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Senior Lindsey Melander balances working on Howard Dean's presidential campaign with her studies. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Lindsey Melander had plans to attend law school next fall. That was before she joined a fast-growing, youth-oriented presidential campaign as an intern, which turned into a permanent staff position as finance database manager that Melander calls a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

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Premieres Life is a journey — and, says Brookes Cowan, lecturer of sociology, so is death. For many, hospices are essential waypoints on that path. Cowan helped make a documentary on the hospice movement that will debut on Sept. 19.

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Missing Link For years, there was a perplexing gap in Vermont prehistory. There were no signs of human habitation here for roughly 1,000 years. Where did the people go? A new archaeological find proves they never left.

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Mind Senior Darius Feili may be in the minority as a New York Rangers fan at UVM, but he and other Rangers fanatics didn't seem to mind last week when their favorite NHL team was in town for their annual pre-season training camp.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Sept. 19, 7 p.m.
Film and panel: "Pioneers of Hospice: Changing the Face of Dying." Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, South Burlington. Information: 860-4499, ext. 5005.

Sept. 20, all day.
Aiken Lectures: "Who Chooses the Food You Eat?", with keynote by Marion Nestle of New York University. Patrick Gymnasium. Information: 656-2085

Sept. 22, 3:30 p.m.
Colloquium: "Nearer, My God, To Thee: Anatomy of an Interracial Friendship," with John Gennari, English. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill. Information: 656-3056

Sept. 23, 5:15 p.m.
President's distinguished lecture: "From Worms to Mammals: Genes that Control the Rate of Aging," with Cynthia Kenyon, University of California, San Francisco. Marsh Life Science Building, Room 235. Information: 656-2164

Sept. 23, 5:30 p.m.
Lecture: "Keys to Success: The Art and Science of Negotiations," with Edward Pollack, UVM '65. Classroom 002, Kalkin Hall. Information: 656-3177

Sept. 24, 12:30 p.m.

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Entrepreneur and Students Join Forces
Students Dustin Corbett (left) and Brett Dobens (right) with Woodstock entrepreneur Gerry Hawkes and a tractor that Hawkes has modified into being a low-cost, high-speed sustainable forest thinning system. Hawkes visited campus Sept. 9 to show off his machines and participate in a seminar led by Kathleen Liang, assistant professor of community development and applied economics. Liang's students will work with Hawkes during the semester to develop a business plan. Liang is using Liang to try a new teaching technique — a "live" case study, in which students see and question real entrepreneurs, rather than just read a published case about a past business issue.
(Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Aiken Lectures to Examine Food System

The annual George D. Aiken Lectures, a day of speeches, workshops and demonstrations to be held on Sept. 20, will examine the strengths and weaknesses of America's food delivery system and consider the notion that it may be a major contributor to this country's alarming increase in obesity.

"An epidemic of obesity has spread across our county and Vermont is certainly no exception," said Rachel Johnson, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "The health-care costs associated with treating obesity-related diseases now exceeds the cost of treating alcohol- and tobacco-related diseases combined."

The theme of the event is, "Who Chooses the Food You Eat?" Proceedings open at 10:30 a.m. with a keynote address by Marion Nestle, professor and chair of nutrition and food studies at New York University and author of *Safe Food: Bacteria, Biotechnology, and Bioterrorism* and *Food Politics: How the Food Industry Influences Nutrition and Health*. The title of Nestle's talk is, "The Ironic Politics of Obesity: A Food Systems Approach."

September Trustees Highlights

The Sept. 11-13 meetings of the University of Vermont Board of Trustees brought news of strong student retention and enrollment and a look at preliminary renderings of the new University Commons, a \$70 million student center on Main Street that is currently being designed.

Highlights of the proceedings of selected trustees committees follow. For more extensive coverage, see [Full Trustees Report](#).

Committee of the Whole: In his President's Report at the Sept. 12 meeting, President Daniel Mark Fogel provided a snapshot of the ambitious quality of his new presidency with a jam-packed list of items he described simply as "on the agenda for 2003-2004." Eight initiatives, all wide in scope, graced the list: the completion of the Strategic Action Plan; ongoing campus master planning; ongoing information technology master planning; aggressive movement on several major facilities projects; the launch of the comprehensive campaign; the continued pursuit of diversity on campus; a variety of curricular initiatives; and the implementation of the Honors College.

With enrollment up by nearly 400 students this year and external grants and contracts up by 35 percent in three years and 14 percent over last year, Fogel said the university was already meeting "key budget and data points" in the vision he outlined in February 2003. "That's very exciting," he told trustees.

Finance and Budget Committee: Provost John Bramley proposed a number of new initiatives to help satisfy the increasing need and eligibility for student financial aid. Bramley said UVM has responded to the growth of the number of students in need of and eligible for aid with a variety of actions including committing an additional \$2 million to the fiscal 2004 budget and \$2.8 to the 2003 budget for assistance. Additionally, close to half of UVM's \$250 million capital campaign drive is earmarked for scholarships.

