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At his first Convocation, on Sept. 3, President Fogel asked the UVM community to raise "the competitive metabolism" of every aspect of the campus. (Photo: Sally McCay)

President Daniel Mark Fogel presided over his first university wide ritual on Sept. 3, leading an impressively large faculty contingent into Ira Allen Chapel to participate in Convocation. He told students, faculty, staff and guests that UVM is "a hot school," loosening his collar to indicate the sub-text meaning in the sauna-like heat of the crowded chapel.

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[New Faculty](#) The University of Vermont's newest professors have arrived on campus, armed with their intellects and plans to climb the tenure ladder. Here, *the view* introduces a few of them.

[A Top Teacher](#)

Although he claims to have entered the teaching profession "kicking and screaming," for 21 years Joseph Schall has inspired countless students to study science and to embark on successful careers.

[Fighting CF](#)

Dieter Gruenert has been studying gene therapy for cystic fibrosis for more than 15 years. "the view" spoke to him about his work, and the prospects of finding a cure.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Sept. 5 Noon-1 p.m. Video, "Land of Look Behind," documents the funeral of reggae musician Bob Marley and the lives of Jamaican people. Allen House. 656-7990

Sept. 6 5-7 p.m. Backyard BBQ: Free food served by the men's hockey team for returning students. Women's Center. 656-7892

Sept. 7 1 p.m. Women's Soccer vs. Harvard, Centennial Field.

Sept. 8 2 p.m. Artist's Slide Talk and Reception: "The Making of Willard Scott," Corwin Hewitt. Fleming Auditorium. 656-0750

Sept. 9 7 p.m. President's Lecture Series for First Year Students: Rachel Johnson, acting dean, CALS: "Issues in Nutrition: The Hard Truth about Soft Drinks," Billings Center Theatre.

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**Colors of Fall**

Faculty in colorful academic regalia were among the main attractions of the 2002 Convocation held on Sept. 3. For more on the ceremony, see [this story](#). (Photo: Sally McCay)

Faculty Union, Administration Declare Impasse

On Sept. 3, negotiators for UVM and United Academics, the faculty union representing approximately 600 members, declared their collective bargaining discussions had reached an impasse. The parties have been engaged in bargaining since December 2001.

Commenting on the announcement, Interim Provost John Bramley said, "While the parties have reached impasse, we are hopeful that we will achieve a mutually acceptable contract. Negotiating a first contract is difficult and time consuming, especially with a faculty unit that includes both tenure-track and non tenure-track faculty. Our experience thus far is typical of institutions going through first contract negotiations."

The current UVM proposal includes an offer of 3 percent annual salary increases for three years with no changes in benefits; and a new, post-tenure review program, among other items.

David Shiman, professor of education and one of five faculty union negotiators, said UVM officials have not fulfilled their promise "to do something about compensation."

United Academics held a news conference Sept. 4 to announce the impasse and the next step, which will involve federal mediation. Union president Linda Backus, research assistant professor of education, said the two sides were "far apart on 19 articles." They will meet with Commissioner Ira Lobell of the federal mediation and conciliation

Campus to Observe Sept. 11 Anniversary

Students and faculty have planned two events to mark the first anniversary of the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Student leaders have designed a nondenominational service to be held Sept. 11 in Ira Allen Chapel. ROTC students will raise the flag outside Ira Allen to full staff at dawn. At 8:46 a.m., the time the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center, they will lower the flag to half-staff and fire a single volley in remembrance of those who have served this country. At that time, the chapel bells will toll for one minute. The service will begin at 8:47 a.m. Students, faculty and staff who wish to participate should gather at Ira Allen by 8:30 a.m.

The service will include music, silent reflection and comments by President Daniel Mark Fogel; Jon Badaracco, SGA president; and Unitarian minister Roddy O'Neil Cleary. At 10:30 a.m., the bells will toll again to commemorate the collapse of the second tower. The chapel will be available all day for personal reflection.

President Fogel has asked faculty to "exercise both compassion and discretion on behalf of their students who would like to attend the service." Provost John Bramley has asked faculty to shift any examinations or major assignments planned for that day to other class meetings and for supervisors to make all feasible provisions for interested staff to attend the service on university time.

Faculty members in Area and International Studies have planned a panel discussion for Sept. 11, from 4 to 6 p.m., in Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

The panel, "The September 11th Attack: What To Do One Year Later," will comprise two Middle East Studies authorities and one specialist in American foreign policy: Gregory Gause, associate professor of political science and chair of the Middle East Studies Program; Robert Kaufman, associate professor of political science; and Bogac Ergene, assistant professor of history. Kevin McKenna, professor of Russian and director of the Area and International Studies Program, will moderate the discussion.

From Esoteric to Everpresent

Jim Petersen, professor of archaeology, spends his career immersed in the distant past. So he was surprised this summer to find some of his "esoteric" interests near the center of a media boomlet. When Petersen arrived in Brazil for a

service Sept. 11. She said that step is "not necessarily a sign of failure on anyone's part."

