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UVM HOMEPAGE

Trustees Seed Plant Sciences Facility



The new 96,000 square-foot Plant Sciences Facility is scheduled to be completed by March of 2010.

A unanimous decision by the Board of Trustees at its Sept. 8-10 meeting paved the way for construction to start next June on a \$55.7 million Plant Science Facility. The 96,000 square-foot building is scheduled for completion in March 2010.

[FULL STORY ►](#)

Humble Bowls The wood shavings smell like bread dough. They fly off the lathe, covering Ralph Tursini's arms in pale yellow confetti. Tursini again pushes a long steel chisel into the spinning block of black cherry, inward and down. In response, a circle seems to move outward, like a slow-motion ripple in a pool of wood. He's turning a humble bowl.

Vietnam Book Doug Kinnard went underground. For a just-retired U.S. Army brigadier general beginning pursuit of his second career on a college campus in 1970, it seemed a wise move. Kinnard decided not to tell his fellow Princeton graduate students about his graduation from West Point on D-Day, his 38 months of combat experience, or his two tours in Vietnam.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Sept. 14, 4 p.m. Multimedia presentation: "Postcards from Mars," with Jim Bell of Cornell University, an imaging expert for NASA who has written a pictorial history of the Mars rover missions. Sugar Maple Room, Davis Center.

Sept. 19, 11:15 a.m. Seminar: "Designing and Assessing Multifunctional Landscapes Based on Ecosystem Services," with Sarah Lovell, assistant professor plant and soil science. 116 Aiken. Information: [PSS Fall Lectures](#).

Sept. 19, 6 p.m. Event: Taiko Drummers hosted by the Global Village and Japanese House. Outdoor Amphitheatre, University Heights (Rain site: Davis Center Atrium). Free Admission. Information: [Speakers](#).

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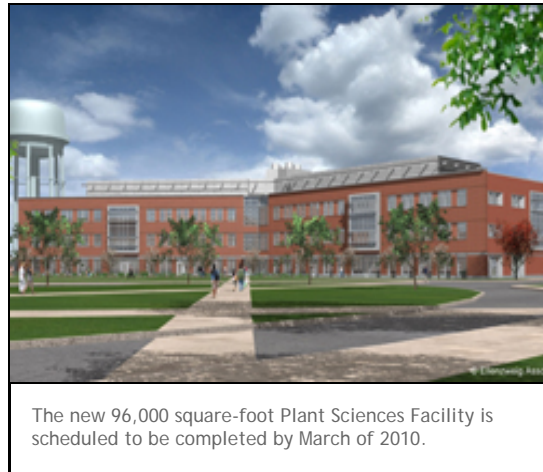
UVM HOMEPAGE

Trustees Seed Plant Sciences Facility

September meetings focus on capital projects and borrowing strategy

By The View Staff

Article published September 11, 2007



A unanimous decision by the Board of Trustees at its Sept. 8-10 meeting paved the way for construction to start next June on a \$55.7 million Plant Science Facility. The 96,000 square-foot building is scheduled for completion in March 2010. It is designed to support a

number of priorities, most crucially housing the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' plant biology and plant and soil science departments.

The board's Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee gave step-one approval for an extensive "green" renovation of the Aiken Building and construction of 35,000 square feet of new office space in the courtyard of the Given Building. Under the board's new format, the Budget, Finance and Investment Committee will now consider the projects before they go up for final approval.

Building long in the works

After more than a decade of planning, the Plant Sciences Facility will open in about 29 months. The building itself will cost \$50.4 million, with another \$5.3 million devoted to constructing a chilled-water plant. The new building will replace the outdated Joseph E. Hills Agricultural Science Building and foster intellectual collaboration by consolidating labs, offices and classrooms.

