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Computer science students learn about algorithms as they attempt to navigate the Community Labyrinth at All Saints Episcopal Church in South Burlington during a weekend class. *(Photo: Ian A. Snapp)*

For Robert Snapp, associate professor of computer science and mathematics, the best way to begin learning computer science is through play, not work.

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Comprehensive Campaign

Commences The University launched the public phase of its \$250 million comprehensive campaign on Oct. 4 with the announcement of the largest gift in its history, a \$15 million commitment from Steven and Beverly Rubenstein of New Vernon, N.J. and their family.

In the Blood They sound like the nemeses of superheroes — with names like Mutant Factor V Leiden and Thrombin — but they are molecular components in platelets that affect the coagulation process. To Paula Tracy, professor of biochemistry and medicine, they are intimate friends.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Oct. 9, 4 p.m.
Lecture: "Anthropology, Ecology, and Human Reproduction," with Peter Ellison of Harvard University. John Dewey Lounge, Old Mill.
Information: uvm.edu/~anthro

Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Lane Series concert: Pianist Anne-Marie MacDermott performs Bach, Prokofiev, Brahms and Gruenfeld. UVM Recital Hall. Tickets \$25. Information: uvm.edu/laneseries

Oct. 11, 1 p.m.
Men's soccer vs. University of Maryland-Baltimore County. Information: [Athletics](#)

Oct. 13, 3:30 p.m.
Colloquium: "Why Milton Matters" with Stanley Fish, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago. Marsh Lounge, Billings. Information: 656-3056.

Oct. 14, 5 p.m.
Lecture: "Take this Job and Do it: University Administration in the 21st Century" with Stanley Fish, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago. Fleming Museum, Room 101. Information: 656-3056.

Oct. 14, 6 p.m.
Forum: "Competitive Challenges in Global Market" with K. Scottie Ginn, vice

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**Growing Pleasures**

Members of the student Horticulture club — from left to right, Beranda Marks, Jessica Waite, Melissa Stolhammer and Elijah Lloyd — did well last week in competition at last week's American Society for Horticultural Science annual conference in Rhode Island. The UVM quartet, advised by Mark Starrett, associate professor of plant and soil science, placed third in the collegiate branch horticultural competitions in vegetable crop judging, nursery stock judging and on a written exam of their general horticultural knowledge.

Philosopher's Article Picked For Field's 'Ten Best' of 2002

Derk Pereboom, professor and chair of philosophy, is no dualist — he doesn't neatly cleave the workings of the mind from the mechanisms of matter — but he is troubled by the tendency of some of his peers to argue that the physical basis of thought trumps all, that psychology is really microphysics.

His muscular argument that mental and psychological states *can* cause actions, and that these states are not merely pretty gift-wrapping of identical underlying physical factors, was published in the *Journal of Philosophy* as "Robust Nonreductive Materialism" in 2002. The [paper](#) was recently selected as one of the year's ten best pieces of philosophical writing by the *Philosopher's Annual*, a 25-year-old academic publication.

Pereboom's article, which he hopes to expand into a book over the next several years, is a technical response to a particular set of problems in contemporary philosophy of the mind. In a wider sense, it is also a reaction to the evolution of work by the Vienna Circle, a group of Europeans who promoted a movement called logical positivism in the 1920's and 1930's, an approach which held in part that all of science boils down to physics. Discussion of the

New Osher Institute Helps Seniors Learn 'For the Joy of It'

The bingo board is dark in Rutland's Godkin Adult Center on this recent warm September afternoon, but the room bustles with local senior citizens and the excitement of a new show in town. As the large room fills and extra folding chairs are set up, Jean Davies of Pittsford, Vt., looks around and says she's seeing people she hasn't seen in 40 years, making note of the "smiles on faces all over the place."

The occasion is a talk by popular New England humorist/storyteller Willem Lange, the premiere lecture for the Rutland chapter of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute — an effort funded by the San Francisco-based Osher Foundation, administered by UVM, and implemented with considerable input from local community members. As Deborah Worthley, who directs the Vermont program through the Division of Continuing Education, tells the group: "Osher is for people who want to learn just for the joy of it. That's what this is all about."