Various members of UA raised issues of salaries that lag behind UVM's track institutions; gender inequities in tenure appointments and contracts; inequities for non-tenure track faculty; and inability to hire top quality faculty because of salary and cost of living factors, which in turn affects the quality of education at UVM.

Survey to Provide Social 'Scorecard' for Lake

Mary Watzin, director of the Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory, is collaborating with a diverse group of UVM faculty to assess ecological and social indicators of the health of the Lake Champlain basin. The process, which includes a detailed survey sent to a random sample of interested basin residents, will yield an "environmental scorecard" on the lake's health due next spring.

"It's designed to come up with a strategy for telling the basin program how well they are doing," Watzin says of the survey, which is funded by the EPA via the Lake Champlain Basin Program. "We'll gauge the health of the ecosystem, and help the program determine if they are producing the results that people most want to see."

Bob Manning, Al Cassell (emeritus), Cully Hession and Deane Wang of the School of Natural Resources are assisting the project, which is among the first comprehensive attempts to weigh social indicators of the lake's health. Survey respondents are placed in the position of lake managers, and asked to consider various tradeoffs. How much surface scum on the water is tolerable? How many beach closures? How safe should the fish be?

The survey team picked conditions that seem to respond to management efforts and therefore reflect the real considerations that the lake's managers make as they choose how to expend their limited budget on particular interventions. Team member Bob Manning, professor of natural resources, is a veteran of conducting trade-off studies; much of his work looks at, for example, how many visitors can a national park accommodate before it becomes so crowded that people no longer want to visit.

"I became involved because I wanted to put some of my park methods into a larger environmental arena," Manning says. "I'm hoping that some of the empirical methods we have developed can have applications to more general questions about what we value in the environment."

Watzin thinks that the unique insights collected by the survey and compiled in the scorecard will help direct management efforts across the lake basin into areas that yield the largest possible payoffs ecologically and socially.

New Grant Will Drive Teacher Training

conference, he was greeted by a writer from *Science* and a documentary crew from the BBC.

"It was unbelievable," he says. "Suddenly here's this guy from *Science* who wants to talk with us, and these documentary guys who wanted to film us everywhere."

The conference, the first devoted to a peculiar type of fertile human-made soil in the Amazon, attracted researchers from a variety of disciplines as well as the reporters. Petersen, who works in the region annually, has excavated sites rich in the soil. He also contributed a chapter about the soil, which is the mysterious product of long habitation by ancient people, to a book accompanying "The Unknown Amazon," a 2001 exhibition at the British Museum.

Petersen thinks the rich earth, called terra preta, is "a gift from the past" in a largely arid region. It's intriguing to Petersen and his colleagues for a variety of reasons, not least that it is the product of long and intense human habitation. Human hands, of course, are usually thought to degrade soil rather than improve it.

Growing interest in the soil has thrust Petersen and his archaeological colleagues from antiquity into hot current debates about sustainable agriculture and soil science. The [Aug. 9 Science article](#) puts the findings into context, and describes the diverse group of inter-disciplinary researchers working in the field.

"It's exciting, it's a rare opportunity for archaeology to directly engage a current problem," Petersen says of the terra preta work. "We are increasing our knowledge of fertility in tropical soils, which may offer clues in how to positively manage soils that are increasingly difficult to cope with. If we better understand these fertile soils in the first place, we might understand more about how to recreate them today."

The BBC crew's documentary, the first ever filmed on Amazonian archaeology, drew much of its narrative from Petersen's book chapter and will include footage from his group's fieldwork sites. It airs in Britain on October 27, and may subsequently be picked up by an American network.

In classic Murphy's Law form, the team Petersen collaborates with made a major discovery shortly after the film crew and reporters had left the region. They found an early Paleo-Indian site in Iranduba, Brazil. The site is about 11,000 years old and is the first professionally recovered location in the area from that particular time period. The group found a spear point there, one of only four or five like it ever discovered in the Amazon. Even more evocative, they found dark, terra preta-like earth, expanding the puzzle of the strange soil. According to the current thinking on the material, it shouldn't have been there.

"Terra preta is taken to be a product of large social groups over long period of time," he says. "But now we have dark soil in a far older site. The

The University of Vermont College of Education and Social Services will share a \$1.5 million grant from IBM designed to deliver higher-quality training and resources for Vermont's preparing and practicing teachers.

A new \$1.5 million grant from IBM will help UVM deliver higher-quality training and resources for Vermont's preparing and practicing teachers. The College of Education and Social Services will share the funding with the Vermont Department of Education and the Vermont State Colleges.

"This project provides an opportunity to work with our partners in Vermont to further develop the ways that UVM is preparing educators to integrate technology in their practice, their research, and their own planning for lifelong learning and professional growth," said Jill Tarule, dean of the college.