President Fogel told trustees that although fiscal year 2005 is expected to be a financially challenging one for the state, with some belt tightening likely, UVM isn't expected to "feel those pinches." Fogel intends to ask for a 3 percent budget increase, which is the same as last year's request. He added that UVM would continue to ask for supplemental funds tied to economic development, as well as \$4 million in capital requests to be used for a new life sciences building (for more, see Health Education

Aiken registration and programs will run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Patrick Gymnasium on Spear Street. The event is free and the public is invited to attend.

Throughout the day, three panel discussions will focus on America's most popular food items — chicken, dairy and potatoes — and feature more than a dozen expert speakers. Among the critical food issues: super-sizing, food advertising, food safety, genetic diversity, food as a commodity and others. The discussions will attempt to show how all these factors contribute to the country's alarming increase in obesity of children and adults.

"Instead of approaching the dilemma of increasing obesity simply from a nutritional health-care point of view, we wanted the Aiken lectures to step back and look at the bigger picture of how we got where we are today," Johnson said.

"By exploring some of the decisions that get made about food marketing, production and distribution and how they affect the choices consumers have about what to buy and eat, we can begin to bring our food system back into a healthy balance again," she said.

The event is sponsored by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, School of Natural Resources, Extension and the Division of Continuing Education.

But the Aiken event isn't all lectures and serious discussion, Johnson said. There will be food tastings and demonstrations by local chefs, food experts and food makers on such topics as:

- How to prepare and serve a whole bird with Robert Barral, executive chef at New England Culinary Institute
- How to compare the USDA recommended serving sizes with restaurant portions.
- Food writer Molly Stevens will show new possibilities with potatoes beyond the french fry.

The Aiken Series was established by the university in 1974 to honor Vermont's U.S. Sen. George D. Aiken. Over the years, the series has addressed such topics as nuclear weapons, human genetics, foreign affairs, campaign finance reform, personal transportation choices and alternative energy.

"Who Chooses the Food You Eat?" events, tastings and lectures are free. Reservations are requested for the lectures via the website <http://learn.uvm.edu/aiken>. The site also offers a detailed schedule of events. Telephone information: 656-2085.

Open Service-Learning Forum Seeks Campus Engagement

A two-day series incorporating on-campus service-learning workshops and an off-campus

Committee Meeting report, below).

Academic and Student Programs

Committee: Institutional Studies Director Fred Curran presented an estimate (pending the end of the add-drop period) of the university's fall enrollment. Preliminary figures show an undergraduate enrollment of 8,006 students, the highest total since 1991. The size of the first-year class is 1,926. Graduate student enrollment also is up. Increases in the number of first-time, first-year students and of returning students (higher retention) account for most of enrollment growth. Curran said there are 137 first-year ALANA students enrolled, and noted that the percentage of students of color at UVM has grown from 4.4 percent in 2000 to 6.3 percent today.

Health Education Committee: The Sept. 11 presentation included an update on the new life sciences building project, which is currently being planned. The project will include collaboration with the State of Vermont for a unified facility including public safety, health and forensic facilities. The completed building is estimated to be about 300,000 square feet, and will require funding from state, federal and university sources.

Facilities and Technologies Committee: An update on the University Commons student center from WTW Architects, the firm recently selected to design the project, dominated discussion. WTW, which is partnering with Burlington firm TruexCullins & Partners on the project, prevailed in an August design competition and won the commission. The firm's plan aims to present a stronger presence on Main Street, unify the pedestrian flow of campus, and make a dramatic physical connection between the student life and academic experiences.

Robert Vaughan, director of capital planning and management, updated progress on several building projects. The Catamount Apartments on the south campus have been delayed for storm-water permitting as the state reviews its policy in this area. Originally slated for a fall 2004 opening, the project is now scheduled to open in fall 2005.

Construction to Commence on Waterman Service Center

Renovations will begin in the Waterman Building on Sept. 19 to create a new student services center on the third floor. The goal of the project is to provide students with a single location for general information, registration and financial services. The new center is scheduled to open in November.

The center will occupy the location currently occupied by the information services office. In addition to the third-floor main location, the renovation project will create a kiosk at Waterman's heavily trafficked College Street entrance. Employees from the Registrar's Office, student accounting, student financial services, as well as student ambassadors will staff both the information kiosk and the new office.

conference will bring Edward Zlotkowski, a well-known expert, to Burlington on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 25-26. On Sept. 25, Zlotkowski will lead an open public plenary for UVM faculty, staff and students at 2 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building.

The plenary event will try to define the idea of an "engaged campus" in a UVM context, and seek to find directions to spread service-learning theory and practice throughout the institution. Invitation-only workshops earlier in the day will offer deans, department heads, faculty senate members and others direction on institutionalizing service learning here and on strategic planning for service learning.

