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## Organizing a Revival



University Organist David Neiweem hopes the unveiling of a new electronic organ in Ira Allen will bring 'the king of instruments' back to the forefront. (Photo: Sally McCay)

David Neiweem has had a battle plan since he became university organist in 2002, but only since last summer has the music department chair had the sonic weaponry to carry it out.

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**Trustees Report** In its August 26-28 meetings, the Board of Trustees authorized the borrowing of \$165 million over 35 years to pay for the Dudley H. Davis Center, University Heights and other projects included in the university's 10-year vision. In doing so, trustees voted to employ a new method of financing that takes advantage of current low interest rates.

## THE WEEK IN VIEW

**Sept. 1, 3:30 p.m.**  
Convocation: Gov. Madeleine Kunin will give the keynote address. Ira Allen Chapel. Information: 656-1266.

**Sept. 2, 5 p.m.**  
Picnic: "Women's Center Welcome Home Picnic" includes food, music and conversation as the Women's Center welcomes everyone back for another year. 34 S. Williams St. Information: [Women's Center](#) or 656-4637.

**Sept. 3, 3 p.m.**  
Event: Kick off the semester with a cruise on the Spirit of Ethan Allen. Free Shuttles from WDW, Harris-Millis and Billings. Champlain Boathouse, downtown Burlington. \$5 includes food. [bored](#)

**Sept. 5, 9 p.m.**  
Comey: Wanda Sykes, named to Entertainment Weekly's list of the 25 Funniest People in America, brings her stand-up comic routine to UVM. Patrick Gymnasium. Information: [bored](#)

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## Organizing a Revival

By Jeff Wakefield

Article published Aug 31, 2005



University Organist David Neiweem hopes the unveiling of a new electronic organ in Ira Allen will bring 'the king of instruments' back to the forefront. (Photo: Sally McCay)

David Neiweem has had a battle plan since he became university organist in 2002, but only since last summer has the music department chair had the sonic weaponry to carry it out.

At Thursday's convocation ceremony at Ira Allen Chapel, the newest member of his arsenal, the Rogers Trillium digital electronic organ, will be unveiled in full force. If Neiweem has his way, the Rogers, which was installed in the chapel in August of

2004, will not only raise high the roof beams, it will win scores of converts to his musical cause.

The five-year plan Neiweem devised in 2002 aims to bond a new generation of students, and the community at-large, to the king of instruments by making organ music widely accessible at UVM, as much a part of the university's fabric as it was in the early 1800s, when the university organist's name, along with that of the president and provost, appeared at the top of official university communications.

Until the Rogers came along, organ music had been uncharacteristically absent from the university's center stage. While the music department's home in the Southwick Music Complex boasted three world class organs, Ira Allen – one of the state's premier organ venues, with acoustics specially designed for its robust tones – had been without an instrument since 1985, when a renovation of the building, part of the conversion of the Billings Library to a student center, required designers to place an airshaft where the instrument's pipes once held forth.

"Our moment of truth came in 2002," says Neiweem. "We needed to reconfigure the university's endowed organist position so it met the real needs of our academic community."

### A few million or a Trillium?

The department knew its balance of organ power was out of whack. But making things right by putting an instrument back in Ira Allen was no easy proposition. An instrument worthy of the space would cost close to a million dollars. Overhauling Ira Allen to fix its drastically changeable temperature and humidity – death to an organ's finicky intonation system – could cost another two million.

Enter the Trillium.

"It has a similar decibel level to a large acoustic organ, but it cost about \$100,000 to buy and install," Neiweem says.

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### [The Art of Imitating Life](#)

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A recent sampling of the organ's capabilities left one listener unable to discern its digital roots and awestruck by the variety and majesty of its tone.

The Rogers, a blocky box of an instrument stationed toward the front of Ira Allen's balcony, is connected not to ranks of pipes but to more than a dozen speakers arranged at the front and back of the chapel. The chapel's dome houses four large speakers dedicated solely to the instrument's "festival trumpet" stop, which produces a brilliantly nasal honk the Rogers can deliver at window-rattling volume.

The latest generation of electronic organs bears little resemblance to earlier models created as recently as the 1990s and none whatsoever to the roller rink variety.

"Acoustic organs are so large, they can never be in perfect tune," Neiweem says. "A lot of their characteristic sound comes from the range of the unison pitch from stop to stop. The more perfect it is, the less like a real organ it sounds. Sound engineers are now capitalizing on the fact that people expect to hear an organ slightly out of tune by sampling those sounds and faithfully reproducing the imperfections."

### **Neither sticks nor stones**

While average listeners may rejoice in the return of organ music to the chapel, traditionalists have been scandalized by the switch to digital technology at the university's musical core, especially in light of another element of Neiweem's master plan.

As part of its resource re-allocation, the music department decided, three years ago, to sell one of the two Brombaugh practice organs it owned, a small, exquisitely crafted instrument that was cloistered in an airless room on the first floor of Southwick. The university used the proceeds from the sale to purchase a Klop, a fine acoustic instrument that was portable, allowing Neiweem to pack it into a van and perform all over the campus and the state.

"What a pity that Ira Allen Chapel has neither pipe nor bell," sniffed an article in the newsletter of the Vermont chapter of the American Guild of Organists, which went on to lament the sale of the Brombaugh to an out-of-state buyer.

"They didn't ask what our plan was," Neiweim says, and the article neglected to point out that selling the Brombaugh allowed the department to buy the moveable Klop.

Even with the addition of the dreaded digital instrument, the organists's guild admits that UVM is in an enviable position. "You still have two very fine acoustic instruments on campus," says Anthony Baglivi, editor of the AGO's American Organist Magazine, referring to the other Brombaugh and a Fiske organ in the Southwick, an instrument so famous Neiweem studied its installation at UVM when he was a student at Oberlin in the early 1970s.

That's the point, maintains Neiweem, who came under the organ's sway after hearing a quite ordinary instrument played in church.

The Fisk, a reproduction of an instrument "you might find in a French cathedral in the 1690s," Neiweem says, will provide a "mountaintop experience," while the Klop, and especially the Rogers, will bring very high quality organ music to the masses.

Now that he has his instrumental arsenal in order, Neiweem is ready to put the next phase of his plan – outreach – into effect. He'll play regular noontime concerts at Ira Allen on the first Wednesday of the month and plans to take the Klop on a recital tour of Brattleboro.