There's one more thing that it is about — individuals over age 50, people like Rutland's Thelma Perkins, UVM Class of 1973, who could be Exhibit A for lifelong learning done well. Perkins would be Class of 1950 if family hadn't come along before her degree. Twenty-three years later, though, she earned a diploma. She and her husband Bob, UVM Class of 1950, were eager to get involved as steering committee members when they first heard about Osher.

Bob Perkins, who is active in everything from the Vermont Historical Society to the Green Mountain Club to Democratic Party politics, says he saw a need for something like the Osher Institute in Rutland. After retiring from a long career in computer programming that included stays in more metropolitan areas, his native Rutland was a great place to retire but a little on the quiet side.

Jean Hinson, Class of 1957, is another like-minded UVM alum who was eager to get involved with Osher. The curiosity that led her to take a UVM summer geography class focusing on Islam — "because it is so important to understand right now, and I know so little," she says — is the same spirit that guides the Osher lectures.

The 12 lectures for the fall and winter in Rutland will tackle heavier subjects such as The Civil War and a series of introductory lectures on Religions of the Far East, but started light with a Vermont Humor Series keynoted by Frank Bryan, a professor of political science. Davies notes that the social interaction is every bit as important as

implications of this position remains hot today among philosophers of the mind, Pereboom says, and the rejection of dualistic views of thought and consciousness by most non-religious philosophers poses a trap for those who wish to argue against reductionism.

"What reductionists charge, and a lot of non-reductivists have accepted, is that psychological or mentalistic explanation has a place, but only because it is required for convenience," Pereboom says. A psychologist can't treat her patient by discussing the physics of the mind, so she probes thoughts and feelings; but since thoughts are physical, with impulses shifting across the brain's limbic structures, this is merely a polite fiction.

Pereboom accepts that mental states are wholly constituted of microphysical states, but rejects the notion that this makes thought and physics one and the same. This argument directly challenges a key tenant of logical postivism — in Pereboom's "robust view," all of science does not reduce down to some form of physics, and psychology has a place as a distinct scientific discipline, because it studies phenomena that can not be accurately distilled down to more basic underlying causes.

The professor looks forward to reading formal reactions to his argument, which will probably start showing up in journal articles over the next year or two. In the meantime, he's surprised and gratified by his work's inclusion in the annual.

Brian Leiter, a legal philosopher at the University of Texas, offers some context on his Web site about the significance of having a paper being selected for the publication.

"As the editors admit, choosing 10 articles is a rather daunting task," Leiter writes. "But if you look at their choices from 20-25 years ago, it's certainly the case that about 25 percent of the articles they picked turned out to be genuinely important — either the articles themselves (or the ideas they introduced and then incorporated in to books) are still read and discussed today. That's a pretty good track record, given the difficulty of the task."

UVM Launches New Web Presence

The University of Vermont unveiled a new Web site Oct. 3.

The site was designed by Generation, a New York-based communications firm specializing in higher education, working in collaboration with university leadership and UVM's Web team. Generation also designed the university's new admissions viewbook and a case statement for UVM's comprehensive campaign.

According to President Daniel Mark Fogel, the new Web site is designed to complement the viewbook and, as such, pays special attention to an external audience of prospective students and their parents.

the intellectual stimulation from university and university-caliber lecturers. She mentions a friend in her eighties who is "just so happy for the opportunity to be out with people listening to good stuff."

There promises to be good stuff throughout Vermont as Osher opens programs in Brattleboro, Springfield, and Montpelier in 2004. Eventually a statewide network is envisioned as the University builds on the original Osher grant of \$100,000 received in January 2003 (see [here](#) for a story in *the view* about the grant).

On Sept. 23, it was clear from the crowd in Rutland's Godkin Center that the Osher Institute is filling an important niche. Taking the podium, Willem Lange said: "Holy Toledo! I didn't think there were this many old people in the entire state of Vermont."

Take This Job ... and Do It: Stanley Fish Comes to UVM

Outspoken cultural and literary theorist and preeminent Milton scholar Stanley Fish is sure to provoke thought and stimulate discussion during his visit to the university Oct. 13-16.

