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[Big Night](#)



Members of the largest ever incoming class walk by the newly opened Dudley H. Davis Student Center following convocation. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Sunday night, Aug. 26, was a rare experience for thousands of members of the UVM community who streamed down Main Street as a low late-summer moon hung over the Davis Center. The procession from Patrick Gym to the Green connected two previously separate traditions – convocation and the twilight induction ceremony for UVM's entering class – into one evening-long event this year.

[FULL STORY ►](#)

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

Sept. 3-8, varied times. The 8th Annual International Symposium on VIP, PACAP and Related Peptides Conference hosted by the Neuroscience Investigators at UVM. Sheraton Conference Center; Davis Auditorium (Educational Center); and Equinox Resort in Manchester. Information: 656-4579.

Sept. 4, 2 p.m. Work Study Information Session. Workshop/Training by Sydnee Viray, Career Services. Votey Engineering Building 105. Information: 656-3450.

Sept. 4, Noon. Staff Council Meeting. Livak Ballroom, Davis Student Center. Information: 656-4493.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Big Night

By Thomas Weaver

Article published August 29, 2007



Members of the largest ever incoming class walk by the newly opened Dudley H. Davis Student Center following convocation. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Sunday night, Aug. 26, was a rare experience for thousands of members of the UVM community who streamed down Main Street as a low late-summer moon hung over the Davis Center and the Taiko Drummers pounded out a rhythm from flatbed trucks. The procession from

Patrick Gym to the Green connected two previously separate traditions — convocation and the twilight induction ceremony for UVM's entering class — into one evening-long event this year.

The success of the night hung upon participation, and for a place sometimes knocked for a lack of school spirit, there was a buzz in Patrick Gym as the Class of 2011 filed in grouped by residence hall, carrying banners and wearing their "hall colors." By the time university leaders and guest speaker Ishmael Beah, author of *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, took the stage, the Patrick Gym bleachers and floor were full with, seemingly, the entire entering class present and accounted for.

The leadership of UVM's Student Government Association selected Beah's harrowing personal story of his life as a boy soldier in Sierra Leone as the foundation for UVM's summer reading program. The program is designed to provide a shared intellectual experience for new students and opportunities for discussion on various levels across campus during the first semester.

Learning and change

In addition to reading two passages from his book aloud, Beah shared his thoughts on the purpose of education. He encouraged students to avoid going through the motions of college simply because it is what is expected of them or purely as training for a career.

"I want to change your minds," Beah said. "For me, education is a way to

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discover yourself and your place in the world.” He urged students to question their own values and morals, respect perspectives that differ from their own and develop the ability to compromise. He also spoke to the importance of learning about other countries and cultures. “You don’t need to wait for a crisis to know that other people exist,” Beah said.

The young author described his own personal educational journey at Oberlin College, recalling his uncertainty at his freshman convocation ceremony, wondering if he would last even a semester. And he shared memories of sitting in a composition class, doubtful that his writing was up to college standards. The first assignment: “Write about how you played as a child.”

Beah paused, then said, “I thought, ‘Well, that would be interesting.’”

Beah entered Oberlin with thoughts that he should be a doctor or an accountant, but he followed his interests to a major in political science and discovered his gifts as a writer. “Whatever you learn, also learn how to apply it to your life, to changing your community, to changing yourself, to finding what it means to be part of a greater humanity,” he said at the close of his comments.

Candles and ice cream

Following convocation, the Class of 2011 and many others in Patrick Gym walked through University Heights and down Main Street, which was closed to traffic for the procession. As darkness fell over the Green, students formed a large circle, lit candles, and joined President Fogel in reading a pledge affirming the values of the university community.

Candles extinguished, the evening wasn’t over yet as students flooded the new Dudley H. Davis Center for a “green carpet” premiere offering a first look at the new building that will be at the core of campus life.

Students grabbed up little cups of Ben & Jerry’s samples, strips of spinach and Thai peanut tortillas from New World Tortilla, and samples from Vermont food producers on the second floor. They walked up to the top level for a peek at the expansive ballroom, which is still in the works. And on the ground floor, they lined up for a book signing with Ishmael Beah.

As students filled the new building, Jeff Davis, an alumnus of UVM’s Class of 1974, and son of the building’s namesake, the late Dudley H. Davis, took in the scene. Support from the Davis family and friends was key to getting the student center built, and Jeff Davis said it was wonderful seeing the building swing into use on what would have been his father’s 86th birthday.

Noting that Dudley Davis took part in the building’s early design before his death in November 2004, Jeff Davis said, “My father cared about young people and would be pleased to see this.”

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UVM HOMEPAGE

New Faculty Sampler

By Kevin Foley

Article published August 28, 2007

Every year, *the view* seeks out a handful of new UVM faculty and chats with them about who they are and what they do.

We don't pick a "representative group" — in truth, the well over 100 new lecturers, researchers and tenure-track professors invited to the 2007 new faculty orientation are a splendidly varied community, united mostly by accomplishment and employer — but we try to reduce the inevitable gaping omissions by speaking with people working in a range of disciplines.

To that end, sketches of some of UVM's newest teachers follow. But our welcome extends to *everyone* beginning or continuing careers here. May your work be rich and rewarding, your students curious and bright.

Name: Ken Bauer

UVM Title: Assistant Professor of Community Development and Applied Economics

Training: Ph.D. in development studies, University of Oxford

Research interests: Bauer's work focuses on the Himalayan and Tibetan areas of China, and involves a combination of "applied grassroots international development work" and academic research investigating how pastoral, small scale communities adapt to rapid change and development interventions by nation states. His book, *High Frontiers* (Columbia University Press, 2004), focuses on the people of Dolpo, a relatively remote outpost of Tibetan-speaking pastoralists. The book investigates how the group manages natural resources and adapts to rapid changes imposed from the outside. The project, Bauer says, also "involved a lot of great trekking of high mountain passes and traveling with these wandering folk." Bauer first developed his passion for the region as a Brown undergraduate on a study-abroad trip to Nepal in 1990.

Other activities: Bauer has worked extensively as an environmental and development consultant for organizations including the World Wildlife Fund. He is the co-founder and president of a small nonprofit, [Drokpa](#), a word meaning "nomad" in Tibetan, which has run a number of programs in alternative energy, community health, education and social

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entrepreneurship. The small group tries, Bauer says, "to seed good ideas." He adds, "We're not the organization that gives \$50,000, but we can help them write a grant that gets \$50,000."

Why he chose UVM: The lifestyle and location was appealing, but Bauer found himself highly attracted to UVM's land-grant identity. "It's large enough to draw students from all over the country, but there's a real mandate to have community connections." He looks forward to teaching marketing through CDAE next semester, overseeing students as they work on marketing plans for local nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

Quirky personal fact: Knows Tibetan, Nepalese and German

Name: Jennifer Hurley

UVM title: Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Special Education in the Department of Integrated and Professional Studies

Training: Ph.D. in special education, Vanderbilt University

Research interests: Hurley's current work breaks down into two distinct lines. The first examines social competence interventions within inclusive settings. "In English, that means, do families or personnel in the field like (the interventions)?" she says. When children with special needs attend schools alongside children who do not have disabilities (one quality of an "inclusive" setting), they may need support from teachers and aides to help them to relate socially with other children. How do the people directly involved assess different strategies for providing this help? Her second line of interest relates to practitioner and family preferences for inclusive setting characteristics. This gets at some big issues in special education, Hurley says. "How are we going to spend our money? How do we train our personnel? It's important to go to families and professionals in the field and see what *they* want..."

Why she chose UVM: "This is a community where I felt like I could raise my family and settle down," she says. "I like the faculty here; I feel that they have similar, very progressive views about young children." She also enjoys the "funky feel" of UVM undergraduates. "This is it. This is where I want to be. I'm not moving again," she says.

