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Cadets lowered the flag during a campus observance of Sept. 11. (Photo: Tatianna Salcedo)

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Acid Test Acid rain, the insidious inexorable enemy of forests everywhere, may be even worse than previously thought, according to recent University of Vermont research.

Janie Cohen The Fleming's new director takes a page from *Field of Dreams*. "If your program is exciting enough, people will come," she says.

Life, Death, Bodies

Parents, if you shudder at the sight of your teenagers' piercings and blue fingernail polish, take comfort in learning that in another era, your progeny might have resembled a Conehead.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Sept. 11 4-6 p.m. Panel discussion, "Attack on America" with Bogac Ergene, Robert Kaufman, Gregory Gause and Kevin McKenna. Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

Sept. 14 1-6 p.m. First Annual LGBTQA Welcome Back Picnic for students, staff, faculty, alumnae/i and their friends. Allen House. 656-8637

Sept. 16 Yom Kippur morning service, led by Rabbi Michael Cohen, '81. North Lounge, Billings. 656-1153.

Sept. 17 4:30 p.m. Poetry reading by Galway Kinnell. Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

Sept. 18, 12:30 p.m. Brown-bag lunch talk: "Ideology and Representation: Afromexicans in 18th Century Mexican Iconography." 325 Old Mill.

Sept. 18 4 p.m. Lecture: "North of Slavery: African Americans in the Green Mountain State," UVM alumnus Ray Zirblis. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill.

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At 12:36 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7, UVM President Daniel Fogel walked Burlington's streets with local residents to discuss quality of life issues. (Photo: Thomas Weaver)

The Midnight Walk of Dan Fogel

University presidents are accustomed to burning the midnight oil, but Daniel Mark Fogel put a literal spin on the expression early, very early Saturday morning, Sept. 7.

President Fogel joined members of Burlington's Neighborhood Action Project for a Neighborhood Walk from midnight to 2 a.m. He was making good on a promise pledged his first week on the job while visiting the student-dense blocks bordered by Pearl, Willard, North and Union streets. Fogel told residents then that he would return in the "wee and perilous" hours to get a first-hand look at the challenges neighbors face from noise and rowdy behavior.

The Neighborhood Action Project, started in 1998, is a collaborative effort among residents, landlords, city government, city police and local college administration. The Neighborhood Walks are an opportunity for residents to meet students, pass out community resource and city code information and help police patrols keep an eye out for potential problem spots.

A group of approximately 25 – including UVM vice presidents David Nestor and Thomas Gustafson and UVM city relations liaison Gail Champnois – gathered with Fogel in Pomeroy Park. Burlington Police Officer Rich Long told the group, "This isn't vigilantism. You're all here because you care about this neighborhood and want to take a role in fixing it."

Hoofing it along streets such as Isham and Green, the group stopped by houses where a bass beat thudded into the night and the party spilled onto

Johnson Assails Soda on Two Fronts

The cola companies are armed with billions of marketing dollars, exclusive school contracts, even logo-emblazoned baby bottles. Their targets are American kids, a vulnerable group whose weight (growing) and health (sinking) poses a huge threat to the public well-being.

Rachel Johnson, nutrition professor and an acting dean, is equipped with science, regulatory influence and outrage.

"People," she said during a Sept. 9 lecture to first-year students, "call me the soft drink Nazi."

Four days before Johnson meticulously argued for a relationship between rising consumption of soft drinks and skyrocketing childhood obesity rates, the Institute of Medicine, an arm of the National Academies of Science, released a 1,000 page report with new guidelines on nutrient intakes for optimal health. The report, which offered "dietary reference intakes" of energy and nutrients, made television and newspaper headlines worldwide.

Johnson was one of 21 experts who participated in the three-year process of creating the guidelines. The new rules, which set targets and limits for consumption of sugar, fat, protein and fiber among other things, evolved from close study of the scientific literature and countless meetings and conference calls.

"These rules are huge because they will set federal nutrition policy," Johnson said.