Currently dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois-Chicago, Fish has been called "an equal opportunity antagonist" and "the most quoted, most controversial, most in-demand and most feared English teacher in the world." He regularly sparks controversy with his views on issues including political correctness, affirmative action and the First Amendment — which he defined as "the modern American version of crying wolf" in a recent essay published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Fish also has been an outspoken critic of views expressed in a report issued in September by U. S. House Education & Workforce Committee Republicans. Titled, "The College Cost Crisis," the report blames colleges for hiking costs at far higher rates than can be explained by tough economic times or inflation.

Fish will undoubtedly skewer the report in a public lecture titled, "Take This Job and Do It: University Administration in the 21st Century," which will take place on Oct. 14 at 5 p.m. in 101 Fleming Museum.

On Oct. 16, President Daniel Mark Fogel will join Fish, for "Speaking of Freedom: A Forum on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech on Campus," in Ira Allen Chapel at 5 p.m. Fish and Fogel will share their views about policies and issues on college campuses and respond to questions from the audience, which is limited to university affiliates.

"Getting on stage with Stanley Fish is not for the faint of heart," says Lisa Schnell, associate professor of English, "but President Fogel didn't hesitate to participate." Schnell is coordinating Fish's activities at UVM, which are sponsored by the English Department, the James and Mary

"We chose to keep this audience uppermost in our minds as the site was designed for an important reason," Fogel said. "Market research, ours and others, tells us that the Web is a vitally important — perhaps the most important — communications tool in influencing high school students to consider, apply to, and even decide to attend a college or university. We wanted to develop a site that would grab and hold the attention of this important pool of prospects and communicate UVM's unique attributes to them in a powerful way."

The new site features a series of interactive content modules highlighting different aspects of the UVM experience. The interactive stories appear on the home page and on select lower levels of the site.

Fogel said that, while he hopes the site will inform, intrigue, and influence prospective UVMers, its design is also directed to other audiences, including current students, graduate students, researchers, and friends of the university.

The architecture and navigation have been redesigned to make information easy to find, he said, "no matter what your interest or affiliation."

The contemporary design scheme and creative use of interactivity, Fogel added, convey a message about the university that should be appealing to all groups.

In addition, Fogel said, the site features special "gateways" so internal audiences (and some external ones) like current students, faculty, and staff will have shortcuts to the information they seek. Internal users may wish to bookmark the [Faculty & Staff Gateway](#), which has dozens of links to sites of particular interest to university employees and lacks the admissions-oriented Flash presentation found on uvm.edu.

"This is a highly innovative site I'm very proud of," Fogel said, "I hope the UVM community will join me in celebrating its launch."

To give your feedback regarding the new Web site, please take a [short survey](#) or send an e-mail to feedback@uvm.edu.

Buckham Fund and the John Dewey Honors Program.

Fish is the author of several essays and books, including, *There's No Such Thing as Free Speech: And It's a Good Thing, Too*; *The Trouble with Principle*; and *Professional Correctness: Literary Studies and Political Change*. He culminated a lifetime of Milton scholarship in his 2001 magnum opus, *How Milton Works*, an exploration of the radical effect of Milton's theological convictions on his poetry and prose. To Milton, posits Fish, the value of a poem or any other written expression derived from the inner worth of its author and not from any external measure of excellence.

During his week on campus, Fish will share his insights and opinions with students in English and political science honors classes and lead an English department colloquium titled, "Why Milton Matters."

For more information, contact the English Department at 656-3056.

theview

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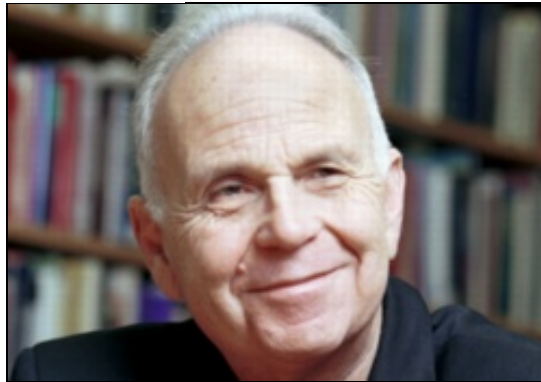
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Miltonian and mega-academic Stanley Fish will bring his larger-than-life intellectual persona (the flamboyant University of Illinois at Chicago dean inspired character Morris Zapp in David Lodge's classic novels of academia) to UVM from Oct. 13-16. He'll speak publicly on Oct. 14 at 5 p.m. in 101 Fleming Museum and join President Daniel Mark Fogel on Oct. 16 at 5 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel for a free speech forum. Fish's visit is sponsored by the English department's Buckham endowment. [Click here](#) for details on his UVM stay.

