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Planetary Business Plan



The president of Earth Inc. smiles at the assembled board of directors. After two weeks of hard work, the completed business plan, bylaws, and mission statement sit in a stack on the large table. "We have articles of incorporation," he says. All the vice presidents clap.

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Graduating from the university's Extension-run Master Gardener Program comes with expectations. Although retreating to the backyard to quietly tend the family garden isn't discouraged, the hope is that graduates will help the program build stronger communities through sustainable gardening.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

August 30, 9 p.m. Event: Kevin Roberts, author of the best-selling book "Munchies" will give advice on how to cook good meals in your dorm. Campus Center Theatre. Information: 656-2060.

August 31, 9 p.m. Play: *N*W*C: The Race Show*. Started on the campus at UCLA, the play deals head-on with the stereotypes that words evoke. Ira Allen Chapel. Information: 656-2060.

September 4, 7 p.m. Event: Bob Saget brings his standup act to UVM. Ira Allen. Tickets: \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door for general public and \$10 for students. Information: 656-2060.

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Planetary Business Plan

By Joshua Brown

Article published Aug 29, 2006



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Is this the start-up of a new landscaping company? A scene from a dystopian novel about the takeover of the world by a mega-corporation?

Neither. It’s a class. The president is Robert Costanza, the Gordon Gund Professor of Ecological Economics, the vice presidents and board members are students from UVM and the Vermont Law School, and the Earth is now a legally recognized corporation.

“We have 10 founding members [the students in the class],” says Matt Sayre, a UVM graduate student — and, now, Earth Inc.’s vice-president for operations. He continues with a hint of a smile, “which means we have 6 billion open seats.”

Next stop NASDAQ?

Walking on the boundary between role-playing and reality, between political theater and gritty problem solving, the students in Costanza’s “Earth Inc.” summer course meet each day to ask questions like: If the earth were a business, how should it be structured? Who are the shareholders? What would the planetary balance sheet look like if we include “natural capital” (such as clean water and pollination services), and “social capital” in the form of communities, trust, and democracy?

While the class is a “lively thought experiment,” notes Peter Van Schaick, a local attorney auditing the course, the students’ work to create a company that would continue to promote these kinds of questions is not

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merely an academic exercise. Under the motto, “redefining profit for a sustainable future,” the articles of incorporation are official and legal in the state of Vermont.

“Human activities on planet Earth,” Costanza notes, “are like a ship at sea with no one at the helm, or a corporation with no management.”

“We’re seriously asking: could we claim the common property assets of the world — the public spaces, open ocean, ecosystem services — on behalf of all the shareholders of Earth Inc., which is everyone on the planet,” Costanza says.

“We’re working outside the box,” he says. “Usually people claim rights over things as private property, but we don’t want to claim it as private property, we want to claim the global commons as public property — as stewards for the public.”

An ongoing effort

For now, the traditional assets of the company are the \$75 that Costanza donated to pay the secretary of state’s fee for filing paperwork. But most of the students have volunteered to continue with the effort beyond the Aug. 3 end of the course and make Earth Inc. into an ongoing nonprofit company affiliated with UVM’s Gund Institute for Ecological Economics.

Tapping on laptop computers amidst a clutter of Starbucks water bottles, Silk Creamer, and Dunkin’ Donuts wrappers, the students wrestle with the odd juxtaposition of how their tiny company can take on global problems. Shane Neldner, a Vermont Law School student, asks, “How do you make an organization where it’s all of us?”

Earth Inc’s first project will likely be to issue a “shareholders report,” a glossy assessment of the well-being of the planet using the lexicon of the corporate balance sheet and annual report. Targeted at businesses as well as environmental groups, the report will present a quantified estimate of the value of the earth’s natural, social and built capital that extends beyond conventional measures like GDP.

But legal action may be part of their strategy too. “Claiming all the common assets of the planet for all of the people of the planet is a significant reframing of property rights that might well be controversial, but not be without legal justification,” Van Schiack contends. “Consider the alternative: continuing to allow corporations to ‘ride for free’ by using those assets without paying a penny.”

