

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

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UVM HOMEPAGE

[The Road from Home](#)



Nancy Welch imaginatively visits a version of her downwardly mobile Ohio hometown in a new collection of short stories. (Photo: Didier Delmas)

Although Nancy Welch swore never to return to the small Ohio town she left at age 17, the associate professor of English hasn't exactly been able to keep that promise.

[FULL STORY ►](#)

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[Leading Environmentalist to Give Keynote Address at Vermont Global Symposium](#)

[Spectrum Of Events Celebrate National Coming Out Week](#)

[Prof Dives Into Disaster](#)

[New UVM Wind Tower Generates Power, Educational Opportunities](#)

[UCLA Professor to Discuss Digital Literature](#)

[Upcoming Barack Lectures Span Literature, Research](#)

[Organizers Expect Record Homecoming Attendance](#)

[Tony Gierzynski Q](#)

+A The Supreme Court's decision to hear a Vermont campaign finance case has brought the UVM political scientist's research into the land's highest court, where his analysis will play a part in a decision that could have enormous implications for the way money is raised and spent in political campaigns.

Trailer Trouble While affordable and flexible, the more than 22,000 mobile homes dotting Vermont's hills and hollows have a serious downside: They are one of the few forms of housing that inexorably decrease in value over time, with useful lives often shorter than a 30-year mortgage. Most of them eventually end up in landfills.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Oct. 5, 8 p.m.
Lecture: Lester Brown, founder and president of Earth Policy Institute, will speak at the Vermont Global Symposium. Ross Sports Center, Saint Michael's College. Free tickets are available at the UVM Bookstore. Information: 656-2918 or [Gund](#)

Oct. 6, 4 p.m. Talk: "Narrating Bits," with N. Katherine Hayles, Hillis professor of literature at UCLA. Grace Coolidge Room, Waterman Building.

Oct. 6, 7 p.m.
Speaker: "Patriotic Stewardship: The Pursuit of Opportunity and Happiness," with Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. Ira Allen Chapel. Tickets required, \$5 students, \$20 others.

Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m.
UVM Theatre: "Beyond Therapy," by Christopher Durang. Royall Tyler Theatre. Information: [UVM Theatre](#)

Oct. 8, 9:30 a.m.
George V. Kidder Homecoming Lecture: "The Poems of Our Climate," with Stanley "Huck" Gutman, professor of English. Campus Center Theater, Billings. Information: [Homecoming & Parents' Weekend](#)

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UVM HOMEPAGE

The Road from Home

By Amanda Waite

Article published Oct 05, 2005



Nancy Welch imaginatively visits a version of her downwardly mobile Ohio hometown in a new collection of short stories. (Photo: Didier Delmas)

Although Nancy Welch swore never to return to the small Ohio town she left at age 17, the associate professor of English hasn't exactly been able to keep that promise.

While Welch hasn't set foot in the town since high school — or rather, vocational school, since this expert in rhetoric and composition wasn't considered "good enough" to stay at the high school — she has returned again and again in her writing,

drawing from both her memory and imagination of the Rust Belt town and the friends she left there in the twelve short stories collected in her first book of fiction, *The Road from Prosperity* (Southern Methodist University Press).

With a penchant for teenage, female narrators in particular — characters inspired by the friends she left behind — Welch catalogues in 12 short stories the disillusionment felt across middle-America during post-1970s layoffs and shutdowns that left families grasping for a sense of stability.

There's Cassie in "Running to Ethiopia," growing up next to a women's prison, serving as her mother's confidante while her father focuses on trouble at work; Noreen in "Thanatology," who knows her mother's married boyfriend will leave before her mother does; and Portia in the title story, fleeing her father's steady slide into depression, a classmate's suicide and the drudgery of her vocationally tracked high school education in Prosperity, Ohio. Portia realizes that what her father used to tell her — "All roads lead to Prosperity" — was far from the truth. "A few roads lead away from Prosperity; most don't even come close."

Although middle class downward mobility permeates the book, Welch, who wrote the stories over the last ten years and without the intent to publish them as a collection, didn't always see the thread that links them. "It really wasn't until I got the reader reports — and I was really worried that it wouldn't work as a collection and that people would say there's no theme that unifies it, or something like that — so when I got the reader reports I'm like, 'Wow! There *is* a theme,' and 'Oh! I *am* making an argument here!'"

That moment, says Welch, drove home a lesson she teaches to her own students, namely, that writing is a process of discovery.

No contest

Welch is no stranger to the world of publishing. As author of numerous articles in scholarly journals, a book on revision and the writing process, and co-editor of a book on composition studies, she feels confident in her ability to place her academic work. Publishing her collection of shorts was, well, a different story altogether.

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[Tony Gierzynski Q+A](#)

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At first, Welch entered her work in contests — the main method of achieving publication for story collections. Although she was a finalist for the Mary McCarthy award, not being number one, she explains, means you don't get published. Next, she compiled a list of small presses and university presses that still offer a series of short fiction, narrowing down the list to three. After two rejections and no response from the third publisher, she forgot about the collection for a year. Then Southern Methodist University Press called her, apologized for the delay and told her they were sending the collection out to reviewers. Six weeks later, she was offered a contract.

Despite the obstacles to publishing short stories, Welch prizes their economy and power, and expects to resume writing them after finishing an academic project. Even though the story form strikes the progressive professor as kind of old-fashioned — “You don't see a lot of people sitting around reading and talking about short stories these days,” she explains — she likes reading and writing them better than novels.