Lecture to Follow Bengali Movie Classic

An evening of Indian film and thought-provoking discussion will begin with a screening of "36 Chowringhee Lane," on Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in 108 Lafayette.

The classic of Bengali cinema was directed by Aparna Sen, who describes her work as "revolving around the marginalized in society, such as the old women's loneliness in Chowringhee Lane."

A lecture by contemporary feminist literary critic Sanjukta Dasgupta will follow the film. Former chair of the English Department at Calcutta University, Dasgupta is a poet, translator and associate editor of the *Journal of Women's Studies*. She is currently working on a collective project titled, "Representations of the Family in Contemporary American and Indian Women's Writing."

Free and open to the public. Information: 656-3056.

Comedy's 'Fearless Hero' Coming To UVM

Following on the heels of her most recent "Notorious C.H.O." tour, CD and movie release, Margaret Cho launched her brand new "Revolution Tour" this past spring to sold-out audiences and is bringing the act to Patrick Gymnasium on Oct. 9.

The *Chicago Sun Times* heralded the show as "Her strongest show yet!" With the same unbridled humor, Margaret now tackles the axis of evil, her travels through Thailand's red light district, the explosion of child birth, bartering sex for household chores, revolutionizing your self-esteem, the joy of bodily functions, her loser ex-boyfriend, and of course, her world-famous mother, plus much more that should not be printed.

Cho has a diverse and fervently loyal audience that includes gays and lesbians, Asian Americans, women, people of color, college students, comedy fans and basically anyone who has ever felt invisible. Great comics like Lenny Bruce, George Carlin and Richard Pryor all paved her way, but Cho has a distinctive, outrageous, hilarious, individualistic and ultimately empowering personal voice.

Margaret started performing stand-up comedy at age 16. In 1994 she starred in her own sitcom, "All-American Girl," which featured television's first Asian American family. In 1999, Cho's groundbreaking one-woman show, "I'm The One That I Want," played off-Broadway, toured the country and became a best-selling book and a feature film that grossed more per-print than any film in history (\$1.4 million with only nine prints).

Cho was recently honored by the National Organization for Women with the organization's 2003 Intrepid Award. She has also received awards from GLAAD, Lambda Legal, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund for making a significant difference in promoting equal rights for all, regardless of race, sexual orientation or gender identity.

The comic's UVM show is free to students, faculty, and staff, and a limited number of tickets are still available at the Department of Student Life on the 4th Floor of the Billings Student Center. A limited number of tickets are available for purchase by the general public at www.ticketweb.com.

The show starts at 9 p.m., with doors opening an hour earlier. Immediately afterward, UVM's own The Flo' will be performing a free live show in Billings North Lounge at 11:30 p.m. The show offers the student-favorite band, free food, and an Apple iPod digital music player giveaway.

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Publications and Presentations

Katharine Furney, assistant professor of education, Professor **Susan Hasazi**, and two of their colleagues recently published "A longitudinal analysis of shifting policy landscapes in special and general education reform" in *Exceptional Children*, the quarterly scholarly journal in the field of special education.

Rebecca Gajda, assistant professor of education, reviewed *The Abandoned Generation: Democracy Beyond the Culture of Fear* by Henry Giroux in the Aug. 27 issue of *Teacher's College Record*.

Jane Kolodinsky, professor and chair of community development and applied administration, and **Thomas DeSisto**, research specialist in the Center for Rural Studies, published an article in the *International Journal of Consumer Studies* titled "Understanding the factors related to concerns over genetically engineered food products: are national differences real?" JoAnne Labreque of the University of Montreal also shared authorship of the paper.

Awards and Honors

Dr. **Paul Newhouse**, professor of psychiatry and director of the Clinical Neuroscience Research Unit, has been awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the National Institute on Aging to study the safety and efficacy of using transdermal nicotine (patches) on individuals with mild cognitive impairment. This recently recognized condition describes a state of memory impairment that frequently precedes Alzheimer's disease. The multi-site study will enroll 75 men and women over a three-year period. Researchers at Duke University and Georgetown University will be collaborating with Newhouse on the study.