President Daniel Mark Fogel has strongly encouraged department chairs and program and center directors to send at least two people from their organizations to one of Zlotkowski's workshops or the Sept. 26 Vermont Campus Compact conference on service learning.

This event, to be held at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, will feature Zlotkowski, as well as Lynne Bond, professor of psychology, and Richard Schramm, visiting professor of community development and applied economics. Registration for this event is still open, and fees for UVM faculty will be covered by the President's Office: Visit learn.uvm.edu/sli for more information or to make arrangements to attend. For more details about the on-campus plenary session and workshops, contact courtney.lamontagne@uvm.edu.

The plan for the service center includes a reduction in the hours that UVM's main switchboard will have people available to take calls. Starting Sept. 19, operators will be on duty from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Increased use of the university's Website and of cellular telephones has led to a significant reduction in after-hours call volume, and has allowed planners to shift resources to the center, which will have a more direct effect on students.

Students Get New (Telephone) Digits

Telecommunications officials introduced a new exchange for student residences — 542 — to allow students to have their own phone numbers and voicemail, rather than sharing with roommates. As with 656 telephone numbers, the new 542 exchange allows campus callers to dial using the last five digits of a number only: 2-XXXX.

The new numbers will also follow students even as they move from residence hall to residence hall. To find a student's home number, consult [UVM People](#) or the soon-to-be-released paper telephone directory.

theview

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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Richard Shindell opens the 2003-2004 Lane Series with a performance on Sept. 25 at 7:30 in the Recital Hall. [Information and Tickets](#). (Publicity photo: Marinko Matura)

Presidential Lecturer Studies the Genes That Regulate Aging

Cynthia Kenyon, internationally known for her work on the molecular causes of aging, will deliver the lecture "From Worms to Mammals: Genes That Control the Rate of Aging" on Tuesday, Sept. 23, at 5:15 p.m. in Marsh Life Sciences Building, Room 235. The talk, which is the first in this year's President's Distinguished Lecture Series, will be followed by a reception in the Health Science Research Facility gallery.

A biochemist at the University of California at San Francisco, Kenyon has been studying the genes of the microscopic roundworm *C. elegans* for the last 10 years. Kenyon's research shows that lifespan in the roundworm is regulated via an insulin-like pathway. Such a link between nutrition and longevity may lead to discoveries in the human aging process.

"I come from a background in developmental biology and there is one thing we learn from studying development, two things really," Kenyon told an audience gathered in Cambridge, England last April to celebrate DNA's 50th anniversary. "The first is that practically all the genes that regulate development, as with other biological processes, are much more highly conserved than was expected to be the case. The second is that the differences that we see between the body patterns of animals, differences resulting from different developmental processes, are usually due to changes in regulatory genes."

Through analysis of the many genes in worms (even little creatures can have 19,000 of them), Kenyon and her colleagues identified a mutation

Community Medical School Starts Sept. 23

The popular lecture series presented by the University of Vermont College of Medicine and Fletcher Allen Health Care will begin its sixth fall season on Sept. 23 with a new, longer format.

Each of the six Thursday-evening Community Medical School sessions will now include a one-hour lecture plus a question-and-answer session. The events, which are intended for non-physicians and are free and open to the public, are held in Carpenter Auditorium in the Given Medical Building. All of the sessions begin at 6 p. m.

Lecture dates, topics and speakers include:

- Sept. 23, "The Neuroscience of Bladder Function: How Spinal Cord Injuries, Infection and Age Affect the Process" by Margaret Vizzard, associate professor of anatomy and neurobiology
- Sept. 30, "The Risks of Not Eating Enough Fiber: Diverticular Disease" by Dr. Peter Cataldo, associate professor of surgery and Fletcher Allen colon and rectal surgeon
- Oct. 7, "When Multiple Sclerosis Strikes: Symptoms, Causes and Treatments" by Dr. Hillel Panitch, professor of neurology, Fletcher Allen neurologist and director, Multiple Sclerosis Center
- Oct. 14, "Brittle Bones: Osteoporosis Risk and Treatment" by Dr. Edward Leib, professor of medicine, Fletcher Allen rheumatologist and director, Osteoporosis Center
- Oct. 21, "The Why and How of Organ Transplantation" by Dr. Abrar Khan, assistant professor of surgery and Fletcher Allen division chief of transplantation surgery and immunology
- Oct. 28, "The Anatomy of Trick-or-Treating" by Bruce Fonda, lecturer in anatomy and neurobiology

Free parking is available onsite. Information and registration: 847-2886 or [Community Medical School](#) .

Salk Researcher Offers Tour of the Microbiology of Memory

Stephen Heinemann, a professor in the Molecular Neurobiology Laboratory at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, Calif., will discuss the microbiology of memory on Sept. 22 at 4 p. m. in Hall B of the Given Medical Building.

in the gene *daf-2* that doubled the lifespan of the worms, which typically live for only a few weeks.