“I love short stories, but at the same time they give me a feeling of dread because when you pick up a short story, you know from the first line that the ending is going to come very quickly, and it's not usually a happy ending. Something's going to happen to these lives that you're reading about, so it actually raises your blood pressure for that half hour or so that you spend with the story. It's not something you should read before bedtime.”

Family fallout

Aside from imagining the lives of left-behind friends, Welch draws heavily from her own family's experiences as inspiration for the book. Just how heavily? “My father would tell you ‘Quite a lot,’ ” she jokes.

Because so much of her family's history permeates the book — both her father and sister have suffered “layoff after layoff after layoff” — sharing the work with them wasn't easy for Welch.

“When the collection came out, it actually arrived at our house on the same day my parents were arriving for a visit from Ohio. I was at the grocery store... and my parents came early, so I walked into the house to find my father sitting in a chair reading the book, which was, like, my worst nightmare.”

Welch's fears were mostly unfounded; her father's first instinct, she says, was to fact-check the names and geography, as in, “‘Hey Mom! She's got Zachariases in here,’ or ‘Yup, yup, that's right, that's where the women's prison was.’”

Later, the book was reviewed in the *Columbus Dispatch*, the newspaper her parents read. “My mother called me up and said my father was crying — it was good review, it wasn't a bad review — but crying just because I wasn't supposed to grow up to be somebody who would write a short story collection. Sometimes he still thinks that I'm the kid who went to vocational school who was the problem child, so he was just really, really pleased.”

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UVM HOMEPAGE

INTERview: Anthony Gierzynski

By Kevin Foley

Article published Oct 05, 2005

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Anthony Gierzynski's research plays a part in a potentially important case that the Supreme Court will hear this term. (File photo: Sally McCay)

In politics, money is speech — or so the Supreme Court ruled in an almost 30-year-old case with sweeping implications for how government can regulate campaign contributions and spending. This term, the court will hear a Vermont case that directly challenges that restrictive precedent. The decision that emerges from those deliberations, says Anthony Gierzynski, associate professor of political science and author of the campaign

finance book Money Rules, could potentially have a bigger impact than the much-ballyhooed McCain-Feingold because it could dramatically open (or restrict) the ability of government to regulate campaign fundraising. Gierzynski's own research is a crucial part of the legal mix: Two extensive expert reports he prepared analyzing the effect of spending and contribution limits in Vermont and New Mexico are key part of the factual holdings that underlay the legal defense of the laws. The upcoming ruling, says The New York Times, whether technical or sweeping, "will inevitably become a highlight of the Supreme Court's new term." the view talked with Gierzynski about the issues and the feeling of watching his research play out in the highest court in the land.

THE VIEW: What was your reaction when you heard the Supreme Court had decided to hear the campaign-finance case that you provided an expert analysis for?

ANTHONY GIERZYNSKI: I was psyched; I was very happy about it. The work I did for that court case and for another case in New Mexico that was referenced in the (2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals) ruling was a chance to take what I do on the academic side and actually use it to try to have a real-world impact on government policy in something I think is incredibly important, how the rules of the game are set for campaigns and elections as far as fundraising and spending.

Set the scene: What's at stake in the Supreme Court's hearing of this case?

The general context of this all is a Supreme Court ruling back in 1976 called Buckley v. Valeo that has governed all of the campaign-finance laws that the national and state and local governments have written since then. The gist of that ruling pertinent to the Vermont case is that they equated spending money in elections as speech. And therefore, governments that wanted to regulate that spending, like regulating speech, had to pass a very high bar to show it was justified in some manner. Since that time, many campaign finance laws have been struck down based on that precedent. My understanding, via legal scholars, is that a number of justices on the Supreme Court thought that original decision was not very well written or logically argued, and there was this belief it needed to be revisited.

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So that's the whole judicial side. In the meantime, state and local governments and the national governments have been prevented from innovating and regulating campaign finance in the ways they see fit. This precedent has put a big restraint on it. In essence, it has made our campaign-finance system one that favors almost total freedom to spend and to contribute money at the expense of political equality, which is equally important. Elections don't mean anything if one candidate has a lopsided edge over the other, if there's massive inequalities between one side and the other.

Obviously no one knows how the Supreme Court is going to come down on this. But there's a lot of speculation. Do you have any feeling for what might happen?

My specialty is in elections and campaign finance, so I don't have much better speculation than any political commentator. But four justices must have believed that it needed to be reviewed, and I have read material that suggests that at least four justices believe the Buckley decision had to be revisited. Now, how it is revisited is a big question. It could be revisited and they say that contribution limits are unconstitutional in addition to spending limits, and that could make it all worse. Or they could say — and this depends how much the conservative, state's rights judges stick to their states-rights philosophy — that state and local governments should have a freer hand in setting these sorts of spending limits. In that case, it would be quite a victory, opening up a lot of experimentation.

Over the last five years, the big, dramatic money-in-politics issue has been the ramifications of McCain-Feingold. Do you think that the Supreme Court's revisiting of Buckley has the potential for a more substantive impact?

It's potentially much more significant, because if it goes in the direction of allowing spending limits, it opens a whole new box of things that governments can do in terms of regulating campaigns. If it goes in the other direction, toward less regulation of contributions, it's going to increase the amount of inequality in the political system 10 times or more. McCain-Feingold was neatly tailored to close one loophole in federal campaign finance law, this case could have much more impact because it's much broader than whether soft money is allowed in national elections.

When you did the expert reports that are included in these court filings, what questions were you trying to answer? Tell me about the process and considerations.

