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UVM HOMEPAGE

Members of the Upper Crust



It's a mulch. It's a dust buster. It's alive. That bumpy layer — it's a biological soil crust. Soil ecologist Deborah Neher wants to know what global warming will do to this crumbly community that covers the ground in deserts around the world. (Photo courtesy of the USGS Canyonlands Research Station)

In the high desert of Utah, at a research site about 20 miles outside of Moab, Deborah Neher tries to step on the bushes. She doesn't want to hurt the soil. Or, rather, what lives on top of the soil. Here, an inch-high layer of lichens, mosses, tiny fungi, cyanobacteria, and microscopic creatures stretches in a bacon-colored carpet between scattered clumps of creosote bush. It's lumpy, pinnacled, scabrous, pointillistically beautiful, "and darn fragile," says Neher, chair of UVM's Department of Plant and Soil Science.

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September 17, 2008

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

Sept. 18. 7 p.m. Poetry Reading: Charles Barasch, communication sciences adjunct faculty, from his book *Dreams of the Presidents*. Barnes & Noble, South Burlington.

Sept. 20. 9 a.m. Historic Tour of UVM. [Information, registration.](#) Tour begins at Ira Allen statue, Main Green. Tour runs Saturdays, through Oct. 11.

Sept. 22. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Alumna Art Exhibit: Susan Raabe. On display through Oct. 2. Reception Sept. 29, 5 to 6 p.m. Colburn Gallery, Williams Hall. Information: 656-2014.

Sept. 23. 6 p.m. Community Medical School: "From the Playing Field to the Bench: Knee Injuries in Young Athletes," James Slauterbeck, associate professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation and orthopaedic surgeon. Carpenter Auditorium, Given Building. [Information, registration:](#) (802) 847-2886.

Sept. 24. 12:15 p.m. Area and International Studies Lecture: "Canadian Federal Election 2008: Towards a Political Realignment?" with Jeffrey Ayres chair of the Department of Political Science, Saint Michael's College. Marsh Lounge, Billings.

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By Joshua Brown

Article published September 16, 2008



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microscopic creatures stretches in a bacon-colored carpet between scattered clumps of creosote bush. It's lumpy, pinnacled, scabrous, pointillistically beautiful, "and darn fragile," says Neher, chair of UVM's Department of Plant and Soil Science.

It's a biological soil crust. "That's a living community," she says. Although they're little known, biological crusts cover a lot of the planet. They dominate many of the dry places that comprise about 35 percent of global land area from Africa to the polar regions. "We've been studying crust in the Colorado Plateau, the Chihuahuan desert into Mexico, the Sonoran desert in Arizona," Neher says, "but I've seen them in Ohio too."

Neher and her colleagues want to know what climate change is doing to these crusts. Rising temperatures might not seem like a problem in a desert. But their research suggests that increasing summer heat in the Southwest kills important species of mosses, lichens and bacteria in the soil crust.

And this, in turn, reverberates throughout desert ecosystems. Soil crusts form a living mulch. Filaments from the cyanobacteria and microfungi weave together across the surface, gluing soil particles in place, slowing erosion. Soil crusts sponge up what little rain falls. And soil crusts capture carbon, nitrogen, and other elements from the air, enriching the soil and providing nutrients that surrounding

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vascular plants need.

In short, “with climate change, we’ll have more sparse desert communities, with fewer native shrubs and grasses,” she says. And this threat — combined with direct damage to crusts from livestock, off-road vehicles, natural gas developments and, yes, foot traffic — “means we’re likely to see more dust and erosion like we saw during the Dust Bowl days in the 1930s,” she says.

Swimming through the desert

To simulate future climate conditions, Neher and her partners from the Southwest Biological Research Center and Los Alamos National Laboratory have been making patches of the hot Utah desert even hotter. For the last six years, with funding from the US Department of Energy, they’ve been blasting infrared lights over experimental plots, pushing up temperatures by nearly 10 degrees Fahrenheit. And, since climate change may bring more frequent and heavier summer rainfalls to the Southwest, some plots have been sprayed with extra water.

