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## Art, Memory and Genocide



Cups of Memory: Aida Sehovic, an artist and member of UVM's staff, drew on the resonance of coffee in Bosnian culture to create an art installation commemorating a national tragedy. (Photo: Sally McCay)

There's significantly more than coffee, sometimes, in a cup of coffee. Particularly in Bosnian culture, notes Aida Sehovic, where preparing and drinking a cup has more in common with the Japanese tea ceremony than the American Starbucks stop. This summer, Sehovic, an artist, member of the registrar's office staff and 2002 UVM alumna, used the traditional Bosnian ritual of gathering for coffee as the central vehicle for a Sarajevo art installation focused upon her homeland's tragic recent history.

[FULL STORY](#) ▶

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## Collegiate Exposure

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## THE WEEK IN VIEW

**Sept. 29, 6 p.m.**  
**Event:** "An Empire of Liberty? America's Role in the World," with Fareed Zakaria, editor of Newsweek International. Ira Allen Chapel.  
**Information:** 656-2085 [Aiken](#)

**Sept. 30, 5 p.m.**  
**Reception:** "Special Preview for the Academic Community: An Eye Toward Nature" hosted by provost John Bramley and the Fleming Museum Board of Advisors. Fleming Museum.  
**Information:** [Fleming Museum](#) or 656-0750

**Oct. 1, 3:45 p.m.**  
**Lecture:** "Reinventing Eden: Women, Nature and Narrative" with Carolyn Merchant of the University of California at Berkley. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill.

**Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Concert:** UVM Lane Series presents the Shanghai String Quartet. UVM Recital Hall. **Information:** [Lane Series](#)

**Oct. 1, 10:30 p.m.**  
**Men's Hockey:** "Midnight Madness Celebration," local band "The Flo" will celebrate the team's first practice of the season. They take the ice at 12:01 a.m., Oct. 2. Gutterson Fieldhouse.

**Oct. 5, 4 p.m.**  
**Lecture:** "Health Care Reform: A Medical Emergency" with Dr. David Himmelstein of Harvard Medical

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Congress Allocates \$1.6 Million for Northern Forest Research

The Northeastern States Research Cooperative, a program jointly directed by the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources and the Hubbard Brook Project of the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station, announced over \$1.6 million in research grants for studies of the Northern Forest and its communities. The grants were made possible through the continuing efforts of U.S. Senators Patrick Leahy and Judd Gregg to make Northern Forest research programs a priority.

A total of 21 proposals were funded by the NSRC this year, with final grant awards ranging between \$30,000 and \$155,000. Funded research include a study of business and employment stability in logging communities; studies of forest ecosystem health; new strategies for effective public debate and discourse about Northern Forest land use; branding and marketing research into the value-added potential of certified forest products; research into national forest appeals and litigation issues; recreation and tourism issues in the Northern Forest; forest management demonstration programs; forest pest issues; wildlife management; and the effects of climate change on northeastern forests.

"In this fourth year of the NSRC grant competition, we received a record number of highly competitive proposals requesting over \$12 million in funding for projects meant to directly benefit on-the-ground issues of Northern Forest lands and communities," said Rubenstein Dean Don DeHayes. "As the program continues to grow, with sister programs emerging in New York and Maine, we believe NSRC will continue to develop and reach out to all Northern Forest interests to promote relevant and useful research."

The 26 million-acre Northern Forest region is home to one million residents and stretches from eastern Maine through New Hampshire, Vermont, and northern New York State. A working landscape with timber and forest products investments, unique recreation opportunities, vast watersheds, and a diversity of wildlife, the Northern Forest has long been a priority for sustainable economic development and conservation by its local, state, and federal leaders. Congress created the NSRC in 1998 following the 1994 recommendations of a four-state "Northern Forest Lands Council" that had dedicated more than a decade of work towards Northern Forest issues.

"The Northern Forest is home to diverse wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities and is the heart of many rural economies," said Leahy, a

### Fogel Talks College at Colchester High

A grin spread across Dan Fogel's face. Yet another question was coming the UVM president's way. He extricated himself from the confining table he was stationed behind, strode to the front of the room, and launched into an animated explanation of what a good investment even UVM's sticker price is (70 percent of Vermont students receive a discount, he hastened to add), given that college degree holders, on average, earn a million dollars more over a lifetime than counterparts who don't earn a four-year degree.