Quirky personal fact: Hurley is a veteran candlemaker. Once, she traded her creations for books at a local store; now they're for personal use or gifts.

Name: Nikki Khanna

UVM title: Assistant Professor of Sociology

Training: Ph.D. in sociology, Emory University

Research interests: Khanna is interested in race and ethnic relations and social psychology, and her sociological research draws from both areas. Her recent work has focused on biracial and multi-racial identity. "I'm interested in looking at how identity is formed and negotiated in day-to-day situations," she says. For her master's, she surveyed adults with one Asian and one white parent — how did they identify their own ethnicity, and what influenced the decision? It turned out that other people played an important role, as did what an individual looks like. When Khanna continued her research with interviews of black-white individuals in the South, she found that appearance was far less relevant for them. "There were folks who ranged from looking highly white to looking quite black, but it didn't matter," she says. "The majority of people invoked the 'one-drop' rule." (The old Southern idea that an individual with any African ancestry, however distant, was "black.") Khanna says that the sociology of bi- and multi-ethnic people is growing "explosively," and she finds the progress exciting.

Personal interests: She truly values day-to-day activities at this moment, especially spending time with her two-year-old daughter. Khanna also loves movies, and is an avid traveler with family in India, Australia and Europe.

Why she chose UVM: "There were so many great people in the department," she says, recalling her interview visit. "I had such amazing conversations about my research, their research, and also teaching... We sort of clicked." She had never visited Vermont before (the trip was during winter), and the weather was a bit of shock to a born-and-raised Southerner. But teaching-research balance and great colleagues easily topped climate.

Quirky personal fact: Enjoys reality shows. You name one, Khanna has watched it. Sometimes they even emerge in her classrooms. "I have used some clips in my sociology courses," she says. So is watching *The Real World* or *Survivor* more than a guilty pleasure? Could it be a way of looking at social relationships and practicing a kind of sociology? "That's what I tell myself, anyway," she says.

Name: Hugh Marble III

Training: Ph.D. in finance, University of Florida

UVM title: Assistant Professor of Business Administration

Research interests: Broadly speaking, much of Marble's work involves corporate leverage, or borrowing, and debt contracts — he studies how much firms borrow and how they structure that debt. This work goes in many different directions, of course, but one angle Marble has looked at very closely is credit ratings. "Traditional financial theory assumes that when a firm's credit rating changes it changes because something changes

with the firm's underlying operations; for example, its business climate improves or worsens," Marble says. But after studying the anatomy of credit-rating changes, Marble found that managers of companies often take steps (by, say, borrowing more money to purchase another company) to deliberately lower or raise their ratings. "There's a natural tendency to think of that in a negative way... but there are lots of firms that might be historically underleveraged, and there are a lot of reasons why firms might (seek to adjust their ratings) that aren't covered by traditional financial theory," he says. Likewise, private-sector managers might have an interest in keeping their credit ratings *higher* than is truly optimal for their firm; Marble's work seeks to untangle how and why these decisions are made with the end of making finance models more reflective of the ways real businesses operate.

Personal interests: Cooking and eating (probably in that order), mountain biking, travel.

Why he chose UVM: Despite the February factor, Marble's visit to campus was great, and it quickly became clear which job offer he would accept. Now that he's here, he is still thrilled. "Whether it's in a university or another setting, there's a difference from recruiting and when you're an employee — and that's not the case here. Given how much I enjoyed the time I spent here in February, the fact that I've been positively surprised in the last week is really amazing."

Quirky personal fact: Marble's French is, let us say, a little short of native — but whether it's Paris or, soon, Montreal and Quebec City, he's ready to plunge in and converse. "Even in Paris, people are receptive and appreciative. It's fun to just dive in," he says.

Name: Walter Roberts III

UVM title: Assistant Professor of Classics

Training: Ph.D. in classics, University of California at Berkeley

Research interests: Much of Roberts' work traces the history of western political thought to its classical antecedents. His dissertation teased out the abiding relevance of Cicero's "On Duties," examining the ways in which Cicero's ideas have been confirmed, rejected or modified by subsequent political reflection. Most recently, Roberts has been looking at the tensions between idealism and realism, and is looking forward to teaching a TAP class at UVM that covers some of the same ground. Do ancient ideas of virtue apply to current political action? Was Cicero correct that virtue is expedient, and expedience virtuous? Or was Machiavelli right that the opposite was true, that it is only expedient to *appear* virtuous? "There's a whole human paradigm of weighing the consequences, risks and status of moral integrity," Roberts says. "The way that plays out today is a paradigm that any individual has to face... we

see it in everything from Barry Bonds to the Tour de France, in which athletes cheat to achieve."

Personal interests: Roberts became hooked on the classics when he had an "epiphany" reading Aristotle in Greek; the slow work of translation illuminated Aristotle's ideas in surprising, exciting clarity. Roberts, of course, remains a meticulous and enthusiastic reader. He also likes riding his road and mountain bikes, going bowling and to the movies, and fishing and camping.

Why he chose UVM: "UVM is attractive for its emphasis on good teaching and its concern for the undergraduates," Roberts says. "Even though I loved Berkeley as a place to do graduate research, it was just basically accepted... that your research was the focus. (Nonetheless, as a graduate instructor there Roberts was officially honored as a "hero" for his work with undergraduates.) The classes will be smaller here, my encounters with students will be closer."

Quirky personal fact: His favorite places on the planet are wildly different: the cafés of Paris, and the mountains of Glacier National Park in Montana.

Name: John Voight

UVM title: Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics

Training: Ph.D. in mathematics, University of California at Berkeley

Research interests: Voight's research is in computational algebraic geometry and computational number theory. Described at an extremely simplified level, Voight's work in number theory engages a fundamental subject: prime numbers. These are figures that can only be divided by themselves and one. "There are infinitely many of them, and if you look at them as they are distributed along all positive numbers, they seem almost randomly distributed... what distinguishes a prime and composite number is very mysterious," he says. Huge prime numbers serve as the basis for cryptographic systems that encrypt data on the Internet and elsewhere, and their quirks have occupied mathematicians since Ancient Greece. The work demands immense concentration, especially when Voight is immersed in a problem. "You almost lose the corporeal aspect of life," he says of the feeling of pondering a difficult problem. "It's hard to find that Zen-like concentration with e-mails bouncing in and our multitasking world, but you have to find it some way. You'll think about something and you won't figure it out, but you're subconscious is working constantly, and then something tangential will suddenly start you toward a solution."

Personal interests: He finished a triathlon earlier this summer. Weather and orthopedics permitting, he enjoys mixing up running, cycling and swimming. He's also looking forward to getting back to downhill skiing.

Why he chose UVM: "I came to UVM for a math conference about two years preceding when I was interviewed. It was in July, it was sunny and summer was fully verdant. The conference was great, but so were the bike paths and the waterfront and the special things that make Vermont what it is. It's almost metaphysical, but as I was walking around campus, I had a mysterious feeling that I would be back," he says. And he is, looking forward to an intellectual environment that's an "optimal mix" of the small liberal arts college he attended as an undergraduate and the "huge free-for-all" of Berkeley.

Quirky personal fact: As an enthusiastic vegetarian cook — at times, *really* enthusiastic — Voight has no problem with elaborate meals; he's even made his own seitan from scratch. And, yes, his many spices are all arranged in alphabetical order. "I'm a mathematician," he shrugs.

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theview

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Trustworthy LANDS

Community land trusts are expanding explosively and facing growing complexities with few resources. A pilot UVM program is putting students in position to help.