"It's not just that they went into the nursing home and hung on," said Kenyon. "They were actually younger, they aged more slowly."

Kenyon's findings have appeared in scientific journals as well as the popular press. She is a Herbert Boyer Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at UCSF and the director of the university's Hillblom Center for the Biology of Aging. In the international scientific community, Kenyon is president of the Genetics Society of America, an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and an Ellison Medical Foundation Senior Scholar.

The President's Distinguished Lecture Series was established by President Daniel Mark Fogel in October 2002. Funded by discretionary gift funds, the series brings distinguished guest speakers to Burlington to enhance the academic experience on campus, showcase the university's faculty and programs, and draw groups of faculty and students together on a regular basis.

Troy Duster, professor of sociology and director of the Institute for the Study of Social Change at the University of California at Berkeley, will deliver the next lecture in the series. Duster will speak on "Human Molecular Genetics and the Subject of Race: Contrasting the Rhetoric with the Practices in Law and Medicine" on Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. in Billings Student Center's North Lounge.

Gund Institute Invites Discussion on New Economic Metric for Vermont

Does the ever-present GDP, a purely economic gage of gross domestic product, truly measure human economic welfare?

Experts at the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics say it doesn't, and gathered a large group to calculate a newer measurement, the Genuine Progress Indicator, for Burlington, Chittenden County and Vermont. The GPI scores, which take into account factors like income distribution and the depletion of natural resources, both corroborate Vermont's claim to having a high quality of life — and underline areas that need improvement.

Robert Costanza, the institute's director, invites community members for an explanation and discussion of the project on Sept. 24 at 12:30 p.m. at Contois Auditorium, Burlington City Hall. For a copy of the report's calculations, visit www.uvm.edu/gjee.

Heinemann's talk, "The Molecular Biology of Memory Formation," will draw on his work exploring the molecular details of communication among brain cells. Synapses, Heinemann's Web page explains, play a key role in communicating information between brain cells and it is likely that biochemical changes at the synapse underlie some aspects of higher brain function. Most plausible theories of learning and memory depend upon changes in the efficiency of chemical synapses, which probably involves changes in receptors, ion channels and neurotransmitter release. It is also now known, says the Website, that these molecules can be directly involved in human disease. Most drugs that are used to treat mental illness are known to work either on the receptors or the metabolism of the transmitters at the synapse. The work in the laboratory is focused on the molecular biology and physiology of the glutamate and nicotinic receptors expressed in the brain.

Among other notable achievements, Heinemann's lab has isolated a gene containing the blueprints for a receptor critical to learning and memory, and identified the receptors that respond to nicotine. Since neurological ailments, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's; drug addiction; and mental disorders, such as depression and schizophrenia, are fundamentally disorders of brain cell communication, this research will provide new insights into the treatment of these disorders. A major goal of his research effort is to understand the regulation of synaptic function and the molecular biology of learning.

The professor's talk opens a two-day external review of UVM's progress at the new Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in Neuroscience, which is funded by a \$10.7-million grant provided by a unit of the National Institutes of Health.

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Awards and Honors

Sandra Musters and **Emma Wall**, graduate students in the Department of Animal Science, won top national and regional awards for scientific presentations. Musters won first place in a national competition among 50 U.S. land-grant colleges at the annual conference of the American Dairy Science Association (production division) in Phoenix, Ariz. Wall won first place in the Northeast competition of the combined American Dairy Science Association./ American Society of Animal Science meeting held at the same location.

Karen Plaut, professor and chair of animal science, received a three-year \$949,000 grant through NASA's Fundamental Space Biology Program. Plaut and two NASA scientists are studying the effects of hypergravity on metabolic activity in pregnant rats. This research is done at the NASA-Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, Calif. Plaut and colleagues will make presentations on this ongoing research at the American Society for Gravitational and Space Biology Conference in November.

Dr. **Steven Shackford**, professor and chair of surgery, has been elected as President Elect of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma. The national organization aims to furnish leadership in the field and foster advances in trauma surgery.

The **Center on Disability and Community Inclusion** has again been recognized by the federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities as a university center for excellence in developmental disabilities. This July, the branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded CDCI a five-year grant to continue activities of research and evaluation, personnel development, community outreach, and dissemination related to people with disabilities and their families toward the goal of total community inclusion.

Publications and Presentations

Antonello Borra, assistant professor of romance languages, and **Adriana Borra**, a lecturer in the department, published a translation of a German novel, *Vor aller Zeit*, in Italy as *Prima di tutti I tempi*. Antonello Borra also published some poems this summer in the Italian magazine *Il Quaderno*.