I converted the claims of the plaintiffs (the ACLU, other groups arguing that the New Mexico and Vermont campaign-finance regulations should be overturned) into hypotheses about the actual behavior of candidates and what went on in elections. I then tested those hypotheses against the real-world analysis of results. Plaintiffs said the spending limits were too stringent, that they would cause problems with candidates communicating with voters. A good way to look at that is to look at past patterns of campaign spending... For the most part, I found that in most cases, the candidate spending fell far below the limits, especially in legislative context. It seemed from the past pattern of what the candidates were actually doing that this would not pose problems.

Same with contribution limits. I looked at how candidates raised money, what size contributions they brought in, what it would require under the new law to raise similar amounts of money, in essence testing hypothesis that the law would place this undue burden on candidates as far as fundraising was concerned. In Albuquerque we were able to do a little more in terms of testing the claims. There was a survey of registered voters that looked into their sources of information — one problem with the attack on spending limits, they say it restricts freedom of speech, that the public won't be able to be informed about their choices. They assumed that the campaigns are the only way the public hears about the candidates' positions on issues. It was clear from the survey materials that this wasn't the case; most voters said they got their information from public forums and debates and the mass media. Then you look at voter turnout. In Albuquerque, we were able to compare voter turnout to turnout in other areas, to see if spending limits depress turnout, and we actually found Albuquerque turnout was higher than other areas. Looking at the data one by one, we found the hypotheses embedded in the plaintiff claims

weren't supported.

Since you already touched on what you feel is a strong argument in favor of campaign finance reform, maintaining political equality, tell me the most misguided reform arguments and approaches you see.

Reforms that attempt to totally eliminate private money from the process are going to continually run into problems. Once you cut off the flow of money in one direction, it's going to find some other way to make it into the process. You can't keep all private money out of the system. It's going to find some way to try to influence the outcomes of elections. The best thing to do is to regulate the flow of money into elections in such a way that it isn't harmful to the process, that it doesn't create huge inequalities between incumbents and challengers, or Republicans and Democrats. That it doesn't give certain interests or sectors of society undue influence in the lawmaking process. You have to regulate, but reforms that say you're going get money out of the process ignore the past...

So you're not a public financing guy?

No, no: I believe in public financing. But I believe in partial public financing. ... Public funding is important to provide greater equality in the system because candidates who want to challenge incumbents are at huge disadvantage. If they were given grants, public money that they could then add to, they would at least have a floor of competitiveness, they can at least get up to a certain level and make sure that elections provide a choice for the public. Basically the system I described is the system Minnesota uses.

Why do issues of political participation and equality resonate with you and drive your professional endeavors?

I've always been interested in the institutions that are key to making a democracy work. Elections are obviously key, they link the public to their government. The mass media are also important. Political parties as well, the subject of my first book. I'm interested in how these institutions function in the U.S. political context — and how they malfunction, if you would, as well — and how things could be improved to strengthen the democratic nature of our society. I don't know why, I'm just fascinated by it. It could be my upbringing in the Chicago area watching the politics there. It's another sport in Chicago.

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Trailer Trouble

By Jon Reidel

Article published Oct 04, 2005



Home, scrap home: Students helped facilitate a project that removed and partially recycled abandoned mobile homes in Alburg. The cooperative community effort may become a statewide model. (Photo: Kendall Kahl)

While affordable and flexible, the more than 22,000 mobile homes dotting Vermont's hills and hollows have a serious downside: They are one of the few forms of housing that inexorably decrease in value over time, with useful lives often shorter than a 30-year mortgage. Most of them eventually end up in landfills.

Students Erin Makowsky and Kendall Kahl want to change the environmentally damaging practice of dumping entire crushed

mobile homes or abandoning them on vacant lots. With help from Dan Baker, lecturer of community development and applied economics, they have developed a way to recycle about a third of the materials in a mobile home and save the home's owner much of the usual \$2,000 cost of disposal.

The students spearheaded a mobile home deconstruction project in the small northwestern town of Alburg that resulted in the removal of five such structures with six more scheduled for the fall and another 11 possibly next year. They hope eventually it will become a national model for removing abandoned mobile homes affordably and with environmental sensitivity.

"This is a major sleeper issue that isn't talked about much, but that is a national problem," says Baker. "Mobile home waste is pervasive and many owners can't afford to dispose of them, so they eventually become expensive eyesores to a community. We think we've found the best way to dispose of them in a cheaper, more environmentally safe way."

Double(wide) dilemma

With the peak of mobile home popularity in the 1970s and 80s, many of these structures have now become dilapidated and abandoned. According to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, as many as 15,000 mobile homes are obsolete in the state. In Alburg, local officials wanted to get rid of a growing number of abandoned mobile homes, but most owners couldn't afford to pay the cost of removal.

"We see this is a widespread problem," says James "Buzz" Surwillo, an environmental analyst with the Agency of Natural Resources who helped on the project. "The students have been phenomenal in bringing together so many different entities. It would be great if other communities followed Alburg's lead. We think it can be sustainable and have widespread application."

The effort got started in earnest when Baker, who also helped Alburg start a farmer's market, received a call from Alburg Revitalization Committee about removing 22 mobile homes. The group, ARC, had already successfully removed 50 junked cars from yards and vacant lots and wanted to expand its efforts to mobile homes.

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"In looking at it from an economic development standpoint, we felt that it was hard to encourage new business when there's the appearance that it's a depressed town with a lack of pride," says Monica Green, ARC's treasurer and mobile home project manager.