The **Department of Community Development and Applied Economics** was awarded a \$150,000 HUD work-study grant to support five minority and/or economically disadvantaged graduate students in the CDAE and public administrations program.

James Iatridis, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, received a three-year biomedical research grant last month from the Whitaker Foundation. The \$240,000 award will fund his work titled "Mechanical and biological response of intervertebral discs to damage." Iatridis's research will help determine healthy and damaging loads to the spine to reduce intervertebral disc degeneration and address issues related to low back pain.

Oct. 1-7, 2003

Awards and Honors

Paula Tracy, professor of biochemistry and medicine and vice chair of biochemistry, was elected as a member of the Vermont Association for Science and Engineering at the organization's annual meeting on Sept. 16. VASE honors individuals who have made outstanding and recognized contributions to science and engineering.

Dona Brown, associate professor of history, has been appointed to a three-year term as director of the Center for Research on Vermont. She has been a member of the Center since 1997 and has taught courses in Vermont Studies since the academic minor was established that same year. Among her research interests are Vermont and New England regional and cultural history.

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The Learning Game

By Jon Reidel



Computer science students learn about algorithms as they attempt to navigate the Community Labyrinth at All Saints Episcopal Church in South Burlington during a weekend class. (Photo: Ian A. Snapp)

The odds of Robert Snapp, associate professor of computer science and mathematics, becoming oversaturated with math, and thereby turned off, was high while he was growing up — after all, the people around him loved numbers and made a living by either manipulating them or teaching them.

With an electrical engineer for a father, a UCLA math professor for an uncle, and an aunt with a Ph.D. in math,

the likelihood of Snapp either loving math and following his family, or despising the subject and pursuing a completely different field, were about equal.

Snapp's mentors did indeed bombard him with numbers, but not in a way that felt overwhelming to the youngster. In fact, Snapp recalls being surrounded by games and puzzles while growing up and learning to love numbers by playing the games of probability, chance and calculation. He maintains a love of games today and credits his early exposure to them for his current career.

"I doubt I would be doing this today if I wasn't surrounded by it growing up," Snapp says. "This is the way I learned math as a kid. Everyone plays with games a child, so why not use it as a starting point for teaching and learning?"

The games people play

Snapp's cramped Votey office is cluttered with wooden games of chance and probability. A smooth, wood version of Tower of Hanoi sits on his desk. He admires the ancient game he ordered off the Internet and explains how the object is to transfer eight rings from the left peg to the third peg on the right, with the largest ring on the bottom and the smallest on top, thus creating the Tower of Hanoi. The frustrating process, says mazerworks.com, make the game a favorite of "programmers and Buddhist monks."

A bookshelf behind the actual games carries about 75 books on the subject. Snapp hopes to soon add another volume to the collection, a book based on the results of his fledgling computer science course, "Puzzles and Games," which approaches the subject through the use of games such as chess, Go, Rubik's, solitaire, Mancala, and Tower of Hanoi.

Many historians regard the African game Mancala, also known as Kalaha, as the oldest game in the world. It's evolved over the years from a wooden board game played with seeds, beans, or stones to an online computer game enjoyed by millions. Snapp says he's convinced it can help students learn algorithms.

"Students can see some of the principles of computer science through the use

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of these games," Snapp says. "The big question in my mind was how well would it really prepare a student for computer science. I always found computers and math fun because I could relate it to games. I would eventually look at a math problem as another puzzle to solve. If you think of math as chess, for example, you start seeing patterns in numbers and elsewhere."

Learning lost and found

Snapp took the use of games to teach computer science to another level recently when he took students to outdoor labyrinths in South Burlington and Greensboro, and a corn maze in Danville to illustrate how a classic algorithm can solve a maze.

Snapp says that by physically and mentally applying an algorithm — a procedure or sequence of actions that allows an agent or group of agents to perform a desired task — to a maze, students will understand it better than from reading about it in a textbook. They also had to sketch the maze after navigating it using Tremaux's algorithm, named after the 19th century French mathematician Pierre Tremaux.