A committee wrote the report, but Johnson played an important role in setting the guidelines for sugar. The report urges that no more than 25 percent of daily calories come from added sugar in food, a recommendation that drew some criticism. Johnson believes that some in the media have mistook an "absolute, upper limit" as a recommendation.

"It's critical that we need to say this is not a recommendation," Johnson said. "At 25 percent of calories from sugar you would have trouble meeting the other guidelines."

The 25 percent limit, Johnson continued, came from a careful examination of survey information. When sugar intake reached 25 percent, "we started to see a clear and consistent drop-off in mineral intake", a condition which can impair health. Hence, the limit.

It's ironic that the strictures of science involved Johnson in recommending a sugar guideline that

the porch. Burlington Code Enforcement Officer Ray O'Connor politely informed students about noise ordinances and urged them to be considerate of their neighbors.

For Fogel it was an opportunity to see the issues that motivated a recent city/university initiative furthering efforts to protect the quality of life in neighborhoods adjacent to UVM. And as the Neighborhood Walk debriefed in Pomeroy Park at 2 a.m., the president's work still wasn't done for the day. A UVM Police Services cruiser picked him up for a ride-along to get a look at the on-campus scene during those "wee and perilous hours."

Music Prof's CD in Grammy Contention

Concert pianist Paul Orgel, adjunct lecturer in music, and Vermont flutist Karen Kevra, have a new CD on the CRI label, "Works for Flute and Piano" of music by Louis Moyse. The composer and artists have been nominated for a 2002 Grammy Award in the category of "classical ensemble recording without conductor." The CD can be ordered from any dealer of classical recordings or online at [Composer's Recordings](#).

Moyse, who is still active at the age of 90, lives in Montpelier and is known as a teacher, flutist, pianist and a founder of the Marlboro Chamber Music Festival. Less well known, says Orgel, is that Moyse "is a composer of ambitious music for flute and piano." The new recording presents his major works – two sonatas and "Introduction, Theme, and Variations," the first time the works have been recorded. Orgel wrote in the liner notes that "these neglected compositions rank among the very finest music for flute and piano from the 20th century. Furthermore, the music is infectious, lively, and very enjoyable to listen to."

Critics seem to agree. The *American Record Guide* wrote that Kevra and Orgel's "performances are as alluring as the music is rich." *Fanfare* called the recording "a labor of love that will receive much love in return...a must for anyone with ears," and *Classicstoday.com* gave the recording a 10/10, its highest rating, calling it "the sleeper of the year."

Orgel will present a lecture/recital on directions in 20th century music at UVM on October 23.

Information: 656-7776 or porgel@zoo.uvm.edu

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some observers find too lenient: As the first-years found during Johnson's President's Lecture, she is no friend of the sweet stuff.

Those sugary drinks may be effervescent on the palate, she told her audience, but their health effects linger, helping to drive a calorie and obesity boom that has reshaped the entire country, with particularly tragic effects for young people. Childhood obesity rates are up 300 percent in 25 years, and lifestyle-related "adult" conditions like type II diabetes are threatening more young people than ever before. Accompanying this grim march are steady increases in the consumption of soft drinks, which are a huge calorie source for youth.

This state of affairs, which has changed radically in only a single generation, has nothing to do with genes, Johnson argued. It's an environment of super-sized and super-marketed food, soft drinks especially. And the toll is huge and growing.

"A study by the Rand Corporation recently found for the first time that the cost of obesity-related diseases exceeded the cost of tobacco- and alcohol-related diseases combined," Johnson said.

Even baby humans have an innate preference for sweet tastes, Johnson said, and the food industry capitalizes on this with ever-larger portions and marketing budgets. As Americans eat out more often, and drink soda more often, those empty calories displace fruits, vegetables and milk, and more of the population creeps toward obesity and its associated ills.

Johnson sees a case for taxing and regulating high-sugar foods in some of the same ways that tobacco is now regulated. She applauded school districts, such as Los Angeles Unified, that have banned cola from campuses. Another part of the answer, she thinks, is nutrition education.

"The entire federal budget for nutritional education is one-fifth of what they spend to market Altoids mints," she said. "We've never really tried nutritional education."