The 250 or so seniors in the Colchester High School auditorium on Sept. 28 ate it up. The first 15 rows were rapt – or relatively so, for a gaggle of hormone-suffused teens. Even the backward baseball-hat crowd in the last two rows was reasonably attentive, with only a few students whispering to their neighbors.

Fogel, a Colchester resident, was sharing the limelight with Vermont state senator Dick Mazza at a special assembly on the topic of higher education the high school's student government had arranged with UVM's Office of Federal and State Relations.

Students leaders went to the mat to make the event successful, soliciting 52 questions in 12 categories from juniors and seniors at the school.

Mazza chimed in regularly with useful information, but the spotlight was on Fogel, who clearly relished the opportunity to speak directly to a roomful of prospects. The UVM president was characteristically charismatic – on subjects ranging from how things have changed since he was in college (fatter textbooks, transformative technology, no Vietnam-induced desperation) to what an "odd duck" of a public university UVM is (near the top nationally in both tuition and financial-aid-per-student).

Before heading to physics class, senior Lindsey McGarry said she thought the event was "very informative" and helped students understand what a university was like, "especially UVM."

"I don't think it could have gone better," said Marissa Cormier, a junior student government representative who played a major role in organizing the event.

### Two Professors Win Fulbrights

Two UVM professors have earned Fulbright Scholar Awards for 2004-05. Tony Keller and Stanley Witkin will be among nearly 800 U.S.

senior member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior. "These grants help Vermonters and our partners from across the Northern Forest address the many issues facing the region, including forest health and economic development. This four-state program helps the people who live and work in the Northern Forest share key research and develop new partnerships to enhance our region."

"Scientists at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in New Hampshire have been studying ecosystems for more than four decades," said Gregg, also a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior. "There is nothing more important to environmental protection than thorough scientific knowledge of how ecosystems function combined with long-term, sustained ecological monitoring. The NSRC partnership expands our base of knowledge at a critical time. I'm proud of what NSRC has achieved in the past and I know that the region will rely even more on NSRC research in coming years."

Information: [Northern States Research Cooperative](#)

faculty and professionals to travel to some 140 countries to continue their research.

Keller, a professor of mechanical engineering, will work on "modeling and simulation of lumbar spine dynamics" at Cairo University from February-April.

Witkin has been in Rovaniemi, Finland since August lecturing on "new directions in social work education" at the University of Lapland. He will return to his position as professor and coordinator of UVM's department of social work in December.

Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the international educational exchange is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Recipients are selected for their academic or professional achievement and leadership potential.

theview

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

pho 802.656.2005  
fax 802.656.3203

[theview@uvm.edu](mailto:theview@uvm.edu)

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## EVENTS

**Princeton Philosopher Peter Singer to Discuss Ethics**

Peter Singer, whose controversial philosophical work provides some of the intellectual underpinnings of the modern animal rights movement, will discuss "Ethics and the Sanctity of Human Life," on Oct. 7 at 5 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel.

A [profile](#) in *The New Yorker* says Singer "may be the most controversial philosopher alive; he is certainly among the most influential." Singer is Ira W. Decamp Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University's Center for Human Values. He is also the author of *Animal Liberation*, which is widely credited with triggering the modern animal-rights movement and *Rethinking Life and Death*, which received the 1995 National Book Council's Banjo Award for nonfiction. His latest book is, *The President of Good and Evil: The Ethics of George W. Bush*.

Singer's remarks at UVM will focus on the ideas in his book, *Writings on an Ethical Life*. Among the subjects he is expected to address are the moral status of animals, environmental accountability, abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and the ultimate choice of living an ethical life.

Singer is also the author of the major article on ethics in the current edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, and co-editor of the journal *Bioethics*. His free, public lecture is presented by the John Dewey Honors Program's Zeltzman Visiting Lecture Series in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Information: 656-4464

**October is Deaf and Disability Awareness Month**

Now in its eighth year at UVM, Deaf and Disability Awareness month offers workshops, speakers and activities aimed at heightening awareness and increasing knowledge of deafness and disabilities on

**National Institute of Mental Health Chief to Speak Oct. 4**

Dr. Thomas Insel, director of the National Institute of Mental Health, will present a lecture titled "From Science to Service: Mental Health Research Following the Decade of the Brain."