The facility is designed to provide a better "first impression" of the campus for people approaching the university from the east on Main Street. The complex will complement the structural elements of nearby buildings, as well as provide good connections for moving plants and materials to the Stafford greenhouses. The building is designed to meet LEED-NC (v.2.2) Silver Level criteria while using sustainable design guidelines consistent with UVM's "Environmental Design in New and

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Renovated Buildings" policy.

The Plant Sciences Facility was the university's highest-ranked capital project; it received a near-perfect score under a new evaluation system for projects that assesses costs and benefits in 12 critical areas. (Business students and faculty collaborated with administrators to develop the model system; *the view* will discuss the effort in a future issue.)

Debt debate picks up

The decision to allocate funds for a large new project brought the university right up to a 5 percent debt ratio limit set by trustees in 2003, spurring debate about the policy and future projects.

The rule was designed to establish internal limits and provide a framework for evaluating debt capacity and affordability. For the third consecutive meeting, Budget, Finance and Investment Committee members discussed the limit, which will hamstring future projects unless the acceptable debt ratio is increased or funds from the private sector or state increase dramatically. At their November meetings, trustees will consider high-priority projects, including the \$5.5 million Colchester Research Facility, in the context of prudent debt limits. UVM's current debt ratio is lower than many similarly structured institutions.

Budget, Finance and Investment Committee Chair Deborah McAneny said she was initially hesitant about loosening the ratio, but now thinks changing it is crucial to the university's "invest and grow" strategy, which she supports. Trustee Susan Hudson-Wilson has urged the board to take advantage of good interest rates and push forward with key projects.

Trustees also received results of a stress test that examined the impact of a worst-case enrollment scenario on university finances. If future enrollment plummeted at the same rate as the steepest decline in UVM history (a 10-year, 10 percent fall that began in 1987) for six years, the university's debt ratio would only rise to 7 percent.

Other business in brief

Strong savings: The university's endowment is at an all-time high of \$339 million. The overall financial performance of university investments remains good despite recent market volatility.

College accountability: President Daniel Mark Fogel gave a presentation on "Accountability in Higher Education" that discussed how Congress and the U.S. Education Department are considering mandating colleges to publish more performance-based information. He then detailed a self-reporting plan, "Voluntary System of Accountability," being developed by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. Fogel is leading the NASULCG/AASCU panel considering how the accountability system should approach core educational outcomes.

Greening Aiken: Don DeHayes, dean of the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, presented an overview of the pressing need for renovation in Aiken and the promise of this long-planned “greening” of the building. Aiken's population has doubled since it was built, and there are significant heating and ventilation problems as well as \$6.7 million in deferred maintenance. A renovated Aiken, DeHayes said, could fix the problems and become a “green beacon” for the environmental university. The project's cost is estimated at \$13 million; outside supporters have already pledged a significant percentage of that total. The dean said additional support could come from the federal government if scientists from the U.S. Forest Service offices on Spear Street relocate to Aiken. Trustees unanimously agreed that the project should move to the next step in the approval process.

Filling Given: Once an outdoor courtyard, then a temporary haven for the Dana Medical Library, the space at the heart of the Given Building is now envisioned as a multi-story, \$14.5 million home for a university-wide Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences. Dr. Rick Morin, new dean of the College of Medicine, described the center as a place to move “research from the bench to the bedside to the community.” In presenting the project, Morin and Russell Tracy, associate dean of medicine, emphasized the renovation’s importance to securing National Institutes of Health funding for translational science.

“We need to put our money on the table in terms of showing our ability to do the science,” Tracy said, comparing the heated competition for research dollars to high-stakes poker. The four-story “addition” would be built ship-in-a-bottle style in the atrium, creating enough space for 150 more people. Robert Vaughan, director of capital planning and management, noted that the novel plan would lower costs and preserve campus green space. The committee voted to move the proposal to the next level of trustee approval.