The grant will unite a number of state initiatives through the IBM Learning Village – new Web-based educational tools designed to drive higher student achievement. Students in educational preparation programs at UVM and the state colleges will use IBM Learning Village tools in courses and will expand the UVM-developed online "electronic portfolios" that document their accomplishments for licensure and follow teachers throughout their careers.

mystery is, how did the earliest occupants of the Amazon create it? Were they not small social groups as we had thought? Did they stay in place longer than we expected? It's another dimension to a fascinating set of questions."

For more background, see Lynda Majarian's article, "[Rainforest Research Hits Pay Dirt.](#)"

New York Rangers to Return to Gutterson

For the seventh time in the last eight years, the New York Rangers of the National Hockey League will hold its training camp at Gutterson Fieldhouse. The Rangers, led by new head coach and seven-time Stanley Cup champion Bryan Trottier, begin practice Sept. 13 at 9 a.m. The workouts – including scrimmages – will be held from approximately 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every day through Sept. 17. All practice sessions are open to the public, free of charge.

In addition, the Rangers will once again hold an intrasquad game, featuring players from throughout the organization, on Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. Tickets, available at the athletic ticket office in Patrick Gym, are \$8 for adults, \$5 for UVM students, faculty and staff and children 12 and under.

A shuttle service will run from the Sheraton to the fieldhouse on weekdays as there will be no parking for non-UVM members on campus.

Information: 656-1110

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A Coolidge time: See below for details on events celebrating the life of UVM alumna Grace Coolidge.

Grace Coolidge Day at UVM

The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation will hold a day of celebration for Grace Goodhue Coolidge, in her hometown and at her alma mater on Sept. 7. The date marks the 100th anniversary of Coolidge's graduation from UVM. Afternoon academic programs are free. Fees will be charged for a tour of Coolidge's Maple St. home and a dinner in Waterman Manor, at which author Reeve Lindbergh will speak. Her father's famous solo Atlantic flight occurred in 1927 and was a highlight of the Calvin Coolidge presidential years.

The academic sessions, from 1:30 to 4 p.m., in Memorial Lounge, Waterman, will feature Melanie Gustafson, associate professor of history, speaking on "Women and the Republican Party"; Fran DeSimone Becque, director of fraternity education at the national Pi Beta Phi organization, on "A Retrospective on Grace Coolidge"; and author Robert Watson on "Grace Coolidge and Modern Presidential Wives."

Information, locations: Cyndy Bittinger, 672-3389 or info@calvin-coolidge.org

Music Duo Celebrates Milestone with Concert

Two members of UVM's Music Department – David Neiweem, professor and chair, and Alan Parshley, lecturer and affiliate artist in horn playing – will celebrate 20 years at UVM with a free concert, Sept. 8, at 3 p.m., in the UVM Recital Hall. They will perform works for keyboard, voices and French horns with members of the UVM Catamount Singers and the Green Mountain Horn Club.

Theatre Chair Announces New Season, New Services

Jeff Modereger, associate professor of theatre and new chair of the department, has announced new patron services, including:

- The Online Ticket Center: Tickets and subscriptions are available online for all performances. Anyone may visit www.uvm.edu/theatre to purchase securely with a credit card.
- The UVM Theatre Q&A: Following the first Friday performance of each production, the company will visit with interested audience members to chat about the show.
- The Flex-Pass: A flexible subscription now includes four admissions to be used in any way throughout the season.
- Personal Service Representatives: Subscribers will be assigned a personal representative to help them throughout the year.

In the 2002-2003 academic year, the UVM Theatre will present returning favorites, *The Toys Take Over Christmas* and *A Festival of One-Acts*, and productions of *Dancing at Lughnasa*, by Brian Friel; *The Crucible*, by Arthur Miller; and *Cole*, featuring popular hits from American composer Cole Porter.

Lughnasa begins Oct. 2, and *the view* will preview it in the Sept. 25 issue.

Information, tickets, schedule: www.uvm.edu/theatre or 656-2094, Monday through Friday, noon to 5:30 p.m.

Lecture Series Focuses on Sustainable Community Development

The UVM/Burlington Community Outreach Partnership Center has announced its Fall 2002 Public Lecture Series on Sustainable Community Development. The free lectures began on Sept. 3 and will continue each Tuesday through Nov. 19. All lectures will be held in 301 Williams Hall, 3:30-4:45 p.m.

The next lecture, Sept. 10, "Is Burlington Becoming a Sustainable City?" will be given by Burlington Mayor Peter Clavelle. The lectures are presented in conjunction with an undergraduate course taught by COPC Co-Director Richard Schramm, visiting professor in the Community Development and Applied Economics.

COPC was created in 1999 to develop and sustain

Neiweem and Parshley met as graduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1979. They have enjoyed a partnership of 24 years, which they affirmed in a civil union last November. Neiweem was invited to join the faculty in 1982 on a visiting appointment and has taught voice, opera, choral music and conducting. Parshley joined the faculty the following fall, teaching music literature and French horn and conducting the Brass Ensemble.

Neiweem founded the University Catamount Singers, and Parshley founded the Green Mountain Horn Club. Both musicians have worked with musical organizations throughout the state and region, including the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and the Vermont Mozart Festival. Parshley is a member of the Albany Symphony Orchestra, and Neiweem is music director of the Burlington Choral Society and of the First Congregational Church of Burlington.

