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Convocation Celebrates Quality, Diversity, Community



Into the breach: Trustee Martha Heath and President Daniel Mark Fogel lead the procession into a new academic year at Convocation. (Photo: Sally McCay)

A large and enthusiastic Convocation crowd in Ira Allen Chapel turned out to celebrate academic values and aspirations and hear from the man who started the University of Michigan's ultimately successful defense of its race-conscious admissions policies.

[FULL STORY ►](#)[PREVIOUS ISSUE](#).....[Meet the Coaches](#)[Lee Bollinger to Address Convocation](#)[Exhibition Celebrates 100 Years of Pringle's Plants](#)[Unearthing Vermont's Past](#)[Doing Good, Doing Well](#)[New Professors](#)[UVM, Banknorth Strike Wide-Ranging Sponsorship Deal](#)[Green Project Takes Stock of History, Symbolism](#)[Fetes to Mark Staff Feats](#)

Family Business

Norm Akley understands the weight of being next in line to run a business that has been in the family for 113 years. As a young man coming out of high school in the late sixties, Akley represented the fifth generation of a family-owned business that had been manufacturing stone cutting tools since the late 1800's in the granite capital of Barre.

The Bear Facts

A male black bear saunters down out of the woods and dumps over a bird feeder and starts eating the split feed. After a few weeks of this, the bear is declared a nuisance and is shot by a reluctant game warden. It's stories like these that drive the research of Associate Professor David Hirth.

EVOLVING Special Education

Vermont is tops nationally at including kids with disabilities in its public education classrooms. One strategy for making this happen is using paraprofessionals, but the presence of these aides can, and often does, create a bubble around disabled students. A \$700,000 grant at the Center for Disability and Community Inclusion looking for answers to the conundrum.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Sept. 12 4 p.m.
Men's Soccer: Catamounts take on Harvard at Centennial Field.
Information: uvmathletics.com

Sept. 13 8 a.m.
Board of Trustees: regular meeting. Memorial Lounge, 338 Waterman Building.

Sept. 13 4 p.m.
Welcome back picnic, LGBTQA Services. Food, music and conversation for LGBTQA students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends. Allen House, corner of S. Prospect St. and Main St.
Information: 656-8637.

Sept. 13 3-5 p.m.
Reception: "Cyrus Pringle and the Pringle Herbarium." Talk to follow on "Mother Pringle, Cyrus Pringle's Wife and Quaker Activist." Talk with Kathleen McKinley Harris. Fleming Museum, Information: 656-0750.

Sept. 14 3-6 p.m.
Event: MBA Open House Picnic. Hot dogs, hamburgers and iced tea provided. Bring dish to share. Kalkin lobby and courtyard
Information: 656-0655.

Sept. 16 12:30 p.m.
Seminar: "Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms of CADASIL, an hereditary vacuolar dementia." Dr. Anne

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The ivory tower it ain't: But undergrads climbed (and soared, courtesy of a bungee contraption) nonetheless at the Sept. 8 student activities fair. Dozens of clubs and organizations were on hand to offer schwag ranging from cherry tomatoes to rape-protection whistles. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

New Institute Aims to Help Vulnerable Kids by Leading School Leaders

The College of Education and Social Services has received a gift of \$1 million to launch a major national effort that will prepare school principals, superintendents, and other K-12 educational leaders to address issues surrounding students with disabilities and those at risk of failure in school.

The gift, the largest ever received by the college, was made by an alumni couple and their families, who wish to remain anonymous. The money will help establish the Institute for Leadership, Disability and Students Placed at Risk. Susan Hasazi, professor of educational leadership and special education, will direct the institute.

"Improving the educational outcomes of students with disabilities and those at risk is one of the most important challenges we face as a nation," said UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel. "I'm proud that UVM will be taking a leadership role in this area — and enormously grateful to our donors for making it possible."

The number of K-12 students identified with disabilities and at risk for failure has risen dramatically in recent years, said Jill Tarule, dean of the college. "[The gift] will enable us to take a significant leadership role on an issue of critical importance to all the nation's schools."

With UVM as the lead, administrators at the institute have chosen six other major universities nationally known for their expertise with at-risk

Electric Car Donation a 'GEM'

A donated Lilliputian fleet of nine new electric DaimlerChrysler Global Electric Motorcars — please, do not refer to the doorless vehicles as "golf carts" — began plying campus roadways this semester, handling light hauling duties for campus departments.

"The GEM cars are very popular," says Gioia Thompson of the UVM Environmental Council, who helped coordinate the company's donation of the zero-emissions vehicles (the contribution was facilitated by the Green Mountain Institute for Environmental Democracy). "They let you drive around without spewing out air pollution."

While the campus already operates buses fueled in part by reclaimed vegetable oil "biodiesel" and the School of Natural Resources has a snazzy hybrid, Thompson says the new cars are the only totally plug-in vehicles on campus. They're currently in use by athletics, police services, physical plant and parking and transportation.

John Casey, parking services supervisor, says he and his staff are enjoying saving gas and taking their tiny new electric car out on enforcement duties or to assist campus drivers with dead batteries or locked-in keys.

"It's a kick to pull up next to an SUV that is four times the size of the electric car to do a lock-out or jump start," says Casey.

The cars, which have a bulbous, angled appearance reminiscent of a quotation mark on wheels, are street-legal and can travel at speeds up to 25 mph. "Refueling" requires access to a standard household 110-volt electrical plug.

The cars lack a crucial asset for coping with the usual howling Vermont winter, however: doors. So they will go into storage sometime in mid- to late-October, and return in late spring.