Find articles on similar topics: [Trustees Vision](#)

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Humble Bowls

By Joshua Brown

Article published September 12, 2007

Turnaround: Artist and UVM adjunct Ralph Tursini uses a lathe to turn bowls honoring and embodying the trees they originally came from. (Photo: Joshua Brown) [See more photos of Tursini turning bowls.](#)

The wood shavings smell like bread dough. They fly off the lathe, covering Ralph Tursini's arms in pale yellow confetti. Tursini again pushes a long steel chisel into the spinning block of black cherry, inward and down. In response, a circle seems to move outward, like a slow-

motion ripple in a pool of wood. He's turning a humble bowl.

Created on an old General 260 power-lathe at UVM's Research Forest in Jericho, and cut from a tree harvested there, this bowl is being fashioned from freshly cut wood and will be finished with nothing more than a chisel edge and a few swipes of tung oil.

For Tursini, who works as a bowl maker and is teaching a one-credit course this fall, [Conservation and Wood Turning](#), each bowl is the artful extension of the UVM degree in forestry he received in 1999. For David Brynn, who directs the new Green Forestry Education Initiative at the research forest, the bowls show students one path from forest to finished product. And for the university, these humble bowls make an elegant gift for distinguished visitors.

Three recent speakers at UVM — Laurie David, who produced the film *An Inconvenient Truth*, Native American activist Winona LaDuke and forest ecologist Jerry Franklin — have more in common than concern for the environment. They all own one of Tursini's bowls.

"I like the functional aspect, that people will use this as their everyday bowl," says Tursini after turning off the lathe. He runs his finger down the rippled cavity forming in the center of the woodblock. "It's an everyday ceremony, taking a bowl from the shelf and putting a meal in it and eating."



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Humble means modest and unassuming. But it also shares a root with the word humus: of the soil. For Tursini, humble bowls carry both meanings. Their slightly irregular shape, mottled grain, obvious knot holes and remnant tool marks remind a bowl's owner of the hands that shaped the bowl, the tree that yielded the wood and the earth that bore the tree.

Full circle

"As they dry slowly, each bowl seeks its own beautiful form," says Brynn, who is standing with Tursini in the semi-gloom of the shed that has become home to the Green Forestry Education Initiative, a program of the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources.

He rests a finished bowl on top of a four-foot section of cherry and says, "We know that selling logs into an undifferentiated commodity market is the quickest way to bankruptcy, so we wanted to do something that demonstrated for students the value-adding process, like making furniture or flooring. Humble bowls have become our signature product."

Along the walls, orange hardhats, chainsaw blades, slabs of rough-cut lumber, a bandsaw, Kevlar chaps and many other forestry tools remind a visitor that the bowl-making lathe is, really, at the midpoint of the education offered here, not the beginning. "Students can participate in the whole process from selecting and harvesting the tree, to shaping the blank, to turning their own bowl and taking it with them," Brynn says.

"I found it awesome to see the stump where the wood we were using came from," says Sefton Hirsch, a continuing education student focusing on forestry, who took Tursini and Brynn's course this summer. "And then to see it as a finished product."

For the students enrolled in the course this fall, some of the challenge comes from the deceptively difficult task of relaxing. In Tursini's hands, the curved chisels disgorge an impressive wave of shavings that pile on the floor. He breathes easily, his tool shifting surely toward the center. The wood seems to know what shape it wants to take. In my hands, the chisel timidly bumps along the surface and then jutters forward, pushed too hard.

But with a bit of practice, a few shavings fly upward with a satisfying hissing sound. "All the students go home with a bowl," Tursini says with a gentle smile.

Cultivating craft

As a forestry student at UVM, Tursini worked in an internship with the Shelburne furniture makers Bruce Beeken and Jeff Parsons. After graduation, the internship turned into his first woodworking job. "Their forest-based approach to furniture design and thorough technical grasp of the processes involved inspired me to pursue my work with an equally thorough understanding," Tursini says.

