorders such as Parkinson's disease.
- A *Washington Post* article about the characteristics of Eastern and Western U.S. forest fires featured comments by **Dale Bergdahl**, professor of natural resources.
- Research on wear-resistant rock conducted by **Paul Bierman**, professor of geology, was cited in the Editors' Choice column of *Science* magazine.
- Research conducted by **Deborah Blom**, assistant professor of anthropology, was included an article on "Empires Across the Andes" in the June issue of *National Geographic* magazine.

over five-time champ Dawn Ellerbe. It also gave her a matched set, an outdoor title to go with the indoor 2002 national championship she won in the 20-lb. weight throw. But those national championships almost pale in comparison to a lengthy trio of throws, the first two at a West Point meet in early June and the final in San Antonio in late July, in which Mahon claimed and twice extended the American record. The mark now stands at 236 feet, 3 inches and holding.

- The **Lawrence Debate Union**, led by **Tuna Snider**, associate professor of theatre, once again hosted the World Debate Institute (20th year), providing an intense educational experience for students and teachers from around the world. Distinguished guests and students came from the Republic of Korea, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Chile, Haiti, Rumania, the UK, Nicaragua, Guyana and Japan. The LDU has been invited to organize and staff a summer debate institute next year in China. The program will be held in English and train Chinese students (and others from all over Asia) in the arts and skills of debating.
- The National Mathematics Association of America held its annual conference at the Sheraton Burlington and at UVM Aug. 1-3. Some 1,200 mathematicians attended. Professors **Dan Archdeacon** and **Roger Cooke** co-presented with outside colleagues the two invited papers at the conference, on discrete methods in geometry and on the history of mathematics, respectively. More information at: [Math Meeting](#)
- The University of Vermont and the city of Burlington held a joint press conference Aug. 23 to acknowledge the progress that has been made in addressing off-campus student behavior and quality of life issues in recent years and to announce a series of new steps the city and university will be taking in these areas. UVM agreed to include an immediate contact with every student receiving a quality of life related citation, rather than waiting for that violation to be adjudicated and to initiate disciplinary action when appropriate; CATS will run service between the campus and downtown Burlington until 2:30 am on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights in an effort to reduce late-night student foot traffic through neighborhoods; police officers from the university and the city will work in concert – via joint patrols – to address off-campus student behavior issues, with Burlington police issuing citations if necessary; and the city will file public nuisance actions in Chittenden Superior Court against landlords and tenants when notices and tickets fail to stop disruptive behavior or blighted conditions. More details at: [UVM-City Agreement](#)

- An article in *The Lancet* prominently featured **Paula Fives-Taylor**, professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, on the association between oral health and heart disease.
- An article by **Robert Nash**, professor of integrated professional studies, "How Sept. 11, 2001, Transformed my Course on Religious Pluralism, Spirituality and Education," was summarized in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.
- Working mothers are affected by a lack of flexibility in their work environments, according to studies conducted by **Elaine McCrate**, associate professor of economics, and reported in the *Boston Globe*.

theview

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[News Briefs](#) | [Events](#) | [Notables](#)
[Print This Issue](#) | [Print Past Issues](#) | [Feedback](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

EVENTS

Fleming Exhibits Davison's Prints

An exhibit at the Fleming Museum pays tribute to Bill Davison, professor of art, who will retire next spring. "Bill Davison: Thirty-five Years of Prints," will be on display through Dec. 15.

Davison's work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art and 24 college and university museums. The select group of prints at the Fleming represents work from throughout his career.

Davison will give a screen printing demonstration on Oct. 9, at 12:15 p.m., in the Fleming's Marble Court.

Medical College Holds Prostate Cancer Symposium

Community members are invited to attend a free informational symposium on prostate cancer Sept. 4, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at the ground-floor gallery of the new Health Science Research facility.

Faculty with expertise and clinical focus in prostate cancer – including a urologic surgeon, a radiation oncologist and a medical oncologist – from UVM/Fletcher Allen Health Care and the Vermont Cancer Center will be in attendance as well as prostate cancer survivors. The symposium will offer direct access to experts and information about ongoing research studies in prostate cancer prevention and treatment

Prostate cancer is the second most common type of cancer in men (after skin cancer) in the United States. More than a quarter of all men diagnosed with cancer each year have prostate cancer.