Fair Health: Booth Offered Free Medical Screening, Information

As they negotiated paths lined with popcorn and cotton candy, visitors to the Champlain Valley Fair this year found opportunities to stay healthy — and not just eat heartily — when they stopped by the Expo Center booth hosted by the Office of Clinical Trials Research. Staffing the booth were a team of College of Medicine and Fletcher Allen physicians, nurses and research coordinators who were on hand to offer education, information and diagnostic tools for a variety of health conditions.

school populations to collaborate on the development of course curricula, and has appointed a team of faculty and doctoral students from each university to carry out the plan. Over the next four years, the teams will create instructional materials on leadership, disability, and students placed at risk that professors teaching K-12 administrators can insert into existing coursework and practices. The materials include training programs, course modules on video or CD-ROM, and research briefs on best practices for teaching students at risk of school failure.

"The need for these materials is urgent," said Hasazi. "Research shows that today at least 25 to 30 percent of K-12 students are at risk of failing in their schools, but materials addressing students with disabilities and at risk have not been fully integrated into programs that prepare educational leaders. Our institute will close this gap."

According to Hasazi, the materials will make school leaders more aware of social and cultural issues surrounding students with disabilities and those at risk, more informed about effective teaching strategies, better able to marshal school and district resources, and better able to serve as a resource for classroom teachers.

"Hasazi's design of collaboration across six major universities has the potential of touching the lives of thousands of aspiring educational leaders," said Ted Creighton, executive director of the National Council of Professors of Education Administration and a faculty member at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Tex. "The institute calls for a first step of making school leaders aware of the needs of students with disabilities and those placed at risk of educational failure. The strategic second step will be to infuse meaningful instructional strategies into the approximately 450 university programs. I believe the place to start is at the university, where we begin to shape and mold the future school leaders of our nation."

The six participating universities are University of Connecticut, University of Minnesota, University of Illinois, University of Oregon, University of Utah, and Sam Houston State University. Thirteen faculty from these universities have been named Stafford Faculty Fellows and six students were awarded Stafford Student Scholarships to work with the Institute this year. The awards are named in recognition of the lifetime commitment of Vermont's U.S. Sen. Robert Stafford to improving the education of all students.

University of Vermont faculty participating in the Institute include Hasazi, Judith Aiken, Katharine Furney, George Salembier, Wes Williams, Chigee Cloninger, Cynthia Gerstl-Pepin and Kieran Killeen. Dean Tarule will also play a role.

Men's Basketball Offers "Raffle to Reno"

The men's basketball team is raffling a trip for two to watch the Catamounts begin another drive to the NCAA tournament in a Preseason National

"The fair is a great way to reach out to our community," says Tesheia Johnson, assistant dean for clinical trials research. "We had more than 4,000 people stop by for blood pressure screening, and even more who came by to pick up information or ask questions about clinical research taking place at our academic medical center."

In addition to blood pressure screenings, offerings at the booth during the fair, which ran from Aug. 23 through Sept. 1, included blood glucose testing and bone density screenings, all aimed at prevention as much as diagnosis. More than 1,400 people visited the booth for a blood glucose test that identifies those individuals who have even mildly elevated blood sugar, which can be a precursor to diabetes.

The booth was also a boon to many research coordinators looking to recruit people for clinical trials currently underway at the College of Medicine. For an osteoporosis study underway at the Osteoporosis Center in the Department of Medicine, ultrasound bone density screening of 125 people led to identification of six people as possible candidates for a study — a 4.8 percent rate that is considered excellent. Clinical research coordinator Carolyn Bond considered this a big success. "Recruitment at the fair was better than we had expected or have found in similar outreach ultrasound clinics."

During daily "Ask the Expert" sessions, health care professionals provided the opportunity for more in-depth discussion and answered questions about such conditions as diabetes, hypertension and kidney disease, women's health, breast cancer, depression, cancer prevention and risk, lung cancer, mental health, child development, and heart disease prevention. Take home self-assessments on topics such as depression, migraine, and elder care were also available.

Dr. Richard Solomon, professor of medicine and director of Fletcher Allen's Nephrology Unit, hosted three "Ask the Expert" sessions on hypertension and kidney disease. "It was a pleasure to be able to talk with people in this informal format," he said. "It made it easy for people to ask questions about their health concerns, and for us to deliver important information about prevention and treatment. Most people had a good understanding of the role of high blood pressure in causing strokes and heart attacks. Kidney disease, as a complication of high blood pressure, was less well appreciated."

In keeping with the festive setting, giveaways and drawings for prizes were part of the event, along with visits from University of Vermont Catamount mascots Kitty and Charlie. Just for stopping by the booth, kids could choose a free yo-yo or Frisbee, and adults could grab a free seven-day pill box or band aid dispenser.

Invitation Tournament game at the University of Nevada in Reno.

Each ticket is \$100, and the team plans to sell 100 of them. The grand prize includes air transportation, three nights in the team hotel, a pregame meal with the team and a pair of tickets to the game. The trip departs from Burlington on Nov. 1 and returns on Nov. 18.

Second prize is four reserved seat season tickets for the 2003-2004 men's hoop home schedule, third prize is a pair of reserved seat season tickets and fourth prize is lunch with Vermont head coach Tom Brennan.

The drawing will be held on Oct. 24 at UVM's preseason intrasquad scrimmage held at Patrick Gym. To buy a ticket, visit the UVM Athletic Ticket Office at Patrick Gym. For information, call 656-4410 or e-mail athletic.tickets@uvm.edu.

theview

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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Outing Club to Host Annual Festival

Outdoor gear, outdoor activities and live music will fill the Bailey Howe Library Green as the UVM Outing Club kicks-off its first annual OC Fest on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 19-20, from noon to 10 p.m.