The event, which is part of the Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series in Medical Sciences at the College of Medicine, will be held Oct. 4 at 4 p.m. in Carpenter Auditorium in the Given Building on the UVM campus. A reception will follow in the Health Science Research Facility Gallery. Insel's talk will be presented in collaboration with the Vermont Association for Mental Health.

Appointed director of the NIMH in 2002, Insel is best known for his scientific research on the neurobiology of complex social behaviors in animals and the role of oxytocin in social attachment and behavior. Previously, Insel served as professor of psychiatry at the Emory University School of Medicine and director of the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center, where he built one of the nation's leading HIV vaccine research programs. He also served for 15 years in various scientific research positions at the NIMH. In the 1990s, Insel's work placed him on the list of the 200 most frequently cited neuroscientists by Thomson ISI Essential Science Indicators.

The Distinguished Lecture Series in Medical Sciences brings internationally recognized scholars in the biomedical sciences to the college in a forum where students, faculty and members of the community can learn from and interact with world-renowned physicians, scientists and teachers.

**Environmental Historian Carolyn Merchant to Lecture on the Fall of Eden**  
Environmental historian Carolyn Merchant will offer her analysis of the fall of the Garden of Eden



campus and in the broader Burlington community. Events are free and open to the public and include:

- Oct. 4, noon, Kick-off Rally, Steps of Bailey/Howe Library. Students, faculty, staff and community members with differing abilities join together to celebrate, speak out and enjoy free hot dogs and veggie dogs.
- Oct. 7, 3:30 p.m., Memorial Lounge, Waterman, "When Billy Broke His Head." An entertaining, irreverent 90-minute road movie about journalist Billy Golfus, who struggles to make a new life for himself in the face of discrimination after he receives a head injury in a traffic accident.
- Oct. 7, 7 p.m., Rowell 103, NAMI Voices. Students and faculty discuss successfully dealing with problems such as depression, eating disorders, anxiety and OCD. Presented by the UVM chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness.
- Oct. 12, 2 p.m., Patrick Gymnasium tennis courts. Interactive AXIS Workshop. Come see what integrated dance is all about, develop new skills and think about dance in a whole new way. This mood-enhancing, creative dance workshop focuses on basics and partnering work and is open to UVM affiliates with and without physical disabilities and at all levels of dance experience. Registration: [access@uvm.edu](mailto:access@uvm.edu)
- Oct. 14, 5 p.m., 304 Pomeroy Hall, Autism: Defining the Issues. Patricia Prelock, professor of Communication Sciences, and psychologist Jim Calhoun will discuss the early indicators of Autism Spectrum Disorder and issues surrounding screening and diagnosis. Registration: [Margaret.Caldwell@uvm.edu](mailto:Margaret.Caldwell@uvm.edu)
- Oct. 15, 8 p.m. Flynn Center. AXIS Dance Company creates groundbreaking work by dancers with and without disabilities. Performances will be ASL interpreted and audio described. University affiliates can use their UVM ID to get half-price tickets at the Flynn box office. Co-sponsored by the Office of Vice Provost for Multicultural Affairs through the UVM President's Initiative for Diversity. Information: [www.flyncenter.org/show\\_pages/FLN5A.html](http://www.flyncenter.org/show_pages/FLN5A.html)
- Oct. 20, 9 a.m.–noon, National Disability Mentoring Day Career Fair, Memorial Lounge, Waterman. Designed to bring students and job seekers with disabilities into the workplace to experience firsthand the experiences necessary to compete in today's economy. Information: Bryan Dague, 656-1345
- Oct. 22, 4 p.m., Disability rights storyteller Norman Kunc and Center on Disability & Community Inclusion Open House, Mann Hall, Trinity Campus. The Center on Disability &

in a President's Distinguished Lecture on "Reinventing Eden: Women, Nature and Narrative" to be held Oct. 1 at 3:45 p.m. in Lafayette Building, Room 207. A reception will follow in John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill Building.