He even envisions a Halloween concert geared to UVM's party set, where the Rogers' full panoply of sounds – from eerie vocal reproductions to a wide variety of blips and bleeps – could function as UVM's own version of the popular public radio series Hearts of Space.

Such a populist event could very well be snidely noted by the AGO's Vermont newsletter, which would bother Neiweem, the unapologetic popularizer, not

one bit.



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

pho 802.656.2005  
fax 802.656.3203

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

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## The Art of Imitating Life

By Jon Reidel

Article published Aug 25, 2005



Set designer Jeffrey Modereger, professor and chair of theater, with a photograph he transformed into an antique painting for the set of a forthcoming Showtime drama. (Photo: Jon Reidel)

With the spring semester winding down, Jeff Modereger, associate professor and chair of theater, wasn't sure how he was going to spend the summer. Meticulously recreating the rotunda of the Rhode Island Statehouse definitely wasn't on his agenda.

And then longtime friend and work associate Bill Weithers called to ask if the play and film scene designer wanted to take on this monumental task for "The Brotherhood," a gritty Showtime mob

drama premiering in January that some compare to "The Sopranos." Having spent the past 25 summers designing sets at Theater by the Sea in Matunick, Modereger relished a return to the Ocean State and the chance to work with Weithers again. The two had collaborated on films like "The Pelican Brief," "School Ties," "One Crazy Summer," and also worked together on an exhibit for the National Holocaust Museum in Washington.

By mid-summer, Modereger was working 12-hour days in a pair of shorts and a t-shirt painting sets and props inside a 60,000-square-foot former pet food warehouse. The crew had transformed the building into a set replicating the statehouse rotunda, a central open area located directly below the dome with stairs leading to legislative chambers. The construction required 10 professional carpenters, seven painters and dozens of other craftsmen.

Much of Modereger's work was meticulously detailed. It included treating and touching up photos to make them look like the aged paintings in the actual capitol. He also painted window trim, doors, stairs and aged wallpaper with tinted color using a glazing system that made the details of the TV rotunda virtually impossible to tell apart from the real one. He used marble-colored paint to make the hallways appear to be real marble.

### Too realistic?

Creating realistic replicas of various local sites for the series is particularly important because the show has already created a buzz in Providence for its mafia-related theme, and doubtless many locals will pay close attention to the series's authenticity.

The level of detail in the drive for realism got down to the color of the grain of a wooden table in a committee room off the rotunda, to the number of panes in a window, which had to be built at a specific height so the camera could capture the fabricated view as seen from the real state house on Smith Hill in Providence. It was complex, absorbing work that Modereger was perfect for.

"Jeff has theater experience and knowledge that he's adopted to film," says Weithers. "I get a bonus with Jeff because I get managerial experience and organizational skills. He has no sense of fear and isn't afraid to try new

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materials and ways of doing things. I've never had him as a teacher, but I'm sure he brings these things, and his humor, to the classroom."

The series was originally intended for a Boston location, but moved to Providence, a switch with varying explanations. The public relations response usually has to do with cost. The unofficial line is that producers were warned by various "connected" individuals not to film in Boston because the storyline hews too closely to the true saga of Boston's Bulger brothers: on-the-lam South Boston mobster James "Whitey" Bulger and his brother William M. Bulger, former president of the Massachusetts State Senate and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

And indeed, the Showtime series revolves around two brothers, one who is possibly involved in the mafia, played by Jason Isaacs ("Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets"), and one who is a senator, played by Jason Clarke ("Rabbit-Proof Fence)."

#### **Tool of the trade**

Modereger's handiwork is prominently displayed in the opening scene of the fifth episode when a mobster uses a chisel painted and cast out of foam and plaster by Modereger to knock out the teeth of his unlucky victim. "We had to make it soft and real looking because it was going to be chisel on teeth and we didn't want any real teeth falling out. This isn't exactly your kiddie show."

Modereger's less gruesome efforts can be seen in other rooms within the state house and in tenement apartment rooms and homes. If guided into the sets with closed eyes, it would be impossible to tell them apart from real rooms. A living room has magazines spread across a coffee table, family portraits on the wall, softly lit lamps, and books on a shelf, seemingly ready for someone to sit down in after a long day of work. The only thing giving away Modereger's perfectly designed flight of stairs in one room is that they lead to nothing but air.

"I always learn something new working on projects like these," he says. "People don't realize the amount of work that goes into these things. And it really never stops. During filming any number of things could happen. We built breakaway walls in case the director needed a different camera angle. Someone will have to build it back right on the spot in necessary. These are skills I will take back to UVM and share with our students and faculty."

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

## Trustees Employ New Financing Strategy

By University Communications Staff

Article published Aug 30, 2005

In its August 26-28 meetings, the Board of Trustees authorized the borrowing of \$165 million over 35 years to pay for the Dudley H. Davis Center, University Heights and other projects included in the university's 10-year vision. In doing so, trustees voted to employ a new method of financing that takes advantage of current low interest rates and should be advantageous to the university in the long run, according to Michael Gower, vice president for finance and administration.

President Daniel Mark Fogel opened his report with a moment of silence for Professor Jim Petersen, who was shot and killed during a robbery in a small town near the Amazon River while on a research trip with colleagues in Brazil. "The shock, anger and grief that we feel at such an untimely loss are tempered by our deepening appreciation of what an extraordinary individual Jim Petersen was," he said.

Fogel announced the results of a survey of 28 institutions, including all Ivy League schools, Stanford and Duke, that put the university among the top five institutions in the nation for having emerged as strong leaders in the field of environmental sustainability with effective campus sustainability programs. The "Peer Campus Sustainability Survey Final Report," released in June by Cornell, ranked UVM second to Harvard in response to the question, "what institutions do you look to as leaders in the environmental field."

Fogel also praised the efforts of a number of faculty and staff for recent accomplishments, drawing particular attention to the work of Karen Meyer, vice president for state and federal relations, for helping secure a \$17 million award as part of the federal transportation bill, which includes a National University Transportation Center. Fogel, who highlighted the university's record 88 percent first-to-second-year retention rate, also drew attention to positive write-ups about the university in the Princeton Review and Fiske College Guide and inclusion in Newsweek Kaplan College Guide's list of 25 Hottest Schools."