Outing Club Director Chris Ringenbach planned this year's event as a way to gather students and community members.

"The Outing Club has always had a great relationship with the community and the festival will help make this relationship more visible," says Ringenbach.

Courageous participants can test their skills on a climbing wall, complete with a climber-rescue clinic, and in a "jib" session. To "jib" is to slide along a rail with skis – a popular activity in alpine snow parks. UVM's temporary jib park will include a rail that Shaun O'Rourke, '03, designed in his engineering class as well as a 2-to-3-inch snow base to pad the in-run and landing. Competition could be stiff as a few pro skiers will be on hand, including Mike Nick, Burlington native and former X-Games slopestyle gold medalist.

From noon to 6 p.m. both days, [vendors](#) from gear outfitters to ski resorts will showcase their wares. Ringenbach believes that the presence of top-name vendors "helps bring UVM in the light as a premier outdoor school."

The day's activities will be capped with musical performances by Atlantic Crossing (Friday night) and Ten Mile Wide and Smokin' Grass with special guest Gordon Stone (Saturday night). Admission to both concerts and the Friday night contra dance is \$10 for students and \$15 for the general public. Admission to the contra dance only is \$5.

The festival benefits the Green Mountain Club's education division, which has lost funding to the restoration of its Waterbury Center barn and as a result of national program cuts within Americorps*VISTA. The GMC teaches outdoor enthusiasts low-impact practices to preserve the outdoors and offers outdoor education through workshops, lectures and panel discussions.

For more information, including a complete schedule and additional pricing, visit the festival Web site at ocfest.org or contact Chris Ringenbach, 656-3439 or <mailto:Christopher.Ringenbach@uvm.edu>.

Alumna's Paintings on Display at Living/Learning

Rebecca Kinkead, a painter and graduate of the class of 1990, is showing her work in the Living/Learning Gallery space through Sept. 30.

Kinkead graduated with degrees in political science and French, but became increasingly drawn to art through her participation in the Living/Learning pottery studio and eventually returned to school, earning a degree in studio art from Mankato State University.

Of her current cycle of abstract paintings, "Dock Series," Kinkead says, "The works collectively explore a specific location that has been inspirational to me. They are a record of events, experiences and emotions associated with my mother's dock — the place I grew up. The layered imagery references childhood elation to present-day milfoil infestation and waste from a neighboring military lab. The 'Dock Series' is an exploration of the intimate connections between person and place, between history and change."

[Rebecca Kinkead](#) has been showing in the Boston area since 1999 and is included in the collection at Meditech, Boston. She recently had a solo exhibit at the Clark Gallery in Lincoln, MA. She is the 2003 recipient of a fellowship from the Ballinglen Arts Foundation, Ballycastle, Republic of Ireland.

The gallery is open from 12:30 to 8:30 p.m. weekdays and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Theatre Tickets Now on Sale

Tickets and subscriptions for the new season of UVM Theatre are now on sale.

The season opens on Oct. 1 with "Remember the Children: Terezin," selections from *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, a collection of children's art and poetry from the Terezin Nazi concentration camp. Directed by Veronica Lopez, the production is a dramatic staged reading illustrating the hopes, joys and sorrows of the children striving for calm during the early 1940's. Of the more than 15,000 children who were in Terezin, only 100 survived.

This year's other productions are:

- "Metamorphoses" by Mary Zimmerman, opening Nov. 12. The Tony-Award winner that recently closed on Broadway will not only bring the classic myths of Ovid to the Royall Tyler Stage but a giant pool of

water as well.

- "The Art of Dining" by Tina Howe, opening Feb. 25, 2004. The comedy lampoons food obsession at an elite New York restaurant.

The season also includes the holiday mainstay, "The Toys Take Over Christmas," as well as the annual "A Festival of One-Acts."

Season subscriptions start at \$30. A flex pass costs \$50, and gives patrons the option to choose when they would like to attend. Single tickets (\$5-\$14) went on sale this week, and may be purchased at www.uvmtheatre.org or by calling 656-2094.

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NOTABLES

Sept. 10 – 17, 2003

Publications and Presentations

Lyndon Carew, professor of animal science, and **Valerie Chamberlain**, emerita professor of nutrition and food sciences, published a paper "Using Class Newsletters to Enhance Learning" in the *Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences* Co-authors were Christine Hanson and Fran Alster.

Donna Kuizenga, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of romance languages, recently published an article, "*Une Altérité voilée: images de l'Afrique dans la fiction de Madame de Villedieu*" in a collection of articles on images of Africa in the 17th century edited by Professor Alia Baccar Bournaz of the University of Tunis.

Wolfgang Mieder, professor and chair of German and Russian, has edited the twentieth volume of *Proverbium* published at the University of Vermont with the support of the College of Arts and Sciences and the University Bookstore. Juan Maura, associate professor of romance languages, contributed an essay, "*Refranes y adagios en la Historia general de las cosas de la Nueva España: Paradigma de la paremiologia mexicana*." **Kevin McKenna** and Kenneth Nalibow, both professors of German and Russian, are represented by an article and book review. McKenna's illustrated article is titled "A Nation Adrift: The Russian 'Ship of State' in *Pravda* Political Cartoons during the Decade of the 1990's," while Nalibow reviewed a *Russian-English Dictionary of Phraseology*. Mieder's essay is titled "Government of the People, by the People, for the People: The Making and Meaning of an American Proverb of Democracy." He also contributed an article, "The Proverbial Carl Sandburg (1878-1967): An Index of Folk Speech in His American Poetry," with co-author George B. Bryan, emeritus professor of history. Bryan passed away seven years ago, but the paper was based on one of the many projects that he and Mieder were working on at the time of his untimely death.