Assessing the value of corporations is a fundamental tension within the course. On the one hand, Costanza chose *Gangs of America* as a key textbook; this critique by Ted Nace argues that the rise of large corporations in the 19th and 20th centuries has led to the “disabling of democracy.”

On the other hand, “we all agree that we aren’t anti-business,” says

Sayre, who started and co-owns a “green” commercial cleaning service. “I think everybody in the course recognizes that corporations perform an important function in society. It’s just that some of the things that corporations are doing are...” and here he pauses to carefully select the next word, “...uneconomic.”

And how did Earth Inc. itself gain permission from the state of Vermont to form?

“Generally, the states are loose about chartering corporations, the result of a century-old ‘race to the bottom,’ [to attract companies and their tax revenue],” Van Schaick answers. Chartering Earth Inc. was a “no-brainer,” he says, “because the standards are so meaningless. Functionally, there is no state supervision [of who can form a corporation].”

Except for the name. “Before we get final approval, we may need to change the name to Planet Earth Inc.,” says Costanza, “because the state said there are a lot of other companies with Earth in their name. We’ll have to wait and see. They said ‘why don’t you be “Earth something” too?’ I said, ‘we’d rather just be Earth.’”

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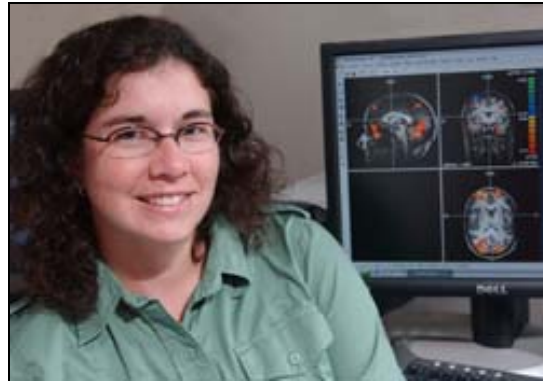
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UVM HOMEPAGE

New Fall Faculty

By Amanda Waite

Article published Aug 30, 2006



Julie Dumas, new research assistant professor of psychiatry, uses brain imaging to study the effects of hormones and cholinergic drugs on brain activity.
(Photo: Bill DiLillo)

While a lot of attention is given to the experience of the first-year student on college campuses, it can be easy to forget about the other first-year members of our community – our new faculty.

This fall, 62 full-time, tenure track professors have joined

the faculty. While we weren't able to speak with each of them, the view connected with the following scholars who, in between unpacking boxes, teaching their first classes at UVM, and learning the layout of a new campus, were able to tell us a bit about who they are, where they've been, and why they're here.

New faculty: Paul Besaw, assistant professor

Department: Music

Training: M.F.A., University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Recent experience: Assistant professor, California State University, Sacramento

Research interests: "I'm a choreographer, so mostly I'm pursuing theatre and dance projects where I'm choreographing and directing, and the scholarly research I'll be doing will be relevant to performance."

Outside interests: "Well, I'm pretty interested in my new two-month-old daughter."

Quirky personal fact: "I once had to play a possum, panda bear, polar bear, and wolf all in one dance production. When playing the wolf, the choreographer had us do this move where we lifted our legs to the side.

Bad idea – the kids watching the show would almost always make a peeing sound when we did that. Glad I was getting paid." **Why he chose UVM:** "I have been hired to start a new dance program here at UVM. The Department of Music has decided to house the new program, which began with hiring me. Having worked in universities the past 6 years, I was

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drawn by the possibilities and challenges that come with building a program from the ground up. I also was excited to work in the Department of Music, which will be a new experience, having worked in programs where dance was housed with theatre. I think that UVM and the town of Burlington are great environments to start a new arts program, and there seems to be a lot of enthusiasm from faculty and administration. I am also originally from New Hampshire — went to Keene State as an undergrad. I liked the idea of getting back to this part of the country, being closer to my family, etc. Burlington is a great town, with real seasons!”

