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UVM HOMEPAGE

Of Fish and Fruit Flies



Into the Notch: Neurobiologist Matthew Rand is using fruit flies to explore how mercury affects the Notch receptor protein, which is crucial to embryonic neural development. (Photo: UVM Medical Photography)

Mercury is a poison that can show up on dinner plates, in the environment and occasionally even in medicine cabinets. UVM scientist Matthew Rand won a \$1.4 million grant to pursue his innovative research on how it does its damage to the developing brain.

[FULL STORY ►](#)

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[Generous Feet](#) At first, senior Avery Cole wasn't sure why the young boy seemed hesitant to accept the sneakers she was offering him. Then she realized that to a child in that region of Ghana, West Africa, who might walk two hours to school, a pair of running shoes was a precious gift.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Sept. 5, 4 p.m. Lecture: Anthony Appiah, Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Philosophy, Princeton University, will give a lecture titled, "What's so Special About Religious Disputes?" as part of the The Donald R. Brown Memorial Lecture Series. Memorial Lounge, Waterman. Information: 656-4042.

Sept. 7-10, 8 a.m. Board of Trustees: Committee of the Whole. Dudley H. Davis Student Center. Information: 656-3450.

Sept. 10, 4 p.m. Faculty Senate: Monthly Meeting. Dudley H. Davis Student Center, Livak Ballroom. Information: 656-2019.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Of Fish and Fruit Flies

Recent grant funds research to discover how mercury harms the developing nervous system

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published August 30, 2007



Into the Notch: Neurobiologist Matthew Rand is using fruit flies to explore how mercury affects the Notch receptor protein, which is crucial to embryonic neural development. (Photo: UVM Medical Photography)

Mercury is a poison that can show up on dinner plates (lurking in seafood like swordfish), in air, water and soil (often from coal-burning power plants), and even in medicine cabinets (via old thermometers).

The news gets worse. In watersheds,

mercury is converted to methylmercury, or MeHg, and becomes more biologically active and potentially harmful to humans and animals. Despite clear evidence of the neurotoxic effects of MeHg, scientists do not have a strong understanding of exactly how it harms the developing nervous system.

Neurobiologist Matthew Rand, research assistant professor of anatomy and neurobiology, wants to help change that. His team's goal is to distinguish the primary means by which MeHg causes neurotoxicity in human neural development. Rand recently received a \$1.4 million grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to continue his research to identify the genes that respond to methylmercury, as well as those that are resistant to it. This effort may one day help direct future strategies of clinical treatment of MeHg toxicity.

Mercury is a real and growing problem. High-level exposure can cause damage to the brain, heart, kidneys, lungs and immune system according to the Environmental Protection Agency. "The bioaccumulation of MeHg in the aquatic food chain poses a significant risk to humans through dietary intake of fresh and saltwater fish and shellfish," explains Rand.

Even more alarming is the risk that eating mercury-exposed fish poses to the developing fetus.

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"Centers for Disease Control statistics show that six percent of women of childbearing age have more than the EPA-recommended level of blood mercury in their system," says Rand. Based on recent studies that highlighted the susceptibility of the fetus to MeHg neurotoxicity, the EPA and Food and Drug Administration issued strict [guidelines](#) for fish and shellfish consumption for pregnant and nursing mothers.

Model MeHG

In order to uncover information about MeHg's role in neurotoxicity, Rand and his colleagues are working with a well-established *Drosophila* (fruit fly) model system. Though this small insect looks nothing like a human, the fly genome includes "cousin" genes to about 60 percent of the 250 known human disease genes. Other scientists are studying MeHg neurotoxicity in rodent models, but Rand is the only investigator working with fruit flies.

"This model offers a powerful tool to identify and characterize fundamental genes that function in the environmental toxicity of compounds such as MeHg," says Rand, who adds that this simple fruit fly model has provided some of the most fundamental genetic principles in neural development. "We're capitalizing on a tried-and-true genetic model and seeking reasons and answering questions to help solve a vital human health issue," explains Rand.