Wolfgang Mieder's Katherine Briggs Memorial Lecture at the University of London in 2002 was published as "Good Fences Make Good Neighbors: History and Significance of an Ambiguous Proverb" in the journal *Folklore*. The paper traces the origin and dissemination of the common proverb and also deals with its lexicographical registration in dictionaries and its use in literature (Robert Frost), legal argumentation and international politics.

UVM's **Vermont Lung Center** is hosting the 2003 meeting of the "Flow-Volume Underworld," a secret society of international lung mechanics scientists that has met every three years since 1964, alternating between U.S. and European locations. **Charles Irvin**, professor of medicine and director of the Vermont Lung Center, coordinated the meeting, which is taking place at the Grand Isle Lake House Sept. 10-13. The first "Flow-Volume Underworld" meeting was initiated by a group of researchers and physicians with a common interest in measuring lung mechanics in humans, including flow-volume curve co-inventor and Mayo Clinic researcher Dr. Robert Hyatt.

Betty Rambur, dean of College of Nursing and Health Sciences, **Mary Val Palumbo**, director of the Office of Nursing Workforce Research Planning, and Development, **Barbara McIntosh**, associate professor of business administration, and Joan Mongeon, data analyst in health biostatistics, had an article, "A statewide analysis of Rns' intention to leave their position," appear in the August/September issue of *Nursing Outlook, the Journal of the American Academy of Nursing*. The research was funded by a Federal Rural Health Outreach Grant and the Vermont Agency of Human Services.

Awards and Honors The following members of the College of Medicine's Class of 2004 were recently elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical

Society: **Amir Ajar; Amy Branning; Shuriz Hishmeh; Brandon Lawrence; Melissa Myrsiades; Priti Patel; Julie Phillips; David Scalzo; Dishant Shah; Elisha Tilton; Darren Volpe; and Julie Wilbur.** Class of 2004 members **Susan Campbell, Carolyn Come, Kerry Sibert and Lavone Simmons** were elected to the AOA Honor Medical Society in April 2003. AOA faculty councilor Dr. **William Raszka**, associate professor of pediatrics, and **Nancy Moreland**, a staff member from the department of pediatrics, coordinated the election process.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Greene, associate professor of animal science, was honored with the 2003 National Outstanding Young Professional Award by the Equine Nutrition and Physiology Society. The award is for meritorious contributions to equine science, in teaching, research, public service or industry by members under the age of 40. Greene was noted for her work on equine safety with the industry and has developed video as well as written materials used widely in the industry. She has also been a leader in using technology in the classroom and for extension activities.

Sept. 3, 2003

Publications and Presentations

Gale Burford, professor of Social Work, gave invited lectures at the Center for Social Work in Copenhagen, Denmark and the University of Southampton in England during June. Burford consulted with local area social work teams while in Denmark and England and gave a one-day lecture/workshop at the Children's Bureau in London titled, "Planning for Safety: Families Using Family Group Conferences to Halt Family Violence."

Sanjeeva Murthy, associate professor of physics, published a paper with R.G. Bray titled, "Structure and Properties of Polyamide 6 and 4--Aminomethylcyclohexane Carboxylic Copolymers with an Unusually Short Helical Pitch for Nylons" in the August Issue of the journal *Polymer*.

Mark Nelson, chair and professor of pharmacology, and **Adrian Bonev**, research assistant professor of pharmacology, are co-authors of a paper in the Sept. 1 *Journal of Clinical Investigation* titled, "Modulation of the molecular composition of large conductance Ca²⁺ activated K⁺ channels in vascular smooth muscle during hypertension." The research, conducted by Nelson, Bonev and their co-authors from the department of physiology and biophysics at the University of Washington, was funded in part by the National Institutes of Health, as well as a Totman Medical Research Trust award.

August 27, 2003

Awards and Honors

Francine Bazluke, vice president and general counsel, was named president of the National Association of College and University Attorneys at the association's annual conference in June. Founded in 1960, NACUA seeks to advance the effective practice of higher education law for the benefit of the colleges and universities. The organization comprises more than 3,000 attorneys who represent nearly 660 institutions. Bazluke has served as UVM general counsel since 1992.

Heather Bouchey, assistant professor of psychology, was selected for a 2003 Illinois State University Alumni Award in honor of her professional achievements. Bouchey was invited to visit Normal, Ill., in October to accept the award and deliver a colloquium.

Stephen Cutler, professor of sociology and Joyce professor of gerontology, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and conduct research at the University of Bucharest, Romania during the spring semester of the 2003-2004 academic year. He will study the long-term consequences of the precipitous changes in Romanian population policy that occurred in the mid-1960s.

Glenn Rogers, extension regional farm business management specialist, was elected President of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents at

the group's annual meeting held in Green Bay, Wisc., during July. Rogers served as Northeast Vice Director and Director from 1987 to 1991 as well as National Vice President for NACAA in 2002. In 1997 he helped organize and chaired the facilities committee at the NACAA Annual Meeting in Burlington, which attracted more than 2000 attendees.