New faculty: Julie Dumas, research assistant professor

Department: Psychiatry

Training: Ph.D., University of North Carolina

Recent experience: Post-doctoral fellow, UVM

Research interests: “My research interests are in memory and aging and the effects of menopause on cognition. I work with the Clinical Neuroscience Research Unit on studies investigating effects of the interaction of estrogen and the cholinergic system on cognition in post-menopausal women. I’m also involved with the functional brain imaging group at UVM. My work focuses on the effects of hormones and cholinergic drugs on brain activity.”

Outside interests: Rowing, biking, running, and skiing.

Quirky personal fact: “I was involved in competitive Irish dancing while growing up in New York,” a fact that Julie says “is only mildly embarrassing.”

Why she chose UVM: “UVM is the perfect fit for my research interests. The combination of the research expertise of my mentor in psychiatry, the ability to use the General Clinical Research Center to conduct my studies, and the new and growing functional brain imaging program make UVM a unique location for a young investigator with my training.”

New faculty: Susan Hughes, associate professor

Department: Accounting

Training: Ph.D., University of Cincinnati

Recent experience: Professor, Butler University

Research interests: “I’m generally focusing on areas associated with international accounting issues. I’m looking at how clear differences are between U.S. and international financial reporting standards, at what most people would consider the rules — although they’re not really rules — that companies use when they put together their financial reports. A lot of corporations that are not U.S. have U.S. shareholders, and those shareholders that invest should be able to understand the reports.”

Outside interests: “I love to travel.” Her most recent international trips included destinations in Chile, Luxembourg and Ireland. “And I read, bicycle, and knit.”

Quirky personal fact: “My husband and I met during freshman orientation

our first year of college.”

Why she chose UVM: “I’ve lived in Vermont in the past and really enjoyed living here, and I think there are really exciting things going on in the School of Business.”

New faculty: Ximena Mejia, assistant professor

Department: Counseling

Training: Ph.D., University of Central Florida

Recent experience: Assistant to the chair of educational studies, College of Education, University of Central Florida

Research interests: Ximena is interested in expressive therapies with adults. Expressive therapy, sometimes known as art therapy, uses creativity – through art, dance, music, poetry, etc. – as a way of treating patients. She also has an interest in female Mexican farm workers’ mental health, as well as gender and trauma.

Outside interests: Movies and jewelry making

Quirky personal fact: “I can’t think of any quirky personal facts, although I’m sure I have plenty!”

Why she chose UVM: “For the counseling program’s focus on social justice.”

New faculty: Rhonda Vonshay Sharpe, assistant professor

Department: Economics

Training: Ph.D., Claremont Graduate University

Recent Publications: “All Land Grants Were Not Created Equal: The Benefits of White Privilege,” published in spring, 2005 in a special edition of *The Review of Black Political Economy*

Recent experience: Research scientist of economics and director of the American Economic Association’s Summer Program and Minority Scholarship Program, Duke University

Research interests: She researches inter- and intra- gender and racial social injustice and inequality with an emphasis on access to and financing of higher education. Sharpe is also interested in the economics of sports.

Outside interests: “Shopping!”

Quirky personal fact: “When I lived in North Carolina, every room in my house was decorated in purples, except my living room.”

Why she chose UVM: “I came as a visitor in fall 2005 and was treated very well. So, I am back!”

New faculty: Cameron Wesson, associate professor and chair

Department: Anthropology

Training: Ph.D., University of Illinois

Recent experience: Over the summer, he taught an archaeological field school in Alabama and hopes to offer a similar field school in the Burlington area during the summer of 2007.

Major publications: *Households and Hegemony* (University of Nebraska Press), *The Historical Dictionary of Early America* (Scarecrow Press), *Between Contacts and Colonies* (University of Alabama Press).

Research interests: "My research interests center on applying a dialectical materialist perspective to the analysis of non-capitalist political economies. I pursue this area of inquiry by examining the rise of social inequality among Native American societies from the eleventh through the fifteenth centuries and assessing the subsequent impacts of European colonization on these societies during the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. My previous archaeological field research has focused on these processes in the southeast and midwest United States, but I am looking forward to exploring these issues with data from the Champlain Valley."

Outside interests: Golfing, gardening, and watching college football. He is also active in the Episcopal Church.