"The mainstream or 'progressive' narrative [of Western culture] is of a precipitous fall from Eden at the time of the Bible and then a long, slow recovery, up to today," Merchant explained in an interview with *California Monthly*, the alumni magazine for the University of California, Berkeley. "The dissident or declensionist narrative, which is told by environmentalists and women and minorities, is that there was an Eden in the past--in the Pleistocene--where everything was wonderful: plants and animals had evolved but had not yet been despoiled by human intervention; since then, there's been a long, slow decline until we begin to get the beginnings of conservation--and now we need a rapid recovery to save humanity and the planet in the 21st century."

While Merchant recognizes the role both theories have played in shaping history, she believes that a new narrative is needed, one in which humans do not control nature. She therefore proposes a partnership ethic, where humans and nature interact equally, and where humans interact with one another equally without the divisions of gender and race.

A chancellor's professor of environmental history, philosophy and ethics at UC Berkeley, Merchant studies American environmental and cultural history in the context of Western history, philosophy and science. Her work considers the role of consciousness and symbols in nature and how gender shapes environmental consciousness and ecological change.

Merchant is the author of several books including, *Reinventing Eden: The Fate of Nature in Western Culture* and *The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology, and the Scientific Revolution*, which presents 16th century Western Enlightenment science as a quest for control over nature. She is also editor of *Major Problems in American Environmental History*, *Key Concepts in Critical Theory: Ecology* and *Green Versus Gold: Sources in California's Environmental History*.

The President's Distinguished Lecture Series was established by President Daniel Mark Fogel in October 2002. Funded by discretionary gift funds,

Community Inclusion is celebrating 30 years of service in Vermont. The anniversary celebration features an open house at the center's new offices, along with presentations and seminars throughout the day, including Kunc's talk. Information: [www.uvm.edu/~cdci](http://www.uvm.edu/~cdci)

Deaf and Disability Month is sponsored by the UVM office of Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity, ACCESS, Center for Cultural Pluralism, Center on Disability & Community Inclusion and several additional departments and programs. For a complete schedule of events go to [Deaf and Disability Awareness Month](#).

the series brings top researchers to campus to enhance the academic experience, showcase faculty, students and programs, and bring the campus community together regularly.

Information: 656-2087 or [Glen.Elder@uvm.edu](mailto:Glen.Elder@uvm.edu)

### **Indian Dance Events Set for Sept. 30, Oct. 1**

Dance Ballet of India presents "Gajamukha" on Oct. 1 at 8 p.m. at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts.

This stirring Indian story ballet recounts from ancient texts the myth of the elephant-faced Hindu deity, Gajamukha. Choreographer Jayanthi Raman and her 12-member troupe combine three of the great dance styles of southern India – the graceful *bharatha natyam*, the flamboyant *kuchipudi*, and the lyrical *mohini attam* – with an original score in Sanskrit and Tamil; chant from ancient scriptures; and perform live music in the classical Indian tradition.

Faculty, staff and students can use UVM identification at the Flynn box office for half-priced tickets on the two highest-priced categories of seats. The event is co-sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Multicultural Affairs and the President's Initiatives for Diversity. Prior to the performance, on Sept. 30, Friends of Indian Music and Dance will host an Indian dance and music lecture and demonstration free of charge in the Flynn's Amy E. Tarrant Gallery at 7 p.m.

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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](mailto:theview@uvm.edu)

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## NOTABLES

*September 29, 2004*

### Awards and Honors

**Gayle Belin**, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Communication Science, was recently elected to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Legislative Council. She will represent the Vermont as a legislative councilor from 2005-2007.

### Publications and Presentations

**Alice Fothergill**, assistant professor of sociologist, recently published *Heads Above Water: Gender, Class, and Family in the Grand Forks Flood* with the State University of New York Press.

Graduate student **Brynne Lazarus** and her Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources professors and fellow researchers **Paul Schaberg**, **Don DeHayes** and **Gary Hawley** published "Severe Red Spruce Winter Injury in 2003 Creates Unusual Ecological Event in Northeastern United States." The *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* put this study on its "fast track," publishing it just four months after it was submitted, an indicator of the topic's importance. Schaberg and Hawley also gave two oral presentations and a poster session at the August Ecological Society of America meeting in Portland, Ore.

**Allan Strong**, a Rubenstein assistant professor, presented work on "Land Use Patterns as an Ecological Trap for Bobolinks in the Champlain Valley" recently at a joint meeting of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists and American Ornithologists' Union. Strong and colleagues also published work on Bicknell's thrush in the spring issue of the quarterly journal *The Auk*.