Information, Martha Bunnell, Department of Surgery/Division of Urology, 847-6108.

Convocation to Mark New Year

Opening Convocation will be held Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 3 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel. Faculty members in academic regalia will process from Royall Tyler Theatre, led by President Daniel Fogel, who will deliver the keynote address.

Other speakers will include Tom Hudspeth, this year's Kidder Award winner and associate professor in natural resources, who will offer opening reflections; and Paula Fives-Taylor, professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, who will offer closing reflections. Dean Maglaris, board of trustees chair, also will make brief remarks. A reception will follow in Billings Student Center.

Information: Leslie Logan, 6-1266 or llogan@zoo.uvm.edu

Fair to Feature Asthma Information

Members of UVM's American Lung Association Asthma Clinical Research Center will staff an information booth, "Got Asthma? Get Facts." at the Champlain Valley Fair in Essex Junction through Sept. 2, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. The exhibit in the Robert E. Miller Expo Center will include free, two-minute breathing tests for asthmatics, asthma experts available for questions, information on UVM's LODO clinical trial on asthma medication, educational displays and literature and daily raffle drawings.

Information about the clinical trial: Mary Lynn, Vermont Lung Center, 847-6982.

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

NOTABLES

August 28-September 3

Awards and Honors

"The Drowned Girl," a manuscript by **Eve Alexandra**, lecturer in English, won the 2002 Stan and Tom Wick Poetry Prize. The award is \$2,000, and the collection will be published by Kent State University Press in the fall of 2003. The judge was Pulitzer Prize winner C.K. Williams. The award is given annually to a poet writing in English who has not yet published a full-length collection of poems. Alexandra also was selected as an emerging poet by the Academy of American Poets. Her work will be featured this fall in their journal, *American Poet* with an essay about her poetry by Lynn Emanuel.

Larry Myott, UVM Extension maple specialist, received the Pursell Pinnacle Award, which recognized his more than four decades of contributions in local and international humanitarian service. The award, given by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, is the highest award given to an active Extension Agent and member in the United States.

The **UVM Horticulture Club** was recognized by the American Society for Horticulture Science as "Most Outstanding Small Club" for 2002 at its annual meeting in Toronto in August. The meeting was held in conjunction with the International Society for Horticultural Science Conference. UVM was ranked number one for horticulture clubs with fewer than 25 active members.

Sam Hand, professor emeritus of history, has received the Ethan Allen Homestead award for "his exemplary service and generous stewardship." Hand has contributed to the homestead's success since its inception. He has delivered many lectures there, served on its board, developed workshops for teachers and donated to its funds.

Publications and Presentation

Extension/Continuing Education faculty member **Anne O'Brien** presented at the American Nurses Association National Conference, in Philadelphia, on July 2, on "E: Learning: A Vision for the Future of Nursing Continuing Education." She introduced the synchronous web classroom and meeting space to nurse leaders from around the country.

Robert Daniels, professor emeritus of history, has published an article, "The Soviet Union in Post-Soviet Perspective," in the June issue of the *Journal of Modern History*. Daniels also was published in the July/August issue of the *New Leader*; his article "Putin's Patient Strategy" appeared there.

Pauline Ratnasingam, assistant professor of business administration, presented a paper titled "The Importance of Technology Trust for B2B Electronic Commerce," in June, at the 15th Bled Electronic Commerce Conference: E-Reality - Construct the E-economy in Bled, Slovenia, and at the School of Business and Economics - Free University of Amsterdam. The paper was written with Paul Pavlou and Yao-Hua Tan; Ratnasingam was the first author. She also was invited as a visiting research scholar at the Free University of Amsterdam in June and July, where she received an award of 6,000 Euros to work on a research project, "Lessons learned from EDI as facilitating conditions for Electronic Markets."

Huck Gutman, professor of English, published an essay, "Dishonesty, Greed and Hypocrisy in Corporate America," in the *Statesman*, (Kolkata) East India's most important newspaper, in July.