Not only have the scientists measured damage to the crusts, like bleaching mosses, they’ve also observed surprising changes in the “amazing and strange little critters,” as Neher calls them, that live in and under the crust: mites, springtails, nematodes, and protozoa.

Though it might seem unlikely in a desert, “many of these critters are really aquatic organisms,” Neher says. Nematodes and protozoa live in microscopic films of water in the soil. Extra rain should be a nematode’s holiday — but not when it’s combined with high heat.

“One of the things that we’re learning is that, when it gets hot, many nematodes and protozoa can go into a kind of suspended animation called anhydrobiosis,” she says. “They’re living, but their metabolism goes way, way down. They shut down until there is a little bit of rain.” And that’s where their problems begin.

Though some nematodes can tolerate temperatures approaching 140 degrees, anhydrobiosis requires dry conditions. “If you keep them wet and increase the temperature that’s the worst thing you can do for these guys,” Neher says, “They’ll die.”

Many mites matter

While Neher’s research shows that populations of nematodes and protozoa in the Southwest suffer under climate change’s double punch of higher heat and more rain, their crustal companions — mites, springtails and other microarthropods — seem to do fine, she says.

“We’re hypothesizing that’s because they live in the airspaces in the soil, not water,” she says, “climate change won’t create as many

differences in their habitat." In other words, looked at closely enough, the mites and nematodes are not cohabiting at all: miniscule differences of depth and moisture may mean a vast chasm to creatures smaller than a period.

"There are some people who argue, 'You've got lots of bacterial feeders so who cares if you lose a few species?'" Neher says. This view contends that the ecological roles of many small creatures are redundant: if one species declines, another picks up eating where the first left off, and the whole system continues to work. "Instead, what we're seeing is that these habitats are highly partitioned in time and space," Neher says, suggesting that many individual species play unique roles in the system. One size mite does not fit all.

But these soil crust dwellers are poorly understood. "We call the soil food web the poor man's rainforest. There are just an incredible number of species in soil, but we don't know much about them," Neher says. "Whether in the desert or our own backyards, we only know about 10 percent of the species. The other 90 percent is microscopic soil organisms that remain unknown to science."

Which is why Neher, her senior technician (and husband) Tom Weicht, and graduate students spend a great deal of time peering into microscopes. "One day in the field means three months in the lab," Weicht says. They're cataloging who lives in a soil crust and how they make a living.

"We have to know the basic natural history to answer our ecological question," Neher says, "First we have to know how soil crusts function to really understand how climate change is changing that function."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Davis' Busy Summer Vacation

By Jon Reidel

Article published September 5, 2008



The Dudley H. Davis Center quickly established itself as a summer conference destination by attracting major national conferences from June to August. (Photo: Sally McCay)

The first major popularity test for the Dudley H. Davis Center came in the fall of 2007 when it officially opened its eco-friendly doors to returning students. The result was an omnipresent flow of students throughout the academic year.

Dudley's second test came during the summer of 2008 when it was faced with the prospect of spending a lonely summer break with no one around to host. So how would the state-of-the-art facility entice people to utilize its 186,000-square feet of space and prevent a case of the summertime blues?

By tapping into the competitive summer conference circuit, according to Shane Cutler, director of conference and event services, who says conference coordinators eagerly responded to invitations to give the Davis Center a trial run. These included the International Symposium on Society Resource Management, the Society of Industrial Mathematics, the Council for Advancement & Support of Education (CASE) and the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education Conference, which drew a conference record 1,400 people to campus.

"My vision is for UVM to become the premiere conference and events location in the nation within the collegiate market in the next seven years," says Cutler, who adds that the UVM tries to attract conferences that fit within its green vision, overall mission and institutional values. "We've already exceeded our initial goals. We market ourselves as a place where conferences attendees can learn, eat and sleep in a green environment. In my opinion, that's what makes us unique as well as the fact that we're in a very attractive setting."