Makowsky and Kahl began assembling all the necessary players in the fall of 2004, including local contractors, Alburg residents, ARC, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the university. Their plan, based loosely on a similar removal project conducted by the DEC and Surwillo in Bristol, requires some in-kind donations from local contractors to help defray costs. That wasn't a problem in Alburg, since two potential contractors were selectmen and another was a local businessman concerned about improving the community's appearance.

The students worked up detailed inventories with photographs of the five mobile homes including year and manufacturer; size and location; interior and exterior conditions; and the types of materials used to build the home. In one report, for example, a mobile home is described as having the perimeter ripped out, exposing insulation and wood studs. The kitchen had linoleum floors and the rest of the floor was carpeted. It went on to list a number of appliances that could possibly be recycled such as a shower/bathtub; stove; two heaters; mirrors, and cabinet doors.

Ready for recycling

The point of the inventory was to compare the condition of the mobile home to the length of time it took contractors to separate the salvageable metal and prepare the recycled structure for the landfill. Makowsky and Kahl then gave contractors a worksheet as a guideline to record their deconstruction process. It included the time spent per mobile home; techniques used for demolition; equipment and labor; items and weights of recyclable materials; weight of waste per home; absorbed costs; and any recommendations.

As it turned out, contractors were able to easily separate most metal structural components such as siding, roofing and frames with a hydraulic thumb. The cost of disposing a non-recycled mobile home at a landfill is about \$700, compared to \$564 for one with the metal separated and salvaged. This doesn't take into account potential extra revenue if metal is taken to a scrap metal yard, or the "environmental savings" of the space saved at the landfill. "Our study showed that it is possible to recycle metal mobile home parts without a radical change in the demolition process," says Kahl.

Even with the recycling, the in-kind contributions were critical to the financial success of the project. Contractors donated about \$4,200 worth of time and equipment; ARC contributed about \$500 per home; and DEC gave the university a \$2,170 grant. In the end, the mobile home owners, many of whom couldn't afford the \$2,000 removal cost, wound up paying about \$200 each.

Kahl, who is continuing to work on the project despite graduating in May, says six more Alburg mobile homes have been targeted for deconstruction in November. Green said she and other ARC members have talked to a state legislative committee about the project and have received calls from other towns wanting to know how they could make a similar program work in their community.

"To be able to transform a classroom project into a living, workable, statewide model of successful mobile home deconstruction is surreal," Makowski says. "It's exciting to be able to see the work we put into the project relayed into something positive with transferable results."

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[Diving into Disaster](#)

Oct 04, 2005

Assistant professor Alice Fothergill had been waiting for this semester. She's on research leave and she had an exquisite vision of herself holed away with long-awaited books and postponed projects. But then Katrina came. Even as flood victims strive to find comfort and stability in the aftermath of the hurricane, Fothergill, a disaster sociologist, is turning her life upside down to join them.

[New UVM Wind Tower Generates Power, Educational Opportunities](#)

Oct 04, 2005

UVM has installed a small-scale wind turbine on its campus near the corner of Main Street and East Avenue to generate power and serve a variety of educational purposes both on- and off-campus.

[Campus Memorializes Slain Professor](#)

Sep 28, 2005

For John Crock, director of the UVM Consulting Archaeology Program, some of the details that helped trace the full extent of the loss he felt after anthropology Professor James Petersen's death were his ever-present red pen — and his widely dispersed photocopies.

[Rubenstein School to Work with Agency of Natural Resources](#)

Sep 27, 2005

This parlay between monitoring and lessons on the lake; between facts about what lives in its depths and career advice is exactly what UVM's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources want to foster. To that end, about 50 members of the two groups held a day-long retreat at the beginning the UVM academic year to identify several issues that will benefit from collaboration.

[Women, Science and a Storm](#)

Sep 20, 2005

Like the hurricane itself, when three of UVM's female geographers presented perspectives on Hurricane Katrina on Sept. 15, the talk started mildly enough, explaining the physical geography and climatology that is integral to understanding how the storm formed and why it affected the landscape as it did.

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Prof Dives Into Disaster

By Lee Ann Cox

Article published Oct 04, 2005

Assistant professor Alice Fothergill had been waiting for this semester. She is on research leave, and she had an exquisite vision of herself holed away with long-awaited books and postponed projects. But then Katrina came. Even as flood victims strive to find comfort and stability in the aftermath of the hurricane, Fothergill, a disaster sociologist, is turning her life upside down to join them.

"It's the tough part of being a disaster researcher," she says. "It happens and you have to go. It's too compelling."

Fothergill had already planned to focus a future project on children (her first book examined how women rebuilt their lives in the aftermath of the 1997 North Dakota floods) and when the storm hit, despite some pangs for that quiet office, she knew this was the one. Fothergill has just secured an emergency grant and will head for the Gulf Coast next week to study the impact of disaster on children and how families reconstruct devastated lives.

She isn't alone. Disaster research is a fast growing field, according to Dennis Wenger, a program director at the National Science Foundation where they've fielded hundreds of inquiries about Small Grants for Exploratory Research from academics in the past few weeks. Not only are more people involved than ever before, it's catching on in more disciplines — from political science to economics — and there's more infrastructure to support it.

The United States has two major disaster research centers and there are smaller ones popping up across the country, says Wenger, particularly since 9/11. The Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado even pre-approves proposals for Quick Response grants before a crisis occurs; the grants are then activated if a related disaster happens. "Events like (Katrina) have an incredible impact on the field," Wenger says.