Natalie Anne Cartwright, doctoral candidate in mathematics, presented the paper "Pulse Centrovlocity: Asymptotic and FFT Calculations" at the 2002 Ultrawideband, Short Pulse Electromagnetics Conference that was held at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. The paper was coauthored with her advisor, **Kurt Oughstun**, professor of electrical engineering, mathematics and computer science. He is a member of the American Electromagnetics National Committee, which organized the international conference. He also organized and co-chaired three separate sessions on pulse propagation at the meeting.

Helga Schreckenberger, professor of German and director of the Women's Studies program, has published an article, *"Mit der Kamera erzahlen: Xaver Schwarzenbergers Verfilmung von Gerhard Roths Roman Der stille Ozean,"* in *Modern Austrian Literature*, 34 (2001). The paper analyzes the narrative structure of Xaver Schwarzenberger's critically acclaimed film adaptation of a novel by the Austrian writer Gerhard Roth.

July 3

Awards and Honors

Dr. Diane Magrane, associate dean of medical education and professor of obstetrics and gynecology, received a 2002 Distinguished Alumni Award for Achievement from the University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine. Magrane, who received both undergraduate and medical degrees from UI, was honored for her achievements as a visionary leader in medical education and champion of women's health as a clinician and a scholar.

Betsy Greene, associate professor in animal science, recently was appointed to the board of directors of the American Medical Equestrian Association. She will also serve as the technical editor for the AMEA News publication. The AMEA is a non-profit, professional association for research and education in equestrian injuries. It serves as a resource for safety committees and others dealing with rider safety, injuries and recovery. Greene, who also is an Extension equine specialist, was selected by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents as the Northeast Regional "NASA Fellow" and will participate in an expenses-paid, NASA-sponsored, geospatial extension seminar and training in Salt Lake City in October. As one of four national winners, she will also receive a Compaq iPAQ computer, HGIS Software, and a compatible GPS receiver. Greene has helped facilitate the development of a fledgling organization called TROT-VT to bring together equine industry groups and members throughout the state in the development, establishment and maintenance of equine recreational trails on state and public lands. This training would be directly applicable to ongoing statewide collaborative projects regarding identification, mapping and marking of horse-appropriate trails on public and state lands in Vermont.

Linda Brew, library associate professor, received the 2002 Vermont Educational Media Association Award at the Vermont Library Conference held in Burlington in May. The award is presented annually for outstanding support of school librarians and statewide use of educational media in Vermont. Brew was honored for her work as coordinator of UVM's school library media studies sequence, a series of graduate level courses designed to prepare school library specialists. Since 1992, she has worked with Continuing Education and the College of Education and Social Services, where she holds a secondary appointment, to offer the coursework. All courses are now given throughout the state using an innovative combination of on-campus, Vermont Interactive Television and WebCT class meetings. She also was president of the Vermont Library Association, 1999-2000, lead evaluator of the Burlington School District's Library media services, 2000-2001 and member of the state task force on Arts, Language and Literature Endorsement Revision, 2001.

Pauline Ratnasingam, assistant professor of business, has been awarded a National Science Foundation grant of \$60,000 for her research project titled "Inter-organizational Trust in Business to Business Electronic Commerce." She is the principal investigator, and **Rocki-Lee DeWitt**, dean and professor of business administration, is the co-investigator for this project.

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

INTERview: Robert Costanza

Why has the 'ecological economist' been so busy lately? And what is his hybrid discipline all about, anyway?

By Jeff Wakefield



The director of the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics found himself in the news shortly after arriving here. (Photo: Lisa Helfert)

Robert Costanza and his colleagues at the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics made the northward migration from their University of Maryland lab on the Chesapeake Bay to their newly refurbished offices at 590 Main Street offices in early August.

Presumably the timing was intended to coincide with the dog days of a languid Vermont summer. If so, things didn't turn out as planned. A paper

Costanza co-wrote, titled "Economic Reasons for Conserving Wild Nature," published in the Aug. 5 issue of *Science* magazine, had the scholar hopping from the moment the moving van entered the Burlington city limits.

After a barrage of interviews, including a satellite press conference that beamed Costanza from a studio in Rowell to a room full of curious reporters in the UK, the haul was impressive: stories in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Boston Globe*, *Mail*, *Salon*, *AP*, the *Guardian*, and *NPR*. *the view* recently caught up with Costanza to find out what all the fuss is about.