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Passing the re-booking test

Based on bookings for the next five years, which includes return engagements by all of the organizations that came in 2008, the Davis Center and its staff hit all the right chords. Matt Konetschni, director of educational programs for CASE, who is responsible for booking CASE's 70-plus conferences each year, visited UVM in 2007.

"As soon as I saw the campus and its facilities I went ahead and locked in future dates because I had no doubt they would be booked once other conferences came here. I book a lot of conferences and it doesn't get much better across the board than UVM. It really doesn't have a negative mark."

The Nematologist and Soil Ecology Society Conference, the American Association of Colleges and Universities Greater Expectations Institute and the Vermont Captive Insurance Association Conference are locked in for the summer of 2009. In sum, more than 11,000 conference goers are expected to come to campus, generating about \$175,000 for fiscal year 2009 (\$18,500 is a typical fee for a major conference) compared to about \$77,000 from September through June for local and UVM organizations holding primarily one-time events.

Rae Goldsmith, vice president of communications and marketing at CASE, spent a week at UVM in August and was particularly impressed with the following aspects of the Davis Center: its technical capacity; network-friendly layout; University Heights as a lodging facility; capacity to meets the needs of older and younger attendees; and the UVM conference staff. "From our perspective and that of a lot of other people we spoke with, things couldn't have gone better," says Goldsmith. "The Davis Center is so much more than a conference center. The general layout is perfect for social networking and has so many other amenities. And people love downtown Burlington. In many ways, the place becomes part of the identity of the conference. We couldn't have been more pleased with UVM and the Burlington area."

Burlington becoming conference destination

That's music to the ears of Bruce Seifer, assistant director for economic development in the City of Burlington's Community and Economic Development Office, who says the Queen City is fast-becoming a major conference destination. He cites the openings in the past two years of the Davis Center, IDX Student Life Center at Champlain College, Courtyard Harbor Marriot in downtown Burlington and the meeting space at 60 Lake Street as the primary reasons for the surge in popularity of the greater Burlington among as a conference destination.

"The spirit of cooperation among these facilities is alive and well



and has raised the profile of Burlington," he says. "They've had a huge economic impact on the entire area (\$250 million annually and rising). "The Davis Center is an anchor facility that attracts people from across the country. Many of these people come back to visit, eventually move here or even start a business. The impact is immeasurable."

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Research with MERIT

By Edward Neuert

Article published September 16, 2008



Pharmacology Chair Mark Nelson says his newly acquired \$3.39 million MERIT award "provides that continuity of funding that will enable me and the other people in my lab to take a broad view of our projects and move them forward without having to spend time writing and competing for grants." (Photo: Raj Chawla)

This summer, Mark Nelson, chair of the Department of Pharmacology and a member of the UVM faculty since 1986, received word that he had been awarded a prestigious MERIT award from the National Institutes of Health National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. The

ten-year, \$3.39 million grant provides continued funding for Nelson's research, which has been published in such prestigious journals as *Nature*, *Science*, and *Nature Neuroscience*.

Nelson sat down with the editor of *Vermont Medicine* to talk about his research and the award. Their conversation, which will appear in the fall issue of the magazine, follows.

VERMONT MEDICINE: How would you broadly describe your research?

NELSON: We have two major areas. One is the urinary bladder. We study what controls the contractility of the bladder, which controls the two functions of the bladder, filling and voiding. We also study what goes wrong in the body to cause incontinence, on the molecular and the in vivo levels. This is a huge medical issue that affects almost 20 million people in this country, with no really decent drugs to treat it. So we have a number of candidates — proteins that have a profound control over bladder function, and probably don't work properly in urinary bladder disorders. The other project, which can be viewed as different — but which in many ways is similar, involves understanding blood flow control in the brain, which relates to the basic function of how oxygen nutrients are delivered to the neurons in the brain from moment to moment and what goes wrong in such conditions as hypertension and

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Alzheimer's disease.

The muscles that control the blood flow and arteries are the same types of muscle cells that encase the urinary bladder, smooth muscle cells. The smooth muscle cell is really the common denominator in my research.

What are the criteria for a MERIT award?