Sept. 10 – 17, 2003

Publications and Presentations

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

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

Wolfgang Mieder, professor and chair of German and Russian, has edited the twentieth volume of *Proverbium* published at the University of Vermont with the support of the College of Arts and Sciences and the University Bookstore.

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Deanie Babies

By Jon Reidel



Senior Lindsey Melander balances working on Howard Dean's presidential campaign with her studies. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Lindsey Melander had plans to attend law school next fall. That was before she joined a fast-growing, youth-oriented presidential campaign as an intern, which turned into a permanent staff position as finance database manager that Melander calls a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Not that the 22-year-old senior business major has much time in her torrid schedule to reflect on the significance of

her job uploading the 450,000-plus e-mails from people who have signed up to join the Howard Dean for America campaign.

"I've forgone a social life to do this. The campaign is my social life," says Melander, who is a full-time student. "But it's definitely been worth it. I think this campaign will change history and the way campaigns are run in the future."

Melander is one of five UVM students working on the Dean for America campaign as an intern or a full-time staff member. She started in the summer along with 45 other interns from across the country. Twelve of those have deferred their education to remain as full-time volunteers.

The youth movement

Melander and Can Insel, a senior international student from Turkey who works on scheduling for the campaign, are going to school and working for a campaign aggressively pursuing the under-25 set through Generation Dean, the campaign's youth outreach organization.

"Having young people work for the campaign adds a lot of excitement and vitality to it," says campaign spokesperson Garrett Graff. "I think they react to Dean's energy. He maintains a schedule that no other human could keep up with. The staff is exhausted."

Insel, who started working for the campaign as an intern for Generation Dean, then known as Students for Dean, says the former governor has qualities that are attractive to many 20-somethings, and is the reason for the increase of Generation Dean chapters nationwide from about 100 in April to more than 600 in September.

"It's kind of funny, but I can't even vote," Insel says, laughing at the irony of being so involved in a campaign for president of a country he does not hold citizenship in. "I wasn't that familiar with American politics when I started, but I feel like I understand it better now."

Melander, who applied for an internship prior to the start of summer and started work in May, knew she would be giving up more than her weekends with friends when she accepted the offer from Larry Biddle, deputy campaign

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[Hospice Film Premieres](#)

Life is a journey — and, says Brookes Cowan, lecturer of sociology, so is death. For many, hospices are essential waypoints on that path. Cowan helped make a documentary on the hospice movement that will debut on Sept. 19.

[Unearthing a Missing Link](#)

For years, there was a perplexing gap in Vermont prehistory. There were no signs of human habitation here for roughly 1,000 years. Where did the people go? A new archaeological find proves they never left.

[New York State of Mind](#)

Senior Darius Feili may be in the minority as a New York Rangers fan at UVM, but he and other Rangers fanatics didn't seem to mind last week when their favorite NHL team was in town for their annual pre-season training camp.

finance director, to become a full-time staff member in July.

"My personality is to get very involved in things," says Melander, who grew up in Vermont. "It's never surface-level involvement. My parents know how I am so they were a little worried that I would get too focused on it. It was hard to give up some things for the campaign, but I've never regretted it."

One of the most difficult sacrifices was to give up her spot on UVM's debate team. Ranked first in the nation in the college novice division, Melander won numerous debates with her arguments opposing the war in Iraq. Dean's strong anti-war stance was one of the things that attracted Melander to his campaign.

"I feel like a lot of things were dormant in a lot of young people before Dean came along," Melander says. "He triggers something in you. There's something about a candidate who says what he thinks. You feel empowered by it."

Although Melander is a full-time staff member, that doesn't necessarily equate to 40 hours a week, since, as she puts it, there's no such things as "regular work hours" on a campaign. Depending on the week, Melander could work anywhere from 30 to 60 hours, which she balances around three classes at UVM and occasional sleep.

For her services, Melander receives three credits for working on the Dean campaign event though she thinks it should be worth more.

Life after Dean

Despite sharing many of Dean's views on issues, Melander, who considers herself open to all kinds of opinions and viewpoints, was initially concerned about being "pigeon-holed politically" by working on the campaign. That changed as she became more involved in the campaign and found herself feeling more comfortable with criticism from people who disagreed with her politically.

Melander recalls one instance while walking into work in a pair of flip-flops at Dean's headquarters on Farrell Street, which is in a building shared with businesses Melander describes as "a little more conservative (than Dean)." An employee of an adjoining company asked her with a not-so-subtle hint of disdain if flip-flops were protocol for employees working in Dean's office.

"I said, 'well, wouldn't you rather wear flip-flops to work if you could?'" Melander says. "I get looks like that sometimes, but that's part of it."

Both Melander and Insel aren't sure what they'll do following the campaign, although that could depend on its outcome. Neither is holding their breath for a job in Washington if Dean wins, though, saying that wasn't the reason they joined the campaign in the first place.