Publications and Presentations

Several presentations by College of Medicine faculty were featured at the 19th Congress of the International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis meeting, which took place in Birmingham, England in July. Invited speakers included **Kenneth Mann**, professor and chair of biochemistry, who presented "What does all that thrombin do?"; Dr. **Mary Cushman**, associate professor of medicine and pathology, who presented "The epidemiology of venous thrombosis"; and **Paula Tracy**, professor and vice chair of biochemistry, who presented "Platelets regulate thrombin generation at their membrane surface through several unique activation-dependent mechanisms." Oral presenters included **Saulius Butenas**, research associate professor of biochemistry; **Nancy Jenny**, research associate in pathology; **Beth Bouchard**, post-doctoral associate in biochemistry; and **Carla Vossen**, visiting graduate student in the department of pathology. Poster presenters included Dr. **Edwin Bovill**, professor and chair of pathology; Saulius Butenas; and Carla Vossen. **Russell Tracy**, senior associate dean for research and academic affairs and professor of pathology, was a session chair.

Mary Cushman was co-author of an Aug. 7 Women's Health Initiative study report published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* titled, "Estrogen plus progestin and the risk of coronary heart disease."

Dr. **Harold Dauerman**, associate professor of medicine, and Dr. **Burton Sobel**, professor and chair of medicine, published an article titled "Synergistic treatment of ST-segmentelevation myocardial infarction with pharmacoinvasive recanalization" in the Aug. 20 issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. Dauerman also published an editorial in the journal's Aug. 6 issue titled, "The early days after ST-segment elevation acute myocardial infarction: Reconsidering the delayed invasive approach."

A number of UVM Extension affiliates gave presentations at National Association of County Agricultural Agents' July annual meeting in Green Bay, Wisc. **Betsy Greene**, extension equine specialist, presented papers and posters on equine management; Wendy Sorrell, extension 4-H livestock specialist, presented a poster; **Rick LeVitre**, extension farm labor specialist, presented a poster and paper on labor issues; **Chester Parsons**, extension sheep specialist, presented a poster on the use of wool mulch in reducing erosion. **Jeff Carter**, extension assistant professor, led discussions on ways to improve programming for new extension educators. **Larry Myott**, extension maple specialist, and was featured in a video on professional excellence.

Dr. **David Krag**, S.D. Ireland professor of surgery, and **Takamuru Ashikaga**, professor of statistics, published an editorial in the Aug. 7 *New England Journal of Medicine* titled "The Design of Trials Comparing Sentinel-Node Surgery and Axillary Resection." Krag is principal investigator of the National Surgical Breast and Bowel Project randomized study on sentinel-node biopsy currently underway, which will enroll about 5500 patients.

A paperback edition of Mark Stoler's *Allies and Adversaries: The Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Grand Alliance, and U.S. Strategies in World War II*, was published in August by the University of North Carolina Press. The book earned Stoler, a professor of history, the 2002 Distinguished Book Award from the Society of Military History.

Dr. **Benjamin Suratt**, assistant professor of medicine, was lead author of a report in the Aug. 1 issue of the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* titled, "Human pulmonary chimerism after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation."

Arthur Woolf, associate professor of economics, was interviewed in the July issue of *Vermont Business Magazine*.

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Convocation Celebrates Quality, Diversity, Community

By Kevin Foley



Into the breach: Trustee Martha Heath and President Daniel Mark Fogel lead the procession into a new academic year at Convocation. (Photo: Sally McCay)

Convocation began earlier than usual this year, with faculty gathered for their procession on a chilly morning shortly after 8 a.m. grateful for the flimsy protection of their academic regalia, but a large and enthusiastic crowd in Ira Allen Chapel turned out to celebrate academic values and aspirations and hear from the man who started the University of Michigan's ultimately successful defense of its race-conscious admissions policies.

President Daniel Mark Fogel invited Lee Bollinger, President of Columbia University, to address the Sept. 8 event to underscore Fogel's deep belief that, as he said at the 2002 Convocation, excellence and diversity are inextricable at the University of Vermont. Bollinger in his previous capacity at Michigan, was a party to two precedent-making Supreme Court decisions widely regarded as victories for affirmative action. Bollinger's address traced both why and how his university sought to defend race as a consideration in college admissions.

Before Bollinger argued how the contemporary drive to maintain diversity within higher education is part of a modern American legacy that began with *Brown v. Board of Education*, the 1954 Supreme Court decision holding that school segregation violates the 14th Amendment, Fogel's remarks expounded on "the idea that lives at the heart of the agenda we have set for the University of Vermont": quality. Academic quality of life, Fogel said, requires vitality, passion, intellectual liberty, civility and open communication. Quality, he said, is accompanied by a commitment to diversity.

"Inquiry lives upon discussion, on debate, on variety of points of view, life experiences, backgrounds, and traditions," Fogel said. "The very air of the academy should be electric with difference."

"The story of the affirmative action case"

Fogel, whose remarks were preceded by a welcome from Trustee Martha Heath and a reflection by Vice Provost for Multicultural Affairs Willi Coleman, went on to encourage open expression of differences of all types, with an admonishment that the bright mosaic of individual attributes and experiences must fit together to form a nourishing, healthy community. After enumerating his sense of the University of Vermont's "special values" – environmental stewardship, social justice, equity, intellectual liberty and others – Fogel introduced Bollinger.

The Columbia president began his relaxed, conversational address by discussing the "special moment" first-year students enjoy as they start classes and part from their families. His observation that this time is often marked by

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Family Business

Norm Akley understands the weight of being next in line to run a business that has been in the family for 113 years, and he's glad his children can draw on a UVM program for legal and practical support.

The Bear Facts

A male black bear saunters down out of the woods and dumps over a bird feeder and starts eating the split feed. After a few weeks of this, the bear is declared a nuisance and is shot by a reluctant game warden. It's stories like these that drive the research of Associate Professor David Hirth.