Quirky personal fact: "In my spare time, I rebuild classic Volkswagens. I presently own 1956, 1958, and 1970 Beetles and a 1972 Bus."

Why he chose UVM: "I chose to come to UVM because of the university's emphasis on well-rounded faculty. Rather than simply valuing faculty for their research efforts, UVM also encourages its faculty to excel as teachers and student mentors. This approach is becoming increasingly rare at major U.S. universities and makes UVM one of the premier academic working environments. In addition, coming to the region from Chicago, I find the scale and natural setting of the Burlington region to be far more humane and inviting."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Growing Network

UVM-trained master gardeners are helping communities statewide

By Jon Reidel

Article published Aug 24, 2006



Nancy Hulett, director of the Master Gardener Program, and Jeff Young, a master gardener, admire the improvements to Taylor Park in St. Albans. (Photo: Jon Reidel)

Graduating from the university's Extension-run [Master Gardener Program](#) comes with expectations. Although retreating to the backyard to quietly tend the family garden isn't discouraged, the hope is that graduates will help the program accomplish its primary goal of building stronger communities

through sustainable gardening.

When done right, like in the city of St. Albans, community gardening work is powerful. City officials there formed a park commission two years ago as part of an ongoing citywide revitalization effort and appointed Master Gardener Jeff Young as chair. Drawing on the knowledge he gained during the 14-week program and 40 hours of community service required of all students, Young made a number of recommendations to the mayor and city council regarding the refurbishing of five-acre Taylor Park in the center of town.

The overhaul included pruning 38 lilac trees and 28 crabapple trees; thinning trees for a better view of the park and historic buildings behind it; removing shrubs and dozens of truckloads of brush; mulching; and other improvements. Local graduates of the Master Gardener Program led the effort, which spawned other gardening projects in the area credited with helping to turn around the city's downtown.

"There's no doubt about it," says St. Albans Mayor Martin Manahan, a lifelong resident of the city, "the park has become a centerpiece of the downtown and symbol for the huge changes that have occurred here. Even the residential areas look better as people have added wildflowers and made other landscaping improvements. People are taking pride in their property, and it started with the park."

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Expanding program

As the network of Master Gardeners grows heading into its 15th anniversary in Vermont, so does the number of projects taken on by communities across the state. With more than 200 graduates this summer, and 800-plus master gardeners in Vermont and 50,000 nationwide, their influence is expansive and touches on many areas of agriculture. In Washington and Orange counties, for example, more than a dozen projects are in progress, with one group maintaining the gardens at the Montpelier Peace Park in cooperation with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Other projects around the state include assisting summer schools with growing food for their lunch programs such as vegetables for pizza; teaching inmates at places like the Northwest State Correctional Facility to grow vegetables behind the walls of the prison; tree inventories; growing food for local shelters; restoring heirloom gardens at historic sites; and improving other parks everywhere.

"It's not just about completing projects," says Nancy Hulett, an outreach professional in plant and soil sciences and director of the Master Gardener Program. "It's really about bringing in members of the community so they have some investment. Our goal is to promote environmentally prudent home horticulture practices through education and community activities."

In addition to covering the fundamentals of home gardening and the plant and soil sciences, the program teaches more complex issues such as landscape design and plant diseases. The work doesn't stop with the course itself, which reaches all of the state via interactive television. The program offers a hotline open to anyone with gardening questions, Web-based information services and chapters located in individual towns.

The Master Gardener Program is unique in Extension in that it's self-funded through grants and corporate sponsors and some student tuition. Hulett, the program's only paid employee, continues to expand the number of chapters and push the importance of new graduates taking the lead in their respective communities.

"People really want to volunteer in their own communities," says Young. "Until we got the program built up in St. Albans people had to go to Burlington to get their volunteer hours in. The nice part about the network continuing to grow is that people can have an impact in their own community."

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[Service-Learning Goes Global](#)

Aug 29, 2006

UVM offered a record number of service-learning courses this past summer in communities across the globe, continuing the rapid growth of community-based learning at the university.