He moved on to Woodbury's, a woodware company in Burlington, where he worked for about two years. "There I learned from a turner who has been at it for most of his life and has probably turned more than 100,000 bowls," Tursini says. "I got my own lathe going at the same time and learned how to turn green bowls — as opposed to the work I was doing there, which was little more production-oriented. They're starting from cut and dried lumber. I was interested in going back in the process and starting from the tree."

This led him to form his own one-man business, [Tursini Woodturning and Bowl Works](#), that produces about 100 bowls a year, and also provides architectural turnings, workshops and forestry consulting.

It's his interest in the "tree within the bowls" and understanding of the whole forest that made David Brynn think Tursini would be an excellent instructor in the Green Forestry project. Then Larry Forcier, professor of forest ecology, asked Brynn if he had any good ideas for a suitable gift for Winona LaDuke, who was coming to campus in 2006 to give an Aiken Lecture on forest conservation. With that, the full reach of what the bowls could mean came into focus. "She loved it," Brynn says. "Humble bowls say a lot about stewardship — and stand for some of the best and unique parts of this university."

[See more photos of the bowl turning process on *the view's* Flickr page.](#)

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Vietnam Lessons Live On

Emeritus professor and former general's classic book on war management reissued because of Iraq parallels

By Thomas Weaver

Article published September 11, 2007



Professor and general: Douglas Kinnard in his UVM days.
(Archival Image: UVM Photography)

Doug Kinnard went underground. For a just-retired U.S. Army brigadier general beginning pursuit of his second career on a college campus in 1970, it seemed a wise move. Kinnard decided not to tell his fellow Princeton graduate students about his graduation from West

Point on D-Day, his 38 months of combat experience, or his two tours in Vietnam.

But they saw him in class and wondered, inevitably, "Who the hell is that old guy taking notes?" One day at lunch another doctoral student probed with questions about how long Kinnard had been at Princeton. "Were you here during the riots over Cambodia last year?" he asked.

Recalling the conversation years later, the UVM professor emeritus of political science sighs: "It was the punch line of a lifetime."

Underground no more, the general turned grad student delivered: "No, I was in Cambodia."

One can only imagine the silence that followed if Kinnard chose to elaborate on the particulars of what "in Cambodia" meant. Looking back years later, Kinnard says he had doubts about the mission in Vietnam following his first tour, but a strong sense of military duty carried him into his second tour in the war, which included helping to plan the Cambodian incursion. "I knew pretty much what was going on by the end of the first tour, but you do the best you can do with the job," he says. "When you have 8,000 troops from the South China Sea to the Cambodian border, that's your worry — not you."

General studies

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A different sense of duty — to document and assess the war in Vietnam from the perspective of the generals who commanded the American forces — drove Kinnard to research and write the most notable publication of his career, *The War Managers*, originally published in 1977. This month, Naval Institute Press will release a thirtieth anniversary edition of the book, its fourth printing.

Kinnard's credibility within the military aided his research efforts as he conducted the surveys and interviews at the heart of the volume. "I was able to phrase the questions in the generals' 'language,'" Kinnard said in an interview at the time of the book's initial publication. "Because I had been in their boots, they were all the more willing to respond."

Kinnard began work on the *The War Managers* in 1974, early in a UVM career that spanned 11 years, ending when he left the university in 1984 to become the U.S. Army's chief of military history. From his very first visit to Vermont, Professor Raul Hilberg would be a mentor and close friend. His bond with the eminent Holocaust scholar was strengthened by Kinnard's personal experience as a soldier in General Patton's 71st Infantry Division during World War II. The unit pushed farther east in Europe than any other American force and Kinnard was there for the liberation of Gunskirchen Lager, an Austrian concentration camp where 18,000 Hungarian Jews were imprisoned. "I was not an expert on the Holocaust," Kinnard says, "but a witness."

Lessons from Vietnam?