Gathering stories

For the researchers, the nature of their work comes with unique challenges and ethical dilemmas. The need to collect perishable data means moving quickly, but that leaves little time for planning a study. And there are innumerable practical details, like where to sleep when so many victims are suddenly homeless. Fothergill and her colleague on the project, Lori Peek from Colorado State University, will sleep on a friend's floor in Lafayette.

They worry about finding research subjects when they get there, whether to compensate them (always tricky ethically, but made harder by the extreme circumstances), and the challenge of doing longitudinal studies on displaced people. "What if we interview 150 families and can't find them," Fothergill says.

The jump-and-run nature of the work can even be hard on a researcher's career. Fothergill says she's enjoying the full support of the university, but Peek, with a full course load and a more junior position at her institution, will limit her on-site time to a long weekend.

And there's the personal toll. Fothergill is leaving behind her three- and five-year-olds for the first time, a fact which may make hearing painful stories about children resonate that much deeper.

"In disaster research," Fothergill explains, "the first thing people need to do is tell their story." So they will listen, but Fothergill and Peek, who were both on the scene in Manhattan after 9/11, know it will be hard. They made a

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deliberate choice to work in the same location so that they can debrief each other at the end of the day. "It is absolutely isolating and painful to do this kind of research," adds Fothergill.

But they also know they are the fortunate ones. "When you're able to walk back to your hotel room with all the amenities and a plane ticket out," says Peek, "that's when you feel the worst. You gather stories and data and no matter how much you empathize, you're not in that situation. You literally have a ticket out."

Yet they have hope — and this is the point — that their work will translate into good. "In a way I feel lucky," says Fothergill, "because I get to go and do something. I wish I could do more, I wish I were a nurse or something, but I hope in some small way that doing research contributes."

So she'll carefully record how these children fare over time to show how their outcomes may be impacted by the level and timing of the resources they receive, banking on policy makers to pay attention and make assistance for future disasters better, smarter and faster.

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New UVM Wind Tower Generates Power, Educational Opportunities

By Jeffrey Wakefield
Article published Oct 04, 2005

The university has installed a small-scale wind turbine on its campus near the corner of Main Street and East Avenue to generate power and serve a variety of educational purposes both on- and off-campus.

The turbine is expected to generate 3,000-5,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year, enough to power an energy-efficient home for 12 months. It will be "net-metered," meaning that the power it creates will be incorporated back into the power grid through the Burlington Electric Department. The project is part of the Vermont Department of Public Service Wind Development Program, which supports the installation of turbines to demonstrate the benefits of wind energy.

Funding for the installation was provided by a \$30,000 matching grant from the DPS. The funds are a portion of \$1.5 million in U.S. Department of Energy funds secured by Senator James Jeffords for wind projects.

"This wind turbine represents UVM's forward thinking on matters related to energy and the environment," says Senator Jeffords, I-Vt., who has been a strong proponent of wind energy throughout his 30 years in Congress. "Faced with record-setting gas prices, we must explore all alternatives to fossil fuel. This project will help in that effort, and I am proud of UVM's educational leadership on this front."

Governor Douglas said he supports the university's decision to locate a small wind turbine on its campus. "This small-scale wind generation equipment will provide a long term learning opportunity, and the results will help local wind-generation manufacturers generate valuable research data," Douglas says. "I would like to thank Senator Jeffords for his commitment to the advancement of Vermont-scale renewable energy."

"We're grateful to Senator Jeffords for his hard work and foresight in helping us add this important educational tool to our curriculum," says UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel. "As one of the leading environmental universities in the country, it's important that we both model sustainable practices and provide real world methods for our students and others to study and understand renewable energy technologies."

While the wind turbine will play a modest role in helping the university reduce its greenhouse gas emissions — cutting its CO2 output by 3,500 to 5,900 pounds per year — its major purpose is educational. The turbine features a data logger enclosed at the base of the tower, which will collect and electronically transmit real-time information — including wind speed, wind direction, and kilowatts produced — to a Web site and nearby kiosk.

Data collection and display are at the heart of the wind turbine's educational utility, says Charles Ferreira, a faculty member in the department of Community Development and Applied Economics in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, who was responsible for overseeing the educational components of the installation.

"There are many classroom applications," he says. "For instance, students will be able to project the amount of energy the wind turbine should be producing versus what it's actually creating," he said, "and then theorize about discrepancies." By analyzing weather data and energy production over time, students will be also be able to better understand what conditions are optimal for wind energy production, he says.

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[The Road from Home](#)

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The wind turbine will be incorporated into three UVM courses being taught this fall: two in the department of Community Development and Applied Economics and one in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. Because the data is accessible on the Web, it could be used in classrooms anywhere in the world.

The wind turbine joins several other green demonstration projects on the UVM campus, including a solar panel display and educational kiosk between the campus bookstore and Bailey/Howe Library that also posts real-time data to a Web site. The university also maintains a fleet of biodiesel buses and electric vehicles and has successful recycling, composting, energy management and stormwater management systems in place.

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[NEWS BRIEFS](#)[EVENTS](#)[NOTABLES](#)[SEARCH](#)[PRINT THIS ISSUE](#)[PRINT PAST ISSUES](#)[FEEDBACK](#)[UVM HOMEPAGE](#)

EVENTS

Select a result page (15 articles per page): [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [>](#) [»](#)

[Leading Environmentalist to Give Keynote Address at Vermont Global Symposium](#)

Oct 04, 2005

Lester Brown, founder and president of Earth Policy Institute and a leader of the environmental movement, will speak on Oct. 5 at 8 p.m. at the Ross Sports Center, Saint Michael's College campus. His lecture, co-sponsored by Saint Michael's College, Champlain College and the University of Vermont, is the highlight of the third annual Vermont Global Symposium presented by the Vermont Council on World Affairs.