[Professor's Work on Display in Showtime's 'Brotherhood'](#)

Jun 29, 2006

Jeff Modereger, associate professor and chair of theatre, spent last summer in a massive pet-food warehouse in East Providence creating a replica of the rotunda of the Rhode Island Statehouse. His work, which included a number of elaborately designed sets, will be on display in the mafia-inspired series "The Brotherhood" starting with the world premiere on Showtime on July 9 at 10 p.m.

[Lintilhac Foundation Gives \\$1 Million for Plant Science Building](#)

Jun 29, 2006

A new plant sciences building planned as the next major capital construction project at the University of Vermont is a step closer to reality thanks to a \$1 million pledge from the Lintilhac Foundation of Shelburne, Vermont.

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By The View Staff

Article published Aug 24, 2006

Five members of the faculty have received 2006 Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Awards, the university's most prestigious award for classroom instruction. They are:

- Mark Stoler, professor of history
- Robert Tyzbir, professor of nutrition and food sciences
- Valerie Rohy, assistant professor of English
- Wayne Schneider, associate professor of music
- Diana Yiqing Sun, lecturer of Asian studies and classics

Each recipient received \$1000. Judges for the award consider excellence in instruction, an ability to animate and engage students, innovation in methods, commitment to cultural diversity and excellence in advising. For more information about the program, see [Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Awards](#).

the view will publish a profile of each award-winner during the academic year.

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By The View Staff

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Robert Rodgers, Lyman-Roberts Professor of Classical Languages and Literature, has been appointed director of the Center for Research on Vermont by Eleanor M. Miller, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Rodgers, who has taught at the university since 1979, succeeds Dona Brown who stepped down after three years as director. His classical research has centered on Greek and Latin technical writings with a focus on agriculture and the environment. Rodgers is the recipient of a number of awards and fellowships, including a Dumbarton Oaks Fellowship in Byzantine Studies and a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship. He holds an A.B. and Ph.D from Harvard.

"The center's successful role as clearinghouse for a rich variety of Vermont research poises it for even broader usefulness in the days ahead," says Rodgers. "Our next aim is not so much growth on our own part as to forge energetic and cooperative partnerships with groups whose interests overlap with ours. It's an exciting prospect, and I look forward to learning more and more about Vermont."

Rodgers' areas of Vermont research include local history, institutional and church history, and Vermont and New England family history and genealogy. Among his publications are an ongoing multi-volume series of 17th-century court records from Massachusetts and New Haven, Vt., as well as articles on Vermont genealogical topics. He's currently researching the life of George Washington Henderson, an 1877 alumnus of the university and the first African American elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

The center was established in 1975 by faculty with Vermont-related teaching and research interests. The scholarly community has grown to more than 300 members and includes people working in government, education, social services, media, museums and other cultural entities, higher education, and as independent scholars.

Information: 656-4389 or [Center for Research on Vermont](#)

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Police Services Invites Accreditation Comments

By The View Staff

Article published Aug 29, 2006

The Department of Police Services is scheduled for an on-site assessment as part of a program to achieve re-accreditation by verifying it meets professional standards.

Administered by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, the accreditation program requires agencies to comply with state-of-the-art standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations and support services.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session on Monday, Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. The session will be conducted in 427A Waterman Building.

Agency employees and the public are also invited to offer comments by calling 656-1031 on Sept. 11 between the hours of 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. Comments will be taken by the assessment team.

Telephone comments as well as appearances at the public information session are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards is available at UVM Police Services headquarters at 284 East Ave. Local contact is accreditation manager Sue Lowrey at 656-5751.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments about UVM Police Services' ability to comply with the standards for accreditation may send them to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc., 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030-2215.

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Article published Aug 29, 2006

UVM offered a record number of service-learning courses this past summer in communities across the globe, continuing the rapid growth of community-based learning at the university.

The 11 summer courses sent students to parts of Japan, Puerto Rico, Ethiopia and the United States. With 22 such courses offered this fall and 28 in the spring, an all-time high of 63 service-learning courses will be offered during the year, according to the Community-University Partnerships and Service-Learning office.