The musicians are founding directors of the Pitten International Music Festival in Pitten, Austria, a biennial music festival now in its 10th year.

Information on the concert: 656-3040.

Professor's Talk to Explain 15th Century Alburg Site

John Crock, research assistant professor of anthropology, will give the 2002 "Great Discoveries in Archeology" talk Sept. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Pavilion Auditorium in Montpelier. Crock will describe an extraordinarily rich and rare site dating from the eve of the first Native American-European contact, around 1400 A.D.-1500 A.D. The site was discovered in Alburg several years ago during planning for a bridge replacement project.

The lecture is sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society and the Division for Historic Preservation.

Information: Rose Crossley, 479-8500.

partnerships between university departments and local community organizations. COPC projects have focused on developing and training community leaders in Burlington's Old North End, studying the impacts of UVM's employment and purchasing activities on residents and businesses in Chittenden County and surveying the practices of Chittenden communities in order to identify and propose alternatives to barriers to affordable housing.

Complete schedule: 656-0095.

Women of UVM to Host Café

The Women of UVM will host a welcome back café Sept. 10, 3:30-5:30 p.m., at the McClure Intergenerational Center, 241 North Winooski Avenue. The café will feature refreshments and information about the club's activities.

Originally begun as an organization to offer social support to wives and members of UVM faculty and staff, the organization, over the years, has reached out to the community at large. Membership now numbers more than 120 women.

A UVM affiliation is not necessary to attend, just an interest in meeting with other local women around a host of topics. The organization sponsors the following interest groups: book discussion, writing, journaling, music, watercolor painting, Spanish, home arts, hiking, tennis, bridge, swimming and gourmet cooking. As the need arises, new interest groups are formed. The annual fee is \$7. Information: Mary Ann Horenstein, 862-5490.

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*September 4-September 10***Publications and Presentations**

Jonathan Sands, professor of mathematics, served as one of four organizers for "Stark's Conjecture and Related Topics," a major international number theory conference held at Johns Hopkins University from Aug. 5-9, 2002. The 65 participants included many leading experts in number theory. Sands played a role in obtaining grants, inviting speakers, scheduling talks, and making a budget. He will also serve as an editor of the conference proceedings. Further information may be found on the conference website at <http://www.mathematics.jhu.edu/stark/>.

Dr. Helene Langevin, research assistant professor of neurology, published an article titled "Evidence of connective tissue involvement in acupuncture" in the June 2002 issue of the *FASEB Journal*.

Dieter Gruenert, professor of medicine and director of the Human Molecular Genetics Lab, served as guest editor of the June 2002 issue of the *Nature* publication *Gene Therapy* and contributed several articles. The issue comprised the proceedings of an Oct. 2001 meeting on genome medicine in Rome co-chaired by Gruenert. Other article contributors from the University of Vermont include **Kaarin Goncz**, assistant professor of medicine, and **Elena Bruscia Krementsova**, senior researcher, department of molecular physiology and biophysics.

Paul Turner, assistant professor of medicine, was awarded a Senator Proctor Research Award from the American Lung Association of Vermont for his project titled "Development of Interactive Voice Response Technology for the Management of Asthma." Co-investigators include: **Dr. John Searles**, research assistant professor of psychiatry; **Dr. Anne Dixon**, assistant professor of medicine; **Dr. Ben Littenberg**; **Dr. Carleen Tufo**; and **Dr. Henry Tufo** professor of medicine and director of the division of general internal medicine.

Pauline Ratnasingam, assistant professor of business administration, presented a paper titled "The Role of Web Services in Business to Business E-Commerce" at the 8th Americas Conference in Information Systems at Dallas, Texas on Aug. 9-11. She was also invited to chair sessions on e-business and trust research.

Helen Scott, assistant professor of English, published an article titled, "'Dem tief, dem a dam tief': Jamaica Kincaid's Literature of Protest," in the summer issue of the literary journal *Callaloo*.

Donna Kuizenga, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of romance languages, recently published an article entitled, "Ecriture à la mode/modes de réécriture: Les Femmes illustres de Madeleine et Georges de Scudéry," in *La Femme au XVIIe siècle*, edited by Richard Hodgson.

Wesley L. Nyborg, emeritus professor of physics, was invited to present the 25th Lauriston S. Taylor Lecture in Radiation Protection and Measurements at the 2001 Annual Meeting of the national Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. The lecture was published in the May 2002 issue of *Health Physics*. Nyborg's article and talk were introduced by a retrospective of his career given by Marvin Ziskin of Temple University.

Awards and Honors

Dr. Alan S. Rubin, assistant professor of medicine, has been elected to the

medical honor society Alpha Omega Alpha.