The board's next meeting will take place Nov. 17-19. Reports on the board's discussion and activities within its committees follow.

**Finance and Budget Committee:** Committee members debated the recommendation of the Debt Subcommittee to approve the above-mentioned method of financing, commonly referred to as "wraparound financing." The strategy, which is used by some other institutions and more often by corporations, involves the university initially paying only interest, rather than paying down the principal as well. The money that would have gone toward paying the principal of the bond for the first seven years can instead be invested elsewhere.

Some committee members were uncomfortable banking on the expectation that these investments will result in a profit to be applied to the principal in 35 years. They also expressed some initial concern that the university wasn't set up to handle the management of the new form of financing. In both cases, after lengthy discussion, committee members felt comfortable enough to endorse the plan.

Gower gave a brief update of the FY 2006 budget. The university's total current operating budget is \$453.3 million, of which 69 percent is expected to come from unrestricted revenues (general fund and income/expenses) and 31 percent from restricted resources. The university's total budget is expected to increase by 5.4 percent.

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**Academic and Student Programs Committee:** Provost John Bramley reported that enrollment of the first year class is approximately 2,400 students, up from 1,960 students last year. The total undergraduate population is approximately 8,800 students, which is the highest ever. Vice President Thomas Gustafson reported on how the university is dealing with the accommodation of 480 more students this fall than last year. Renovations have been completed in the Living/Learning Complex, Davis Hall, and Mercy Hall on the Trinity campus. There will be an easing of the housing situation this spring when half of the University Heights project opens in January along with the Winooski project. There has also been some easing in the off-campus housing situation.

Committee members approved the establishment of the Mackay-Page Endowed Professorship in Surgical Education in the College of Medicine, named after Albert G. Mackay, M.D. '32 and H. Gordon Page, M.D. '45.

Domenico Grasso, dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, gave a presentation on the realignment and vision for his college, which included an increased focus on the interrelationships between mathematics, science, the social sciences, and humanities in relation to serving humanity.

**Advancement Committee:** Committee members approved a resolution to name the university's new turf athletic field in honor of Reynolds Moulton and Elizabeth Winder, whose funding support was key to building the new facility.

Rise Wilson, director of campaign programs, told the committee members that campaign fundraising had reached the \$197.2 million mark. With two years remaining in the \$250 million campaign, the main objective is to increase funding for scholarships. The bulk of the campaign funds will be spent on student scholarships, new faculty, facilities and athletics.

**Facilities and Technologies Committee:** The committee heard progress reports on Project Catalyst, Project Catalog (a content management system in the early planning stages), and the Vermont Advanced Computing Center. Project Catalyst, a multi-faceted effort to make UVM's management information systems more effective and more efficient, is on schedule and on budget for implementation beginning in January 2006, according to Vice President Michael Gower. Gower also reported that candidates for the chief information officer post will visit the campus in September, and it is anticipated the position will be filled this fall.

**Diversity Committee:** Provost John Bramley reported that the Campus Climate Survey, which is in the raw data stage, has received some 3,000 responses, and that initial results should be available to trustees by their November meeting. The committee called for a full analysis.

A university-wide course requirement on racial diversity is in the hands of the Faculty Senate thanks to the work of the President's Commission on Racial Diversity, according to psychology professor Robert Lawson. The following other accomplishments of the commission were cited:

- Increased scholarship money to attract ALANA students and expansion of related programs
- Promotion of programs to bring "culturally competent" faculty to campus
- Updating faculty recruitment and retention data and reactivation of exit interviews
- Increased awareness of the importance of diversity



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## While You Were Gone...

By the view Staff

Article published Aug 24, 2005

From new deans to new roads, a quick summary of summer news for those who spent the warm months off campus (or off line).

**NEW DEAN DUO:** Fayneese Miller, former director of the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, and currently an ACE Fellow in the President's Office at Brown University, was appointed as dean of the College of Education and Social Services. Miller obtained her B.A. degree in psychology from Hampton University and went on to M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Texas Christian University in social psychology. After post doctoral work at Yale, she has held faculty positions at the University of North Florida, the University of Cape Town and Brown University. Miller's scholarship has focused on issues of race, ethnicity and discrimination in adolescents and their impact on education, adolescent behavior and academic achievement. [Full story link.](#)

Eleanor Miller, a nationally distinguished academic in the sociology and criminology fields, was appointed as the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Miller, who developed her academic reputation in part for her research on the plight of female street hustlers and her study of the work of German philosopher and sociologist Georg Simmel, was professor of sociology and associate dean for the social sciences in the College of Letters & Science at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. [Full story link.](#)

**TRANSPORTATION SENSATION:** U.S. Senator Jim Jeffords, I-Vt., announced that UVM will receive \$16 million in federal funding for transportation research and development. Jeffords secured the funding as part of the federal highway bill, which President Bush signed into law Aug. 10. As the ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Jeffords has worked for more than three years to pass the highway legislation, which will bring over \$1 billion to Vermont through 2009. The legislation provides funding to UVM to establish one of 10 National University Transportation Centers to study transportation issues, particularly those affecting northern and rural areas, in an effort to promote and develop more efficient transportation policies. The Center will also explore environmental issues as they relate to transportation policy. The highway bill also includes \$1 million for research at UVM on hydrogen and renewable fuels in the transportation sector. [Full story link.](#)

**RANKING IT UP:** The University of Vermont is one of 25 "hot schools" profiled in the new, 2006 edition of the Kaplan/Newsweek College Guide. "All 25 colleges on the Kaplan/Newsweek Hot List have one attribute in common," the guide reads. "They're creating buzz among students, school officials and longtime observers of the admissions process." UVM is profiled under the category, "Hottest for Cold Weather." The profile makes note of the 80 new tenure-track faculty the school is in the process of hiring, the \$300 million in capital investments UVM is making, and the 65 percent increase in applications the university has seen since 2000. The full list and full UVM profile can be viewed online [here](#). The university's position in the *U.S. News and World Report* rankings stayed essentially stable at 93.