By Joshua Brown

Article published August 28, 2007



Got LANDS? Though the summer was filled with hard work, student interns found time for silliness. Program co-leader and field naturalist James Barnes goes eyeball-to-camera in a cornfield owned by the Richmond Land Trust while intern Jessica DeBiasio laughs. (Photo: Joshua Brown) [See more photos of the LANDS interns.](#)

In a cornfield by the Winooski River, just south of the Richmond exit on Interstate 89, Jessica DeBiasio '07 is giving a tour of her backpack. Nine other UVM students sit sweating in the shade, swatting mosquitoes. A wooden sign along nearby Johnnie Brook Road reads "Rochford-DelBianco Preserve — Richmond Land Trust."

DeBiasio holds up a device that looks like an outsized cell phone. It's a GPS satellite receiver that plots locations to an on-screen map. Next, she holds up a small flipbook. "The Nature Conservancy's guide to invasive plants in Vermont," she says. Then out comes a well-thumbed book, *Wetland, Woodland, Wildland*, a guide to the state's natural communities. Notepads, a compass, a paper map showing the property boundary around the cornfield, a metal auger for taking soil samples and a tube of bug spray complete the tour.

With these tools, this group of undergraduates — the first interns in the LANDS program, an experimental partnership between UVM and the Student Conservation Association, funded by the Northeastern States Research Cooperative and the High Meadows Fund — are trying to solve a problem that faces land trusts across the nation. "They realize: OK, we own this land," explains James Barnes, a graduate student co-leading the program, "Now what?"

'A different game'

It's a problem born of success. Land trusts are booming. In 1950, there were 53 land trusts in the United States. In 2005, there were 1,667 land trusts, the Land Trust Alliance reports. From 2000 to 2005, the total



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acres conserved by land trusts increased by 54 percent to 37 million acres. In these same five years, local and state land trusts more than tripled their pace of land conservation. Many of these, like the Richmond Land Trust, are small, volunteer-run organizations intent on saving special places in their towns — natural areas, wildlife corridors, wetlands, farms, woodlots and historic sites.

But acquiring land is a different game than managing it. And satisfying the complex monitoring requirements of easements — an increasingly popular form of land protection in which a “bundle” of development rights are sold to a land trust, but not full ownership — only adds to the challenge.

“Often land trusts don’t know much about a parcel or have the staff or funds or skills to monitor it, to make a plan for how to use it, to know the threats — like invasive species or illegal logging — to do the annual checks, to really get a handle on what they have and how they’d like to manage it,” Barnes says. “We think students can help them.”

Kevin Case, a UVM graduate alumnus, agrees. As the Northeast Conservation Manager for the Land Trust Alliance, he sees many land trusts in the region trying to make a transition from being land buyers to land stewards. “What you’re seeing is small, focused land trusts,” he says, “really needing the support and the knowledge that this program is bringing.”

And small towns face the same challenge. Take Shelburne. Here, the LANDS interns conducted an assessment of the LaPlatte Nature Park and developed a report for the town’s conservation committee.

“Municipalities often have few funds available for natural resources stewardship,” notes Sean MacFaden, a member of the committee and a UVM research specialist. “We were pleased to be part of an educational program that, at no cost to the town, would provide much-needed field data.”

“The final product is very impressive,” he says. “It provides detailed resource descriptions, maps, photographs, and realistic prescriptions for managing trails, invasive plants, streambank erosion and grassland bird habitat.”

College of the corn

To get ready, the LANDS interns spent June training in some fundamental tasks of land stewardship — like finding boundaries, identifying plants and animals, tracing trails, using mapping software and writing site descriptions. Throughout July, they put these skills to the test, first for the Jericho-Underhill Land Trust, then Shelburne, and, finally, through an assessment of four preserves for the Richmond Land Trust.

Including this cornfield. Delia Delongchamp, the other graduate student leading the program, points across the sea of green stalks to where trees rise up along the edge of the river. “That’s one of the remnant silver-

maple ostrich-fern natural communities left in Chittenden County," she says, and, though it's only a half-acre of the whole parcel, "that's why they have this particular area protected. They lease this field to a farmer, which brings in some income and keeps it as open space, but they haven't decided what to do next."

So the Richmond Land Trust's board asked the LANDS interns to help them consider their options. "People use this place to cross-country ski. It's a popular fishing spot. It could have a boat access," Delongchamp says, as two interns waded toward us through the tall plants, "there's a lot of potential here." But the students' final report was bleak about the rampage of invasive plants there, including Bishop's Weed that "completely blankets the forest floor, crowding out natural floodplain species," they wrote.

New needs, new directions

With the onslaught of not just exotic species, but rapid land development, climate change, and a host of other ecological problems, land trusts are being pushed to be more sophisticated. "Land trusts need to get into the sciences end of conservation more," says Deane Wang, a professor in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, who led the creation of the LANDS program in collaboration with his friend, Flip Hagood, a vice-president for the Student Conservation Association. "That's where conservation is headed."

And at the same time, land trusts are being pushed to be more professional. The national Land Trust Alliance is starting to develop an accreditation system for land trusts, and the IRS is taking a tougher look at the appraisals and methods of land trusts. Which means better studies, more reports, closer tabs.

But as they're pushed to improve, and as their property portfolios grow, many land trusts wrestle with the obdurate fact that budgets and staff (if they have staff at all) remain small.

All of which bodes well for the LANDS program. Though Deane Wang is sober about the challenge of making the economics of the program work — once it expands beyond this Rubenstein School-sponsored pilot phase — the SCA's Flip Hagood, pointing to his organization's 50 years of experience in connecting student interns to conservation organizations, sees a marketable niche. "I've already challenged the dean (Don DeHayes) to expand" the program, he says at the LANDS final public presentation several weeks after the cornfield tour, "to double the number of students next year."

And it looks good for the LANDS interns too. Though all had taken relevant courses before this summer, like forestry or environmental studies, "there are very few graduates who know a lot about private land conservation, reading easements, the actual stuff you do on the ground when you work in a land trust," Barnes says. "You don't take classes in that. LANDS provides this training ground, and, we think, will give these

guys an edge in the job market.”

[See more photos of the LANDS interns on *the view's* Flickr page.](#)

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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UVM HOMEPAGE

\$2.15 Million Grant Will Fuel Diet, Obesity Study

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published August 28, 2007

Recent statistics show that more than 80 percent of people with type 2 diabetes are overweight, but the condition can also develop in some people who are not. A new \$2.15 million grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases will enable C. Lawrence Kien, Mary K. Davignon Green and Gold Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, to conduct clinical research to determine whether or not a specific type of dietary fat plays a role in the development of type 2 diabetes. The study will take place at the UVM General Clinical Research Center at Fletcher Allen Health Care.

Type 2 diabetes is believed to develop, in part, when the hormone insulin becomes dysfunctional and does not adequately allow blood sugar to enter the muscle cells at the normal rate. Defective genetic activity — either inherited or due to dietary factors or lack of exercise — can impair how fat is burned in the muscle cell. This can lead to an accumulation of “toxic fats” that prevent the insulin from fulfilling its responsibility of signaling the muscle cell to allow more glucose to enter it.

Preliminary research conducted by Kien suggests that increasing dietary saturated fat, such as that found in meat, butter and palm oil, lowers the rate of fat-burning, especially in females. It also lowers the number of ingested calories required to maintain body weight by lowering the energy cost of performing exercise, especially in males. Additional data from Duke University’s Deborah Muoio, a collaborator with Kien on this new study, show that fat and exercise alter the activity of genes found in the mitochondria in cells, which are responsible for directing the use of fat and energy. Data from rodent studies also suggest that over a period of weeks, a higher intake of monounsaturated fat may dampen the activity of an enzyme called SCD1, which produces monounsaturated fat from saturated fat. Animals that have lower SCD1 activity are protected from obesity and are able to burn fat and energy at an increased rate.