THE VIEW: At the heart of your economic analysis is the idea that ecosystems provide services that have an economic value. What are ecosystem services?

ROBERT COSTANZA: Ecosystem services are the functions of ecosystems that support human welfare either directly or indirectly. They can range from global level services like maintaining climate to more regional services like water supply to the more human direct relationships with ecosystems like food and raw material supply, recreation and cultural amenities. We define 17 different major categories of services that ecosystems are providing that support human welfare.

Could you give an example of how these ecosystem services work economically?

Storm protection is a good example. We've done some studies in Louisiana to show the value coastal wetlands have in moderating and damping storm surge. If those wetlands are eliminated, we have to replace them with a concrete protection system. So these are costs that we're going to have to pay if we allow the services to deteriorate. If you think of the "spaceship Earth" analogy, all the life support functions that are required on the spaceship are the things that ecosystems are doing for us right now. Obviously if we had to build the spaceship, we'd be a little more aware of what those functions were – and what they would cost to build.

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First-Year Lecture

Bill Lipke wanted every new student at UVM to share a common intellectual experience. His musings eventually became the President's Lecture Series for First-Year Students.

Art 'Adventure'

The *Washington Post* gave "The Adventures of Hamza," the exhibit art history Professor John Seyller curated at the Smithsonian Institution, a rave review.

Moving Experience

Intrepid reporter finds stories at moving-in day. A good cover; he gets to wear the helper tee but doesn't have to move much of the stuff himself.

Why is it that only recently begun to take into account the economic contribution made by ecosystem services?

Until fairly recently, we were uninformed about what ecosystems were doing. The emphasis in the last couple decades on global climate change issues has led to a real explosion in the science of understanding the earth as a system. Also, until recently, we were living in a relatively empty world as far as ecosystems and their services are concerned. The population was small and didn't have a significant impact on the provision of these services. Now we've filled up the world. Our impacts are significant and can actually have an effect on the climate, the weather. That's why we need to start considering these things.

Is the goal of your work to get people to think differently about the economics of the way the world works?

Yes. We're trying to tell people it's not the environment versus the economy. The environment supports human welfare and therefore supports the economy more broadly defined; its relationship with marketed good and services is a complex and changing one. We need to think of natural capital as a partner in providing human welfare with built capital and social capital and the other components of our economy.

Some traditional economists have scoffed at the whole notion of assigning a dollar value to ecosystem services and natural capital – which you valued at between \$18 and \$61 trillion in a paper published in *Nature* in 1997 – calling the huge numbers your analysis comes up with pure fantasy. What do you say to that?

We would rather be approximately right than precisely wrong, and certainly saying these factors have no value at all is precisely wrong. Our whole point is not to argue that we have to pick the exact number, but that we have a better estimate than we had to start with. Just based on that crude estimate, the economic value of the natural world and the services it provides are an order of magnitude larger than what we thought. We're saying the number is so big, it's important. That means we should do more work to narrow it down, to be more precise. I don't think the conclusion we should come to is, 'it's so big it can't possibly be true' – and we should stop doing the work.

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[News Briefs](#) | [Events](#) | [Notables](#) | [Feedback](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

Lecture Series Aims to Initiate First-Years

By Kevin Foley

Bill Lipke had a big idea. Shouldn't every new student, he mused, share a common intellectual experience, a personal introduction into the brilliance and passion of the university's finest scholars and teachers, an experience accessible whether an individual student planned to pursue art or organic chemistry?

"I saw it as a sort of a last chance lecture," said the wiry, fast-talking emeritus professor of art history. "You know, as you take your last gasping breath before the grave, you use it to tell what you did and why you loved it."

As the thought wended its way through the administration, drawing wide support, the morbid part of Lipke's vision faded. "Last-chance lectures" formally became the President's Lecture Series for First-Year Students, a series of five Monday night talks intended to convey the pleasures and breadth of intellectual enterprise to the young class of 2006. The lectures are open to all, but first-years can use them to earn course credit. That accessibility, Lipke said, is crucial to his project, even, perhaps especially, as UVM moves to create a more exclusive Honors College.