August 28-September 3

Awards and Honors

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

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

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

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

Publications and Presentation

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

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

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

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

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

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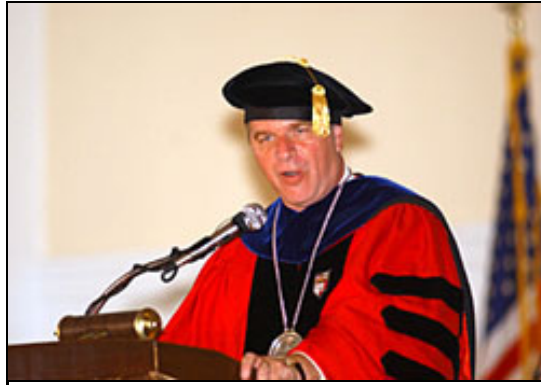
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UVM HOMEPAGE

A Hot School Warms to Convocation

By Lee Griffin



At his first Convocation, on Sept. 3, President Fogel asked the UVM community to raise "the competitive metabolism" of every aspect of the campus. (Photo: Sally McCay)

President Daniel Mark Fogel presided over his first university-wide ritual on Sept. 3, leading an impressively large faculty contingent into Ira Allen Chapel to participate in Convocation. He told students, faculty, staff and guests that UVM is "a hot school," loosening his collar to indicate the sub-text meaning in the sauna-like heat of the crowded chapel.

Ticking off the reasons for UVM's hot status,

Fogel noted that the class of 2006 had raised the bar with its increased selectivity that "jumped the better part of 10 points," in a competitive admissions year. Likewise, faculty in the past year set a "high-water mark" in their research, scholarship and creativity, he said. As one gauge of their productivity, Fogel noted that they attracted 17 percent more in grants and contracts than the previous year and more than three times the amount brought in six years ago. And, carrying the hot analogy to fulfillment, he focused his talk on "raising the competitive metabolism" of this "marvelous university."

To do so, we must build connections, he said. Connections between faculty and students, connections with our fellow students and colleagues, with our communities. "We are all connected, and until we come to terms with the full implications of that interconnectedness – that 'what happens to the poorest person in the poorest country can affect the richest person in the richest country' – we will not be in a position to renovate the world, making it secure, just and humane, not just for ourselves but for all people everywhere," Fogel said.

Companions to caring for ourselves and others, he said, are high expectations for both. UVM staff, he said, must care enough to eschew "bureaucratic turgidity and unresponsiveness." They must "cast off a business-as-usual attitude."

Faculty expectations should include "scholarship and creative work at the highest competitive national levels" and giving students "the personal attention they crave and deserve." We also must work to see UVM "become a more graduate-intensive institution with larger cadres of nationally competitive doctoral students," Fogel said. He especially singled out "the goal of creating a truly diverse learning community," an area in which he would hold "everyone from the top down" accountable.

He told students to "expect to go to class, of course, but ... expect to go beyond the required readings ... to make every assignment and project the very best you can accomplish." He especially urged them to act as good citizens, respecting their Burlington neighbors as if they were their own parents. Fogel advised them not to "succumb too early to over-specialization," but to immerse themselves in "a superb liberal arts education."

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[New Faculty](#)

The University of Vermont's newest professors have arrived on campus, armed with their intellects and plans to climb the tenure ladder. Here, *the view* introduces a few of them.

[A Top Teacher](#)

Although he claims to have entered the teaching profession "kicking and screaming," for 21 years Joseph Schall has inspired countless students to study science and to embark on successful careers.

[Fighting CF](#)

Dieter Gruenert has been studying gene therapy for cystic fibrosis for more than 15 years. "the view" spoke to him about his work, and the prospects of finding a cure.

He ended by wishing everyone “the same joy in your work that I take in mine,” and quoting the last stanza of “Two Tramps in Mudtime,” by Robert Frost, which says, in part:

“Only where love and need are one,
And the work is play for mortal stakes,
Is the deed ever really done
For Heaven and the future’s sake.”

Read Fogel's complete address at: [Convocation Address](#)

Convocation Advice

Recent Kidder Award recipients Thomas Hudspeth, associate professor of natural resources, and Paula Fives-Taylor, professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, gave the opening and closing reflections respectively.

Hudspeth urged new students to complement their classroom learning with outreach work in the field. UVM, he said, is a leader in areas of sustainability but it has “much unfulfilled potential.”

Fives-Taylor told students to focus on this new beginning and forget past mistakes. “I see a privileged group,” she said, looking out over the crowd. She urged them not to waste this “most precious gift” and to link it with service. “Personal gain is empty if you haven’t touched the lives of others,” she said, and wished everyone a “Happy New Year.”

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UVM HOMEPAGE

A Potpourri of New Faculty

By Kevin Foley

The University of Vermont's newest professors arrived on campus over the last few months or weeks, armed with their degrees and ambitious plans to climb the tenure ladder through the use of their sterling skills in research, education, service and, undoubtedly, diplomacy.

the view spoke with a few of UVM's newest tenure-track faculty to introduce them to the campus. The volume of new appointments meant we couldn't speak with everyone; what follows is a highly anecdotal glimpse at a few individuals who managed to return our calls amid the stresses of moving and starting a new job.

