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## [INTERview: President Daniel Mark Fogel](#)



Daniel Fogel chats with a student in 2003. (File photo: Farrel Duncan)

The word on President Daniel Mark Fogel's lips these days is "urgency" — consolidating UVM's recent gains requires the university's faculty and staff to redouble their efforts to provide a larger number of students with the superior education and college experience they expect on a campus under construction.

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When Alice Sutton, manager of Alice's Café at the Living/Learning Center, talks about the despair that accompanies poverty, she's speaking from experience. The stories she tells — of her father crying at the dinner table because he could only feed his family bread and butter, of the pain in her stomach from missing another lunch — are immediate and compelling.

**Faculty Focus** As they endured a frenzy of unpacking after cross-country moves (sometimes sans furniture), syllabus-tweaking and real-estate negotiations, *the view* caught up with some of the newest members of the university's tenure-track faculty to learn about their work and lives.

## THE WEEK IN VIEW

**Sept. 15, 12:30 p.m.**  
Panel: "Talking About Hurricanes: UVM's Women Geographers Think About Katrina" with Shelly Rayback, biogeographer; Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, climatologist; and Cheryl Dunkley, social geographer. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill.  
Information: 656-3060.

**Sept. 16, 5:30 p.m.**  
The Fleming Museum is offering a free academic opening reception for its fall shows, including "New Turf," a exhibition highlighting contemporary interpretations of landscape. Fleming Museum.  
Information: [Fleming Museum](#)

**Sept. 16, 10 a.m.** The UVM Horticultural Farm's annual apple sale is open every Friday until 4 p.m. through the end of October. Green Mountain Drive in South Burlington (behind Heritage Ford or IDX on Shelburne Road).  
Information: 658-9166

**Sept. 17, 1 p.m.** The National Writing Project of Vermont is sponsoring a "writing marathon" in support of the Louisiana Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. Waterman, Room 427. Information: [Vermont Writing](#)

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**INTERview: President Daniel Mark Fogel**

By Kevin Foley

Article published Aug 23, 2005

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Daniel Fogel chats with a student in 2003. (File photo: Farrel Duncan)

*The word on President Daniel Mark Fogel's lips these days is "urgency" — consolidating UVM's recent gains requires the university's faculty and staff to redouble their efforts to provide a larger number of students with the superior education and college experience they expect on a campus under construction. "We had such great word of mouth last year," he says, "... we can't let that turn against us." the view sat down with Fogel on an August*

*afternoon for an eclectic conversation about curriculum, outreach to China, new research initiatives and how his leadership is changing.*

**THE VIEW: I see a new car in the presidential spot this summer. What else have you been up to?**

DANIEL FOGEL: Let me say something about the car. I got the car as a sign of my commitment to our being the environmental university. It's a hybrid and I thought that was really important. It would have been more economical for me to keep my old Highlander.

**I guess that environmental example gets to all of us...**

In every way we want to walk the walk, not just talk the talk. We have approved a new green building policy, and I will do a ceremonial signing of it at the Convocation. It commits us to seeking, at a minimum, LEED certification for all new building projects and, very importantly, all major renovations as well. So, as institutional practice we want to walk the walk as an environmental university. We are seeing this wonderful award of \$16 million for a National University Transportation Center as an opportunity to advance the university's agenda, the substantive work we do in our national and international profile as a leader in environmental science and technology, particularly in looking at the interaction of transportation systems and the environment and sustainability and energy efficiency and the like.

**How can a big new research grant like this — and I realize that the details aren't worked out yet — percolate through an institution?**

I'm not sure exactly how it will unfold here, but we will be focused on taking this investment in UVM and turning it into very high value for the intended purposes. That means producing research and scholarship and educational programs that help to solve problems related to transportation systems: their safety, their efficiency, their environmental impacts, their sustainability. We'll be looking at new sources of environmentally friendly energy for powering transportation systems. We'll be looking at making those systems safer. We'll be looking at constantly monitoring the condition of bridges and roadways. We'll be looking at a large array of areas, and I think because the reach is so large, it does engage many parts of the university...

**Feeding the Community**

When Alice Sutton, manager of Alice's Café at the Living/Learning Center, talks about the despair that accompanies poverty, she's speaking from experience. The stories she tells — of her father crying at the dinner table because he could only feed his family bread and butter, of the pain in her stomach from missing another lunch — are immediate and compelling.

**Faculty Focus**

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**An exciting initiative, one of many this last year. What are you looking forward to next year?**

My highest sense of urgency for the coming year is to build on the wonderful work that the faculty and staff across the university have done to continue creating an environment here where faculty, staff and students can thrive and be successful. [We are seeing the university have increased appeal for students], not only around the region but around the nation, as registered in the enormous increase in applications, the big jump in enrollment beyond even our optimistic projections of planned enrollment growth, and greatly improved retention, which looks like it may sugar off to be the highest first to second-year retention rate in the university's history. I think we all need to feel very proud of what we've done together... and at the same time we can't rest on our laurels.

We have to have a sharp sense of urgency that we are going to work hard, we are going to reflect on how we can contribute to creating a really rich and rewarding collegiate experience for this unprecedented number of students at this university. Because if we don't, I think we face the prospect that bad experiences among the student body facing real challenges – large numbers of people on a campus partially disrupted by construction that, however exciting and promising for the future, also represents a lot of inconvenience... will lead to negative word of mouth. What I really want to call on the faculty and staff to do is to reflect on how each person can contribute to this effort.