"I think we're seeing an increase in the number of service-learning courses because people are seeing the value of it and because they're seeing new ways to include service-learning in a course," said Carrie Williams, associate director of CUPS. "Learning how to address a community need through academic learning applied to a community-based project is what service-learning is all about."

Sasha Davis, assistant professor in geography, took 11 students to Vieques, Puerto Rico in June for his "From De-Militarization to Re-Development" course, working with the Committee for the Rescue and Redevelopment of Vieques to come up with redevelopment ideas for an area that was damaged by the U.S. military. Students became familiar with local politics and the economic and cultural conflicts that exist on the island through meetings with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials, local realtors and residents about gentrification, and with tourism operators working on conservation programs.

Kazuko Suzuki, lecturer of Japanese, took seven students to Japan on a cultural exchange program to give presentations to students at Niwano Elementary School about American culture. They also taught Japanese students English while leading classes.

Closer to home, Scott McLaughlin taught two summer service-learning courses that involved the town of Jericho. In "Small History Museum Curation Practices" and "Cemeteries as Social Documents," students worked with community partners to enhance access to their historic resources. Two students worked with the Jericho Historical Society to develop a report with recommendations, strategic documents, inventories and resources for the care of the society's collections.

Another group of students traveled with four professors to Ethiopia as

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part of a problem-based workshop called "Green Awassa: Investing in Natural and Human Capital in Ethiopia." A number of projects were spawned from the trip that focused on the restoration of local ecosystems and included an ecological economic assessment of critical ecosystem services that can support sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation in Awassa.

The trip generated four grant proposals aimed at a number of future projects including the creation of a regional environmental governmental structure and the development of highly efficient stoves for cooking. The project was organized by the Awassa Children's Center and AIDS Education Circus; the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics; the Department of Community Development and Applied Economics; the Town of Awassa; and the Foundation for a Sustainable Future.

"It was a tremendous experience in which we ended up learning more than people we worked with in Ethiopia," said Chris Koliba, CUPS interim faculty director and co-director of the public administration program. "Philosophically, the trip was very well aligned with service-learning principles such as reciprocity, reflection and partnership, which can be applied anywhere in the world."

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[Fleming Museum to Offer Art Program for Children](#)

Aug 30, 2006

The Robert Hull Fleming Museum is offering a multi-week art program for children ages 6-11 to explore the visual arts in a fun environment with professional instruction.

[American Red Cross to Hold Blood Drive](#)

Aug 30, 2006

The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive on Thursday, August 31 at noon at Memorial Lounge in Waterman.

[Film and Music on a Summer Night](#)

May 15, 2006

The Lane Series' annual multimedia series, "Film and Music on a Summer Night," begins July 8 with free screenings of feature films preceded by live music. Concerts begin at 7 p.m., films start at 9:15 p.m. (or nightfall) in the Redstone pine grove behind the UVM Recital Hall on the following dates:

[State Archaeologist to Discuss Recent Discoveries](#)

May 02, 2006

Giovanna Peebles, Vermont State Archaeologist, will give a talk in Memorial Lounge on May 4 at 7:30 p.m. titled "Thirty Years of Vermont Archaeology: A Journey of Discovery."

[Celebrate John Bramley on May 11](#)

May 02, 2006

A reception for the campus community honoring John Bramley's years of service to UVM will take place on May 11 at 4 p.m. in the Billings Student Center. President Daniel Mark Fogel and Rachel Kahn-Fogel are hosting the celebration of Bramley's contributions and dedication to UVM.

[A Cappella Group to Celebrate Fifth Anniversary](#)

May 03, 2006

The co-ed a cappella group Hit Paws will celebrate five years of performance at its annual Spring Show on May 6th at 8 p.m. at Ira Allen Chapel. Admission is \$5.

Fleming Museum to Offer Art Program for Children

By The View Staff

Article published Aug 30, 2006

The Robert Hull Fleming Museum is offering a multi-week art program for children ages 6-11 to explore the visual arts in a fun environment with professional instruction.