His current research focuses on MeHg activity at the molecular and cellular levels. MeHg is known to inhibit the function of key neurotransmitter receptors and calcium ion channels, as well as cause damage to mitochondria, which produce energy inside cells, and a host of other critical molecular processes. Rand and his team are looking closely at a receptor protein known as Notch, which operates in a highly conserved mechanism of cell-to-cell communication and is fundamental to embryonic neural development in species ranging from insects to humans.

"Once activated, the Notch receptor engages in signaling in several developmental contexts," explains Rand. Of greatest note is its role in directing the fate of neuronal cells, influencing nerve structure and regulating the maturation of glial cells in the brain and spinal cord. "These processes are exquisitely sensitive to the levels of Notch signals," says Rand.

Proteolysis, resistance and vulnerability

MeHg activates Notch receptor signaling and alters its function. In their fruit fly model, Rand and his team are analyzing the basic developmental defects that occur in the nervous system with exposure to MeHg. Of particular interest to the group is the proteolysis — or breakdown of proteins or peptides into amino acids — of Notch by ADAM proteases, which are proteins that reside on the cell surface known for their ability to cleave and release the extracellular component of receptor proteins.

"In one project in the lab, we are investigating the efficacy of each of

the five *Drosophila* ADAM gene products in proteolysis and activity of Notch receptors to clarify the overall role that proteolysis plays in regulating the Notch signaling pathway," says Rand.

Rand and his team discovered that MeHg causes degradation of Notch receptor proteins on developing neural cells and published their findings in the journal *NeuroToxicology* in April 2006. They believe that this degradation occurs through a mechanism that likely engages ADAM activity and are working to characterize the mechanism by which MeHg activates Notch, as well as explain the molecular basis for the cellular disruption seen in a MeHg-exposed nervous system.

"We are also identifying genes associated with tolerance, and alternatively, susceptibility to MeHg toxicity," adds Rand. To accomplish this task, he is using the *Drosophila* model to identify wild type strains and create artificially selected populations in the laboratory that carry heritable MeHg resistance traits. Thanks to microarray technology, Rand and his colleagues have been able to begin to determine the specific changes in gene expression in the developing nervous system that occur in response to acute and long-term exposure to MeHg.

Outside the lab

Because of broad interest in the mercury toxicity issue, Rand has consulted and collaborated with a host of environmental scientists and champions of the issue. He keeps in touch with Neil Kamman, a water quality environmental scientist at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, James Shanley of the water resources division of the U.S. Geological Survey office in Montpelier, David Evers of the Biodiversity Research Institute in Maine and David Duncan, a National Public Radio correspondent, *San Francisco Chronicle* syndicated columnist and author of an October 2006 *National Geographic* piece titled "The Pollution Within."

Rand points out that Senator Patrick Leahy and former Senator Jim Jeffords were responsible for bringing the mercury toxicity issue to the forefront and that Congressman Peter Welch has also been supportive of efforts to increase awareness and research in this area.

A recent study by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science unexpectedly discovered higher than acceptable levels of mercury in songbirds and other animal species in nine "hot spots" in Northeastern United States, reinforcing the urgency of increasing our understanding of the considerable environmental and human health implications of MeHg exposure. Rand's genetic research offers a starting point for studying the effects of this substance on the developing brain and provides important insight into how this toxin affects humans and other living things.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

INTERview: Kesha Ram

A conversation with the new head of the Student Government Association

By Amanda Waite

Article published September 4, 2007

Kesha Ram hopes to make UVM's strong student government even more active and relevant.

Three years ago, senior Kesha Ram left her Los Angeles home and her high school of 5,000 students to attend the University of Vermont. Although she isn't sure what made her decide to apply in the first place, it was her first campus visit — a visit, she says, that showed

her UVM's commitment to the student experience — that convinced her to come to Vermont.