You are chosen for a MERIT, it's nothing you apply for. I've had this particular grant for ten years, and it's always been highly scored by the institute. They look at what grants have been continuously productive, and they see the progress reports every year. They decided that, in this case, this is something they want to reward and invest in, so that productivity in this area continues to go forward, to explore new areas in biomedical science. A MERIT award also functions as a way to keep a researcher in a particular field. If you work in multiple areas you might be tempted to say, well maybe I'll work more on this than that. If you've been very productive and made a lot of progress, a MERIT award is a way for the institute to keep the person focused on that area that they think is important.

How will this award impact your work?

Each grant's competitive renewal involves months of effort to prepare. As a researcher, you often spend 20 percent of your time either writing progress reports or renewal paperwork. The grant process is an important one — it makes people think about and focus their research — but does also consume an enormous amount of time. The value of the award is there in its name — Method to Extend Research in Time. It provides that continuity of funding that will enable me and the other people in my lab to take a broad view of our projects and move them forward without having to spend time writing and competing for grants. It provides more time for the lab and myself to actually do research. I have three NIH grants and I'm involved in several others. I sometimes liken it to the life of a politician, who has to start spending time fundraising right after first taking office. So getting this MERIT frees up a lot of time. It also provides extra continuity in the lab, knowing that I have the funds to support the projects I'm working on and the people who are working with me.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

UVM Cyclists Rally for Injured Teammate

By Thomas Weaver

Article published September 16, 2008

Rose Long's UVM cycling teammates have been at her side through thousands of training miles on the road and trail. Now, as she recovers from serious injuries sustained when she was struck by a car in a hit-and-run accident while riding her bike on Burlington's Pearl Street, her teammates' support has taken on another dimension.

Fellow UVM cyclists have been frequent bedside visitors at the hospital since the Sept. 8 accident, took part in a rally in Burlington's City Hall Park calling for greater focus on bike and pedestrian safety issues, and have created a website to help Long and her family cope with medical costs. The site (roselong.com) includes background on Long, cycling photos, a message board, and an opportunity to donate funds to help cover oral surgery costs not covered by insurance.

A junior in mechanical engineering from Sutton, Vermont, Long has proven herself as one of the northeast's top collegiate racers in both road and mountain bike competition since transferring to UVM from Colby College in 2007.

At the Safe Streets rally on Sept. 16, Vinnie Scalia, co-president of UVM Cycling, told the crowd gathered that Long is up out of her hospital bed, walking, and smiling. "She's pumped to know that there are so many people who care about her," Scalia said.



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UVM HOMEPAGE

Public Radio's 'Studio 360' Features Classics Prof's Music Archaeology

By Amanda Waite

Article published September 17, 2008

How do you recreate music that no one living has ever heard, when the only surviving "sheet" music (think papyrus or stone) offers up archaic musical notation long since out of use?

John Franklin, assistant professor of classics, attempts to do just that. His research and creative endeavor in music archaeology was profiled in the Sept. 12 edition of the Public Radio International Program "Studio 360." [Listen to the seven-minute clip under "Greek Revival" on the program's website.](#)

Franklin will give a public lecture on "Ancient Greek Music: Songs of Many Spheres" at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, Sept. 18.

Read more about Franklin's research on his website, [kingmixers.com](#).



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UVM HOMEPAGE

Faculty Senate to Launch Self-Assessment

By Jeffrey Wakefield

Article published September 17, 2008

Monday's Faculty Senate meeting was well attended, orderly and civil. That was the problem, senate president Robyn Warhol-Down said in opening remarks.

Since becoming a representative body six years ago, with each department sending at least one representative to meetings, the senate has become much more businesslike than it was in its earlier incarnation as a wild and wooly town-meeting style assembly, when any faculty member who "showed up could speak and even vote," Warhol-Down said.

That might have made the senate a less than effective governance body, but there was a "substantially different tone," Warhol-Down said. "It used to be feisty and contentious. Any dissent was voiced."

Warhol-Down announced that the senate would launch a self-assessment this year designed to determine, in part, why — despite the advantages the new system offers — the representative senate sometimes lacks the active, even boisterous, discussion that characterized the earlier body.