EVOLVING Special Education

Vermont is tops nationally at including kids with disabilities in its public education classrooms. One strategy for making this happen is using paraprofessionals, but the presence of these aides can, and often does, create a bubble around disabled students. A \$700,000 grant at the Center for Disability and Community Inclusion looking for answers to the conundrum.

people “showing their affection through crankiness,” drew appreciative chuckles from both students and their elders. Bollinger then told “the story of the affirmative action cases,” outlining the six-year trajectory of the suits from their filing in 1997 to the decisions this year.

Bollinger said that the suits were filed at a moment when affirmative action was under fire nationwide, with defeats in both courts (for the University of Texas’s law school) and in the ballot box (California’s Proposition 209, which amended the state’s constitution to forbid racial consideration) so Bollinger and his colleagues first had to decide to fight the suit or settle, and then what tactics to use. The University of Michigan, of course, elected to fight.

“I believe I will never again have another chance to be engaged in work as important to society,” Bollinger said of the period where he and his colleagues mustered a defense of the role of diversity in educational policy and marshaled allies from other institutions, corporations and the military. Their first major break came with an op-ed by former President Gerald Ford, who took an unequivocal stand on the issue in part because his searing memory of an opposing coach’s refusal to play Ford’s Michigan football team if his black teammate suited up.

Elaborating on the public jockeying as the case was litigated, Bollinger said that he advocated for vigorous public discussion (it is unusual for a defendant in a suit to publicly discuss the matter) as well as a broader defense that, while based on the admonition in the Court’s 1978 Bakke decision that non-quota racial considerations are acceptable for educational purposes and not as a redress for past ills, also included context on the country’s continuing legacy of slavery and segregation. “We needed a sense of history,” Bollinger explained.

Michigan ultimately won a split victory in its two cases. The school’s undergraduate admissions, which used race as a numeric “plus factor,” was rejected by the court. The more holistic and qualitative law school admissions, which sought a “critical mass” of diversity, were found acceptable, a ruling generally regarded as a victory for affirmative action. Bollinger told his UVM audience that the law school’s policy was extendable, and could be implemented almost anywhere.

Bollinger finished the address by arguing against some key “myths” about affirmative action – for example, that discrimination is history and that different races compete on a level playing field. And that race-conscious admissions focus on academics first, then use race as a deciding factor, rather than interweaving personal and academic considerations throughout the selection process. Other “myths” Bollinger touched on included the notion that self-segregation undermines the educational benefits of diversity attained through affirmative action, or that racial considerations “stigmatize” those who receive them. “Is a student stigmatized for being from Oregon if that is also a consideration?” asked Bollinger.

He went on to urge the audience to discuss and debate affirmative action and equality opportunity anew with each class, each generation of students, so that they can maintain (or reject) the role of diversity in education, and the role of racial consideration in augmenting diversity.

After Bollinger left the podium to a standing ovation, English Professor Huck Gutman delivered his closing reflection, vigorously reading a poem by Vladimir Mayakovsky in which the 1920’s-era Russian poet, maddened by heat and repetitive work, confronts and ultimately reconciles with the sun.

*Suddenly—I
shone in all my might,
and morning rang its round.
Always to shine,
to shine everywhere,
to the very deeps of the last days,
to shine—
and to hell with everything else!
That is my motto—
and the sun’s!*

Gutman ended with an echo of the poem’s final stanza that served as advice

and admonition to faculty, students and staff as they prepared for another new semester of work: "Always to shine," Gutman said. "To shine."

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Keeping Business in the Family

By Jon Reidel



The business as family: UVM's VBFI helps closely held businesses like Barre's Trow and Holden manage succession and other issues. (Photo: Trow and Holden)

Norm Akley understands the weight of being next in line to run a business that has been in the family for 113 years. As a young man coming out of high school in the late sixties, Akley represented the fifth generation of a family-owned business that had been manufacturing stone-cutting tools since the late 1800's in the granite capital of Barre.

But like a lot of 18-year-olds, Akley wasn't sure what he wanted to do with the rest of his life.

So while his father added to the 40-plus years he'd put into Trow & Holden Company, Akley pursued other opportunities. By age 27, however, Akley decided to return to the family business he'd worked in growing up in Central Vermont.

"The goal is to keep the company going because that's the engine that makes things run," Akley says. "But I can remember saying 'I'm not going to do this when I get older.' I think it's a good idea to have other work experiences."

Akley has run Trow & Holden with his wife, Lauren LaMorte, for the past 25 years and now has a son and a daughter of his own, ages 17 and 21, facing similar choices.

"If they choose to eventually take over the business, I'm confident that they have the information they need to make a decision," Akley says. "We communicate pretty well."

Passing the torch

Numerous other family-owned businesses are dealing with similar issues, although 70 percent of family businesses nationwide fail to make it to the second generation and 90 percent don't make it to the third. With 50 percent of the U.S. workforce employed by family businesses, and an unprecedented 39 percent of those firms expected to experience leadership shifts in the next five years, the need to prepare for the transition of the next generation is critical.

Akley and about 30 other Vermont businesses rely on UVM's Vermont Family Business Initiative to help them with succession issues and a host of financial quandaries. Started in 1996 by the School of Business Administration, VFBI's mission is to give these businesses the tools and support they need to compete in the business world.

VFBI Director Daniel Van Der Vliet says the initiative focuses on four areas: transition, leadership, finances and communication. In family businesses these issues are often more complex because of the emotional mix of business and family. Van Der Vliet said a VFBI forum on communication prompted one business to hold its first family meeting.

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[EVOLVING Special Education](#)

Vermont is tops nationally at including kids with disabilities in its public education classrooms. One strategy for making this happen is using paraprofessionals, but the presence of these aides can, and often does, create a bubble around disabled students. A \$700,000 grant at the Center for Disability and Community Inclusion looking for answers to the conundrum.