Since the fall of 2004, Ram has held UVM accountable to that commitment. While working on a double major in natural resource planning and political science as a student in the Honors College, Ram has pursued an equally ambitious schedule outside of class. Among her many roles and responsibilities around campus, she has served as president of Students for Peace and Global Justice and participated on a variety of committees including the President's Commission for Racial Diversity, the Davis Center Advisory Board and the Honors College Diversity Task Force.

This year, Ram culminates her UVM experience by presiding over the Student Government Association, a role she says is a good fit for someone as acquainted as she is with student issues and organizations. Recently, she sat down with the view just outside her office in the new Davis Center to talk about the upcoming year. The interview is the first installment of a new series, "Campus Transitions," that will feature some of the faculty, administrators and students assuming leadership roles this semester.

THE VIEW: Why the Student Government Association?

KESHA RAM: I spent my first year doing a lot of activist work. I would

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come to the senate and say, "I'm part of a group of students trying to start a student-run café so we can experience student entrepreneurship and sustainability, and we're pushing for fair trade, and we're pushing for 100 percent recycled paper, and we want an environmental commitment from the student government." And then one day, a lot of people from the student government said, "Why don't you just get on the other side of the table and bring these things to us through resolutions?" So, I ran, and I ran as part of a group I started called the Senators for Peace and Global Justice. We brought up a lot of issues that mirrored the president's issues, I felt: a commitment to cultural diversity, and a commitment to the environment and inclusiveness. I thought it was a really positive change for student government, and a lot of people could feel the difference. I was sort of asked by other students to run, in the end.

Most people I talk to think student government is useless at most schools, and when I tell them I'm sitting in on meetings where we're working on pandemic flu issues, or envisioning a new athletic facility for the university, and I'm helping make decisions on policy change, people say, "Wow, sounds like your school has a really big commitment to student government." We have a budget of over \$1 million, and that's so impressive.

What are your major issues for the coming year?

My personal issues are cultural diversity and the environment, and the same with my vice president (senior DaVaughn Vincent-Bryan). We both have a strong commitment to increasing the recruitment and retention of students of color, of people of different regional backgrounds, of making each program as strong as it can be and making this school the premiere environmental university and getting students involved in that process through academic partnership — like having the students get involved with the plants that are in the Davis Center, and putting up wind turbines and monitoring our landscaping and what our LEED certification level is, having students be really involved in that process.

Then things come up like Michelle Gardner-Quinn and the tragedy at Virginia Tech, and now we have a huge commitment to student safety, and students knowing their rights and responsibilities when they walk downtown and live downtown... We have a huge commitment now to student safety that hasn't been there before, and we're working with the administration on that issue.

Athletic issues always come up, too. People were really worried at first about someone like me with an activist background because those are the people who are really down on fun things like watching a hockey game, but I have a huge commitment to increasing the facilities in athletics and going to the games and helping students get more tickets and distributing the tickets more evenly.

You mentioned that student safety, although maybe not a passion of

yours when you ran for president, is now a big concern for you and the SGA. Are there other hot button issues on campus right now that you'll be tackling this year?

Campus planning is a really big issue for students and feeling like they're a part of the decision-making process... Sometimes students feel like they're being told what's changing rather than being involved in the process. So those issues of being ostracized or isolated from the decision-making process are going to come up in many ways. We're hoping that student government can be more of that link between the student body and the administration.

What's it like to be the first SGA President in the new student center?

Oh my gosh. I think our office is the best office on campus, and, unfortunately, too many people agree with me! When students come in or someone asks what I think of the building — I've seen a lot of student centers: my mother works at UCLA, my aunt and uncle work at UC Berkeley — I tell them that this is the one that feels the most student-centered of all of them. People ask what's in here, and I tell them about all the student space. There's a lot of space for students to play games and sit with their friends and do homework, check email, have a meeting, have an event, have a conference. There's a lot of space, and it's all for students, and that's rare. I'm thrilled about the Davis Center, and that's from the bottom of my heart. It's not just that I'm someone who has to say that.