Kien’s clinical study will involve 28 healthy, non-obese adults, 18 to 40 years of age, who will be fed experimental diets in random order. After baseline studies, participants will consume both a high monounsaturated fat/low saturated fat diet, as well as a high saturated fat diet. At the end of each of the experimental diets, the participants will undergo studies of the chemical structure of muscle and fat, of the genes in muscle that regulate energy and fat burning, fat and calorie burning measurements, as well as tests of insulin action and secretion.

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Through this new study, Kien hopes to uncover important new information regarding how the composition of dietary fat alters the functions of muscle and whether it plays a central role in the development of obesity, type 2 diabetes, and both inherited and age-related metabolic diseases.

In addition to colleagues at Duke University, Kien's co-investigators on the grant also include Janice Bunn, UVM research assistant professor of mathematics, and members of the Pennington Biomedical Research Center at Louisiana State University.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Task Force Will Assess Recreation Facility Needs

By Jon Reidel

Article published August 28, 2007

Students returning to campus in the fall of 1961 were greeted by a state-of-the-art athletic facility. Today, despite some remodeling and expansion over the years, the Patrick-Forbush-Gutterson complex is aging and quite possibly inadequate.

So Carl Lisman '67, chair of the board of trustees, is looking forward and thinking the time has come to build a facility worthy of the growing student population (almost three times larger than the 3,400 students that attended in his day) and their seemingly insatiable appetite for recreation-based facilities.

"It's pretty clear that UVM has outgrown its physical wellness facilities," Lisman says. "We haven't made any significant upgrades in four decades. It's time to consider what should be done about this. We're far behind our peers and competitor schools who have recognized that students need recreational facilities."

Hence Lisman's call for the creation of The Campus Life Task Force II (the first task force investigated the need for a student center) to look into the matter. The task force, which will present its finding to trustees in February, is chaired by Ian Boyce '89 and includes students, faculty, staff and trustees. Its charge: determine the level of need, if any, for an activities center with a focus on the areas of event planning, health and well-being, college athletics, and student activities such as intramurals and exercise space.

"We'll meet with constituents from all those groups and use an evaluative measure to compare our physical space to our peer groups and to determine our needs as a campus," says Boyce, a former hockey captain and member of the UVM Athletic Hall of Fame. "There's a perception out there that this is only about building an arena, but we have a lot of other needs as well. We want to present all the possibilities to the board. This is a formidable challenge."

Based on their findings, the task force will offer recommendations on three of any project's most critical components: cost, size and location. A 2004 arena study committee, chaired by Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development Kevin Dorn, showed a need but has as yet yielded no concrete results. Different locations were discussed (behind the Sheraton and the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds), but with



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UVM as the main tenant and funding entity, the possible location most talked about has changed to the parking lot between Gutterson (capacity 3,335) and Patrick (4,035) with parts of those facilities being eliminated depending on size.

Early indications based on a preliminary report by an outside consulting firm and on a tour given to Task Force members are that UVM's current athletic facilities range from barely adequate to completely insufficient.

As the only state in the nation without a major civic center, the university could benefit financially from hosting major concerts and events. In terms of possible seating capacity of a new center, figures have ranged from 5,000 to 10,000. UVM Athletic Director Bob Corran believes somewhere between those numbers would be most appropriate based on recent attendance and internal polling and projections.

"When you look at Hockey East, we have one of the oldest and smallest arenas in the league. We have the oldest facility in America East for basketball," Corran says. "We really felt like we could have sold 6,000 tickets (per game in 2006), and that's not including students. In basketball (during the 2005 season) we thought we could have sold similar kinds of numbers relative to the size of the facility. So, we have confidence in being able to sell 6,000 to 6,500 seats for hockey and 4,500 to 5,000 in basketball."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Kwame Anthony Appiah to Speak Sept. 5

By The View Staff

Article published August 28, 2007

Kwame Anthony Appiah, Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Philosophy and the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University, will give a talk titled "What's So Special About Religious Disputes?" on Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 4 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. His appearance is sponsored by the Department of Philosophy through its Donald R. Brown Memorial Lecture program.

Appiah, a philosopher, novelist and leading public intellectual, has published extensively, his work ranging from technical philosophy to political theory to African and African-American literary and cultural studies. According to his online biography, his major current work has to do with the philosophical foundations of liberalism and with questions of method in arriving at knowledge about values.

He is author of many books, most recently *Thinking It Through*, *The Ethics of Identity*, *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers* and the forthcoming *Experiments in Ethics*.



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UVM HOMEPAGE

'Green' Dudley H. Davis Center Opens

By Amanda Waite

Article published August 28, 2007

As the campus community returned for the start of a new academic year, the Dudley H. Davis Student Center, the \$61 million campus centerpiece more than a decade in the making, celebrated its opening in a "green carpet" premiere — a nod to the building's environmentally friendly design — on Sunday, Aug. 26.

Designed to serve as a much-needed central gathering space, the 186,000-square-foot Davis Center is home to a variety of student organizations, from the Student Government Association to the student-run newspaper and radio station, The Cynic and WRUV; office space for the Department of Student Life; dining options, including local vendor New World Tortilla and music venue Brennan's Pub and Bistro; vendor space for student-run, local product vendor Growing Vermont and a full-service Chittenden Bank branch; and meeting rooms, including a student game room and the fourth floor ballroom, just to name a few.

Though the building's 4.3 acres of space, 1,500 tons of structural steel, 280,000 bricks, and 23,000 tons of concrete are a testament to its impressive size, its environmental footprint has been greatly reduced through efforts to obtain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification in green design.

The process for attaining LEED certification is multi-tiered, with registration and submission of design plans comprising the first steps. Now that the building is complete, UVM will submit construction documentation for review, and the U.S. Green Building Council will award credits that determine the level of LEED certification obtained. The university is hoping to achieve "silver" certification for the building. If achieved, the Davis Center will be the first silver-rated, LEED-certified student center in the United States. Notification of certification is expected by the end of the year.

"It's an exciting time for the university community as we come together to celebrate the opening of the new academic year and the opening of our new student center," says President Daniel Mark Fogel, whose ten-year vision for the university, presented to the Board of Trustees in 2003, included a new student commons as the brick-and-mortar centerpiece of the campus' transformation.

"Not only is the Davis Center one of the greenest, most environmentally responsible student union in the nation," says Fogel, "it provides a

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central location on campus for the many formal and informal interactions among students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members, visitors, and others that are central to the college experience.”

During the construction of the Davis Center, efforts were made to use recycled and locally produced materials whenever possible — the building’s 62,000 slate shingles were made in Fair Haven, Vt., and 65 percent of all materials were manufactured within 500 miles — three times the LEED requirement. Ninety-two percent of all construction waste, including 94 percent of Carrigan Building’s weight, which was deconstructed to make way for the new building, was reused or recycled.

Features like the building’s green roof, automatic faucets, and computerized energy management and lighting control system are anticipated to result in a 52 percent reduction in electricity usage and 40 percent estimated reduction in water cost. The green roof and radiant heating system under the loading dock will reduce stormwater runoff and help keep salt pollution of the remaining runoff low. Efforts to reduce the building’s environmental footprint will become educational experiences themselves as the monitoring system begins generating and displaying data about environmental technologies at work in the building.

Other features, including ample bicycle racks; showers on every floor for alternative transportation commuters; many south-facing windows for maximization of daylight; and benches, located in the remodeled tunnel that runs under Main Street, made from trees harvested on UVM land, promote and celebrate a green lifestyle.