"So many issues come into play in a family business," Van Der Vliet says. "There's the issue of who to pay and how much, which family member should run the business, and whether or not the next generation is prepared to take it over. We try to help them deal with these problems through forums and counseling."

Four forums are planned for the coming year. "Envisioning the Future: Where do you want your business to be five years from now?" and "Creating the Future: The role of conversations, meetings, and retreats" kick off the series.

Rocki-Lee DeWitt, dean of the School of Business Administration, says VFBI is constantly trying to find better ways to serve the needs of the state's business community. These needs are gauged through conversations with business leaders and at VFBI-sponsored events such as the upcoming "Keys to Success in Family Business Transition" workshop on Sept. 30 at the Howard Dean Education Center in Springfield.

"We've been gathering data regarding the educational needs of the state which is helping to shape our variety of offerings," says Dewitt, who learned about family businesses while growing up on a dairy farm in New York. "I view it [VFBI] as a node in the network of professional advice and support offered around the state. We want to be able to connect the need with the appropriate provider."

All things business

Van Der Vliet says ideally the Vermont Business Center (the headquarters for all UVM business outreach programs) will serve as a "doorway into the university for all things business," so that specific questions can be steered to the most appropriate university employee.

"UVM really needs to identify its niche within the business community in Vermont and stay true to that," Van Der Vliet says. "I see the Vermont Business Center as an umbrella outreach and the Vermont Family Business center fitting underneath that."

Funding for VFBI is membership driven with about 30 Vermont businesses contributing \$1,000 each, which entitles them to free admission to seminars, participation at social events, and access to professionals in banking, estate planning and other relevant business services.

VFBI works with three Vermont businesses who pay \$7,500 annually to become an official partner. These businesses, which include Northfield Savings Bank, Gallagher, Flynn and Company, and Gravel and Shea, both of Burlington, speak and offer advice at seminars, and are available to answer questions from member businesses.

"Working with business owners and hearing their concerns is a useful tool for our lawyers," says Steve Magowan, a partner with Gravel and Shea who works with VFBI businesses on estate planning and other financial planning concerns. It's a very valuable education for our lawyers. One of the hardest things for a lawyer to learn is how to listen to a client. They learn that by listening to the business owners who come to the seminars."

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The Bear Facts

By Jon Reidel



Associate Professor David Hirth examines a strand of bear hair left on an apple tree that he'll use for a study focused on controlling Vermont's bear population. (Photo: Sally McCay)

A male black bear saunters down out of the woods and starts flirting with the edges of a yard. The Vermont bear is hungrier, and therefore bolder, than usual because beech nuts and his other favorite foods have become scarce due to disease, and because humans are building homes in the forests that once served as the location of the bear's primary food source.

The animal spots a bird feeder in the yard and eventually works up

enough courage to knock it down with his massive claws and starts eating the spilt feed. With no human opposition in sight, the bear returns daily to feast on the bird feed.

Unbeknownst to the bear, the owner of the feeder has called the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife on him. A wildlife specialist tells the landowner to stop feeding the birds in the summer and the problem should go away. But the resident refuses, and the bear keeps coming back for more. He's eventually declared a "nuisance bear" and is shot by a reluctant game warden.

It's stories like these that drive the research of David Hirth, an associate professor and chair of the wildlife and fisheries biology program. With more than 200 complaints registered with game wardens since bears started coming out of hibernation in April, and 14 killings of bears in defense of property, potential clashes between bears and humans is becoming a major statewide issue.

"Because someone wants to feed birds in the summer a bear has to die," says Hirth. "If you're hungry enough, you'll do things you normally wouldn't, like go into someone's yard. We've got to develop a hunting program to keep the bear population low enough so they aren't forced out of the woods."

Too many bears

The black bear population has risen in the past decade from about 1,000 animals to more than 3,500 statewide. Some black bears reach 300 pounds and can run up to 40 miles per hour, which makes people uneasy, despite no one being attacked and killed by a bear in Vermont since 1940.

Hirth believes achieving an optimal black bear population will require changes to hunting seasons and areas. Otherwise, he fears that Vermont could become like New Jersey and the bear population will spiral out of control. Figuring out exactly how to jigger hunting regulations is difficult, but Hirth, whose expertise has been in demand since the number of encounters between bears and humans has increased recently, says answers are becoming clearer as technology advances and research progresses.



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Vermont is tops nationally at including kids with disabilities in its public education classrooms. One strategy for making this happen is using paraprofessionals, but the presence of these aides can, and often does, create a bubble around disabled students. A \$700,000 grant at the Center for Disability and Community Inclusion looking for answers to the conundrum.

"Genetics suddenly gives us the ability to look at things in a new way," Hirth says. "It allows us to compare bears from the Northeast Kingdom, for example, with bears from central Vermont based on specific genetic markers."

Hirth and Charles Kilpatrick, a geneticist and associate professor of biology at UVM, have been collecting bear DNA samples to compare gene structures between bears in various regions of the state. This information, Hirth says, offers the hard data necessary for the state to manage bear problems.

"From the genetic variations we can tell if the populations are large or small, which would give our friends at the state an idea of which populations are fragile or robust and could withstand heavier hunting pressure," Hirth says.

Armed with this knowledge, Hirth says Vermont could extend bear hunting season and up the per person bear limit from one to two in areas of the state where there are larger numbers of bears. "The state could say no hunting west of Route 7, for example. They could set up more specific management units."

Bearing down

Unfortunately, a lack of funding has prevented Kilpatrick from completing the analysis of many of the DNA samples collected by Hirth in apple orchards and other places around the state where bears leave pieces of hair or flesh suitable for DNA examination.