What else do you want people to know about your experience as a student and student leader?

I've always been someone to get involved and share my opinion. In a lot of places that's almost like rocking the boat. You know, people think, "You're making trouble, you're causing us too much extra work, and we don't really want to hear what you have to say." I've never been to a place like the University of Vermont where if you are ready to share your opinion and you have ideas, the university will put you on committees, will listen to your ideas, will follow through on your ideas. UVM may not have the name recognition around the country like the Ivies do, but I feel like I'm leaving with the confidence to know that I can do anything I want, and I have a worthwhile opinion, and I've made things happen.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Generous Feet

By Jon Reidel

Article published August 30, 2007

Avery Cole, a middle distance runner on the track and field team, taught school and distributed more than 100 pairs of sneakers from UVM athletes to children in Ghana. (Photo: courtesy Avery Cole)

At first, senior Avery Cole wasn't sure why the young boy seemed hesitant to accept the sneakers she was offering him. Then she realized that to a child in that region of Ghana, West Africa, who might walk two hours to school, a pair of running shoes was a hugely precious gift.

"They seemed hesitant to even take them because they were so grateful," she says.

While Cole, a middle-distance runner on the track-and-field team, distributed shoes in Ghana and taught integrated science at two impoverished schools, fellow UVM runner Chris Healy, a senior on the cross-country team, was on the other side of Africa in Tanzania volunteering in a medical clinic and nearby orphanage. Their summer trips were unforgettable journeys for the students, who both lined up the volunteer work by themselves through separate non-governmental organizations.

Though the distribution of the 100-plus pairs of sneakers — shipped over the summer by the UVM Athletic Department — was extremely gratifying, the time Cole and Healy spent with people in the schools, hospital and orphanage were the truly transformative aspects of their trips.

"It was unlike anything I've ever seen before," says Healy, a biology major who's considering medical school after graduation. "It was pretty tough at the orphanage because most of the kids' parents died of HIV or malaria. Mainly I just read to them and played soccer with them. It was tough to say goodbye."

Breaking barriers

Healy, who spent five weeks in Tanzania in the city of Moshu working at a medical clinic and orphanage, was assigned as a "triage person," initially screening patients as they entered the clinic. He describes the facility as

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three small concrete buildings (one was a maternity ward) with minimal equipment and partial electricity. Many of the patients had malaria or other serious ailments, requiring Healy to learn conversational Swahili so he could properly diagnose before sending them to a doctor, who often treated 40-50 patients every four hours.

Healy says the orphanage, although sad and desolate in many ways, was also filled with hope as some children seemed eager to better their situation. "They were really eager to learn," he says. "I think it was because they saw it as a path to a better life. The people really made the trip for me. They were very open to foreigners coming and helping out. I will never forget them."

As one of the cross-country team's top returning runners, Healy managed to find time to train for the upcoming season. He is hoping to improve on last year's top team finish at the NCAA Northeast Regional (35:18 for 10 kilometers). Part of that training included what may have been his one self-indulgent act: climbing Mount Kilimanjaro (elevation 19,340 feet), the world's highest free-standing mountain.

Trying teaching

Whether a moment of terror or liberation, most teachers remember the first time they stood in front of a classroom full of students. Cole, who doesn't start the official student teaching portion of her education degree until next spring, definitely won't forget her first unofficial one at a private school in Tema, where creativity isn't a priority and corporal punishment is the standard form of discipline.

"They beat the kids who got in trouble," says Cole. "I told students that I wouldn't hit them and I think they respected me for that. They were great kids and I never really had any problems with them. It was nerve-racking at first, because I didn't even know if they would understand me."