The "Art Adventures" curriculum is geared toward children with a love for art or who are just interested in trying something new. Classes offer individualized attention under the supervision of UVM instructor Lisa Brunini and art education students. Students will work with a variety of mediums such as painting, drawing, sculpture and collage.

The classes for ages 6-8 start on Sept. 6 and run through Oct. 18 and take place on Wednesdays from 3:30-5 p.m. A second class for ages 9-11 is scheduled for Oct. 18 through Nov. 29 and is also held every Wednesday from 3:30-5 p.m. At the conclusion of each series of classes, there will be a short reception beginning at 5 p.m.

The cost of the classes is \$35 for museum family members and \$45 for non-members.

Information: 656-8056

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American Red Cross to Hold Blood Drive

By The View Staff

Article published Aug 30, 2006

The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive on Thursday, Aug. 31 at noon at Memorial Lounge in Waterman.

The event is part of an effort to help the region meet its ongoing daily quota of collecting 2,000 pints of blood. It lasts until 6 p.m. on Thursday and runs from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 1. There will be free food and prizes throughout the day.

Information: 658-6400.

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August 30, 2006

Awards and Honors

The University of Vermont Libraries made inaugural awards to libraries' staff and faculty who exemplified dedicated and excellent work. The Delmar Janes Staff Excellence Award was named in honor of longtime employee and recent retiree Delmar Janes, who was the first recipient of the award last year. **Larry Dubois** was this year's winner; **Patricia Mardeusz**, library associate professor, was the recipient of the University Libraries Faculty Award for Educational Excellence; and **Jeffrey Marshall**, library associate professor, was the recipient of the University Libraries' Faculty Award for Research. Marshall has also been named the University of Vermont Libraries' director of research collections, following the retirement of Connell Gallagher, whose thirty-six years of service helped to build collections of distinction, such as UVM's public policy archives and artists' books collections. Over the last eighteen years, Marshall has served as UVM Special Collection's university archivist, curator of manuscripts, and most recently, curator of the Wilbur Collection. Prior to that, he was a manuscript curator at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston, Mass.

Five undergraduate students pursued engineering research funded by the Richard M. Barrett Foundation. They were: **Chris Palombini**, "Development of a Wireless Sensor Platform for Environmental Monitoring Projects"; **Nathan Schaffer**, "An Experimental Study to Classify Erodibility of Soils in Dams, Embankments, and Levees"; **Ryan Foster**, "Investigating Soil Parameters, and their Effects on Stream Bank Stability"; **Aaron Hartmann**, "Assessing the speciation and concentration of limiting nutrients nitrogen and phosphorous in Missisquoi Bay as a driving force of species composition in cyanobacterial algal blooms"; and **Danielle Eastman**, "Investigation of Sulfur-Utilizing Microbial in the Frasassi Cave System, Italy."

Dr. **Benjamin Suratt**, assistant professor of medicine, received a \$1.9 million, five-year Research Project Grant from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute to study molecular activity involved in the development of acute lung injury/acute respiratory distress syndrome, a condition that affects nearly 200,000 people a year in the United States alone and kills nearly 40 percent of those afflicted. Suratt will look specifically at several cytokines—proteins that function as intracellular communicators and are involved in immune response—and their role in both the development of acute lung injury and recruitment of inflammatory cells and reparative cells.

The **Vermont Space Grant Consortium (VSGC)**, based in UVM's College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, has received \$40,000 from the Higher Education Office of NASA's Exploration Systems Missions Directorate (ESMD) to enhance three targeted components of Vermont's engineering education programs. This award will support a senior undergraduate engineering design project, student summer internships, and engineering teams competing in National competitions.

Publications and Presentations

Christopher Allen, emeritus professor of chemistry, served as co-chair of the committee of visitors to review the major research instrumentation program and also served on a review panel for the membranes and transport program at the National Science Foundation. He was recently appointed to the editorial board of the journal *Phosphorus, Sulfur Silicon and the Related elements* and gave a presentation titled "Talking to Politicians about Science at the National and State Levels" to the Green Mountain section of the American Chemical Society.