Hort Farm Opens for Apple Season

Apple sales will begin at the UVM Horticultural Center on Friday, Sept. 13. The varieties build as the weeks go on – Macs, Empires, Vermont Golds, Speckles, Liberties, Northern Spys, Cortlands, Mutsus and numerous experimental varieties known only by a number. In addition to finding great apples, join the ongoing discussions about what apples make the best pie or applesauce. If you're lucky, you'll arrive when one of the "regulars" delivers an apple pie to sample.

The sales continue every Friday until the end of October, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., at the Hort Center, off Green Mountain Drive in South Burlington (behind Heritage Ford on Shelburne Road).

Information: 658-9166.

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Pulitzer Poet to Hold Class, Give Reading

Former Poet Laureate of Vermont Galway Kinnell will share the gift of verse with the university community on Sept. 17. He will hold a question and answer class in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill, at 1 p.m. and will read from his works in Memorial Lounge, Waterman, at 4:30 p.m. The author of eight previous collections, it's a good bet he'll read selections from his latest book, *A New Selected Poems*, which was published by Houghton Mifflin earlier this month.

"One thing that leads a person to poetry is an inner life of some activity and maybe even turbulence, the weight of meaning and feeling that has to get out," Kinnell once said. In his much-lauded poetry he ruminates on his inner self, nature, death and the experiences one gains from being alive – from "Blackberry Eating" to "Telephoning in Mexican Sunlight."

Said to possess "the most lyrical voice of his generation," Kinnell earned both the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award for his 1982 collection, "Selected Poems." A former MacArthur Fellow, he is a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets and Erich Maria Remarque Professor of creative writing at New York University. He divides his time between Vermont and New York.

Community Medical School Returns

UVM's Community Medical School series begins Sept. 17 with "Using Science to Pinpoint the Effects of Acupuncture," by Dr. Helene Langevin, research assistant professor of neurology. All the presentations are held in Carpenter Auditorium. Given from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by a question and answer period.

Registration, information: 847-2886. See [Community Medical School](#) for complete descriptions, directions and map.

UVM Thanks Staff in Recognition Week

UVM will celebrate its annual Staff Recognition Week Sept. 17 – 20, opening with a social on the Green Sept. 17 hosted by President Daniel Mark Fogel. Lunch will be served at the Fleming Museum entrance. Bring your lunch coupon from the *Staffline* newsletter. There also will be a drawing for prizes.

Staff with 10 years service will attend a recognition lunch on Sept. 18, and staff celebrating five, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30-year milestones will receive bookstore certificates. Staff with 15 or more years of service will be feted at a dinner on Sept. 20.

Information: [Human Resources](#)

Security Scholar to Speak on Iraq

Kenneth Adelman, adjunct professor of national security studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and adjunct professor of Shakespeare at George Washington University, will speak on the case for war against Iraq on Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel.

Adelman's talk, which is sponsored by UVM's College Republicans, is titled "Bomb Iraq Now."

Adelman, the former director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, deputy U.S. representative to the United Nations and assistant secretary of defense 1975-77, is the author of *Getting the Job Done* and *Shakespeare in Charge: The Bard's Guide to Leading and Succeeding on the Business State*.

As a frequent guest commentator on Fox News, Adelman has urged the overthrow of Saddam Hussein by American forces, which he has said "could speed up the looming mass revolution in Iran." Once that is done, Adelman added, "then fundamental changes in Saudi Arabia and Egypt could easily follow." He also advocates ending our foreign aid to Egypt, which, he said, "has given us back nothing but ... hostility towards Israel and America."

Information: Sanjeev Yadav, 598-3109 or syadav@zoo.uvm.edu

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*September 11 – September 17***Honors and Awards**

David Harrison, assistant professor of business administration, has been selected as the Nicole Maria Stata Professor for the coming year. He will lead the Stata Lecture Series and continue his research in the area of real estate finance. The lecture series will bring nationally recognized business experts to campus to share their insights with the university and business communities.