Though the building’s construction is complete and all four floors are open to visitors, landscaping and finishing work will continue through mid-October.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Summer News Highlights

By Kevin Foley

Article published August 28, 2007

For those who have been away or out of the loop, *the view* offers a quick summary of the summer's biggest campus news below. Most "full story" links will redirect viewers to the University Communications website. Use your back button to return.

CAMPUS CENTER OPENS: The Dudley H. Davis Student Center, the \$61 million campus centerpiece more than a decade in the making, celebrated its opening in a "green carpet" premiere — a nod to the building's environmentally friendly design — on Sunday, Aug. 26. Full story: ['Green' Dudley H. Davis Student Center Opens](#)

UVM ENROLLMENT BREAKS RECORDS: UVM begins the academic year with record-breaking total enrollment numbers, an accomplishment UVM has achieved every year for the past three years. Nearly 12,300 total students will attend the university this fall, including approximately 9,450 undergraduates, 1,370 graduate students, 410 medical students and 1,050 non-degree students. Approximately 800 ALANA (Asian-American, Latino, African-American and Native American) students are enrolled this fall.

EDUCATION PROFESSOR EARNS FELLOWSHIP: Associate Professor Penny Bishop, director of the UVM College of Education and Social Services' middle level teacher education program, has received an Ian Axford Fellowship in Public Policy from the government of New Zealand. The fellowships offer outstanding U.S. mid-career professionals six months to research, travel and gain practical experience in New Zealand. Bishop has devoted her career to studying best practices for schooling early adolescents, widely considered the "last best chance" to reach students at risk of failure. Bishop's interest in New Zealand is based on what she calls "compelling similarities and stark differences" between our countries' middle educational trajectories. Full story: [Education Prof Receives Prestigious Fellowship](#)

VERMONT TRANSPORTATION REPORT RELEASED: In 2006, more than \$1 billion was spent in Vermont purchasing gasoline and diesel fuel—more than double what was spent four years earlier—while fuel use has remained about the same, a recent report by the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition shows. "The Vermont Transportation Energy Report is an aggregation of data from various sources that is intended to serve as an annual report card," notes Lisa Aultman-Hall, director of the University of Vermont's new Transportation Center that hosts the Clean Cities

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Coalition. One key goal of the report, published July 27, is to provide policymakers with clear information on fuel consumption trends, car and truck purchases, and public opinion about transportation that can be used as a basis for policy discussions. Complete report (PDF format): [Vermont Transportation Energy Report](#)

RAUL HILBERG DIES: Raul Hilberg, professor emeritus of political science and one of the world's foremost Holocaust scholars, died Saturday, Aug. 4. He was 81. The family said the cause of death was a recurrence of lung cancer, which Hilberg battled despite the fact he had never been a smoker. A faculty member from 1956 to 1991, Hilberg initiated the Holocaust Studies program. He was the author of *The Destruction of the European Jews*, (1961), which meticulously documents the Nazi killings of more than 5 million Jews and is regarded by Holocaust scholars as a masterwork in the field. The University established its Center for Holocaust Studies in 1992 to honor Hilberg's teaching and research accomplishments. Full story: [Professor Emeritus Raul Hilberg, Eminent Holocaust Scholar, Dies at 81](#)

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE DEAN NAMED: Dr. Frederick C. Morin III became the 17th Dean of the College of Medicine on Aug. 25. Morin came to Vermont from the University of Buffalo, a member of the State University of New York, where he was A. Conger Goodyear Professor and Chair of Pediatrics in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and Chief of Pediatric Service for Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo and Kaleida Health.

"Rick Morin is an accomplished researcher, physician, educator, scholar and administrator, and we are all extremely pleased to have such strong leadership for the College of Medicine," said UVM president Daniel Mark Fogel. "He is passionately committed to our education, research and service missions, and will be a key collaborator as we work toward establishing UVM as the nation's premier small public research university." Full story: [Buffalo Pediatrics Chief Named Dean of UVM College of Medicine](#)

DIAMOND NAMED VP FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS:

Marcus Diamond, a career higher education fundraising professional with more than 30 years' experience in university development and public affairs was named vice president for development and alumni relations. Diamond comes to the university from Bryn Mawr College, where he has been chief advancement officer and secretary of the college since 1999. His career also includes positions as director of development and associate dean for development and alumni relations at the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, The Johns Hopkins University (1982-1999); assistant dean for development in the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago (1979-1982); and grants officer and research and teaching associate at Indiana University, Bloomington (1974-1979). Full story: [Marcus M. Diamond Named UVM VP for Development and Alumni Relations](#)

UVM VOWS TO BECOME CLIMATE NEUTRAL: Daniel Mark Fogel, president of the University of Vermont, has signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, putting UVM among a vanguard of colleges and universities that have pledged to sharply reduce and eventually eliminate their institutions' global warming emissions and to accelerate research and educational efforts designed to equip society to re-stabilize the earth's climate.

The pledge commits UVM to developing a comprehensive institutional action plan to make the institution climate neutral. To date 294 American colleges and universities have signed the pledge. Full story: [UVM Makes Pledge to Become 'Climate Neutral'](#)

SUMMER ORIENTATION WASTES NOT, WANTS NOT: It was a daunting goal and big effort, but organizers of the Summer Orientation program pulled it off: They served more than 10,000 meals to students and parents at six, two-day sessions in June with virtually no waste. The secret (among others)? Compostable utensils and serving supplies. Full story: [UVM Summer Orientation Serves up Near Zero-Waste Event](#)

KROEPSCH-MAURICE WINNERS NAMED: The Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award recipients for the 2007-2008 academic year are Martin Thaler, professor of theater, whose work focuses on costume design and construction; Emily Bernard, associate professor of English, who teaches and researches African-American literature; Mandar Dewoolkar, assistant professor of engineering, whose research explores soil mechanics and earthquake engineering; and Robert Erickson, senior lecturer in computer science, who has taught a variety of courses from "Introduction to World Wide Web Design" to "Java Development."

GROSS NAMED TOP MATH PROF: Kenneth Gross, professor of mathematics and education, was named Outstanding College Mathematics Teacher in New England by the Mathematics Association of America on May 28. Full story: [Gross Named Top New England College Math Professor](#)

NEW ENROLLMENT HEAD NAMED: Christopher Lucier is UVM's vice president for enrollment management. Lucier had been director of recruitment and operations in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor since 2006. He was senior associate director of recruitment and marketing in the office from 2001 to 2006. Full story: [UVM Names Lucier VP for Enrollment Management](#)

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Multicultural Education Expert Inspires, Warns Faculty

By Lee Ann Cox

Article published August 29, 2007

James A. Banks related a quick anecdote, one he shares with students, one that's ground into his memory though he tells it without anger or trace of bitterness. Sadness, perhaps. Walking five miles down Southern roads to get to school, the bus that drives the white kids splashes him and his young black friends with mud as it passes. "And I'm not *that* old," he reminds his classes — this was just a few decades ago.

"I strongly believe in sharing stories," Banks told University of Vermont faculty gathered to hear what the man widely regarded as a founder of multicultural education had to say about integrating diversity into their teaching. "I share a lot about growing up in the South; it legitimizes the students' sharing," he added. "We (as professors) bring experience in addition to content knowledge and that should be shared. The medium is the message."

Banks, the Kerry and Linda Killinger Professor of Diversity Studies and Director of the Center for Multicultural Education at the University of Washington, gave two faculty development presentations on Aug. 22, "Citizenship Education, Diversity, and Curriculum Transformation." The timing was no accident. UVM is currently welcoming the class of 2011, the first cohort of students who must meet a new six-credit diversity graduation requirement, which was passed by the Faculty Senate and then trustees in the spring of 2006.

"This was the board formally acknowledging," President Daniel Mark Fogel said in his introduction to Banks' presentation, "the link between diversity and excellence."