Insel, a political science major, says he'd like to return to Istanbul where his parents live and find a job. Melander says she's just "riding the wave, going with the flow" until she graduates and the campaign is over.

But both believe that the experience of working on a presidential campaign fueled by energy and recognized for its groundbreaking use of Internet will influence their paths in life.

"It's been surreal almost," Melander says. "I had no expectations going in, but it has been an amazing experience. I've met so many people working here. It's something I'll always be able to draw from in the future."

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Sociologist's New Documentary Tells the Story of Hospice

By Kevin Foley

Life is a journey – and, says Brookes Cowan, lecturer of sociology, videographer, and end-of-life volunteer for the Vermont Visiting Nurse Association, so is death.

"As people are dying they have an opportunity to learn, grow and teach people around them. I am always asked, 'Don't you get depressed working with dying people?' " Cowan says. "Those in hospice say we are energized and revitalized by this work. We consider it a gift to witness the process, because we're always learning as we sit and support these people."

The Latin root that forms the word hospice incorporates the notion of both host and guest. At these welcoming places where medical professionals and skilled volunteers help the terminally ill and their families cope with the pain and sorrow of the ending of the life, Cowan says, "The patient cares for the caregivers, and the caregivers care for the patient."

It is a lovely notion, and one that has been part of Cowan's personal life, volunteer activities and academic work with bereavement for decades. But while the idea of hospice is old (the word was used in the Middle Ages to describe welcoming waypoints for religious pilgrims), the practice of offering patients places where they can die with dignity, comfort and autonomy is relatively new. The first modern hospice opened in 1967, founded by the London-area doctor Dame Cicely Saunders. The movement quickly grew, with support from Saunders and fellow activists Florence Wald in Connecticut (who opened the first American hospice), Dr. Balfour Mont in Montreal and Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, author of *On Death and Dying*. There are now more than 3,000 Medicare-approved hospices in the United States.

Documenting a movement

But as the movement grew, and its pioneers aged, no one had thoroughly recorded their stories and sensibilities. After a visit by Florence Wald to the Vermont Respite House, Cowan and her colleagues on the board of the VNA's Madison-Deane Initiative for end-of-life care, were moved by her story and thought it would make the basis of a wonderful documentary. The 50-minute fruit of that effort, "Pioneers of Hospice: Changing the Face of Dying," will premiere on Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Burlington Sheraton Hotel. Pioneers Wald and Mount will speak at the event and participate in a panel discussion.

"We were inspired," Cowan says, reflecting on the mood after Wald's Vermont visit. "We said we have to take action now, we have to capture these people's stories in their own word and preserve it."

The collective decided to pursue the project, and secured Wald's cooperation. She made the first entreaties to the other three early hospice leaders, who had all interacted with each other in the movement's early days. Cowan and others eventually secured a \$72,000 grant from the private JL Foundation, and began conducting extensive oral history interviews with the hospice pioneers, some of whom were in poor health. Documentary producer Terry Youk, a hospice volunteer and commercial video producer, and Camilla Rockwell, who worked with Civil War documentarian Ken Burns for 15 years, produced the documentary.

"It's like this little engine that could, this little group in rural Vermont had a vision and belief and it was destined to come to fruition," Cowan says, explaining that the team began shooting even before they knew they had grant funding for the project.

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Cowan is proud of the documentary that emerged. She says it allows the principals to tell the story in their own words, and gives viewers a sense of the deep spirituality (though not necessarily religiosity) that animated their effort to create spaces where people could die humanely. In addition to capturing the collaboration between hospice founders, the documentary also builds a larger sociological context for the movement, explaining how it grew out of the Civil Rights movement as an effort to provide people with terminal illnesses the right to have more say in their care.

The topic can be difficult — “In the 1970’s death replaced sex as the most taboo topic in polite social conversation. Doctors couldn’t understand the hospice movement because their whole training focused on curing, and death was seen as failure.” — but Cowan hopes viewers take away both the story of the hospice movement, and, perhaps, a new appreciation of the journey of death.

“Florence Wald uses a term in the documentary, ‘dying in good health.’ That is having a chance to take care of unfinished business, to die without pain. Each of these pioneers has devoted his or her career to that idea.”

Now, says Cowan, as the idea of hospice is widely accepted, the concept is evolving to include palliative care, centers for treatment for life-threatening illnesses that would combine ongoing attempts to cure the condition with the caring function for families and individuals of traditional hospices.