**As you think of our competitive position right now, what worries you? What specifically do you want to address beyond instilling a sense of urgency and engagement in the community?**

I'm very confident we will succeed. As all of us know, we are in the most competitive higher education market in the country. We are competing with very strong public institutions, and in terms of the students who consider coming to UVM we are competing even more with the wealthiest and most prestigious private institutions in the country and with the densest cluster of those institutions, so that's one challenge. Another challenge is that we are looking at a very sharp demographic decline not just in Vermont, but also in the region. I don't think that means we have to abandon our traditional catchment area, in fact we need to cultivate it more assiduously. We are going to continue to draw most of our undergraduates from New England and the Mid-Atlantic states, with substantial numbers coming from Vermont (we want to have more and more Vermont students and to be the major engine in reversing brain drain, the loss of the state's rising generation to outmigration during their college years and beyond)... At the same time it would be a fatal mistake for us to neglect the traditional geographic region from which we've drawn most of our students, we have to become a more national university...

**We've talked a lot about capital projects, student recruiting, the "vision," but you've also been an advocate in changing the curriculum, first in developing the Honors College, then in service learning and now in writing across the disciplines. What is writing across the disciplines, and why is it something you're interested in seeing more of here?**

We're not just building buildings, we're building bridges to academic excellence. I think that means we have to deliver on our promise to students that they are going to have a superior academic experience, that their learning outcomes are going to be at a very high level that equips them for success in life, however they define it. That always involves being prepared to examine your curriculum and make changes where appropriate...

We have an opportunity to think as a university faculty about what these signatures of an undergraduate education at UVM should be, regardless of whether you are a nursing student or an engineering student... there ought to be some values we share. The idea of writing in the disciplines is to make superior communication skills a signature of a UVM education for all of our undergraduate students.

The other key part of this idea is that it's not simply the job of the English department to teach writing; it's not something you can do in freshman English. For students to develop as writers, they have to be kept on task

writing for the four years of their undergraduate education and they have to do it in discipline-appropriate ways. It doesn't do someone in botany or physics a great deal of good to know how to write a good analysis of a short story by John Updike, when what they really want to learn to do is learn how to write a good proposal for a grant from the National Science Foundation, a good scientific article in the field or a good business plan for a dairy farm... They need to be effective communicators to succeed, whether they're making the case for the development of a 21st Century dairy farm or writing an article about polymers. ...The Faculty Senate said to us last winter, go ahead, we like the idea, hire a senior faculty member to develop this program and work with faculty across the university to develop department-by-department those discipline-appropriate ways of teaching writing.

### **What are other possible signatures?**

It's very deep in UVM tradition and values as a land grant institution, as a New England institution, as a place that values practicality and the application of knowledge to real problems, as the institution that had the privilege of educating John Dewey, the apostle of learning by experience and by doing, that we make that kind of learning also a signature of UVM. We have for many years stressed that our undergraduates have opportunities for undergraduate research experiences, that often means hands-on learning in a laboratory, we are more and more stressing service learning. In many disciplines we stress internships and co-op experiences, and I think that real-world experience of learning by doing really appeals to students and, I think, appeals to all of us because we know there's a difference between classroom abstraction and really knowing something.

### **All of this talk of real-world experience and change makes me wonder how your job has changed over the last several years as you've moved from conception to execution.**

I think it's changed quite a bit. I hope I'm becoming more at home and relaxed... I hope I'm growing in the job. I'm learning a lot, all the time, from my colleagues. I think we've created so much real success and perceived success that we've gotten through what many would have described (in business terms somewhat alien to the academy, but I hope not entirely inappropriate to this situation) as a turnaround. And a turnaround requires a certain kind of leadership that is very hard-driving and very unrelenting. With the help of my colleagues, I think I'll now be able to practice a different kind of leadership that is supportive and facilitative, more empathetic, less pushing hard for fundamental change and more building the sense of urgency around maintaining a very positive momentum. I'm very appreciative of all the hard work that my colleagues have done in creating this environment for success. I'm feeling very lucky myself to have such wonderful colleagues and to be here at this time. But I feel we can change gears a little bit. The turnaround situation requires a kind of drive and almost a kind of hardness that is not only less at a premium, but maybe less desirable once the turnaround has been achieved and you're trying to create a highly collaborative culture with high institutional self-esteem.

### **I don't want to get into the numbers, but I want to ask you, personally: You spend a lot of time fundraising, do you enjoy it?**

I love it, I love cultivating philanthropy on behalf of UVM. It's partly because I love what we're doing here, I love the mission of the university, the very mission of the university is deep in the marrow of my bones, and this particular university, with its extraordinary values, not just around the ordinary trio of teaching, research and service, but our commitment to diversity and inclusion, to environmental stewardship, to health, to liberal education, to social justice and equity — these are unusual and very powerful values. Telling the story of this university to people whose own lives have been touched by it... is very appealing, I like telling the story of what is going on here. I like telling stories. Not in the sense of fictions, but in the sense of a narrative that helps people to place themselves in a trajectory of aspiration.