Dozens of existing courses have been "grandparented" in and several more have been approved by the diversity curriculum review committee. But the hope is that diversity ideals will infuse into many courses; they are not the exclusive domain of sociology or history. "Each discipline," said Banks, "has a way to get it in, even in physics."

The presentation is one of many outlets the UVM Office of Multicultural Affairs hopes to promote change at the university. "The idea is to create a forum to help faculty think more deeply about how to infuse diversity into our curriculum," said Wanda Heading-Grant, interim vice provost for multicultural affairs. "It's one phase in getting the university closer to where we want to be in terms of diversity."

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Anticipate arguments

But Banks also warned that talking about tough issues like race relations is inevitably fraught; expect it. When questioned about whether faculty should be sharing their own value structure, Banks responded that we can't hide who we are. It's embedded in every class — the readings a professor chooses, the content of the syllabus. Those values, however, cannot be enforced, he said.

"One value in a university setting should be democracy," Banks said.

"You can't say we must have freedom but then deny it (to those with opposing views)." He encouraged dividing students into small groups so that they feel more free to speak honestly. "Expect tensions," Banks said. "Expect arguments. This is always slippery terrain... And you don't win them all, but some of the most resistant students change the most."

Banks was also careful to say that faculty should be thoughtful about the kinds of service learning or experiential educational experiences they assign. He cited as examples the probable result of bringing a white person to his black church with their three-hour service or a class to the inner city. "They will come back with their stereotypes enforced," Banks said, "if you don't give the intellectual set of frameworks they need to understand what they're seeing."

Ultimately, Banks believes, the effort is worth it, and he praised UVM for passing the diversity requirement, putting it "at the forefront of university education." Near the end of the day's final discussion session, someone asked about a study by Harvard's Robert Putnam that suggested that cities with the most ethnic and racial diversity had the lowest levels of civic engagement — a potential argument against multiculturalism. Familiar with the broad thesis of the research, though not the details and methodology of the study, Banks' response was typically jovial but emphatic:

"Diversity by itself isn't necessarily good," he said. "We need to work to make diversity work. The world is diverse; we can't get rid of it, so we might as well work at it."

"Say, 'Amen' everybody," Banks laughed. "It encourages me to keep speaking."

James Banks has written numerous books on these topics, but he also highly recommended the following reading list for additional thoughts:

The Nature of Prejudice by Gordon Willard Allport

Identity in Democracy by Amy Gutman

Mirror to America by John Hope Franklin

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Summer Seminars Fuel Faculty Collaboration

By Amanda Waite

Article published August 29, 2007

Earlier this month, as professors were preparing to resume their posts, authoritatively poised at the head of the classroom, a group of 15 faculty members took a break from their well-earned status as experts to spend three days as students again, seated eagerly around the seminar table.

On Aug. 13, 14 and 15, faculty from across the disciplines gathered to participate in the fourth annual Honors College-sponsored faculty seminar program to discuss the acquisition of information and knowledge in higher education, with a particular focus on the ways in which the internet has affected learning.

This year's seminars were hosted by the library, with six library faculty members presenting on a range of topics, including sessions on "The Social Consequences of Information Inequality" with Laurie Kutner, library associate professor, and "The Collective Intelligence Wave: Students as Information Producers and Knowledge Shapers" with Keith Gresham, library professor.

"As a coordinator, I found it a really rich experience," says Trina Magi, library associate professor and presenter of the first session of the program, "Is Academic Freedom for Students, too?" "The seminar format means that everybody is making significant contributions to the program, and it was really interesting to hear the perspectives of faculty from so many disciplines who have different teaching styles."

Participants' diverse backgrounds fueled a rich discussion on writing and internet sources in library associate professor Jeffrey Marshall's "Turning Facts and Data into Knowledge — Research Projects and Critical Thinking." While professors agreed that writing is an important tool for critical thinking — even chemistry professor Willem Leenstra assigns annotation to help his students more deeply understand the subject — many expressed frustration at the ways in which the internet can make short-hand work of completing writing assignments.

Marshall, who is director of Special Collections, asked his peers whether assigning reading from primary sources, such as those found in the trove of diaries, letters and manuscripts in his department, would help students develop their critical thinking skills by consulting texts not found online. Elizabeth Smith, assistant professor of anthropology, pointed out that for her upcoming course on gender in the Middle East, students will be reading and referencing Middle Easterners' blogs as primary sources,

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thus complicating the notion of what constitutes a primary source and where to find them in a post-internet world.

“What I hope was most rewarding for participants,” says Magi, “was on the last day, when they were presenting their ideas on how to incorporate all of the things we had been discussing and how to change assignments based on what they learned...I know it was a real treat for us as library faculty to be able to showcase the information issues we grapple with and to demonstrate to our faculty colleagues how relevant our work is to all of the disciplines on campus.”

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Schweitzer Fellows Hold "COM Cares Day" Community Service Event

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published August 29, 2007

More than 100 first- and second-year medical students from the University of Vermont volunteered at a total of 14 community agencies as part of the first-ever "COM Cares Day," an event organized by the 2007-08 Schweitzer Fellows at UVM and held Aug. 25.

Following a welcome, brief presentation by NH/VT Schweitzer Fellows Program director Joseph O'Connell and an orientation at the College of Medicine, students traveled to service agencies to work from 9 a.m. until noon. Designed to encourage students to serve the community and provide team-building opportunities, the days' activities included staffing the donor booth and working as the blood donor mascot at the American Red Cross; repainting hallways and exam rooms at Community Health Center of Burlington's Safe Harbor and Pearl Street clinics; and accepting and sorting donations, painting a new fence and organizing a warehouse at ReCycle North.

"The event went phenomenally well," said co-organizer and Schweitzer Fellow David Longstreth. "We're going to work on getting surveys out to the agencies and putting together a summary, as well as laying the ground work for next year's Fellows' COM Cares Day event."

Ruthann Hackett of the United Way of Chittenden County helped connect students with area agencies for the event. Participating organizations included: Community Health Center's Safe Harbor Clinic and Pearl Street Clinic; The Haunted Forest at the Catamount Center; Northeast Disabled Athletic Association; Vermont Children's Hospital; ReCycle North; Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility; Northern Lights; Outright Vermont; King Street Youth Center; American Red Cross; Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program; Burlington Community and Economic Development Office/Parks and Recreation; Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties; and the Intervale Community Gardens.

One of only seven such programs in the U.S., the NH/VT Schweitzer Fellows Program annually selects a group of health-science and legal students to carry out health-related service projects that address the needs of underserved members of their communities. Seven UVM medical students were chosen as 2007-08 Schweitzer Fellows to work with a community agency and carry out a health-related service project of at least 200 hours.

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In a cornfield by the Winooski River, just south of the Richmond exit on Interstate 89, Jessica DeBiasio '07 is giving a tour of her backpack. Nine other UVM students sit sweating in the shade, swatting mosquitoes. A wooden sign nearby reads "Rochford-DelBianco Preserve — Richmond Land Trust."