At nearly every meeting, Warhol-Down, who began the second year of her two-year term Monday, encourages faculty to express their thoughts and opinions. She sounded another familiar note on Monday, urging faculty, as she has in the past, to participate in the work groups that will create implementation plans for the university's Strategic Plan that was approved by the UVM Board of Trustees in May.

Each of the five goals of the plan (see "[Strategic Plan](#)") will have to be assigned a work group that will develop action steps and accountability measures. (Trustees have asked that a sixth goal be added, which will be developed in the coming months.) Groups will be led by a faculty member and will have substantial faculty membership.

"It is imperative," Warhol-Down said, that the process yield "positive, substantial concrete ideas" of the kind that faculty are in a unique position to contribute.

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"Volunteer yourselves and nominate colleagues," Warhol-Down said.

for Nelson's research on smooth muscle cells.

In his remarks, Provost John Hughes informed the faculty that the administration, with guidance from governance groups like the senate, will be studying UVM's student-teacher ratio this year, currently a combined 15.3-to-one for undergraduate and graduate students, compared with other publics like Berkeley, whose ratio is 26.9-to-one, and elite privates like Harvard, at 14.6-to-one, and Stanford, at 15.3-to-one.

Bringing UVM's ratio in line with the university's 16-to-one-goal would yield an additional \$7.2 million in revenues, Hughes said, without significantly eroding its competitive advantage of offering an experience more akin to a private than a public university.

Hughes also reiterated that leadership, in partnership with faculty, would be looking for ways to advance the university's central objective of becoming a premier small research university, by identifying a "small number of doctoral programs" that would receive "extraordinary support" without jeopardizing other programs.

Cindy Forehand, chair of the senate's Curricular Affairs committee, introduced two new academic programs for approval, a minor in public communication in the Community Development and Applied Economics department, and a certificate of graduate study in complex systems, offered through the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. Both were approved unanimously.

Two faculty were elected at-large members of the senate's Executive Committee, Sherwood Smith and Garrison Nelson.

At the opening of the meeting, Professors Peter Jack Tkatch, George Osol and Garrison Nelson paid tribute respectively to three emeriti faculty who died in recent months: theater professor Edward J. Feidner, physiology professor William Halpern, and political science professor James Pacy.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Faculty Members to Speak at Archaeology Conference

By The View Staff

Article published September 16, 2008

Several members of the faculty will speak at an archaeology conference on the "First Contacts Between Indigenous Peoples and European Pioneers in Vermont and Beyond: What Really Happened?" on Sept. 25 at the Vergennes Opera House, beginning at 8:15 a.m.

The full-day conference, hosted by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and sponsored by the university's anthropology department and the UVM Center for Research on Vermont, features four UVM faculty members: Kit Anderson, adjunct professor and ethnobotanist; John Crock, assistant professor and director of UVM's Consulting Archaeology Program (CAP); Andre Senecal, professor of French; and Cameron Wesson, associate professor of anthropology.

World-renowned archaeologist William Kelso, who is best known for his excavation of Jamestown — the site of the first permanent English settlement in 1607 — is the keynote speaker. Kelso started work at the Virginia site in 1994 to search for the remains of the settlers' triangular fort, assumed by most to have long since been washed away by the James River. He not only located it but unearthed thousands of artifacts and the remains of roughly 100 of the settlers, which he chronicled in his book "Jamestown: The Buried Truth." His talk in Vergennes will focus on the relationships between the Indigenous peoples and the English arrivals.

"How did the indigenous peoples and the Europeans, these dramatically different cultures, view each other? How did they live and interact together? These are some of the questions we'll try to answer throughout the day," said Vermont state archaeologist Giovanna Peebles.

The program is free for students and \$10 for the general public. Pre-registration is encouraged and can be arranged by calling (802) 828-3540 or emailing Giovanna.peebles@state.vt.us. For more details, visit the [Historic Vermont](#) website.

In addition, Kelso will give a public lecture on Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. in 101 Stafford Hall on the UVM campus. For more information about this free event, contact Cameron Wesson, 656-3884, Cameron.