### **Why are you going to China?**

We'll be doing some development work in Hong Kong and Shanghai, but the real reason for our trip is to pursue the university's international relations, and particularly our environmental agenda, in a partnership we hope to forge with China's leading research universities. We'll be going to Tsinghua, which is the



MIT of China, and Beijing University, which is the Harvard of China, and talking about partnership around teaching and research and service in the environmental fields, science, engineering and policy... We will try to forge some broad letters of intent on developing broad memoranda of agreement on cooperation between the institutions. Broadly speaking, American enterprises, including America's top universities, are reaching out for these partnerships with China. Tsinghua is a school that has more than two-thirds the patent activity of MIT every year, and China is building 100 universities at that level. In some ways, we feel we have a lot to offer them, but we also feel we have a lot to gain from a partnership like this. We are well aware of the huge environmental challenges that China's rapid economic development represent in China, and more broadly throughout Asia, and we have a lot of expertise on the policy, science and engineering side to bring to some of the issues Asia is facing environmentally, but we also want to have a much richer texture of international relations at UVM.

**Does pursuing international opportunities and speaking the language of operational business strike you as odd in any way, being as you are a person who has university ideals in his very marrow...**

It doesn't strike me as odd. Universities have really critical roles to play for the benefit of the larger society, not only in the creation and transmission of knowledge and solving problems, but now more than ever, we understand how important universities are to regional economic development. One reason I was drawn to the University of Vermont is that it is the only research university in the state... we're focused globally, yeah, but we're always focused on Vermont. The biggest thing I'm working on these days, and I'm talking to a lot of people these days about it, is trying to develop an initiative that can really secure Vermont's place in the global economy, establishing this state and this region as the best place in the world for the innovation and design of environmental technologies.

**Now the critique somewhat related to this and some of the other things we've talked about. As universities become increasingly privatized, and are forced by demographics, and competition and economics to market themselves more aggressively, do they lose anything?**

They might lose something. But while you can pose that as a tension and a paradox, the fact is that if we don't succeed as complex cooperatives, we can't fulfill our mission of service and education. If we don't generate dollars we can't have the extension service out helping people sustain the working landscape and the agricultural economy of Vermont, or create the new niches in the global economy for Vermont either. Of course we want to train students in the liberal arts and have them reading the classics of literature and philosophy, at the same time we're pursuing remote sensing and environmentally friendly fuels from biomass. We have to do all those things at once. And if we don't tell the story well of what we're doing, which is marketing, to prospective students, we won't have the students and we won't have the dollars they bring to the university to support all of these service activities and outreach. I don't see it so much as tension or a paradox. I see it as one ball of wax.

theview

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## Feeding the Community

***Dining services employee collects tons of food each year to support the needy***

By Jon Reidel

Article published Sep 12, 2005



Alice Sutton, manager of Alice's Café at Living/Learning Center, collected 4,500 pounds of food for the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf last year. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

When Alice Sutton, manager of Alice's Café at the Living/Learning Center, talks about the despair that accompanies poverty, she's speaking from experience. The stories she tells — of her father crying at the dinner table because he could only feed his family bread and butter, of the pain in her stomach from missing another lunch — are immediate and compelling.

Propelled by those memories and a deep sense of caring for other

people, the 30-year employee of UVM's dining contractor has spent much of her life trying to support others dealing with the kinds of problems she once faced. Her "Caring Cans" program collected 4,500 pounds of food from university students and staff last year and earned her Sodexo's 2005 national "Hero of Everyday Life" award, an honor that came with a \$5,000 award for the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf.

"Hunger hurts because there's not only a pain in your stomach, but there's also one in your mind as you wonder where your next meal is coming from," Sutton says. "I was brought up very poor and it's a feeling you never forget."

As an adult, Sutton fell on hard times when her husband, Harley, then a cook at Living/Learning, fell sick with tuberculosis and couldn't work for four years. Sutton was forced to accept food from the Chittenden Food Shelf to make ends meet, and vowed to one day pay them back. After her husband recovered, Sutton placed a cardboard box outside her store for holiday food donations.

It soon filled with canned goods and other items, so she decided to leave the box out year-round. It wasn't long before students knew about Alice's mission, which eventually became Sodexo's "Caring Cans" program, and started giving non-perishable items and thousands of dollars worth of extra meal plan points at the end of semester.

"Alice has made a long-term commitment to working on the frontlines, fighting hunger in the communities in which we live, work and serve," says Stephen Brady, president of the Sodexo Foundation, the company's independent charitable arm.

### An eye on the future

Sutton is well known within Sodexo for her charitable work, but is also admired for her early sense of the need for convenience stores at universities. Though a common part of campus landscapes now, when Sutton opened Simpson Hall Store in 1974 at Living and Learning, it was the first in the nation for Sodexo. Two years later it became Alice's Store, and in 2001, the name

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### [Daniel Fogel Q+A](#)

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was changed to Alice's Cafe to coincide with the opening of the University Marche.

"Everybody knew that if you needed to know anything about running a store, Alice was the expert in Vermont and the Northeast," says District Manager Richard Riani, who has worked for Sodexho for 24 years. "She is a pioneer."

The fact that Sutton saw her store as a way of helping the needy isn't surprising since she has thought in those terms since childhood. When she was a little girl living in Burlington, her mother invited an older homeless woman into their home and fed her. Despite not having much money, Sutton recalls her parents helping others anytime they had even a little bit extra to share. These acts of caring, she says, have influenced her throughout her life.

Sutton and her husband spend weekends traveling to retirement homes within a 50-mile radius of their home in Milton to play music and feed senior citizens. Harley plays guitar in a country and western band and Sutton brings home-cooked food to give seniors a break from the retirement home fare. "The wives of the band members and I bring the food and band plays for them. It's worth it just to see the smiles on their faces," she says.