**A NEW HOME FOR HIGH-TECH:** The Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies formally opened its doors June 26 with a ribbon cutting ceremony and remarks by Senator Patrick Leahy, University of Vermont president Daniel Mark Fogel and L. Fred Hackett, chair of the VCET board. Senator Leahy announced that he has secured more than \$1 million to expand the center. Fogel pointed out the many connections between VCET and UVM, and Hackett unveiled VCET's first client companies, ElectroCell Technologies and Apollo SRI. Located in Farrell Hall on UVM's Trinity College campus, VCET is a targeted small business development program affiliated with UVM, and designed to foster the success of new high-growth, high technology firms in

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Vermont.

**SOMETHING LOOKS DIFFERENT HERE:** The second oldest building on campus, the Johnson House at 590 Main, took an early-morning two mile-per-hour, 550-foot trip across the street to make way for the university's planned \$61 million student center, the Dudley H. Davis Center. The 4,300 square foot, 145 ton building (190 tons with the supporting steel), built in 1806, was lifted off its foundation and placed on a grid of steel beams supported by six, eight-wheel dollies. The house is now settling into its new home on the corner of Main Street and University Heights road, as landscaping and improvements continue.

In other construction news, the new Gutterson parking garage is now open, and the expanded University Heights Road connects Main Street with an existing road connecting the circle outside Patrick Gymnasium with Redstone. The new road will direct exiting traffic from Redstone to Main Street, as the road to South Prospect Street has gone one-way. The road also serves the new University Heights residential complex, which is now much larger than it was before Commencement; residents will move into the North Complex in January 2006, with the South Complex slated for completion next August.

Finally, work on the Davis Center and marsh Life Science Addition continues apace in the area bounded by Main Street on the south, the Ag/Engineering parking lot to the east, Bailey/Howe Library to the north, and Carrigan Hall on the west. Pedestrians are being routed around the site through next August.

**MAXIMUM MENTOR:** Paul Bierman, professor of geology, is one of seven recipients of the highest honor bestowed by the National Science Foundation for excellence in teaching and research. Bierman was recognized at a special ceremony held June 21 at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D. C. The Director's Distinguished Teaching Scholars award honors investigators who achieve groundbreaking results in research, display strong teaching and mentoring skills, and make major educational contributions. New funding for research and education activities accompanies the honor; Bierman will receive \$300,000 over four years to support the Landscape Change Program, an online database of historical images. [Full story link.](#)

**SUMMER re-view:** A sampler of some major stories we published this summer you might have missed:

[Making It Happen:](#) Undergraduate summer engineering research is about being on a first-name basis with professors, struggling a little before having questions answered for you and — most of all — constantly adapting to make do with what you have. In that, the preparation reflects the profession.

[New Class for New Media :](#) The co-directors of the new Summer Integrated Media Studies Institute have a definitive answer for those wondering how the university's fledgling program can carve out a niche among the more than 600 film and media-related courses currently offered at colleges and universities across the country. "We can't compete with UCLA, USC and NYU, so if you want to make it in big-time Hollywood then you should probably go to one of those places," says Tom Streeter, associate professor of sociology. "We're interested in showing students how to get useful information out to people in a meaningful way that can make a difference."

[Forestry Moves Forward:](#) Intending to lead forestry in a revolutionary new direction, both in Vermont and nationally, the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources has been making some quiet, but bold, moves. But with the recent hiring of David Brynn, who was Addison County's forester for 28 years, to lead a newly launched forestry education program, those moves are less quiet.

[INTERview: Hilary Neroni:](#) Hilary Neroni, assistant professor of film and television studies, discusses her new book, *The Violent Woman*, which explores the recent emergence of violent female characters in mainstream productions.

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## Campus Mourns Petersen; UVM Memorial Set

By Tom Weaver

Article published Aug 24, 2005

As a scholar, Professor James Petersen significantly influenced his field with research in the Amazon that cast new light on conventional wisdom regarding the population and degree of sophistication of ancient cultures in the region. As a teacher, he brought boundless enthusiasm to the classroom and his popular field courses. Working with Petersen, associate professor of anthropology at UVM, inspired many students to further their own study of archeology and anthropology.

On Aug. 14, the UVM community learned of the tragic loss of Petersen. The previous day, while on a research trip with colleagues in Brazil, he was shot and killed during a robbery in Iranduba, a small town near the Amazon River. His family held a memorial service on Aug. 22 at Shelburne Museum. A second memorial service will take place at Ira Allen Chapel at 9 a.m. on Sept. 23.

"The university community is stunned by the tragic death of Jim Petersen, one of our finest professors," said Provost John Bramley. "Jim was engaged in pioneering work in his study of pre-Columbian cultures and was a gifted and enthralling leader who brought his scholarship alive in the classroom. Our condolences and support go out to Jim's wife and family at this terrible time."

President Daniel Mark Fogel said, "As both an alumnus and as a distinguished member of our faculty, Professor James Petersen was a shining example of everything to which we aspire at the University of Vermont. His death is a devastating loss not only to our community, but to the wider circle of anthropological research, a field he dramatically reshaped through his inspired work in the Amazon and elsewhere."

Petersen, quoted in an article in the Spring 2005 issue of *Vermont Quarterly* magazine, referred to himself as "a child of UVM." His parents, James E. Petersen and Ella Chamer Noack, met on the campus and were graduates of the Class of 1949. Petersen received his bachelor's degree from the University of Vermont in 1979 and joined the faculty at his alma mater in 1997.

Michael Heckenberger, UVM Class of 1988, an anthropology professor at the University of Florida, was among the many students Petersen inspired during his career. He worked with him when Petersen was a visiting professor at UVM, prior to joining the faculty full-time. The two would later collaborate on groundbreaking work in the Amazon that questioned the long-held belief that the Amazon was a "counterfeit paradise" lacking the rich soils and protein sources needed to sustain significant human populations. Through their study of deep layers of terra preta do Indio, Indian dark earth, Heckenberger and Petersen made a strong case that today's small-scale native settlements are the remnants of once-thriving agricultural communities along the banks of the Amazon.

"To get the story right, that's my motive," Petersen told *Vermont Quarterly*. "I work in the Amazon as part of a broader effort like I do here in North America, in New England, the Caribbean and wherever else I work, to see the correct story told. That we don't underestimate the degree of sophistication, the degree of elaboration, the degree of complexity of the native people."