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Wesson@uvm.edu.

for Nelson's research on
smooth muscle cells.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Bestselling Author Elizabeth Marshall Thomas to Speak Sept. 23

By Amanda Waite

Article published September 16, 2008

Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, the author of *The Secret Life of Dogs*, the 1993 book that spent nearly ten months on *The New York Times* bestseller list, will deliver a public lecture titled "Hunting" on Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. in 301 Williams.

Thomas is the author of several acclaimed books including *Tribe of the Tiger*, *Reindeer Moon*, *The Animal Wife* and most recently *The Old Way*, among others. She has been published in the *New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly* and *National Geographic*.

[Read this article from the archives of Salon.com](#) to learn more about her life as a writer, from her anthropological work in Africa to her time at Smith College where she once took an English class with fellow writer Sylvia Plath.

Her lecture is sponsored by the Anthropology Department and the Office of the President.

Information: rgordon@uvm.edu.



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UVM HOMEPAGE

At UVM, Even the Toilet Paper Is Green

By Joshua Brown

Article published September 16, 2008

People once used stones, leaves, grass, snow, hay, sand, fruit rinds, seashells, and even corn on the cob to complete the most basic ritual of human hygiene. Now, we use nothing but toilet paper. Millions of miles of toilet paper. Each year, 26 billion rolls are sold in America alone.

And all that paper means a lot of tree cutting, wood pulping, processing, bleaching and packaging. Last year, the University of Vermont purchased about 32 tons of the stuff.

Which is why UVM announced this week that it has signed a new contract to purchase "green certified" toilet paper and paper towels made from 100 percent recycled paper, bleached without chlorine, and that meets other stringent environmental standards.

Part of a new university-wide contract with Vermont-based White River Paper Company for custodial products from mops to hand soap, the paper will be manufactured by Cascades Inc. The paper, as well many of the other new cleaning products UVM will be purchasing, are approved by Green Seal, an independent "green certification" organization.

"UVM is switching to a toilet paper that meets standards for environmental responsibility, prompted by student concerns," says Gioia Thompson, UVM's director of sustainability. "This use of standards fits well with the university's commitment to sustainability — and it's a success story for student activism."

In 2006, Basil Tsimoyianis '09 approached Thompson and other university officials, asking UVM to stop buying toilet paper manufactured by the large paper producer, Kimberly-Clark. Tsimoyianis had been following Greenpeace protests against Kimberly-Clark based on allegations that the company harvested wood from old-growth forests and practiced poor forest stewardship in Canada's boreal forests.

Kimberly-Clark denies this claim, Thompson says, and their website states "we will not knowingly use fiber from forest areas requiring protection." But their products are not approved by Green Seal or EcoLogo, another major green certification organization—and "the UVM Office of Sustainability found that Kimberly-Clark did not fit

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UVM's environmental standards," Thompson notes.

When Tsimoyianis returned to campus in 2007 after a semester working with Greenpeace, he formed a group called Forest Crimes Unit to draw attention to the claims against Kimberly-Clark and to UVM's use of their toilet paper.

"When we first started this, people were laughing — 'aren't there better things people could do?'" Tsimoyanias says, "but this touches all of us. We all go to the bathroom everyday. A positive change like this will go on and on for years, once we make the switch."

What began as a student protest — including public displays of toilet sitting on university walkways — developed into a collaborative research project.

During the spring of 2008, the students in the group worked with Custodial Services and with the Office of Sustainability to look into alternative suppliers of toilet paper including Cascades and several other brands. They researched manufacturing practices, cost, service delivery, recycled content, and total waste. They tested different brands across campus and collected information from staff and students.

"This issue was brought to my attention by Basil," says Leslye Kornegay, director of custodial services. "It's been a good opportunity for us, since our contract was about to end, to look closely at other vendors based on third-party certification, recycled content, and cost."

Cascades paper came out on top — and White River Paper Products had the most competitive, attractive bid.

"We have a paradigm shift here, where the students are really our partners," says Kornegay. "These students had legitimate concerns and we take that into account in our business decisions."