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[Special Offer, Rewards for UVMers at the Flynn](#)

Sep 28, 2005

"The arts," says Aimée Petrin of the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, "allow us to explore and witness the human condition in a way that most other media do not." That's why music and dance are particularly appropriate conduits for understanding and celebrating diversity, creating a natural convergence of interest for the university and the Flynn. Next week, the two institutions will open their fifth season of collaboration, bringing performances — and performers — that cover a range of perspectives from race to gender to sexual orientation.

[Upcoming Fleming Talks Range from Modern Interiors to King Tut](#)

Sep 28, 2005

Marilyn Friedman, an art historian and author of *Selling Good Design: Promoting the Early Modern Interior* will discuss a remarkable era of American modernism in a talk on Oct. 6 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fleming Museum.

[UVM Lane Series Presents Innovative Jazz Pianist](#)

Sep 28, 2005

The UVM Lane Series presents jazz pianist John Stetch in a solo concert at the UVM Recital Hall on Oct. 7.

[Newt Gingrich to Speak on Campus](#)

Sep 28, 2005

Newt Gingrich, who as Speaker of the House of Representatives was the chief architect of the "Contract With America" and key figure in bringing Congress to Republican control for the first time in 40 years, is speaking on Oct. 6 at 7 p.m in Ira Allen Chapel. The title of Gingrich's speech is "Patriotic Stewardship: The Pursuit of Opportunity and Happiness."

[October is Deaf and Disability Awareness Month](#)

Sep 27, 2005

Now in its ninth 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 campus and in the broader Burlington community. Events are free and open to the public.

NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

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Named "one of the world's most influential thinkers" by the *Washington Post*, Brown holds over 20 honorary degrees and has been the recipient of numerous awards and prizes including a MacArthur Fellowship, the 1987 United Nations' Environment Prize, the 1989 World Wide Fund for Nature Gold Medal and the 1994 Blue Planet Prize for his "exceptional contributions to solving global environmental problems." Brown founded the Worldwatch Institute in 1974 and served as president of the independent research organization for 26 of its 30 years. In 2002, Brown founded the Earth Policy Institute, an organization dedicated to providing a vision of an environmentally sustainable economy.

He has written or co-authored 50 books, including *Man, Land and Food* (1963), *Eco-Economy: Building an Economy for the Earth* (2001) and *Outgrowing the Earth: The Food Security Challenge in an Age of Falling Water Tables and Rising Temperatures* (2005).

The event is free and open to the public, but tickets are required and are available at the UVM Bookstore, 656-3290. For more information, contact Zancy VonHooks, 656-2918.

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Some highlights of planned events are below. A [full listing](#) is available from LGBTQA Services.

- Oct 11, 8 p.m. "Speak on It: Spoken Word on Domestic Violence in LGBTQA Communities," with Laura "JJ" Reyna, Eli Clare and others reading and speaking about being queer and experiences of domestic violence. North Lounge, Billings Student Center.
- Oct. 12, 1:30 p.m. Panel: "Coming Out as a Scholar," with Paul Deslandes, history; Brian Gilley, anthropology; and Cheryl Laskowski, nursing; moderated by Richard Parent, English. The faculty will discuss their research on LGBT issues. North Lounge, Billings.
- Oct. 19, 5:30 p.m. QPOC: Queer People of Color Gathering. ALANA Student Center. Information: Rosy Mora at Rocio.Mora@uvm.edu
- Oct. 20, 8 p.m. Music, drag: "Dragapella!", with the Kinsey Sicks. Ira Allen Chapel.
- Oct. 21, 11:45 p.m. Movie: "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert." Campus Center Theater, Billings.

Information: 656-8637

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- NEWS BRIEFS
- EVENTS
- NOTABLES

SEARCH

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NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

SUBSCRIBE
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UCLA Professor to Discuss Digital Literature

By Corey Christman

Article published Oct 04, 2005

N. Katherine Hayles, Hillis professor of literature at the University of California at Los Angeles, will give a free, public talk titled "Narrating Bits," on Oct. 6 at 4 p.m. in the Grace Coolidge Room, Waterman Building.

Hayles, whose works include *How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and Informatics*; *Writing Machines*; and the forthcoming *My Mother Was a Computer*, explores the relationship between narratives and databases, people and computer screens, while looking at literature, science, and technology in the 20th and 21st centuries.

In one of the courses she taught at UCLA, "Art and Literature in the Digital Domain," Hayles asked questions like "More and more canonical literary texts are available in electronic form; what is the difference between reading these texts on screen and reading them in print? In addition, many canonical texts are now available on CD-ROM, where the text is enhanced by sound, video, and images; how does our reading and understanding of these texts change when they are hyper-mediated? In contemporary literature, a new genre of interactive fiction is appearing that depends for its effects on electronic media; how does the construction of narrative change when the text presents the reader with multiple reading paths?"

More information about Hayles is available on her [Personal Website](#). Her UVM visit is sponsored by the Humanities Department and the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

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NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

SUBSCRIBE
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UVM HOMEPAGE

Upcoming Burack Lectures Span Literature, Research

By the view Staff

Article published Oct 04, 2005

The next two speakers in the Burack President's Distinguished Lecture Series, one a MacArthur fellow, the other an endowed professor at Washington University, will read from recent fiction and discuss the public mission of university research.