The owners of the maze claim it takes the average visitor anywhere from 45 minutes to two hours to successfully traverse the maze. It took Snapp's students about an hour using Tremaux's algorithm. With the use of a stick, students drew an N or an X in the mud at places they traveled over and at entrances they chose to try to get through the maze. This way, they wouldn't attempt the same path twice, just as Tremaux's algorithm calls for.

"The irony is that we went into a corn field in one of the most rural parts of the country (Northeast Kingdom) to solve a computer science problem and we won't be within miles of a computer," he says. "Understanding computer science doesn't depend on the use computers. It's a way of thinking. We're taking challenging problems and solving them."

Student Kurt Hostnik says Snapp's unique methods of teaching have helped him understand a subject he previously found difficult.

"I think it would have taken us much longer if we didn't use the algorithm," Hostnik says. "You know what parts not to go back into because you mark them. It's easier to understand a lot of these concepts by using games. It's part of the reason I took the class."

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Comprehensive Campaign Commences

By Jeff Wakefield



Bruce Lisman, chair of the national campaign steering committee, greets alumni and friends at the Oct. 4 campaign kick-off event at Shelburne Farms as Vermont Gov. James Douglas looks on. (Photo: Joseph Speidel)

The University of Vermont launched the public phase of its \$250 million comprehensive campaign on Oct. 4 with the announcement of the largest gift in its history, a \$15 million commitment from Steve (UVM, 1961) and Beverly Rubenstein of New Vernon, N.J. and their family.

Thanks to the Rubenstein gift, the commitments of 25 other lead donors, and the contributions of many smaller benefactors, the university has raised

\$126 million toward its goal, UVM President Daniel Mark Fogel said at a Saturday press conference.

The campaign, only the second in the university's history, began in the fall of 2001 and is scheduled to run through June 30, 2007.

The Rubenstein gift will be used to support study of the environment at UVM, one of three broad areas of strategic focus in the campaign. The campaign is also designed to foster excellence in the liberal arts and the life, health, and biomedical sciences.

Twenty-five percent of the Rubenstein gift will benefit environmental studies and environmental science broadly at the university with the remainder going specifically to the School of Natural Resources. The gift was made with the understanding that the school will be renamed the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, pending a recommendation by the Faculty Senate and approval by the Board of Trustees.

"The university will be eternally grateful to the Rubensteins for their extraordinary generosity," said Fogel. "UVM is well on its way to becoming the nation's pre-eminent environmental university. Steve and Beverly understand that to fully achieve that lofty distinction, we need the help of our friends. We could not be more appreciative of their support of the university's priorities and of their remarkable and ongoing generosity."

"We are pleased to be the first-ever named and endowed academic unit at UVM and honored that the Rubenstein name will be forever attached to our school," said Donald DeHayes, dean of the School of Natural Resources. "This gift will propel our school even further in the national spotlight of environmental and natural resource programs."

Steve Rubenstein is president of Rubenstein Properties of Little Falls, N.J., a family company that has grown significantly since its creation in 1961. A charter member of the School of Natural Resources' board of advisors, Rubenstein has a strong interest in environmental stewardship.

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Momentum despite a sluggish economy

The overall campaign's success to date is all the more noteworthy given the sluggish economy and unstable international climate of the past few years, said Ian deGroot, vice president for development and alumni relations.

"Six months ago many of us in higher education witnessed a significant downturn in philanthropy, causing some institutions to delay or extend their campaigns," he said. "Our early success is testimony to the commitment of our donors and the strong leadership of our president."

DeGroot said the university had originally planned to launch the public phase of the campaign in the spring of 2004, but was able to move the date up to this fall because such good progress had been made on reaching the goal.

The comprehensive campaign is designed to support many aspects of the vision for the University of Vermont that Fogel articulated in February 2003.

The campaign supports one of the central tenets of the Fogel vision – increasing the size of the undergraduate student body by 2,000 over the next 10 years while simultaneously boosting quality – by setting a goal of \$105 million, its highest dollar amount, to boost financial aid for undergraduates. The funds will also support fellowships for graduate students

The campaign devotes its second highest dollar amount, \$90 million, to another key element of the Fogel vision: the recruitment and retention of excellent faculty.

"This campaign puts its strongest emphasis on people, the students and faculty who are at the core of university life," said Board of Trustees member Bruce Lisman, who also chairs the National Campaign Steering Committee.