Luis Vivanco, associate professor of anthropology at UVM and director of the university's Latin American Studies Program, remembered Petersen as a supportive colleague who was generous with his time. Vivanco accompanied Petersen on a field course to the island of Anguilla and was struck by his ability to connect with students as both teacher and friend.

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"He had the highest expectations for the students' work on those trips," Vivanco said. "He would pay incredibly close attention to what the students were doing in their fieldwork. But at the end of the day, the seriousness was put aside and he could just hang out."

"Jim is an infectious person and teacher," colleague and former student Heckenberger recalled in the *Vermont Quarterly* article. "He attracts so many people to anthropology. He is without a doubt one of the most powerful and influential teachers I had." For more on Petersen's work in the Amazon, see [Vermont Quarterly online](#). For coverage of Petersen's murder, see this [Inside Higher Ed article](#). The *Boston Globe's* Petersen obituary is available [here](#).

The family and friends of James Petersen have established a scholarship in his memory to support undergraduate students within the College of Arts and Sciences to fulfill their academic dreams. This scholarship will enable Petersen's memory to live in perpetuity through the many students who will benefit from a University of Vermont education. Contributions may be sent to the attention of Natalie J. Fleischman, Senior Development Officer, University of Vermont, 411 Main Street, Grasse Mount, Burlington, VT 05401.

theview

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

pho 802.656.2005  
fax 802.656.3203

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

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## Honors College Seminar Gathers Diverse Faculty

By Kevin Foley

Article published Aug 24, 2005

The scenario is out of a Hollywood suspense movie — one written by and for Ph.D's, anyway: Twenty-one faculty from throughout the university spent three days in a conference room under the direction of Professor Robert Costanza, director of the University of Vermont's Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, writing a transdisciplinary paper aimed at *Science* or *Nature*.

The topic of the second annual Honors College Faculty Seminar held Aug. 15-17 was quality of life — defining it, measuring it and enhancing it — an area that, Costanza and Honors College Associate Dean Abu Rizvi say, offered rich opportunity for collaboration across the university. Participants ranged from experts in biotechnology to environmental engineering, sociology to ecology, psychology to physical therapy and beyond.

So how did it go? "We have a rough draft already," says Costanza.

That's impressive, because the group wasn't aiming to produce a literature review. They were after something new, a paper to reconcile and integrate two very different ways of looking at quality of life — objective" measures like a country's education, health care and income and various "subjective" measures of individual well-being — in an innovative way that identifies future research directions and provocative public policies. The new definition is flexible and integrative, operating at various scales and taking into account factors like leisure time, natural capital to form a picture of a society's well being.

"This paper will have real influence if we get it published in the right place," Costanza says. The group will refine the draft over the next few months and begin submitting it for publication within the next six months. He adds that developing full, accurate measures of quality of life is central to world governments and a wide range of academic disciplines. "How do you manage an economy or system if you don't know what your goals are — or if your goals are misguided?" he says.

To achieve his ambitious goal of drafting a ground-breaking paper in just a few days, Costanza handed out an extensive pre-seminar reading list. He was pleased to see that not only did the participating faculty do the readings, they brought their own; the tables where morning coffee was served became the site of impromptu literature exchanges, as participants contributed papers from their own disciplines they felt would widen the conversation.

"It's been great. There's a real atmosphere of mutual respect, and a lot of provocative synergies of ideas," says participant Linda MacDonald Glenn, adjunct assistant professor of nursing.

This was the second annual Honors College faculty seminar; the first, held last year, exposed faculty from across the campus to some of the ethical conundrums discussed in the college's then-new first-year foundation course, "Making Ethical Choices: Personal, Public and Professional." The seminars, Rizvi says, are an important part of the college's mission to enrich the campus's academic climate by forging ties among faculty of widely varying intellectual interests.

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## Popular VTrim Web Weight-Loss Program Rolls Out \$3.5 Million Study

By Cheryl Dorschner  
Article published Aug 29, 2005

The University of Vermont weight-loss research program that gained worldwide media attention when it showed that it helped on-line participants lose an average of 21 pounds in six months will expand the study this fall to reach nearly 500 participants thanks to a \$3.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.

"Sixty-five percent of the adult population is overweight or obese, but safe, effective treatments for obesity are expensive and limited in the number of people they reach," says the study's principal investigator, Jean Harvey-Berino. "Our initial research shows that on-line participants can lose as much weight as those attending weight loss programs in person. If we can continue this success rate via the Internet, we'll have solid information for clinicians and policymakers looking for low-cost, high-reach obesity treatment," added Harvey-Berino, who is chair of UVM's Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences.

Collaborating with Delia Smith West at the University of Arkansas for the Medical Sciences, researchers will not only increase the number but also the diversity of participants. Under the VTrim Study, while using the fundamental principles of weight control — eat less and move more — participants keep a food journal, track exercise, record their emotions related to eating and exercise and develop a support network to keep them motivated. The study will compare the efficacy of traditional treatment (face-to-face weekly meetings) to virtual meetings via on-line chats.

"We will also use this research opportunity to evaluate whether we can improve Internet success with minimal in-person support," said Beth Casey Gold, clinical coordinator of the university's Behavioral Weight Management Program.

"The Internet has enormous potential to bring weight-loss success and lifestyle changes to people worldwide and in settings where traditional clinics cannot," said Rachel Johnson, dean of UVM's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "In addition, the Web can reach people who might shy away from in-person treatment. The need for breakthroughs in obesity treatment has never been greater."

To learn more about the study or to be considered as a participant contact Beth Gold at [Elizabeth.Gold@uvm.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Gold@uvm.edu).

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## McNair Scholars Share Insight Into Research Topics

By Kevin Foley and Amanda Waite

Article published Aug 30, 2005



Allan Strong, assistant professor in the Rubenstein School of Environmental and Natural Resources, mentored McNair Scholars Natalia Fajardo (L) and Anastasia Yarbrough.

James Vigoreaux, professor and chair of biology, looked to his field for a fitting metaphor to introduce an Aug. 10 symposium featuring presentations by students participating in the McNair Scholars Program.

"This is a big day for our program," he said in his capacity as McNair advisor. "Birth is the culmination of a series of phenomenal processes of development and differentiation on the

one hand, and the beginning of a life on the other. Today marks the beginning of (the students') new lives as researchers and academics."