William Tate, the Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor in Arts and Sciences at Washington University, will speak on "Research in the Public Interest: A Compact in Need of a Signature" on Oct. 6 at 6 p.m. in Campus Center Theater, Billings.

Edward P. Jones, author of the Pulitzer Prize winning novel "The Known World," will read from his work on Oct. 11 at 4:30 p.m. in Marsh Lounge, Billings. The event is sponsored by the Burack series and the Department of English. A reception will immediately follow in the Apse Lounge, Billings.

Tate will discuss the ethical questions surrounding academic research and scholarship and whether the relevance of research on matters of public interest should shape research enterprise in universities. He has authored numerous scholarly journal articles and book chapters and has edited volumes, monographs and textbooks focused on human resource development in mathematics, science, technology, urban studies, race and American education.

He has won many research awards and fellowships and is the principal investigator and project director of the St. Louis Center for Inquiry in Science Teaching and Learning. The center is a multidisciplinary effort to build sustainable models of human resource development in the sciences and to encourage the integration of these models into the cultural resources of urban communities.

Edward P. Jones is a MacArthur Fellow and winner of several prestigious literary awards including the Pen/Hemingway Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Pulitzer Prize. His work is as much a meditation on the African-American literary tradition as it is a product of it. He takes familiar issues — slavery in *The Known World*, inner-city violence and poverty in *Lost in the City* — and adds dimension to the lives affected by them.

He is fearless in his choice of subject matter: in *The Known World*, slaveholders are black; in *Lost in the City*, community heroes die senseless deaths. His work, the *New Yorker* says, displays "tremendous moral intricacy."

Information: [Burack President's Distinguished Lecture Series](#)

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NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Organizers Expect Record Homecoming Attendance

By the view staff

Article published Oct 05, 2005

A record number of alumni, family and friends have pre-registered for Homecoming and Family Weekend on Oct. 7-9.

Approximately 3,250 people have signed up to participate in a broad lineup of events that will start Oct. 7 with two exhibitions at the Robert Hull Fleming Museum and the annual UVM Victory Club Fall Foliage Golf Classic at the Vermont National Country Club. Also taking place that day is "The Wonderful World of Real Estate," a panel of accomplished alumni working in real estate, and a UVM Lane Series performance by jazz pianist John Stetch at 7:30 p.m. in the UVM Recital Hall.

A homecoming parade and picnic under the tent next to the Fleming with President Daniel Mark Fogel and Rachel Kahn-Fogel begins at noon on Oct. 8 and is viewable from the steps of Billings Student Center or the University Green. A homecoming concert is scheduled for 8 p.m. that evening at Ira Allen Chapel, featuring UVM's student a cappella singing groups, the Top Cats, the Cat's Meow, and the Hit Paws. The Lake Champlain Cruise on the Spirit of Ethan Allen III launches at five different times throughout the day, including a 6 p.m. dinner cruise.

Sunday's highlights include a Turf Field Dedication Ceremony at Archie Post Athletic Complex at 11:40 a.m., followed by a women's field hockey game at noon against Maine; a jazz brunch at Waterman manor; and a women's soccer game against UNH at Centennial Field at 1 p.m. Performances by UVM Theatre of the comedy "Beyond Therapy" by Christopher Durang will run daily throughout the weekend.

A \$20 per family registration fee covers admission to most of the weekend's events and includes a button that entitles the wearer to surprise discounts and giveaways at various locations around campus and in downtown Burlington, admission to open classes on Thursday and Friday and complimentary admission to the Fleming Museum all weekend.

Information, registration: (888) 458-8691 or [Homecoming and Parents' Weekend](#)

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NEWS BRIEFS

EVENTS

NOTABLES

SEARCH

PRINT THIS ISSUE

PRINT PAST ISSUES

FEEDBACK

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By Corey Christman

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Zirin, who maintains a Website of his writings at [The Edge of Sports](#), examines the connection between sports and politics, looking at the actions of athletes such as the conscientious objection of Muhammad Ali, as well as the reaction of American society to such challenges of authority. His first book, *What's My Name, Fool? Sports and Resistance in the United States*, was published this summer.

In a July 14 article for the online 'zine [League of Fans](#), Zirin explained how his interest in sports and politics began: "Operation Desert Storm and the L.A. Riots burned across my TV screen. As the world seemed to turn upside down, sports began to seem meaningless at best, and at worst, against any concept of social justice. This became jarringly clear during the 1991 Gulf War when I saw 'my team's' mascot thrash a person in an Arab suit at half court while the Jumbotron encouraged chants of U-S-A. Limping away from the arena, I concluded, that sports were part of the problem..."

Zirin's lecture and workshop are sponsored by the Department of English through the James and Mary Brigham Buckham Fund.

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[NEWS BRIEFS](#)[EVENTS](#)[NOTABLES](#)[SEARCH](#)[PRINT THIS ISSUE](#)[PRINT PAST ISSUES](#)[FEEDBACK](#)[UVM HOMEPAGE](#)

NOTABLES

October 5, 2005

Awards and Honors

The National Institutes of Health's National Center for Research Resources has awarded UVM a five-year, \$1.5-million grant for "A Curriculum for Clinical Research Training in Vermont". This program supports a curriculum in clinical research designed to effectively and efficiently transform clinicians and other young academics into successful, independent clinical investigators. The program is led by Dr. **Benjamin Littenberg**, Henry and Carleen Tufo professor of medicine, and Dr. **Alan Rubin**, research associate professor of medicine.