New faculty: Saleem Ali

Department: Environmental program, School of Natural Resources

Training: Ph.D., M.I.T.

Recent experience: Adjunct assistant professor, Brown University

Major publications: *Ore Conflicts: Mining, The Environment and Aboriginal American Development*, to be published May, 2003 by the University of Arizona press.

Research interests: He is currently involved in various research projects focusing on the causes of environmental conflicts between indigenous communities and mining companies. For more details on this, [click here](#).

Outside interests: "I do some photography, play the piano and love to travel with my family, especially to parts of the world with indigenous communities."

Quirky personal fact: Fluent or literate in four languages: English, Arabic, Urdu and Punjabi.

Why he chose UVM: "I came here primarily because of the excellent array of environmental programs offered here and the zeal with which the university has embraced environmental initiatives."

Quote from the chair: "Saleem brings a wealth of international ties and experiences from the Congo to China, along with considerable interdisciplinary talents," says Ian Worley, department chair. "He will be an immediate resource for a great number of our seniors doing their senior theses and planning international study abroad. His course in environmental conflict resolution this coming spring is a long anticipated and welcome addition to the campus. I expect his skills in conflict resolution will be in high demand as he becomes known throughout the campus and Vermont."

New faculty: Jennifer Dickinson

Department: Anthropology

Training: Ph.D., University of Michigan

Recent experience: post-doc teaching at the University of Alberta

Research interests: "I am a linguistic anthropologist focusing on how language is a part of social and economic change in Eastern Europe, specifically the Ukraine."

Why she chose UVM: "I am really, really excited to move back to the Northeast. I'm excited about the department – they are a dynamic group of people who are doing research that interweaves together in surprising ways. It's stimulating to talk with them. There are also some wonderful teaching opportunities here."

Outside interests: "I like to walk and kayak. Winters, I snowshoe – I also read and knit, things you can do inside."

Quote from the chair: "Jennifer is a very promising and energetic linguistic anthropologist, and she will help us add this critical dimension to our department," says Jim Petersen, department chair. "She also helps us expand in another direction: She brings an interest in European anthropology that we haven't had before."

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New faculty: Thomas Hughes
Department: Chemistry
Training: Ph.D., Cornell University
Recent experience: Post-doctoral research associate at the University of Illinois
Research interests: Hughes's focus is on organic materials – but not with the synthesis of relatively small molecules that has been the traditional focus of organic chemistry. Hughes wants to develop materials with thousands or tens of thousands of carbon molecules. Take polymers, a subject close to Hughes's heart. They might be big, but they are generally simple. "Imagine a train pulling the same cars over and over again," he says. Traditionally, one might try to build more complex polymers by painstakingly assembling them piece by piece. A second, perhaps more flexible approach, underlies Hughes's research. "I'm interested in self-assembling polymers. You create small structural units that freely associate when you bring them together. You might create 100 small molecules that potentially could self-organize into very complex molecules."
Outside interests: Exploring Vermont. It's his policy to check out small towns wherever he's been, and the towns here have been particularly conducive to that.
Why he chose UVM: "First and foremost was the breadth and strength of the different programs on campus; my research is going to multidisciplinary, we're going to make molecules and build devices. To do that you need a great engineering school, a great medical school. It's also nice to be at a university that has strong sense of history, that's been around for a while. As far as the department goes, it's nice that we have a graduate program that is big enough that we can be involved across all sorts of disciplines, but small enough but I can get to know all the graduate students. That has a way of enhancing cross fertilization."
Quirky personal fact: He's living near the lake, so his commute is a walk on the bike path, then the College Street shuttle. "I've never had a better trip to work," he says.

New faculty: Major Jackson
Department: English
Training: M.F.A., University of Oregon
Recent experience: Assistant professor, Xavier University
Publications: *Leaving Saturn* (University of Georgia Press, 2002)
Writing interests: His first book's title alludes to avant garde jazz great Sun Ra. The poem's dance across Jackson's passions – music, urban life, the power and beauty of language, and, everywhere, the struggle, dignity and brilliance of African Americans.
Quirky personal fact: Wrote the liner notes for a recording by "The Roots," a Philadelphia musical group. (Bonus fact: The poet's undergraduate major was accounting.)
Quote from the chair: "Major Jackson is a dynamic writer and teacher whose work combines classical poetics with hip-hop subject matter and sensibilities," says Robyn Warhol, department chair. "He brings a new dimension to our already very strong offerings in African-American literature and culture, and we are delighted to have him with us."