"It's hard in a university to find a first-year program that does not restrict people because of their academic underachievement," he says. "But even if you get in by the skin of your teeth, you might still catch fire by the end of your first year."

Lipke, who arrived in Burlington in 1970 from Reed College to teach in UVM's experimental program, takes a tinkerer's view of his project to create an intellectual catechism for first-years. A lecture series, he allowed, may not be the best way to achieve the goal. But the professor, who refuses to use the term "retired" to describe his own situation (he prefers "liberated to teach part-time"), is committed to the cause. And he has like-minded colleagues in lofty places.

Setting a tone

The scene is Billings, after hours on Aug. 26. The big hall is rumbling with professorial gossip and the titters of new students. The speaker? None other than Daniel Mark Fogel, founder of the *Henry James Review*, author of *Henry James and the Structure of the Romantic Imagination* and *Covert Identities*, and – yes – the 25th president of the University of Vermont.

The lecture's text was James, and Fogel's long fascination with the writer's gorgeous prose, thick metaphors and subtle psychological insight. The subtext, always crucial in matters of James, was a statement of Fogel's presidential priorities.

Choosing, on the semester's first day, to spend hours scanning images, selecting video clips and concocting a lecture of about 40 Power Point slides ranging from close reading to corny jokes says several things. It says Fogel, for all his administrative prowess, was first and remains still an energetic classroom teacher. It says that UVM offers scholarly reach (a talk from an influential James scholar) and human scale (the scholar greeted first-year students "Lauren and Elizabeth" from the lectern). And, most of all, it says that Fogel will lead a university that strives to deepen and improve the intellectual experience of students from the moment they arrive on campus.

Cowboys and Anglicans

But that commitment is familiar; Fogel has emphasized it again and again in his public appearances. His private thoughts on studying James were more novel.

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Intrepid reporter finds stories at moving-in day. A good cover; he gets to wear the helper tee but doesn't have to move much of the stuff himself.

Which is not to say that the president resorted to displaying his scholarly mojo to impress his Ph.D.'d colleagues and cudgel naive students. The tricky, Bloomian studies of deep structure and hidden influence in his scholarly books were in, er, deep background on Aug. 26. Instead, Fogel tailored his presentation to his intended audience. For the first-years, he brought out a slide of his eight-year-old self and then used his youthful love for the "Ballad of Jesse James" to segue into his later interest in Henry and William James.

As Fogel paced the stage and ranged up the auditorium steps, occasionally pausing to do battle with a recalcitrant wireless mouse, a typewriter-click sound effect accompanied each slide change. The noise, Fogel said, was a reminder that Henry James's health problems forced him to begin dictating his writing in 1897, and that his long and intricate sentences "were meant to be spoken by a living voice."

Fogel's unamplified voice was alive as he ranged from cowboy ballads to transcendentalism to his personal history with the writer at the center of his academic career. Fogel, ever conscious of his audience's youth, described how a sophomore-year project on *The Portrait of a Lady* "worked out the ideas that became my dissertation and my first scholarly book." He then explained how he briefly gave up James, turning his attention to D.H. Lawrence.

"He seemed too sleek and facile," Fogel said, explaining how the passion and "dark currents" of Lawrence briefly swept him away.

He returned to James in graduate school, rediscovering the pleasure of James's dense metaphors, keen insight and "delicious prose." During his talk Fogel quickly traced James's vast literary output and remarkable family. He touched on the crude plots (free spirit crushed by confining world) that James used as framework for explorations of the doubt, uncertainty and ambivalence in the human hearts. Fogel smiled and joked throughout, clearly savoring the rare opportunity to teach.

First-year students got historical background aplenty from Fogel, and maxims, too: "Go to class. It's half the battle" and "Terrible, rash melodrama seems to be a feature of great literature. Think of *Oedipus*. Or *King Lear* and "As James said, 'Try to be one of those on whom nothing is lost.'" But more than that, the hour-plus talk offered insight into the personality and evolving interests of someone who has spent his life in thrall to words and ideas.

And that was Lipke's precise goal. "It's great of Fogel to rise to the bait, because he's got a bazillion other things to do," he said. "There's no remuneration for these lectures; giving one is a generous act."