For more information contact Gioia Thompson, Director, UVM Office of Sustainability, 656-3803, gioia.thompson@uvm.edu.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

2006 Commencement Speaker Esteva on Campus Again

By The View Staff

Article published September 16, 2008

Author, grassroots intellectual, Mexican human rights leader and 2006 UVM commencement speaker Gustavo Esteva will return to campus to deliver a free, public presentation, "Beyond Development and Globalization: The New Unrest," on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 5 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

The prominent Mexican writer and activist began his career working for large corporations and served as economic development advisor to the president of Mexico, playing a key role in shaping the country's agricultural and rural development policies. He now lectures worldwide, writing regularly for popular and academic audiences, adding to an oeuvre that comprises more than 12 books and hundreds of articles in fields including development studies, economics, anthropology, philosophy and education. A strong voice for indigenous people, campesinos, and urban migrants, Esteva challenges the validity of social systems that subordinate traditional community values and institutions to the priorities of the global marketplace.

In addition to delivering the 2006 address to UVM graduates and receiving an honorary degree from the university at that ceremony, Esteva has long had ties to UVM — teaching students, collaborating with faculty, and inspiring UVM's international education program in Oaxaca, Mexico where he lives.

Prior to the 2006 commencement ceremony, the view published [this story](#) about why Esteva's would be a speech worth hearing. Revisit the article now for compelling reasons to take this second opportunity to hear Esteva speak.

[Read Esteva's 2006 commencement address.](#)

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Visiting Holocaust Scholar, Anne Frank Expert to Lecture

By The View Staff

Article published September 16, 2008

David Barnouw, visiting professor from the War Documentation Center in Amsterdam, will speak on "The Netherlands and the German Occupation: Myth and Reality" on Thursday, Sept. 25 at 3:30 p.m. in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill.

The leading authority on Anne Frank, Barnouw co-edited *The Diary of Anne Frank, the Critical Edition* published in the United States in 1989 by Doubleday. The book, which sold 95,000 copies worldwide, addressed attacks on the diary's authenticity. Barnouw has served as advisor to a number of creative projects on Frank, including the 1996 Oscar-winning documentary *Anne Frank Remembered* and the ABC mini-series *Anne Frank* in May 2001.

Barnouw's talk is sponsored by the Center for Holocaust Studies.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Grasso, Panelists to Discuss Green Initiatives for Vermont

By Amanda Waite

Article published September 17, 2008

On Tuesday, Sept. 23 a panel of experts representing government, advocacy, industry, education and research, — including Domenico Grasso, dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences — will discuss "Green Initiatives for Vermont." Hosted by the Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering, the event will take place at 5 p.m. in the Medical Education Center Pavillion's Davis Auditorium.

At a time when Vermont and the nation are looking for new green initiatives to benefit the environment and the economy, this event seeks to engage the panel and the audience in a discussion about the way forward for this state.

Other panelists include David Blittersdorf, president of Earth Turbines and chair of Renewable Energy Vermont; Jito Coleman, president of Distributed Energy Systems; Judy Allard, high school science teacher; and Richard Valentinetti, director of the Air Pollution Control Division of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. Vermont Public Radio's Fran Stoddard will moderate.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Cultural Studies Scholar to Deliver Burack Lecture on the Culture of Globalization

By View Staff

Article published September 17, 2008

John Storey, professor of cultural studies and director of the Centre for Research in Media and Cultural Studies at the University of Sunderland (UK), will deliver a Burack President's Distinguished Lecture on "The Culture of Globalization" on Monday, Sept. 22 at 4:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building.

Storey, one of world's leading figures in the field of cultural studies, has published 10 books and dozens of articles including groundbreaking work in the study of popular culture, culture and the media, and the effects of globalization processes within the cultural sphere.

A reception will immediately follow the lecture, sponsored by the Area & International and Global Studies Program, European Studies Program, Department of German and Russian and the Humanities Center. The Department of Romance Languages and Global Studies will serve as hosts.