New faculty: Sanjeeva Murthy
Department: Physics
Title: Associate professor
Training: Ph.D., University of Connecticut (1976)
Recent experience: Honeywell Corporation, senior principal scientist
Research interests: Generally, soft-matter physics and advanced composites and materials. "I'll be looking at the structure, properties and physics of polymers and composites. A polymer is the key component of plastic." Much of his recent work at Honeywell centered on polymer deformation. In industry, this work related to composites used in bullet-proof vests. At UVM, Murthy hopes to apply some of that thinking to biomaterials in general and muscles in particular. Murthy believes the physics of muscle fibers and polymers have a lot in common.
Murthy on moving from private industry: "I have always wanted to do two things. The first is more basic research. Honeywell was more receptive to that 20 years ago; as time went on, they, like others, have cut back. The second half is teaching. I love to teach, I used to teach even when I was at Honeywell, and my selfish desire is to leave some kind of legacy by influencing students."
Why he chose UVM: "I wanted to help start a new program in polymers, and the people here were very excited and receptive about that. Many other

universities already have such a program. I'm also pleased at the medical school; how close by it is, and how receptive people there are to my ideas. There's a very active group working in my area of interest."

The job's biggest drawback: His family is, for the time being, still in New Jersey.

Quote from the chair: "Advanced materials are an area of focus for the state of Vermont, and Dr. Murthy is a materials science physicist and an expert in polymer scientist," says Junru Wu, department chair. "His expertise in polymer science will bridge materials science and biomedical physics nicely, two areas our department has focused on."

New faculty: Haley Woodside-Jiron

Department: Education (reading and literacy program)

Training: Ph.D., State University of New York at Albany

Other experience: She has served as a research associate in the National Research Center on English Learning and Achievement at Albany, taught at the graduate level, and served as an elementary learning specialist and a special educator in three states – New York, California and Vermont.

Research interests: "What I'm really interested in is how literacy is shaped by public policy. It's an exciting time in the field – the debates aren't just on what teachers should teach but how they teach. And I'm interested in how that gets steered by the media, politicians and college courses. My dissertation thinks through what the policy means for students in the classroom. My future efforts will probably move back from the policy level. I'd like to go back to the classroom and explore the link between policy and practice. Just because people are told to do things doesn't mean they actually do them."

Outside interests: Spending time with her two young children is her priority for non-work time. When she can, she spends some of her free time writing. "I love to write," she says.

Why she chose UVM: A collaborative environment and coursework centered on fieldwork. "This is a really strong environment for developing teachers, and it is fun to be a part of that," she says.

Biographical fact: Woodside-Jiron is a UVM alumna. "I was born and raised here, went to school here," she says. "This is definitely home."

More on New Faculty

The Center for Teaching and Learning compiled [this list](#) of new faculty for their [orientation program](#). It includes non-tenure track faculty and some appointments made last spring.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Schall Shares Delight of Learning

By Lynda Majarian



Joe Schall (far right), professor of biology, treats his students like members of the family.

Although he claims to have entered the teaching profession “kicking and screaming,” for 21 years Joseph Schall has inspired countless students to study science and to embark on successful careers.

Schall, a professor of biology, loves to brag about his former students – and subsequently, good friends – who are working as scientists

everywhere from Africa to Hawaii. One of them is Annie Keller, who works in the gene-sequencing facility at the American Museum of Natural History in New York and recently began graduate studies in criminology.

“Dr. Schall changes lives by enthusiastically providing the direction and research experience that place us a step ahead of the rest,” she says, noting that she still regularly visits Schall’s lab.

Another is Susan Perkins, now a faculty member at the University of Colorado. Perkins and Schall recently collaborated on a research paper that will appear in the next issue of the *Journal of Parasitology*.

“Although I don’t have any kids at home, I like to think I have a lot of them in life,” says Schall, a recent recipient of UVM’s prestigious Kroepsch-Maurice Award for Teaching Excellence.

An expert on the process of evolution and the molecular genetics of malaria parasites, Schall has received millions of research dollars from organizations such as the National Science Foundation to study the prevalence, ecology and molecular population genetics of the parasite in a wide variety of kinds of hosts and at many sites, including tropical rainforests.

“You need only to attend one of his parasitology lectures to see why he’s a good teacher,” Keller says. “I challenge you to find somebody else who gets that excited about such disgusting little organisms!”

Equally exciting for Schall is seeing students respond to science. “Sharing the delight of learning,” he says, is what convinced him to teach. Especially when he can ignite curiosity in a student who thinks he or she isn’t the scientific type.

“Joe is most proud of his challenging cases, the students who were not motivated in the classroom but became driven to ‘do science’ working with him in the lab,” says Judith Vanhouten, biology professor and department chair. “He is a master teacher in all settings, from a class of 200 to the laboratory or talking to you in the hallway.”

Even when he is hundreds of miles from the classroom, Schall remains focused

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on his students. Every grant proposal he writes includes stipends for students to travel and conduct research by his side.

"You can't be a good teacher of science if you're not doing it," he vows. "You have to be a creator, get your fingernails dirty." His practice is to spend the first two to three weeks in the field setting up a project. Then he leaves the students in charge. To some professors, the idea of giving students so much responsibility might seem farfetched. But Schall attests, "They do great work, and I've never had a student disappoint me." And we're talking about a lot of students. In addition to serving as an academic advisor to about 30 students every year, Schall mentors another 40 or so who come to him with problems and research interests.