"The top priorities are to develop a pool of scholarship dollars that will help attract the best and brightest students from around the world and to boost support of our talented faculty and enable us to recruit even more top scholars to our community," he said.

Other campaign priorities, with target dollar goals, are as follows:

- \$24 million to support two new facilities: \$14 million for the University Commons, the new student center, and \$10 million for a new Life, Health, and Biomedical Sciences research facility
- \$5 million for university libraries
- \$5 million for the Robert Hull Fleming Museum
- \$5 million for athletics
- \$2.5 for an ongoing distinguished visiting scholar and artists series
- \$13.5 million for the President's Unrestricted Fund for Excellence

Fogel stressed that it is gifts like the Rubensteins' that enable ambitious comprehensive campaigns to generate the traction they need to be successful.

"Every campaign needs a hallmark gift that not only helps an institution reach its goal, but also inspires others to give," he said. "We are doubly grateful to the Rubensteins – for the gift itself and for the inspirational impact Steve and Beverly are having on others. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts."

UVM's first campaign raised \$108 million in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

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Rising to the Top of the Blood Pool

By Jen Nachbur



Paula Tracy, professor of biochemistry and medicine, will explore blood clotting, platelets and more in her Oct. 15 university scholar lecture. (Photo: Tony Rinaldo)

They sound like the nemeses of superheroes — with names like Mutant Factor V Leiden and Thrombin — but they are molecular components in, or generated by, platelets that affect the coagulation process.

To Paula Tracy, professor of biochemistry and medicine, they are intimate friends.

Tracy's world-renowned research focuses on how platelets regulate blood

clotting reactions. The platelet is a blood cell and is the body's first line of defense when a person is injured. Its job, says Tracy, is to expel all its contents, including a protein called Factor V that causes clotting. Mutations in Factor V and other components of the platelet, however, can cause this normal clotting process to go awry. Factor V Leiden, for example, is an inherited genetic trait that indicates an increased risk of blood clots, which can result in stroke or heart attack.

The blood-clotting process will be the subject of Tracy's University Scholar Lecture on Oct. 15 at 4 p.m. in Memorial Lounge in Waterman. Her talk, "Blood Coagulation: A Critical Balance," will discuss how platelets can achieve an effective balance between excessive clotting and excessive bleeding.

Recently, Tracy and her team identified a new mechanism by which platelets control the blood-clotting process. The Factor V found in platelets originates from the Factor V in plasma, and yet the platelet factor is different, suggesting it has gone through an evolutionary process. Tracy's lab is currently working on finding out exactly how the evolution of this protein occurs in order to gain a better understanding of why some people have inherited blood-clotting disorders and others do not.

A fortunate path

Becoming a coagulation specialist was "pure serendipity" according to Tracy, who left Syracuse with her doctorate in biology in hand, envisioning herself working in a lab and teaching at a small college. "I never thought about blood coagulation until I started working with Ken Mann and Fred McDuffy at the Mayo Clinic," says Tracy. "That experience just jump-started me." She joined the UVM faculty in 1984, when Mann (biochemistry) and Jack Hoak (medicine) became departmental chairmen and recruited a number of individuals interested in hemostasis and thrombosis. Along with her research, she began mentoring students as Mann had mentored her.

"Students are your scholarship," Tracy says. "My lab has always, with a few exceptions, relied on graduate students for the scientific progress we have made. It's a wonderful way to work — you're knee-deep in it all the time!"

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[The Learning Game](#)

For Robert Snapp, associate professor of computer science and mathematics, the best way to begin learning computer science is through play, not work.

[Comprehensive Campaign Commences](#)

The University launched the public phase of its \$250 million comprehensive campaign on Oct. 4 with the announcement of the largest gift in its history, a \$15 million commitment from Steven and Beverly Rubenstein of New Vernon, N.J. and their family.

The National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association have supported Tracy's work continuously during her UVM career. She is also the recipient of a special recognition award from the American Heart Association.

The University Scholar Awards Program, sponsored by the Graduate College, annually recognizes distinguished faculty members for sustained excellence in research and scholarly activities. The Scholars are selected by a panel of distinguished faculty, based upon nominations submitted by UVM colleagues.

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