Kinnard's dual expertise as a military veteran and academic, though, brought considerable weight to his analysis of the strategic failure of Vietnam. Because of this and the facts the book revealed — such as that nearly 70 percent of the Army generals who managed the war were uncertain of its objective — *The War Managers* drew wide media attention. Kinnard shared a national television audience on "Good Morning America" with General William Westmoreland, commander of U. S. forces during the peak of the Vietnam War. Later, "Westie," whom Kinnard had served as chief of operations and analysis in Vietnam, sent the professor a hand-annotated copy of his book, noting points of agreement and quarrels.

Kinnard, sounding at age 86 as if he could lead a graduate seminar at a moment's notice, recently spoke with *the view* from his home in Chambersburg, Pa. Asked if people tend to call him professor or general, he replies, "Actually, most people call me Doug." Recalling the spotlight of *The War Managers'* first release, he says, "We all get our 15 minutes of fame and that was mine. Frankly, I was a little startled. It was one of those things that came out at the right time."

The time is again right, it seems, for *The War Managers*. Kinnard says he believes parallels between Vietnam and current situation in which the U. S. military finds itself played a role in the publisher's motivation to print the anniversary edition. The word "Iraq" doesn't appear in the preface Kinnard recently wrote for the new edition, but he closes with the final

message from the CIA station chief as the last Americans lifted off in helicopters from the roof of the embassy: "The severity of the defeat and the circumstances of it would seem to call for a reassessment of the policies which have characterized our participation here. Those who fail to learn from history are forced to repeat it. Saigon signing off."

Speaking in late August, the general/professor is less subtle: "If Bush knew the real lessons of Vietnam, he would get out sooner than stay."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

New Book Argues for Making Parks, Not War

By Joshua Brown

Article published September 11, 2007

Peace parks can work. Not just for managing cross-boundary wilderness areas, as occurs in the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park at the US/Canadian border, but as a powerful tool of diplomacy in war zones around the world.

That is the conclusion of the book *Peace Parks: Conservation and Conflict Resolution*, which was edited by Saleem Ali, associate professor of environmental planning in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, and published by the MIT Press.

Peace parks have effectively defused conflict between Ecuador and Peru, Ali and his colleagues show, and are succeeding at the border between Tanzania and Mozambique. By creating shared management of borderlands that have ecological significance and limited development, developing parks can resolve conflicts when other diplomatic efforts have failed.

The book argues that peace parks hold promise for building trust and cooperation in the Mesopotamian marshlands between Iran and Iraq, in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, in war-torn Kashmir, contested by India and Pakistan, and many other places.

The book was released at Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta, Canada, on Monday, Sept. 10 as part of the Parks, Peace and Partnerships Conference in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Waterton-Glacier peace park, the first in the world.

Rather than following an idealistic vision that has been championed by some environmental activists — that peace parks promote conservation for its own sake — Ali and his colleagues have taken an academically rigorous look at the history and theory underlying existing peace parks, their role in the hard-nosed world of international relations and their potential in the future.

"If you look at a lot of international conflicts you can find some environmental roots to them," Ali said, "but even if natural resources and environmental concerns are not part of a conflict they can be used as an instrument in conflict resolution."

For example, some observers, such as *The Economist* magazine, contend that the grim conflict in the Sudanese border region of Darfur is driven by



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ethnic and political forces, not environmental ones. But even if this is true, these factors, Ali argues, "could still be addressed by an approach stating that desertification is a common threat to both sides, and this could be a means of bringing parties together."

But only if border management is shared. "Some places described by people as peace parks are not peace parks, they're just transboundary conservation zones," Ali said. "Joint management is critical to making peace parks work and achieve their broader objective of bringing parties together who would otherwise have little reason to."

"It means thinking about the environment as a means of cooperation and thereby using it instrumentally," he said.

Importantly, this cooperation is not usually based on recognition of a shared interest. Instead, it's almost the opposite, in what Ali calls a "dilemma of common aversion."