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September 17, 2008

Awards and Honors

The department of medical laboratory and radiation sciences was one of seven university- and college-based programs to receive new state-of-the-art equipment through the Abbott Labs Are Vital® Equipment Donation Program. Recipients were selected from 225 grant applicants from 29 states across the United States. **Christine Griffin**, lecturer of medical laboratory and radiation sciences, submitted the grant application, which resulted in a donation of a HEMO Analyzer CD1800 valued at \$38,000 with three years of full service and supplies. Recipients were announced July 30 at the American Association of Clinical Chemistry Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Ödul "Laurie" Amburgey, a maternal-fetal medicine fellow in the department of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences, was selected as one of four recipients of a 2008 Vision Grant from the Preeclampsia Foundation for her study of brain vessel function in preeclamptic women. Preeclampsia, a condition characterized by high blood pressure, protein in the urine, as well as swelling in the hands and face during the second half of pregnancy, is responsible for at least 76,000 maternal deaths each year. Amburgey's research seeks to determine if some women have certain blood factors that make them more susceptible to brain swelling.

Bradley Palmer, research assistant professor of molecular physiology and biophysics, received a five-year, \$1.25 million grant from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute to support his research on the role of zinc in the relaxation processes of individual heart muscle cells known as cardiomyocytes. An essential mineral found in almost every cell of the human body, zinc stimulates the activity of dozens of enzymes responsible for critical chemical reactions. Palmer's research will specifically address the role of protein-bound zinc and free zinc ion in the heart's relaxation process. Relaxation plays a significant part in heart function, because it permits the chambers to fill with blood before the next contraction.

Judith Van Houten, Ph.D., Perkins Professor of Biology, Director of the VT EPSCoR, Vermont Genetics Network and HELIX Programs will be inducted into the Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering

(VASE) on September 23, 2008 at the Davis Auditorium. The general program begins at 5:00 p.m. in a "Public Discussion" format moderated by Fran Stoddard of Vermont Public Television on "Green Initiatives for Vermont."

September 10, 2008

Publications and Presentations

Kevin McKenna, professor of Russian, published "Didactics and the Proverb: The Case of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's Literary Memoir, *The Oak and the Calf*." McKenna examines how Solzhenitsyn uses proverbs to illustrate and underscore the message of his five-hundred page memoir about his experiences as a writer in the Soviet Union during the tumultuous period from 1962 to 1974.

David Jones, assistant professor of business administration, and his coauthors, Drs. Neil Fassina and Krista Uggerslev (Asper School of Business, University of Manitoba) had an article published in the most recent issue of the *Journal of Organizational Behavior*. Their meta-analytic findings challenged accepted wisdom on the structure of cooperative work behaviors, and showed that employees tend to target the performance or withdrawal of these behaviors towards the sources of perceived fair and unfair treatment. They also showed that these cooperative behaviors are simultaneously influenced by gestalt perceptions of fairness based on treatment from both immediate supervisors and the larger organization. Also this September, David and his co-author, Dr. Martin Martens (John Molson School of Business, Concordia), presented a paper at the annual meeting of the British Academy of Management in Harrogate, England, titled "Justice, overall fairness, and employee attitudes: Using qualitative data to understand how context affects quantitative findings."

Wolfgang Mieder, professor of German and Russian, who stepped down as chairperson after 31 years, is the editor of the English translation of Lutz Röhrich's seminal work on fairytales titled, "And They Are Still Living Happily Ever After: Anthropology, Cultural History, and Interpretation of Fairy Tales." Mieder also edited the 25th volume of "Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship." The volume contains Mieder's article "Let Us Have Faith that 'Right Makes Might': Proverbial Rhetoric in Decisive Moments of American Politics," an examination of proverbs in American political discourse. He traces the use of proverbs in the political speeches of American presidents from Abraham Lincoln to George W. Bush as well as in those of political activists like Frederic Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Martin Luther King Jr. In addition, Mieder is the author of "Don't Swap Horses in the Middle of the Stream: An Intercultural and Historical Study of Abraham Lincoln's Apocryphal Proverb," which traces the origin of the