### Academic Activities

The **Latin American Studies Program** recently hosted 12 Latin American political dignitaries who visited Vermont to learn about civil society and its relationship with government. The group also wanted to learn more about UVM's program and to discuss Vermont politics and U.S. culture. The visit was somewhat of a surprise. "The Vermont Council on World Affairs, which was helping the U.S. State Department organize the trip, contacted us last minute and asked if we could host the delegation," says Luis Vivanco, the program's director and a assistant professor of anthropology. Delegation members are high-ranking political leaders and representatives of nongovernmental political organizations in El Salvador, Peru, Costa Rica, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Honduras and Panama. "We had an extremely productive discussion that ended with promises of possible collaborations between some of these institutions and UVM," Vivanco reports.

*September 21, 2004*

### Awards and Honors

**Lori Stevens**, professor of biology, and **Daniel Bentil**, associate professor of mathematics and statistics Daniel Bentil will share a five-year, \$760,000 National Science Foundation grant to design mathematics courses for life science majors and to interface applied mathematics and biomedical science.

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## Art, Memory and Genocide

### UVM staffer, alumna and artist's Sarajevo installation honors the victims of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre

By Tom Weaver

Article published Sep 28, 2004



Cups of Memory: Aida Sehovic, an artist and member of UVM's staff, drew on the resonance of coffee in Bosnian culture to create an art installation commemorating a national tragedy. (Photo: Sally McCay)

There's significantly more than coffee, sometimes, in a cup of coffee. Particularly in Bosnian culture, notes Aida Sehovic, where preparing and drinking a cup has more in common with the Japanese tea ceremony than the American Starbucks stop. This summer, Sehovic, an artist, member of the registrar's office staff and 2002 UVM alumna, used the traditional Bosnian ritual of gathering for coffee as the central vehicle for a Sarajevo art installation

focused upon her homeland's tragic recent history.

Sehovic had started exploring coffee as a medium during a post-UVM year working on her master's degree at the School of Visual Arts in New York. "As a refugee, it becomes even more important," she says of coffee's place in the Bosnian social fabric. "In most other ways, whether you want to or not, you adjust to the American lifestyle. This is a part of our identity we can keep."

A July 2003 trip back to Bosnia, her family's first return, coincided with the anniversary of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, in which some seven to ten thousand Bosnians were killed. Emotions were particularly high during the July 11-15 anniversary because bodies of the first victims recovered and identified from mass graves were then being ceremonially buried. The experience of returning to Bosnia at such a charged moment turned in Sehovic's imagination and a vision for a future work began to emerge.

#### Our consciousness

Between research, interviews, and developing the concept of her work, Sehovic's "Sto te nema?" ("Why are you not here?") was nearly a year in the making, but would be one day in the final production. She made logistical preparations in Bosnia during a six-week leave from her staff job, then on the morning of July 11, 2004, Sehovic set to work on her installation in the square in front of a Sarajevo mosque. A bed of soil, 30 meters across, depicted a map of Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the eastern edge in the area of Srebrenica, 989 cups were set out for each of the residents whose bodies had been identified and re-buried to date. Most were filled with coffee, brewed on-site. Forty-four cups held only sugar cubes representing those under age 18, too young for the ritual, who had died; a single rose represented the one female victim. In a burlap sack at the side, an additional 338 empty cups stood for the individuals to be buried that day in Srebrenica. Three tape recorders embedded in the soil ran tape loops of Sehovic reciting the names and birthdates of the dead.

For the artist, collecting the cups (*fieldzans* in Bosnian) was an important part of both the process and final product. Many came from Bosnian families in the

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#### Collegiate Exposure

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Burlington area, where Sehovic, her parents and three sisters immigrated in 1997 following previous stays in Turkey and Germany. Many came from residents of Srebrenica and neighboring areas, some who lost family in the massacre. One woman gave her a cup that had been in her family for 40 years. Considering the participation of so many in the work, Sehovic says, "It is not my project, but our project, our consciousness."