Cole later moved to a more rural school without corporal punishment where she taught large classes of about 35 middle school students. She introduced some creative learning exercises that were quite different from the more traditional methods typically used at the school. "The other teachers called me 'crazy lady' for some of the student-involved lessons I gave. They treated me really well, but I think they were like, 'What's she going to do next?'"

Cole, a strong 800- and 1000-meter runner, raised a few eyebrows while training on the roads. She herself was amazed by the number of talented young soccer players and runners excelling despite having inadequate, or no, footwear. "So many of the kids would be considered great athletes if they lived here. A lot of them don't even have the basics, so it was nice to be able to bring sneakers over. They were so grateful. I just wish we had enough to give to all of them."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

College of Medicine Announces 2007-08 Frymoyer Scholars

By Jennifer Nachbur

Article published August 30, 2007

The College of Medicine has announced the 2007-2008 Frymoyer Scholars. Named for John W. and Nan P. Frymoyer, the Frymoyer Scholars Program supports clinicians who are actively engaged in teaching medical and nursing students and promotes teaching that emphasizes the art of patient care.

Dr. Judith Lewis, assistant professor of psychiatry, and the team of Dr. Charles Mercier, associate professor of pediatrics, and Catharine Muskus, clinical assistant professor of nursing and director of the nursing skills laboratory, were selected for their two educational project proposals.

Scholars are awarded up to \$25,000 per year for two years to develop innovative educational products or programs and to improve their teaching skills. Criteria for selection include: the quality of the project proposal, including evaluation of outcomes; the strength of the project's contribution to improvement of clinical education; and evidence of commitment to clinical education.

As a Frymoyer Scholar, Lewis, who also serves as director of the psychiatry clerkship at the College of Medicine, will develop online educational modules for medical and nursing students based on her project proposal titled "Development of Web-based Educational Material for Education in Psychiatry." The multimedia modules, each about 20 minutes long, will be designed to instruct students about psychiatric conditions such as bipolar disorder, depression and childhood trauma, as well as discuss the stigma associated with these disorders. Features of the modules will include text, audio from patient interviews, patient and standardized patient videos, photos and movie clips. There will also be pre- and post-tests to ensure the teaching objectives have been met.

The project proposal by Mercier and Muskus, titled "Communication and Teamwork: The Key to Quality Health Care — An Interdisciplinary Workshop Using High-Fidelity Simulation," is designed to teach senior medical and nursing students how to develop critical communication skills, as well as a sense of their professional role and function as a team in a crisis, acute or critical care environment. Mercier and Muskus will utilize both the College of Medicine's Standardized Patient Program as well as "high-fidelity simulation" to accomplish their training goals. Standardized patients are healthy lay people from the community who have been trained to portray a real patient case, as well as teach and



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assess students on physical exam and communication skills. The high-fidelity simulation will be provided by computerized patient simulator mannequins, which are able to emulate near-perfect humanlike characteristics in all kinds of medical situations.

The Frymoyer Scholars program is supported by The John and Nan Frymoyer Fund for Medical Education. Dr. Frymoyer was Dean of the UVM College of Medicine from 1991 to 1999 and also served as CEO of Fletcher Allen from 1995 to 1997. Mrs. Frymoyer is a former community health nurse and has a strong interest in patient advocacy. She serves on the UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences advisory board and helped plan and implement the Community Health Resource Center at Fletcher Allen Health Care.

Information: 656-0724.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Staff Council Opens Session Under New Structure

By The View Staff

Article published September 4, 2007

Staff Council kicked off its 2007-08 session on Sept. 4 under its newly expanded format designed to broaden representation of staff across all campus units.

Under the previous structure, 18 staff members were elected at-large regardless of department or unit. The new system allows for up to 52 members based on the number of eligible staff employees per unit. Units with less than 100 employees can elect one representative with an additional representative allowed for every 50 employees per unit more than 99. Administrative and Facilities Services and the College of Medicine are the largest units, with nine possible council members to represent their 450-plus employees each.