Dr. **Lewis First**, professor and chair of pediatrics and senior associate dean for educational and curricular affairs, and Dr. **Christa Zehle**, clinical assistant professor of pediatrics, are chapter contributors in the recently released textbook *Current Pediatric Therapy, 18th Edition*.

Daniel Gade, professor emeritus of geography, recently published "Converging Ethnobiology and Ethnobiography: Cultivated Plants, Heinz Brücher, and Nazi Ideology," in the *Journal of Ethnobiology*.

Dr. **Eric Ganguly**, instructor of medicine, Dr. **Richard Zubarik**, assistant professor of medicine, and Dr. **Peter Moses**, associate professor of medicine, delivered presentations at the Digestive Disease Week conference in Los Angeles, Calif., May 20 to 25. Dr. **James Vecchio**, associate professor of medicine, and Dr. Moses were honored as two of the first group of academic gastroenterologists elected for fellowship to the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA).

Sarah Gallagher, **Tricia Tyo** and **Gale Burford** presented at the American Humane Association's 2006 Conference on Family Group Decision Making in San Antonio, Texas on June 5- 8. Gallagher and Tyo presented "The Transformational Power of Family Group Decision Making: A Vermont Example." Gallagher is project training coordinator for the UVM/State of Vermont Department for Children and Families partnership and Tricia is district director for the DCF Family Services Division in the Morrisville District. Gale Burford, professor of social work and UVM's director for the partnership's non-credit trainings, presented with colleagues outside UVM on "Trauma and Crisis in the Family Group: Finding Safety and Support Through Family Group Decision Making," which summarizes their preliminary findings from an evaluation of practice in the Washington, D. C. Child and Family Service Agency. Burford also gave an invited presentation and participated in a panel discussion in March called

"Minding the Gap: What are the Holes in Services for Intimate Abuse Victims and Offenders and How Can We Close Them at New York University. The session was part of NYU's Center on Violence and Recovery Spring Discussion Series.

Blowin' Hot and Cool: Jazz and its Critics by John Gennari, associate professor of English, has been published by the University of Chicago Press. There will be a discussion/signing event for the book at the Lenox Library, 18 Main St. Lenox, MA on Saturday, September 2 at 5:30 pm. Gennari has also recently given two readings of a paper titled "Tenor Madness: Joe Lovano's 'Viva Caruso' and the Italian Jazz Diaspora," one in May at the Calandra Institute of Italian-American Studies of the City University of New York, and the other in June in Burlington at the New Directions in U.S. Ethnic Studies conference.

Dr. **Anne Johnston**, associate professor of pediatrics, Dr. **William Raszka**, associate professor of pediatrics and Dr. **Paul Krusinski**, professor of medicine, have contributed chapters to the recently released fourth edition of *Oski's Pediatrics Principles & Practice*.

Brooke Mossman, professor of pathology and director of the environmental pathology program, is co-author of a June 21 *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science Early Edition* article titled "TNF- α inhibits asbestos-induced cytotoxicity via a NF- κ B-dependent pathway, a possible mechanism for asbestos-induced oncogenesis."

Dr. **George Philips** was the lead investigator and UVM the lead site of a national study conducted through the Cancer and Leukemia Group B cooperative group, which is testing the value of a new drug called gefitinib (or Iressa) in bladder cancer. He delivered a preliminary report of the study findings, titled "Phase II Study of cisplatin (C), gemcitabine (G) and gefitinib for advanced urothelial carcinoma (UC): Analysis of the second cohort of CALGB 90102," in a poster presentation at the American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting, which took place in Atlanta, Georgia, June 2 through 6. Dr. Hyman Muss, professor of medicine, chaired an educational session on cancer in the elderly and delivered a poster presentation, which focused on toxicity of adjuvant chemo in older women with breast cancer, at the meeting.

Kathleen Trybus, professor of molecular physiology and biophysics, is a lead author of an April 16 Advance Online Publication in the journal *Nature* titled, "Three-dimensional structure of the myosin V inhibited state by cryoelectron tomography." **Elena Krementsova**, senior researcher in molecular physiology and biophysics, was a co-author on the paper.

July 5, 2006

Awards and Honors