Plug These Lectures

The first installment of the new Presidential Lecture Series for First-Year Students almost had it all. It offered visuals, sound effects and an enthusiastic speaker. What it lacked, however, was a sufficient quorum of first-year students.

So let your advisees, classes and colleagues know about the series. The lectures are Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in Billings Campus Center Theater. First-years can earn a class credit for attending the lectures by simultaneously enrolling in Art 95. The schedule follows:

- Sept. 9, "Issues in Nutrition: The Hard Truth About Soft Drinks," lecture by Rachel Johnson, acting dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
- Oct. 7, "Mathematics as a Way of Understanding," lecture by Roger L. Cooke, professor of mathematics and George V. Kidder Faculty Award recipient.
- Nov. 4, "What's So Special About Special Education?," Susan E. Hasazi, professor of education and recipient of The Joseph P. Kennedy Award in Education.
- Dec. 2, "Why Art Students Rule," Frank Owen, associate professor of

art and recipient of the Kroepsch-Maurice Award for Teaching Excellence.

Note: All lectures are free and open to the public.

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EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

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FEEDBACK

UVM HOMEPAGE

Seyller in Smithsonian 'Adventure'

By Kevin Foley



These colorful, dynamic Moghul paintings are at the Smithsonian until September 29. The exhibition then opens in Brooklyn on November 1. (Photo courtesy of the Smithsonian.)

The *Washington Post* reporter's lead-in to his review of "The Adventures of Hamza," the exhibit art history Professor John Seyller curated at the Smithsonian Institution, was a bit portentous but nonetheless representative of the prevailing critical opinion.

"The Mask of Tutankhamen," Blake Gopnik began, ticking off a list of artistic masterpieces. "The Mona Lisa. The Sistine ceiling.

The 'Starry Night.' The Hamzanama."

The double-take Gopnik hoped to provoke in his audience – *Hamza-what?* – may disappear as Seyller's show, which gathers 61 glowing manuscript folios from 16th century Persia, draws more strong reviews, hundreds of thousands of visitors and, eventually, leaves the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery for exhibitions at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Royal Academy of Art in London and the Reitberg in Zurich.

But since the Hamzanama isn't quite part of the popular canon of art history yet, Seyller addresses the obvious question.

"The Hamzanama is a Persian text, mostly transmitted in oral form," he explains. "It's an epic story – sort of like Sinbad or Robin Hood – of the uncle of the prophet Muhammad who goes about the Middle East and South Asia championing Islam."

The Smithsonian exhibit is based on huge illustrations of the tale commissioned by the teen-aged Emperor Akbar of India. The paintings, roughly two feet high, are large for the Persian manuscript tradition. They were intended, Seyller says, to be held up by court storytellers as props and scene-setters. The manuscript originally comprised about 1,400 paintings; most are missing or destroyed, so the 61 in Seyller's exhibit represent almost a third of what remain.

The paintings themselves seem to inevitably inspire reviewers to cite Indiana Jones or borrow Seyller's catalog adjective "derring-do." This is only fair: They are bright and action-packed, with marvelous color and detail. "You see very dynamic composition, vigorous painting. They're full of lively action and descriptive detail of natural form," Seyller elaborates. "There's a kind of boldness that is not often found in miniature paintings."

Boldness of subject is complemented by the crisp preservation of the media; the pages in the show, despite their age, are in impeccable condition. "They look like they were painted yesterday," Seyller says. "They capture the immediacy of the artist who made them. They look now as they did in the 16th

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century.”

An epic in images

The professor’s first seminar in graduate school, 25 years ago, concerned the Hamzanama, and he’s generally focused his research on the same general period. Seyller’s interest in the work, in part, reflects his sense that the paintings are “the starting point” for Mughal painting, and a crucial turning point for Indian painting generally.

Given the scope and importance of subject, it’s not surprising to discover the extensive scope of Seyller’s involvement in the area. He began his Hamza project in 1991; in 1993, the former director of the Sackler suggested that he propose an exhibition.

This he did, but exhibiting the paintings required a loan agreement from an Austrian museum – and that, in turn, required several years for completing necessary conservation work and taking care of the legalities and logistics. By 1998, the timing and other venues for the show were arranged, the pieces selected, and Seyller began writing the exhibit catalog and labels. The show finally opened on June 26. It runs at the Smithsonian through September 29, then moves to the Brooklyn Museum to run from November 1 to January 26, 2003.