"Usually when you have common interests you get competition," Ali said. "But if you have a common aversion, like the depletion of water, it's going to be mutually respected in the long run and you're more likely to get cooperation."

The new book had its genesis in the realization that few scholars have considered whether environmental conservation is a practical diplomatic tool that can contribute independently to peace-building in international areas of conflict.

"The idea that peace is idealistic is a tragedy of our times," Ali said, "It's very pragmatic and so are peace parks. They have worked in the past and can work in the future."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Trustees Seek Input on Presidential Performance

By The View Staff

Article published September 12, 2007

Members of the university community who wish to provide feedback on President Daniel Mark Fogel's performance can participate in the comprehensive presidential review process by contacting the consultant heading up the five-year review.

The Board of Trustees recently adopted a new [Presidential Performance Review Policy](#) that mandates annual reviews and a comprehensive review every five years. One primary goal of the performance reviews is to examine the effectiveness of the relationship between the president and the board. The policy also calls for feedback from key constituents on the progress of the president and trustees in achieving institutional priorities.

The process includes seeking the perspectives of governance leaders who have worked with Fogel (Trustees and leaders of Faculty Senate, Student Government Association, Staff Council and the Alumni Council), as well as those of faculty, staff, students, alumni and the broader community.

Robert H. Atwell, an experienced consultant affiliated with the Association of Governing Boards and President Emeritus of the American Council on Education, will gather information as described in the policy and provide an opportunity for members of the university community to share their perspectives.

The process will eventually yield a final report that will be released to the university community.

Individuals interested in meeting with Atwell on Sept. 26 or 27 may contact him at 656-5389 or ratwell@uvm.edu.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Area Studies Lectures Begin With Look at European Union

By The View Staff

Article published September 11, 2007

The Area and International Studies Program kicks off its Fall Brown Bag Lecture Series on Wednesday, September 19 in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill with a presentation by George Moyser, professor and chair of political science. Moyser will discuss "The European Union at 50."

All lectures take place on Wednesdays at 12:15 in John Dewey Lounge. The schedule of dates, presenters and topics is as follows:

- Oct. 3, "Rejecting the Gift Horse: The International Politics of Disaster Aid Refusal," with Travis Nelson, assistant professor of political science.
- Oct. 17, "Women in Latin American Politics," with Caroline Beer, associate professor of Political Science.
- Oct. 31, "The Threads that Bind: Race and Gender Stratification and the Macroeconomics of Inequality," with Stephanie Seguino, associate professor of economics and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Nov. 4, lecture title forthcoming, with Howard Ball, professor emeritus of political science.

Information: 656-1096 or [Area and International Studies Lectures](#).

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Doctor, Clinic Founder to Discuss Medicine in Africa

By The View Staff

Article published September 12, 2007

Dr. Scott Kellerman, a medical missionary who founded the Bwindi Community Health Centre in remote southern Uganda, will discuss "Family Medicine in Sub-Saharan Africa" on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 12 p.m. in Room 200 of the Medical Education Center.

Kellerman and his wife Carol traveled to Uganda in 2001 to survey medical needs. They launched the health center in 2003 to help the Batwa Pygmies, who had been evicted from their land when the Ugandan government created a national park to protect a large population of mountain gorillas. More information about the Kellermans and their work is available at Pygmies.net.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Neurologist's Lecture Shares Insight into Human Nature

By Amanda Waite

Article published September 12, 2007

The John Dewey Honors Program's Zeltzman Visiting Lecture Series will host V.S. Ramachandran, director of the Center for Brain and Cognition and professor in the neurosciences program and psychology department at the University of California, San Diego, on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 4 p.m. in the Silver Maple Ballroom, Dudley H. Davis Center.

Ramachandran, whose lecture will focus on "The Neurology of Human Nature," is an internationally celebrated scholar and lecturer on the brain and behavioral neurology. His research has explored neurological syndromes such as phantom limb syndrome and Capgras delusion, a disorder, often caused by brain trauma, that causes patients to believe their loved ones are impostors.