In the late 80s, Sutton collaborated with Burlington's Sara Holbrook Community Center to assemble 25 holiday meal boxes with turkey and vegetables for needy families. She says that small acts of charity go a long way. "You can help out a co-worker by giving them a few dollars until they get on their feet. It doesn't have to be complicated."

Looking back at her time at the university, Sutton says students today are nicer and more generous than ever. One student donated \$400 worth of meal points left over at the end of a semester. She says that although students today seem to have a lot more wealth than previous generations, they are also very giving; something she takes comfort in when thinking about the future.

"It's hard to believe this all got started with a cardboard box," Sutton says. "I'll keep doing this as long as I live, because I can see the difference it makes in people's lives."

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## Focusing on New Faculty

By Kevin Foley

*Article published Sep 14, 2005*

In the midst of a frenzy of cross-country moves (sometimes sans furniture), syllabus-tweaking and real-estate negotiations, *the view* caught up with a few of the newest members of the university's tenure-track faculty to learn about their work and lives.

This collection of informal campus introductions, alas, isn't comprehensive; of the 49 new faculty registered to attend the university's New Faculty orientation, we were able to connect with six.

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**Name:** Yves Dubief**Department and title:** assistant professor of mechanical engineering**Training:** Ph.D., National Polytechnic Institute, Grenoble, France**Recent experience:** research associate, Center for Turbulence Studies, Stanford University**Research interests:** Dubief is an expert in the numerical simulation related to turbulence control, with an emphasis on flow-structure interaction. His work at Stanford was funded by a DARPA grant and investigated the mechanism by which injected polymers can reduce turbulence.**Personal interests:** A long-time competitive skier, Dubief is looking forward to resuming racing at the master's level in Vermont. He also expects to spend a lot of his off-hours fixing up his new house.**Quirky personal fact:** He enjoys going to the opera.**Why he chose UVM:** After his time in a very large department at Stanford, Dubief is eager to work in a smaller department focused on teaching as well as research. He also prizes the New England landscape and Burlington's intimate size.

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**Name:** Lynn Gregory**Department and title:** assistant professor, community development and applied economics**Training:** Ph.D., University of Miami**UVM role:** Gregory will have a hand in further developing CDAE's popular new public communication major, which is designed to apply communication theory and research to real-life circumstances. She jokes about the difference between communication with an "s" and without, explaining that the "s" generally refers to the technology or systems behind sending a message. The program will go far beyond that. She looks forward to working with students on service-learning projects and internships and will bring both knowledge and experience to her work with the major. **PRINT** | **EMAIL THIS PAGE**  
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**Research interests:** Gregory's dissertation looked at student and teacher perceptions of instructors' use of self-disclosure in college classrooms, specifically how student- and teacher-perceptions of the teaching differed and how those perceptions affected educational outcomes. "One finding was that students expected that teachers would use self-disclosure to influence them, but few reported that this actually happened in practice." Her research also explicated differing goals of classroom communication: Students wanted the facts while teachers were trying to encourage critical thinking. More generally, Gregory is interested in measuring the perceptions that people have of communicators and communication outcomes. She has carried out this type of research both in the United States and abroad in several fields of study including public relations, health and education.

**Outside interests:** "I love travel," she says, "but not as a tourist." She lived and taught in Armenia for three years and loves to explore her destinations in detail. (This is only natural, given that some of her research involves intercultural communication and conflict negotiation.)

**Quirky personal fact:** She once worked as an assistant chef and still loves cooking.

**Why she chose UVM:** Gregory enjoyed meeting CDAE students and faculty during her campus visits and says Vermont is a good fit for her academically and socially. She's also excited by arriving in the early stages of a new major that engages many of her personal and intellectual interests. Most of all, she was attracted by her new department's emphasis on applied research. "I got a Ph.D. not just because I wanted to teach, but because I wanted to do social-action research," she says. "UVM was the one place I found where I really could do that, and that's important. I don't think that research should sit on the shelf."

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**Name:** Christopher Hodgdon

**Department and title:** assistant professor of business administration

**Training:** Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University

**Recent experience:** assistant professor, Georgia Southern University

**Research interests:** "When I began my doctorate, I wanted to do policy-relevant research, I didn't want to confirm some economic theory and then be done," he says. So he meticulously examined the policy of requiring companies to follow international accounting standards to see if the regulations, as he puts it, "actually had value." He compared forecasts of earnings per share as a function of standards compliance, and found a strong correlation between the financial forecasts and following the standards. Establishing this involved scoring and weighting compliance on 200 disclosure items for 101 companies over two years. In addition to his work on international and financial accounting and accounting theory and history, he's considering launching a project involving environmental accounting, perhaps a collaboration looking at financial performance as a function of environmental performance in industry.

**Personal interests:** Right now, he says, his six-month-old son is "basically my hobby." But he's looking forward to the usual Vermont outdoor things and resuming the skiing habit he essentially dropped after his undergraduate years in Boulder ended.

**Quirky personal fact:** The undergraduate history major's marketing work for a fast-growing computer reseller eventually led him to a masters in business administration and, eventually, a doctorate. He's also worked as a headhunter, tax analyst and controller.

**Why he chose UVM:** "Georgia Southern was a nice school, but I guess I really yearned for an older school, somewhere more prestigious, a place with old buildings and ivy on the walls. A Research 1 with good support, but a relatively small faculty, located in a beautiful environment."