The 2007-08 Schweitzer Fellows, who are all members of the College of Medicine's Class of 2010, and their respective projects are:

- **Trevor Pour**, whose project builds upon the current "Teen Futures" curriculum at Burlington, Vermont's King Street Youth Center, which lacked formal programming for health education. Pour will be piloting a bi-weekly, peer-led health program designed to educate teens ages 13 to 18 about issues ranging from proper nutrition to the dangers of cigarette smoking to the importance of wearing bike helmets and seatbelts. Small-group program meetings will take place in the evenings at the King Street Youth Center. Each week, a different teen will be responsible for leading the session. Pour hopes that the program will become a permanent addition to King Street's teen curriculum.
- **Luz Felix-Marquez**, whose project involves the implementation of a mobile clinic that will service migrant workers on Vermont's dairy farms. The clinic's primary focus will be to provide screenings, medical services, referrals to the closest health center, and health education.
- **David Longstroth and Greta Spottswood** will be working with Outright Vermont and University Pediatrics to build a partnership between the two organizations in an effort to bridge the needs of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning) adolescents and the medical community in Burlington, Vermont. They aim to share what they learn with the UVM medical school community and Vermont pediatricians.
- **Arash Saemi and Bledi Zaku** will be working with the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Project on a project designed to facilitate communication and understanding between area health care providers and the Meskhetian Turkish population. Starting with an assessment of Burlington, Vermont-based health care providers' current understanding of Meskhetian Turkish culture, they will work to identify the practices, beliefs and customs that might act as barriers to refugees seeking medical care. Their project also includes collaboration with the College of Medicine Information Services (COMIS) office to develop an interactive learning module for health care providers via the online College of Medicine Education Tools (COMET) system.
- **Heidi Schumacher**, whose project will take place at the Community Health Center of Burlington's Pearl Street Clinic, will conduct a needs assessment and develop an action plan for the Clinic, which serves homeless teens in Burlington. Her goal is to enable the clinic to better serve its clients through improved outreach, collaboration with other community agencies, utilization of existing community resources, and diversity of program offerings. She also aims to establish a lasting connection between the Clinic and the College of Medicine that includes ongoing opportunities for medical student involvement.

For more information, visit [the NH/VT Schweitzer Fellows Program](#).

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Fitness Registration Starting, Classes Free Aug. 30-31

By The View Staff

Article published August 28, 2007

UVM Campus Recreation is offering group fitness classes this semester, including yoga in three flavors (blend, flow and power), pilates, cycling and more. A semester pass is \$75 for faculty and staff, and potential participants are invited to try classes out free for the remainder of this week, Aug. 30-31.

Class descriptions, a daily schedule and online registration information is available at [Group Fitness Schedule and Information](#).

Information: 656-8058

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theview

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Labor Day Comedy Show Set For Sept. 3

By Jon Reidel

Article published August 29, 2007

The University's Week of Welcome, a series of programs and events celebrating the start of the academic year, will culminate with the Fourth Annual Labor Day Comedy Show on Sept. 3 at Patrick Gymnasium at 8 p.m., featuring comedian and actor Zach Galifianakis.

The event, sponsored by the Department of Student Life Campus Programs Office and organized by students in UVM Program Board and Week of Welcome staff coordinators, is open to the public and has traditionally brought students together to start the new academic year as well as attracted members of the local community.

Since receiving acclaim at the 2007 "Just for Laughs Festival" in Montreal and for video spoofs of Kanye West, Galifianakis' quirky sense of humor has brought him national acclaim. He also starred in Comedy Central's *Dog Bites Man* and appeared in the snowboard film *Out Cold*. Galifianakis is known for his unique live shows featuring musical numbers on the grand piano interspersed with comedy.

Tickets are available online at [UVM Tickets](#) and the UVM Athletic Ticket Office. Student discounts apply to all area colleges for those with proper ID. For more information, go to [UVM Bored](#) or contact Melissa Sandoval, coordinator of campus programs, at 656-2060.



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UVM HOMEPAGE

New Fleming Shows Open Sept. 4

By Chris Dissinger

Article published August 29, 2007

Art... and crafts?: This crocheted installation by Alisa Dworsky is part of the Fleming Museum's upcoming exhibition, "Material Pursuits." (Photo: Fleming Museum)

Have you seen the brilliant yellow, crocheted rope sculptures enveloping several of the trees that line the Fleming Museum's Colchester Avenue Lawn? They are artworks by Montpelier native Alisa Dworsky that are part of a large new exhibition featuring cutting-edge

contemporary art created using materials and techniques more commonly associated with crafts.

The new show, [Material Pursuits](#), opens Tuesday, Sept. 4 and features 14 artists from across the country whose complex works defy their commonplace materials. Composed of such things as pipe cleaners, shoelaces, Sculpey, thread spools, fabric flowers and folded paper, these works of art reflect a new fascination, even obsession, with the particular and mundane, while offering views that range from whimsical to critical.

In addition to Dworsky's lawn sculptures, the museum has commissioned two other site-specific projects, one that fills the museum's Marble Court with an enormous web of tied shoelaces, yarn and fabric, and another that wraps deconstructed chenille bedspreads around the gallery's walls.

Also opening on Sept. 4 is [Heel to Toe: Shoes from the Fleming Museum](#). Whether viewed as personal, decorative or utilitarian, footwear is an intimate reflection of personal identity and broader cultural values. Selected from the hundreds of pairs of shoes in the Fleming Museum collections and featuring several loans from local footwear purveyors, this exhibition offers a cross-cultural perspective on how humans have used footwear to mold identity and display social values.

On Sept. 13, the Fleming Museum opens *En Route: Travel Photography* from UVM Collections. Featuring late 19th and early 20th century travel photographs from the Fleming's collection as well as stereographic

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images from UVM Special Collections, the exhibition recalls a time when the medium of photography and the industry of global tourism emerged in tandem with one another. As much a document of the photographer's personal aesthetic and the Western cultural imagination as of the people and places that they depicted, travel photographs offer a view onto the ways that this new medium both reflected and shaped the experiences of Western tourists.

Fleming Museum will host a special opening reception for its fall exhibitions on Thursday, Sept. 20 from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. All of the exhibitions close on Dec. 14. Admission is free to UVM faculty, staff and students.

Generous support for "Material Pursuits" has been provided by the Kalkin Family Exhibitions Endowment Fund; the 1675 Foundation; Dr. Burnett Rawson '37, M.D. '39, in honor of his late wife, Jessie Rawson; David Beitzel '80; the Walter Cerf Exhibitions Fund; Stephen Kelly '85; Creative Habitat at Ben Franklin, South Burlington, Vermont; and, for support of Alisa Dworsky's installation, the Successful Communities Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation. This exhibition is supported in part by the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Support for "Heel to Toe: Footwear from the Fleming Museum" has been provided by Stella, a place to buy shoes, and The Shoe Shop, both of Burlington.

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August 29, 2007

Publications and Presentations

Peter Callas, research associate professor of mathematics and statistics, Dr. **Tania Bertsch**, associate professor of medicine and director of clerkships, and Dr. **Alan Rubin**, research associate professor of medicine, co-authored a telemedicine paper titled "Effectiveness of Lectures Attended Via Interactive Videoconferencing vs. In-Person in Preparing Third-Year Internal Medicine Clerkship Students for Clinical Practice Examinations (CPX)" in the winter 2007 *Teaching and Learning in Medicine*.

Dr. **Jan Carney**, research professor of medicine and associate dean for public health, has had five articles accepted for national meeting presentations. The first is her own original research; the other four are the result of medical student public health projects supervised by Carney and other faculty and community advisors. Information about the articles follows:

A paper co-authored by Carney, **Tiffany Delaney**, College of Medicine director of admissions, and **Karen Richardson-Nassif**, College of Medicine associate dean for faculty and staff development and diversity, titled "What Do They Think? Faculty and Student Knowledge and Attitudes Regarding Public Health in the Medical Curriculum," was accepted for poster presentation at the Association of American Medical Colleges meeting Nov. 5, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

An abstract titled "Implementing a Physical Exercise Curriculum for Residents of Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center," and co-authored by third-year medical students **Travis Beville**, **Anna Bramley**, **Katherine Costello**, **Jonathan Donson**, **Patrick Lenehan**, **Gilda Ngo**, **Virginia Van Duyne**, and Carney, was accepted for presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) 135th Annual Meeting in November 2007, Washington DC.