Birth, of course, is messy. During their 10 weeks of summer research with faculty mentors, participants in the federally funded program that intends to increase the numbers of people from historically underrepresented groups in Ph.D. programs saw some cherished hypotheses crumble into dust as they pursued their projects. Others saw their ideas pan out. All gained knowledge, including odd bits of wisdom: "You have no idea," said Anastasia Yarbrough, whose fieldwork examined dialects among songbirds, "how hard finding a bird can be. It may sound simple, but it is not."

Ten McNair scholars participated in the program and presented their research. To create an impressionistic portrait of their experiences, reporters from *the view* wrote a few vignettes of their presentations.

**Abraham Awolich**, "Perceptions of Fairness in the Workplace: Testing a Categorization Approach to Fairness Judgments," with mentor David Jones, assistant professor of business administration.

Awolich, a native of Sudan, rolled up to the front of the hall, fired up his PowerPoint and, like a seasoned veteran of public presentations, warmed his audience up with a joke: His mentor Jones, he said, was working in Hawaii at the moment: "He left me alone to do the presentation. That's unfair." After introducing the importance of employee perceptions of workplace fairness with a quick literature review — it has implications for both turnover and profit, as well as workers' physical and physiological health — Awolich explained how his project used written surveys of diverse workers to compare "categorization theory" (a relatively new theory from the literature that proposes people judge the fairness of a procedure by comparing it to mental template) with a more traditional approach for assessing fairness. Their data indicated that the new approach had promise for explaining variance in fairness judgments, but most of Awolich's more specific hypotheses weren't supported by the data. Undaunted, the anthropology major kept plugging away "We will continue gathering data to build our sample size," Awolich vowed. And indeed he did, subsequently building the sample enough to draw cleaner conclusions and

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submit a presentation to the annual meeting of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology. If accepted, he and Jones will present a paper in Dallas in May 2006.

**The mentor's take:** "Abraham is a very hard worker. It's quite an achievement to start a research project, collect field data and have a finished product three months later that we are now submitting to a top conference. He's also a pleasure to be around; he has a way of infecting others with his positive mood," said Jones.

**Anastasia Yarbrough,** "Can Dialects Form Despite Agricultural Land Management?" with mentor Allan Strong, assistant professor in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources.

Consider the bobolink, a small, black-and-white bird common in the hay fields of New York and Vermont among other locales. Bobolinks are energetic and fluid singers, miniature befeathered Michael Boltons of sorts – with one major difference. The birds, unlike the kitschy pop bellower, are highly inventive. In their migratory hayfield communities, the birds will share their unique songs, forming a local dialect. Yarbrough was interested in how farming practice helped or hindered the creation of these dialects. Her thought was that cutting the fields early (in order to bring a second crop of hay before fall) would disperse the population and keep the birds from forming a dialect, while dialects would form in hay fields left intact until the end of the season. She chose four sites (two early cut, two late) in Vermont and New York and attempted to digitally record at least five complete songs from five randomly selected birds. She processed the song samples on a computer, breaking the songs down note-by-note, and used hierarchical cluster analysis to find similarities in musical phrases between different songs. The range of difference between individual birds was wide, but the late-cut fields seemed to show more shared songs than the early cut locations. But Yarbrough cautioned that the data was not conclusive. "We need more research and more data," she said.

**The mentor's take:** "Working with Anastasia was fun. There were a number of logistical challenges that would have been daunting for a student with less resolve. Anastasia solved a series of technical and analytical problems and brought a real intellectual curiosity to the question of how bobolink song dialects are maintained," Strong said.

**Carla Holden,** "Awakening Sleeping Beauty: An Exploration in Theme, Interpretation and History," with mentor Wolfgang Mieder, professor of German and Russian.

You remember the story of Sleeping Beauty, the one about the young lady whose twins, born after their mother was raped by a nobleman, were almost cooked up in a stew and served by the nobleman's jealous wife to her unsuspecting husband? You would know this version of the story, if you were born in the 17th century. Carla Holden, a classics and English double-major from Saxton's River, Vt., studied the transformation of fairy tales from their original oral versions to their later, more familiar, written permutations. Along with a presentation on the genre's mutable nature, Holden discussed the degree to which fairy tales have permeated our culture, from images on collectable plates, stamps and postcards to the retelling of famous fairy tales in comic strip form. The interpretations of fairy tales are as diverse as versions themselves; while some read Sleeping Beauty psychoanalytically, seeing the character's long sleep as a way of avoiding maturation, others interpret the story and the dangerous encounter with the spinning needle with a feminist lens, arguing that Sleeping Beauty is a story about the hardships of domestic work. Holden's work on fairy tales will not end with her McNair project; she hopes to study the oldest variant of Sleeping Beauty when she begins work on her senior thesis next year.

**The mentor's take:** "Carla is a great young student and mind. She gained a great background in fairy tales, and in the end, she was able to write an impressive piece of scholarship and give a wonderful PowerPoint presentation," Mieder said.

The other presentations were "Judicial Appointment Politics of Lower Federal Court Nominees," Samantha Munro (mentor: Lisa Holmes); "Terrorism and Poverty," Daniel Aguek (mentor: Gregory Gause); "Comparison of Pretreatment Methods for Human Plasma Samples Prior to Protein



Identifications Using Mass Spectrometry," Mellisa Ly (mentor: Dwight Matthews); "Natal and Breeding Dispersal in Bobolinks and Savannah Sparrows," Natalia Fajardo (mentor: Allan Strong); "Determining the Transmission Dynamics of Chagas Disease," Bior Bior (mentor: Lori Stevens); "Wireless Sensor Networks," Heather Taylor (mentor: Jeff Frolik); and "Changes of Troponin I Phosphorylation in the Progression of Heart Failure," Rachel Lacy (mentor: Jim Vigoreaux).

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*Representatives from the McNair Scholars Program will have a table at Activities Fest on Sept. 7 in front of Billings to answer questions and distribute applications for the program's 2006 class of scholars.*

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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## Bramley Steps Down as Provost

By University Communications Staff

Article published Aug 31, 2005

Provost John Bramley announced on Monday, August 29, that he would step down from the post he has held since 2001.