J. Tobey Clark, director of Instrumentation and Technical Services, received the Cliknical/Biomedical Engineering Achievement Award in June. Clark has been at UVM since 1976 and has been director of the department since 1993.

Alumnus **Jeffrey Augello** '95 has been selected for the prestigious Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship, supported by the Sea Grant College Program. He was nominated by the Lake Champlain Sea Grant program, which includes UVM and which will administer the grant. The fellowship was established to provide a unique educational experience to students who have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources. Augello has a B.S. in natural resources and a J.D. from Vermont Law School.

Publications and Presentations

Kurt E. Oughstun, professor of electrical engineering, computer science and mathematics, was invited to participate in a Quantum Optics workshop at the Kavli Institute of Theoretical Physics, University of California at Santa Barbara, this past July. The program brought together the quantum optics community in order to generate and discuss new ideas about slow light, stopped light and fast light. The first week of the workshop focused on metamaterials, which can be designed to possess a negative refractive index. The second week of the workshop was devoted to fast light and addressed the possibility that an ultrashort pulse could travel faster than the vacuum speed of light in dispersive materials and systems. Oughstun presented a seminar, "On the Myth of Superluminality in Dispersive Pulse Propagation."

Anthony Julianelle, lecturer in mathematics, served as chair of the local arrangements committee for Mathfest 2002, the major national summer meeting of the Mathematical Association of America. Held at UVM Aug. 1-4, this year's event was the largest Mathfest ever. Julianelle also co-chaired the General Paper Session with **Robert Wright**, professor of mathematics, and gave a talk on grading the AP calculus exam.

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

Robert Manning, professor of natural resources, and **Steven Lawson**, a post-doctoral associate in the department, contributed the cover article for the August issue of *Environmental Management*. Their article, "Carrying Capacity as 'Informed Judgement' ", discusses the emerging "science of values" in park and wilderness management, and suggests theoretical and methodological approaches that could also apply to a much wider range of resource and environmental issues.

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The Campus Remembers

By Kevin Foley



Cadets lowered the flag during a campus observance of Sept. 11. (Photo: Tatianna Salcedo)

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The carillon tolled inexorably, counting the minutes until 8:46 a.m., the moment when the first plane struck the World Trade Center, and then a shot shattered the stillness. ROTC cadets had lowered the

flag to half-mast. Then, silence.

After a brief introduction from Roddy O'Neill Cleary, a Burlington minister, President Daniel Mark Fogel spoke, delivering couplets as tightly wound and imagistic as a poem.

"One year ago, we were startled out of sleep, waking abruptly to a changed world, to a sky that came down in flames, terror, and, for so many, sudden and unforeseen annihilation," Fogel said.

"What murdered sleep that day also brought revelations whose meanings we are still turning over in our minds and hearts, still absorbing, still questioning—"

Fogel evoked those "who faced death knowingly," the rescuers. He returned to the struggle to find sense in the senseless, the difficult work of "turning over the stubborn meanings, seeking in what Adrienne Rich calls in an old poem 'the wreck and not the story of the wreck/the thing itself and not the myth' "

He finished the couplet, "something about ourselves on which we can rest and be restored—the connectedness we felt that day, the ways in which we are bound together in remembrance and in hope."

Jon Badaracco, president of the student government association, spoke next, intoning the names of the 11 UVM alumni who were killed that day. He closed with a nod toward Carlton Bartels, a Cantor Fitzgerald employee who earned a graduate degree here in 1985. Badaracco paraphrased how a family member of Bartels had described the man's approach to life, turning it into an admonition to the crowd: "Do not be afraid of life, be passionate about it and live every minute."

The last refrain of "Voice Still and Small" from the University Catamount Singers faded, and the crowd remained still for more beats than seemed natural. And then the pews creaked and bags rustled and the university filed out, faces grim and drawn, out the doors into the gray and cold, out the doors into the day's uncertain weather.