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**Name:** Richard Parent

**Department and title:** assistant professor of English

**Training:** Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh

**Research interests:** Parent's first exposure to digital media came as an adolescent playing primitive text-only computer games. He was fascinated by the power of changing the story, of typing "Pick up sword. Stab dragon," and changing the narrative mid-flight. Now he's interested in the cognitive requirements of reading and writing in such endlessly mutable digital environments and how digital spaces affect narrative and interpretation. "My dissertation was about the way that all the different things we do with computers affects us, what kind of affect they produce in us as we read," he says. "I'm talking about the way structure can be played with in computer spaces, the ways that different media can be brought in..." His work is centered on literature, rhetoric and composition, of course, but also draws in sociology, cognitive neuroscience, computer science and human-computer interaction. "The area is exploding, and discoveries in one field feed the others," he says. Students in his undergraduate courses this semester are blogging, reading and looking at the expressive possibilities (and programmed strictures) of everything from Word to PowerPoint.

**Personal interests:** Parent enjoys theater and the visual arts and loved the energy of the recent Burlington Art Hop. He enjoys bicycling, and says that, after yhears of negotiating the steep hills of Pittsburgh, he's looking forward to Burlington's blissfully flat bike path.

**Quirky personal fact:** We pride ourselves on our reporting here, but on this, we got nothin'. Or, rather, everything: Parent began blogging last year and ran with it; the latest iteration of his personal blog (he keeps more targeted journals for his courses) is at [Digital Digressions](#). "I had been reading blogs for years and years, but I wanted my students to see someone they knew doing it, not some super-charged political blogger who posts all day, but a normal person blogging and seeing what the medium can and cannot do," he says. As such, it's a showcase for his quirks, idiosyncrasies and opinions — but also crypto-academic analysis of, say, new Japanese robots. "The seriousness is also part of my personality," he says.

**Why he chose UVM:** "Partly that it's Vermont, and there is a culture and a climate here of artistic self-expression, of personal liberty and freedom, that's very important for me. The early move that Vermont made, albeit I understand not entirely willingly, to recognize same-sex unions was also important to me," he says. "On a very local level, I was really enamored of the faculty in the English department, and of the way that the department prides itself in being investigative and interdisciplinary. You can teach classes that are experimental and push boundaries and the students will go along with it."

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**Name:** Sharyl Toscano

**Department and title:** assistant professor of nursing

**Training:** Ph.D., Boston College

**Recent experience:** assistant professor of nursing, Hawaii Pacific University

**Research interests:** Much of Toscano's research and post-doctoral activity has focused on domestic violence. Her dissertation was on dating violence during adolescence; her Boston College fellowship was on a project looking at violence during pregnancy and outcomes for infants.

**Personal interests:** "We enjoyed the beach in Hawaii, now we'll enjoy the lake," Toscano says. Not that there won't be an adjustment. She says, "My son, who is 11 months old, is already beginning to say, 'Brrrr.'"

**Quirky personal fact:** At interview time in late August her furniture still hadn't arrived from Hawaii. She says you adjust.

**Why she chose UVM:** After growing up in Massachusetts, she was excited to return to New England. Her department at Hawaii Pacific was clinically focused; she's looking forward to combining that with a renewed emphasis on scholarship.

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**Name:** Amy Trubek

**Department and title:** assistant professor of nutrition and food science

**Training:** Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania (anthropology)

**Recent experience:** director of the Vermont Fresh Network, an organization that promotes partnerships among farmers, chefs and consumers to strengthen the state's agriculture.

**Research interests:** Trubek's first book, *Haute Cuisine: How the French Invented the Culinary Profession*, examined food and its preparation as cultural symbols and as means for creating social distinctions. Her second book, under contract with the University of California Press, is a historical and anthropological analysis of the importance of place-specific foods, the French concept of *le gout de terroir* or "the taste of place." She says, "I'm also looking at how this is becoming a way we look at foods in the U.S. Values toward food can create practices and institutions that support place-based foods." Read more about Trubek's interests in this *Pennsylvania Gazette* [profile](#).

**Personal interests:** Trubek enjoys tending the heirloom apple orchard at her home, sailing, walking and spending time with her family.

**Quirky personal fact:** Trubek grew up cooking and eventually became a professional chef, earning a certificate from the Cordon Bleu school, experience that inflects her academic work. "My way of thinking about food absolutely emerges from trying to understand cooking as a practice, because that's how I started."

**Why she chose UVM:** Trubek's experience as an interdisciplinary food scholar and practitioner in modes ranging from chef to policy advocate has convinced her that nutrition, food science and food safety are all social issues. Obesity, she says, is complex and environmental; an issue extending far beyond an individual's choices. She feels very much at home in a department that braids thick threads of scientific and cultural research with outreach and a strong commitment to a particular place.

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Past editions of our annual new faculty profiles: [2004](#), [2003](#) and [2002](#)

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## Magazine Lauds UVM Student Body (er, Bodies)

By the view Staff

Article published Sep 14, 2005

*Men's Fitness* magazine ranked the University number four on its list of fittest colleges in an article in its October issue. Brigham Young University in Utah was first.

The ranking was based on student responses to questions on a survey conducted by the Princeton Review that encompassed nearly 10,000 students from more than 660 colleges and universities. The survey asked questions including "How many pounds have you gained or lost since you started going to school? How often do you work out? How would you rate the fitness facilities on your campus?"