“Pioneers of Hospice” will premiere on Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Burlington Sheraton Hotel. The free, public event will also include talks and panel discussions by Florence Wald and Dr. Balfour Mount. The two will also speak to medical students earlier in the day. Information: (802) 860-4499

Cowan and the documentary producers hope to get the video on public television, and will soon consult with television personality Bill Moyers on the best way to disseminate the peace. Additionally, a radio documentary producer for Minnesota Public Radio’s American RadioWorks traveled with the video team. The radio story will air late this year or early in 2004.

theview

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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Unearthing a Missing Link

By Lynda Majarian



UVM consulting archaeologists unearth a crucial portion of Vermont's past at a highway site in Colchester. (Photo courtesy of John Crock)

For years, archaeologists were perplexed by a significant gap in Vermont prehistory. Tangible evidence proved that the region had been colonized about 10,000-11,000 years ago. But there were no signs of human habitation in what is now Vermont for roughly 1,000 years, from the end of the Early Paleoindian Period (10,000 B.P. - Before Present) and the beginning of the Early Archaic period (9,000-7,500 B.P.) Yet reasons

for a supposed mass exodus remained a mystery. Where did the people go? And why?

It turns out they were there all along. Recently, UVM's Consulting Archaeology Program identified what is unequivocally the first Late Paleoindian site (10,000-9,000 B.P.) in the state, and one of very few known to exist in the eastern United States, in a small clearing bordered by a cornfield and Sunderland Brook in Colchester. The discovery was made during an archaeological investigation of property that will be affected by the construction of an off-ramp for the proposed Chittenden County Circumferential Highway.

Archaeologists recovered fragments of several parallel-flaked spear point bases known as Agate Basin points, named after the site of a bison kill in Wyoming where they were first found. The tools were commonly used during the Late Paleoindian period — not only by inhabitants of Vermont and the broader Northeast where this period is poorly understood, but by people who roamed areas from the High Plains to the Mississippi Valley and beyond.

Preliminary analysis suggests the Colchester site was a hunting camp where Native Americans removed and replaced spear points broken during hunts. "Hunters would have stayed here for a few days or a few weeks at a time," says John Crock, CAP director and research assistant professor of anthropology. Additional tools recovered suggest that animals may have been butchered and their hides prepared at the location, which has been named the Mazza site after landowner Sam Mazza.

Although more than 20 Early Paleoindian sites have been identified in the state, "The Mazza site is special because it indicates not only that people were in Vermont during the Late Paleoindian period, but also that they shared unifying cultural traits with other groups across North America," Crock says.

Tracing ancient trade

Much of the stone material recovered in Colchester came from Mount Jasper in what is now Berlin, N.H., suggesting trade or direct travel across the Green Mountains and White Mountains, probably over a route not too different from what is now U.S. Route 2. The Mazza site is located next to a tributary of Sunderland Brook, which in turn flows into the Winooski River, which enters

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Lake Champlain south of Colchester point.

"Native Americans used drainages like this one as natural travel corridors and because they contained concentrations of useful plants and animals," notes Crock.

The salvaged Mazza site is likely to be destroyed when the Circumferential Highway is developed. "Excavating only a sample of significant sites is standard practice in regulatory archaeology," Crock explains, with the level of recovery effort determined by the State Historic Preservation Office, project managers and archaeologists.

But while development may be chewing up some of Vermont's quiet thatches of woods and rippling meadows, "highway archaeology," as Crock calls it, has also been a boon to science. "Most funding institutions don't underwrite archaeology projects within North America," he says. "Without state funding, we wouldn't have had the resources to conduct these investigations."

Future meets past

Contemporary archaeologists rely not only on financial support, but also on sophisticated technology. Software programs such as Geographical Information Systems and Computer Aided Design and Drafting programs are powerful tools used to create digital maps and blueprints and to combine layers of information about a location. The technology helps researchers be sure that they are salvaging a representative sample of the site's contents.

"By studying the correlations among various layers of data, we can gain insight into human behavior," says Charles Knight, assistant CAP director and senior researcher. Computer-generated data can reveal, for instance, where different artifacts tend to be found — near water, in certain soil types or in fire areas — and consequently, provide information about the habits of long-departed inhabitants.

"We learn a lot by going through people's garbage," says Crock with a laugh.

Sorting through millennia of rubbish was exactly what senior Sara Grasso did as a volunteer at the Mazza site. "I'd done archaeology work in the Caribbean, but I'd never worked at a site in the Northeast, and I wanted to get back into the field," says Grasso, an anthropology major. During the excavation of the Mazza site, she sifted buckets of dirt through a 1/8-inch screen searching for relics of the past — in this case, small flakes of stone discarded as ancient hunters made spears. It was a laborious process, she says. "The flakes were very, very small."

Grasso intends to pursue graduate study, specializing in Caribbean archaeology. "Jim Petersen is helping me evaluate graduate programs," she notes. Petersen, chair and associate professor of anthropology, "is not my advisor," she says, "but he has always been there for me."

Like Grasso, most members of CAP field crews are undergraduate volunteers, work study or graduate students with anthropology backgrounds. In addition, almost all CAP employees are UVM alumni. Since the Mazza site was salvaged, they have gone on to other projects, including a pre-contact site in Alburg. Others will help to process, analyze and catalogue the Mazza site artifacts, which will eventually be displayed at CAP's University Heights offices.