[Complete text of President Fogel's remarks](#)

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UVM Alumni Victims on September 11, 2001

Carlton W. Bartels G '85
Brandon Buchanan '99
Paul Cascio '99
Robert Lawrence, Jr. '82
Rajesh Mirpuri
Cesar Murillo '91
Martin Niederer '99
Joshua Piver '00
Eric Ropiteau '00
Matthew Sellitto '00
John W. Wright, Jr. '89

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Foliage in Danger of Spoilage?

UVM tree experts ponder impact of acid rain on fall colors – and forests generally

By Cheryl Dorschner



Better red than dead? Acid rain may make the foliage show less red, or it may make it even redder, but UVM experts can agree that the perilous precipitation has disastrous effects on forests as a whole. (Photo: Sally McCay)

With another fall foliage season fast approaching, Vermont residents and tourists are spending more and more time thinking about trees. This is only natural: The fall foliage display of red, orange and gold against the green backdrop of spruce, fir, pine and hemlock here is stunning even during years when the show isn't prime.

But many University of Vermont scientists focus their attention on forests year round, and they're increasingly worried that the sparkling forest

jewels – healthy, lush trees – are in danger here and elsewhere, jeopardized by an insidious enemy more dangerous and widespread than previously thought.

"While there's not yet conclusive evidence that there's a link between acid rain damage and fall leaf coloration, some data indicates that calcium is an important trigger in the production of the red color in leaves," says Paul Schaberg, a UVM adjunct faculty member and forest service scientist. "That could mean that acid rain – which depletes calcium in trees – could result in fewer reds in the landscape."

Of course, the science is emerging, and acid rain might well have the opposite effect. UVM and U.S. Forest Service scientists recently submitted a research paper that shows that "nutrient stress can instigate premature and more intense red color in maples." If that's the case, acid rain – which stresses trees – could enhance the autumn palette of reds," Schaberg points out.

A wound within

Whatever the connection between fall foliage color and acid rain, a recent UVM study revealed that acid rain's damage to forests nationwide may be much more widespread than previously believed. It may actually create conditions in trees similar to compromised immune systems in humans, establishing vulnerability with grave potential implications.

"As with immune-compromised humans, plants may appear and function as if they were healthy, until exposed to even a routine stress or disease, then experience declines far more exaggerated than expected," says Donald DeHayes, dean of the School of Natural Resources. DeHayes co-authored a study in the June issue of the journal *Ecosystem Health*.

Up to now, acid rain has been associated with the decline of forests in certain specific locations. DeHayes and his colleagues, Schaberg and UVM senior researcher Gary Hawley, previously documented the mechanism through which acid rain depletes calcium and weakens high elevation red spruce trees, making

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them more vulnerable to winter freezing injury.

Their new work shows that this mechanism also is applicable to other tree species, including balsam fir, white pine and eastern hemlock. Because calcium is a critical ingredient in the plant's stress response system, acid rain's depletion of cellular calcium may suppress the capacity of trees to survive environmental stresses.

This connection between calcium deficiency and environmental stress exposure is a common component in the declines of several tree species, including red spruce, sugar maple and flowering dogwood. Their "immune response" hypothesis provides an overarching explanation of how acid rain ultimately threatens forests. The findings are especially relevant now because a growing assortment of human influences – climate change, pollutants and new pests and diseases, are burdening forests.

More than trees

"If extensive, the decline of individual species would radiate through plant communities," DeHayes says. "It would alter the competition and survival of populations, perhaps even species, including animals at higher levels of the forest food chains." DeHayes points out those calcium deficiencies in plants are passed on to herbivores, altering their nutrition. Birds eating calcium-deficient plants, for example, might have less calcium for egg production. Insects might have weaker exoskeletons, and mammals might have flimsier bones or produce inferior milk.

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Exciting Exhibits, High Traffic in Fleming's Future

By Lee Griffin



Janie Cohen is eagerly taking on her new role as director of the Fleming Museum. (Publicity image.)

Janie Cohen's vision for the Fleming Museum, appropriately, takes a page from *The Field of Dreams*. "If your program is exciting enough, people will come," she says. She points to the exclusive (and only American) exhibit of Picasso prints she curated in 1995. "The Fleming has about 23,000 visitors annually," she says. "During the three months of that exhibit, 18,000 people visited." The new director of the Fleming will

further test that philosophy in the coming year as she juggles her new job with her former one and mounts two exciting exhibits.