"I am announcing my decision today to step down as University of Vermont Provost, effective June 30, 2006," said Bramley in a campus-wide email. "It has been a great pleasure working first with Ed Colodny and latterly with Daniel Fogel. We have made tremendous progress and I am proud to have played a part. As many of you know, it has always been my intent to serve in this role for a finite period. I now believe it is the right time for the University and for me to make this announcement and begin a smooth transition."

President Daniel Fogel credited Bramley, who came to the university in 1990 as professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, with playing an integral role in advancing the university's 10-year vision.

"The University has enjoyed remarkable success over the last few years in numerous areas," said Fogel. "Everyone has played a part, yet, as I said to the Board of Trustees and the community last week, John Bramley's passion, intelligence, commitment, leadership, and love of UVM are registered in every major program and initiative under way at UVM today."

Bramley, who oversees the university's \$453 million budget and its strategic financial plan, intends to take some time off before possibly returning to the university as a faculty member. Fogel said a search for Bramley's replacement would begin immediately.

"Among the exciting challenges that lie ahead in the new academic year, one that looms particularly large will be the search for an outstanding individual to succeed John Bramley as Senior Vice President and Provost when John completes his service, as he has told me he wishes to do, by the end of next June," Fogel said. "John is a superb human being, an inspiring teacher and distinguished scientist, a first-rate executive, and an extraordinarily gifted academic leader. I am personally grateful for the good luck I have had of working with such a wonderful Provost, and I know that my colleagues across campus will join me in the conviction that UVM has been fortunate to have the benefit of what will have been, by the time he steps down, five and a half years of provostial leadership by Andrew John Bramley."

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## Aiken Lectures Celebrate 30th Year By Looking Forward, Back

By Cheryl Dorschner

Article published Aug 26, 2005

Like the mythological god Janus — looking both back and forward — this year's University of Vermont's George D. Aiken Lecture Series aims to celebrate a 30th anniversary with the premiere showing of a retrospective documentary of Aiken's life and four talks tackling some of our future's most serious issues. Dates have been set for the 2005 events, which are themed "Visioning the Future and Vermont."

"We are bringing to UVM some of the foremost thinkers in their fields, people whose ideas challenge, needle and inspire their listeners to action," says program developer Andrea Grayson. "We want our audience to spend more than just one day with these ideas, we want people to learn and return. We want people to hear these global messages and come back to apply them at home in Vermont."

As a result, organizers replaced the Aiken Lectures' traditional day-long Saturday event with four weeknight lectures and two showings of the film during the course of the academic year. Each will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Ira Allen Chapel. All events are free, and the public is welcome. Anticipating the popularity of the Aiken Lectures, reservations are required, and 900 tickets will be distributed for each event, with limited overflow capacity also available.

To tie these global issues to local discussion and action, UVM is partnering with Vermont Public Radio to broadcast each lecture on the Thursday after the event, followed by a live call-in "Switchboard" program with Vermont experts.

Highlights of the lectures follow:

- *Sept. 29.* Best-selling author and futurist consultant to organizations and industries, Atul Dighe provokes audiences with "Five Big Questions about the Future." Dighe, co-author of "Exploring the Future," is often quoted in national media.
- *Oct. 17.* Jagdish Bhagwati, Columbia University professor and senior fellow in international economics at the Council on Foreign Relations, will speak on how local choices have far-reaching impact. Bhagwati will illustrate how individuals can influence the global marketplace.
- *Nov. 9 (Pavilion Building, Montpelier) and Nov. 11 (Campus Center Theater, Billings).* Premiere showing of the biographical documentary on the life of George D. Aiken (1892-1984), farmer, horticulturist, author, Vermont governor from 1937-1941 and U.S. Senator for the next 34 years.
- *Feb. 15.* Jan Albers and Darby Bradley will review how economic, government and industry pressures have changed Vermont's landscape throughout its history and might be likely to change it in the future. Albers, a historian, is author of *Hands on the Land: A History of the Vermont Landscape*. Bradley is president of the Vermont Land Trust.
- *March 14.* Dr. David Satcher, who was United States Surgeon General from 1998-2002, will go beyond the current debate about the healthcare crisis and explore the role of individual empowerment and responsibility in the only long-term solution: staying well.

This lecture series, established by UVM to honor Aiken, has addressed such topics as nuclear weapons, human genetics, foreign affairs, campaign finance reform, personal transportation choices and alternative energy. This interdisciplinary event is sponsored by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, School of

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Business Administration, College of Medicine, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences, UVM Extension and Continuing Education, and the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences.

Reservations and information: [Aiken Lectures](#).

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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](mailto:theview@uvm.edu)

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## UVM to Celebrate National Deaf & Disability Awareness Month

By staff

Article published Aug 30, 2005

October is National Deaf & Disability Awareness Month and UVM will celebrate for the ninth year with a diverse series of events. Throughout October, lectures, open classes, panel discussions, workshops, performances and films will seek to increase awareness, understanding and the celebration of people with differing abilities. One in five Americans has some disability, and thus all our lives are affected. Better understanding the many tools and opportunities available helps create a more inclusive university and a more inclusive world.

The month starts with an Art Show Opening Reception on Monday, October 3rd at Noon in Billings Student Center North Lounge. Riva Lehrer's "Circle Stories" is a series of portraits of people in a variety of fields, including the arts, academia and political activism. Each has a significant physical disability and an interest in exploring body issues in his or her own work. This project began in 1997 and currently includes ten works. All ten will be on display throughout the month.

Other Highlights for the month include:

- Oct. 3 at 7:30 p.m., Billings Student Center North Lounge, Jeff Charlebois, an experienced comedian and writer, who performs across the country. After being paralyzed in a car accident, Jeff turned his tragedy positive, learning the art of comedy and overcoming many obstacles. Not only is comedy a driving force in his life, but so is his commitment towards promoting disability awareness and motivating others to overcome life's obstacles.
- Film series including three documentaries. All films will be shown in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building at 3:30 p.m. with discussion to follow. "Rolling," which explores the lives of people who use wheelchairs kicks, things off on Oct. 6, followed by "My Classic Life as an Artist" about the life of Vermonter Larry Bissonette on Oct. 12. "What Do You Do When You Meet a Blind Person" is set for Oct. 18.
- Workshops on the ADA, epilepsy, the Vermont deaf community, autism, depression and more.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, or to request an accommodation, go to [www.uvm.edu/~aao/aware.html](http://www.uvm.edu/~aao/aware.html) or call 656-3368.