Elections were also held for vice president and chairs for the council's eight standing committees. Karla Nuissl of the Department of Community Development and Applied Economics was elected vice president of the council. Chairs for the following committees were also elected: Benefits, Communications, Education & Professional Development, Employee Environment & Facilities, Internal Affairs, Recreation, Rules & Elections, and Salary & Budget.

In other news from the meeting, staff recognition week will be held Sept. 24-28 with the social on the Green for all staff members slated for Monday the 24th. The 10-year recognition luncheon will be held on Sept. 27 and the 15-year on the 28th at Davis Center.



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UVM HOMEPAGE

UVM Fund Enjoys Record Year

By Caroline Gilley

Article published September 5, 2007

Fiscal year 2007 was a record-breaking year for the UVM Fund in more ways than one. Gifts to the university exceeded \$9.5 million for the first time ever — soaring past the \$6.6 million goal that was originally set for the year and exceeding by over \$2 million the previous record of \$7.3 million raised. The number of alumni, parents and friends contributing to the UVM Fund also increased to 24,860 — the best number in university history — giving UVM the sought-after distinction of having the highest donor participation rate among public universities in New England.

“The UVM Fund really turned a corner in 2000 and 2001, when we began to see significant annual increases,” notes Alan Ryea, director of alumni and parent programs, who oversees annual fund operations. “This upward trend is particularly significant because of what we’ve been through on a national and international level — 9/11, the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Hurricane Katrina. These disasters diverted a lot of private support to relief organizations, but we seem not to have been affected by it — it’s been tremendous. In fact, overall the UVM Fund has contributed over \$50 million to the campaign.”

Jim Rosenberg '64, chair of the UVM Fund Executive Committee, contextualized the numbers this way: “Our success shows that alumni, parents and friends of the university care about UVM and want UVM to be successful and flourish. Generosity from donors is a way to show appreciation of what we’ve done in the past, what we’re doing now and what’s to come for the future.”

Annual fund support is a source of current operating dollars for UVM — money the university takes in and has available to spend that same fiscal year. Of highest priority is student aid, as each year some \$42 million of institutional funds is directed toward scholarships. The unrestricted portion of the annual fund, which topped \$2.4 million in 2007, is of critical importance because it is money that may be directed to fund the institution's highest priorities.

Several factors have been instrumental in the recent success of the UVM Fund. “The phonathon program has dramatically increased the number of people with whom we can connect,” says Ryea. “Our parents are also giving at much higher rates. We raised \$2.3 million from parents this year — the first time we’ve ever gone over \$2 million with the parents program. We also have more than 400 volunteers who make fund-raising calls on behalf of UVM. These folks play such a key role.”



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ActivitiesFest Runs Gamut from Swag to 'Awesome Pirates'

By Amanda Waite

Article published September 5, 2007

On Sept. 5, hundreds of UVM students navigated the many informational tables set up just outside the main entrance to the Davis Center for the annual ActivitiesFest, a carnival-like approach to educating the student body about the variety of opportunities they have to get involved with campus groups.

While some visitors were no doubt drawn in by the plethora of free stuff, including dozens of t-shirts — not an unimportant find for college students looking to postpone that inevitable first trip to the laundry room — as well as stickers, buttons, Frisbees and food, others were clearly on a mission to collect information about the wide array of campus organizations eager to recruit new members.

Vying for the attention of visitors, clubs promoted themselves not only via the above-mentioned swag, but also through direct appeal: "Are you interested in a *cappella*?" asked female *a cappella* group Cat's Meow as students walked by; promise of upward social mobility, as seen in the fencing club's poster: "Fencing is for pirates. Awesome pirates"; and persuasive negotiation: "Tell me something about cows, and I'll give you candy," offered Dairy Club member, junior David Rice.