Despite his popularity with students and peers, Schall modestly suggests that his Kroepsch-Maurice award is actually a reflection of the excellence of the his department as a whole.

"If I'm a success, it's because this department fosters the importance of scholarship and teaching," he says. This semester, Schall is taking a sabbatical to conduct research on the genetic markers of malaria parasites.

"I'm learning to be a molecular geneticist," he says. His research will take him first to the Caribbean and then to Colorado, where he'll team up with former student Perkins again.

But the teaching bug has bitten Schall hard. "I can't stay away a whole year," he admits. "Next spring, I'll be back in the classroom again."

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INTERview: Dieter Gruenert

By Jennifer Nachbur



Dieter Gruenert, professor of medicine, is unlocking the genome to find answers for cystic fibrosis. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Professor of Medicine and Director of Human Molecular Genetics **Dieter Gruenert** has been studying gene therapy for cystic fibrosis for more than 15 years. While he was making his mark in the late 1980s establishing the first human cell lines carrying the CF gene, colleagues working for a consortium of three labs were isolating the gene responsible for CF. Today Gruenert's cell lines are used worldwide to study not only CF, but

also asthma and other pulmonary diseases.

Last October, Gruenert co-chaired an international conference on genetic medicine and gene therapy – his second – in Rome. Proceedings from that meeting, published in the June 2002 issue of the *Nature* publication *Gene Therapy*, have been cited more than any other *Gene Therapy* issue to date, according to the journal's editors. This summer, Gruenert chaired a session on gene therapy at the European Cystic Fibrosis Society's annual meeting, and also presented a paper on the genetics of late diagnosis of cystic fibrosis patients at the World Health Organization's conference on cystic fibrosis.

the view: What causes cystic fibrosis?

Gruenert: Cystic fibrosis or CF is a monogenic disease – meaning it is caused by a single gene defect. Diseases such as Type 1 diabetes, asthma, and Parkinson's disease are the result of multiple gene defects. Scientists have established that there are 1,000 mutations that can cause CF within that single gene, but 70 percent of CF patients have one mutation in common.

CF occurs in the epithelial cells that line the lungs and also sometimes in the cells that line the pancreas. A gene contains information that serves as a type of "job description" for cellular protein – it tells the amino acids to make a protein and how to do it. Normally, the protein is made and does what it is supposed to do. In the case of a mutation, the "job description" is wrong and therefore, the protein is made improperly and either does not work or works poorly. In CF, the most common mutation occurs in the amino acid chain that makes up the protein responsible for sodium and chloride (salt) ion transport from within the cells that line these organs to their outer surfaces.

One outcome of this defective gene – the CFTR gene – is the production of abnormally thick mucus that blocks the airway passages of the lungs and provides fertile ground for infection. In roughly 85 percent of CF patients, this defective gene also prevents enzymes in the pancreas from reaching the intestines to help digest food.

How many people are afflicted with CF?
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Cystic fibrosis affects approximately 30,000 children and adults in the United States. Typically, an individual with CF inherits a defective gene from both parents. Figures from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation show that more than 10 million people are carriers of the defective CF gene.

How is CF treated?

CF patients receive either inhaled or intravenous antibiotics to prevent the development of bacterial infections in the lungs – the most common cause of death in CF patients. Another treatment is the drug Pulmozyme®, which essentially digests DNA and is administered via a compressed air-driven nebulizer to help thin the mucus. Patients who also suffer from pancreas problems take enzymatic supplements and sometimes require surgery during infancy to remove blockages in their intestines. Physiotherapy – which involves pounding on the back of the patient to help clear the lungs – is also a daily treatment.

What is gene therapy?

Gene therapy is when you go in and fix what is inside a cell – it's like genetic surgery. What we are doing is really called gene targeting. Our lab pioneered an approach that is different than the approach used at other institutions. Rather than complement the defect by introducing a piece of therapeutic DNA that encodes for an entire normal protein, we only introduce a piece of DNA that specifically repairs the region that is damaged in the cellular gene. That way, it does not encode for the complete protein; it only fixes the portion that is damaged. Essentially, gene therapy involves using DNA as a drug to treat a problem.

How does gene therapy help fix the problem that causes CF?

Well, we have actually already fixed the problem in the lab, in what are called "immortalized" cystic fibrosis cells. We start with human cells – the same lines we created in the late 1980s – and adjust the DNA to create CF and then reproduce them. They are characterized as "immortalized," because these cell lines live forever, unlike regular epithelial cells, which die off easily. Scientists use these cells for analyzing the mechanisms responsible for CF and the effects of gene therapy on the disease.

What is the goal of your research?

Our goal right now is to conduct pre-clinical trials in mice to prove that we can get not only genetic correction in the right cells but also can get those cells to function normally, thereby restoring normal function to the lungs and making them less susceptible to bacterial infection.

Though we're working on fixing CF in mice, eventually, we'll be doing it in people. We're not sure how long it is going to take us, but one thing is for sure: as is true for all scientific research, the more funding we receive to support our work, the faster we will arrive at our goal.

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