"Although UVM currently is the unofficial repository, or curation facility, for artifacts recovered through CAP, planning is underway to locate an artifact storage center somewhere in the state," explains Petersen. Those artifacts add up: since its inception in 1978, CAP has completed over 400 archaeological investigations mandated by state and federal laws to protect and preserve cultural resources.

CAP is part of UVM's Department of Anthropology. For more information, go to [Consulting Archaeology](#).

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New York State of Mind

By Jon Reidel



Approximately 2,700 fans came to watch the New York Rangers play an intra-squad scrimmage at Gutterson Fieldhouse. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

An unknown hockey player skates his way between established NHL stars Eric Lindros and Anson Carter at the training camp of the New York Rangers. Very few of the roughly 75 people at the pre-season practice at Gutterson Fieldhouse seem to know the player or the handful of other young hopefuls trying to make the squad.

UVM Senior Darius Feili is the exception. The self-described hockey

fanatic from Manhattan knows the name of every player on the ice — including those who have never played in an NHL game. He's come to every Rangers training camp in Burlington since discovering during his freshman year that his favorite team practiced at "The Gut."

"I'm a junky," Feili says. "I know every player out there. I love to watch the young guys to see if they're ready for the NHL. Having the Rangers here is definitely an added bonus."

The Rangers have held their preseason camp at Gutterson eight of the past nine years with practices free and open to the public between 9 a.m.-1 p.m. daily. The camp ended Sept. 15 with an intra-squad scrimmage that drew a mixture of 2,700 Rangers, Boston Bruins and Montreal Canadians fans, but also a number of people who just like to watch hockey.

"They're all Bruins fans around here anyway," says UVM junior and lifelong rangers fan Russ Buchanan of Hackettstown, N.J. "It's good to see some fans from New York here."

The Rangers have been practicing at UVM since 1996 after moving from Glens Falls, N.Y. Prior to that, the Hartford Whalers practiced at Gutterson until they folded and moved to Raleigh, N.C. Jeff Schulman, senior associate athletic director, says the Rangers approached UVM about moving their camp to Burlington after the Whalers left, and have been coming back ever since, minus one year when they held it at Madison Square Garden as part of a fan promotion.

"The Rangers flew their staff up and liked what they saw," Schulman says. "The team was here practicing two months later. We really enjoy having them here. It creates a lot of excitement in the community and gives people a chance to see the best hockey players in the world. Wayne Gretzky, Mark Messier and Eric Lindros have all played here."

New York flavored fans

Standing outside Gutterson are about two dozen hard-core Rangers fans that have made the trek from New York and New Jersey. Most of them are wearing CCM white Rangers home jerseys retailing for \$199.99 at the official Rangers

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store. Gold chains hang over the collars of many of the jerseys, which are covered with signatures fans have obtained from players as they walk outside Gutterson between practices.

New Jersey construction workers Chris Oprzadek, who grew up in Poland, and Rado Uhersky, who comes from Slovakia, drove up with five friends who also grew up in Slovakia. They've spent their hard-earned money on gas and rooms at the Holiday Inn in Burlington to see their favorite players up close. Although they like all the players, they have a special affinity for Karol Sloboda and Ronald Petrovicky, both of whom hail from Slovakia.

"It's much easier to get jerseys signed here than in New York," says Uhersky in a thick Czechoslovakian accent. "We go to a lot of Rangers games and we all play hockey for fun near Trenton where we live. We hate the Devils even though we live in New Jersey."

Not far from where the fans are camped out are a group of middle-aged sportswriters constituting the small throng of New York media. Feili and Buchanan recognize one of the more popular sportswriters as he walks amidst what appears to be a handful of scouts and agents talking on cell phones.

Community perks

Taking in the scene from behind the goal about 10 rows up is UVM senior Jimmy Altamuro. He appears content sitting and watching members of the team he idolized while growing up just outside the city in Westchester County. Like Feili and Buchanan, he discovered the Rangers held their camp at UVM after he arrived on campus.

"I had no idea they were here," Altamuro says. "It's been nice to watch them practice here while I'm at school."

Not all the fans are college students, however. Some are younger local kids, while others are older retirees with newfound time on their hands. Pat Trongo, who recently retired from IBM, says he plans to attend a number of athletic events at UVM and considers the Rangers practicing in Burlington a quality of life enhancement to the community.

"This is great for the area," says Trongo, who grew up in western Pennsylvania a fan of the Pittsburgh Penguins and Penn State football. "It's nice to be able to come here and watch these guys practice. It's a rare opportunity to see the this close."

Saturday and Sunday's practices drew a mixture of about 500 fans from New England, New Jersey and New York. Many were treated to autograph signing sessions by Carter and other NHL players.

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

pho 802.656.2005
fax 802.656.3203

theview@uvm.edu

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