Editors distilled the responses into a "report card." UVM received a C+ for "student bodies," an A+ for "exercise," a B- for "bad habits," a B for "other lifestyle choices" and a B+ for "culture of fitness."

Good news as far as it goes, but don't take in the waist of those jeans just yet: A wag in the statistics faculty points out that the ranking is based on a sample of about 15 surveys per campus.

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## Professor's Study of Madrassahs Generates Heat, Insight

By the view Staff

Article published Sep 13, 2005

Whether in Pakistan, the United States, or via international media like the British Broadcasting Company and Voice of America, Saleem Ali, assistant professor of environmental studies, energetically advocates for empirically informed, multi-factor analysis of phenomena that often inspire more rhetoric than understanding.

Ali, a native of Pakistan, found himself drawn into studying issues of international conflict and terror after Sept. 11. With a grant from the U.S. Institute for Peace, he conducted the first wide-ranging study of Pakistan's madrassahs, an analysis that showed that the relationship between terrorism and Islamic religious schools is more complex than often reported, and that certain madrassah reforms were unlikely to succeed. Ali completed a paper and draft book manuscript based on the study, "Islamic Education and Conflict: Understanding the Madrassahs of Pakistan," this summer. It is currently under review by a university press. (*the view* covered some of the study's preliminary findings [here](#).)

"Some colleagues often wonder why I go beyond my basic environmental interests into other areas," Ali says. "My response is that conflict occurs due to multiple causality and we cannot be isolationists in our inquiry. Even with the madrassah research we looked at many environmental indicators for poverty and hence prevalence of madrassahs such as water scarcity, energy resource access and land fertility."

In addition to his academic work, Ali contributes regularly to the mainstream press both in the U.S. and Pakistan. He published an opinion article, "[The Educated Terrorist](#)," in the *Boston Globe* on Sept. 9, a piece that challenged the common idea that education tempers radicalism.

"My academic and professional interest is ultimately in conflict resolution and I feel that lasting resolution is only possible with public awareness of the issues at stake — whether that is environmental conflicts or ethnic conflicts," he says, explaining why he directs so much energy into his nonacademic writing.

In August, he published an essay, "[The Peril and Persistence of Memory](#)," in the Pakistani newspaper *The Daily Times*, arguing among other things that "there is a difference between learning from history and being governed by the past." Ali argues for progress and tolerance in the piece.

"There is reluctance to exorcise memories of past injustices that are irrelevant to contemporary times," he writes. "Regrettably, some Muslims often remember only the first clauses of Quranic verses which urge caution in friendship with non-Muslims and forget the subsequent Quranic injunctions to forgive past iniquities and move forward without prejudice."

In July, he [spoke to the Voice of America](#) about the relationship between madrassah schools and violence, including a finding from his Institute for Peace study that proliferation of the schools was strongly correlated with sectarian violence in the Ahmedpur East district in Pakistan. The previous month, he co-authored a *Christian Science Monitor* op-ed that [made similar arguments](#). While initial, uncritical descriptions of madrassahs as "terrorism factories," were misguided, some later revisionist studies underestimate the role that some of the schools have in inciting terror.

"The madrassah effect is real and visible," Ali asserted. The piece also

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observed that Ali and his colleagues found that most of the schools followed outdated curricula that were unlikely to prepare graduates for jobs in a globalized economy.

Ali completed a 16-minute documentary offering a visual narrative of Pakistani madrassas in July. [The video is available online](#) (Real Player format).

In the midst of all this, Ali is also pursuing grant-funded environmental research looking at a comparative study of environmental conflicts in the gemstone-mining sector.

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## Peer Survey Finds UVM a Model for Sustainable Campuses

By Jon Reidel

*Article published Sep 14, 2005*

UVM is among the nation's top five institutions in terms of leadership in the field of environmental sustainability because of its effective campus sustainability programs, a Cornell University survey of 28 leading institutions, including all Ivy League schools, Stanford and Duke, reported this summer.

The recognition was particularly noteworthy due to the backgrounds of the respondents it was based on. A group largely composed of directors of green campus programs placed UVM second only to Harvard in response to the question, "what institutions do you look to as leaders in the environmental field?" Leith Sharp, director of the Harvard Green Campus Initiative, says the opinion-driven survey was a reflection of the amount of time people like her spend with other sustainability practitioners such as Gioia Thompson, who helped start UVM's Environmental Council as a graduate student and remains the staff coordinator.

"Each university uses a different model for sustainability and focuses on specific areas," Sharp says. "Any university that hasn't dedicated resources to new initiatives is definitely doing business as usual. UVM isn't one of them. I'm very impressed with Gioia's ability to network and articulate the vision of UVM amongst our peer group. Vermont's campus reporting efforts (Tracking UVM; an environmental sustainability indicators report), is a flagship effort that other universities aspire to, but quite frankly, haven't been able to pull off yet."

The survey, conducted in the summer of 2004, had three goals: to compare environmental sustainability programs; recommend improvements to Cornell; and establish connections between active individuals and institutions. In the recommendations section, a number of initiatives based on programs at UVM, the only land-grant institution included in the study aside from Cornell, were mentioned, including UVM's history of letting grassroots efforts, such as the new Eco-Rep Program, take seed, with administrative support coming later, although not always.

Other citations included the utilization of a small grants program, which awards up to \$1,500 for campus greening projects involving faculty and students; green and local purchasing of environmentally sound products, and the engagement and coordination of all campus and off-campus stakeholders by Environmental Council.