By noon, the Dairy Club had just over half a dozen names on its contact sheet. Three of its members, Rice and seniors Angie Craig and Allison Moore, worked the table, answering questions about club membership and activities. Anyone is welcome to join, says Craig, noting that a good number of the group's members are pre-vet students. Others are just passionate about the industry. "I'm in the Dairy Club because I love cows," said Moore. The Vermont native felt inspired to join because of how important the dairy industry is to the state, and she enjoys the educational trips the club makes to local farms.

Campus organizations ranged the gamut, from the active, including cheerleading and aikido, to the intellectual, including classics, accounting and Chinese clubs. Departments and services had a strong presence at the fair with tables hosted by Student Life, the Counseling Center, the study abroad program and the Office of Student and Community Relations.

To connect students to the community beyond campus, local stores and restaurants, including Tilley's Café, Shaw's, Healthy Living and Costco



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were present (as were their food samples), and community services like the Rape Crisis Center, RU12?, and Planned Parenthood offered information about sexuality and safety.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Social Justice Film Series Begins Sept. 12

By The View Staff

Article published September 5, 2007

The Social Justice Film Series will begin film screenings and discussions on Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 12 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. The series is sponsored by the Center for Cultural Pluralism with support from the Office of the Associate Provost for Multicultural Affairs. A schedule and descriptions of the films follows:

- Wednesday, Sept. 12, 12 p.m. *Mai's America*. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. Mai, a smart, vivacious, and resilient Vietnamese teenager, travels to America for her senior year of high school, shouldering her family's high expectations and her own visions of Western-style success. Yet, nothing in Mai's wildest imagination could prepare her for what she finds in rural Mississippi.
- Monday, Sept. 24, 5 p.m. *Life and Debt*. Memorial Lounge, Waterman. The film, which uses excerpts from *A Small Place* by Jamaica Kincaid, tells the stories of individual Jamaicans whose strategies for survival and parameters of day-to-day existence are determined by the U.S. and other foreign economic agendas. Combines documentary storytelling with a stylized narrative.
- Wednesday, Oct. 10, 12 p.m. *Sir, Just a Normal Guy*. Room 104, Allen House. Screened to acclaim at gay and lesbian film festivals worldwide and LGBT events across the nation, this candid and courageous portrait of more than 15 months in the female-to-male transition of Jay Snider explores both the emotional and physical changes of this profound experience.
- Wednesday, Oct. 25, time TBA. *Ghenghis Blues*. N1 Multipurpose Room, University Heights. Blind blues singer Paul Pena was spinning the dials on his ham radio when he heard a strange guttural singing. He discovered a gift for throat-singing and soon was on his way to the remote central Asian province of Tuva to sing and compete with the original practitioners of the art, the first American to do so.
- Wednesday, Nov. 7, 12 p.m. *An Acquired Taste*. Room 104, Allen House. A filmmaker turns 40 and casts a wry look back at the school, work and media influences which have shaped his life (and all our lives) through four decades. The film poses critical questions about the pursuit of success.

Information: 656-7990.


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UVM HOMEPAGE

Talk Will Probe Politics and Graffiti in Buenos Aires

By The View Staff

Article published September 5, 2007

Claudia Kozak, professor of modern literature at the University of Buenos Aires, will give a talk, "Politics Against the Wall: Graffiti in Contemporary Buenos Aires," on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 4 p.m in the Phi Beta Kappa Room (number 527), Waterman Building.

The Department of Romance Languages is sponsoring Kozak's presentation. Seating is limited for the event.

Kozak is the author of *Contra la pared: Sobre graffitis, pintadas y otras intervenciones urbanas* and *Rock en Letras*, and co-edited the books *Las paredes limpias no dicen nada* and *Deslindes: Ensayos sobre la literatura y sus límites del siglo XX*. Her work crosses over literature, rock culture and urban interventions such as graffiti.