Known for his ability to elucidate the most complicated of neurological processes, Ramachandran's work is featured frequently in news media. His book *Phantoms in the Brain: Probing the Mysteries of the Human Mind* formed the basis for PBS and BBC documentaries, and he was recently named by *Newsweek* magazine as one of the "hundred most prominent people to watch in the next century."

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Found a Peanut, a coming-of-age comedy by Pulitzer Prize-winner Donald Margulies.">



FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

September 12, 2007

UVM Theatre Tickets Now On Sale

By The View Staff
Article published September 12, 2007

UVM Theatre recently began selling single-show tickets for its upcoming season, "Transitions." The featured plays revolve around life transitions and changes, beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 26 with *Found a Peanut*, a coming-of-age comedy by Pulitzer Prize-winner Donald Margulies.

The play, which is set in 1960s Brooklyn, runs Sept. 26-29 and Oct. 4-7.

Beth Henley's *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, a comedy about a nonconformist woman in the South fixing to win a beauty contest, runs Oct. 31-Nov. 3 and Nov. 8-11. The play was adapted into a 1989 film featuring Holly Hunter and Tim Robbins. Director Peter Jack Tkatch, associate professor of theatre, is hoping the Halloween audience will come dressed in tiaras and other pageant regalia.

The Toys Take Over Christmas, a holiday show for families that almost always sells out early, runs Dec. 1-2 with performances at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets for the play will go on sale Oct. 16.

The season ends with *Compleat Female Stage Beauty* by Jeffrey Hatcher. Set in the 17th century, the play dramatizes the moment when women were first allowed to act on stage — and how the change affects a male actor who had specialized in female roles. The play contains mature material and is not recommended for young people.

All performances other than *The Toys Take Over Christmas* start at 7:30 p.m. except on Sundays, when there are 2 p.m. matinees. Ticket prices range from \$7-\$17 and are available online along with more information about the plays and showtimes at [UVM Theatre.org](http://UVMTheatre.org). Tickets are also available during business hours by phone at 656-2094 or in person at the Royall Tyler Theatre box office.

American Sign Language performances are every second Thursday and audio description is provided every second Friday (excluding *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, which features description on Nov. 2).

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Panelists to Discuss Art, Globalization and Technology

By Amanda Waite

Article published September 12, 2007

On Thursday, Sept. 20, the Department of Art and Art History will host a panel discussion on interactive art, globalization and digital technology at 5 p.m. in 301 Williams Hall. A reception will immediately follow.

Tom Streeter, associate professor of sociology, will moderate a discussion among George Fifield, new media curator and director of the Boston Cyberarts Festival; Steven Neilson, computer programmer; the artist collective Institute for Infinitely Small Things; and artists Christa Erickson, Paul Vanouse and Kathy Marmor, who are all currently displaying work at the Firehouse Gallery in Burlington.

The Firehouse exhibit, "Location Shifts," features interactive new media projects by Erickson, Vanouse and Marmor exploring the ways globalization and technology break down boundaries, shorten distances and change our concept of location.

Information: 656-8159.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Taiko Beat Goes On at Free Show

By The View Staff

Article published September 12, 2007

The infectious rhythm of the Burlington Taiko Drummers, who recently provided a percussive soundtrack to the march down Main Street at Convocation, will return to campus Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. at the Outdoor Amphitheater, University Heights.

The free concert is sponsored by the Japanese House and the Global Village Residential Living Community. The amphitheater is located on the athletic campus, in between Harris-Millis and Marsh-Austin-Tupper. In event of rain, the show will take place in the atrium of the Dudley H. Davis Student Center.