Sehovic says her ultimate goal was to create "an experience that is moving and powerful." Her snapshots of the day include photos such as the one of a woman with a child by her side, kneeling to hear the recitation of names, tears in her eyes; a journal of visitors' reactions includes comments in 13 languages. Sehovic estimates approximately 2,000 saw the exhibit, and many more learned about it through extensive media coverage in Bosnia. "It was a very overwhelming experience," Sehovic says. "It was good for me, as an artist, because I could see that it actually worked. But it is a very sad project."

### **Bridge of understanding**

Professor Kathleen Schneider's 3D design class was a pivotal moment for Sehovic as an undergraduate, expanding her view of what art could be and leading her to major in studio art. The professor remembers Sehovic as "a risk taker, so willing to experiment." A research project in Schneider's class introduced Sehovic to Colombian sculptor Doris Salcedo, whose work focusing on the tragedy of the thousands "disappeared" in her country resonated with the young Bosnian artist. Sehovic began to explore similar themes with Schneider's guidance during her undergraduate years, including her John Dewey Honors Program senior project, an installation titled "Tree of Life."

Sehovic is hoping to extend the reach of "Sto te Nema?" with subsequent July 11 installations, the number of coffee-filled cups growing as more bodies are discovered, identified, and laid to rest. She's also working on final edits of a video shot by Gates Gooding, a UVM senior. With assistance from URECA! (a UVM undergraduate research grant program), Gooding traveled to Bosnia to film and assist in Sehovic's work and create his own film about Bosnian youth.

Sehovic envisions creating two final versions of the "Sto te Nema?" video – one for Bosnian viewers and one for Americans – and is hoping to screen them at UVM later this year. "A project like this is a way of healing for Bosnians, coming to terms with this terrible thing that happened to us," Sehovic says. "And for Americans it is building a bridge of understanding where Bosnian people are coming from, because it is very hard to talk about these things."

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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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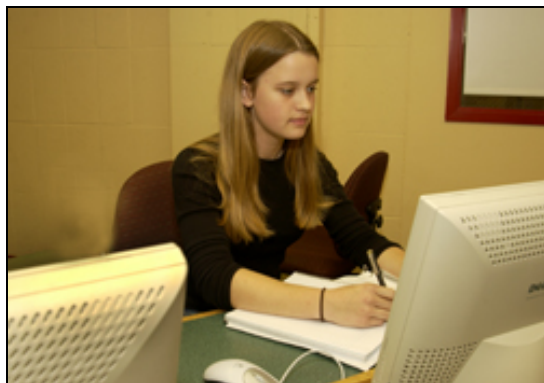
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UVM HOMEPAGE

## Program Offers College to High Schoolers

By Jon Reidel

Article published Sep 29, 2004



Callison Lawson, a 16-year-old home schooled student from Jeffersonville, is one of a dozen high school students taking UVM courses through a new program. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

It's difficult to tell 16-year-old high school Callison Lawson apart from the college-age counterparts scattered around her during a calculus I course in Votey Hall. Home-schooled for her entire previous academic career, Lawson's transition to part-time UVM student has been smooth. She's thriving socially and producing quality academic work, according to Senior Lecturer Helen Read.

Lawson, who drives from Jeffersonville to

Burlington three days a week to take courses in French, political science and calculus, is one of 12 high school students taking 17 courses at the university this fall through a new program for academically talented high school students. "I had reached the end in a lot of my (home school) courses, so being able to take these classes has helped me in a lot of ways," she says. "They don't try to coddle me or nurse me along."

Most of the students taking advantage of the new program exhausted the available resources at their area high schools, or in Lawson's case at home, and want to take their education to the next level prior to entering college as a first-year student. A group of university professors saw this need and wrote a proposal that was passed in the form of a resolution by the Faculty Senate on Nov. 11, 2002.

What has made the program so attractive to high school students is its wide range of offerings and reduced price tag. The resolution, written by David Dummit, a professor of mathematics who is now associate vice president of research and graduate education, opens all UVM courses to high schoolers, assuming they have taken the necessary academic prerequisites, for tuition of half the regular in-state rate.

"We're just really pleased that we're able to have this opportunity not only at CVU, but across the county," says Val Gardner, principal of Champlain Valley Union High School in Hinesburg. "It provides us with ways to extend the curriculum for kids that we cannot do within our context. The opportunity for students to get it at a reduced cost certainly helps the families, the students and I hope is a benefit to UVM."