"There's always been a culture of environmental responsibility at the university," says Thompson. "Most environmental sustainability efforts at UVM have started at the grassroots level; they sort of bubble up from faculty, students and staff and make their way up to the administration where the leadership has been receptive. It's not top-down, which is different than many other places, and part of the reason I think we did so well in the survey."

Another element the report described as unique to UVM is the Environmental Council's ability to blend on-campus stakeholders and members of the surrounding community. It also noted the importance of the relatively early establishment of the council in May 1996 after Stephanie Kaza, professor at the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources and longtime faculty co-chair of the council, promoted the idea upon her return from an environmental summit at Yale.

"Stephanie was the driving force behind the founding of the council," says UVM's survey respondent Ralph Stuart, a manager at the Environmental

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Safety Facility and staff co-chair of the Environmental Council. "Our successes are based on a lot of ongoing work with stakeholders in the community. I think it has forced us to define what exactly an environmental university looks like."

One answer to that question came in the form of the [Growing the Environmental University](#) presentation created by the Environmental Council.

The 22-page document outlined a number of past, present and future initiatives, and recommended some specific goals in the areas of service learning, laboratory hazardous waste, recycling, greenhouse gas emissions, and a pilot Green certificate program led by Kaza. These goals were listed under four main categories: environmental academics; environmental culture; environmental campus; and environmental accountability. "The report was well received," said Stuart. "There's some work to be done and we'd like some numerical goals. But they (administration) said yes to it on a conceptual level and to the format."

Some of the report's suggestions have become a reality since the Cornell study was released in June. The university's informal commitment to LEED certification for all new buildings, which was also cited in the study, was made official on Sept. 1 at convocation when Fogel signed a new [Green Building Policy](#), which states that new buildings, at a minimum, be equivalent to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification. The policy also recommends that the university purchase Vermont goods and services whenever "possible and financially feasible."

"We are gratified that UVM is so well known among its peer institutions in campus sustainability," says Kaza. "This doesn't mean we can sit back on our laurels though. Our new green-building policy is an important sign of commitment and progress, keeping UVM at the front of the pack."

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## Community Medical School Starts Sept. 20

By the view Staff

Article published Sep 14, 2005

The fall Community Medical School will offer presentations by College of Medicine and Fletcher Allen Health Care physicians on topics ranging from advance directives to infertility. The free, public lectures last about 90 minutes and begin at 6 p.m. in Carpenter Auditorium. Topics and dates follow.

Information, registration: 847-2886 or [online](#)

- *Sept. 20*, "How Radiation Therapy Technology Treats Cancer," with Dr. James Wallace, assistant professor of radiology and Fletcher Allen radiation oncologist. Find out how radiation oncologists and therapists "focus" radiation on tumors to minimize the amount of radiation to the surrounding healthy tissues. Review how specialists and researchers are working to improve cancer cure rates and decrease the side effects of this treatment method.
- *Sept. 27*, "When You 'Gotta Go:' Understanding and Conquering Urinary Incontinence and the Overactive Bladder Syndrome," with Dr. Richard Kershen, assistant professor of surgery and Fletcher Allen urologist. Learn how the bladder works and gain an understanding of the causes of urinary incontinence and other symptoms, such as overactive bladder. Review current treatments for bladder problems, including behavioral and physical therapies, surgery, and pharmaceuticals.
- *Oct. 4*, "Making Hard Decisions: Advance Directives and Other Ethical Issues in Medicine," with Dr. Robert Macauley, clinical assistant professor of pediatrics and Fletcher Allen interim medical director of clinical ethics. News coverage of the Terri Schiavo case alerted the general public to the importance of Advance Directives. Find out what they are, who needs them, and steps to take to make your own. Review a number of clinical ethics issues, including the Schiavo case, why it happened and what it means for patients today.
- *Oct. 11*, "Infertility Evaluation and Treatment," with Dr. Peter Casson, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and medical and laboratory director of in vitro fertilization at Fletcher Allen. Hear about the causes of infertility, treatment techniques, social consequences faced by couples, and ethical issues associated with the new reproductive technologies.
- *Oct. 18*, "Diabetes: How It Happens, Why It's So Prevalent and How to Prevent It," with Dr. John Leahy, professor of medicine and Fletcher Allen chief of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism unit. Our nation is currently experiencing a devastatingly high incidence of diabetes and the health conditions linked to this disease. Explore the causes of the diabetes explosion, prevention strategies, current therapies and potential new treatments for type-2 diabetes.
- *Oct. 25*, "The Human Voice: How It Works, What Can Go Wrong, and How To Fix It," with Dr. Damon Silverman, assistant professor of surgery and Fletcher Allen otolaryngologist. Many people have experienced laryngitis or hoarseness, but few understand the causes of this symptom. Learn about the science behind the human voice, as well as medical conditions that can affect how it works, and the therapies available to treat voice problems.
- *Nov. 1*, "The Health Effects of Second-Hand Smoke," with Dr. Theodore Marcy, professor of medicine and medical director, pulmonary ambulatory center at Fletcher Allen. The adverse health effects of active smoking are indisputable, but the consequences of second-hand smoke are less known and a source of controversy. Find out how the chemicals and carcinogens inhaled by smokers affect others, how scientists test the impact of this exposure, and how it has been proven to affect non-smoking workers who are exposed to second-hand smoke at their jobs.