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UVM HOMEPAGE

Bluegrass Band Headlines New Lane Series Season

By The View Staff

Article published September 5, 2007



Virginia-based bluegrass band Old School Freight Train will kick off the UVM Lane Series' new season. (Photo: Aaron Farrington)

The UVM Lane Series will begin its 2007-2008 season with bluegrass band Old School Freight Train at the UVM Recital Hall on Friday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. A free, pre-concert talk with the artists beginning at 6:30 p.m. will precede the show. Tickets for the performance are \$26 for adults and \$21

for students and are available at the [Lane Series website](#).

Originating from bluegrass center Charlottesville, Va., Old School Freight Train gained a national following after winning awards at the Telluride Bluegrass and RockyGrass Festivals. Using classic bluegrass instrumentation of guitar, mandolin, banjo, fiddle and upright bass, the band takes the genre in both traditional and new directions incorporating the sounds of jazz, latin, celtic and other genres into their music.

This year's Lane Series lineup is among the most diverse in musical genres the series has presented. Following Old School Freight Train are performances by the great jazz pianist Fred Hersch; Joel Fan, classical/world music pianist and member of Yo Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble; The California Guitar Trio with special guest Natalia Zukerman; Malian kora player Mamadou Diabate with his band; and singer-songwriter Fred Eaglesmith with guest Harry Manx, among others. Discounts for patrons ordering three or more shows are available until Sept. 20.

Information: 656-4455, [Lane Series website](#).



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NOTABLES

September 5, 2007

Publications and Presentations

Jeanne Goldhaber, associate professor of integrated professional studies, and **Dee Smith**, head teacher at the UVM Campus Children's Center and lecturer of IPS, have been invited to give a series of lectures in November at Chung Ang University in Seoul, Korea. They will be talking about the scholarship taking place at the Campus Children's Center and its approach to early childhood teacher education.

Alex Hodges, postdoctoral associate in molecular physiology and biophysics, **Elena Krementsova**, senior researcher in molecular physiology and biophysics, and **Kathleen Trybus**, professor of molecular physiology and biophysics, co-authored a paper in the July 18, 2007 *Journal of Biological Chemistry* titled "Engineering the processive run length of myosin V."

Ann Laramee, adjunct assistant professor of nursing, was the lead author of an analysis of the prevalence of low literacy among heart failure patients with diabetes titled "Relationship of literacy and heart failure in adults with diabetes" in the July 2, 2007 issue of *BMC Health Services Research*. Co-authors on the paper were **Nancy Morris**, associate professor of nursing, and Dr. **Benjamin Littenberg**, Henry and Carleen Tufo Professor of Medicine and director of general internal medicine.

Awards and Honors

Jane Duxbury, master's student in geology, recently became a winner of the Association of Women Geoscientists' Chrysalis Scholarship. Duxbury, who is currently pursuing research in Scotland, will be honored at a breakfast to be held at the Geological Society of America's annual meeting.

Fayneese Miller, dean of the College of Education and Social Services, has been appointed by Gov. James Douglas to a six-year term as a member of the Vermont State Board of Education.

Scott Van Keuren, assistant professor of anthropology, has an incoming multi-year \$82,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to support his archaeological research. He is examining the origins of social inequality in the American Southwest among ancestral Pueblo (or "Anasazi") societies by excavating two large fourteenth-century Pueblo villages in eastern Arizona. The NSF grant funds field excavations as well

as numerous positions for UVM undergraduates to do both summer field work and lab work with archaeological materials.

Sigma Theta Tau International has selected an article by **Betty Rambur**, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, titled "Education as a Determinant of Career Retention and Job Satisfaction Among Registered Nurses," as the 2007 recipient of the Best of Journal of Nursing Scholarship in the "Profession and Society" category. The organization described Rambur's work as "an excellent reflection of the nursing profession" and will honor Rambur and her article at The Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International's 39th Biennial Convention November 3-7, 2007 in Baltimore, Md.

August 29, 2007

Publications and Presentations

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

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

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

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

Third-year medical students **Yamara Coutinho-Sledge**, **Scott Davis**, **Katie**