### Top students preview university

The program launched this summer with seven students taking courses. If organizers were worried about how the younger students would mesh intellectually with their older peers, they were quickly dispelled: six of the high school students received A-grades in their UVM courses, and one earned an A-plus.

"There are a lot of bright kids in the state, and to some extent, they are

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### Cups of Sorrow

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twiddling their thumbs in high school. This gives them a chance to be challenged and to see the university from a different angle,” Dummit says.

While the discount-tuition program is more a public service, not a recruiting incentive, university officials hope that spending time on campus may inspire some of the high school students, who generally have sterling academic credentials, to eventually attend UVM.

“Marginally, it has to help to have them here,” says Senior Lecturer Jack Lawlor, who teaches a high-performing high school student in his math 121 course. “But I’m not sure it would be a determining factor in them coming here. It’s only one class and most of the kids are local so they probably already have developed an opinion of the university. I do think some of our better math majors compare favorably to our sister institutions.”

Dummitt adds the program raises awareness about the quality of programs at the university. “These are bright kids and the kind of people we’d like to get to come here. Even if they don’t, they’re going back to their high schools at the end of the day and telling other students about their experience.”

Other colleges and universities offer similar programs with inducements to get students to enroll the following academic year. Penn State, for example, gives students who eventually enroll a \$1,000 off their tuition. The Wisconsin State Legislature mandated that the entire state system adopt a similar program with attending students receiving priority registration when applying to an in-state college.

At UVM, students can enroll for courses on a space-available basis and have a lower registration priority than regular university students. They can take no more than 12 credits in a given semester (up to 30 credits overall) as a high school student. In theory, a student could enter college with a full year of college course work already finished, although it would be difficult to fit that many college courses into a high school schedule.

#### **Prepsters come from all over state**

High students don’t have to be at the top of their class to take courses at the university. Although they’re required to provide a letter of support from a teacher or counselors vouching for their ability to successfully complete the coursework, a qualification based in part on scores on national or regional exams or competitions, most students are eligible as long as they provide verification that a comparable course is unavailable at their high school.

Although math tends to be the subject most high school students max out of first, students enrolled in the program are also taking classes in foreign language, political science, physics, and English. Another concern was that most of the students would come from Chittenden County. While many of the students are from Essex and South Burlington, others are driving from Marshfield, Barre, Jeffersonville and North Troy.

“It has been a wonderful opportunity for us,” says Chris Lawson, Callison’s mother. “She gets up every morning at 7:30 and drives to Burlington. It’s a good drive, but it’s been worth it. She’s just had such a great experience.”

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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## Nature in Sight

### Exhibit weaves strands of UVM biologist Bernd Heinrich's art, work and life

By Kevin Foley

Article published Sep 29, 2004



A naturalist's history: The Fleming's Bernd Heinrich exhibition includes the biologist's picture of a wasp his father, Gerd Heinrich, discovered and named. (Detail from Heinrich's artwork courtesy of the Fleming Museum)

Bill Lipke takes seeing seriously. In conversation, the professor emeritus of art history and teacher-advisor program instructor repeatedly emphasizes the importance of looking closely at the magnificent (but easily neglected) things around us.

The idea underlies two of Lipke's most recent efforts, a Fleming Museum exhibit of drawings by Bernd Heinrich, a professor emeritus of biology, and a first-year course he

developed around the exhibit, "Ways of Seeing: Naturalist Traditions in the Visual Arts." So it's fitting that early in an interview Lipke is hunched up close to a framed matte on a gallery wall, peering at one of Heinrich's sketches, one that seems simple – until Lipke starts going. "Look at that line," he says, pointing to a confident sweep limning an elephant's back. "It's perfect, it's Matisse, or Picasso. Perfect."

The retrospective of Bernd Heinrich's detailed and lively nature drawings, which the scientist makes as part of his field observation and for his nature books, is part of a suite of four Fleming exhibitions called "An Eye Toward Nature." The academic community is invited to a preview of the show on Sept. 30 at 5 p.m.; the opening reception for museum members and the public is Oct. 2 at 5:30. See the note at the end of this story for more details on both events.

Over the past year, Lipke gathered maps, professional and biographical photographs, insect collections, field notebooks and, of course, drawings, to show the essence Heinrich's life and work. The exhibit spans a crude drawing of his home in Germany by a nine-year-old Bernd (complete with a raven, a theme in Heinrich's drawing and biological studies for decades), to the accomplished portraits of individual Canada geese the biologist created for his recent book, *The Geese of Beaver Bog*.