Information: Global.Village@uvm.edu

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Segway Inventor to Visit Campus

By Amanda Waite

Article published September 12, 2007

Dean Kamen, inventor of the Segway, the electric, gyroscope-based, self-balancing human transporter, will speak at UVM on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 5 p.m. in the Davis Auditorium, Medical Education Building. His lecture, "A Technical Community: How Do We Get There from Here?", will address the importance of attracting youth to careers in science and technology.

Although most well-known for the Segway, Kamen is the inventor of several other innovative designs in human mobility, including the iBot, an electric, all-terrain wheelchair capable of climbing stairs, and a compressed-air device designed to launch emergency workers onto inaccessible buildings. He is also the inventor of a mobile dialysis system and the first insulin pump.

Kamen's work has garnered international attention and numerous awards, including the National Medal of Technology, which was presented to him by President Bill Clinton in 2000. He is the founder of For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, a program that develops ways to inspire students to pursue engineering careers.

His visit is sponsored by the Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering.



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September 12, 2007

Publications and Presentations

Dawn Densmore, director of outreach and public relations for the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, is organizing an effort in her spare time to lobby the FDA to require companies to disclose on food labels the percentage of production costs devoted to packaging versus the percentage spent on product. She believes that making this information available to consumers would eventually reduce elaborate and wasteful packaging. Her work was recently featured in the *Burlington Free Press*. To make a public comment on Densmore's proposal, visit [Packaging Comment](#).

Jeffrey Dinitz, professor of mathematics and computer science, discussed his work on Sept. 12 on Vermont Public Radio. He is also an invited guest speaker for the Midwest Conference on Combinatorics, Cryptography and Computing to be held Oct. 13-15 at the College of Charleston in South Carolina.

Wolfgang Mieder, professor and chair of the Department of German and Russian, is the author of four articles. Two of the articles, "Proverbs in the Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson" and "Proverbs as Cultural Units or Items of Folklore," appeared in Berlin in the massive two-volume publication *Phraseology: An International Handbook of Contemporary Research*. His paper on "Yankee Wisdom: American Proverbs and the Worldview of New England" is part of an essay volume on phraseology and culture in English, and the fourth essay, "'The Proof of the Proverb is in the Probing': Alan Dundes as Pioneering Paremiologist," appeared in the journal *Western Folklore*. A book containing more than three decades of letters written between Mieder and folklorist and professor Lutz Röhrich has been published. The letters deal primarily with their shared interest in international proverb scholarship and serve as testament to their long, close friendship.

Garrison Nelson, professor of political science, was featured in a CNN segment titled "President Bush's Forgotten State." The report was about how Vermont is the only state the president has not visited during his time in office. Nelson told CNN National Correspondent John King that Vermont was a "photo opportunity (Bush) does not need." Nelson's thoughts on the matter appeared widely elsewhere in the media via the Associated Press and the *Washington Post*.

Awards and Honors

United Academics, the faculty union at UVM, supports student scholarships each year in honor of an early 19th-century black Vermonter, Jeffrey Brace. The United Academics Jeffrey Brace Book Award provides \$500 to be used for books and supplies by students who exemplify not only academic excellence but also an active commitment to social justice. This year's winners are **Leah Sohotra**, a senior women and gender studies major from Middlebury, Vt.; **Emily Nicolosi**, a senior studio art major from Great Barrington, Mass.; **John MacDonald**, a senior history major from Red Hook, N.Y.; **Lindsey Bryan**, a senior community and international development major from South Portland, Maine; and **Daniel Lim**, a junior natural resources major from Brooklyn, N.Y.

Black Women's Intellectual Traditions, published by **The University of Vermont Press**, a member of University Press of New England, is winner of The Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Prize in the anthology category. The prize is awarded annually by the Association of Black Women Historians for the best book, anthology and article about African American women's history. The editors, Kristin Waters, professor of philosophy at Worcester State College, and Carol Conaway, assistant professor of communications at the University of New Hampshire, will be honored at next month's ASALH meeting.

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