Cohen came to UVM in 1991 as assistant director and curator, with experience in curating modern and contemporary art exhibits on the East Coast and in Europe. When she replaced the now retired Ann Porter as director on July 1, Cohen left a huge gap, one that she hopes to fill by spring, following a national search. In the meantime, she'll juggle and worry that she might lose some of the ubiquitous post-it notes attached to the myriad papers covering the old Billings' library table, now her desk.

Some of the most important papers on that table have to do with plans for the late January 2003 opening of an Andy Warhol exhibit and the fall 2003 exhibit of Rembrandt prints. Like the Picasso, the two shows easily fulfill Cohen's "exciting" criteria.

The Warhol opportunity began with an offer by alumnus and film producer Jon Kilik '78 to loan the Fleming his 11-piece collection of Warhol prints. That collection has grown to 23, and all of them will be on display, as well as a few works owned by the Fleming and more from other collections for a total of about 50, Cohen says. Included will be a gift from donor Betty Stroh of one of Warhol's cow prints. In addition to the works on the wall, Fleming's long cases will display ephemera and memorabilia from Warhol and some of his collaborators "to express the richness of what he was involved in," Cohen explains. The exhibit also will include a related film, poetry and music series. High on the value-added wish list – and Cohen's working on it – would be a performance by Lou Reed, Velvet Underground musician and poet and one of Warhol's collaborators.

The Rembrandt exhibit will feature "major prints from throughout his career," Cohen says and will come from the Rembrandt House Museum in Amsterdam. "This will be a great program for scholars," she adds.

But just as important to Cohen are the Fleming's own broad collection and the wide variety of other exhibits it hosts each year. She has a three-pronged vision for the museum: "To make it more accessible and better known to all our constituents; to help them use the collection in creative ways, especially across the curriculum;" and to keep an influx of high-profile exhibits.

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The last actually requires a fourth goal – more financial support, probably in the form of endowments. To that end, she is meeting with corporate and foundation leaders and prospective individual donors and getting help from the Development Office. The good news, she says, is that the Fleming Museum will be one of UVM's Capital Campaign priorities, with efforts to establish endowments for acquisitions, exhibitions and education and public programs.

"Our collections are very broad," Cohen says. "We want to get the word out about what resources we have" to faculty and to the Vermont community. Works in storage easily can be brought out for classes, which can be held in the Fleming's seminar room, she says. She points to a recent use by Cathy Paris, lecturer in botany, who illumined her classes on deforestation with images from the Charles Louis Heyde collection (19th century Vermont landscapes). Staff at the Fleming can help faculty connect their lectures to the collection, which Cohen calls "the foremost multicultural, interdisciplinary resource in the state."

Under Cohen's leadership, the Fleming will continue to work closely with schools and other organizations and to welcome community involvement in programming. She lauds the new institutional membership began by Porter, in which local schools pay a fee so their employees – from St. Michael's, Burlington and Champlain colleges and Community College of Vermont – can use the Fleming for free.

Cohen also has high praise for the museum staff. "I'm so fortunate in having them; they are extremely engaged." Their work is aimed at the museum's major missions. Of special promise for users of the Fleming is the database that the three-member registrar's department is creating. To date, 12,000 out of approximately 20,000 images in the core collection have been entered and, eventually, all will be searchable online.

The registrar group also tracks the "comings and goings" of art exhibits, and if Cohen brings half the ideas on her desk to fruition, they will be busy indeed. High on her list are an Alumni Artists Exhibit, probably for spring 2004; a Cuban art exhibit, possibly co-curated with Middlebury College's museum; and an exhibit of the Shelburne Museum's impressionist collection.

Cohen says her greatest hope for the Fleming is "that it be used, taken advantage of." Stepping into the directorship has put her "exactly where I want to be. ... and I am really open to input on ways the collection and the institution can be used."