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## Writing in the Wake

By the view Staff

*Article published Sep 14, 2005*

The National Writing Project of Vermont is sponsoring a "writing marathon" in support of the Louisiana Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. The four-hour event begins at 1 p.m. on Sept. 17 in 427 Waterman.

Patricia McGonegal, director of project and lecturer of English, says the idea for the marathon grew out of a request distributed nationwide by the director of the Louisiana branch of the National Writing Project. Affiliates of the group sponsored a successful "writing tent" for displaced children in shelters and are raising funds to purchase school supplies and uniforms for kids forced out of their homes. The Vermont marathon requests a \$25 donation to the Louisiana association from participants.

Information, registration: [Vermont Writing Marathon](#)

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## Hort Farm Apple Sale Shares Bountiful Harvest

By the view Staff

*Article published Sep 13, 2005*

The UVM Horticultural Farm's annual apple sale — a showcase of exotic varieties and low prices — begins on Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. The sales will continue on each Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through the end of October.

The farm is located on Green Mountain Drive in South Burlington (behind Heritage Ford or IDX on Shelburne Road).

Information: 658-9166

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## Fleming to Host Opening Reception for Fall Exhibits

By the view Staff

Article published Sep 13, 2005

The Fleming Museum will host a free academic opening reception for fall exhibitions including "New Turf," an ongoing show highlighting contemporary interpretations of landscape, on Sept. 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. President Daniel Mark Fogel and Rachel Kahn Fogel will host the event.

"New Turf" features paintings, drawings, photographs, site-specific installations and a sound work. It testifies to a fresh attentiveness on the part of contemporary artists to shifting American terrain. The artists include Anne Appleby, Louise Belcourt, Janice Caswell, Marsha Cottrell, Jane Fine, Tom Fruin, Richard Garrison, John Hudak, McKendree Key, Marie Krane/Cream Co., Sandy Litchfield, David Maisel, Sam Prekop, Lordy Rodriguez and Gail Salzman. It runs through Oct. 30.

Another exhibition, "Worlds of Tea," is on display in the Wilbur Room through Dec. 16. "Worlds of Tea" draws from the Fleming's decorative arts collection to explore objects and rituals associated with tea in various Western and Asian cultures. The objects range from a Japanese Satsuma tea caddy and an East Indian teapot, to examples of blue and pink Staffordshire earthenware and a copper tea kettle that belonged to Ethan Allen during the Revolutionary War.

The museum's third fall display, "Eadweard Muybridge: Studies in Locomotion," will go up in the Wolcott Gallery on Oct. 4. It features Muybridge's pioneering 19th Century photographs documenting human and animal locomotion.

Information: [Fleming Museum](#)

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## Awards and Honors

Dr. **Donald Weaver**, associate professor of pathology, is listed in the 2005-06 edition of *Guide to America's Top Physicians*, a directory published by the Consumers' Research Council of America.

## Publications and Presentations

Dr. **Edward Krawitt**, professor of medicine, is lead author of an article titled "Peginterferon alfa-2b and ribavirin for treatment-refractory chronic hepatitis C" in the August *Journal of Hepatology*. Co-authors on the study, which was funded by Schering Plough, include **Takamura Ashikaga**, director of medical biostatistics and biometry; Dr. **Nicholas Ferrentino**, associate professor of medicine; and **Mary Ann Ray**, clinical liver research coordinator at the College of Medicine.

**Janet Sobieski** and Professor **Wolfgang Mieder** from the Department of German and Russian are the editors of *'So Many Heads, So Many Wits: An Anthology of English Proverb Poetry*. The book contains 200 poems by 174 authors from Great Britain, the United States and Canada. While the volume includes some representative examples from the 15th through the 18th century, and a larger sampling of 19th-century work, it primarily features poems by authors from the 20th century, with a number of very recent texts. The new works indicate that today's lyric poets feel compelled to deal with the wisdom of proverbs and the metaphors of proverbial phrases as poets before them have done with similar fascination. The poets anthologized include John Lydgate, William Blake, John Gay, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Emily Dickinson, W.H. Auden, Robert Frost, Lisel Mueller, Carl Sandburg, Susan Fromberg Schaeffer, Julia Alvarez and many others.

**Wolfgang Mieder** and Professor **George Bryan** of the Department of Theatre are the authors of *A Dictionary of Anglo-American Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases Found in Literary Sources of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*. Although Bryan died nine years ago, Mieder continued work on the now 871-page volume as a sign of his deep friendship for his colleague. The book includes proverbial materials from a multitude of plays, (auto)biographies of well-known actors, songs by William S. Gilbert or Lorenz Hart, and American crime stories by Leslie Charteris. Many authors, both famous and obscure, appear and their contextualized texts are to a considerable degree representative of the proverbial language of the past two centuries. While the dictionary contains a proverbial treasure trove for proverb scholars, it also presents general readers interested in folkloric, linguistic, cultural and historical phenomena with an accessible and enjoyable selection of proverbs and proverbial phrases.

September 7, 2005

## Awards and Honors

**Donald Balch**, professor emeritus of animal science and former director of the UVM Morgan Horse Farm, was inducted into the Vermont Agriculture Hall of Fame by Gov. Jim Douglas in ceremonies on Sept. 1 at the Champlain Valley Exposition.

**Sanjeeva Murthy**, associate professor of physics, received a \$37,000 grant from the Research Corporation's Cottrell College Science Awards program to pursue a project titled "Modification of the Structure of Polymer Surfaces to Control and Direct Cell Growth."