Beth Casey Gold, research associate in nutrition and food science, received the "Best eHealth Research Paper for 2005" for her presentation, "Weight Loss on the Web: A Pilot Study Comparing a Commercial Website to a Structured Behavioral Intervention." The award was given by the Health E-Technologies Initiative, a program project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Publications and Presentations

Rachel Johnson, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, gave the keynote lecture at Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital for a conference for pediatricians on advocacy around children's health issues. At the end of the lecture, state Rep. Eileen Naughton presented her with a citation from the Rhode Island legislature. It read: "The Rhode Island House of Representative hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to: Dean Rachel K. Johnson, PhD, MPH, RD, University of Vermont College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in recognition of her nationally significant work on improving children's health and nutrition."

Dr. **Edward Krawitt**, professor of medicine, published an article titled "Peginterferon alfa-2b and ribavirin for treatment-refractory chronic hepatitis C" in the August 2005 Journal of *Hepatology*. Krawitt and his study co-authors, including **Takamura Ashikaga**, director of medical biostatistics and biometry, and Dr. **Nicholas Ferrentino**, associate professor of medicine, found that as many as half of individuals with chronic hepatitis C who did not previously achieve a disease remission with previous treatment can successfully respond to a regimen that includes a long-acting form of the drug interferon.

Helga Schreckenberger, professor of German and Russian, is the editor of a new book on the aesthetics of exile literature titled *Die Alchemie des Exils. Exil als schöpferischer Impuls*. The volume contains a selection of papers delivered at an international conference organized by the North American Society for Exile Studies that took place in September of 2003 at the University of Kansas. All the essays deal with the creative and aesthetic impulses that literary authors experienced due to the fact that they were forced to go into exile during the time of National Socialism. Schreckenberger's own contribution is on the radio plays by Franziska Ascher-Nash that were broadcast in the United States to educate the American public about the dangers of Nazi Germany and to promote support for the exiles. The plays relate historical events to the specific situations of the exiles in the United States. They also reflect the author's optimistic view of exile as an opportunity that allows for the blending of the best of two cultures.

Appointments

Barbara Johnson has been appointed associate vice president for human resources. Johnson has served as acting associate VP for human resources at Dartmouth College for the past three years. In that position she moved the office through substantial change from a data-driven, operational focus to an

expanded service orientation across campus. Johnson has been committed to and creative with affirmative action initiatives at Dartmouth. Prior to that she was director of human resources at Harvard Medical School as well as working in several varied experiences including that of a union negotiator.

September 28, 2005

Awards and Honors

Third-year medical student **Talia Ben-Jacob** has been elected to serve a two-year term as the New England representative to the American College of Physicians Council of Student Members and nominated to serve on the ACP Ethics and Human Rights Committee. The 13-member CSM represents the 19,000 Medical Student Members of the ACP. The CSM is responsible for providing insight into student issues, assisting with the development of medical student programs, products, and services, and helping the ACP address legislative and political advocacy issues.

David Jones, assistant professor of business administration, has been invited to serve a two-year term on the editorial board of *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*. The journal is on the *Financial Times* Top 40 list of journals and published studies on journal rankings have consistently listed it in the top echelon of journals for organizational behavior research.

Publications and Presentations

Ken Gross, professor of mathematics and education, was appointed by the U. S. Department of Education to the Mathematics Task Force that will advise the department on policy directions for improving the teaching of K-12 mathematics and raising student achievement. For the most recent task force meeting, he was asked to give a presentation on the Vermont Mathematics Initiative as a model for statewide mathematics improvement. Also, at the request of the Massachusetts Department of Education, Gross gave summer mathematics workshops in Hyannis and Marlborough to Title I teachers. He also gave a workshop to teachers of grades 3 to 12 in rural Nebraska, and taught the VMI signature course "Mathematics as a Second Language" to middle school teachers in an NSF-funded professional development program at University of Nebraska.

Dr. **James Hudziak**, professor of psychiatry, is lead author of a paper titled "The Genetic and Environmental Contributions to Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder as Measured by the Conners' Rating Scales — Revised," in the September *American Journal of Psychiatry*. He is also lead author of "The genetic and environmental contributions to oppositional defiant behavior: a multi-informant twin study" in the September *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*.

Fourth-year medical student **John Lee** was a featured guest on Vermont Public Radio's debut broadcast of a new live program titled "Vermont Edition" on Sept. 28. Focused on the top issues in our state and nation, the program will be hosted by VPR's Steve Zind and will include short news segments, live interviews and a call-in component. Lee and a Dartmouth medical student offered the medical student perspective on healthcare during a week when policymakers are deciding whether or not Vermont will become the first state to make a pact with the federal government on how to pay for health care for the state's poor and disabled.

The recently published volume 22 of *Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship*, edited by Wolfgang Mieder, professor and chair of German and Russian, includes a number of essays by professors and students associated with the department. Professor **Dennis Mahoney** contributed an essay on "'Was nicht ist, kann noch werden': Proverbs and German Romanticism" that shows by numerous contextualized examples that folk wisdom in the form of proverbs plays a considerable role in the theoretical and literary works of the Romanticists. Mieder's article on "'A Proverb is Worth a Thousand Words': Folk Wisdom in the Modern Mass Media" discusses the use and function of proverbs in advertisements and cartoons. **Courtney Magwire**, a recent graduate student and teacher in Spartanburg, South Carolina, contributed a study on "'Practice Makes Perfect': The Use of Proverbs in Foreign Language Instruction." Finally, **Gabriele Wurmitzer**, former graduate student and now a doctoral student at Duke University, is represented with a