Third-year medical students **Yamara Coutinho-Sledge**, **Scott Davis**, **Katie Fillion**, **Brian Hagan**, **Mark Lee**, **Elizabeth Pierson**, **Melisa Poulos**, **Stacy Strouse**, Dr. **Gerald Davis**, professor of medicine, and Carney will present their abstract titled "Understanding the Public's Perception and Knowledge of Asthma" at the APHA annual meeting.

An abstract titled "Are We Getting the Message About Mercury? — A Survey to Assess Public Awareness of Mercury in Fish" by third-year

medical students **William Damsky**, **Elizabeth Duncan**, **Noreen Flanagan**, **Karen Fromhold**, **Dung Huynh**, **Russell Meyer**, **Jordan Sax**, **Thomas Delaney**, research/analyst in pediatrics, and Carney was accepted for presentation to the annual meeting.

An abstract co-authored by third-year medical students **Grace Chi**, **Andrew Wright**, **John Elias**, **Lorna Grant**, **Heather Lesage**, **Elisabeth Jannicky**, **Jodi McQuillen**, **Curtis Witcher**, **Sarah Russell**, Rubin and Carney, titled "Taking Steps Toward Improving Foot Care," was accepted for presentation at the APHA 2007 Annual Meeting.

Domenico Grasso, dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, was the keynote speaker of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc. Region 1's Leadership Workshop and Board of Governors Meeting in Burlington on Aug. 10. He discussed "Holistic Engineering."

Several College of Medicine faculty and staff presented at the Third Annual American Association of Medical Colleges Physician Workforce Research Conference on May 3, 2007 in Bethesda, Md. **Laurie Hurowitz**, research assistant professor of medicine and Area Health Education Centers Freeman Program administrator, and **Elizabeth Cote**, AHEC program director, were invited to sit on a panel and present a poster of an abstract. **Dr. John P. Fogarty**, College of Medicine interim dean, and **Dr. Mildred A. Reardon**, Freeman Medical Scholars Program administrator, delivered a presentation titled "Case Study: Current Challenges to Recruit and Retain Physicians in a Rural State."

In June, **Hurowitz** also presented on "Statewide Promotion of Healthier Weight — Primary Care Initiative" at the Public Health Systems Research Interest Group meeting in conjunction with the Academy Health Annual Research Meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Maria Ramos, assistant professor of pathology and general internal medicine fellow in clinical research, is the lead author on an analysis of the possible connection between certain diabetes medications and cancer titled "Association between cancer prevalence and use of thiazolidinediones (TZDs): results from the Vermont Diabetes Information System" published in *BMC Medicine* on June 21, 2007. Co-authors are **Dr. Charles MacLean**, associate professor of medicine, and **Dr. Benjamin Littenberg**, Henry and Carleen Tufo Professor of Medicine and director of general internal medicine. The article was reported on by several news outlets.

Jane Okech, assistant professor of counselor education and counseling, is lead author of an article co-authored with Deborah Rubel of Oregon State University, titled "Diversity competent group work supervision: An application of the supervision of group work model (SGW)." This article is published in the September issue of the *Journal for Specialists in Group Work*.

An article by **Richard Single**, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics, and seven other researchers titled "Global diversity and evidence for co-evolution of KIR and HLA" will appear in *Nature Genetics* in September. The paper is available at [Single article](#).

Awards and Honors

Joshua Bongard, assistant professor of computer science, was recognized by *Technology Review* magazine as one of the world's top innovators under the age of 35 for his work on a new generation of intelligent machines. Selected from more than 300 nominees by a panel of expert judges and the editorial staff of *Technology Review*, the TR35 is an elite group of accomplished young innovators who exemplify the spirit of innovation in business, technology and the arts.

The following medical students in the Class of 2008 were recently elected members of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. These students have been recognized by the faculty and their peers for excellence in academic performance, leadership, and commitment to public service. The newly elected students are: **Whitney Casares; Derek Chase; Sara Delaporta; Kerrin DePeter; Jonathan Hall; Colby Halsey; Elizabeth Hunt; Carl Kapadia; Caitlin Kennedy; Lee Jae Morse; Shannon O'Keefe; Gulnar Pothiawala; Anne Rowland; Danielle Williams; and Carolyn Yoo.** **Curtis Ventriss**, professor of public policy at the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, was invited to give a research lecture at Oxford University at St. Anne's College and at the historic Oxford Union. His August research lecture was titled, "The Efficacy of Policy Instruments in Confronting Global Warming" and was delivered to an audience of scientists and social scientists throughout Europe and the U.S.

UVM alumnus **Michael Fortney** was recently hired by UVM's Instrumentation and Model Facility, which designs and fabricates custom research instrumentation for the UVM research community. Fortney brings a variety of new skills to IMF, including wireless sensor/sensor network design, computer programming in several languages, computerized design techniques, stand-alone microcomputer/controller systems, printed circuit board design and assembly, and equipment debug and repair.

Robbie Pfeufer Kahn, associate professor of sociology, is a recipient of the The Humane Society of the United States' eighth annual Animals and Society Course Awards, which recognize academic excellence in courses focusing on the relationship between people and animals. Kahn was a winner of the Award for Innovation in the Study of Animals and Humans for her course "Sociology of Animals and Society." According to the judges, "The unconventional, writing intensive approach of this course, which asks students to compare the perspectives of authors writing about animals through a meticulous study of language, brings a new dimension to the study of animals within the contemporary sociology curriculum.

The students' reliance on inductive study of language to discern and evaluate authors' perspectives has special meaning in a subject area so highly contested as the human-animal relationship."

Dr. Marshall "Buzz" Land, clinical professor of pediatrics, has been named the first R. James McKay, Jr., M.D. Green & Gold Professor in Pediatrics. Named in honor of R. James McKay, Jr., the first full-time pediatric faculty member and chair of pediatrics at the College of Medicine, the R. James McKay, Jr., M.D., Green & Gold Professor is supported by an endowment established by McKay's friends and colleagues as a testimony to his service to UVM, Vermont and the United States.

Rae Nishi, professor of anatomy and neurobiology and director of the graduate program in neuroscience, received a 2007 Innovation Award grant from Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation to conduct research on "TrkB Signaling in the Genesis of Murine Neuroblastoma." This summer, Nishi served as co-director of a summer course in neurobiology at MBL — the Marine Biological Laboratory — in Woods Hole, Mass. Founded in 1888 as an independent institution for teaching and research, MBL is the oldest private marine laboratory in the western hemisphere. A total of 49 Nobel laureates have worked or studied at MBL.

Dale Thibault and **Kathy Carolin** were honored as co-recipients of the first College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Excellence in Staff Support at the annual CAS staff luncheon on June 27. Thibault, business manager for the Department of Communication Sciences and the Eleanor M. Luse Center Clinic, will complete 25 years of service to UVM this September, including 14 years in communication sciences. Carolin serves as an administrative coordinator for the Department of History.

June 27, 2007

Publications and Presentations

Dr. **Robert Karp**, assistant professor of medicine, will represent the College of Medicine on July 11-13 at the first annual Geriatric Consensus Conference, sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges and Harvard Medical School in St Louis. The meeting will focus on confirming and expanding what is known about geriatrics education, working to develop agreement and goals regarding the outcomes all graduating medical students should attain, and strategies to implement them.

Awards and Honors

Marque Moffett, a graduate student in Biological and Biomedical Sciences at the College of Medicine, received one of twelve 2007 Student Research Achievement Awards from the Biophysical Society in recognition of her poster presentation in the "Biological Fluorescence" subcategory at The Society's 51st Annual Meeting in March. The 8,000-member Biophysical