"It can be costly," Kilpatrick says. "We look for the same kind of genetic markers they use in forensic labs to identify suspects. What we've learned so far is that bears aren't one large randomly mating population. It's a big surprise that we found any structure at all. But there's clear genetic differences between bears in southern, central and northern Vermont."

Kilpatrick says there are various reasons why bears stay in their regions. Natural barriers like a lake or a man-made structure such as a road could prevent them from crossing into another part of the state, he says. Some bears living in the Berkshires of Massachusetts have similar gene markings as some Vermont bears, which raises a number of other questions that Hirth and Kilpatrick would like to answer, so they would ultimately like to extend the genetic research to all of New England.

The bottom line, Hirth says, is that bears and people don't mix, and the best way to limit their contact is to find out through research the parts of the state with the most dense populations and modify hunting seasons and kill limits around them. Until more research funding becomes available, making those modifications could prove difficult.

"The basic problem is that bears and people don't mix well," Hirth says. "They both fear each other, but as bears become more accustomed to people they lose that fear, and that's apt to result in someone killing a bear. As a management strategy we need to keep the black bear population at a level where they're not coming out of the woods because they're so damn hungry they can't help themselves."

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University Communications
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Burlington, Vermont
05401-3404

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

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EVOLVING Special Education

By Kevin Foley

Michael Giangreco, research professor at the Center for Disability and Community Inclusion, is concerned about a conundrum.

Vermont is tops nationally at including kids with disabilities in its public education classrooms. A key strategy for making this happen is using paraprofessionals, teacher's assistants assigned to an individual student or classroom. But Giangreco, who has studied the practice for years, worries that budget-crunched schools rely too much on their low-paid staffers. The hovering attention of paraprofessionals can, and often does, create a bubble around students with disabilities. It is a circle of support and attention, but a bubble nonetheless — and often, it seals young students away from the life of the classroom.

"You inadvertently create barriers to interaction. Teachers are busy, so they often choose to focus on the kids who don't have paraprofessionals," he says. "And then you end up with the least-trained person assigned to provide primary support to the student who has the greatest challenge to learning."

In Giangreco's view, schools and special education teachers need to look thoughtfully at themselves to determine whether they ask too much of their paraprofessionals, and if so, figure out better ways to apply their talents. But while the academic literature is filled with studies of some of the problems that inappropriate use of paraprofessionals can pose, there is little writing about successful alternatives. So he conceived Project EVOLVE, which aims to help teachers and administrators assess their needs, develop and implement creative solutions to their problems, and then gather and publish data on the results.

The program is funded by a highly competitive (less than 10 percent of applications in the category were funded) four year, \$700,000 grant from the United States Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs. Giangreco, along with project colleagues Steve Broer, a research assistant professor of education, and Stephen Doll, expect to eventually attract 24 to 25 schools nationwide into the EVOLVE process through mini-grants and a requirement that grantees "replicate" the program at another school in their district.

"This is all applied work. There's nothing esoteric — it's all in the trenches, with schools and kids. Our approach is that people in the schools have the capacity so solve their own problems," Giangreco says.

How to evolve

Ever mindful of the demands on their overstressed audience of teachers and administrators, the EVOLVE team first gathered data from more than 700 teachers, parents and administrators and combed the literature. Then they developed a step-by-step process to help schools assess their needs and discover and implement appropriate alternatives to any over reliance on paraprofessionals. The guidelines are easy to read, but are informed by research findings and actual school practice.

"People in schools are so busy they will not do something like this unless it is really important, they can see results and it is doable. The ivory tower doesn't fly. People in schools don't have time to synthesize research," Giangreco says.

To save time, the guidelines are detailed, practical and without being rigid. The portion detailing how to establish a planning team identifies key people who should be recruited to join it, ranging from interested outsiders to parents and those within the school. The self-assessment portion offers step-by-step guidance. A rubric of a dozen alternatives for schools that believe their use of

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paraprofessionals is less than ideal suggests specific solutions to common problems that have been implemented in other schools, complete with pros and cons.

The alternatives in the project materials include everything from allocating paraprofessional funds to hiring more regular teachers, to assigning a paraprofessional to cope with the voluminous paperwork endemic to special education, allowing teachers more time to work closely with students. Giangreco is quick to point out that the project's aim is not to criticize or eliminate paraprofessionals, it is to create awareness of better ways to manage their unintended effects. "They are very important players in the system," he says.

Adopt, adapt, invent

With the grant beginning its second year, the first crop of eight Vermont schools is completing the planning phase of the process and are beginning to implement their chosen alternatives. Six national sites, in schools from Connecticut to Kansas, are coming online this year. By the end of EVOLVE's third year, Giangreco anticipates that about 25 schools will have completed and begun assessing the process.

"This has the potential to have a real national impact," says Giangreco, who says use of paraprofessionals is on the rise nationally at the same time that data on alternatives is rare in the academic literature.

As the schools tweak existing alternatives to fit their own needs — and dream up new ones, which the project will monitor and disseminate — Giangreco hopes their efforts will improve the educational experience for disabled students... and everyone else in their classrooms.

"The bottom line here is getting students with disabilities the support they need to get a quality education," he says. "But done well, this helps the whole learning community, not just kids with disabilities."

To emphasize his point, Giangreco reaches up to pull down a slim volume, a book of special education cartoons he wrote a few years ago. The image he chooses shows a snowy school entrance with a crowd of students waiting for a harried janitor to shovel the stairs. A girl in a wheelchair asks the man to shovel the ramp first instead, and the man declines, gesturing at the waiting students, and the girl points out that clearing the ramp clears the way for *everyone*.

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