"The reason for doing the exhibit was in part to look closely at someone who doesn't see himself as an artist, but produces drawings that have artistic merit that goes beyond the strictly functional," Lipke says. The end product of the effort, Heinrich's first museum show, showcases a compelling and not-often-seen side of a fascinating and productive member of UVM's faculty while asking some sly questions about art and sight.

Heinrich, who is at once honored and a little bemused by the show ("The drawings look much better at the museum than they did on my desk," he says), doesn't consider himself to be an artist, but he doesn't find the sharp divisions between the careful observation of a field biologist and artistic expression that some others might.

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#### Cups of Sorrow

There's significantly more than coffee, sometimes, in a cup of coffee. Particularly in Bosnian culture, notes Aida Sehovic, where preparing and drinking a cup has more in common with the Japanese tea ceremony than the American Starbucks stop. This summer, Sehovic, an artist, member of the registrar's office staff and 2002 UVM alumna, used the traditional Bosnian ritual of gathering for coffee as the central vehicle for a Sarajevo art installation focused upon her homeland's tragic recent history.

#### Collegiate Exposure

Callison Lawson, a 16-year-old who drives from Jeffersonville to UVM three days a week to take courses in French, political science and calculus, is one of 12 high school students taking 17 courses at the university this fall through a new program for academically talented high school students.



"I don't clearly distinguish between art and science. Every scientific project I've done with animals is motivated by an aesthetic sense. I look for beauty, balance," he says

Though he only started getting serious about drawing because he wasn't entirely pleased with the way an outside illustrator approached his book, *Bumblebee Economics*, and he can go for a year or so without picking up a pencil depending on what he is working on, Heinrich says that his artwork is more than just visual punctuation for his prose, or a way of documenting his scientific observations.

The need when drawing to slow down, look closely, and portray nuance, he says, is similar to the deliberate process of deliberately observing patterns that characterizes his scientific and popular writing. "I have to basically get into the topic of a bird or animal, get into its spirit, and then I draw it when I have become quite familiar with it. By drawing an animal, I feel that I've established a relationship. I can't draw just anything," he says.

### **Natural history, personal history**

Though Heinrich's drawing are always lively, and often striking, as they reflect the diverse gifts of their creator, the pleasure of looking at them is heightened by Lipke's assemblage of personal objects from Heinrich's long career.

One display case juxtaposes Heinrich's high school observations of hatching birds with his careful tracking of performance in his cross country races. Others gather field notebooks, weird collections of bugs and natural phenomena, and information about Heinrich's father, Gerd Heinrich, a noted field naturalist who traveled to exotic places collecting specimens and sparked Heinrich's early interest in biology.

The idiosyncratic objects offer a fuller picture of Heinrich's life and work, enriching the experience of looking at the image, without overwhelming them with heavy critical talk. (Comparing an adult expert in raven biology's accomplished portraiture of the bird with his crude childhood drawing is irresistible.) In the gallery adjoining the Heinrich exhibit, Fleming curator Evelyn Hankins has gathered images of nature from professional artists like John Audubon and Albrecht Dürer.

The connections and conversations inside and between the exhibitions are, for the most part, left up to the viewer to imagine. Neither offers a huge amount of interpretation or curatorial language, lest they interfere with the images. "I just want people to look. It would be a disservice to the work to have too many labels or too much interpretation from me," Lipke says. "I want to push people to look without having a crutch. If you don't have the patience to do that – to look – it's your loss."

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## **"An Eye Toward Nature" Events**

Provost and Senior Vice President John Bramley and the Fleming Museum Board of Advisors invite the academic community to a special preview of the program, "An Eye Toward Nature: A Suite of Four Exhibitions" on Sept. 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the museum. Highlights of the evening will include a Haiku reading by Vermont poet Geof Hewitt and music by UVM students Peter Krag, David Sleininger, Timothy Rawding and John Rigone. The event is open to students, faculty and staff of local colleges with ID. The opening reception for members and the public begins Oct. 2 and features a talk, "Figure and Ground: Seeing Nature Whole," by Kevin Dann, a local historian and naturalist.

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