In the meantime, the reviews and visitors continue to pour in, leaving Seyller somewhat bemused. “It’s rare for us to have such a big audience in this field,” he says.

Perhaps it was the derring-do.

For more information on “The Adventures of Hamzanama”, including an interactive exhibit, see <http://www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions/hamza.htm>.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

A Moving Experience

By Tom Weaver



Students and families really didn't go it alone on move-in day. The new class had ample help from 400 UVM faculty, staff and student volunteers. (Photo: Andy Duback)

A beginning or an ending? Beginning.

A hiking shorts dress code or academic regalia? You have to ask?

As annual university milestones go, I'll take fall semester move-in day over spring graduation anytime.

Thanks to the organization of Pat Brown and friends over at Student Affairs, I'm

happy to be among some 400 staff, students, and faculty volunteering to move a few boxes, answer a couple questions and be a part of the festivities on August 23.

Joining the 2002 UVM Welcome Crew offers a free T-shirt, sandwich, chips, Coke, a morning away from the desk and a window on a momentous day in approximately 5,580 people's lives. (That's 1,860 students multiplied by three for parents and siblings.) As they say, sign me up.

I am here to help others, of course, but I'm also here for myself in large part. What's in it for me? What can I learn from this day? Here are a few things I picked up.

I learn that it is a beautiful and somewhat frightening thing to, within the course of four hours, see a locked and nearly empty dormitory transformed into a place with students in the halls, posters on the walls, and stereos plugged in and cranked.

I learn to appreciate the precision and might of a military Special Forces unit. In yellow T-shirts and camo pants, a group of ROTC students descends upon a pile of cardboard boxes, state-of-the-art plastic storage units, pillows, stereo, microwave, clothes, sports gear, and moments later the area is cleared, the lawn made safe for the next incoming SUV.

I learn that mini-fridges are best left to ROTC Special Forces or the teams of fraternity brothers. A big guy has a refrigerator hefted on his shoulder as he walks toward me. "That looks heavy," I say. "It is," he says. I get out of his way.

I learn that opportunities to teach are everywhere and begin the moment students arrive on our fair campus. My wife wears her department, Math & Stat, under her name, Sheila Weaver, on her tag. Who knows if this is why two roommates ask her whether they should position their loft beds at a 90-degree angle to maximize their floor space, but I like the possibility.

I learn that students are sometimes courageous in their roommate choices. A pair of sisters from Massachusetts, a freshman and a sophomore, will room

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together. Asked if they get along well, they reply, “not really.”

I learn, based on unrigorous research, that there is a “nicely balanced” mix of in-state/out-of-state students down at Harris-Millis. For every Sue from Saxton’s River, there is a Stephanie from the Bronx; for every Justin from Colchester, there’s a Steve from Pittsburgh.

I learn that Steve thinks the weather sucks in Pittsburgh, is here to study engineering and enjoy the snow, and has the sort of thriftiness and pluck that will serve him well in college, having bought a large, hideous painting for \$5 at a flea market with plans to use it as a bulletin board in his dorm room.

I learn that Pat Brown is a wise man. At volunteer orientation he told us that in his hauling experience most students live on the third and fourth floors. Seemingly, no one lives on the first and second floors. This is a joke, of course. A joke or possibly a misperception brought on by oxygen depletion.

I learn that you must climb 52 steps to reach 401 Millis.

I learn that I am getting farther from the age of your traditional college freshman, while my daughters are advancing toward it. I’m 24 years in the distance, and my older daughter is now a mere 5 years away from the morning when she’ll pray that some more of those green-shirted volunteers will carry her stuff up to the room so her parents will finally leave.

I learn that there can be no more fulfilling moment for a member of the UVM Welcome Crew 2002 than this: A dad in shorts and white socks who doesn’t appear to spend a lot of time in shorts and white socks, watches volunteers tote the last of several hundred pounds of his son’s stuff into the hall. He looks down at the bare ground, smiles, and says to no one in particular, “Ba-da-bing,” and walks empty-handed into the dorm.

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