Corin Hewitt Exhibit at Fleming

Local media hyped Hewitt's eight-foot, cast marble sculpture of Willard Scott as it was lowered into a Richmond silo last week, but there's more to explore of the artist's work in the Fleming's new exhibit, "Prints, Drawings and Small-Scale Sculpture: Corin Hewitt." The works, in the Wilbur room, will be on display through Dec. 15. Hewitt will deliver a lunchtime lecture on Nov. 6 at 12:15 p.m., "Searching for Patterns: The Weather Forecast and the Ornamentation of Nature."

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Life, Death and the Body

By Lynda Majarian



"Why would you want your head to be round?": Assistant Professor of Anthropology Deborah Blum's interests include body adornment and modification in ancient Bolivia. (Photo: Sally McCay)

Parents, if you shudder at the sight of your teenagers' tattoos, multiple piercings and blue fingernail polish, take comfort in learning that in another era, your progeny might have resembled one of *Saturday Night Live's* famous Coneheads.

Cranial alteration – achieved by tying boards to the front and back of the head to form a tall, angular shape or a short, wide one – was once a mainstream practice in societies throughout the

world, explains Deborah Blum, assistant professor of anthropology.

One such society flourished in Tiwanaku, Bolivia, around 3,000 B.C. Roughly 80 percent of the population opted for the new look, even making special hats to fit their new-fashion skulls.

"Their feeling was, why would you want your head to be round?" Blum says. The process usually was begun on children at about age three. Because the reshaping was gradual, it should not have caused excruciating pain, she says. And although the Spanish ultimately outlawed the practice in South America, cranial alteration was common in Greece until the 1930s.

The curious ways that the human body has been, and is, perceived and manipulated across cultures and in all life stages will be revealed to first-year students next semester in Blum's TAP (Teacher Advisory Program) course titled, "Life, Death and the Body." Students will examine body adornment from neck elongation and foot binding to ritual scarring and face painting techniques to ward off the evil eye. They will learn how these practices reflect cultural attitudes about health, sickness, ownership, athletics and beauty.

"We tend to think of body adornment as an individual statement, but it was – and often still is – an expression of a group identity," says Blum. Crudely etched tattoos, for instance, help to forge gang and prison camaraderie and have little in common with the delicate butterflies and tiny heart tattoos popular among middle-class young women.

But Blum's expertise goes more than skin deep. A physical anthropologist and archaeologist, her research on human sacrifice will appear in a Smithsonian book next year. Her studies of cranial alteration appeared in the June issue of *National Geographic* magazine.

Blum has been studying the habits and diversity among the Tiwanaku culture since 1993, when she was a graduate student. This summer, she conducted extensive excavations of neighborhoods and gravesites on the outskirts of the city and studied the different ways people lived, dressed and preserved the bones of their ancestors.

[The Campus Remembers](#)

On a day of remembrance, sadness and gathering, the UVM community filled Ira Allen Chapel for an observance of the lives taken on September 11, 2001.

[Acid Test](#)

Acid rain, the insidious inexorable enemy of forests everywhere, may be even worse than previously thought, according to recent University of Vermont research.

[Janie Cohen](#)

The Fleming's new director takes a page from *Field of Dreams*. "If your program is exciting enough, people will come," she says.

Her office in the attic of Williams Hall is adorned with intricately woven textiles from the region, maps and photographs of the archaeological site. Pointing to the remains of a pyramid that was the city's centerpiece, she notes that the base of such structures was where many cultures chose to offer human sacrifices. Leafing through a box of enlarged photos, she points out the thin lines that show how a bone was "defleshed" and the variations that reveal whether a limb was severed pre- or post-mortem.

Blom's reputation for knowing the business of bones also has had local significance. Not long ago, the State of Vermont called on her when the remains of 30 people were unearthed during the digging of a house foundation in Swanton.

"As is true of many cultures, the Abenaki community believes that the bones of their ancestors must be treated with the utmost respect," Blom explains. Helping to document and identify the bones in the forgotten burial site, she says, was like solving a mystery.

"In anthropology, there's never a simple answer," Blom explains. "Pulling together the many aspects of humanity is what makes it so interesting."

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