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### Awards and Honors

**Christopher Allen**, professor of chemistry and former project director for Vermont EPSCoR, was honored for his 38 years of service to UVM in an Aug. 15 *festschrift* at the Vermont EPSCoR annual meeting. The celebratory volume includes writing from a wide range of people, and many of Allen's former graduate students returned to campus to celebrate their mentor and make professional and research presentations. The day-long EPSCoR meeting featured more than 80 posters from EPSCoR-funded projects pursued by private companies and faculty at UVM and other baccalaureate institutions. **Judith Van Houten**, professor of biology, is the program's new director.

**Thomas McEvoy**, forest resources specialist, won a second national award for his 2004 book, *Positive Impact Forestry: A Sustainable Approach to Managing Woodlands*. The volume was recognized by *Choice*, a publication of the Association of College & Research Libraries, as the year's outstanding academic title in biology/botany.

### Publications and Presentations

**Kathleen Manning**, associate professor of education, visited the Chinese University of Hong Kong for two weeks in June via Fulbright Senior Scholar Program. This is her third trip to China and first to Hong Kong as part of Fulbright programs. As part of the visit, she conducted several presentations at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, University of Hong Kong and the U.S. Consulate in Guangzhou. She consulted with the student affairs staff of the CUHK who are seeking to re-organize that division. Manning has plans to conduct a study tour for graduate students in student affairs this year or next.

**Matthew Wilson**, research assistant professor of business administration, presented a paper and co-chaired a workshop session on "Protecting Ecosystem Services through Private Sector Partnerships and the Capital Markets" at the Ecological Society of America's Annual meeting held in Montreal on Aug. 10. Wilson's paper, "Ecosystem Service Valuation: Making the Case for Proactive Natural Capital Asset Management," was presented in an open forum along with 8 other representatives from academia, government and business, including Yale University, Smith Barney and Rio Tinto Mining Plc. The primary theme of the oral paper session and workshop were that financial markets attuned to environmental issues will create permanent and powerful incentives for companies to improve environmental performance, while also ensuring better long-term returns for global market investors.

**Chris Hodgdon**, assistant professor of business administration, received the Outstanding International Accounting Dissertation Award, International Accounting Section, at the American Accounting Association 2005 Annual Meeting on Aug. 8 in San Francisco. In his dissertation, Hodgdon investigates the relationship between the accuracy and dispersion of analysts' earnings forecasts and firm compliance with the disclosure requirements of International Accounting Standards. His findings suggest that compliance with the disclosure requirements of IAS reduces information asymmetry and enhances the ability of financial analysts to provide more accurate forecasts. Hodgdon also presented the first paper from his dissertation at the meeting. The title of his paper is "Compliance with IAS Disclosure Requirements and Individual Analysts' Forecast Accuracy". Hodgdon and his co-authors' findings support the hypothesis that compliance with IAS improves the information environment for complying firms which is associated with a reduction in analyst forecast errors.

**Daniel Van Der Vliet**, co-director of the Vermont Family Business Initiative,

was featured in the *Burlington Free Press* in the "Business Monday" section on Aug. 18. *July 27, 2005*

### Awards and Honors

**Declan Connolly**, associate professor of physical education, was appointed physiology section editor for the journal *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport*. The 75-year-old publication is one of the most influential journals in the field.

Dr. **Lewis First**, professor and chair of pediatrics and senior associate dean for medical education in the College of Medicine, was elected to a two-year term as a member-at-large of the executive board of the National Board of Medical Examiners. First has been associated with the NBME since 1995 and has served on a number of committees. NMBLE is an independent, not-for-profit organization that provides high-quality examinations for the health professions, including a common evaluation system for applicants seeking initial licensure to practice medicine in the United States.

Dr. **Patricia King**, clinical assistant professor of medicine, was appointed to the Vermont State Medical Practice Board. She is also the chair of the North Investigative Committee for the board and is also on the licensing subcommittee.

**Jane Kolodinsky**, professor and chair of community development and applied economics, with Jeanne Hogarth and Marianne Hilgert of the Federal Reserve Board Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, were awarded one of three "highly commended" awards from the Emerald Publishing Group for their article, "Consumers' Resolution of Credit Card Problems and Exit Behaviors," published in the *Journal of Services Marketing*.

Dr. **Richard Pinckney**, assistant professor of medicine, was presented with the Leonard Tow 2005 Humanism in Medicine Award from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. The foundation sponsors the annual awards for a graduating student and faculty member at nearly 80 of the nation's medical schools. This honor is presented to the student and faculty member who best demonstrate clinical excellence and the foundation's ideals of outstanding compassion in the delivery of care, respect for patients, their families and healthcare colleagues.

UVM police officers **Sue Roberts** and **Jason Bellavance**, and former officer **Bill Sullivan**, were named the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Officers of the Month for April 2005. The award recognizes their courageous, life-threatening response to the carbon-monoxide tragedy at Redstone Apartments. The award represents only the second time since the program's inception in 1996 that a university police officer was recognized. A citation of the UVM officers' work is available at [NLEOMF Officer of the Month](#). They will receive their awards at a reception in their honor during National Police Week in May 2006.

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Gale Burford, professor of social work, published an article, "Families: Their role as Architects of Civil Society and Social Inclusion," in the June issue of *Practice: A Journal of the British Association of Social Workers*. Burford also gave a presentation and co-led a workshop at the American Humane Association's 2005 conference in Long Beach, Calif. in June. The presentation was titled "Confronting Myths and Charting the Course in Family Group Decision Making" and the workshop was titled "Further Conversations on Family Group Decision Making in Child Welfare as a Restorative Practice."

Burford also co-authored a paper accepted for presentation at the conference "Interprofessional Education: Grounding Theory in Action" held at the University of Toronto Conference Center May 26-27. The paper, "An Interprofessional HIV/AIDS Teaching Module for Pharmacy, Nursing, Medicine and Social Work Students," grew out of work the authors did together at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

**Amanda Kennedy**, research assistant professor of medicine and **Richard Pinckney** have been delivering educational sessions to medical practices throughout the state as part of the Vermont Academic Detailing Program. The